

## **Yellowstone Trip (6/17/23)**

### *Itinerary Overview*

Depart Bozeman (Roskie Hall) at 6:30 AM

#### **1. North Entrance, Mammoth**

From Bozeman, drive east on I-90 ~23 miles to Livingston MT. Exit at Park St./Hwy 89, and turn left at the light to head South on Hwy 89. Drive ~51 miles to Gardiner MT. Enter the Park through the North Entrance. Drive ~5.5 miles to the Mammoth Hot Springs area. (Drive: 1 hour 45 minutes)

We will gather in front of the Albright Museum and Visitor Center.

Meeting time: 8:30 AM?

#### **2. Mammoth Terraces**

From the Visitor Center, you can explore the Mammoth Hot Springs area on foot.

We will gather again in front of the Albright Museum and Visitor Center prior to departing.

Meeting time: 9:30 AM?

#### **3. Lunch break**

Drive 21 miles towards Norris Junction. At Norris turn left towards Canyon Village. Drive 1.6 miles, then exit to the right onto Virginia Cascade Drive. This is a narrow winding one-way road. Drive about 1.8 miles to the Picnic Area. (The cascades are ~0.7 miles *before* the picnic area, and it's a one-way road...) We will attempt to have lunch at the Virginia Cascades picnic area, assuming tables are available.

Meeting time: 10:15?

#### **4. Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone**

Continue on Virginia Cascade Drive until reaching Norris Canyon Road, and turn right towards Canyon Village. Drive 8 miles to Grand Loop Road (just next to Canyon Village). Turn right on Grand Loop Road towards Lake/Fishing Bridge. After ~2.3 miles, turn left onto South Rim Drive. Proceed ~1.4 miles to the parking lot at the end, at Artist Point. (Drive: 20 minutes)

We will gather at the top level of the viewing terrace at Artist Point for a group photo at 12:15?

#### **5. West Thumb Geyser Basin**

Return to Grand Loop Road, then turn left towards Lake/Fishing Bridge. After 13 miles, continue on Hwy 20 towards West Thumb. After 20.4 miles, turn left into the parking lot at West Thumb Geyser Basin. (Drive: 1 hour)

We will gather in the parking lot in front of the historic Ranger Station after the visit.

Meeting Time: 14:30?

## **6. Old Faithful**

Return to Grand Loop Road, and turn left. Almost immediately, turn right on Highway 191 towards Old Faithful.

Continue 18.9 miles, then take the Old Faithful exit. At the two forks take the right branch each time. Try to park near the Old Faithful Lodge. (Drive: 40 minutes; Note: there is construction on this road, expect delays...)

Old Faithful erupts approximately every 1.5 to 2 hours. Predictions for the next eruption are available at the Visitor Center. Predictions for other, less frequent geysers are also available.

A number of short (and not so short) hikes can be started from this area.

You are on your own for dinner. There are numerous places to get food at Old Faithful. Leftover lunch items are available on request.

We will gather on the boardwalk viewing area for Old Faithful, in front of the Old Faithful Lodge (far right side of boardwalk when facing geyser).

Meeting time: 19:00?

## **7. Grand Prismatic Spring**

Return to Grand Loop Road, heading towards Madison. Drive ~5.9 miles, then turn left into the parking lot for Grand Prismatic Spring. (Drive: 15 minutes)

We will gather at the end of the parking lot, just before the bridge across the Firehole river for a group walk around the boardwalk.

## **8. Return home**

From here, we will return to Bozeman. Suggested return route: Madison Junction -> West entrance -> West Yellowstone -> Four Corners -> Bozeman (Drive: 111 miles, ~2.5 hours).

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