

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
MOUNT WASHBURN TRAIL FROM DUNRAVEN PASS
10K - EVENT Y1463

This walk is rated 2B. Open Thu, Jul 1st until Sep 30th.

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Welcome and thank you for your interest in this walk.

This on-line packet contains the following pages of information:

1. This information page.
2. Driving and hiking directions.
3. A map of the area.
4. AVA Special Programs

After your walk, be sure to log back into the OSB system to complete your online registration. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the date of the event, the distance, and the selection of applicable special programs that person is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.). Also note that an event registration expires after 30 days, but if your registrations lapses, you may re-register without cost.

Thanks for participating and we hope you enjoy your walk. POC: Marcia Stein 206 713 1564 foolhardyone@gmail.com

This walk also offers remote/mail registration. Please use either Online start box or remote registration, but not both as it confuses the records.

DESCRIPTION:

One of the park's most popular and rewarding day hikes starts out up high and continues climbing gradually along a turn-of-the-century wagon road which starts at 8,859 feet and climbs to 10,243 feet to the Mount Washburn Lookout Tower, with 360-degree panoramic views 20-50 miles in all directions. Not as hard as it sounds! The road is unpaved, well-groomed and gently graded. Give it a try - you might surprise yourself. Hiking time is 3-6 hours.

NOTE: These maps and directions may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Check for trail alerts before you go. Visit: <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/yell-trail-dunraven-pass-mount-washburn.htm>

Within Yellowstone dial 911 for emergencies. If you're traveling somewhere without phone reception, you must be prepared to self-rescue and to be self-sufficient. Many areas of Yellowstone National Park have poor or little cell coverage.
<https://www.nps.gov/grte/planyourvisit/safety.htm>

Best Time: The trail is hikable from May through October, with a good chance of encountering passable snow drifts at higher elevations early and late in the season. Frequent afternoon lightning and thundershowers mean it's best to head out as early as possible. Wildflower displays are legendary from around late July to early August, while elk, grizzlies, and bighorn sheep can be spotted throughout the summer. Obey posted signs and don't stray from the trail.

There are restrooms at the trailhead and the fire lookout at the top.

Driving Directions

GPS Coordinates: 44.78455, -110.45378

From the south, go 4.5 miles north from Canyon Junction on the Grand Loop Road-a couple of miles past the Dunraven Picnic Area-and turn right into the frequently full Dunraven Pass trailhead parking area on the east side of the road. If there's no room to park here, continue 5 miles north, turn right, and double back uphill on an unpaved road to access the larger Chittenden Road trailhead parking area.

Hiking Directions

From Dunraven Pass (8,859'), a wide, abandoned road-originally engineered in 1905 for wagons and stagecoaches-climbs steadily and scenically through subalpine fir forest to a small gap, a nice stop for a short rest.

About halfway up, as glimpses of the lookout atop the summit appear, broad switchbacks swing northeast up the ridge and views of the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone river drainage open up to the east (right).

The higher up you go, the more likely you are to see stunted whitebark pines (a favorite grub source for grizzlies) as well as pikas, marmots, and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. Half a mile beyond the switchback, the road reaches a three-way junction with the Chittenden Road Trail and Mt. Washburn Spur Trail.

Follow the road uphill as it curves around to the left to arrive at the three-story Mt. Washburn Lookout Tower (10,243'). Despite the presence of the working fire lookout (staffed only in summer), Mt. Washburn's slopes burned heavily during the 1988 fires. In addition to an outhouse, a pay phone (that only accepts credit cards), guest logbook, interpretive geology

displays, and a powerful telescope in the sheltered ground-level observation room, the lookout offers incredible panoramas of most of the park from upstairs on the outdoor viewing platform. On a clear day, the expansive views can stretch anywhere from 20 to 50 miles in all directions. The Absaroka Range extends beyond the park boundaries to the north and east. To the south are the Hayden Valley, Yellowstone Lake, and Mt. Sheridan - the southern end of the caldera that extends north to Mt. Washburn. To the west is the Gallatin Range. To the southwest you can often see vapor rising from the Norris, Upper, and Lower geyser basins; and sometimes you can even see all the way to the Tetons.

The descent from the summit back to the trailhead is easy, taking only 45 minutes to an hour. Retracing your steps, take a hard right at the Chittenden Road./Mt Washburn Trail junction to return to the Dunraven Pass parking area.



Mt. Washburn

TRAIL 17



