

NATIONAL PARKS

## A Guide to Outsmarting the Crowds at Yellowstone National Park

*Despite its busiest summer season in history, you can still find serenity in Yellowstone National Park.*

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The second-most visited [national park](#) in the country has always drawn a crowd, but Yellowstone National Park recently [set new records](#) with its busiest summer on record, including the most recreational visitors ever at the park in one month—over one million in July—and more than 920,000 recreational visits in August. It's a call for a change and more responsible visits to this massive, all-seasons park, where shaking the crowds can be as simple as a few strategic moves.

Read on for everything you need to know to plan an expert trip to Yellowstone National Park—whether it's your first time visiting, or your fiftieth.

### Tack-on adventures in Bozeman and Jackson Hole

Bozeman and [Jackson Hole](#) are Yellowstone's two biggest gateway towns, each with plenty of dining, lodging, and unique adventure options. Outside of Montana's West Entrance, Bozeman has a lively main street and excellent dinosaur exhibits at the [Museum of the Rockies](#). Also nearby, there's skiing at [Big Sky Mountain Resort](#), with a new [Montage Big Sky](#) opening this December.

Within 60 miles of Wyoming's South Entrance, upscale Jackson Hole shines with locally owned options, like Gavin Fine's new [Bistro](#), luxury [Hotel Jackson](#) and [Stio](#) for splurge-worthy outerwear. There's also guided flyfishing on the Snake River with [Jackson Hole Fly Fishing School](#) and [Jackson Hole Mountain Resort](#) for skiing, paragliding and a thrilling [via ferrata](#) climb.