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The Ranger Pete®

# Yellowstone Planner & Guide App

## INSTRUCTIONAL OUTLINE

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The **Ranger Pete™ Yellowstone Planner & Guide App** is a labor of love created exclusively for Yellowstone visitors. We know from first-hand experience that a trip of this magnitude has many variables, such as number of touring guests, number of touring days, travel options, where to stay, what to see and do, etc.

We want to limit the stress as you pre-plan, book and tour with confidence, and when it's over, we hope you not only brag to your family and friends about your adventure, but relish the opportunity to return.

The **Ranger Pete™ App** centers around honest and actual **“been-there, done-that”** advice. And here's the first tidbit of honesty - we don't claim to know everything, but realize, we have advised or physically escorted visitors through the park and their common complaint was, *“I wish we had more time!”* With that said, let me emphasize, please don't try to see everything in one quick, mad dash. Case in point, even though I have spent hundreds of days in the park I still have a Yellowstone wish list!

So let's wisely utilize the **Ranger Pete™ App** to make smart choices, save some time and money, organize a memorable trip and learn a thing or two along the way.

***Let's go over the app's feature!***



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## Start Up: First and Foremost

Users of the **Ranger Pete App™** will note two small function buttons atop the home page. The box located in top right corner is the **Sign-In Icon**. Although not required, the requested information will allow users to fully utilize the **Animal Spots Message Board** (see description below). Meanwhile, the second button, located in the upper left, is the **Data Download Icon**. App developers have designed the **Ranger Pete App™** to continuously update, however, as you will discover, cell coverage within Yellowstone is unreliable. With that said, the **Download** button overrides the network inconsistencies and keeps pertinent data running on real time except for **weather** and **geyser predictions times** which rely on third party data. Users are wisely encouraged to download the app data to ensure the best utilization of the **Ranger Pete App.™**

## Historical Self-Touring

One of the app's main features is the **Yellowstone Historical Self-Touring Program**. This feature, which contains over 350 entries, showcases the combined historical Yellowstone knowledge of Ranger Pete™ and well-known Montana resident and **award-winning author, Ednor Therriault**. The function uses your device's GPS location to activate upcoming points of interest, in which users can select between an audio or a text component to learn about the park's rich history and noteworthy features. The program, which contains hundreds of compelling facts and stories, can be paused while visitors investigate the location, and will resume when continuing their excursion. In addition, most key points have a **RANGER PETE® FUN FACT**, which is an entertaining trivial side note not featured on other touring apps.

## Animal Spots® Message Board

There are at least **67 different species of mammals** known to live within Yellowstone, and although millions of park visitors enjoy the geographical attractions such as, geysers, mud pots and water falls, most folks want to see an assortment of wildlife. The **RP™ Animal Spots®** allows **RP™ App users** to correspond with other messaging **RP™ App users**. App patrons simply post their **questions, or animal sighting**, to the message board which will notify the active RP® network of safety conscious animal lovers. For convenience, posts are prefixed with the day and time, and upon reviewing a message, recipients can determine whether to venture towards a compelling report or continue with their agenda. In addition, app users can scroll the collective information to determine areas of recent park activity.

## Favorite Places

A list of the **Ranger Pete's™** hand-picked, favorite places within Yellowstone Park. Go ahead and see what you want to see, but don't leave the Yellowstone without experiencing these key attractions.

## Yellowstone Day Hikes

Trailheads are marked with GPS coordinates and the color-coded pin drops indicate whether a trail is **EASY, MODERATE** or **HARD**, while blue pins denote one of **Ranger Pete's Favorite Hikes** in the park. The app is designed to cater to first timers and families, so trails over 10-miles in length or severely strenuous hikes are limited.

### Simply click on the trailhead pin drop to reveal:

- Trailhead GPS Coordinates
- Name of the Trail
- Color-Coded Trail Rating whether **EASY, MODERATE** or **HARD**
- Trail Length listed in miles
- Duration of the Hike (an estimated completion time)
- Brief Description of the hike and what to see.
- Safety Notes or trail warnings.

**RP™ FOOT NOTE:** For better time management, users should use this feature for pre-planning their itinerary and not as a spontaneous action. As with any trail, hikers need to carry the proper supplies and be physically and mentally prepared.

## Geyser Eruptions

The **Geyser Eruptions** is an estimated time chart showcasing the park's most "predictable" geysers. The Park Service calculates a previous geyser's eruption height and time span to generate their next eruption times. This is not an exact science and the times are **estimated**, with a plus and minus time frame. Clicking on any of the "predictable" geysers will divulge the geyser's location on a map.

## BEST of the BEST and Yellowstone Itineraries

This feature displays helpful Yellowstone itineraries and sectional guides. My favorite is the **Check-Off Itinerary** which breaks down the park into manageable sections and outlines those areas main attractions with a brief description and approximated completion times. **Ranger Pete™** has already checked the **"don't miss" sites** and **favorites**, you merely select any other entries based on your schedule and interests. Second, for those who want a step-by-step guided tour of Yellowstone National Park

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**Ranger Pete™** offers a **35-Page Extensive Itinerary** that takes visitors from Jackson Hole, WY to Yellowstone's North Gate in Gardiner, MT. The easy-reading instructions captures the major sites, best hikes, touring tips and helpful insights for a stress-free Yellowstone adventure. Also available in this section, if needed, are separate **Sectional Guides** that break down the park into more detail. **RP™ App users** merely click on a region of interest for a brief description of the area's key attractions, trails and tips. Last but not least, is the 5-page, **Ranger Pete's™ Visiting Yellowstone with Young Children Tip Sheet**. A helpful resource filled with proven insight to help make your park adventure more enjoyable for kids.

- Ranger Pete™ **Check-Off Itinerary**
- Ranger Pete™ **35-Page Extensive Park Itinerary**
- Ranger Pete™ **Visiting Yellowstone with Young Children Tip Sheet**
  - **SECTIONAL:** Grand Canyon of Yellowstone
  - **SECTIONAL:** Lake Hotel Area
  - **SECTIONAL:** Lamar Valley/Tower Junction Area
  - **SECTIONAL:** Mammoth Springs Area
  - **SECTIONAL:** Old Faithful Area
  - **SECTIONAL:** West Thumb Area

## 7-Day Weather Forecast

The weather program provides a 7-day extended weather forecast for Yellowstone and surrounding gateway towns. A great tool for pre-planning each days activities. You'll be surprised by the diverse weather conditions in each section of the park.

**Scroll left or right to obtain each location:**

- **YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**
- **CODY**, Wyoming (West Gate)
- **COOKE CITY**, Montana (Northeast Gate)
- **GARDINER**, Montana (North Gate)
- **JACKSON HOLE**, Wyoming (South Gate)
- **WEST YELLOWSTONE**, Montana (West Gate)

## Road Work & Delays

**Roadwork & Delays** shows current road construction within the park. Unfortunately, due to the harsh winter weather conditions road repair and construction has to be completed in the Spring, Summer or Fall. A map of Yellowstone's main roadway indicates any problem areas. Click on the concerned area to reveal a secondary screen that denotes the roadwork or closures. This function does not show traffic accidents or wildlife congestion. For obtain up-to-date road issues within the park, or surrounding state highways, click any of the pertinent **"ROAD CONDITION"** links listed under the map. **NOTE:** Always check road conditions and closures **before** starting your travels.

## Emergency Phone Numbers

An all-in-one list of Yellowstone's most needed phone numbers, such as **Report a Crime, Lost & Found, Medical Clinics** and **Ranger Stations**. Scroll through the contact list and click on the desired phone number to activate the **auto-dialing** function.

## Park Campgrounds & Park Lodging

The **Campgrounds & Lodging** features, which have their own operating buttons, are for park visitors who are, or planning to, spending the night in one of the park's **Campgrounds, Hotels, or Lodges**. The app displays pin drops marking the **Campground** sites in **BROWN** while the **Lodging** locations are indicated in **BLUE**. Click on individual pin drops to obtain general information about a site or identify a location by scrolling through the regional listings. Click again on a specific campground or hotel entry to access more detailed information.

- Each location contains a brief description, GPS Coordinates and contact information
- A **BROWN** pin denotes campgrounds.
- A **BLUE** pin indicates lodging (hotels and cabins)

## Park Food & Beverages

The **Food and Beverage** icon denotes park concessions that range from vending machines (**BROWN**) to fine dining (**BLUE**). A park-wide map provides a broad overlook of destinations while color-coded pins reveal the location's specific information. Listed below the map is a regional list of the park's food concessions. Users can click on a particular venue to reveal details about the establishment. In addition, a copy of park's **restaurant and diner menus** is available for your review.

- A **BLUE** pin indicates food concession's which range from simple snacks to sit-down dinners
- A **BROWN** pin denotes beverages and range from fountain drinks to vending machines

## Park Restrooms

The restroom feature may seem insignificant, but you may be scrambling when "nature calls" to find a nearby facility. Yellowstone is very expansive, and while the majority of the park's restrooms are located in the destination sections, or villages, the less desirable, or primitive vault facilities, are scattered among the park's roadway pullouts, trailheads and picnic grounds. The app uses color-coded pin drops to highlight the location of **flushable toilets (BLUE)** as well as unrefined **vault toilets (BROWN)**. A park-wide map shows the location of park facilities while color-coded pins relay a rest station's GPS coordinates. **NOTE:** It's not a bad idea to carry a roll of toilet paper and hand sanitizer in your touring vehicle.

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## Park Service Stations

With all the park attractions, or should I say natural distractions, it's easy to forget to check your fuel gauge. The park contain seven service stations and all provide 24/7 credit card capability, however, only four of the seven offer towing and minor vehicle repair work. The app provides a park-wide map which denotes each station location, as well as complete list each facility's address and phone numbers.

## Yellowstone History

This feature could be better described as "This Date in Yellowstone History," as it is a series of daily or monthly historical events. App users merely click on the button to reveal the daily post, as well as have the ability to scroll through past or future dates.

## Daily Bible Verse

Personally, it's hard to walk through Yellowstone and not believe in a supreme creator. With that said, the app's **Daily Bible Verse** component highlights a biblical entry about God's creation with an emphasis on nature. Users simply click on the function button to retrieve the daily scripture.

## Park Church Services

**Want to find the nearest Sunday Church Service to your hotel or campground?** The **RP™ App** offers a park-wide map which denotes the park's **Summertime Worship Services** location. Each of the map's pin drops provides the times, locations and GPS coordinates for each worship service. Sunday services are led by ACMNP ministry, A Christian Ministry in the National Parks, which is a grassroots, student-led ministry that began in Yellowstone in 1951. The ministry, which is not part of the park service, provides Christian-based services for people working in, living in, and visiting America's first national park.

## Pre-Planning Information

The **RP™ App** answers a handful of basic questions you need to address **before planning your first trip to Yellowstone**. These questions start the thought process on **initial planning, developing** a vacation budget, **determining** the number of touring days,

**judging** where to stay, **selecting** the best time of year to visit, **electing** what to see, **figuring** your mode of transportation, and **creating** an agenda. Once answered, the custom **itinerary pages** in the **RP® Best of the Best** section will become more valuable - we even have a **RP® Touring Yellowstone with Young Children Tip Sheet**.

## Vacation Checklist

A simple, yet extensive list of items to consider while packing for a trip to Yellowstone National Park. Scroll to review the list or print the pdf version.

## Photo Spots & Tips

One thing you can freely take out of Yellowstone is memories, so bring a quality camera. To help, we have listed a handful of **tried and true photo tips** used by the experts to help **RP™ App** users capture those unforgettable memories. For inspiration, we have spotlighted some of **Ranger Pete's® Favorite Photographs**, as well as the GPS coordinates where those magical moments were captured.

## Yellowstone Trivia

**Who doesn't like to play trivia?** There are dozens of multiple choice questions about Yellowstone, some easy, while others will certainly test your park knowledge. When playing, make your decision, and then click on the answer button to reveal the correct response and a descriptive narrative. These questions are a great way to get ready for your trip, while traveling, or in the car between park attractions.

## Contact Ranger Pete™

**Have a question?** **Ranger Pete™** is always glad to help. In addition, we relish your constructive feedback. Hopefully all positive, but until all the bugs are worked out of the app, users are encouraged to share their concerns, delights - and photos!

## Ranger Pete™ Apparel

Purchase custom-made long sleeve t-shirts and embroidered ball cap from the **Ranger Pete™** website. These items are great to wear **before, during** or **after** your visit to Yellowstone National Park. As a bonus, **RP™ App** customers are eligible for a discount.

