SEO Template for new content

Target keywords: mount washburn hike

Page title

• Optimal title length: **55 characters**

• Add at least one of your target keywords to your <title> tag, don't use each target keyword more than 1 time: **mount washburn hike**

Meta description

• Optimal meta length: **160 characters**

H1

• Add all your target keywords at least one time: **mount washburn hike**

Text

• Try to acquire backlinks from the following domains: [mytravelbf.com](http://mytravelbf.com), [mrowl.com](http://mrowl.com), [adventuresofaplusk.com](http://adventuresofaplusk.com), [outsideonline.com](http://outsideonline.com), [twoswisshikers.net](http://twoswisshikers.net), [emlnk1.com](http://emlnk1.com), [uprootedtraveler.com](http://uprootedtraveler.com), [annestravels.net](http://annestravels.net), [brucestambaugh.com](http://brucestambaugh.com), [classicflyrodforum.com](http://classicflyrodforum.com), [cootsco.com](http://cootsco.com), [fatmap.com](http://fatmap.com), [watch28wear.com](http://watch28wear.com), [seoindepth.com](http://seoindepth.com), [bingj.com](http://bingj.com), [openbar.jp](http://openbar.jp), [worldsciencejobs.com](http://worldsciencejobs.com), [uponarriving.com](http://uponarriving.com), [couponsoom.com](http://couponsoom.com), [frasesdemoda.com](http://frasesdemoda.com)

• Enrich your text with the following semantically related words: **fire lookout tower, bighorn sheep, 4.5 miles, chittenden road, yellowstone national park, dunraven pass trailhead, hiking early, mount washburn trail, north of canyon, parking lot, yellowstone lake, fire lookout stations, grizzly bears, elevation gain, canyon of the yellowstone, grand canyon, top of mount washburn, canyon village, interpretive exhibits**

• Focus on creating more informative content. Recommended text length: **708.0**

• Make sure that your text is easy to read with the Flesch-Kincaid readability test. The readability score should be: **69.69328795594045**

• Add at least one of your target keywords: **mount washburn hike**

When your content has been published, [launch a SEO Ideas](https://www.semrush.com/features/seo-ideas/?utm-source=sct&utm-medium=template) campaign to check if your content complies with all on-page SEO factors and discover what else can be done to give your content a SEO boost.

Analyzed top-10-ranking rivals for your target keywords

mount washburn hike

1. [https://wildlandtrekking.com/blog/mount-washburn-trail/#:~:text=Mount Washburn is one of,of the Yellowstone and beyond.](https://wildlandtrekking.com/blog/mount-washburn-trail/#:~:text=Mount%20Washburn%20is%20one%20of,of%20the%20Yellowstone%20and%20beyond.)

2. <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/yell-trail-dunraven-pass-mount-washburn.htm>

3. <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/wyoming/dunraven-pass-to-mt-washburn-trail>

4. <https://www.yellowstonepark.com/things-to-do/hiking/hike-mount-washburn-in-yellowstone/>

5. <https://www.americansouthwest.net/wyoming/yellowstone/mount-washburn-trail.html>

6. <https://virginiatrailguide.com/2022/04/27/mount-washburn-yellowstone-national-park/>

7. <https://quirkytravelguy.com/hiking-mt-washburn-in-yellowstone/>

8. <https://www.10adventures.com/hikes/yellowstone/mount-washburn-hike/>

9. <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60999-d144849-Reviews-Mount_Washburn-Yellowstone_National_Park_Wyoming.html>

10. <https://www.hikingproject.com/trail/7008598/chittenden-road-mount-washburn-trail>

See how competitors write about targeted keywords:

**mount washburn hike**

**1.** [https://wildlandtrekking.com/blog/mount-washburn-trail/#:~:text=Mount Washburn is one of,of the Yellowstone and beyond.](https://wildlandtrekking.com/blog/mount-washburn-trail/#:~:text=Mount%20Washburn%20is%20one%20of,of%20the%20Yellowstone%20and%20beyond.)

We have no data for this page, because it isn't accessible for our crawler.

**2.** <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/yell-trail-dunraven-pass-mount-washburn.htm>

Thing to Do
Dunraven Pass - Mount Washburn Trail
Starting at the Dunraven Pass Trailhead you ascend Mount Washburn on a trail with spectacular views. Look for bighorn sheep and wildflowers. Stay on the trail to avoid destroying fragile alpine vegetation. At the top, enjoy the view and interpretive exhibits from inside the shelter at the base of the fire lookout.
Safety notes: Be aware of lightning above treeline. There is no access to water along this trail. Grizzly bears frequent the Mount Washburn area in the fall, seeking out whitebark pine nuts. Hiking this trail is not recommended in September and October. These hikes are not recommended for persons with heart and/or respiratory problems.
Trailheads: Trail starts at the parking lot at Dunraven Pass, 4.5 miles (7.2 km) north of Canyon Junction.
Details

**3.** <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/wyoming/dunraven-pass-to-mt-washburn-trail>

We have no data for this page, because it isn't accessible for our crawler.

**4.** <https://www.yellowstonepark.com/things-to-do/hiking/hike-mount-washburn-in-yellowstone/>

Sign In
Hikers on the Mount Washburn Trail in Yellowstone. Photo: Grant Ordelheide
If you’re looking for a spectacular, moderate-to-difficult peak hike (depending on your fitness level) with 360-degree views, head to Mount Washburn in the northwestern part of Yellowstone National Park. It’s between Tower Fall and Canyon Village. What makes Mount Washburn so spectacular is the trail tops off at 10,219 feet, is lined with incredible wildflowers, especially in July, and offers breathtaking views from its summit.
How Long Does It Take to Climb Mount Washburn?
While the park staff says it’s 6 miles round-trip, Gaia GPS clocks it in at 7 miles round-trip from the parking lot to the top and back. Depending on your fitness level and how often you stop, this hike could take you anywhere from three to six hours. You’ll start at the Dunraven Pass trailhead that’s 4.5 miles north of Canyon Junction. Get here early in the morning to get a parking spot since this is a very popular hike and the parking lot does get full.
The trail is nice and wide, as it gradually winds up the mountain. This allows you to have some space as you hike along this smooth trail. Mount Washburn is actually a remnant of an extinct ancient volcano. If you’re hiking early in the summer or if Yellowstone had an exceptionally snowy spring, you may find snow along the entire trail or at the top. Be sure to wear sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots, so that your feet are well-dressed if you encounter snowy conditions. You can check with a ranger ahead of time at the Canyon Visitor Education Center in Canyon Village to find out what the trail conditions are ahead of time. Traction devices like MICROspikes or YakTrax, or trekking poles will be helpful if the trail is still snowy or icy.
If you don’t find snow, you’ll discover fields of wildflowers, especially in July, as you hike toward the summit. Keep your eyes out for bighorn sheep as well, since they are known to frequent the area and can even cause delays if they decide to stop and linger in the middle of the trail. Be sure to keep 25 yards between you and bighorn sheep and 100 yards between you and bears and wolves.
Hikers on Mount Washburn Trail near the summit with a view of the fire lookout (Photo: Grant Ordelheide)
Mount Washburn’s Fire Lookout
When you reach the top, you’ll find a fire lookout tower that has interpretive exhibits and restrooms inside. The park has two other fire lookout stations that are staffed from mid-June until fire season ends every year. Firefighters stationed at the Mount Washburn lookout, along with the park’s other two, monitor fire activity all summer.
The fire lookout is a great place to take shelter from the wind, if it’s gusty while you’re there. Beyond, you’ll see Yellowstone Lake , the Absaroka mountain range and more. On a clear day, you can see between 20 to 50 miles.
When to Hike Mount Washburn
The best time to hike Mount Washburn is during the summer months. Because its summit is more than 10,000 feet high, you can be hiking in deep snow in late spring, early summer and even into early July. Check with a ranger to find out what the trail conditions are like before you hit the trail.
Park officials strongly discourage people from hiking this trail in the fall months of September and October. Grizzly bears are known to frequent this area in the fall as they are trying to stock up on calories to get them through hibernation in the winter. For your safety and for the safety of the bears, avoid this trail in autumn.
Furthermore, do this hike in the morning, so you’re off the summit before early afternoon. In the West, clear blue-sky mornings often give way to afternoon thunderstorms. Because this hike brings you above tree line, you can put yourself in danger of getting struck by lightning during summer afternoon storms.
What to Bring on Your Mount Washburn Hike
As with everywhere in Yellowstone, bring your bear spray and have it easily accessible. If you run into a grizzly bear, you’re not going to have time to search for your bear spray in the bottom of your backpack. Be sure it is on your hip belt or in a pocket that you can access within a couple of seconds. While this hike is popular, grizzly bears can frequent popular hikes, parking lots and remote areas.
This hike reaches a high point of 10,219 feet, so you will want to bring a lot of water to fight headaches, altitude sickness and dehydration. Plus, the air in the West is much drier than more humid spots in the country like the East Coast and Midwest. Because there is no water along the trail or at the summit, you’ll need to pack enough water to get you up and down the mountain. Don’t forget to pack snacks, too, to keep you fueled along the trail.
You’ll also want to pack layers of clothing since the wind can start to whip around at the summit. That means you should pack a warm hat, a wind layer and a warm layer like a fleece or heavy sweatshirt. These items may sound like an overkill for summertime, but the higher you hike in altitude, the colder it gets, so what could be a 75-degree day at the parking lot could feel like 55 degrees at the summit. Sturdy hiking shoes are a must, too.
Lastly, there is no shade on this hike, so wear sunscreen and a hat to protect your face from the sun.

**5.** <https://www.americansouthwest.net/wyoming/yellowstone/mount-washburn-trail.html>

Trail map for Yellowstone National Park .
Photographs
10 views along the Mount Washburn Trail .
Trailheads
The two trailheads for the hike to Mount Washburn are located along the Grand Loop Road between Canyon and Tower, a route usually open from late May to mid October. This is the highest stretch of road in Yellowstone, peaking at 8,878 foot Dunraven Pass, and is plowed in stages, with the southern trailhead (right beside the pass) sometimes being accessible a week or two earlier in the season. The path begins next to the road, at a good-sized parking lot, but even this often fills up completely by lunchtime on a busy day. The northern trailhead is at the end of the 1.3 mile Chittenden Road - unpaved but fine for all vehicles, which parallels the highway while climbing 200 feet above it, along the start of the narrow ridge that provides a route for the trail all the way to the summit. A much less used third way to reach Mount Washburn branches off 3 miles along the Sevenmile Hole Trail , crossing flat land with scattered hot springs before a steep ascent to the summit, reaching it after 5.5 miles and 2,200 feet of elevation gain. Bear warnings are posted prominently at both the main trailheads, since grizzlies frequent the lower slopes of the mountain, though owing to the large number of visitors in summer, the chance of an encounter in peak season is low. More of a concern might be the frequent afternoon storms in summer, when high winds, heavy rain and lightning may develop quickly on a previously calm day.
Fire lookout tower
South Route
The southerly route to Mount Washburn offers more varied scenery so is generally considered the better option, despite being slightly longer (3 miles vs. 2.25 miles). The trail begins by climbing fairly gently up an open, grassy hillside sprinkled with summer wildflowers of all colors, and overlooking the steep valley of Sulphur Creek to the south. After entering a patch of woodland, the path rounds a promontory and doubles back, leaving the forest briefly and crossing another floral meadow, before re-entering the woods while still climbing quite gradually, up to a saddle at the head of two long ravines. Next are five long switchbacks, each straight and consistently uphill, with nice views at the bends but otherwise enclosed by tall trees. The last section traverses a rocky ridge, devoid of large vegetation, so the views are much better here. The rocks underfoot are dark, volcanic and jagged, but still provide good habitat for wildflowers, and for colorful lichen. Below, the ground slopes down steeply to the woods and scattered hot springs bordering the north rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and it is often possible to spot wildlife in the distance, roaming across the extensive meadows between the trees. As the summit approaches, the trail bends a little to the east, and reaches a four-way intersection with the alternative route from the north, and the lesser-used trail from Sevenmile Hole; from the junction, the hike is completed by a short path that curves around the west side of the peak, up to a flat, concreted area on top.
Steep ravine on the south side of the Mount Washburn summit
North Route
The short, unpaved Chittenden Road climbs along the west side of a lightly wooded ridge to a parking area at 8,752 feet. The trail then follows the continuation of the road, now closed to vehicles (but open to cycles), and for the most part runs right along the ridgetop which is free of trees, so the views are largely unobstructed - westwards to the valleys of Carnelian Creek and Tower Creek, and east to the Yellowstone River canyon. The last section moves a little west of the crest but stays quite straight, joining the southern route after a climb of 1,500 feet over 2.25 miles.
Variegated fritillary
The Summit
At the top of Mount Washburn is a flat, walled area 100 feet across, on the south side of which stands the three storey fire lookout tower, topped with radio masts. The lowest level has interpretive exhibits and rest rooms; in the middle is an observation deck (enclosed and open air), while the third floor, closed to the public, contains the ranger residence and lookout station. Views from the summit are broadly similar in all directions, since most other major peaks - Tetons, Absaroka Range, etc - are far away, so the landscape is a fairly uniform, grey/green expanse of mountains, ravines and grassland, with a few more distinctive features in the middle distance, including the deeper valleys of Tower Creek and the Yellowstone River, the north end of Yellowstone Lake and steam plumes from the geyser basins in the south.
Nearby Trails

**6.** <https://virginiatrailguide.com/2022/04/27/mount-washburn-yellowstone-national-park/>

April 27, 2022
After coming off the Teton Crest Trail, we took a day off hiking and chilled in Jackson Hole. We stayed at a hotel, ate lots of good food, and checked out more of the Tetons by car. We initially planned to head into Yellowstone National Park the next day, where we had a campsite booked at Bridge Bay Campground for two nights. Adam’s back was still bothering him, so we decided to stay an extra night in a hotel before joining our friends at the campsite in Yellowstone.
The next day, we made a long, leisurely drive into Yellowstone National Park, stopping many places along the way for photos and wildlife-related traffic jams. We got to Bridge Bay midafternoon, set-up camp, and met our friends. We had dinner, enjoyed s’mores by the campfire, and attended the evening ranger program. It was like all the park camping experiences I remember from my childhood.
The next morning, we got up, grabbed breakfast, and discussed plans for the day. Brian decided to go fishing and the rest of us decided to hike up Mount Washburn. At 10,219′, Mount Washburn is the highest peak in Yellowstone’s Washburn range, and is also home to one of the park’s few remaining fire watch towers.
There are two hiking routes to the summit of Mount Washburn. The first option is to park at the Dunraven Pass Trailhead for a 6.5 mile hike with about 1400′ of climbing. We chose the second option – a shorter route starting at Chittenden Road. This route was only 4.5 miles, but has about the same elevation gain.
If I had it to do over, I would have started at Dunraven Pass and just done the longer hike. It’s supposedly prettier and has a more gradual ascent. I think my tired legs and oxygen deprived brain were just thinking “shorter is better!” I struggled with the altitude on this hike and felt queasy and dizzy most of the way. I think after seven really busy, active days with staying at a mix of campsites and hotels, I was just run down, tired, and dehydrated. I still had fun and I still made it to the top, but this was probably my toughest hike of the trip (even though it shouldn’t have been.)
The Chittenden Road is all out in the open, so bring your sunscreen. The route follows a gravel roadbed straight up the mountain, not a switchback in sight! The major up-side of the unshaded terrain is that you always have views. When we visited there were also many wildflowers and maybe just as many bighorn sheep! It was neat to see the herd which was mostly mothers and babies. Although, we never did see a big ram with the classic curled horns.
At the top of the climb, you reach the summit tower. There are bathrooms, trash cans, and information at the top. There was a ranger staffing the tower, as well. We took lots of photos, had a snack, talked to some people wearing JMU gear (fellow alumni!) The vistas at the top are truly panoramic – you can see all across Yellowstone and back into the Tetons.
After the hike, we met back up with Brian (who had a great day fishing!) and moved on to our next campsite at Canyon Campground in Yellowstone. Canyon was a much nicer campground than Bridge Bay. It had better access to amenities and the campsites were lovely and tree-shaded. Bridge Bay was mostly an open field with tent-sites so close that we heard our neighbor snoring the entire night!
A couple things to consider before you plan this hike: 1) Check the road status on Yellowstone’s official website before you go! Oftentimes, the trailhead are not accessible due to either weather or construction. 2) Start this hike early in the day. It’s one of the park’s most popular and parking is competitive.

**7.** <https://quirkytravelguy.com/hiking-mt-washburn-in-yellowstone/>

Contact
Two Ways to Hike Mount Washburn in Yellowstone National Park
Share on Email
Hiking Mount Washburn in Yellowstone was a memorable experience – one of the most fun hikes I’ve ever taken.
Mt. Washburn is one of the highest points in Yellowstone National Park, with an elevation of around 10,200 feet. The peak was named after Henry Washburn, one of the expedition members from the 1870s who used to wash their clothes in Old Faithful .
You can climb Washburn in one of two ways: From Dunraven Pass or from Chittenden Road. I did both. Here’s the scoop.
How to Hike Mount Washburn on the Dunraven Pass side
On my first day in Yellowstone, I hiked up the Dunraven Pass side of the mountain. The weather was pleasant and people were wearing shorts, but as I moved higher (it’s a 1,393-foot elevation gain), it got chilly.
This route goes through forested areas, and it’s one of the last places in the park where the snow melts every year. For most of the trail, the snow was gone, but in some spots, it was a couple inches deep, even as temperatures were mild everywhere else in Yellowstone:
As I reached a lengthy series of switchbacks, I was hit with a blast of some sort of hail/rain/snow combination – a wintry mix, as they say. I thought it was really cool to experience snow during the summer. (And all this time I thought Vanessa Williams was full of shit when she sang, “Sometimes the snow comes down in June.”)
Fortunately, I was dressed for the weather with a long-sleeve hoodie. If you’re going to hike Washburn, taking some heavier clothes with you is a must, no matter what time of year.
I started feeling a little dizzy and thought I might be starting to feel altitude sickness. I’m not sure if that happens at 10,000 feet, but considering that only a few hours earlier I was at a much lower elevation in Wyoming, it seemed plausible. Not wanting to risk passing out up there, I stopped and turned around.
It was still an enjoyable hike , with great views, even though I didn’t reach the summit .
Hiking Mt. Washburn on the Chittenden Road side
Two days later, on my final afternoon in Yellowstone, I noticed that Chittenden Road was open. It had been closed the two previous days. Since I was still eager to see bears and bighorn sheep, I had to take the hike again.
If Chittenden Road is open, you can drive to a point partially up the hill, which leaves a 2.2-mile hike with a 1491-foot elevation gain. If the road isn’t open, you can still hike that side, but you’re looking at an additional 1.2-mile hike to reach the trailhead.
The Chittenden side has a couple of forested areas, but it’s mostly wide open, leaving lots of great views (which can lead to a lot of great Yellowstone pictures ) and a better shot at seeing wildlife.
As I began the hike, I spotted bighorn sheep tracks. This was a great sign!
Then came the scary signs. Like bear tracks right on the dirt trail. And trees whose trunks had been slashed by grizzlies marking their territory.
Having never seen a bear in the wild, I was pretty frightened, but I embraced the fear and continued onward. Shortly after reaching a nice open area, I spotted a group of people standing together and pointing.
Then, I saw the grizzly!
It was maybe 100 yards away, about the length of a football field. I snapped a couple of pictures and slowly began backing away, since it was heading in my direction. Before long, it turned around and went back over the hill.
Here’s a diagram of where I saw the bear.
Sadly, I did not reach the summit on the Chittenden side, either. Even after the grizzly disappeared, I didn’t want to keep walking in his direction. Plus, it was getting late in the day and I was alone – two no-nos when it comes to hiking near bears.
Those who make it to the summit of Mt. Washburn will find a fire lookout tower with a visitor center and restrooms. Overall, this is a medium-length hike that won’t be super-challenging for experienced hikers. Just bring your bear spray !
Hiking Mt. Washburn in Yellowstone: Summary
Washburn is one of the more popular hikes in the park, so be prepared. If you’re not interested in heading into the backcountry on your own, the Washburn hike is one of the better walks you can take through the park, full of panoramic views and opportunities to see wildlife.
By the way, if you’re wondering where else to see bears in Yellowstone, check out my guide on the park’s wildlife .
Have you hiked in grizzly bear country?
Last updated on: Sunday, May 17, 2020
About The Author

**8.** <https://www.10adventures.com/hikes/yellowstone/mount-washburn-hike/>

Get a weekly dose of discounts and inspiration for adventure lovers
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Route Description for Mount Washburn
Right from the go, this hike gives you views down to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. As you steadily gain elevation on this moderately-sloped path the scenery just keep getting better. There is only one path to follow and it is in excellent condition – no way to get lost!
As you hike you will come across some of the best views in the park, including wildflower-studded meadows, dense forests, and expansive canyons. Across the road you will see the grassy Dunraven and Hedges Peak. Hiking north you will be able to see the mountains of the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness, on the boundary of the park.
After most of the climbing is done you will pop out onto a rocky ridge, where the apex of the good views is located. You will be able to see the lookout tower at the top of Mt. Washburn. As you advance to the final approach to the summit, you will gain the shoulder of the Mt. Washburn Spur Trail. Turn left and go up to the very summit, turning counterclockwise as you climb.
The views from the top are enhanced versions of what you have seen hiking up, offering a fantastic finally to an awesome day hike. The hut at the top has a washroom, and can shield yourself from the famously strong winds present at the summit.
Insider Hints for Mount Washburn
Because you will be hiking up an old road, the wide flat surface tends to hold snow very well. If hiking early in the season be aware of late season snow banks!
Getting to the Mount Washburn Trailhead
Either drive north from Canyon Village or south from Tower Junction to reach the trailhead for Mt. Washburn. The trailhead is right beside Dunraven Pass. There is an alternate route that starts at the end of Chittenden Road, however that route allows bicycles.
Route Information

**9.** <https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60999-d144849-Reviews-Mount_Washburn-Yellowstone_National_Park_Wyoming.html>

The best hike in Yellowstone
On our second day in Yellowstone, we drove north to the Mount Washburn trailhead, passing Hayden Valley on the way. The road was congested with bison, a typical sight in Yellowstone during the early morning hours. We took the 6 mile hike to the top of Mount Washburn and back.The views stretched anywhere from 20 to 50 miles in all directions. We were able to see the Absaroka Range to the north and east, Hayden Valley and Yellowstone Lake to the south, the Gallatin Range to the west, and the vapor rising from the Norris, Upper, and Lower geyser basins to the southwest. Despite the haze, we were also able to see all the way to the Tetons, some 70 miles away! There were three female bighorn sheep at the top, and they appeared to be "posing" for pictures! Overall, it was my favorite hike in Yellowstone and it is definitely one you shouldn't miss.
Read more
Written August 12, 2010
This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews.
• Golden-mantled Ground squirrels
• Bighorn Sheep (about 20 along the trail to and from the summit).
The hike along Chittenden Road is very scenic. Since this is a service road for the fire lookout station on Mount Washburn, the trail is wide and fairly smooth (gravel road), but it is a constant uphill hike (so the trail is “easy” but the hike is “strenuous”). It was very nice being on a wide trail so we could walk side-by-side and chat while we walked (and provide encouragement to each other). Do keep a lookout for mountain bikers on the trails (again the trail is wide so there is room for everyone). While you do past through a couple stands of trees not too far from the trailhead, most of the trail is out in the open, so make sure to take precautions against the sun (hat, sunglasses and sunscreen). Since the trial is mostly open, you do get to see all around for the vast majority of the hike, including getting to keep an eye on the final destination, as the summit and ranger station are usually always in view. There is a burnt out stand of trees about half-way up the trail. The grey trunks make an interesting landscape, particularly against a blue sky.
There were a lot of bluebirds at the base of the trail. On the way up, we spotted two marmots and an osprey. Near the top of the trail (about 3/4 s of the way up) we finally saw the Bighorn sheep. There were about 15 on a rock bank at one of the switch back turns near the top, then another 4 or 5 a bit further up the road. We also saw two pikas in the rock walls below the lookout station. I was lucky enough to get a good shot of one of these little guys.
We paused at the top for a snack and were accosted by a golden mantled ground squirrel…very persistent little guy! He is looking for treats, but just remember that it is illegal and dangerous to feed the wildlife, even the little ones. Keep an eye on your packs, I would not put it past the squirrels to climb right inside. It was windy at the top, but still pleasant. Note that there are restrooms near the viewing area at the ranger station. We also checked out the view from the lookout station then started back down about 1:20. We saw the sheep heading down the hill as well and had to keep an eye out for them. We caught up with the sheep about half-way down in the burnt forest. We had a bit of a “sheep jam" as they were arrayed across the road. But I got some decent shots of the sheep in the trees. We also saw some nice wildflowers and butterflies on the trail. We were back at the trailhead at 2:40.
Overall, this is a great hike with excellent views and many opportunities for wildlife viewing. Keep in mind the possibility for drastic changes in the weather and plan and pack accordingly. Make sure you take plenty of water and a snack along with your binoculars and camera; there are memories to be made.
Read more
Written October 10, 2011
This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews.
If you have to choose one mountain peak to hike in Yellowstone, choose Mt. Washburn!
I hiked several mountains in Yellowstone Park recently and Mt. Washburn was one of the best hikes in terms of scenery, wildlife, and enjoyment. While the hike is around 4 miles and 1400 ft ascent/descent and generally takes 3-4 hours round trip to complete, the hike is on a car-width road with long sections of moderately steep paths and ends at the NPS Fire Lookout station at the Peak. I would recommend bringing plenty of water and some trail mix / power bars to refuel at the top. The Fire Lookout station even has an enclosed viewing room. The views on the hike and at the top are beautiful - you can see the Canyon of Yellowstone, Yellowstone Lake, and even the Grand Tetons way off in the distance.
Read more
Written August 2, 2010
This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews.
Great hike and so much to see
There are a couple different ways to hike Mt Washburn. We chose the trailhead at Dunraven Pass, which is about 5 miles north of Canyon Village. This trail is supposedly a little less strenuous than the trail on the other side of the mountain whose trailhead is probably 10 miles from Canyon Village (Chittenden parking lot). My wife was apprehensive about bears on this trip and was relieved to see this is a well-traveled hike so one will not get the felling of being alone.
It's an old stagecoach road (3 miles one way) so it's easy to follow. There are many chances for great scenery along this route. There are wildflowers galore, from top to bottom. We saw lots of sheep at the top. There is a lookout tower at the top with shelter and bathrooms. It's a good spot to have lunch. Being this is an active tower in the park, we found it ironic that the cell phone reception was the best we had seen on this trip at the top of Mt Washburn. Granted it's a 1400 ft elevation climb to the top, but it's more gradual than steep. This hike was a "must-do" for our visit to Yellowstone and certainly didn't disappoint. I agree that these are the best views in the whole park.
Read more
Written August 1, 2010
This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews.
Something everyone should visit at least once in their life!
Mt. Washburn was a wonderful trek to the top of the world of Yellowstone National Park. You don't hike the entire way up but drive your car to a certain point and then hike the next 3 thousand feet. Be sure to wear a jacket and gloves as it gets mighty cold up that high even in the hottest part of summer. You'll see trees burned on only one side from the 1988 fires which gives you an eerie feeling. Looking to your left the trees look all healthy and bright. Looking to your right the same types of trees all look burned and severely damaged.
Further up the trail to the ranger's station on top, you may encounter rams or other wild animals. The group I was with had a stand-off with a fully grown ram who refused to move from our path. Our guide told us not to run if he started to attack...and he did start to run at us with his massive horns in a threatening posture. The five of us stood our ground, however, (probably too scared to move) and the ram averted his charge at the last second and jumped up on some rocks to the left of us...offering us an opportunity for some really great photos. Once we knew he was no longer interested in us, we resumed our trek to the top. The wind was so strong it was really hard to walk, however. For every three steps forward the wind would blow us back two steps.
Snow was all around the top of Mt. Washburn. The ranger's station was a nice respite from the brutal elements. There was even a payphone there for you to call friends and family and tell them you were at the top of a mountain, over ten thousand feet in the sky. The view from this station was astounding. You could see for miles in every direction, with telescopes available for pinpointing various areas of interest.
The trek back down was a lot easier than going up. With the wind pushing you it wasn't nearly as hard to meander down the mountain.
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Written March 13, 2010
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**10.** <https://www.hikingproject.com/trail/7008598/chittenden-road-mount-washburn-trail>

Dogs No Dogs
Features Views · Wildflowers · Wildlife
Depending on Winter snow-pack, the upper reaches of this trail may be covered through June and into July. Check trail conditions before heading out.
Description
There are two primary routes to the top of Mount Washburn . The Chittenden Road Trail (described here) and the Mount Washburn South Trail (which begins at Dunraven Pass). Both trails follow an old roadbed and gradually climb 1300+ feet. Both afford spectacular views and wonderful wildflower displays. Most visitors however prefer the Mount Washburn South Trail, because the twists and turns of the trail are more dramatic and the views to the south of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Hayden Valley , and Yellowstone Lake are more interesting.
To find the trailhead to the Chittenden Road- Mount Washburn Trail, follow the well-marked Chittenden Road for a half-mile or so south and east of the Grand Loop Road to a large parking area. From there, the easy-to-follow dirt road climbs steadily, but never too steeply, through mostly open meadows to the top of 10,243 foot Mount Washburn .
The mountain was named for Henry D. Washburn, Surveyor-General of the Montana Territory and leader of the 1870 Washburn Expedition through Yellowstone. That year General Washburn climbed this mountain to locate the best route to Yellowstone Lake. "The country before us was a vast basin. Far away in the distance, but plainly seen, was the Yellowstone Lake," wrote Washburn.
The first fire lookout station on the summit of Mount Washburn was constructed in 1921. The current station was built in 1940. In 1979, a small Visitor Center was added. Because of its central location, Mount Washburn affords the best possible overall view of the park. General Sherman of Civil War prominence summed it up well when he stated, "Any man standing on Mount Washburn feels as though the whole world were below him." On a cold day it is even possible to make out the steam from an eruption of Old Faithful!
Thanks to guidebook author, Tom Carter, for sharing this trail description. To learn more about visiting Yellowstone, check out his book, Day Hiking Yellowstone .
Flora & Fauna
Throughout this route are excellent opportunities for viewing dozens of species of wildflowers. You should spot low mats of 5-petalled white to lavender flowers known as phlox, striking rocket-shaped pink and yellow flowers called shooting star, and the long spines of blue to purple pea-like flowers named lupine. The conspicuous fiery red tops of the Indian paintbrush (Wyoming's state flower) are due to the color of the bracts rather than the flower itself. The paintbrush is a semi-parasitic flower. Its roots tap the roots of other plants for nourishment. Near the summit, small bands of bighorn sheep are occasionally seen.
Contacts