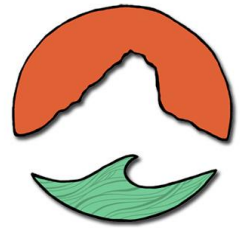


Moterra Campervans

Yellowstone & The Tetons

Insiders Guide





Welcome | Take The Wheel

Welcome to your adventure through Yellowstone & Grand Teton National Park! Whether you have come for the bison covered plains, the rainbow colored geothermal features, or the majestic snow capped Tetons, there is no doubt that this awe-inspiring region is best explored in a campervan. With the freedom that comes from driving your 19-foot home on wheels (about as long as a Ford F150), you are able to bypass the expensive hotels and tourist traps, spending more time in the wild landscapes you came to explore!

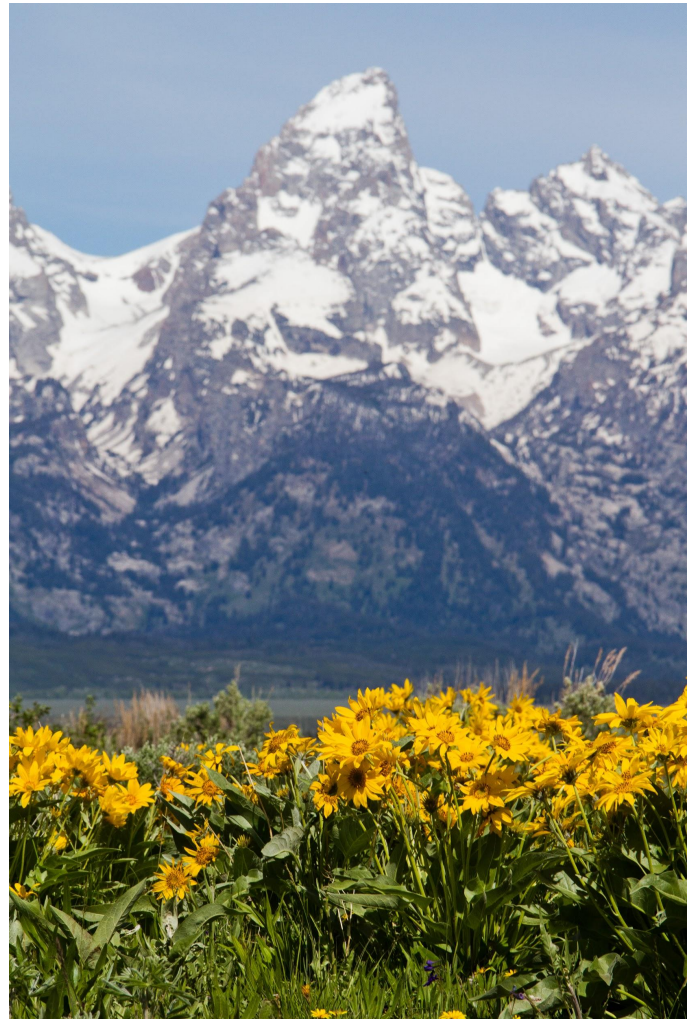
This free guide will give you the building blocks necessary to start planning your dream Yellowstone/Tetons campervan adventure, including insider recommendations for where to camp, places to eat, scenic drives and must-see hikes and activities. As long-time locals to this area, we are passionate about the natural spectacles of this region and want you to have the same life-changing experience we did when we visited this area for the first time.

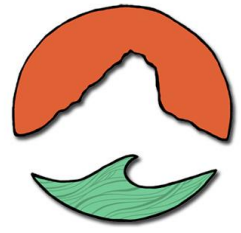
Even with all the free advice in this guide, we recognize that it can still be daunting to plan and book a trip that makes the most of your time within the 19 million acres that comprise the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. We therefore offer both an [8 night](#) and a [6 night](#) itinerary package for guests, which take the hassle and risk out of doing it all yourself. These are designed to give you the best taste of both parks, while allowing you to explore at your own pace. [Click here for more information and to request a proposal.](#)

However you choose to travel with us, we sincerely hope you have an unforgettable experience in our favorite corner of the west!

Happy Exploring,

The Moterra Team





Jackson Hole | The Wild West

The gateway town and closest airport to the National Parks, Jackson is the ideal spot to start your adventure into Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Your Moterra van will be waiting for you and can be picked up at our convenient location in town. Depending on traffic, Grand Teton National Park is around 30 minutes north of Jackson, while Yellowstone is around two hours. This historic and remote town is bursting with creative energy, and while its access to the parks and Snake River is what has put Jackson on the map, you would be remiss not to spend a little time exploring the town's great restaurants, boutiques and galleries.

Recommended Restaurants & Cafes

[Bistro](#) - a local favorite since it opened in 2001, they have something for everyone on the menu, plus a great nightly happy hour every evening from 5:30-6:30. With an outdoor deck, this spot is perfect for families!

[The Local](#): A contemporary chophouse right on the town square, this is a Jackson favorite. The Local sources all of their meats from around the valley and with a hip lively atmosphere, this makes for a great dinner choice.

[Persephone Bakery](#): Known for their fresh baked breads and pastries, Persephone is our top recommendation for breakfast. With a sun-filled patio and fresh seasonal menu, Persephone makes for a great spot to linger and watch the world go by.

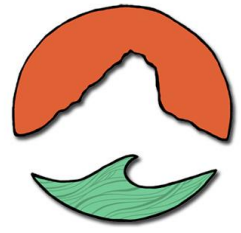
[Snake River Brewery](#): With above average bar fare, great outdoor seating with lawn games, and tasty local brews, "The Pub," as it's known locally, is a great place to get in the rhythm of Jackson life.

[Osteria](#) - Perhaps some of the best Italian outside of Italy, rustic Italian food, house-made pastas, oven-fired pizzas, located mountainside in Teton Village, outdoor deck, right next to the playground for those with kids, amazing wine list, craft beer and cocktails.

Recommended Grocers

[Albertsons](#): The best bang for your buck, 'Albies' is the largest grocery store in town. Be prepared to spend some time here as it is often packed with travelers stocking up to head into the park.

[The Liquor Store](#): We have different liquor laws here in Wyoming than you may find back home, meaning that you won't find alcohol in the grocery stores. 'TLS' is located right next door to Albertsons. If you're hoping to pick up some drinks to take up into the park, this is your best bet.



Jackson Whole Grocer: Our locally owned version of Whole Foods, the Whole Grocer is great for preparing and go burritos, pizza, soup and specialty items to stock up your van. While you will expect to pay higher prices, with a connected liquor store, this is an easy one stop shop.



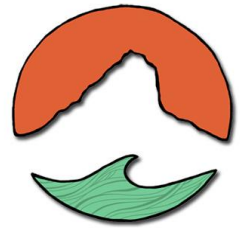
Don't want to spend the first few hours of your vacation in the grocery store stocking up the van? Let us fill your fridge with all the adventure fuel you need! Click [HERE](#) to learn more & fill out your order.



Recommended Things To Do

Snow King: Not to be confused with the famous Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, Snow King is the local hill accessible from town, with a range of great summer activities available for the whole family. Hike or catch the scenic chairlift to the summit for a panoramic view, or enjoy the rollercoaster, ropes course, alpine slide, bungee trampoline or mini-golf options at the base of the mountain.

Town Square: A visit to Jackson is not complete without spending some time meandering through the beautiful town square. Be sure to check out Moo's for some Ice Cream, Made for quality take home trinkets, and the Ringholtz Gallery to see the work of one of our more famous local artists.

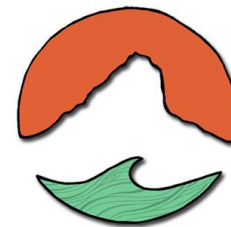


The Grand Tetons National Park

[Park Map](#) | [6 Night Itinerary](#) | [8 Night Itinerary](#)



Famous for its distinct dramatic mountain range, deep canyons filled with wildflowers and crystal-clear alpine lakes, the Grand Tetons are best experienced from a campervan. Our summer season begins in May, when the snow is cleared from most roads, running all the way through September. Summer days stretch out long in the Tetons, a benefit to adventurers trying to fit in all the hiking, biking, rafting, fishing, mountain biking, and wildlife watching this region has to offer. While the park boasts over 200 miles of hikeable trails, it only takes around 2 hours to drive from one end of the park to the other, so we recommend setting up a basecamp in one spot for a few nights.



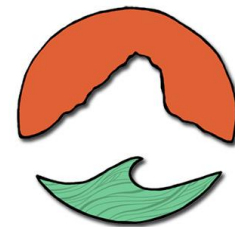
Camping in the Tetons

Camping in the Tetons National Park can be confusing, with each campsite operating separately with its own procedures, fees and rules. Most campgrounds in the park are actively accepting reservations for the 2021 season - book a site early to ensure you have a place to call home every night! At 19 feet, Moterra campervans fit into the 'tent' camping sites, offering you a lot of flexibility in terms of where you can stay. Individual sites are typically released six months in advance of arrival. If this process sounds intimidating, our Itinerary Team is happy to plan and arrange the perfect loop!

Colter Bay: This bay serves as the perfect hub to camp right along the shores of Jackson Lake, and is therefore one of our favorite (and one of the most popular) campsites in the park. They have a small, well stocked grocery store, [boat rentals](#), [scenic floats](#) and some short, [worthwhile trails](#) that leave directly from the campground. Your Moterra campervan fits into the tent campsites at Colter Bay, which become [available to reserve](#) six months prior to the date of your arrival. If you are not planning on arriving at this campsite early in the day, we recommend pre-booking an RV campsite, which is a little more expensive, but guarantees you a space.

Gros Ventre Located along the banks of the Gros Ventre River (pronounced Gro Vont), this campground is known for attracting pronghorn antelope and moose. It is conveniently located roughly 20 minutes from Jackson and 20 to the Teton Park entrance, with stellar views of the Tetons. Sites can be [booked in advance](#) and are released on a six month rolling basis.





Headwaters Campground at Flagg Ranch Located between the Tetons and Yellowstone, this is a perfectly positioned camping spot for those hoping to launch into Yellowstone first. While not as visually spectacular as other campsites in the park, this camping spot makes the list because of its convenient amenities such as laundry, showers and an on-site grocery store, as well as the fact you can pre-reserve camping spots.

Hikes in the Tetons

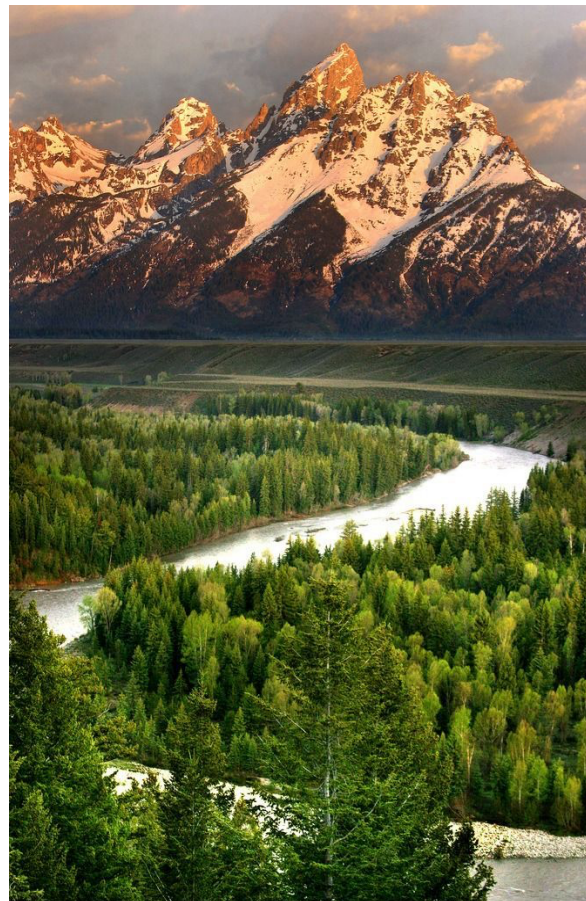
Cascade Canyon: Breathtakingly beautiful and easily accessible, it's no wonder this is one of the most popular hikes in the park. We recommend taking the ferry across Jenny Lake before setting off to explore the glacially carved canyon. This is an out 'out-and-back' hike allowing you to decide the distance- the farther you hike the less people you will see! If you come down from your hike and still have more left in your legs, the walk around string lakes is stunning. *Pro Tip:* Pack a sandwich and plenty of water for the hike.

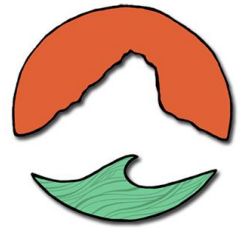
Phelps Lake: This hike is pure bliss. In 1927 John D. Rockefeller purchased a vast expanse of land with the intention of donating this land to the National Park. He retained a 3,000 acre section surrounding Phelps lake to function as the JY Ranch, their family's private vacation property. In 2001, Laurance S. Rockefeller donated the land, along with a substantial grant to maintain the land. Be sure not to skip the visitor center, which is dedicated to the sensory experience of visiting the park.

Bradley-Taggart Loop: This 5.5 mile loop will take you to visit two of the six glacially formed lakes within the park. With mild elevation gain, this hike is perfect for those hoping to hike lakeside with the backdrop of the majestic Teton peaks.

Activities in the Tetons

Scenic Float: The Scenic Float float down the Snake River is a favourite of ours, through a pristine rocky mountain landscape and dense pine forested glacial terrain. We recommend this for visitors looking for a leisurely activity and those thirsty to know more about the park. The guiding company we often steer people towards is Barker Ewing as their guides are some of the most knowledgeable in the park.





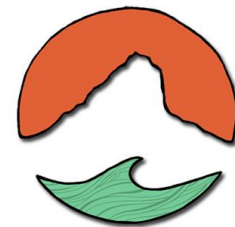
Whitewater Rafting: Looking to kick up the adrenaline? The whitewater section of the Snake River, south of Jackson, is as beautiful as it is fun. The snake river is very safe, making it an ideal activity for all experience levels. Most companies depart from the town of Jackson, so you may want to put this on the beginning or end of your trip. Again, Barker Ewing is the company we recommend.

Canoe/Kayak- With 6 glacially formed lakes within the park, getting in the water is a must! We highly recommend renting a canoe or kayak at the [Colter Bay](#) docks or from the ferry dock at [Jenny Lake](#).

Horseback riding- You're in the wild west, why not jump on a horse and explore the sage covered hills?! There are many outfitters throughout the valley to choose from depending on comfort and skill level. Here are our two favorites.

- Colter- For those who are hoping to stay within the park and are at a beginner level, the coral at Colter bay is a great option. The mellow horse train style riding brings you along the shores of Jackson Lake, which is framed by Mount Moran, the notable flat topped peak just north of the Grand Teton.
- Swift Creek- One of the more authentic horseback outfitters in the valley, their tours take you up onto the hills outside of the park, complete with shallow river crossings and steep climbs to classic views of the Tetons. More information [HERE](#)

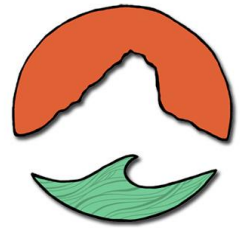




Jackson Hole Mountain Resort- Looking for a different perspective on the mountains? [The Tram](#) at this famed skiing resort runs through summer whisks you up 4000-feet above the valley floor, giving you the opportunity to peer into the back side of the range! *Pro tip:* Buying your tickets online will save some money. Alternatively, you could choose to ride the gondola up to [‘The Deck’ at Piste](#) restaurant, open mid June through early September. The Gondola ride is free from 5-9pm and serves as one of the best views to sip a cold beverage.

Bike Rental from Dornan’s- With over 60 miles of paved bike paths throughout the Jackson Hole valley, those looking to spin their legs will be in heaven. Positioned just outside of the southern entrance to the Tetons in the town of Moose, Dornan’s is the most convenient outfitter to sent from. The popular 18-mile round trip ride from Dornan’s to Jenny Lake skirts along the foot of the mountains, allowing you to marvel in their beauty from every angle. *Pro Tip:* Pick up some premade sandwiches from their deli before setting out! Upon returning grab a cold beverage and slice of pizza from their restaurant.



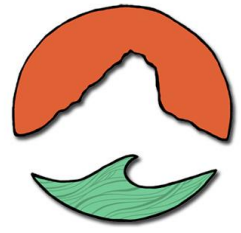


Yellowstone National Park

[Park Map](#) | [6 Night Itinerary](#) | [8 Night Itinerary](#)



It was the raw wild beauty, mystical hot springs and rugged landscape which compelled Ulysses S. Grant to make Yellowstone the world's first National Park in 1872. Luckily for us, the parks have been allowed to remain wild and for those who choose to stray from the crowded tourist pockets, relatively untouched. At nearly 2.2 million acres, there is an overwhelming amount to be seen here. *Pro tip:* Hit the major sights early before busses inundate the park. Spend the middle of the day on trails less frequented by tourists, and settle in at the end of the day roasting marshmallows around the fire pit.



Camping in Yellowstone

Camping is indisputably the best way to experience the beauty of Yellowstone National Park, particularly as lodging in the park often books out a year in advance. Fortunately, most of the campgrounds in Yellowstone's upper and lower loops can be pre-booked through the Yellowstone National Park Lodges website.

Want to make sure you see everything from the bison covered planes, explore the rugged Lamar Valley by horseback, perhaps take a safari with a wildlife specialist? Are you curious where National Geographic has staked out to take some of their incredible wolf sightings? Click [HERE](#) to inquire about our custom itineraries.

Canyon Campground: Canyon Village Campground is located less than a mile from the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, making it one of the parks most popular places to camp. Lying within a lodgepole pine forest, the campsite has shower, laundry and restroom facilities, while the nearby Canyon Village boasts a wide range of stores and restaurants. Sites can be pre-booked.

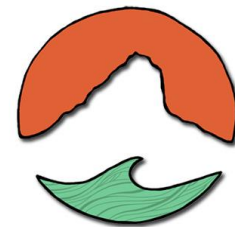
Mammoth Hot Springs Campground: Located just 5 miles from the Yellowstone Park's north entrance, this campground offers close access to many attractions, including the famous Mammoth Hot Springs Terraces (see right), the scenic Upper Terrace Drive, and the historic Fort Yellowstone. A general store, restaurant and gift shop can also be found in Mammoth Hot Springs.



Madison Campground: One of the largest and most central campsites in the Park, Madison sits at the confluence of the Gibbon and Firehole river, which come together to create the infamous Madison River. This is also the spot where in 1870 the Washburn-Langford expedition camped and documented the wonders of the region, eventually making Yellowstone the first National Park in the world. Camping sites can be pre-booked, and while there are no showers on-site those desperate for a shower can duck down the road to the pay showers at Old Faithful Inn.

Grant Village Campground: Grant Village Campground sits on the west bank of Lake Yellowstone- North America's largest alpine lake. This campground has great shower and restroom facilities, as well as sites that can be pre-booked. Elk frequently visit this shady campsite, making it a visitor favourite.

Hikes in Yellowstone



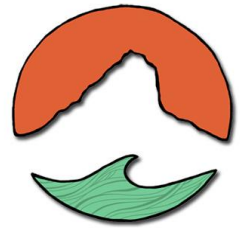
Old Faithful Boardwalk- If possible, arrive here early in the morning for the best experience as it tends the middle of the day. Grab a coffee and check the next Old Faithful eruption time at The Old Faithful Inn. This will help guide your timing so you don't miss the eruption. Use any time you have on either side to visit the very worthwhile visitor center to gain a deeper understanding of how geysers work or explore the extensive boardwalk system through one most densely clustered regions of hydrothermal features in the world.

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone- Hikers could easily spend the better half of a day exploring this section of the park. Our favorite loop trail starts at Uncle Tom's Point. The Clear Lake trail takes you away from the canyon rim, through lunar landscapes of boiling mud pots and along the shores of Lily Pad Lake before returning you to the rim at Artists Point. From there, hike back along the rim towards Uncle Tom's Point. Those who are feeling extra cardiovascular can opt to take the 328 stairs down into the Canyon for a magnificent view of the lower falls. Map and trail closure information [HERE](#). *Pro Tip:* Drive around to the North Rim and hike down to the Brink of the Lower Falls. It's a spectacular view up the canyon from the point where of 60,000 gallons of water falls 308 feet every second!

Fairy Falls Located 20 minutes north of old faithful, this short but sweet walk is not to be missed. This newly built 1.2 mile out-and-back trail brings you 100 feet above the famous Grand Prismatic. The aerial perspective offers an unparalleled on the largest hot spring in North America!



Indian Creek- We often refer to this hike as a 'coffee-in-hand' hike. It's a leisurely 2.3 mile stroll which brings you out to the shoreline of the Yellowstone Lake and returns through old growth lodgepole pine trees.. Often closed in early



summer due to bear activity, it's worth stopping at the Fishing Bridge Visitor center to check on trail conditions. If you're looking for more elevation gain might prefer the Elephants Back hike: Info [HERE](#)

Mammoth Terraces In the farthest northwestern corner of the park lies the otherworldly Mammoth Hot Springs- a series of rainbow colored travertine terraces. At nearly two miles of constructed boardwalk it's fun to get lost weaving your way through the different terrace formations. If Mammoth makes it onto your itinerary, be sure to head up for a soak in the [boiling river](#).



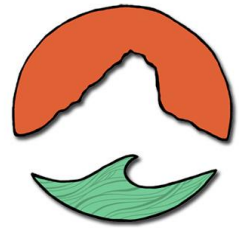
Activities in Yellowstone

Wildlife Safari- The early bird gets the wolf! There is a reason wildlife enthusiasts refer to this park at the American Serengeti. Whether you're here to witness the newborns in the spring, the bounty of summer, or the mating season in fall, the early morning is your best shot at witnessing some of the most magnificent wildlife still inhabiting North America. Join national park guides in their 1937 antique touring bus for their 'Wake up to Wildlife' sunrise tour!

Horseback Riding- Perhaps you would prefer to explore the way Lewis and Clark did in the early 1800's? The corrals at Canyon Village and Roosevelt Junction offer a number of different rides and departure times. Never ridden a horse? No problem! These cowboys and cowgirls have years of experience and can cater to all levels.



Weather in the Parks



Weather can fluctuate rather dramatically throughout the rocky mountains. With this in mind, be read. Rain jackets are never a bad idea, [Smartwool](#) makes for great base layers in the evening, If you're looking to pick up some local, high quality gear [Stio](#) is a great Patagonia-esque store in Jackson.

- 10 Day Forecast: [Jackson](#)
- 10 Day Forecast: [Yellowstone](#)

Average Temperatures in Jackson Hole (F)

January: Average High 27 / Average Low 5

February: Average High 32 / Average Low 8

March: Average High 41 / Average Low 16

April: Average High 52 / Average Low 24

May: Average High 63 / Average Low 31

June: Average High 72 / Average Low 37

July: Average High 81 / Average Low 40

August: Average High 80 / Average Low 38

September: Average High 71 / Average Low 31

October: Average High 58 / Average Low 23

November: Average High 39 / Average Low 16

December: Average High 28 / Average Low 6

Seasonal Weather in Jackson Hole

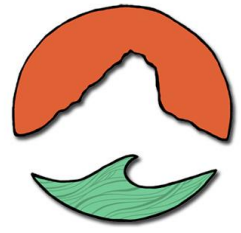
Summer (July and August) Warm days and cool nights prevail, with afternoon thundershowers common. The snow level gradually retreats, with divides between the mountain canyons free of snow by August. As the valley wildflowers fade, canyon and alpine wildflowers peak.

Fall (September - November) Sunny days and cold nights alternate with rain and snowstorms. Aspen and cottonwoods change color in late September and early October. As snow becomes persistent by late fall, elk move to wintering areas at lower elevations.

Spring (late April - June) Mild days and cold nights interspersed with rain and occasional snow. Valley lakes usually thaw by late May depending on snow-pack with snow levels remaining just above the valley elevations until mid-June. Valley wildflowers begin blooming as the snow melts peaking in June and July.

Winter (late November - April) Snow blankets the mountains and the valley, with accumulations of ten feet common in the mountains and two to five feet in the valley. Between storms, sunny days and frigid nights provide perfect conditions for winter photography, wildlife viewing, snowshoeing, as well as downhill and cross-country skiing.

Staying Safe in the Parks



Hiking through the national parks is an experience you won't soon forget. Whether it's the crisp air carrying the scent of the Lodgepole Pine trees, the hundreds of glacially fed waterfalls, or the taste of your refreshing beverage after a long day on the trail, you are sure to leave wanting more. With all of this stimulation, it's easy to turn your brain off and overlook the fact that you are in a wild place. Ensuring that you are prepared is essential to guarantee that you will have an incredible experience.

Wilderness Preparation Pro Tips:

1. **Carry bear spray and follow preventative measures-** We know this can sound intimidating, but we have lived and hiked here for years without having a negative wildlife encounter. The key is knowing how to behave in bear country. A can of bear spray costs \$45-\$55 in the parks or you can rent a can from us for \$15/trip. More information: [HERE](#)
2. **Bring enough water-** Unless you plan on bringing a water filtration system, there are not opportunities to fill up once you are on the trail. While its difficult to say how much is enough, one litre per person for every two hours hiking on a sunny day is a good benchmark to aim for.
3. **Keep yourself fueled-** Before heading out on the trail, grab some energy bars, a bag of chips, and make a sandwich in the van and tuck them away in your backpack. There is nothing better than finding the most picturesque view and pulling out a delicious sammie!
4. **Know before you go-** These trails are new to you, and it's smart to know what your getting yourself into. How long will you expect to be on the trail? What is the elevation gain? What is the weather expected to do today? While many of these answers can be found independently, the park visitor centers and park rangers are invaluable sources of information. What's more, they have beautiful displays that will give those interested a deeper understanding of the wildlife and geology of the region. More info: [HERE](#)

