

Day 1: We arrived in Bozeman at about 2:30 MT.

First stop, West Yellowstone which was outside Yellowstone, about an hour from Canyon Lodge.

Entered Yellowstone, and Stopped at Gibbons Falls and walked around before heading to the lodge.

There are a number of dinner choices in Yellowstone. We had dinner in the cafeteria.

Day 2: We were told to get going early to avoid crowds, which we did.

Heading towards, Old Faithful, we first stopped at Berryl Springs. Then to Old Faithful. It goes off about every hour. Watched it erupt, then had a breakfast buffet in Old Faithful Inn. Very good.

Afterwards we walked around the basin. Many different mini geysers, hotspots, boiling springs and a bison.

We next headed to the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone. This was a not to miss adventure. We walked along the path and saw many views of the canyon as well as Lower Falls and Upper Falls. The steep depth of the canyon was breath taking. One could see the volcanic ash making up the sides of the canyon.

Then we headed to Mammoth Springs, The ride was along the cliffs and pretty scary, but beautiful. We walked along a few of the boardwalks and saw the springs and multi colored limestone deposits. It was now about 4PM.

Day 3

First we checked out the ranger station, then to Norris Museum and Geyser basin. Norris has 2 loop trails. We decided to start with the shorter, steeper one. It was mostly boardwalk, with outstanding geyser forms.

Next, we headed to Artists Paint Pots, an area of colorful pools, bubbling mud pots and swirling areas of bacteria, algae and minerals producing streams of different colors, we saw herds of bison with calves. To reach the cauldron area, we walked through a forest of lodge pole pines. Next stop was the Fountain Paint Pots.

Shortly after leaving that area, we were diverted by a large herd of bison grazing in the fields on both sides of the road. We then turned onto Fire Hole Lake Drive, where we viewed the bison. Traveling on that road we came across several geysers including a cone geyser which erupted soon after we got there. We also observed a couple more bison. We continued on to Fire Hole Lake which was a lake of bubbling hot springs. Then back out to the main road, we arrived at the Midway Basin. We saw the Prismatic Springs, opal pool and Excelsior Crater. To get there, we walked across a bridge over the Yellowstone River, which had a very dramatic waterfall of hot spring, one of many which feed the river.

The next adventure was Kepler Cascades, a beautiful display of water cascading down into the river.

At this point, we crossed the Continental Divide at Isa Lake and into Craig's Pass, a road that was closed many times during our stay for weather related issues. Next we went to West Thumb Geyser Basin, following another boardwalk. As we looked at various geysers, we were between the Yellowstone Lake and the geysers. At several points there were also active geyser holes that were on the edge the lake, in the water. The lake itself was huge and dramatic.

Next stop Pumice Point where we stopped to observe the turbulent water of the lake. Also, there we saw a few mule deer, observing us.

We stopped at Bridge Bay, which was already closed for the season and could not find access to the Natural Bridge. Continuing on we crossed Fishing Bridge, both ways, because we could.

Finally, we checked out the Mud Volcano. A mud pond which when it got hot enough spewed mud into the air, we only saw it bubbling mud.

Got back to the village just in time to be able to get on the list for dinner at the only table service restaurant, M66 grill.

Day 5

Checked out of our lodge and headed out.

We stopped at Grant Village. The ranger there was chatty and said he didn't get many visitors. It was a cozy, rustic visitors' center with a roaring fire.

We then stopped at Lewis Falls, which flows into Lewis Lake. We crossed the caldera boundary and left Yellowstone through the south entrance, entering John D Rockefeller Jr Parkway, the area between Yellowstone and Grand Teton.

We stopped at Flagg Ranch for breakfast, a very rustic lodge and restaurant across the way from the forest damaged by wild fires.

We continued on into Grand Teton NP, through the valley. We stopped at the visitors center at Colter Bay, where we listened to an old Indian who is a park ranger give a little history lesson. Then we continued on to Jackson Lake Junction Dam, a very powerful and noisy dam.

We then headed east and up into the mountains, arriving at Togwotee Mountain Lodge and cabins. Which was rustic and historic. After getting settled, we attempted to hike around. Seeing all the bear prints was a bit unnerving.

Day 6

First stop was Sacred Heart Chapel, a small active Church in the woods, overlooking Jackson Lake.

Followed soon thereafter by breakfast at the beautiful, rustic Signal Mountain Lodge overlooking the marina at Jackson Lake. Breakfast was hearty and delicious. Then we took a long, curvy, drive up Signal Mountain

As we started our drive to Jenny Lake Lodge, We stopped at Pothole turnout, where we could see the beautiful Grand Teton Mountains. We stopped at Jenny Lodge, a very small, cute, ultra-rustic lodge on the outside and adorable on the inside, with roaring firing.

We stopped at the visitors' center which was under construction. There too we got an excellent view of the mountains, although a much closer view.

We next stopped at Chapel of the Transfiguration and Menor's Ferry. The chapel was an active Episcopal church and Rich couldn't hold back but HAD to ring the bell they use to call people to services. The ferry is the remains of an old trappers post and operational current driven, along a cable, ferry.

Next stop: Craig Thomas Discovery Center. This is the largest visitors' center and most contemporary. Its displays were very informational.

We then crossed the Snake River, we continued on to Antelope Flats Rd. in the middle of vast fields of sage brush. We came upon an old Mormon settlement.

Then we went to the small area called Kelly, which was made up of yurts, teepees, contemporary houses, and log cabins. It is the remains of a small community that got wiped out by a flood in 1927. The population of the area is now 138 after the last census. We stopped at a small deli where we had coffee and hot cocoa. He had an amazing collection of books on the 60's. The guy wasn't exactly friendly .

We then stopped at Snake River overlook where Ansel Adams took his famous photo of the river and mountains in the background. We saw people floating down the river from the overlook. A little further on we stopped and Rich went to explore Cunningham's Cabin, the remains of an old handmade rancher's cabin. We also had a view of the herd of horses running across the road.

Day 7

After leaving the resort, We stopped at Willow Flat upturn, and observed how we could clearly see the peak of the Grand Teton. We then breakfasted at John Colter's Ranch House .We next reentered Yellowstone. We went to take pictures of Lewis Canyon and a Grizzly and cub were pointed out to us.

The next stop was Black Sand Geyser Basin, where there were a variety of colorful formations.

Next, was Firehole Canyon Drive which was phenomenal! We road along the canyon wall where we saw Firehole Falls and the swimming hole. On the side of the canyon, one could see the lava flow of years gone by.

On the way out of the park, just before the Madison exit, we saw the Madison Elk herd. And another example of a ranger trying to herd the people. About an hour outside of Bozeman we stopped for pie at the Corral in Big Sky. Then we headed to our motel, which was 5 min from the airport

Day8

Got up early and headed to the airport. The plane was on time at 7:05 Am MDT. We arrived in Chicago for a 3 hour layover. We arrived in Newark about 6:20 PM EDT.

We got home and crashed at about 9PM..