



Clockwise from top left: Whitewater rafting on the Gallatin River, a night out in downtown West Yellowstone, Eagle's Store soda fountain, bison herd in front of Old Faithful, canoeing on Hebgen Lake, fly fishing on the Madison River.

# MAKE WEST YELLOWSTONE BASE CAMP

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If Yellowstone is your destination, West Yellowstone is your base camp—your place to restore and explore while provisioning and planning for breathtaking journeys into America's first national park.

It's what Yellowstone's early explorers did. Imagine members of the Washburn-Doane expedition of 1870 mesmerized by their firsthand experience of the magnificent wonders they witnessed setting up camp at dusk where the misty Firehole and Gibbon rivers joined the trout-filled Madison. Legend has it that at their Madison Junction encampment, 14 miles from West Yellowstone into what is now the park interior, the group sat around a wilderness campfire and dreamed up the idea of preserving the area for future generations.

Though more than 140 years have passed since that fateful eve, the setting remains the same. In a sense, West Yellowstone has always been here, it was just waiting to be discovered. Upon the establishment of the park, West Yellowstone quickly became known as the "gateway to wonderland"—a respite for tourists with steam trunks and valets clamoring from trains rolling into the grand depot and dining lodge, which today is the heart of West Yellowstone's historic district and still bustles with the same exhilaration.

Then and now, the free-roaming wildlife, boiling caldrons,

and plunging waterfalls of Yellowstone await, while West Yellowstone welcomes. Boasting proximity, the town has a street named "Boundary" for a reason. It is that close to Yellowstone. It is also the nearest gateway community to the pulse of the park. The iconic Old Faithful geyser is just 30 miles from West Yellowstone's gate.

Ideally situated and built on legacy, insiders know West Yellowstone is the base camp of modern-day explorers. Yellowstone and the surrounding area is so big that it can easily take days to conquer it all. West Yellowstone gives you accommodations to rest for the night, places to dine, gather up picnic supplies and fill your water bottles. There are ample opportunities to get expert guidance from locals about off-the-beaten-path surprises for your next day's adventure, in or out of the park.

The activities are so endless—from rodeo, live theater, kayaking, mountain biking, fly fishing and hiking in the summer to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, dog sledding and snowcoach as well as snowmobiling park tours in winter—you will likely run out of time long before you run out of things to do.

West Yellowstone offers proximity, amenities and activities for every season. Follow the lead of the early explorers, and make it your base camp. **wy**