Welcome

Yellowstone offers a variety of enjoyable and challenging trails for skiers. All trails are marked but may be untracked. On some trails, the difficult sections can be avoided by skiing past in and returning by the same route. The quality of your experience will depend upon the amount of planning and preparation you do prior to your trip. We suggest that you stop at a visitor center or ski shop and discuss your trip. The staff will be happy to provide current information on weather, trail, snow conditions, and alert you to any special winter hazards.

Some backcountry trails are suitable for travel, but should only be attempted by experienced parties with appropriate equipment. Overnight camping requires a free backcountry use permit which must be obtained in person from Mammoth or Old Faithful visitor centers, for signs of frostbite and hypothermia. For your safety, always ski with someone else. Tell someone where you are going, by what route, and when you plan to return. Carry extra clothing, food, water, and compass, matches, flashlight, and a whistle.

Consider elevation when deciding on a ski trail. Many ski trails are at high elevation, above 6000 feet (1,829 m) and may require you to move slowly when you are out of breath. Always drink plenty of water.

Avalanche danger: avalanches can occur on any slope and hazards will not always be marked. In avalanche prone areas carry a shovel, avalanche transceiver, probe, and first aid kit—and know how to use them. Cross slopes one at a time, while others watch from safety.

Wildlife

Do not approach wildlife. Large mammals survive on stored fat and low quality food during winter. Caring them to move will cost them precious calories vital for survival. Park regulations require you to remain at least 75 feet (23 m) from bison and other large animals; 300 feet (91 m) from bears and wolves. You are travelling through essential winter habitat. Never approach animals, give them time to move away from you. Travel around a herd, not through it. Always allow animals an escape route through shallow snow or on a packed trail. Pets are not allowed on ski trails or in backcountry areas.

Trail Etiquette

• Do not snowshoe or walk directly on ski tracks.
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Safety

Trails may have natural hazards such as animals, avalanches, thermal features, downed trees, steep slopes and cliffs. When skiing near thermal areas, stay on marked trails. Approaching thermal features is dangerous and prohibited. The snow in these areas is often icy and may require you to move slowly when you are out of breath. Always drink plenty of water.

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