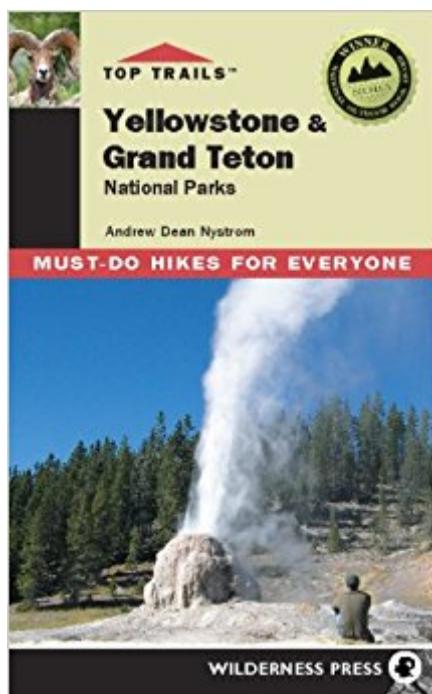


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# Top Trails Yellowstone & Grand Teton National Parks: Must-do Hikes For Everyone



## **Synopsis**

With trips from Mammoth Hot Springs to Old Faithful, from the Absarokas to the Gallatin Range, and from Jackson Hole to the Teton Crest Trail, *Top Trails Yellowstone & Grand Teton National Parks* has all visitors need to enjoy the ultimate in natural and geothermal wonders--tranquil backcountry lakes, panoramic summits, glacier-carved canyons, steaming geyser basins, vast meadows teeming with wildlife, and much more. Award-winning author Andrew Dean Nystrom has selected the 45 best trips in the area, ranging in length from a half-mile stroll by some of the park's most colorful hot springs to a 30-mile trek past intriguing thermal features and wildlife galore. The second edition features expanded coverage of the new Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve addition to Grand Teton National Park, family and kid-friendly hikes, legally soakable hot springs (with ratings) in both parks, moonlight hiking, and how to secure hard-to-get in-park lodging and campsite reservations. Winner of a National Outdoor Book Award for best adventure guidebook in 2005, and a best-selling Wilderness Press title. At-a-glance information shows which trips have the best hiking, mountain biking, trail running, horseback riding, and more.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"National Outdoor Book Award winner,Ã  Top Trails Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks,Ã  is a guidebook with a lot of moxie.Ã  It's exceedingly well organized.Ã  The maps are uncluttered and easy to use.Ã  And introductory charts help you identify suitable trails.Ã  In

addition to the book's smart design, Andrew Dean Nystrom has done a splendid job of researching and writing about the trails." - NOBA, [noba-web.org](http://noba-web.org)

When Wilderness Press published Sierra North in 1967, no other trail guide like it existed for the Sierra backcountry. The first run of 2800 copies sold out in less than two months and its success heralded the beginning of Wilderness Press. In the past 35 years, we have expanded our territories to cover California, Alaska, Hawaii, the U.S. Southwest, the Pacific Northwest, New England, Canada, and Baja California. Wilderness Press continues to publish comprehensive, accurate, and readable outdoor books. Hikers, backpackers, kayakers, skiers, snowshoers, climbers, cyclists, and trail runners rely on Wilderness Press for accurate outdoor adventure information. In its Top Trails series, Wilderness Press has paid special attention to organization so that you can find the perfect hike each and every time. Whether you're looking for a steep trail to test yourself on or a walk in the park, a romantic waterfall or a city view, Top Trails will lead you there. Each Top Trails guide contains trails for everyone. The trails selected provide a sampling of the best that the region has to offer. These are the "must-do" hikes, walks, runs and bike rides, with every feature of the area represented. Every book in the Top Trails series offers: • Maps and permit details • Easy-to-follow trail notes • Distances and approximate times • Ratings and rankings for each trail • The Wilderness Press commitment to accuracy and reliability All books in the affordable and easy-to-use Top Trails series feature elevation profiles, detailed maps, driving directions, and "don't get lost" trail milestones. Innovative trail-feature charts give at-a-glance information on which trails are child-friendly, which allow horses, where to catch a glimpse of bison, elk, or a grizzly, where to see wildflowers and autumn colors, which trips have the best photo opportunities, and which have camping opportunities. Each park receives more than 3 million visitors annually. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Few hiking destinations have the delight and allure of Yellowstone National Park and its nearby cousin Grand Teton National Park. This guide will lead hikers to some of the best trails these parks have to offer. This guide describes 46 hikes, 34 in Yellowstone and 12 in Grand Teton. All major hiking areas are covered including Old Faithful, Yellowstone River canyon, Jenny Lake, and Bechler Meadows. Difficulty ranges from a 1.2 mile jaunt past the Artists Paint Pots to a 29.7 mile multi-day backpack journey along the Bechler River. 10 of the 46 hikes are more than 10 miles long, so this guide tends to favor long, remote backcountry trails over shorter frontcountry ones. However, the trail selection has enough variety to give several options for hikers of all interests and abilities. Each

hike contains clear driving directions to the trailhead (including warnings about rough roads), a best-season-to-hike recommendation, a solid but not-too-detailed trail description, and a rather general trail map. The guide's maps are not as good as USGS topo maps: they have no contour lines, and they do not show a lot of detail. On the bright side, the guide does give some trail elevation profiles, which are better than no elevation information but not as good as contour lines. In summary, while there are a few areas for improvement, I find no major faults with this guide. If you are planning to spend a few days or weeks in Yellowstone/Grand Teton, this book is a worthwhile investment.

I thought this book was excellent for covering the most popular hikes in Yellowstone and Grand Teton. I like that it has so many pictures, and a legend with all sorts of information to help you decide what you want to do. It lists the features of the trails, and includes so much useful information that this would be great book to have for anyone from the novice to the experienced hiker alike. I was not disappointed in this book at all, and I am up in Yellowstone and Grand Teton frequently. There are maps and pictures galore. Although the pictures are in black and white, you can still get a very good idea of the lay of the land and what there is there. I highly recommend this book.

We took a one week trip to Yellowstone at the end of July. This book was invaluable. The hikes are ranked from 1 (easiest) to 5 (hardest) making it simple for us to figure out what the four kids could handle. By taking trails rated over "2" we saw almost nobody else on the trails for most hikes. It seems that a vast majority of visitors to Yellowstone do not actually want to hike and having this book made it easy for us to have an uncrowded, pleasant experience. Very detailed, easy to find trail heads from the descriptions. Highly recommend this book, it made our experience fantastic. We also bought "Yellowstone Treasures: The Traveler's Companion to the National Park" which offers more info on the actual park. Together these books covered everything we needed to know.

This is the BEST hiking trails book I've ever read. The trail summaries by region of the park, the trail descriptions and maps are all excellent. Wish all hiking books were put together this well.

Wilderness Press made its name in outdoor publishing by focusing on the High Sierra of California and later the rest of the Golden State. Their "Top Trails" series similarly is focused almost entirely on California. But if any wilderness area is deserving of coverage in the Top Trails series, the

greater Yellowstone ecosystem has to be included. Now in its second edition and with a single author, this book gives you a quick overview of some of the best hikes in both Yellowstone and neighboring Grand Teton National Parks. The Top Trails series does not aim to be comprehensive. Rather, this book is designed to list the best trails from short "family friendly" day hikes to longer overnight excursions. In the category of the former, almost all of the really popular hikes in the park are included here: Mammoth Hot Springs, Observation Point view of Old Faithful, Artist Paint Pots, Tower Falls and the fossil forest all get full write ups. If you hike any of these trails, you will also share them with hundreds of others on any given summer afternoon. This is not necessarily a bad thing: these places are popular for a reason. Slightly longer treks up Washburn peak, and hikes to various waterfalls also appear in this book and several very long day hikes (or overnight backpack trips) are featured. In all, it is a good selection. Distances, natural features, and wildlife viewing are all equally balanced. My only complaints about the book are that several of the hikes are one way affairs requiring a shuttle. Shuttle hikes are fine, but if you are traveling any great distance to Yellowstone you will not be bringing two cars and hitch hiking is not all that easy. Also, the hike selection discusses fishing a lot. I'm good with that. Indeed, during my three summers in Yellowstone, I went fishing every chance I could. But I would have included the hike to Cascade and Grebe lake in this volume because of the opportunity to catch (and release) a unique Grayling found only in these lakes in the park. Still, this is a fine book. Reading it, I found myself remembering adventures from years ago and wondering when I would be able to schedule another visit.

As advertised. Great guide. Using it for a current trip. Thx!

Great information

Gave a good overview of the hikes available for the GT, allowing us to easily select the ones that fit our time and fitness level.

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