

Walking the Canyon Rims

A number of trails and walkways wind along the rims and into the canyon. Use this guide to plan your excursions; check at the visitor center for trail conditions, especially during cold or wet weather. Wear comfortable shoes, carry water, and take your time.

South Rim Walks & Overlooks

Trails are subject to seasonal closures. Check locally for available viewpoints and trails.

Uncle Tom's Trail

For an unparalleled canyon and waterfall experience, take a deep breath and descend this trail. A series of paved inclines and more than 300 steps lead you about 500 feet (150 m) down into the canyon. Your destination is a platform from which you can see, hear, and feel the power of the Lower Falls. **This strenuous trail is not recommended for people with heart, lung, or other health conditions.** Much of the walk is constructed of perforated steel sheeting, so you should wear comfortable, flat-heeled walking shoes. Also watch out for ice in the early morning or in the spring or fall. Closed in winter and subject to closures in the spring and fall due to snow, ice, or other conditions.

Upper Falls Viewpoint

This easy walk takes you to two viewpoints of the Upper Falls, which drops 109 ft (33 m) over a lip of volcanic rock. Upstream of the waterfall, you can see the old Canyon Bridge, which today is part of the North Rim Trail. From the left overlook, look downstream to glimpse Crystal Falls on the opposite side of the canyon.

South Rim Trail

Begin this trail at the Wapiti Lake Trailhead on South Rim Drive near Chittenden Bridge. This partially paved trail parallels the canyon and connects the Wapiti Lake Trailhead with Uncle Tom's Point and Artist Point (1¼ miles/2.8 km). You'll wind in and out of forests between striking viewpoints of both falls and the canyon. Beyond Artist Point, the trail continues into the backcountry to Lily Pad Lake and other destinations.

Artist Point

When you reach this set of overlooks, you'll see why this is one of the most photographed views in Yellowstone. Framed by the canyon walls with forests for a backdrop, the Yellowstone River thunders more than 308 ft (93 m) over Lower Falls. From the upper overlook, you can view the canyon in both directions. Look for osprey, bald eagles, ravens, and swallows. The lower overlook is accessible to wheelchairs.





















Clear Lake Trail

From Uncle Tom's Point parking area, this trail takes you through large rolling meadows and forested areas to Clear Lake (2¼ miles/3.6 km), a hydrothermal area. Obtain current information on trail conditions and bear activity from rangers at visitor centers.

Other Hiking Options

Numerous trails suitable for short or extended hikes into Yellowstone's backcountry begin in the Canyon area. Consult the *Dayhike Sampler*, *Day Hikes in the Canyon Area*, and other publications for more information. Always obtain current trail condition and bear activity information at visitor centers.

Legend

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|  Paved trail, meets federal guidelines for wheelchair accessibility |  Parking |  Information |
|  Improved trail, may require assistance |  Restrooms |  Shower |
|  Stairs, steep grade, or uneven ground |  Food |  Amphitheater |
|  Backcountry trail |  Store |  Trail Rides |
|  Road |  Service Station |  Picnic Area |
| |  Lodging |  Campground |
| |  Telephone |  Recycling |
| |  Post Office | |

