

## WYOMING NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SITES

### NATIONAL PARKS

#### Grand Teton National Park

Sometimes called “The Mountains of Imagination,” it’s hard to believe that the sights and sounds, both spectacular and serene, of the Grand Teton are real. Forests line the mountainsides, wildflowers cover the meadows in the summer, crystalline lakes fill glacial hollows and noisy streams find their way to larger lakes that mirror the mountains on calm days. Weaving through all of this are the Snake River and more than 200 miles of trails where visitors can hike, camp, climb, kayak or simply enjoy the scenery. The elevations of the peaks range from 6,400 to 13,700, creating gradations of sagebrush valley to windswept granite.



Historic Landmarks in Grand Teton National Park

##### *Murie Ranch Historic District*

The Wilderness Act and the modern conservation movement were born at this ranch along the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park. Visitors can enjoy self-guided tours of the cabins, river and woods. During the summer, a docent hosts a tour every day regaling visitors with stories of the residents’ life and work.

##### *Jackson Lake Lodge*

This historic lodge sits on a high terrace overlooking a marshy willow flat and Jackson Lake, with the beautiful Grand Teton Range as a backdrop. The hotel was completed in 1955 for John D. Rockefeller Jr.’s Grand Teton Lodge and Transportation Company. The lobby boasts 60-foot panoramic windows with exceptional views of the Tetons and Jackson Lake.

#### Yellowstone National Park

America’s first national park has been thrilling visitors since it’s opening in 1872. The park has an incomparable combination of natural beauty, rugged wilderness, majestic peaks and abundant wildlife. There are more than two million acres of wilderness for visitors to explore. The iconic spots – Old Faithful, Lower Falls and Yellowstone Lake may be familiar from paintings and photographs, but seeing them in person is a humbling, enthralling experience that visitors can enjoy year-round. The wonderland that is Yellowstone is home to the world’s greatest concentration of geysers and the park is the core of one of the last, nearly intact ecosystems in Earth’s temperate zone.

Yellowstone National Park’s Historic Landmarks

##### *Old Faithful Inn*

The Old Faithful Inn, considered the largest log structure in the world, has been delighting visitors for generations. Built in 1904 with local logs and stone, the towering lobby features a 76-foot-high, eight-sided fireplace and a hand-crafted clock made of copper, wood and wrought iron. Architect Robert Reamer envisioned a structure that appeared to have grown out of the landscape, and Old Faithful Inn revolutionized national park architecture.

##### *Lake Yellowstone Hotel*

Celebrating it’s 125th anniversary in 2016, Lake Yellowstone Hotel is located on the shores of one of the world’s largest alpine lakes and offers spectacular views of the glacial Lake Yellowstone and wildlife in the area. Newly renovated in 2014, the hotel has been restored to its full Colonial Revival glory.

##### *Obsidian Cliff*

Towering above the Grand Loop Road, Obsidian Cliff is a natural historic landmark of obsidian rock, also called volcanic glass. The vertical columns, fractures that formed as the thick lava flow cooled and crystallized, reflect sunlight and rise 7,400 feet above sea level.



### *Norris, Madison and Fishing Bridge Museums*

These trailside museums were designed by architect Herbert Maier in what has become known as “National Park Rustic” style. The Norris Museum features exhibits on geothermal geology, Norris Geyser Basin features, and life in thermal areas. The Madison and Fishing Bridge Museums are used as small visitor centers.

### *Fort Yellowstone*

A stroll along the sidewalks of Fort Yellowstone takes you back in time when the West was being tamed and the national park idea was still new. From 1886 until the creation of the National Park Service in 1916, the United States Army was responsible for the administration and management of Yellowstone and the fort is filled with historical buildings including the Captain’s Headquarters, Guard House, Hospital Annex, Commissary, and many more historical gems



## **MEMORIAL PARKWAY**

### **John D Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway**

To honor John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and his generosity toward national parks across the country, Congress dedicated 24,000 acres of land between the Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park to his memory. The Parkway serves as a natural link between two of Wyoming’s iconic parks and contains natural characteristics of each one.

## **NATIONAL MONUMENTS**

### **Devils Tower National Monument**

Rising out of rolling prairie land is the United States’ first national monument, a 1,200 foot flat-topped volcanic formation. The drama of Devils Tower evokes wonder in all who have visited it, including early Native Americans, local ranchers, and visitors from around the world. Eight miles of surrounding nature trails offer opportunities to learn about geology and spot wildlife. The most adventurous of visitors are invited to climb up through the Tower’s columns and cracks.

### **Fossil Butte National Monument**

Reaching a height of more than 7,500 feet above sea level, Fossil Butte National Monument serves as a 52-million-year-old classroom where visitors can discover fossils renowned for their preservation and diversity. Visitors can take a scenic drive, hike the Monument’s trails, enjoy a picnic and see more than 300 fossils in the Visitors Center, including a 13-foot crocodile and the oldest articulated bat. The bright red, purple and yellow layers of the Wasatch Formation provide a unique backdrop while looking for fossils or participating in numerous kid’s activities, including fossil artwork and preparation.

## **NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

### **Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area**

Where there were once level layers of rock, now sit 1,000-foot cliffs that stand as walls surrounding the Bighorn Lake. The geologic forces that shifted the rocks have created spaces for wetlands, high deserts, broad valleys, upland prairies, mountains, and diversified forests, all surrounding the 55 miles of Bighorn Lake. In addition to the lake, visitors can enjoy the nearly 30 miles of hiking trails, historic ranches, and a variety of other outdoor activities.



## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

### Fort Laramie

Thousands of Native Americans, settlers, missionaries, trappers, traders, gold seekers, soldiers and ranchers have at one point passed Fort Laramie, which is known as “The Crossroads of a Nation Moving West.” Named after French fur trader Jacques La Ramie, the fort began as a trading post in a modest 100-by-80 foot structure, grew in size and importance, becoming a military post, where it hosted several treaty negotiations and launched major military campaigns. The 22 standing structures reflect the dramatic lives of the fort’s many inhabitants, military and civilian, resident and guest. Today, visitors can visit Fort Laramie and learn what life was like during America’s western expansion from one of the most important landmark’s of the time.



## NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

### California, Mormon Pioneer and Oregon Trails

Whether in search of adventure, riches, cheap land or other motivations, many 19th century Americans looked west and began a journey of a lifetime. As many as half a million people followed these three trails which cross Wyoming along the North Platte and Sweetwater rivers west to South Pass, after which they divided into various routes bound for California, Utah or Oregon. To learn more about these trails, visit the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper.

### Pony Express

The Pony Express was a mail service delivering messages and small packages from St. Joseph, Missouri across the Great Plains, over the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevada to Sacramento and points in between by horseback using a series of relay stations. Today visitors can follow this historic trail through Wyoming and learn more about it at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper.

## NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS THROUGHOUT WYOMING CASPER

### Independence Rock

Popularly known as the “register of the Desert” this rock was a key landmark for pioneers. According to pioneer lore, travelers needed to reach this rock by Independence Day in order to make it across the Rockies before winter set in. This large, smooth rock looms like a giant whale when seen from a distance and provided the perfect surface for travelers to inscribe their name in the sturdy granite. Today, visitors can explore and climb the 128 foot rock, and observe the hundreds of names of past travelers along the California, Oregon and Mormon Pioneer trails.

### Tom Sun Ranch

Modern day travelers along the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer Trails near Devil’s Gate will find one of the best examples of a mid-size historic cattle ranch. The ranch was built in the early 1870s by Tom Sun, one of the earliest cattlemen in the west. Currently owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, visitors are welcome to explore this working ranch and historic home.

## CHEYENNE

### Fort D.A. Russell

For much of its existence, Fort D. A. Russell (now Warren Air Force Base) was a cavalry post. Established in 1867 to protect workers building the Union Pacific Railroad, it is one of the Air Force’s oldest continuously active installations. While many of the original buildings are no longer standing, beautiful red brick barracks, officer’s quarters, and cavalry stables dating to 1885 survive and are still in use. There is limited public access for those without military identification although the fort comes alive with historic home tours and military reenactments during Fort D.A. Russell Days held for three days every July.



### **Union Pacific Railroad Depot**

Train lovers, history buffs and visitors of all ages will be transported back to the romance of early train travel at this grand depot. Built in 1887, the depot helped bring Cheyenne to cultural and economic prominence in the west. It now houses the Cheyenne Depot Museum, which boasts an extensive collection of photographs, artifacts, and interactive exhibits documenting the railroad's history and the expansion of the west.



### **Wyoming State Capitol**

This renaissance revival building, constructed between 1886 and 1890 and topped with a gold leaf dome, dominates the Cheyenne skyline and is visible from all roads entering the city. Beginning in the fall of 2015, the Capitol will close to undergo an extensive restoration and renovation project that is scheduled for completion in 2017. While visitor access to the Capitol's interior may be limited, a number of significant statues along with the state seal adorn the grounds surrounding the building.

## **CHUGWATER**

### **Swan Land and Cattle Company Headquarters**

Founded in 1872, this ranch was one of the largest ranching empires in American history. At one time the ranch controlled an area larger than Connecticut and had 113,000 head of cattle. Today, the lands are privately owned and not open to the public.

## **CODY**

### **Horner Site**

Horner Site, a bluff overlooking the confluence of Sage Creek and the Shoshone River, is a bison bone bed located in the northern Bighorn Basin of Wyoming. This archaeological site was excavated beginning in 1949 and archaeologists have found the ancient remains of bison and early stone tools.

## **DANIEL**

### **Upper Green River Rendezvous Site**

Located on the Green River near Daniel, this was the location for the annual Rocky Mountain Rendezvous that was held from 1825-1840. Trappers and mountain men sold their furs and replenished their supplies at the Rendezvous, which was known to be lively a lively event where all were allowed, trappers, Native Americans, and even travelers from as far as Europe. Today, the nearby community of Pinedale hosts the Green River Rendezvous annually in July. The event serves as a celebration of the mountain men, legendary explorers and Native Americans who opened commerce in the American West and features historical re-enactments and nightly rodeos.

## **GREEN RIVER**

### **Expedition Island**

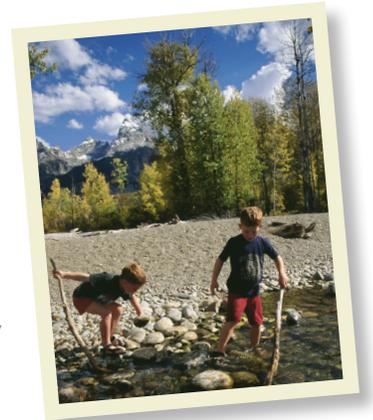
Originally a starting point for expeditions in 1869 and 1871 that opened the last significant unexplored area in the continental United States, this island oasis provides the perfect spot for family picnics and Blue Ribbon trout fishing. Families can traverse the island's path with historical signage.



## GUERNSEY

### Lake Guernsey State Park

Most visitors come to the park to enjoy hiking, boating, fishing, backpacking or horseback riding along the beautiful lake. But this park has historical significance as it is one of the finest examples of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) works. The CCC, an initiative to get people back to work during the Great Depression, built all the hiking trails, roads, bridges and museum. The museum is situated on a high cliff overlooking the water and there are seven campgrounds in the park, with five on the lake. Visitors can easily travel to the nearby Oregon Ruts and Register Cliff.



### Oregon Trail Ruts

The Oregon Trail was one of the primary routes used by settlers heading westward across America and the remnants can be seen just outside of Guernsey. Years of wear and tear by iron wagon wheel tires have left their mark - up to six feet deep - in the sandstone rock on the south side of the North Platte River.

## KEMMERER

### J. C. Penney Historic District

The J. C. Penney department store chain traces its history back to Wyoming when James Cash Penney opened a small dry goods store in 1902 and named it The Golden Rule store after his personal and business philosophy. In 1913, the name of the growing chain of stores was changed to J. C. Penney and the rest, as they say is history. Visitors can shop in the original store with period features as well as tour Mr. Penney's nearby house.

## LOVELL

### Medicine Mountain

Sometimes referred to as the "American Stonehenge," the site formerly known as Medicine Wheel has been an important cultural and spiritual site for Native Americans for thousands of years. It features a ring of rocks 75 feet in diameter, and is the best preserved of all of the Native American stone wheels found in North America. The ring includes 28 spokes (one for each day of the lunar cycle). Native Americans continue to be drawn to the site in remembrance of their ancestors. Visitors who make the 1.5-mile hike will be treated to beautiful views of the entire Big Horn Basin.

## RALSTON

### Heart Mountain Relocation Center

Heart Mountain is the bucolic backdrop for one of the darker periods of American history; the internment of Japanese Americans from the West Coast Exclusion Zone during World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941. This widely acclaimed Center is noted for its commemoration of the tragic consequences of this decision. Visitors entering the Center are given an admission ticket, much like the interned Japanese prisoners received and are able to wander the barracks and see what life was like for families forced to relocate.

## SHERIDAN

### Sheridan Inn

Step back in time at the historic Sheridan Inn built in 1893. At the time of its construction it was considered the finest hotel between Chicago and San Francisco. Buffalo Bill Cody, one of the hotel's earliest investors and most famous guests, held auditions on the front porch for his touring Wild West Show. Each of the 22 rooms in the hotel features a character from Buffalo Bill's life, and the recent restoration features the first floor lobby's original wood beams, fireplace and front desk.



## SOUTH PASS CITY

### South Pass

Drawn to the region by the promise of gold, miners flocked to the nearby hills and streams in 1868 - 1869 only to have their hopes dashed by the backbreaking work and severe conditions of South Pass. Today, this is one of the best-preserved mining towns in the west with 17 historical buildings. There is an interpretive center showing gold mining methods of the past and a three-mile trail for nature lovers.



## STORY

### Fort Phil Kearny and Associated Sites

In 1866, the Fort faced a devastating surprise attack by Native American tribes that left more than 80 men dead. The fort has been partially restored and consists of 1,000 acres with three major interpretive locations narrating this dramatic story and illustrating Native American and soldier life. The associated sites, Fetterman Fight and Wagon Box Fight battlefields are located nearby and include an interpretive trail that leads visitors through the battle and provides both Native American and settler perspectives of the conflict.

## WAPITI

### Wapiti Ranger Station

This is the oldest U.S. Forest Ranger station and has been continuously used since its construction in 1903. Located in the Shoshone National Forest, the station is currently being used to house Forest Service summer seasonal employees and for storing equipment and supplies. Visitors to the area can camp at one of the 41 campsites at Wapiti Campground which is open each year mid-May through mid-November.

