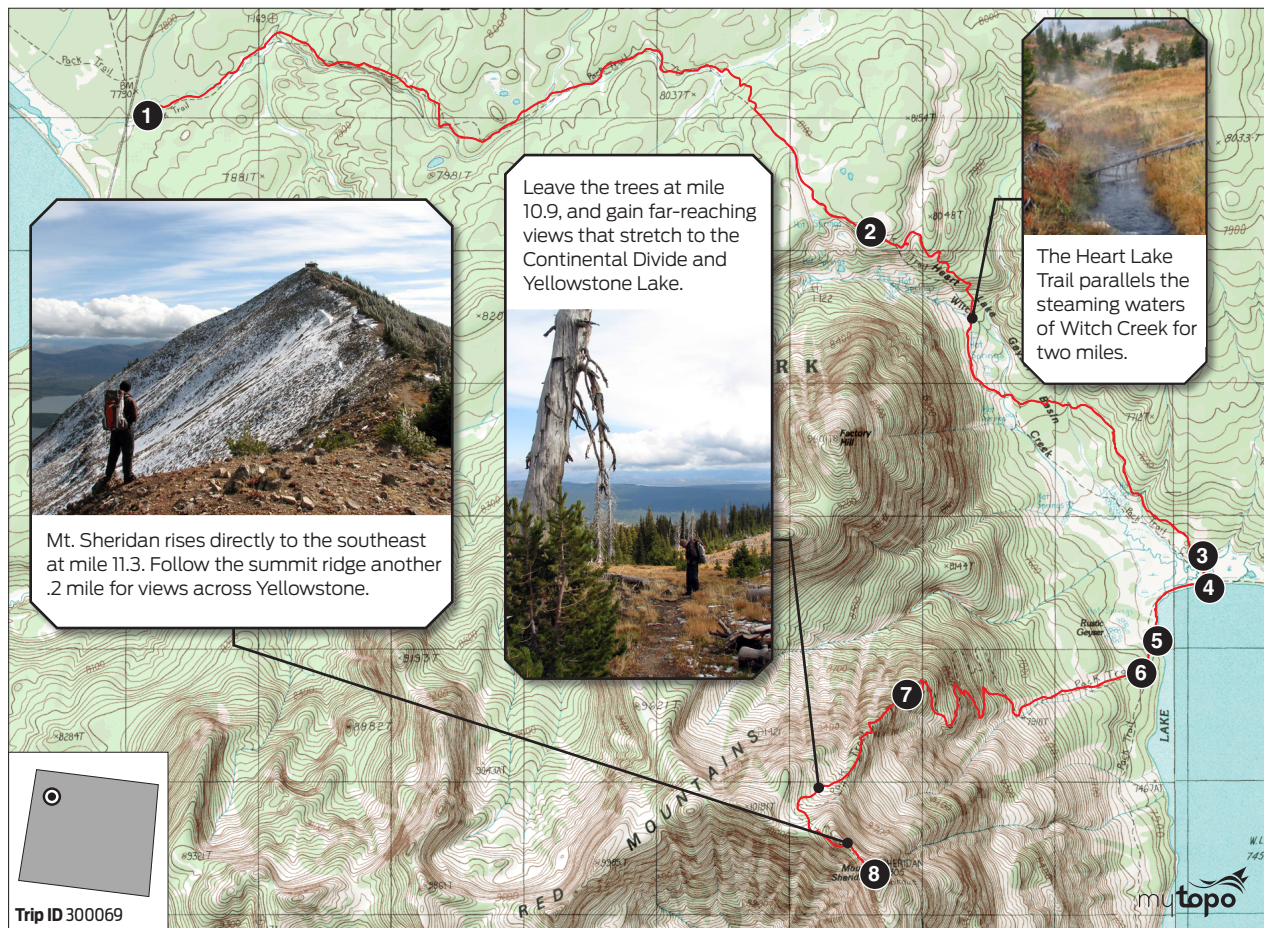


Yellowstone National Park: Heart Lake and Mt. Sheridan

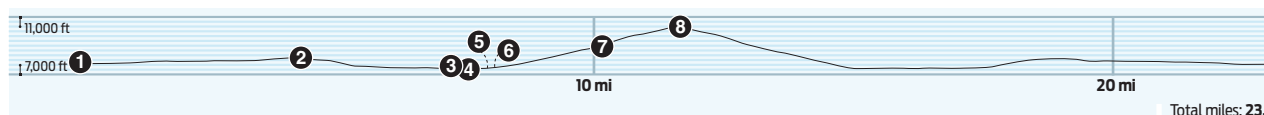


Do it

Experience the rugged side of Yellowstone on this two-day, 23.1-mile backpack. You'll track past steaming creeks and old-growth lodgepole on the way to a campsite near Heart Lake's rocky shoreline. On day two, rise early for the 2,800-foot climb to Mt. Sheridan's 10,308-foot crown.

	MILE	DIRECTIONS	UTM (ZONE 12T)
1	0	Hike east on the well-maintained Heart Lake Trail, which hovers near 7,800 feet for the first 3.6 miles.	0532064E 4907224N
2	4.4	Pass bubbling hot springs. Ahead, the trail descends 600 feet, skirting a steamy fumarole, to Witch Creek.	0537251E 4906465N
3	7.4	At Heart Lake Ranger Station—a log cabin near the water's edge—continue .1 mile to sandy shores.	0540057E 4903780N
4	7.5	Right at Y-junction and skirt the 2,160-acre, high-country lake. In .2 mile, cross a 20-foot log bridge.	0540067E 4903689N
5	8	Approach six lakeside campgrounds (hikers only; closed until July). Fires allowed at sites 8H2 and 8H3.	0539703E 4903215N
6	8.1	Right at Y-junction on Mt. Sheridan Trail. Fill up reservoirs before starting climb (no water sources on trail).	0539588E 4903028N
7	10.1	Begin ridgeline climb through fragrant Douglas fir and Engelmann spruce; views of Heart Lake to the east.	0537819E 4902841N
8	11.5	Mt. Sheridan: Views are plentiful on this 10,308-foot peak. Turn east to spot the Absaroka Range; the jagged Tetons rise to the south; Yellowstone Lake stretches to the northeast; and the dark blues of Lewis and Shoshone Lakes are visible to the west. From here, continue southeast along the summit ridge to visit the Mt. Sheridan Hut (do lunch at the nearby picnic table), then backtrack to the trailhead.	0537575E 4901537N

Elevation Profile



BACKPACKER Heart Lake and Mt. Sheridan

Plan it

MAPS USGS quad: *Mount Sheridan* (\$8, store.usgs.gov); Trails Illustrated Maps: *Old Faithful, Yellowstone Lake* (\$10, natgeomaps.com)

GUIDEBOOK *Hiking Yellowstone National Park*, by Bill Schneider (\$17, falcon.com)

PERMITS Backcountry permits are required for all overnight stays. Obtain in person no more than 48 hours in advance of your trip (307-344-2160; nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountry/hiking.htm). Reserve campsites in advance by mail or in person (\$20 fee; nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountrytripplanner.htm).

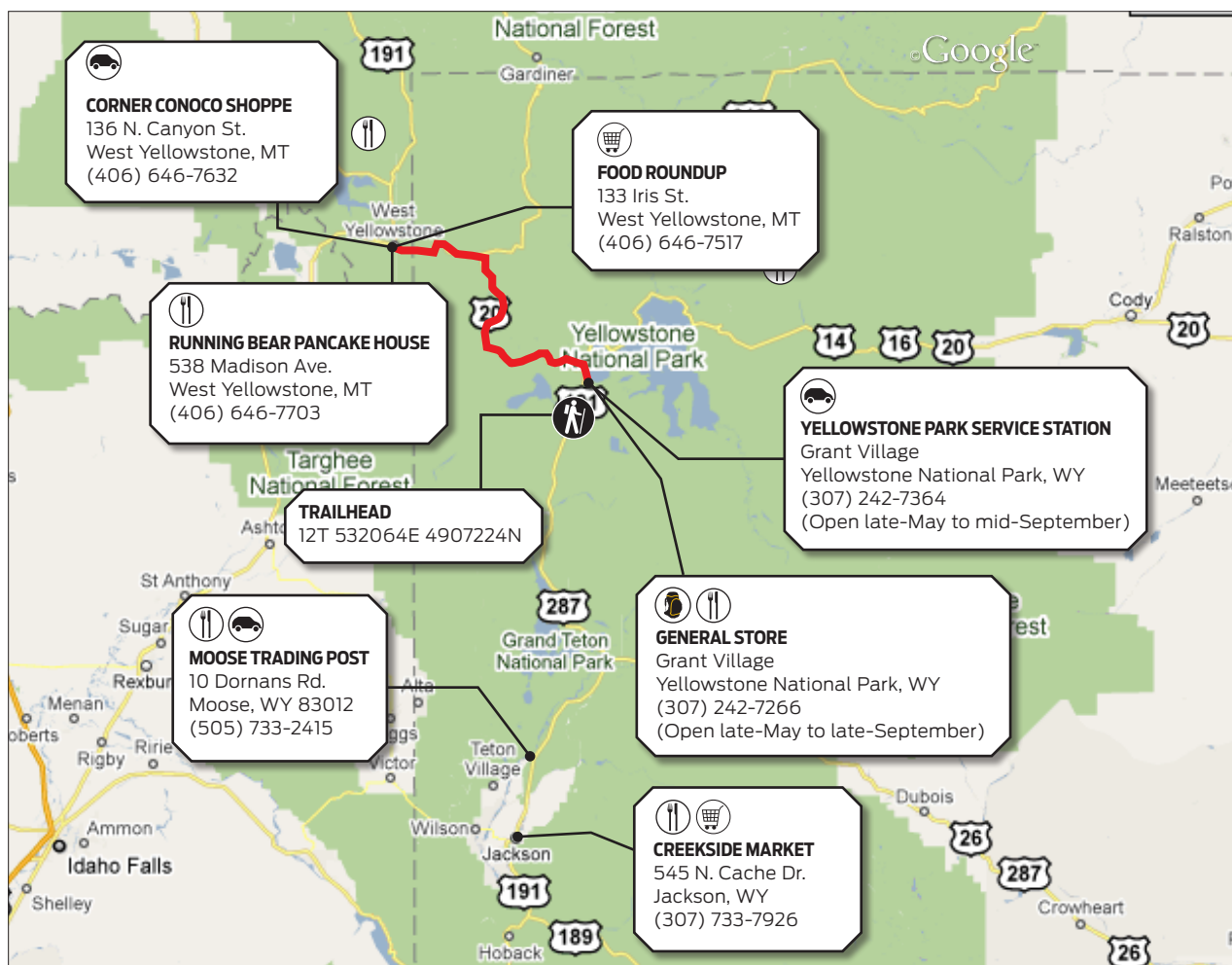
SEASON Most entrances (except the North and Northeast entrances) close in November and late March/early April to prepare roads for winter and summer seasons. Interior park roads are only open to over-snow vehicles during the winter season. Check for road closures at nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/hours.htm

WEATHER Get the forecast for Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks at crh.noaa.gov/rw/?n=ynp_gtnp.

GPS DATA Download GPS tracks and waypoints, order waterproof topos, and view photos of this hike at backpacker.com/hikes/300069.

Weekend gear list

- Backpack
- Three-season tent
- Down bag (15° to 40°F) and sleeping pad
- Compass, map, GPS unit
- Gas stove and fuel bottles
- Lighter and matches
- Cookset, bowl, insulated mug, eating utensils
- 32 oz. water bottle (2)
- Water treatment
- Multitool/knife
- Bear-bagging rope
- Headlamp with extra batteries
- Waterproof/breathable jacket and pants
- Fleece and down jackets
- Synthetic pants and shorts
- Midweight baselayers
- Synthetic T-shirt (2)
- Hat and gloves
- Hiking boots
- Camp footwear
- Wool/synthetic socks (3)
- Trekking poles
- Bug repellent and sunscreen (SPF 15+)
- Stuff sacks
- Zip-top bags
- Toilet paper and trowel
- First-aid kit



- Restaurant/bar
 Gear shop
 Gas station
 Grocery store
 Trailhead

Driving Directions from West Yellowstone, MT (54.6 mi.; 1 hr. 7 min.)

- 1) From the intersection of Yellowstone Ave. and N. Canyon St., drive east on Yellowstone Ave./US 191 S/US 20 E/US 287 S.
- 2) In 14 miles, turn right on Grand Loop Rd./US 191 S/US 20 E/US 287 S/US-89 S.
- 3) In 40.7 miles, turn left into trailhead parking area.