The tour will be hosted by USA Park Tours. All photos and descriptions courtesy of USA Park Tours
Leaving Old Faithful and the Upper Geyser Basin, we are now in the heart of Yellowstone’s geyser country! The other two main geyser basins are the Midway and Lower Basins, but there are other smaller basins that are also a treat to visit. We hope to take in one or both of Black Sand Basin and Biscuit Basin.

The next stop is the Midway Geyser Basin, home to Grand Prismatic Spring - one of the largest anywhere in the world - as well as Excelsior Geyser, now dormant, but discharging thousands of gallons of water every minute. The boardwalk system will take you through the basin, enabling you to get a close look at Grand Prismatic and its bacteria mats.

The Lower Geyser Basin is probably best known for Fountain Paint Pot, but you will also see all four of Yellowstone’s thermal features here, including geysers, hot springs, mud pots and fumaroles. There is once again a boardwalk system running around and through the area, which you can explore.
Day 1 - West Thumb to Old Faithful - 19 mi / 30.57 km - About 45 minutes

It's a short drive from West Thumb to the Upper Geyser Basin, where Old Faithful is located. We'll cross the Continental Divide twice along the way, and will stop at Isa Lake.

Day 1 - Old Faithful - Take your time and enjoy!

For many people, Old Faithful is the highlight of their Yellowstone tour. Old Faithful is the world's best known and most reliable gusher, and soon you'll be watching it erupt. No tour to Yellowstone would be complete without that! This may also be a good time to enjoy the sack lunch we have prepared for you, while you watch the geyser go through its motions. There are benches in a semi-circle around Old Faithful, or you can go to Old Faithful Lodge, on the far side of the geyser, and see if you can find a comfortable chair there.

Day 1 - Lots to see and do at Old Faithful! - Stroll around and explore!

There is a lot more to the Upper Geyser Basin than only Old Faithful. There are many other geysers in the area as well, and you should also be able to walk around and take in some of them. Castle Geyser, seen in the pictures below, is a large cone geyser, which is only about a 10 minute walk from Old Faithful. Even if it is not erupting while you are on tour, there is always steam flowing out of the top of Castle.

Old Faithful Inn is a wonderful and historic old wooden building, one of the greatest in the National Park system, and well worth a visit.

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Across the way is Firehole Lake Drive, a less visited part of the park that is home to some great hot springs and geysers. Gushers that we hope to be able to show you erupting here include White Dome as well as a couple of very small geysers. The beauty of this area is that you can be driving along, and see a geyser erupting in a place you never even knew there was one!

The road to our next major stop, Norris Geyser Basin, passes Gibbon Falls, a waterfall on the Gibbon River.

Norris Geyser Basin is the most thermally active part of Yellowstone, and is divided into two separate areas, namely Porcelain Basin and Back Basin. We'll take a look at both basins, and in Back Basin we'll wander as far as Steamboat Geyser, currently the world's highest active geyser. There is very little chance of Steamboat actually erupting while you're there, but as the name suggests, there is always steam coming out of it.

We'll now cut across the road separating Yellowstone's two loops, from Norris to Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Yellowstone's Grand Canyon is a surprise to many. You don't really expect to see this finely carved and intricately detailed canyon amongst all of the park's wildlife and thermal features. We'll stop first at Artist Point on the south side of the canyon, before crossing the Yellowstone River, and taking in the North Rim Drive, including the brink of the Upper Falls. You feel like you're so close to the water that you can almost reach down and touch the falls!
Day 1 - Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone to West Thumb - 38 mi / 61.14 km - About 2 hours, 20 minutes

The Hayden Valley, home to a lot of Yellowstone's wildlife, is our next major stop. There is a special serene beauty to this part of Yellowstone, with the Yellowstone River flowing through the lush plains, creating an environment rich in plant and animal life. There are always lots of buffalo in the Hayden Valley, as well as the possibility of seeing a bear, if you're lucky!

The following part of our trip sees us following the west shoreline of Yellowstone Lake, back to West Thumb, with a quick stop first at Mud Volcano. We'll go past Fishing Bridge, which leads to the east entrance of the park, and then Lake Hotel, with the incredibly blue lake to the east for over 20 miles (32 kilometers). If you are very lucky, we may chance upon a small, unnamed geyser erupting in the middle of nowhere.

Day 1 - West Thumb to Jackson - 79 mi / 127.11 km - About 2 hours, 15 minutes

We'll make our way south from West Thumb, retracing our steps out of Yellowstone, into Grand Teton, and back to Jackson, where you'll be dropped off at your hotel. Thanks for joining us!

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