

David Glauber

Name: **Yellowstone National Park, Cody, WY**

Address: Yellowstone National Park, Cody, WY

Location: East to West, Yellowstone spans the territory between Cody, WY and West Yellowstone, Montana

Website: <https://www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm>

Partnerships: Yellowstone has a number of partnerships with commercial and non-profit partners in order to meet needs of park visitors. The Yellowstone Park Foundation and Yellowstone Association are non-profit groups that help raise money for the park. Xanterra Parks & Resorts is the official concessioner for the park, helping to coordinate all guest services, including lodging, shopping, and other needs. Delaware North is in charge of operating the gift shops and food locations throughout the park. Yellowstone Park Service Stations, Inc. operates fuel and auto repair services within the park and Medcor at Yellowstone provides medical services for visitors who get injured in the park.

Accreditation: Yellowstone National Park is a protected territory that is overseen by the National Park Service, which is operated under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of the Interior.

Experience: On the morning of May 11, 2016, my wife and I woke up at the K3 Guest House Bed and Breakfast in Cody, WY. After two wonderful nights of seeing sights, such as the Buffalo Bill Dam and the Buffalo Bill Center for the West, and sleeping in a vintage chuck wagon, we continued west on the way to Yellowstone National Park. Before taking the fifty-mile, hour-long ride to the east entrance of the national park, we stopped at Peter's Café to pick up tuna subs, cookies, and soda that we could eat and drink inside the park. The journey from Cody, WY to Yellowstone is often referred to as one of the most scenic drives in America. This stretch of mountainous land includes picturesque sites, such as Buffalo Bill State Park and Shoshone National Forest. Viewing the images of this stretch of land, it is clear that pictures just cannot do justice to this terrain; they cannot capture the feeling of the crisp, cool air, or the ability to just scan the landscape in a 360 degree turn to take in all of the nuances of the landscape. Seeing animals on the side of the road and driving through snow-covered mountains (in May) adds to the beautiful scenery. Shortly before entering the park, we stopped for a restroom break and some souvenir shopped at a place called Pahaska Teepee Lodge, which is also on the National Register of Historic Places. We bought some t-shirts and other knick-knacks before continuing on.

Upon entering Yellowstone, which is an UNESCO World Heritage Site, we spotted some nice waterfalls on the side of a mountain. And then, incredibly, finally, we came across some bighorn sheep. We were hoping to see them and were thrilled to come across them early on in our journey through Yellowstone. We stopped frequently not just to see animals but to take in the incredible scenery. As an avid photographer, I had a tripod to be able to capture the images in the way that I envisioned them. Time flies by very fast when you're having fun. After being in the park for a couple of hours, we started to get very hungry. Luckily, we had the tuna subs that we pre-purchased in order to satisfy our hunger, as there were no other eating places anywhere in sight. We planned to eat the subs at a picnic table but it was just too cold to do that, so we ate them in the car.

After lunch, having a bit more energy, I felt adventurous and decided to climb on top of a large amount of snow (pretty far in) to take a picture. Unfortunately, when my wife tried to do the same thing, she fell through the snow. Luckily, she was only a few inches from the end of the snow, however, so I was quickly able to get her leg out, which had been stuck in the snow. For the most part, the only damage that was done was that her socks were soaked, which required a quick change of socks from our luggage. As we continued on, we came across some geological features of Yellowstone, including Steamboat Point, which as the name suggests, emitted a large amount of steam. What the name doesn't tell you is that the steam that it emits has a horrible, toxic-like stench that made us want to move along rather quickly. After this experience, we reached a point, known as "Fishing Bridge," which includes a general store with souvenirs and food. Since we ate already we did not purchase any food but, of course, we did buy more souvenirs.

We then saw a scenic attraction, called the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. We stopped to see it briefly, but then realized that the road that we turned on was a one way route into Montana. Since we were on a time schedule, with pre-booked and pre-paid reservations we could not drive 3-6 hours out of the way on a one-way road. So, I unfortunately had to drive in the shoulder for about 2 minutes to get back to the road that we had been on, driving against traffic. This certainly was not the safest or best thing I've ever had to do. Luckily, however, the park was very empty in mid-May as it had just opened earlier in the week. Back on track, we proceeded towards the "Old Faithful" geyser as the end of daylight neared. After driving for a while, with GPS and phones not working inside the park, we decided to give up on our goal of seeing Old Faithful. We didn't want to be inside the park after it got dark. As we journeyed towards West Yellowstone, MT towards our ultimate endpoint for the night at a farmhouse bed and breakfast in Victor, ID, we came across a string of buffaloes that created an impenetrable roadblock. Amazingly, after a long

while, someone beeped their horn and that goaded them to move just enough for cars to pass. As we left Yellowstone, we reminisced over one of our most enjoyable days on a three week cross-country trip from Florida to New York to Seattle, WA.

References

National Park Service (n.d.). Partners. Retrieved from <https://www.nps.gov/yell/getinvolved/partners.htm>