



SCENIC-DRIVE COMPANION

West Yellowstone to Island Park Scenic Drive

A short Route 20 re-entry outing that can be a direct transfer, a half-day drive with one nature stop, or a slower Island Park overnight after a Yellowstone day.



Choose the trip first: direct handoff, one-stop half day, or slower overnight.

West Yellowstone

Use it as the park-day reset for concentrated fuel, food, and lodging.

Island Park

Use it as the quieter forest-corridor overnight with dispersed services and recreation access.

Core rule

Save the exact Island Park destination; the community is spread along the corridor rather than one downtown.

Check Yellowstone road status and Idaho 511 separately. In colder months and shoulder seasons, also confirm the access road for the chosen nature stop.



Current trip page

Scan for the online itinerary, connected segments, and place guides.



CHOOSE THE TRIP

THREE VERSIONS

Pick the depth before leaving the gateway

Direct handoff

Fuel or eat in West Yellowstone, then go straight to the exact Island Park lodging or service stop already saved in the map.

Half-day scenic

Choose one primary Island Park stop. Big Springs, Harriman State Park, and Henrys Lake are alternatives, not a checklist.

Slower overnight

Move the Idaho transfer to the next morning, use one attraction, settle into lodging before dark, and continue toward Ashton after breakfast.

Before leaving West Yellowstone

Separate park-day uncertainty from the Idaho transfer.

- ☐ Check Yellowstone road status.
- ☐ Check Idaho Route 20 conditions separately.
- ☐ Fuel, eat, and save the exact Island Park address.
- ☐ Carry water and a warm layer.

- ☐ Confirm the access road or seasonal notice for the chosen nature stop.
- ☐ Avoid hard arrival deadlines after a park day.
- ☐ Keep wildlife encounters unplanned.
- ☐ Stay in West Yellowstone if the driver is tired or darkness is arriving.

Chosen version

Exact Island Park destination

One optional nature stop

Latest acceptable departure



DRIVE PLAN

ONE PRIMARY STOP

Make the Idaho handoff forgiving

WEST YELLOWSTONE

Reset before the state line

Treat West Yellowstone as the end of the park day even if the vehicle continues. Wildlife traffic, construction, or park-road timing can consume the transfer window.

ISLAND PARK ARRIVAL

Choose depth, not quantity

Big Springs is the lightest nature stop; Harriman State Park can fill several hours; Henrys Lake makes the most sense for travelers already prioritizing the northern lake country. Choose one.

CONDITIONS

Keep the highway and side-road checks separate

A clear main highway does not guarantee an open side road or trail. Snow, construction, slow traffic, and wildlife can all change the pace.

Wildlife safety is not an itinerary item: do not stop in a travel lane, approach animals, or build the schedule around a sighting. Drop the optional stop when the side road, weather, or daylight no longer supports it.

Road-status note

Nature-stop access note

Lodging / service address

Morning continuation toward Ashton



FINAL PLAN

READY TO HAND OFF

Keep the short drive simple and current

1 Drop the nature stop

The transfer still works as a direct handoff when weather, access, or daylight turns against the plan.

2 Move the transfer to morning

If the Yellowstone day ran long or the driver is tired, stay in West Yellowstone.

3 Protect the exact lodging or service destination

Island Park is dispersed, so the saved address matters more than the community name.

4 Keep the park and Idaho checks separate

Do not assume a clear condition in one system answers the other.

Chosen version

One stop or direct

Island Park arrival / overnight

First item to cut



Current trip page

Use the online trip page for current route context, the West Yellowstone-Island Park segment, and the onward Ashton and Rexburg choices.

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