



Your Guide to

Yellowstone

AND
Grand Teton
NATIONAL PARKS

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

THE TRUE NORTH SERIES:
YOUR GUIDE TO YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARKS

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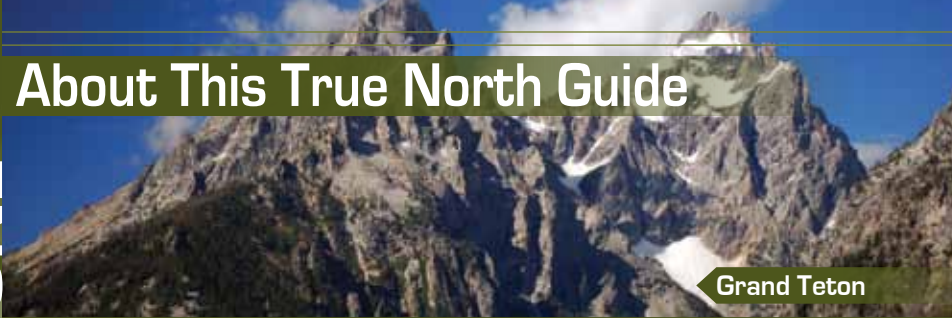
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About This True North Guide



Grand Teton



Yellowstone

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Over the last 100 years, many books and guides have been written to help people understand Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. The majority of them are based on long ages and evolutionary theory. The uniqueness of this *True North Guide* is in its perspective. It was written with three purposes in mind:

- ▶ *To provide an understanding of what the visitor actually sees from the major overlooks of the parks*
- ▶ *To provide an overview of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks from a creationist's perspective and compare it to an evolutionary interpretation*
- ▶ *To show that what is observed in these parks is best understood by the creation/Flood interpretation*



American bison

WHERE TO BEGIN

No matter how many times you have visited these parks, this *True North Guide* will help you get the most from your stay. It provides suggestions on how to plan your trip and how to see the parks once you arrive. The foldouts in sections five and six present site-specific information on what to see, along with general information about the area. A summary of what you will find in each section is provided in the following table.

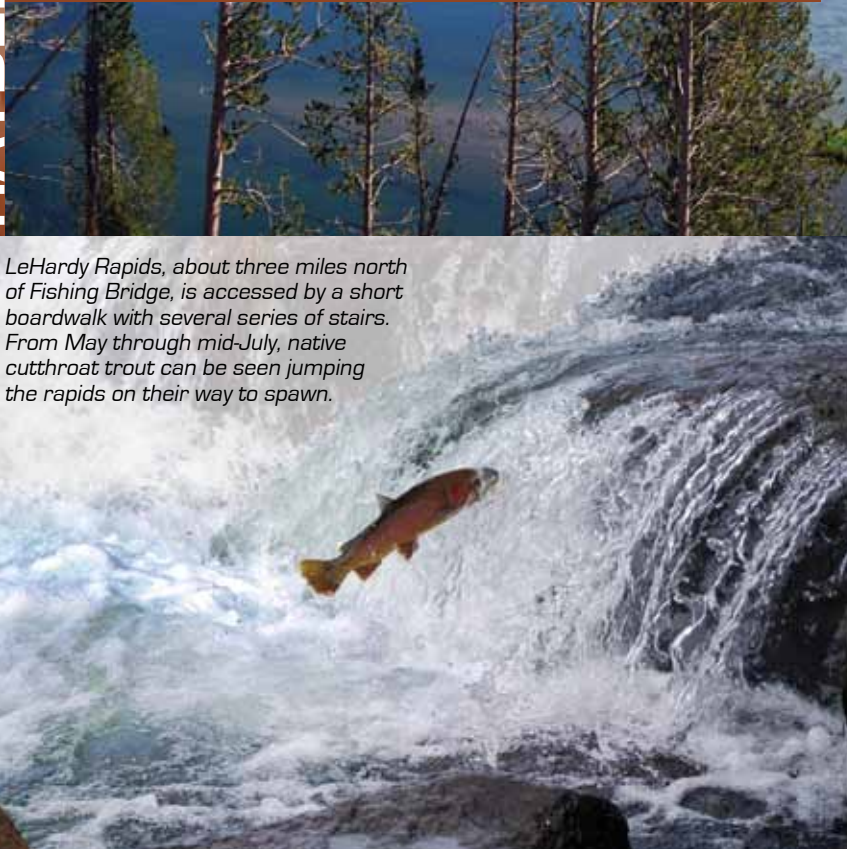
QUICK REFERENCE

2	PERSPECTIVE <i>page 14</i>	Presents an explanation of why Grand Teton and Yellowstone Parks are important from a biblical perspective
3	HOW TO SEE THE PARKS <i>page 18</i>	Provides information on services, amenities, and interesting nearby attractions, which will help you make the best use of your time
4	WHAT EVIDENCE WILL YOU SEE? <i>page 26</i>	Summarizes some of the evidence seen in the parks that supports the biblical model, introducing you to 12 main evidences worthy of investigating as you consider the significance of these parks
5	EXAMINE EVERYTHING CAREFULLY <i>Yellowstone page 30</i>	Contains three-page foldouts for the major overlooks in both parks, with suggested itineraries for visiting each park based on your available time; foldouts offer brief explanations of what is seen from each overlook with references to other sections for more in-depth information
6	<i>Grand Teton page 102</i>	
7	UNDERSTANDING THE PARKS <i>page 142</i>	Provides background for understanding not only what is seen, but also the way in which it is interpreted and presents a foundation for the following <i>Geology</i> , <i>Fossil</i> , and <i>Ecology</i> sections
8	GEOLOGY <i>page 146</i>	Provides more detailed information on the geology of the parks than provided in the overlooks
9	FOSSILS <i>page 158</i>	Discusses general aspects of fossilization and offers more detailed information regarding fossils found in and around the parks
10	ECOLOGY <i>page 162</i>	Provides more detailed information on certain plants and animals in the parks and their interaction with the environment
11	HISTORY <i>page 172</i>	Offers a brief historical background of man's activity in and around the parks

The broad grasslands and marshy meadows of Hayden Valley provide one of the best places in the park to see bison up close. In fact, “buffalo jams” are common as bison walk the roads, causing mile-long backups. They are the largest land mammal in North America, a fact easily appreciated as you drive close to them. For their size, they are very fast and adults can jump a four-foot fence! Bison cause the majority of injuries from animals in the park, so be sure to observe the 25-yard rule.

FAST FACTS

- > At the end of the Ice Age, Hayden Valley was likely a northern extension of Yellowstone Lake.
- > The elusive gray wolves are sometimes seen patrolling the meadows of Hayden Valley.
- > White pelicans, often seen on the Yellowstone River, have a wingspan that can exceed nine feet!
- > Hayden Valley is one of the areas unaffected by the 1988 fires.



LeHardy Rapids, about three miles north of Fishing Bridge, is accessed by a short boardwalk with several series of stairs. From May through mid-July, native cutthroat trout can be seen jumping the rapids on their way to spawn.

Question: Why is there bark missing from so many trees?



A. Barkless trees,
scratching posts for bison,
bear, and elk

B. Dunraven Pass,
8,859 feet, leading to
Tower Fall and Lamar Valley

C. Lush grasses and sedges,
good forage for bison and deer

D. Bison wallow,
dirt area where bison roll
to fend off biting flies and
remove shedding hair

E. Yellowstone River,
good pelican fishing ground

F. Sagebrush
on porous glacial soils

HAYDEN VALLEY

ELEVATION 7,200 feet



GEOLOGY: At the end of the Ice Age, a remnant of an ice sheet in northern Yellowstone probably blocked the Yellowstone River, making Yellowstone Lake deeper and larger. Hayden Valley would likely have been a northern arm of the lake at the time.

There are only a few geothermal features in this area, one of which is Mud Volcano, perhaps the smelliest place in the park. Its rotten egg smell is from hydrogen sulfide gas bubbling from the mudpot (see page 98).



Bison wallowing in the dirt (F).

Vegetation on the valley bottom varies between dry sagebrush areas (F) and lush meadow grasses (C). The difference is their soils. The sagebrush areas have dry poor soils consisting of porous glacial deposits. The lush meadows have rich soils with fine-grained lakebed silts and clays favoring thick grasses.

The grasses and sedges of Hayden Valley provide excellent forage for bison. Triangular-stemmed sedges actually contain more protein than alfalfa hay, providing excellent nutrition for a bull, which at 2,000 pounds can consume over 45 pounds a day. During mating season in late summer, it is interesting to watch bulls establish their dominance by charging each other, butting heads, and bellowing. The bulls also wallow in the dirt (D) during mating season as a display of strength.

Throughout the park, there are thousands of trees with missing bark (A). The majority of this is caused when bison use trees as scratching posts. Elk also use trees for scratching, while bears create territorial scent marks by clawing and even biting trees.

HIKING: Six road miles north of Fishing Bridge, a three-quarter mile loop trail features Mud Volcano, Dragon's Mouth Spring, Churning Caldron, and Black Dragon's Caldron. "Parking Lot Pool" began in 1999 when steam appeared through the pavement.

ECOLOGY: Hayden Valley is one of the best places in the park to view wildlife. A patient observer may spot bears, wolves, elk, deer, bison, otters, and swans. Also American white pelicans enjoy summers on the Yellowstone River and Lake. Males weigh as much as 30 pounds and their wingspans can exceed nine feet! Unlike coastal brown pelicans, which dive to feed, the white pelicans feed as they swim. They can often be seen working together using coordinated wing beating and bill dipping to "herd" fish to shallow water where they are more easily caught.

White pelican



Trout fishing in the
Yellowstone River is some
of the best in the park.