

## Mission Programs

Center for Sustainable Destinations

### **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S NEW GEOTOURISM MAPGUIDE TO THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE REGION**

#### **WHAT VISITORS MIGHT *NOT* KNOW ABOUT THIS FAMOUS SCENIC AREA**

- Yellowstone, created in 1872, was the world's first national park; Grand Teton National Park, established in 1929, is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.
- Now that the gray wolf is back, the region is again home to the full complement of animals that Lewis and Clark might have seen on their "Voyage of Discovery." The magnificent wildlife includes elk, moose, bighorn sheep and bison.
- Each February, a historic dog sled race, the American Dog Derby, begins in Ashton, Idaho, ending in Yellowstone Park. Five different races are offered, plus a weight pull in which spectators and their dogs compete.
- Virginia City's historic district is Montana's liveliest ghost town, with 75 well-preserved Victorian structures, including the Hangman's Building where vigilantes executed five bandits in 1864.
- The famous grizzly bear inhabits most of the region. To avoid surprising a bear while hiking, you should make your presence known by clapping, calling or singing.
- Only 2 percent of Yellowstone Park's 3,700 square miles is developed, though development pressures are immediately over the park's border.
- The Yellowstone Caldera — where most of the park's 10,000-plus geothermal features are found — is an ancient active volcano. According to some scientists, it may be 60,000 years overdue to explode.
- While providing extraordinary natural experiences, the region also offers exceptional museums, including the Charles Belden Museum of Western Photography in Meeteetse, Wyo., the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture in Bozeman, Mont., and the Idaho Museum of Natural History, featuring bones of a large bull mammoth.
- There really were "mountain men" — free-roaming fur trappers in the 1800s, legendary for their exploits. There is even a Museum of the Mountain Man in Pinedale, Wyo. Several places in the area are named in honor of mountain men, such as the Snake River's Henry's Fork.
- The huckleberry milkshake is a favorite summertime treat in the western Rocky Mountains. The MapGuide suggests a milkshake tasting tour, from the Corner Drug in Driggs, Idaho, to the Ennis Pharmacy in Ennis, Mont.
- The region has dozens of festivals, many listed on the MapGuide, from the Cody Nite Rodeo and Stampede to the Eastern Shoshone Indian Days in Fort Washakie, Wyo., and Crow Fair at Crow Agency, Mont., the states' largest powwows.

###