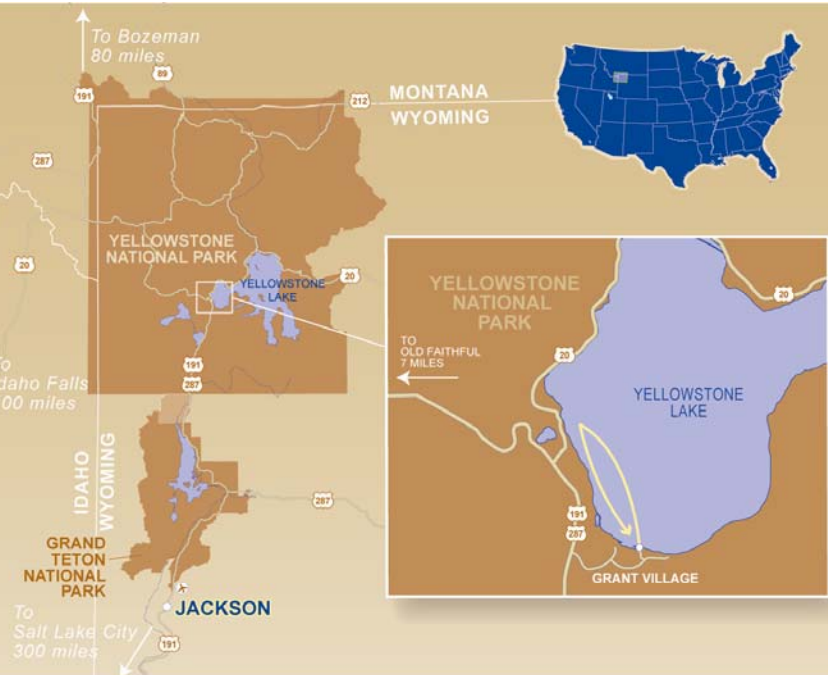




## YELLOWSTONE LAKE KAYAKING

*Itinerary*



<b>MEETING PLACE:</b>	Grant Village Boat Ramp
<b>GPS LOCATION:</b>	44.391859, -110.548103
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	6:30 AM, 9:30 AM or 2:30 PM (Sunrise trips meeting at 6:30 AM are only available July 1 to Aug 10)
<b>RETURN TIME:</b>	9:30 AM, 12:30 PM or 5:30 PM
<b>PUT-IN/TAKE-OUT:</b>	Grant Village Boat Ramp
<b>AREA COVERED:</b>	Shores of the West Thumb of Yellowstone Lake, 4-5 miles roundtrip
<b>AGE LIMIT:</b>	Minimum age is 7
<b>BOAT TYPE:</b>	2-person touring kayaks

Yellowstone Lake, in the heart of Yellowstone National Park, is North America's largest lake above 7000 feet. It lies at the center of an immense caldera left behind by the collapse of the Yellowstone super-volcano during its last massive eruption 600,000 years ago. The volcanic activity continues to this day and there are many examples of the region's characteristic geothermal activity along the shores of the Yellowstone Lake's West Thumb, including geysers, hot springs, and mud pots. We'll paddle a pine-fringed shoreline to view these geothermal features from the seat of our sleek and stable touring kayaks. This active outing is the perfect intermission during your road tour through America's original national park!

### **AWARD-WINNING NATURE-BASED ADVENTURES SINCE 1969**

O.A.R.S. has been in business for over 40 years and that is no accident. Great trips on some of the world's best rivers and coastlines are the recipe for this success. Always focused on our clients and their vacations, it is our genuine belief that river trips and nature-based adventures are extremely valuable life experiences. With that as our foundation, we have committed ourselves over the years to providing the best trips available, always with an eye on improvement.

## SEA KAYAKING

- The sea kayak is a low-impact, non-technical, self-propelled craft originally devised by the ancient Inuit peoples in the Arctic Ocean. It has evolved into a stable, efficient and extremely sea-worthy vehicle, at home in the open ocean or in shallow waters. Our kayaks are made of smooth plastic, with skegs and foot-controlled rudders, allowing us to glide through the water with minimal paddling exertion.
- Children as young as 7 may accompany the trip, however, due to kayak design and the pace of our trips we must restrict requests for single kayaks to those with a height of 4'11" or taller, and 14 years or older. Previous paddling experience is also suggested. **Smaller children will need to be in a double kayak with an adult or older sibling.**

## Sample Itinerary

We pride ourselves in running a relaxed and flexible schedule. Every trip is different, but here is a sample of what your trip might be like:

- After meeting the guides, participants are introduced to the kayaks, and given safety and instructional guidance. Once completed, we pack our personal gear into the boats and get into the water for a little practice session. When everyone has gotten the hang of paddling we begin our voyage by paddling north along the shore of the West Thumb.
- Offshore hot springs can be identified by their rising bubbles when the water is calm. We'll paddle past the Lakeshore Geyser, which on rare occasions can erupt in a fountain of boiling water up to 25-feet high. The Lakeshore group of geysers contains the most active hot springs in the area. Our guides will present an interpretive discussion of the Park's fascinating geology. After final photos have been snapped, we'll begin our paddle back to Grant Village.

## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

### Meeting Place & Time

We'll meet you at 6:30 AM, 9:30 AM or 2:30 PM at the Grant Village Boat Ramp. (Sunrise trips meeting at 6:30 AM are only available July 1 to Aug 10)

### Getting to Grant Village

- **Driving in Yellowstone can take much longer than expected; visitors often underestimate driving times based on mileage. Please allow additional driving time, especially if you are driving from another area of the park. Traffic, wildlife, road construction, and winding roads can add to driving delays. Passengers are responsible for arriving on time and ready to paddle at your assigned meet time. It is always best to ask Yellowstone Park employees or check the recorded road conditions (307-344-2117) to plan your departure time.**

### By Car

- **From Jackson:** Take Highway 89 north to the South Gate of Yellowstone National Park. (For the scenic route through Grand Teton National Park, turn left at Moose Junction and follow the Teton Park Road until you hit Highway 89 again at the Jackson Lake Junction, then take a left onto 89.) 19 miles north of the South Gate, turn right onto the Grant Village Road. At the General Store and first intersection, turn right and continue .8 mile to the boat ramp.
- **From the North:** Grant Village Road is a left hand turn approximately 2.5 miles south of the West Thumb intersection. At the General Store and first intersection, turn right and continue .8 mile to the boat ramp.

### Mileage and Driving Times:

- From Jackson, WY 2 ½ hours 77 miles
- From Old Faithful 1 hour 20 miles
- From Salt Lake City, UT 6 ½ hours 370 miles
- From Billings, MT 4 ½ hours 210 miles
- From Pocatello, ID 4 hours 200 miles

### By Air

- Delta, American, Northwest, Skywest, and United airlines service the Jackson Hole airport (JAC). From the airport, a rental car is the most convenient means to visiting Yellowstone National Park. A complete list of services can be found on Jackson Airport’s website: [www.jacksonholeairport.com/index.htm](http://www.jacksonholeairport.com/index.htm).
- The closest major international airport is in Salt Lake City, UT (SLC).

### Pre- and Post-Trip Accommodations

- We recommend that you make reservations well in advance in order to guarantee lodging—Yellowstone is a popular destination. We recommend the facilities listed below. All are fine establishments: well maintained, clean and comfortable. Lodging is not included in the trip cost.

#### In Yellowstone National Park

- Yellowstone National Park, general info [www.nps.gov/yell](http://www.nps.gov/yell)
- Yellowstone National Park, lodging [www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com](http://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com)

#### In Grand Teton National Park Area

- Signal Mountain Lodge 307-543-2831
- Jackson Lake Lodge 307-543-3100
- Grand Teton National Park, general [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)
- Grand Teton National Park, lodging [www.gtnc.com/lodging](http://www.gtnc.com/lodging)

#### In Jackson

- Lexington/Trapper Inn & Suites 307-733-2648 [www.lexingtonatjacksonhole.com](http://www.lexingtonatjacksonhole.com)  
Please mention you are an O.A.R.S. guest for a 10% discount.
- Wyoming Inn 800-844-0035 [www.wyominginn.com](http://www.wyominginn.com)
- Best Western Lodge 307-739-9703 [www.bestwesternwyoming.com](http://www.bestwesternwyoming.com)
- Motel 6 307-733-1620 [www.motel6.com](http://www.motel6.com)
- Central Reservations 800-329-9205 [www.jacksonhole.net](http://www.jacksonhole.net)

### Weather

You may want to check one week prior to your trip for an up-to-date weather forecast. We recommend you check the following web sites: [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) or [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com).

### Average Air Temperatures & Precipitation

	Air (Day) °F	Air (Night) °F	Precipitation
June	55-70	32-40	1.64"
July	65-80	35-45	1.13"
Aug	65-80	35-45	1.26"
Sept	50-65	30-40	1.50"

### GETTING READY

For more information, call 1-855-541-4793 in the USA and Canada or 1-307-223-0058 outside the USA and Canada, or e-mail [info@oars.com](mailto:info@oars.com)

## Physical Requirements

Our primary goal is for you to have an enjoyable experience. The nature of the trip is such that it involves some physical exertion and potential exposure to the elements, including cold water and weather, heat, sun, wind and rain. We have experience accommodating people with a wide range of physical disabilities and/or health conditions. However, individuals who are overweight or lack conditioning can endanger themselves, other guests and the guides. Please consult your doctor if you have medical or health conditions that could impact your ability to participate in this outdoor adventure. In general, trip participants must be able to:

- Wear a Type III Coast Guard approved personal floatation devices (maximum chest size of 56 inches)
- Climb in and out of the kayaks
- Self-rescue by swimming to a boat or to shore in the event of an involuntary swim

## What's Included

- Skilled professional guide service
- High quality kayaks and related equipment including paddle and personal flotation device

## What's Not Included

- Transportation to and from Grant Village Boat Ramp
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- Insurance of any kind, including travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature (see equipment and clothing list on the following pages)
- Gratuities

## PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP

### Clothing

- We recommend starting with a bathing suit / swim trunks and a synthetic shirt as a base layer. Additional layers, like long underwear, fleece and rain gear can be added and subtracted depending on the weather and temperature.

### Footwear

- Your feet will get wet as you get in and out of the kayaks. We recommend wearing shoes that you don't mind getting wet or sport sandals with an ankle strap. For cold weather trips, wool or neoprene socks will help keep your feet warm.

### Sun Protection

- Protecting yourself from the sun at high altitudes should be taken seriously. A hat, sunscreen, lip balm and sunglasses are a must when the sun is shining.

### Suggested Packing List

- Sunscreen & lip protection: waterproof and SPF 30 or higher
- Water bottle with securing clip
- Shade hat/visor
- Sunglasses (preferably polarized) with securing strap
- Quick-dry shorts and shirt
- River/tennis shoes or sport sandals with heel strap
- Synthetic layers, depending on air temperature
- Rain jacket

### Reminders

- **ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR CHANGEABLE WEATHER!** Please be aware that the weather in Yellowstone National Park varies greatly throughout the season, and even throughout the day. Please be prepared for precipitation and extreme fluctuations in air temperature.
- **To avoid being cold:** Synthetic long underwear is a must-have for layering. It can be worn under shorts, rain gear, T-shirts, etc. and keeps you warm even when wet.
- **Be aware that cotton items, once wet, do not insulate; only synthetic and wool materials will keep you warm during cool, wet weather.**

### Communication

Once you are in the national parks there is limited communication with the “outside world.” Cell phone service is sporadic. Our guides carry satellite phones which are strictly used to call out in case of an emergency situation on the water. They can call out, but we cannot call them.

### Special Considerations

Please let us know if you have any medical issues that we’ll need to consider in planning your trip.

### Gratuities

Guests often ask whether gratuities are appropriate, and in what amount. If you feel your guides have provided a very special trip for you, a gratuity may be left with the trip leader and will be shared among the crew. Entirely discretionary, anything between 5% and 10% of the trip cost is a general tipping guideline. If you plan to tip, remember to bring a personal check or cash—ATM’s are hard to find in the backcountry!

### Something Voluntary

In reviewing your statement, you’ll note a \$1/person/day donation to Waterkeeper Alliance, a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to fishable, swimmable and drinkable waterways worldwide. One-hundred percent of these funds go directly to worldwide watershed protection and your contribution is tax-deductible. This donation is voluntary and may be removed from your invoice if you choose not to participate. *Please notify our office if you would prefer to delete the donation from your balance.*

The O.A.R.S. Foundation is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization with the express goal of providing opportunities for young people to experience the magic of a river trip. Visit [www.oarsfoundation.org](http://www.oarsfoundation.org) to learn more about how your tax deductible donation can change young lives for the better.

### Terms & Conditions

#### Reservations and Deposits

- Full payment is due at the time of reservation.

#### Cancellations & Refunds

- If you find it necessary to cancel your trip, please notify us as soon as possible. The cancellation fee after you’ve made your deposit can range up to the entire trip cost, based upon the number of days prior to your trip that we receive your cancellation notice. We regret we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies. For this reason, **we strongly urge you to investigate trip insurance** (see Insurance).
- Cancellations 30 days or more prior to the trip earn a full refund less a \$25/person handling fee. Cancellations 29 days prior to your trip are not refundable.
- If you transfer from one trip to another, there is a \$15/person charge up until 30 days before the trip. Transfers made after this time will be treated as cancellations.

#### Medical

For more information, call 1-855-541-4793 in the USA and Canada or 1-307-223-0058 outside the USA and Canada, or e-mail [info@oars.com](mailto:info@oars.com)

- Under most circumstances, if you are of an adventurous spirit and in reasonably good health, you should have no problem enjoying an O.A.R.S. trip. People with medical conditions, including pregnancy, should have a physician's approval before taking an adventure travel trip.

#### **Insurance**

- Although every effort is made to insure a safe trip for all, we strongly recommend that you protect yourself, your belongings, and your vacation through the purchase of a short-term traveler's policy. A trip cancellation policy covers your non-refundable payments in most cases, should you have to cancel your trip at the last minute due to illness or injury. Trip participants should realize that in the event of illness or injury on an adventure travel trip, evacuation can be prolonged, difficult and expensive. Personal belongings and cameras are carried entirely at the owner's risk, and O.A.R.S. accepts no responsibility for lost, damaged, delayed or stolen property.

#### **Acknowledgement of Risk**

- Everyone is required to sign a standard Acknowledgement of Risk before the trip, acknowledging awareness that some risks are associated with the trip. Safety is of the utmost concern on our trips. However, due to the nature of the activities, a condition of your participation is that you will sign this form and return it to our office before the trip begins. Anyone who refuses to sign the form will not be allowed to participate, and consistent with O.A.R.S. cancellation policy, there will be no refund of the trip fees at that time.

#### **Responsibility – An Important Notice**

- O.A.R.S. West, Inc. and cooperating agencies act only in the capacity of agent for the participants in all matters relating to transportation and/or all other related travel services, and assume no responsibility however caused for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service, including but not limited to that resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or change in transit over which it has no control. Reasonable changes in itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the participants, including cancellation due to water fluctuation, insufficient bookings (this trip requires a minimum of 4 guests), and other factors. There is risk in sea kayaking, particularly during high-water conditions. Rafts, dories and kayaks do capsize. You could be swept overboard. Your guide will make every attempt to assist, but you must be strong and agile enough to "self-help" and "float-it-out" without further endangering yourself or others. We reserve the right not to accept passengers weighing more than 260 pounds or with a waist/chest size exceeding 56 inches. We may decide at any time, to exclude and person or group for any reason we feel is related to the safety of our trips. We are experienced at accommodating people with various disabilities. Please give us an opportunity to make you feel welcome. We need to discuss any special requirements ahead of time. We may decide, at any time, to exclude any person or group for any reason we feel is related to the safety of our trips. On advancement of deposit the depositor agrees to be bound by the above recited terms and conditions. Prices are subject to change without notice.

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