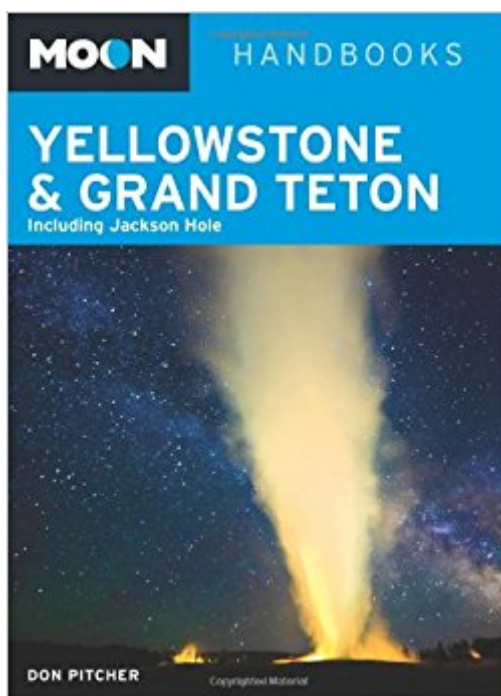


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Moon Yellowstone & Grand Teton: Including Jackson Hole (Moon Handbooks)



Synopsis

Travel photographer Don Pitcher reveals the splendors of Yellowstone Park and Grand Teton, from the sought-after vacation town of Jackson and a world-class museum complex in Cody to the gorgeous badlands topography of Old-West Dubois. Don is the essential tour guide, covering itineraries such as Yellowstone in a Day, Five Days in Jackson Hole, and The Seven-Day Grand Loop. Moon Yellowstone and Grand Teton is packed with maps and photographs, and places a special emphasis on leading destinations such as Old Faithful Geyser, Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, Mammoth Hot Springs, the Snake River, and Jackson Hole. Complete with details on watching wildlife, and including information on activities such as camping, hiking, and horseback riding, Moon Yellowstone and Grand Teton gives travelers the tools they need to create a more personal and memorable experience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Perhaps Don Pitcher's love of travel came about because he moved so much as a child; by age 15 he had lived in six states and two dozen East Coast and Midwestern towns. Don's family hails from Maine, but he was born in Atlanta, making him a southerner with New England blood. He moved west for college, receiving a master's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, where his thesis examined wildfires in the high elevation forests of Sequoia National Park. When his first (and only) scientific paper was published, he appeared to be headed into the world of ecological research. Don then landed what seemed like the coolest job on the planet shortly after

grad school: being flown around Alaska's massive Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in a helicopter while conducting fire research. Wild places continued to beckon, and over the next 15 years Don built backcountry trails, worked as a wilderness ranger, mapped grizzly bear habitats, and operated salmon weirs—anything to avoid an office job. After that first season in Alaska, he spent three months in the South Pacific, and quickly found himself addicted to travel. His explorations eventually took him to 35 countries and all 50 states. After authoring his first book, *Berkeley Inside/Out*, Don went on to write *Moon Yellowstone & Grand Teton*, *Moon Alaska*, *Moon Wyoming*, *Moon San Juan Islands*, and *Moon Anchorage, Denali & the Kenai Peninsula*. He has produced three photographic books, served as editor for *Best Places Alaska*, and is a contributor to *TripOrati.com* and other websites. Don's photos have appeared in a multitude of publications and advertisements, and his prints are sold in many Alaska and Washington galleries. He is also a highly regarded wedding photographer. Don lives in Homer, Alaska, with his wife, Karen Shemet, and their children, Aziza and Rio. Get details on his latest writing and photography projects—along with links to many of the places mentioned in this book—at DonPitcher.com, or find him on Facebook.

I had three guides for my Yellowstone and Grand Teton trip. One was *Lonely Planet*, one was the *National Geographic* guide, and the last one was the *Moon Guide*. By far the *Moon Guide* was the most useful. Moon's black-and-white print collection offers a lot of useful information and easily organized for an independent traveler. I liked the ordering - Yellowstone, followed by Teton, then followed by Jackson Hole and other Gateway cities and essentials. The guides to both parks are laid out like a drive, so they are easy to follow as you pick your own route - they note the most noteworthy points (Norris Geyser Basin, Lamar Valley, etc.) and offer a decent summary of each. I would sit in my car and easily catch up on where I wanted to stop next without it being a production. They have an extremely comprehensive list of hikes and then they list activities, restaurants and the almost useless lodging section travel guides still provide. The *National Geographic* guide was a waste of money, and *Lonely Planet* hard to follow unless you are sitting browsing the internet and can look up every point they basically only briefly mention.

This book title is misleading. Of 457 pages only 175 are about Yellowstone and Grand Teton parks. The majority of the content is about Jackson Hole and towns around Yellowstone. The book focuses overwhelmingly on practical matters of transportation, food, and lodging. This is traditional guide book content, but it seems increasingly irrelevant in an era when this type of information is widely

available through sources like online travel web sites and the National Park Service web site, sources which probably have more up to date information about dates, rates, phone numbers, and the like. If you're looking for information about the flora and fauna of the parks and things to do and see when you get there, this book provides a nice summary of what's available, but only as a starting point for additional research.

I bought Yellowstone Treasures, the Lonely Planet, and this Moon Handbook. The Moon handbook is by far the easiest, well written, and most pertinent of the three guides. It is well organized, and provides enough insights without becoming burdensome. As a disclaimer we are not planning on doing major off the beaten track exploring of Yellowstone, so cannot comment on the other two in that regard. We tend to travel in the upper range of normal.

Agree with the review called "misleadingly titled"--this is primarily a guide to the towns around Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons, especially Jackson Hole. The parks themselves are given very short shrift. It was a big disappointment to me; but if you're looking for a guide to Jackson Hole and the gateway towns into Yellowstone, this is the book for you.

This book was so helpful in planning our trip. It let us know the best places to stay and better yet where not to stay. We discovered all the best attractions, popular and not so much. The Moon books are the first thing I buy when planning a trip.

Moon handbooks are my go-to source for trip planning. They are well organized and give sage advice, including their recommendation and also specifics about area businesses, such as phone numbers and websites and even directions. Their prices (for area attractions, businesses) are not always current, however (I have bought current editions and have been surprised by price hikes...I realize that prices change often, but we are talking several dollars different that make me think that there have been a few price adjustments by the businesses that Moon has missed).

This book has been very helpful to us in planning a trip to the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone for next June. I had originally borrowed the book from the library, but we soon realized that we needed our own copy to take with us on the trip. Among the several books which we consulted during our planning, this one stood out as the most practical.

Used this guide to plan our multi-generational trip to Yellowstone and Cody this past summer. Recommendations for both sights and accommodations were spot on. I loved that it included lots of information about the "gateways" (Cody, West Yellowstone, etc). We didn't make it to Grand Teton, but I hope to in the future!

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