



**An Interactive  
Guidebook**

by Greg Foote

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# A Grand Teton National Park Journal

By: **Greg Foote**



*Deciduous leaves and Evergreen firs make the plant life contrastingly beautiful.*



*Aspen Trees (Populus tremuloides) stands in groves in the high elevation of the Rocky Mountains.*

## A Place of Four Seasons

Grand Teton National Park gives us all four seasons in a very distinct place indeed. Its summers present spectacular displays of wildflowers and lush meadows with blooming bigleaf sage and lupines. As summer moves through the weeks of July and August the warmer days bring new life to the high plains as streams fill and the Snake River climbs its banks. Late summer begins a new process of drying out that leads to the golden waves of wind blown meadows and sweeping slopes. This golden palette is a perfect foreground for the early autumn vibrancy of color that explodes across the forests and groves of aspen trees. Autumn is a wonderful time to explore the Park. Trails dry out, creeks and streams reduce to a passable flow, and the air has an invigorating fresh cool feel to it. As the days progress, the temperatures slowly drop until the mornings are adorned with frost covering each little leaf and twig. The day sun melts the frost, but it's a clear indication that winter is soon to come. November brings with it a sharp drop in temperature and usually the first significant snowfall on the valley floor. The upper peaks begin their snows a bit earlier in October. Soon, winter goes into full force and the sheer white blankets everything. Grand Teton National Park is truly a winter wonderland. Winter lasts a long time in the mountains here and usually until late spring when the grating begins and leads to summer.

**Journal:** As you explore Grand Teton National Park in any season find contrasts of plant life do you find and use words or drawings to show how this speaks to the overall beauty of the Park.

# Grand Teton Fauna



Animals are one of the great features of Grand Teton National Park. From small rodents to large mammals to birds and aquatic life, animals are a part of the perfect balance in nature that exists here. Some of the more well known mammals are

moose, elk, bison, and bear. To see these great animals is nothing short of a great treat and a major reason to come to Grand Teton in the first place. Even in winter animals are wonderful to watch. The bison and elk make it through the winter by congregating in the low lying meadows where temperatures are not as bitterly cold. Bears typically go into hibernation, but unusually warm temps can temporarily wake them from their slumber. Late spring brings even the animals to life much like the plants. Bears come out of hibernation hungry and ready to feed anything they can find. Elk and bison spend their entire days consuming the new stalks of the meadow's grasses. Each animal takes advantage of the abundant food supplies that the melted snow and springtime rain brings to the land. As summer comes the land and animals find food sources in plentiful supply. Elk move to higher ground as the summer progresses and spend most of the summer in the alpine. Birds come to the Park to flourish in the meadows and river, while aquatic life teems with fish. Beavers are busy making their dams which creates still ponds that the ducks and waterfowl are happy to use as their temporary homes. A common and highly prized visual found in the Park are bald eagles. These and other birds of prey can be seen soaring over the valley floor searching for anything small that moves. Spending time on the plains in the valley will almost always bring these animals into view. Sometimes they are far off a road, but a good pair of binoculars gives the observer a moment of satisfaction

in being able to observe the creatures that have roamed this land for centuries and millennia. A careful look can even give sight to a herd of pronghorns or up on the steep rocky slopes of the mountains, big horn sheep. While every animal, including both black bears and brown bears (grizzly bears), is perfectly safe to be around in exploring the land, clear and absolute precautions must be taken to ensure the safety of both people and animals. First, never get close to a large animal. Each of them are very dangerous when they feel threatened. Second, always make noise on trails, keep food secure in bear container at all times, be alert as to never startle an animal, and carry bear spray on trails. Bears, elk, moose, bison, and even deer are dangerous when aggressive. **Give them all the space they expect as you explore their environment.**

**Do your own study as you explore this mountain community.**

Observed animals:	Observed Behaviors:



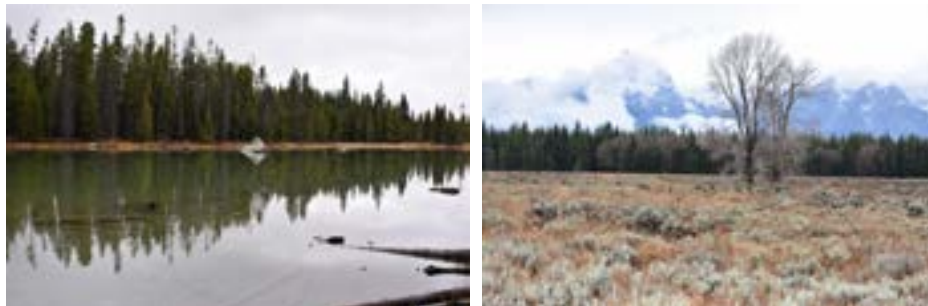
# Grand Teton Flora



This National Park has distinct plant communities that work symbiotically with the fauna of the Park to maintain an extraordinary balance of nature's perfection. One of these examples is the abundant huckleberry bushes that cover the slopes of stream and rivers. Both black and

brown bears spend weeks eating the succulent berries when they ripen. Each plant has its unique purpose. This is true for every flower, grass, and shrub of the open meadows of the plains, as well as for the dense forests and small plants of the upper alpine. The nourishing plants of the meadows are the life source for the roaming large animals. The Park's forest trees consist of firs, pines, spruce, and aspens. The main plant of the plains is the bigleaf sage. This is the classic plant of the high plains of America, which is so iconic in western lore. Each plant in Grand Teton, presents itself differently during each season. The seasons have extreme changes in temperature and precipitation. The Park gets extremely cold in winter and very warm in summertime. Summer thunderstorms give way to a drier autumn which quickly fades into cool frost-filled mornings as the sun dips toward the southern horizon more and more. Once winter hits, the snows can be deep and scouring. Winds howl as drifts make life hard for the animals who continue to graze the meadows. Spring and summer bring water and budding plants that reawaken all.

## Forests and Meadows dominate the landscape



For a gallery of Grand Teton photos go to:  
<http://lonelyfirepublishing.com/GrandTeton/gallery.htm>

Grand Teton National Park has plant communities that present a wonderful foreground to the world renowned mountains that drape the entire western horizon. Notice how you see the forest and meadows as they exist during the time of year that you are visiting. What indicators tell you its that season?

**Journal:**

# Geology

Grand Teton geology presents itself right before your eyes. It is a place that looks like exactly what actually happened. As you stand on the plains looking west to the Teton peaks and range it is easy to imagine an entire mass of the



sedimentary rock so prevalent in the Rockies that has hardened through time, pressure and heat violently pushed up from the depths of the earth's crust to pushed through the layers above and straight into the sky. The canyons and crevasses that are so poignant on the Tetons are carvings left from glaciers after the last ice age and even a few that still barely hang on today.

The plains are laid down fill from that glacial period. Moraines, ridges that extend along the path that was once the edge of glaciers hold water in forming lakes. These lakes fill quickly with debris from the mountains and glacial runoff. As the lakes fill, they slowly turn to meadows. These meadows have nutrient rich soils that allow for forests and shrubs to fill over time.



Looking carefully at the Teton Range, variations in the rock are easily seen. Streaks and lines show intrusions of igneous rock that filled cracks as the range uplifted.

Describe or Draw observations of the Teton Range depicting its striated character and the intricacies including intrusions and faulting.

# Water

Water is everything in nature. In Grand Teton National Park its no different. Everything about the place is defined by how water interacts with the land. The Snake River is the most porminent water feature in the Park as it winds through Teton Valley cutting more and more into the plains. The topography of those plains is even created bywater. Glaciers pushed enormous amounts of debris like a bulldozer, then as they retreated in the end of the ice age the pile in front of the glacier was left there as hills. Behind these moraines lakes formed. The continuing melting glacier fills up the area behind the moraines to form a string of lakes at the base of the mountains. Even the glaciers themselves which are snow and ice are made of water that scours and carves the cayons and deep crevasses in the mountains range.

The sedimentary rock of the Tetons was laid down in a sea. In this the very rock is a product of water.

Water though is more in Grand Teton than the science of what it does. Water gives that place its character. The cascades that rush off mountainsides or the slow meandering Snake River are examples of what water brings here. Sitting beside the river or watching beaver swim in the ponds brings a sense of peace and renewal. But, to truly feel the waters of Teton, go to the river at sunset and let the sun fade into the conscience. The Snake River's glow and color of the great Tetons reflecting across the foreground of vision makes each of us take a deep breath and just stare. The joy of the moment as we share it with ourseves in our own thinking within all the good, bad and in between that makes up our lives as the world in that moment just stops for us and is still, or whether we share the flash of time with a loved one, we see and feel something that changes who we are. That moment becomes etched on our mental and even emotional canvass to give us that magic that we seek in the essence of the National Parks.



*Snake River in late afternoon with Grand Tetons in background*

As you sit by the river or beaver pond or a cascade, what does the moment tell you.



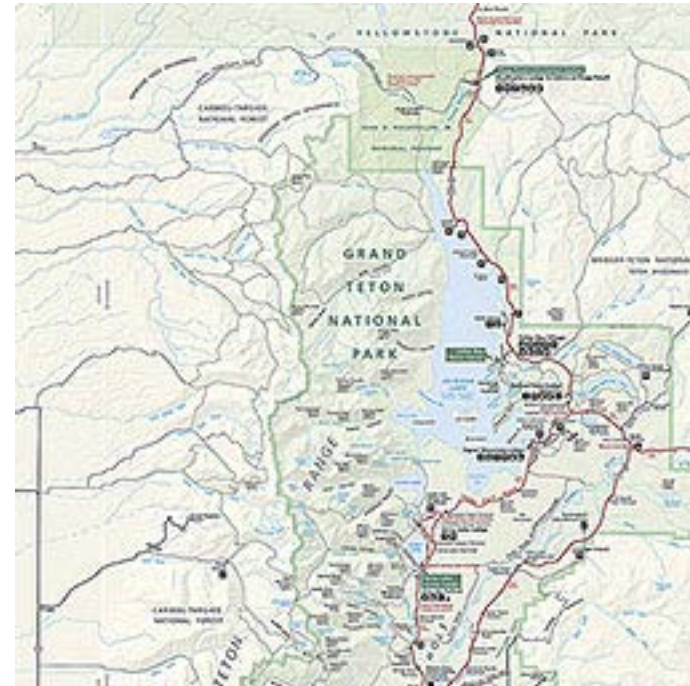
# Geography



*State of Wyoming and its National Park sites.*

Grand Teton National Park is located in the northwest of the state of Wyoming. The Park lies adjacent to Yellowstone National Park to its south.

The Teton Range extends north to south a few miles from and paralleling the Wyoming - Idaho border. The continent's fault lines generally have a north/south orientation due to the weakening of the crust as the continent stretched and the Teton fault-line that creates the Teton Range is no different. As the range lifted the land adjacent to the fault dropped. This drop created a valley area that is lower than its surrounding area and is appropriately named, Jackson Hole.



from the  
National  
Park Service

[http://www.nps.gov/grte/plan-yourvisit/upload/GRTE\\_park\\_map\\_2011.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/grte/plan-yourvisit/upload/GRTE_park_map_2011.pdf)

Grand Teton National Park encompasses the range itself and the extending plains to the east. The Snake River which flows from the north starting exactly near the Yellowstone/John D. Rockefeller Memorial Parkway border fills Jackson Lake then continues its flow south finding the low point of the valley through Jackson Hole and continues down the valley to the south where it becomes the famed river of folklore and legend bringing its water eventually to the giant Columbia River.

The Tetons lie in the Rocky Mountains where in all directions are more mountain ranges. Because of the topography there are no large cities near the Park. Jackson, WY is the town adjacent to Grand Teton, and has an expanding population, but is generally a tourist town catering to visitors to the Park in summer and to skiers in the winter.

Roads into Grand Teton National Park are mountain roads which are impassible or difficult to drive in the winter months.

# Ancient Human History

Humans came to the area now called Jackson Hole as the glaciers of the last ice age retreated about 11,000 years ago. The rich land brought these paleo-indigenous people. For thousands of years ancient and even more modern indigenous people migrating through the land of Grand Teton during the spring and summer months. Starting about 500 years ago, Shoshone, Bannock, Blackfoot, Crow, Flathead, Gros Ventre, Nez Perce all found seasonal home in the Grand Tetons and Jackson Hole. These people gathered, hunted and followed the great bison herds through the valley.

About 11,000 years ago the glaciers began to melt back up the mountains leaving the downslope areas with rich surface soils for grasses and small plants that were excellent feed for bison, elk, and antelope. In the next few thousand years the climate warmed and got drier. At about 5,000 years ago things began to change to a more moist climate. In this the land flourished and the animals followed. The tools and methods for gathering



food changed and the valleys filled with people.

These people relied primarily on the atlatl for hunting. The bow and arrow was a more modern invention that began in the area of

the Grand Teton about 1,000 years ago. Large roasting pits have been found in Jackson Hole for these ancient people where large game was cooked and prepared. As bows and arrows evolved as the primary hunting tool, soapstone bowls began being developed from clay found in the area. The valley also produced food for gathering that consisted mainly of cattail, berries, roots and tubers.

References: National Park Service

Imagine living here with no modern conveniences and all that you had was what you see in front of you in this valley and ranges. As you explore keep this thought in the back of your mind and notice the elements you would use to survive. Also, since Grand Teton area was used as summer hunting grounds what animals and other resources do you see that would bring you here.



# Modern Humans in Grand Teton

The first Euro-Americans that came to the Grand Tetons was possibly a member of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery expedition. John Colter left the expedition in 1806 with the blessing of both Lewis and Clark. It is not absolutely known whether Colter actually traveled through Grand Teton but the conjecture is fairly high since a stone was discovered in 1931 carved as the shape of a head and the name Colter etched into one side and the year 1808 on the other. Besides the possibility that John Colter had traveled through, the next Euro-American people did not arrive until 1863 when Richard "Beaver Dick" Leigh and his Shoshone wife, Jenny settled in Teton Valley. Their tenure was a tough life which took its toll on the entire family as all six children as well as Jenny died of smallpox in 1876. In 1872 a land survey expedition by a group led by Dr. Ferdinand Van-deveer Hayden came to the Tetons where they met Leigh and Jenny. As they continued to survey they named Jenny and Leigh lakes after the two residents who helped them learn of the land.

It was not until the 1890's that a community took root in the Grand Teton - Jackson Hole area. Mormons from Salt Lake City had been sent to establish communities throughout the region. The mormon group that came here farmed by digging ditches for irrigation and created the spot that is now known as Mormon Row. Soon 27 more homesteads were settled in the spot named Grovont by the United States Postal Service. The relatively sheltered locale with good soil allowed people to stay here on a permanent basis. Some of the structures built by these home-



steads is still visible today. The Moulton barn is the one most preserved example, but other structures still stand. A man from



Ohio named Bill Menor came to Jackson Hole in 1892 and saw a business opportunity along the Snake River. He built an elaborate ferry system to allow settlers and visitors to cross the river and buy goods from his general store.

Dude ranches soon followed at the beginning of the 20th century. These ranches gave visitors the opportunity to feel the "western" lifestyle out on the plains. Grand Teton National Park was established in 1929, but only encompassed the high mountain range and some lakes. The expansion of these "ranches" influenced John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to be alarmed at their overdevelopment of the land and led to his establishment of the Snake River Land Company that would purchase land in the valley and return it to its natural state. The efforts of the Rockefeller family continue to 2007, when the efforts were finally realized to eliminate the JY Dude Ranch and return the land to its natural state.



The dude ranches were so popular that a small church, Chapel of the Transfiguration, was built in 1925 in Jackson Hole to facilitate the desire to worship on Sundays. The church still stands and has services today.

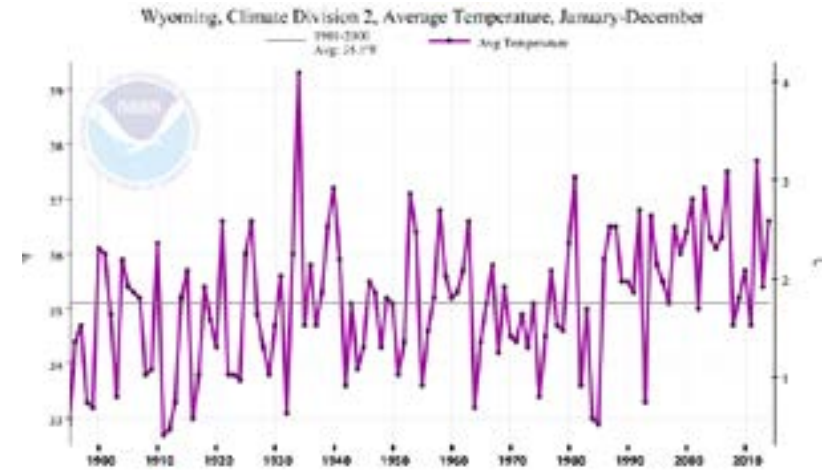
# Weather and Climate

Grand Teton has very strong indicators that demonstrate on a dramatic scale the change in climate. There is no more clear example than Teton Glacier. Visitors for more than a century have enjoyed seeing the spectacular glacier prominent on the face of the Grand Teton mountain. Today the glacier has retreated far up the mountainside due to its melting away.



**Teton Glacier having shrunk from its large size a few years ago.**

One devastating indicator of the winters not getting as cold as they historically have is the infestation of the bark beetle over the past decade. The Rocky Mountains have succumbed to the beetles voracious appetite for pine trees. Millions of trees and acres have lost their trees because this naturally occurring predator which feed on the moisture rich part of a tree's cambium layer cuts off the water supply and the tree dies. In the past the beetles would kill weak trees or where trees should be thinned for the health of the forest, but their populations were kept in check due to extreme cold of winter. Now the cold does not get as cold and the beetles survive. In Grand Teton National Park this epidemic has been most costly to the white pine tree. Other more subtle changes are taking place all around the region, from plant communities to animal habitat.



Looking at the temperature trend from 1895 to 2015, the problem becomes clear. The temperature trends are suddenly moving higher. From near 1990 to the current year, temperatures in Grand Teton is increasing. This increase has dramatic effects on the vegetation and water cycles. Those changes alter animal habitats and change migratory patterns and hibernation.

**Journal Write:** Take some time to look around you and consider the climate. What indicators are present that tell of how the climate is changing.

# Extraordinary Mountains



The mountain peaks rise from subtle soft land as the meander of the appropriately named, Snake River gently winds its way through a valley carpeted with wildflowers in spring and summer, and waving grasses in autumn. Sage brush dots the landscape across the large smooth terrain extending from the Yellowstone border, through Teton valley to Jackson Hole and beyond. The land itself is a North American high plains space that is so iconic in the nation's character and folklore. Bison and antelope roam the undulating ground as they graze on tall grass and brush. In spring the wildflowers bloom in carpets of color with the predominant lupine bringing spectacular bluish purples across the entire foreground. As one stands in this incredible place the most extraordinary mountains rise immediately in their vision. The glory of the sharp rocks pointing directly to the sky have a beauty that stops the imagination and gives a sense of unanswered awe. We peer into every crack and crevasse of the mountains trying to get a mental clue as to what has happened here and how it happened. The rock is mottled with lines and curves while seeming so austere. Looking up to the high peaks and peering through the canyons and valleys of the mountains does not tell of answers but brings more questions. Questions not of geology and science, but of the imagination.

Take very different views of the Tetons as you travel through the Park and tell of that spark of imagination your mind wanders to:

# Recreational Visitors per Year

1929 - 51,500	1964 - 2,456,800	1999 - 2,680,025
1930 - 60,000	1965 - 2,507,000	2000 - 2,590,624
1931 - 62,000	1966 - 2,673,100	2001 - 2,535,108
1932 - 40,000	1967 - 2,643,700	2002 - 2,612,629
1933 - 42,500	1968 - 2,970,300	2003 - 2,355,693
1934 - 75,000	1969 - 3,134,400	2004 - 2,360,373
1935 - 100,000	1970 - 3,352,500	2005 - 2,463,442
1936 - 125,000	1971 - 2,556,400	2006 - 2,406,476
1937 - 135,000	1972 - 2,490,266	2007 - 2,588,574
1938 - 153,353	1973 - 2,228,600	2008 - 2,485,987
1939 - 87,133	1974 - 2,392,900	2009 - 2,580,081
1940 - 103,324	1975 - 2,173,500	2010 - 2,669,374
1941 - 125,489	1976 - 2,834,700	2011 - 2,587,437
1942 - 33,808	1977 - 3,258,000	2012 - 2,705,256
1943 - 8,203	1978 - 3,160,026	2013 - 2,688,794
1944 - 19,978	1979 - 2,446,171	2014 - 2,791,392
1945 - 41,349	1980 - 2,555,627	
1946 - 136,441	1981 - 2,643,644	Total
1947 - 142,975	1982 - 2,534,029	141,478,405
1948 - 153,054	1983 - 1,532,035	
1949 - 166,506	1984 - 1,360,898	
1950 - 189,286	1985 - 1,334,483	
1951 - 637,785	1986 - 1,306,322	
1952 - 785,343	1987 - 1,450,791	
1953 - 942,966	1988 - 1,232,691	
1954 - 1,003,500	1989 - 1,331,659	
1955 - 1,104,700	1990 - 1,588,253	
1956 - 1,197,200	1991 - 1,625,752	
1957 - 1,306,300	1992 - 1,744,636	
1958 - 1,428,500	1993 - 2,568,689	
1959 - 1,529,600	1994 - 2,540,699	
1960 - 1,429,900	1995 - 2,731,015	
1961 - 1,492,400	1996 - 2,733,439	
1962 - 1,799,400	1997 - 2,658,762	
1963 - 2,158,800	1998 - 2,757,060	

Reproduced from:

[https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/Park Specific Reports/Annual Park Recreation Visitation \(1904 - Last Calendar Year\)?Park=GRTE](https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/Park Specific Reports/Annual Park Recreation Visitation (1904 - Last Calendar Year)?Park=GRTE)

The visitation statistics shown in this chart have varying fluctuations in the patterns from year to year. Between some years you will notice a sudden drop, while years that show increased visitation have a more gradual shift upward. It is interesting to note some of the more obvious reasons why certain years have a drastic drop, but some years the drop is difficult to explain. Grand Teton National Park has undergone a number of shifts since 1929. First, was the establishment of the National Park. Then the Park's expansions. The addition of the John D. Rockefeller Parkway and changes to winter accessibility may have contributed to these changes. Another factor is how the actual number of "recreational visitors" has been calculated. For instance the National Park Service reports "over 4.29 million people entered the park during the year, with over 2.79 million of those making a recreational excursion." (<http://www.nps.gov/grte/learn/news/news-release-15-02.htm>)

That difference may not have been counted the same in some years. In 1992, the National Park Service made an official policy change on how recreational visitors were counted. Another site put out by NPS is at, <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/Reports/Park>

Find the lowest visited year and the highest since 1929. Find years where the trend increases and look at years where there is a sudden drop. Consider historical, economic, and other factors in the United States and worldwide that would explain this.



## Grand Teton National Park

The Grand Tetons push forth from depths of the earth's crust to the high point in the sky that we all see today. When the first fur trappers came to the Tetons they looked up and after a very long time out in the wilderness deprived of human contact, namely contact from the better gender, their fanciful minds began seeing things. Like the sailors of yore who saw mermaids and and serpents, their minds wandered into the wishful world as a matter of mental survival. So in coming to the Grand Tetons, I am sure their all-male french language conversations saw something in the three main mountiain peaks that made them wish for more then each other. And, I am certain the jokes began to fly. And the tough rugged men who survive in the mounstains for months on end in the crude days of the middle nineteenth century, became like all men, adolescent boys.



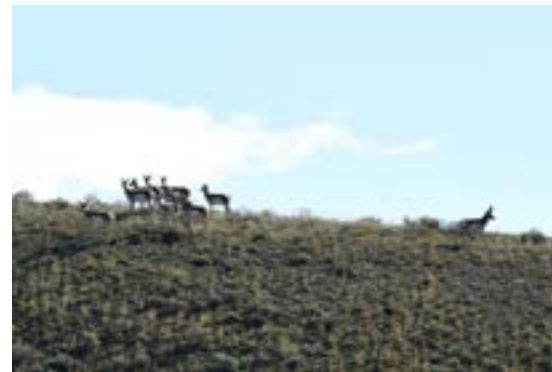
Yes, as they looked up at the majestic peaks they did not see the glory that Ansel Adams was so mesmerized by, or what Rockefeller

saw, they saw a place of great trapping for beaver skins and a place that set their immature imaginations afire.

While this whole thing seems trivial, it means that we in today's world are stuck with the name, Grand Tetons National Park. The reality is that the name does have a historical context even if its a bit on the young male amygdala side of



thinking. Fur trappers were a huge part of the context of the Park as well as bringing the tales of the place back to an American public with their own fascinations of an idealized West. A large flat valley with a teeming river and high mountains with an endless supply of water. Visions of farming and easy homesteads danced in the minds of people living in crowded conditions by the darkness of a civil war that brought people to the brink of despair. When the tales returned fathers and husbands saw a promise of a life wher their loved ones could just live.



They set out across a difficult land to find the place of fancy. And it was just as they were told, verdant valley with a plentiful river and forests for shelter and wood. They found animals and others

who would help them. They rejoiced to their God. The warm valley full of life and hope was far away from the pain of their former home. As summer extended their crops struggled but it was a matter of time to understand how to live off the land. After

all, there were others who had come earlier and made it. What they did not know was that many did not make it. And they were about to find out why. Summer turned to September and the wildflowers died away. The grasses turned yellow and waved in the strengthening winds. The nights cooled, but any food they grew was still available. October hit and it felt like back home. Colder temperatures with a snow flurry now and then. After all their cabins were built and there was plenty of wood for warmth. November brought a change. By their Thanksgiving celebration, the men began to wonder. Christmas brought a fascination of an entirely different kind, a longing for home. Winter never got easier. The cold got colder and the snow fell stronger as the winds blew harder. Temperatures dropped to degrees they had never known. Snow was so deep that leaving the little stark cabin was a struggle. Blizzards meant that leaving the cabin could be the last walk they ever took.

Their moments of laughter disappeared. Their hope gone. Their prayers never stopped. And, the days went on forever. Every night they went to sleep they wondered if all would wake up. Disease and hunger sent shivers through the man who had brought the family to the promised land. And just like the childish thoughts of the fur trappers, they dreamed of something that was not real, a home to love and a happy family who looked to him as their hero. That reality never came, at least in the shadow of the Grand Tetons.

-Greg Foote

**To order or view Greg Foote's essay book on National Parks, "My Walks with the Spirit" go to:**

**<http://lonelyfirepublishing.com/book>**

## Become a Part of Grand Teton NP

Every National Park has fantastic opportunities to become involved in making the Park a better place for others and nature. There are many of these at Grand Teton NP.

### **For Children:**

**Junior Ranger Program:** This popular program brings kids to understand nature and the Park in a creative fun way that also involves other kids. It is always more fun to learn and experience with others. The beauty of this program is that children are naturally curious and because it's led by an expert National Park Service expert ranger, the information and discoveries are something that will stay with your child for a lifetime. Besides, they love the badges they earn.

For more information on this program ask at any Visitor Center or go online to: <http://www.nps.gov/grte/learn/kidsyouth/upload/Grand-Adventure-lo-res.pdf>

And for even more activities and ideas, go to <http://www.nps.gov/grte/learn/kidsyouth/parkfun.htm>

### **For Youth:**

The Youth Conservation Program is a dynamic learning experience for adolescent aged people.

<http://www.nps.gov/grte/getinvolved/supportyourpark/ycp.htm>

### **For College Students:**

Interpretative Internship Program gives students a real world work experience in working with the National Park Service.

<http://www.nps.gov/grte/learn/management/internship.htm>

### **For Adults:**

The possibilities to learn and get involved in programs are extensive at Grand Teton National Park. Some of the more prominent groups that organize events, classes, seminars, and volunteer opportunities are:

- Volunteers In Parks Program, <http://www.nps.gov/grte/getinvolved/volunteer.htm>
- Park Partner Programs, Grand Teton Association and Grand Teton National Park Foundation are two organizations dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the Park., <http://www.nps.gov/grte/getinvolved/supportyourpark/joinourfriends.htm>
- Numerous walks, hikes, seminars, campfire talks, speakers, and more are presented at Grand teton National Park, <http://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>

# Experiencing Grand Teton National Park

1. Hike any of the popular trails to the following lakes and walk around the lake for excellent perspectives and views. Choose a couple of the lakes to find different places to enjoy. Jenny Lake Loop, String and Leigh Lakes, Phelps Lake, Taggart and Bradley Lakes, Two Ocean Lake to Emma Matilde Lake. Notice the glacial moraines that each lake forms behind.



2. Explore Signal Mountain. You can take a beautiful hike up the mountain from its base at Signal Mountain Lodge or drive to its apex along a steep winding road. Signal Mountain has remnants of the last large volcanic flow that consumed the northern area of Teton Valley between 6 million and 600,000 years ago. Its views of the Teton Range and the entire valley are extraordinary.



3. Other more involved hikes are to venture into some of the canyons that extend from the base of the Tetons. Some notable and more popular, but also spectacular hikes are Death Canyon, Garnet Canyon, Cascade Canyon, Paintbrush Canyon. The National Park Service recommends carrying bear spray, making noise, and not hiking alone.

4. Drive along Highway 191 and loop around Teton Park Road stopping along to read the very informative road signs put up by the National Park Service. These interpretive signs explain many aspects of the Park's natural and human history, from geology to Ansel Adams visit and so much more. Along the drive you may see

many range animals on the prairie as well as beaver in the streams and rivers. Birds of prey make their home here also, so be aware of the beauty that presents itself to you here. Be sure to take the string lake loop and make a stop at the end of Schwabacher Road. The lakes and ponds are highly worth the experience.

5. Visit the many historical structures in Grand Teton NP. The cabins and structures that are still standing from a day long gone when the settlers came to this land are a treat and a nostalgic step back in time. Be sure to visit the Cunningham Cabin, Menor's Ferry and Store, and Murie Ranch. Near Menor Historic District is the Chapel of the Transfiguration, a small but beautiful chapel built for those who came to Grand Teton area long ago.



6. Ride a bike, take a jog, or just walk along the incredible bike paths that extend through the Park from the town of Jackson to Moose and along both Teton Park Road and highway 191. These dedicated paths will give the feel of the Park without the encumbrance of the having to see views through the car window.



7. The three Visitor Centers and the Lodges in Grand Teton are highly worth visiting. The Lodges are not only historical but bring a sense of the enjoyment of the Park to fruition. Colter Bay, Jenny Lake, and the Craig Thomas Discovery Visitor Centers are great places to learn about the Park's natural history, human history, and where to explore. Numerous books and guides of many different topics relating to the Park are sold at each place.

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Visited:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location, Trail, or Site in Park:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Impressions and Thoughts on the Experience:**

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Visited:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location, Trail, or Site in Park:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Impressions and Thoughts on the Experience:**

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Visited:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location, Trail, or Site in Park:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Impressions and Thoughts on the Experience:**

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Visited:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location, Trail, or Site in Park:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Location, Trail, or Site in Park:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Impressions and Thoughts on the Experience:**

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Visited:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location, Trail, or Site in Park:** \_\_\_\_\_

**My Impressions and Thoughts on the Experience:**

# Photo Gallery

This is a sampling of Greg Foote's Photos during his visit.



More Fine Art Photography from Greg Foote is available at Lonely Fire Publishing.  
<http://lonelyfirepublishing.com>



For information and to purchase go to:

[www.lonelyfirepublishing.com](http://www.lonelyfirepublishing.com)

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This publication is designed with families, young people and everyone who wants to understand the National Park better without having to read extensive an extensive study. The writing is painstakingly written to be understood by everyone while at the same time being highly informational. I write each piece with tourists and students in mind to give them more breadth of information about the Park, but making that information accessible to all and enjoyable to read. My goal is have publications that you the visitor and user of these books interacts with and enjoys. Without your interaction, gaining a deeper understanding is not possible. Remember, questions and personal observations are more instrumental to learning than information. We use our minds as the filter to which all things are either assimilated into our thinking or discarded.

This is a perfect addition to every middle high school. The content is highly accessible for all students and highly Common Core Standards compatible.

It is vital as a nation for all its people to understand the importance of why our National Parks present an extraordinary example of this country's values. National Parks bring visitors a sense of joy and enlightenment. But mostly, they are indicators of the natural Earth.

## Fun Facts about Grand Teton National Park

### Basic Statistics:

**Year Became a National Park:**

**February 26, 1926; Complete National Park founded in 1950**

**Acres: 310,000**

**Number of Visitors in 2014: 2,791,392**

**Number of Search and Rescues in 2014: 60**

**Highest Elevation: 13,770 at top of Grand Teton Peak**

**Lowest Elevation: 6,320 at Fish Creek**

**Total Miles of Trails: 242 Miles**

**Local Towns and Cities: Jackson, WY; Wilson, WY; Driggs, ID**

**Number of Named Glaciers: 8**

**Number of Lakes: 6 major morainal lakes; 100+ alpine lakes**

**Number Rivers: 2; Snake River and Gros Ventre**

### Fauna:

**Species of Mammals: 48**

**Species of Birds: over 300**

**Species of Reptiles: 4**

**Species of Amphibians: 6**

**Species of Fish: 16**

### Flora:

**Most Common Tree: lodgepole pine**

**Official Flower: alpine forget-me-not**

### Temperatures:

**Extreme High: 97 degrees F**

**Extreme Low: - 63 degrees F**

**Average Summer Months High at Visitor Center: 80 degrees F**

**Average Summer Months Low at Visitor Center: 39 degrees F**

**Average Winter Months Low at Visitor Center: 2 degrees F**

**Average Winter Months High at Visitor Center: 28.5 degrees F**

**Average Annual Precipitation at Visitor Center: 21.6 inches**

