

Activity Guide for Grand Teton National Park and Surrounding Area

Activities and hikes fit for families with small kids.

Created by [Ryan Beck](#). Last edited July of 2025.



Guide Information

A list of things to do in [Grand Teton National Park](#) and the surrounding area, focused on activities for families with small children.



Park Access and Parking

The park does [not](#) use timed entry passes. The main challenge for hikes is trailhead parking, which can fill up by late morning and spill over onto street parking quite a ways from the trailhead. See [official parking busy times](#) and [recent discussions](#) about availability.



Emoji Key

- Information about where to park
- Link to Google Maps trailhead location
- Hike round trip distance
- Hike elevation gain
- Activity is primarily a hike
- Activity is primarily a drive
- Other kind of activity
- Other ideas or stuff to see or do nearby the main activity



Resources

- Download offline Google Map so you have it if you don't have phone service:
 - [Open the Tetons in Google Maps](#)
 - Expand the area to cover Jackson Hole and Yellowstone
 - Scroll to the side to find "Download offline map"
- [Grand Teton Park Map](#)
- [Yellowstone Park Map](#)



Hikes

- [General hiking trail pdf](#) (may be outdated)
- [Interactive online version](#)



Swan Lake and Heron Pond

Trail with views of Swan Lake and Heron Pond

[Near the Colter Bay campgrounds](#)

[3.2 miles](#), [236 ft](#)



String Lake to Leigh Lake

From String Lake to Leigh Lake, wading spots during and at canoe portage at end. Check out the bridge to the West at Leigh Lake.

[33 minutes from Colter Bay Campground](#)

May be difficult to find parking

[1.9 miles](#), [7 ft](#)



Inspiration Point and Hidden Falls at Jenny Lake

Inspiration point and hidden falls near Jenny Lake. Note that inspiration point has steep dropoffs that may not be suitable for children, see photo [here](#).

[35 minutes from Colter Bay Campground](#)

May be difficult to find parking

Boating Across for Shorter Hike

[7 AM to 7 PM June 2 to Sept. 7](#)

\$20 for ages 12+ round-trip, \$12 for age 2 to 11

[1.8 miles](#), [419 ft](#)

Hiking Only

[5.7 miles](#), [870 ft](#)



Other Activities



Signal Mountain

Drive to the top of signal mountain for great views.

[33 minutes to top of Signal Mountain from Colter Bay Campground](#)



Visit Jackson Hole

Check out shops and enjoy the town.

Navigation below is to a free parking lot close to the town square, with a [quiet shady area](#) with a stream across the street for the kids to play. For better moose / wildlife chances take the [Moose-Wilson road](#) on the way.

[56 minutes fastest route from Colter Bay Campground](#)

[1 hour 7 minutes via the more scenic Teton Park Road](#)

[1 hour 21 minutes via Teton Park and Moose Wilson Road, not counting any wildlife stops](#)



Swim at Jackson Lake

Swimming and rafting at Jackson Lake, a few minutes walk from Colter Bay Campground.

[Picnic area and beach](#)



Become a Junior Ranger

Kids can pick up an activity booklet at any visitor center and return it completed to [become Junior Rangers and earn a badge](#).

Also check out evening [ranger programs](#) at [Colter Bay Amphitheater](#) ([2025 schedule](#)).

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Yellowstone

Just North of Grand Teton National Park. To do a full loop the total round trip from Colter Bay Village is 4 hours and 40 minutes of car time not counting stops. Below are details about some of the potential stops on this list, in order when taking the loop clockwise.

📍 [4 hour 40 minute drive for full loop with highlighted stops and sights](#)

Old Faithful Boardwalk

See Old Faithful and a bunch of other cool geysers. [Map of the geysers and trails](#). Takes around two to three hours to see most of it.

📍 [1 hour 30 minutes from Colter Bay Campground](#)

Biscuit Basin (CLOSED)

Biscuit Basin [has been closed](#) since a hydrothermal explosion occurred and damaged the boardwalk on July 23, 2024.

📍 [location](#)

Midway Geyser Basin

[Midway Geyser Basin](#) has the Grand Prismatic Spring, Yellowstone's largest hot spring.

📍 [1 hour 49 minutes from Colter Bay Campground](#)

📏 [0.7 miles](#) 📈 [55 ft](#)

Norris Geyser Basin

[Norris Geyser Basin](#) has a boardwalk with a number of geysers.

📍 [2 hours and 15 minutes from Colter Bay Campground](#)

📏 [2.9 miles](#) 📈 [180 ft](#) to walk every part

Lower Falls

Switchbacks, Canyon Village, Lookout Points

There are a number of things in this area that are worth considering.

📍 [1 hour 55 minutes from Colter Bay Campground to Grand View](#) (other features listed here are close by)

-  [Grand View scenic overlook](#)
-  [Inspiration Point scenic overlook](#)
-  Food at [Canyon Village eatery](#)
-  Brink of the lower falls trail (switchbacks) to the top of the lower falls
 - Scroll to the side to find "Download offline map"
 - 📏 [0.7 miles](#) 📈 [265 ft](#)

Hayden Valley (Bison Hangout)

Drive back to Grand Teton with some scenic views on the way, and through the [prime area for bison to hang out](#).

📍 [1 hour 39 minutes from Colter Bay Campground to Hayden Valley Overlook scenic view](#)

Become a Junior Ranger

Kids can pick up an activity booklet at any visitor center and return it completed to become [Junior Rangers and earn a badge for Yellowstone](#). This is separate from the Grand Teton activity and badge. This could be challenging to complete for small kids in one day, you can preview or get a head start on the activity book [here](#).