

★ GRAND TETON ★ NATIONAL PARK

presented by: *Wyoming*
Forever West™



GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK ESSENTIALS:

Address: P.O. Drawer 170
Moose, WY 83012

Season: Open year-round, though campgrounds and visitor centers are generally open from May to October.

VISITOR INFORMATION:

Web site: <http://www.nps.gov/grte>

Phone: (307) 739-3300

TDD: (307) 739-3400

PARK OVERVIEW:

THE SNOWCAPPED, SNAGGLETOOTHED GRAND TETONS MAKE UP AMERICA'S QUINTESSENTIAL MOUNTAIN RANGE, REARING UP WITH CARTOONISH EXAGGERATION OUT OF THE SAGEBRUSH-COVERED FLATS OF JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING. TOPPED BY 13,770-FOOT GRAND TETON, THESE MOUNTAINS ARE A MAGNET FOR THE WORLD'S TOP ALPINISTS—PEAK BAGGERS, BIG-WALL CLIMBERS, AND BACKCOUNTRY AND FREE SKIERS. ALL OF THEM FIND THE TETONS' EXTREME TERRAIN AN ENDLESS CANVAS ON WHICH TO INVENT EVERMORE HAIR-RAISING WAYS TO GAIN AND LOSE ELEVATION.

For the rest of us, the peaks are mostly a backdrop of unreal, pinch-me-now scenic beauty. Try cycling or driving through Jackson Hole, one of the premier stages for the world-famous wildlife viewing of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem; you may spot some of the buffalo, moose, pronghorn, and elk that roam here. Or you can float the Snake River, a trip through achingly beautiful country.

Nearly three million people visit Grand Teton National Park each year. Whether you go to rope up the granite or to camp the shores of Jenny Lake, we're pretty sure your visit here will yield more than a peek or two at the sublime.

PARK HIGHLIGHTS:

Grand Teton is an active park; it's hard to sit still. Maybe it's all that seismic activity or the crisp mountain air. Lucky for your restless spirit, the park has more than 200 miles of hiking trails ranging from level and easy on the valley floor to steep and arduous into the mountains. If churning rivers are your bag, take on rafting the Snake River. Watch for moose along the banks and bald eagles soaring above. In fact, wherever you go in Grand Teton, you'll stand a good chance to see wildlife.

The **John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway** is a classic park road designed to capture every scenic morsel along the way. The **Teton Park Road** is a little more off the beaten track, with superb side trips such as the **Signal Mountain Summit Road** and the **Jenny Lake Scenic Drive**. In our opinion, Teton Park Road makes an ever better bike ride. It has wide shoulders and superb views of the Tetons. The **Antelope Flats Kelly Loop** provides riding opportunities on secondary roads.

Whatever your mode of transport, there's lots to see. Here's a quick tour...

Stop at the **Colter Bay Visitor Center** and **Indian Arts Museum** to pick up the usual maps and brochures. While you're at it, visit the museum to view art created by native peoples and gain a glimpse of 19th-century Native American life.

Menor's Ferry and the Chapel of the Transfiguration: Turn off the Teton Park Road a half mile north of Moose. The Menor's Ferry Trail, less than a half-mile long, affords a look at homesteading and pioneer life in Jackson Hole. Visit Bill Menor's cabin and view a replica of the ferry that crossed the Snake River at the turn of the century. The altar window of the Chapel of the Transfiguration frames the tallest Teton peaks.

Willow Flats Stop at the Willow Flats: Turnout six miles south of Colter Bay for a view of an extensive freshwater marsh that provides excellent habitat for birds, beavers, and moose. Jackson Lake and the Teton Range form the backdrop.

Oxbow Bend: Located one mile east of Jackson Lake Junction, this cut-off meander of the Snake River attracts a wide variety of wildlife. Mount Moran stands at 12,605 feet, another massive peak in the Teton Range, and dominates the background.

Jackson Lake Dam Overlook: Jackson Lake Dam, one mile west of Jackson Lake Junction on the Teton Park Road,



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raises the level of Jackson Lake a maximum of 39 feet. In addition to being a reservoir, Jackson Lake is also a natural lake formed by an immense glacier that once flowed from **Yellowstone National Park**. Stop on the southwest side of the dam and take a short walk for a peaceful view of **Jackson Lake** and **Mount Moran**.

South Jenny Lake: Park here and take a short walk to view glacier-carved **Jenny Lake** nestled at the base of the tallest Teton peaks. A six-mile hiking trail encircles Jenny Lake if you're feeling adventurous. During the summer, shuttle boats provide easy access to the west side of the lake and trails to **Hidden Falls**, **Inspiration Point**, and **Cascade Canyon**.

Fun Fact: The Gros Ventre Slide occurred in 1925 when earthquakes and rain caused the north end of Sheep Mountain to break off and dam the Gros Ventre River, forming Lower Slide Lake, which is now a great fly-fishing spot.

NOTES:

