

Werk

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The first objects to attract the visitor's attention on leaving the hotel are the cones of two extinct geysers, named *Liberty Cap* (45 ft high) and the *Giant's Thumb*. The path usually followed in visiting the Formations diverges from the main road about 200 yds. to the S. of the former; the path near the Giant's Thumb is generally taken in returning. Among the chief points of interest are the *Minerva Terrace*, the *Jupiter Terrace*, the *Pulpit Basins*, the *Pictured Terrace* (with the *Blue Pool*), the *Narrow Gauge Terrace*, the *Orange Geyser* (a hot spring, not a geyser proper), *Cupid's Cave*, and the *Devil's Kitchen* — The grounds of a photographer's studio near the hotel are fenced in with elk-horns, found in the Park.

Those who stay more than a day at the Mammoth Hot Springs may walk or ride to the *Middle Gardiner Falls*, 4 M. to the S.E. They are about 150 ft. high and are in a cañon 1200 ft. deep. This excursion may be combined with an ascent of *Bunsen's Peak* (half-a-day; 'View). — An ascent of *Mt. Everts* (p. 430), including a visit to the *East Falls*, takes about a day. — A road leads to the E. from the Mammoth Hot Springs to (2 M.) *Yancey's Hotel* (S 2) at *Junction Valley*, whence a trail ascends the Yellowstone to (4 M.) the *Tower Falls*, 110 ft. high. There is a small forest of *Petrified Trees* 1½ M. to the S. of Yancey's. Fishermen and sportsmen will find Yancey's a good centre. Route thence to *Yellowstone Cañon*, see p. 437.

b. From Mammoth Hot Springs to the Lower Geyser Basin.

42 M. STAGE in about 10 hrs.

The road ascends to the S. through the cañon of the Gardiner River to (4 M.) the **Golden Gate*, where the W. branch of the river passes between Bunsen's Peak and Terrace Mt. The name is said to be derived from the yellow moss which grows on the rocky walls of the pass. The *Rustic Falls* here are picturesque. Fine retrospect. On issuing from the cañon we pass *Swan Lake* and cross a somewhat bleak plateau. To the right rise the snow-peaks of the *Gallatin Range*, including (from [right] to left) *Quadrant Mt.* (10,125 ft.), *Bannock Peak* (10,330 ft.), and *Mt. Holmes* (10,528 ft.). Behind us, to the N.W., is *Electric Peak* (11,155 ft.), the highest mountain in the Park. About 2 M. beyond Swan Lake we cross *Indian Creek*, an affluent of the middle fork of the Gardiner. Farther on, 6 M. from the Golden Gate, are *Willow Park* and *Apollinaris Spring*, with the first Wylie Camp (p. 429). To the left, 1½ M. farther on, rise the **Obsidian Cliffs*, a ridge of volcanic glass, 300 yds. long and 150-250 ft. high, once a favourite resort of the Indians, who made arrow-heads of the obsidian. In the construction of the road the large blocks of obsidian were shattered by being first heated by fires and then doused with cold water. To the right lies *Beaver Lake* (7415 ft.), so called from its numerous beavers' dams. The road skirts the lake for about 1 M., crosses the *Green Creek*, and then surmounts the watershed (7550 ft.) between the Gardiner, flowing into the Yellowstone, and the *Gibbon*, flowing into the Madison. We pass *Roaring Mt.* (l.), the little *Twin Lakes* (r.), and the *Devil's Frying Pan* (l.).

18 M. (from Mammoth Hot Springs) *Norris Hotel* (7260 ft.), where a halt is made for luncheon, is merely an eating-station. It lies in the *Norris Geyser Basin*, which, though not to be compared with the larger basins described at pp. 432, 433, contains features

of considerable interest. Some of its active geysers are of quite recent origin. Most visitors will see as much as they wish of this basin by walking on about 1 M. ahead of their carriage. In this way they may see a boiling spring to the left of the road, the *Black Growler*, to the right; the *Hurricane*, a short way to the right of the road (sign-post); and the *Constant Geyser*, the last in a large tract of geyserite which is unsafe for walking.

A path diverging to the left leads to the *Emerald Pool*, the *New Crater*, and the ($\frac{1}{2}$ M.) *Monarch Geyser*. — Numerous other small geysers and boiling springs are visible in various directions.

From Norris Hotel direct to the *Cañon of the Yellowstone*, see p. 437

About 3 M. from the Norris Hotel the road enters a valley named *Gibbon Meadows*, beyond which we descend the **Gibbon Cañon*.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ M. to the E. (left) of the entrance to the cañon are the *Artists' Paint Pots*, similar to those described below. — A path to the right, $\frac{3}{4}$ M. farther on, leads to the *Monument Geyser Basin*, 1000 ft. above the road, which may be neglected by the non-scientific tourist.

About 2 M. from the entrance of the cañon, to the right, is the **Beryl Spring*, one of the loveliest boiling springs in the Park (15 ft. across). Near the end of the cañon, to the left, are the **Gibbon Falls*, 80 ft. high. The next part of the road is comparatively uninteresting. The *Teton Mts.* (14,000 ft.; ascended for the first time in 1898), 75 M. to the S. W., are visible in clear weather. Farther on we descend gradually to the valley of the *Firehole River*, the two branches of which unite to form the Madison. At the forks of the Firehole and *Nez Percé*, 5 M. from the Gibbon Falls, our road is joined by that from *Monida* (p. 444). We go on $2\frac{1}{2}$ M. farther to the —

42 M. **Fountain Geyser Hotel* (7250 ft.), the usual halting-place for the first night after leaving Mammoth Springs. Hot mineral baths may be obtained at the hotel.

Every evening, at a point about 100 yds. behind the hotel, a group of bears may be seen eating the kitchen garbage of the day. They are so tame and inoffensive that, it is said, they will sometimes eat apples from the hands of the onlookers.

The **Lower Geyser Basin*, which we have now reached, has an area of 3-4 sq. M. and a mean elevation of about 7250 ft. It is known to contain about 700 hot springs, besides a score or so of geysers, arranged in groups. Within a few hundred yards of the hotel is the **Fountain Geyser*, which spouts every 2-3 hrs. Though not very high (30-50 ft.), the eruption of this geyser is so wide, has so many interlacing jets shooting in all directions, and rises and falls with so many variations, that it ranks among the most beautiful in the Park. The approach of an eruption, which lasts 15-20 min., is heralded by the gradual filling up of the crater. — Near the Fountain Geyser are the very singular and curiously fascinating **Mammoth Paint Pots*, or *Mud Puffs*, a group of mud springs of different colours (pink, yellow, etc.), within a crater about 40 ft. in diameter. The mud is thrown up with a curious 'plopping' sound and falls back into shapes resembling flowers, etc.

About 2 M. from the hotel, but somewhat difficult of access owing to the marshy nature of the ground, is the ***Great Fountain Geyser**, which rises to a height of 100-150 ft. and is one of the most remarkable Geysers in the Park. Adjacent are some interesting springs.

c. From the Lower Geyser Basin to the Upper Geyser Basin.

9 M. STAGE COACH in 3-4 hrs., including halt at the *Midway Geyser Basin* (see below).

The road runs at first towards the W., then turns to the S. and follows the *Firehole River*. In about 3 M. we are abreast of what is known as the *Midway Geyser Basin*, on the W. bank of the river; and a halt is generally made for a visit to it.

This group includes the great ***Excelsior Geyser**, the largest geyser in the world, throwing up nearly as much water as all the rest put together. With a short exception in 1890, it has not worked since 1888, when it threw a huge mass of water to a height of 200-300 ft. Its crater is nearly 400 ft. long and 200-250 ft. wide, and its walls rise 15-20 ft. above the level of the boiling water within. Its appearance amply justifies the name of *Hell's Half Acre*, which is sometimes applied to it. — A little to the N. is the beautiful ***Turquoise Spring**, a pool 100 ft. in diameter, remarkable for the intense blueness of its limpid water. — To the W. lies ***Prismatic Lake** (400 ft. long and 250 ft. wide), the marvellous colouring of which is indicated by its name. The volumes of steam which rise from it reflect those colours in a very beautiful way.

About 3 M. beyond the Middle Geyser Basin we reach the beginning of the *Upper Geyser Basin* (see below), which the road to the hotel traverses, following the course of the *Firehole River*. Among the springs and geysers near the road as we proceed are the *Artemisia Spring* (right), the **Morning Glory* (i.e. convolvulus; left), the *Fan Geyser* (r.), and the *Mortar Geyser* (r.). Beyond the bridge are the *Riverside* (l.), the *Grotto* (l.), the *Giant* (l.), the *Splendid* (r.), the *Comet* (r.), the *White Pyramid* (r.; at some distance), the *Oblong* (l.), the *Turban* (l.), the *Grand* (l.), the *Saw Mill* (l., these three beyond the river), and the *Castle* (l.).

The **Upper Geyser Hotel** is at present used as a luncheon-station only, travellers returning to the **Fountain Geyser Hotel** for the night †.

The ****Upper Geyser Basin** (7395 ft.), which is about $\frac{1}{4}$ sq. M. in area, contains about 40 geysers (including the largest, after **Excelsior**, and finest in the Park) and many beautiful hot springs. Most of the large springs and geysers are near the *Firehole River*. A good general view of the district is obtained from a mound near the hotel.

The chief points of interest in the Upper Geyser Basin may be seen in two rounds of about 3 M., one on either side of the river, and about half-a-day should be allowed for each. Hurried visitors will do well to engage a guide; in any case they should ascertain what geysers are 'due' and arrange their itinerary accordingly. A table at the hotel gives the periodic times of the different geysers, but few of them, with the exception of **Old Faithful**, can be trusted. Those who wish to see all the large

† This strange arrangement involves a threefold repetition of part of the journey and necessitates an uncomfortably early start for the drive to **Yellowstone Lake** (p. 435).