



Ranger Pete® YNP Vacation Checklist

Some things to think about for your upcoming trip to Yellowstone. Plan ahead and take into account the following suggestions. (Review the individual Ranger Pete® day hikes for additional pre-trip considerations.)

1. Have a game plan for each day of touring the park... work it in sections remembering opening and closing dates of roads, concessions, hotels and animal habitats.
2. Road work & congestion in the park is always present from rock slides, snow removal, upgrading of facilities to bear jams. Check with the Park Services for the latest road reports. An informational hotline provides current weather and road reports for Yellowstone's major regions - Call (307) 344-7381.
3. If you are camping within the park, arrive as early on the night of your stay and secure a site or best location. Tour the park afterwards.

Day Hike Items Checklist:

Good shoes. Tennis shoes are fine for those staying on the boardwalk, but for those going on day hikes invest in well built shoes. There are a variety of hiking shoes available and in assorted styles and prices, however, think about some that are water proof... paths are muddy in early Summer.

Good Socks. Don't purchase the 12 pack of athletic sock from the discount store. Buy real hiking socks that will give added comfort. Sore feet or blisters will put a real damper on your activities.

Hat. No brainer... head protection from the elements. If cool weather, think of a **knit cap** to cover your ears.

Gloves. Keep the hands warm on early morning hikes or during inclement weather. Weather in the park can change quickly.... it snows in the Summer!

Backpack. Don't burden yourself with a monster pack or something extravagant. These are only day hikes and within a few hours you will be back to civilization. Pick something comfortable to wear and has number pockets and pouches to keep your items organized. Each hike is different...pack accordingly.

Rain Poncho. Good idea for the Summer months when you are not wearing a jacket. Storms can develop quickly and keeping your core dry is vital in cool weather.

Bug Repellent. Very early Spring and Fall are not effected as much by mosquitoes and flies, but once the weather warms up the hikes can become unpleasant. This is amplified near bodies of water.

Sun Screen & Lip Balm. Pack for added protection for your skin. Due to the area's high elevations and thinner atmosphere, use sunscreen to avoid unpleasant burns.

Sunglasses. Some items on the list may only be used on your vacation, but sunglasses are good year round. Invest in a pair of quality sunglasses. You'll enjoy seeing the sights better!

Camera (battery charger & memory cards). One the things you can take out of the park is memories... so bring a good, quality camera with a zoom lens. For your safety the park services dictates how close you are allowed to animals. Small pocket camera are convenient, but lack the zoom and clarity for capturing life-long memories.

OPTION: For the real camera buffs who enjoy taking great close-up animal shots think about renting a powerful zoom lens. A one-week rental from a reputable on-line company is far more economical than purchasing. Use it as a lens test drive, if you like it... buy one, if not try another on your next visit. It is wise to rent the lens a few days early to familiarize yourself with the features and to practice. However, the bigger the lens the the more weight to carry on your hikes.

Yellowstone is teeming with photo opportunities you will want to capture! Take numerous photos and delete the bad ones each evening to keep your memory card free (or bring an extra memory card). In addition, charge your batteries or bring fresh batteries... you will snap more pictures in one day that you have in months... and just at the opportune moment your battery will die. I know this from experience!... It's not a bad idea to have a back-up camera or battery pack. **PHOTO TIP:** Animals come in and out of your vision quickly... keep you camera ready at all times, even in the car!

PHOTO TIP#2: Rent a zoom len. Although many of us have nice cameras we don't have the mega-lenes that can make a good shot a GREAT shot. To purchase such a lens would be impractical and costly, However renting a len (depending on the size)

can be very economical. You simply rent them (lens or camera) for the days of use and return them upon completion. Prices depend on the brand, size of the lens and the number of rental days. In addition, with all the hiking and rough terrain in Yellowstone Park I would suggest adding the insurance option.

RP NOTE: Rent your camera equipment from a reputable company. I have been using **Camera Lens Rental** (www.cameralensrentals.com) for years with great equipment options, service and prices. Use the promotional code **RPCAMERA** to receive at least a **15% discount** on your rental purchase.

Bear Spray. This is like an insurance policy that you hopefully will never need to use, but if you plan to venture into the back country it is recommended. Purchase locally before entering the park (it will not clear airport security). Make sure it is accessible by using an easy-to-reach side pocket on your backpack. **UPDATE:** Recently the Park Service has been promoting a bear alert campaign entitled "A Bear Doesn't Care." Hikers are encouraged to carry bear spray. To aid in their efforts the Park Service offers a **bear spray rental plan**. Visitors can economically **RENT** bear spray (about a third of the cost if purchased), hike the park, and then return the unused canister. Like the campaign states: Protect yourself when hiking by being alert, making noise, hiking in groups and not running (when seeing a bear). However, **LEARN** how to effectively use bear spray and wisely carry it where it is easily accessible.

Day Hike Booklet. PLEASE don't limit yourself to just the day hikes listed on the Ranger Pete Itinerary. You may find other designated hikes that fit your vacation desires, accommodation locale and physical challenges. You can find a number of books on the subject by visiting the Yellowstone Association online store listed on the weblink page.

Snacks & Bottled Drinks. Items that can be easily purchased by park concessionaires, but not a bad idea to have a small supply in your backpack for an energy boost or a bigger, restocking supply in the trunk of your car. Drinks will stay cool overnight in your vehicle, but make sure there are no freeze warnings... avoid a possible mess!

Layered Clothing. Summer in Yellowstone is no beach trip. Yellowstone's weather can be unpredictable in all seasons. Visitors are encouraged to pack and wear clothes that can easily be layered. Even during the summer, cold temperatures are inevitable, so make sure to bring a **Lightweight Jacket** (water repellent).

First Aid Kit. Great to have a first aid kit in the car, and a few essentials in your pack—band-aids for blisters, scrapes or bumps, ointment for bug bites, aspirin, even diarrhea medicine.

FOOT NOTE: Be prepared for emergencies at all times, especially when hiking Yellowstone's trails. All visitors are urged to pack along extra food, clothing, a first-aid kit, water, and matches.