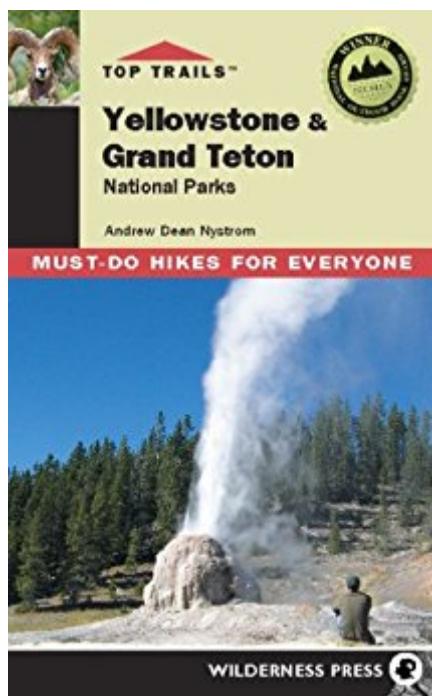


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# Top Trails: Yellowstone And Grand Teton: 46 Must-do Hikes For Everyone



## **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. Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award for best adventure guidebook in 2005.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

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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