

## Skiing

In the winter, Yellowstone offers a variety of enjoyable and challenging trails for any level of skier. Trails are marked with signs or orange markers on trees and may be untracked, so you may need to break trail. Before going out on any ski trail, obtain information on the current conditions of the trail, snow conditions, special winter hazards and weather report. Staff at the Bear Den Ski Shop, located in the Old Faithful Snow Lodge, and the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center will be happy to discuss your trip with you in person.

**Backcountry Trails** - Trails marked on the map with dashed black lines. Should only be attempted by experienced skiers equipped with topographic maps and compass or GPS. These trails are not always well-marked and may be difficult to follow. Overnight camping requires a free backcountry permit that must be obtained in person from the Mammoth/Old Faithful Visitor Centers or West, South, and East Entrance Stations. Your permit may be picked up 48 hours in advance and will designate the camping area to be used. Wood fires are not permitted. Pets are not allowed on ski trails or in any backcountry areas.

## Old Faithful Trail Etiquette

- Do not walk or snowshoe in or on the ski trail.
- Skiers and Snowshoers, please maintain separate tracks.
- Yield to the downhill or faster skier.
- Fill in depressions in the snow after falling to reduce hazards to others.
- Ski within your ability. If you find the trail too difficult, turn back. Please do not take your skis off to walk up or down hills as the holes you will leave are very dangerous for other skiers. If you decide to continue, turn sideways, dig ski edges into the slope and sidestep either up or down the hill.
- When skiing on the road, yield to vehicles. Ski single-file facing traffic.

## Safety

- Old Faithful is at a high elevation (7,365 ft.) and may require you to move slowly when you are out of breath. Always drink plenty of water. Consider the elevation when deciding on a ski trail.
- When skiing or snowshoeing near thermal areas, stay on marked trails and boardwalks. Snow in thermal areas is often icy. What appears to be bare ground may be a thin crust over boiling water. Skiing on the boardwalks is not recommended and can be very dangerous due to thick and uneven ice.
- Winter weather in Yellowstone changes rapidly and can be severe. Many areas are frequently windy. Wear proper clothing. Watch yourself and others for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. For your safety, always ski with someone else and ski within your ability level. Tell a friend or the front desk at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge where you are going, by what route, and approximately when you plan to return. Carry extra clothing, food, water, first aid kit, matches, flashlight/headlamp, whistle, map, and compass.

## Wildlife

Do not approach wildlife. The legal distance to remain from bison and other large animals is 75 feet (25 yards). For bears and wolves, the legal distance is 300 feet (100 yards). If animals move closer to you, maintain the legal distance by moving back. Large mammals survive on stored fat and low quality food during the winter. Causing them to move will cost them precious calories vital for their survival. If animals look at you and move away, you are too close.

## Trail Ratings

### Easiest

Skiers need basic knowledge and limited experience in the diagonal stride, snow plow, and side stepping. Trails may have short downhill and uphill stretches. Due to topography of the Old Faithful area, few trails are rated easiest.

### More Difficult

Skiers need to be able to ski well in varied terrain while turning, snow plowing, herringboning, and doing diagonal stride. Much of the terrain is forested with limited space to maneuver. Not recommended for anyone who does not have a solid knowledge of cross-country skiing.

### Most Difficult

Skiers need to be very experienced as trails are hazardous and terrain is frequently extreme. Turns are often sharp and linked together with little room to snow plow or herringbone. Much of the terrain is forested with little room for error.

## Caution All Skiers

Trails within Yellowstone National Park have been rated by the National Park Service with trail ratings specific to Yellowstone. All skiers and snowshoers are encouraged to inquire at the Visitor Center or Bear Den Ski Shop before beginning their trip.

- Weather conditions are unpredictable.
- Trails are not checked or groomed daily.
- Trails are not always obvious or visibly marked.
- Trails may have natural hazards such as animals, avalanches, thermal features, downed trees, steep slopes and cliffs.
- Always be prepared in case of equipment malfunction.
- Ski trails not recommended in icy conditions.

## Current Trail Information

Please check [www.YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com](http://www.YellowstoneNationalParkLodges.com) or visit the Bear Den Ski Shops at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Old Faithful Snow Lodge for trail conditions, grooming, information, lessons, rentals, tours and accessories.

## National Park Service

P.O. Box 168

Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

## For emergencies, dial 911

Rev. 12/11

# OLD FAITHFUL AREA SKI TRAILS



Yellowstone  
National Park