

## **Werk**

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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).

geysers playing have to stay several days or even weeks; while some geysers intermit their eruptions for months and years at a time. Most of the chief geysers are marked by little wooden signs. Thick shoes or overshoes are desirable, as parts of the formations are almost constantly wet from the overflow of the geysers.

*Old Faithful*, one of the most beautiful geysers in the Park, throws its stream, at intervals of about 65 minutes, to a height of 125-150 ft. The eruption lasts about 4 minutes. — Crossing the foot-bridge in front of the hotel, we reach the *Beehive*, so called from the appearance of its cone (4 ft. high), which throws a very compact stream of water from its nozzle-like opening to a height of 150-200 ft. To the E. of the *Beehive* is the *Giantess*, the interesting exhibitions of which are due once a fortnight (150 ft.). A little to the N.W. of the *Giantess* is the *Sponge*, so called from the appearance of its crater. — A little farther to the N. are the *Lion*, *Lioness*, and *Cub*, to the E. of which is the *Beach*. The path next passes between *Spasmodic* (r.) and the *Sawmill* (l., near a bridge over the Firehole) and reaches the *Turban* and the *Grand*, the irregular eruptions of which last (200 ft. high) are very fine. Near this is the *Young Faithful* or *Minute Man*, a small geyser which goes off every 5 min. and lasts for 1 minute. Continuing to follow the path towards the N., we pass

*Beauty Spring*, cross the river, pass the *Oblong Geyser* with its fine crater (to the right, close to the river), and reach (1 M. from the hotel) the

*Giant Geyser*, perhaps the finest geyser in the Basin, which plays irregularly, throwing its column to a height of 250 ft. The eruption lasts for 1½ hr. About 200 yds. to the N. of the *Giant* is the *Grotto*, remarkable for its curiously-shaped cone. We recross the river by the carriage-bridge, just above which, by the river's bank, is the attractive *Riverside Geyser* (thrice daily; 80 ft.). To the N., also adjoining the river, are the *Mortar* and the *Fan*, so called from the shape of its display, which usually follows that of *Riverside*. On the opposite side of the road is the exquisite *Morning Glory Spring*, a most delicately tinted pool, so called from its resemblance to a convolvulus or morning glory. We may now return to the hotel (1½ M.) by the road passing the *Castle*, named from the shape of its crater (every 30 hrs. or so; 75 ft.). Near the *Castle* is a fine spring known as the *Castle Well*.

For our second circular walk we leave the hotel by a path leading through trees to the N.W., with *Iron Spring Creek* a little to the left. We cross this stream to visit the beautiful *Emerald Pool* and *Sunshine Pool*, and then recross it and follow the path past the little *Mud Geyser*, to the curious *Black Sand Basin* and *Specimen Lake*, the latter a flat and dry expanse, with numerous semi-petrified trees. A wagon-road leads hence to the N. to the *Devil's Punch Bowl*, about 1 M. from the hotel, and is continued, sweeping round to the E., to the main carriage-road, which it joins above the *Oblong Geyser* (see above). A digression to the left (N.) will take in the *White Pyramid* (the cone of an extinct geyser), the *Splendid Geyser* (every 3 hrs. every alternate day; 200 ft.), and the *Comet Geyser*.

The *Biscuit Basin*, part of the Upper Basin about 2 M. from the hotel, is so called from its resemblance to a huge oven with biscuits baking. It includes the *Sapphire Pool*, the *Soda Geyser*, the *Black Pearl*, and the *Silver Globe*.

A ROAD, now comparatively seldom used, leads from the Lower Basin through the *Hayden Valley* to (25 M.) the road leading from Yellowstone Lake to the Grand Cañon. The road ascends *Mary's Mountain*, the watershed between the Missouri and the Yellowstone, by the rough and precipitous *Devil's Stairway*. Fine retrospect of the *Teton Mts.* (p. 432), about 100 M. distant, as we ascend. At the top of the hill lies *Mary's Lake* (8335 ft.). Farther on we pass some hot springs and cross *Alum Creek*. To the left (N.) rises *Mt. Washburne* (10,345 ft.), while the *Absaroka Mts.* come into sight on the right front (E.). The road then descends gradually into *Hayden Valley*. The drive through the valley to the (25 M.) cross-roads, where we turn to the right for (9 M.) Yellowstone Lake and to the left for (8 M.) the Cañon (comp. p. 437), is rather uninteresting. The herd of buffalo in the Park is said to winter here.

## d. From Lower Geyser Basin to Yellowstone Lake.

44 M. STAGE in 9-10 hrs., including a stoppage for luncheon.

From the Lower Basin to the (9 M.) *Upper Basin*, see p. 433. The road then ascends to the S.E. along the *Firehole* or *Madison River* to (1½ M.) *Kepler's Cascades*, where the river descends for 130 ft. in a series of leaps. About 1 M. farther on it bends to the left and follows *Spring Creek*.

Near this turn is the *Lone Star Geyser*, which plays every ½-¾ hr. to a height of 75 ft. — About 5 M. farther to the S., at the W. end of *Shoshone Lake*, is the *Shoshone Geyser Basin*, with the *Union* and other interesting geysers and hot springs. *Lake Shoshone* (7830 ft.), 6½ M. long and ½-1 M. wide, consists of two expanses united by a narrow strait. It is surrounded by wooded hills.

Our road ascends steadily along *Spring Creek*, affording fine views of *Shoshone Lake* (see above), and at a point about 8 M. from the *Upper Basin* crosses the '*Continental Divide*' or *Watershed* of the *Rocky Mts.* (ca. 8100 ft.). This '*Divide*' here makes a curious sweep to the N. and then bends round again, so that we cross it a second time, at a height of 8500 ft., about 6 M. farther on, near *Lost Lake*. The road then descends, passing *Duck Lake*, to (3 M.) *Yellowstone Lake* (see below), which we reach at the *West Bay* or *Thumb* (Luncheon Station). The *Hot Spring Basin* here contains about 70 hot springs, many of which are remarkable for their brilliant colouring. One lies so close to the lake, that it is literally possible to catch a trout in the lake and cook it in the spring without changing one's position. About 150 yds. from the lake is a group of *Pan Pots*, which many visitors consider finer than those described at p. 432. A small *Steamer* plies from this point to (20 M.) the *Yellowstone Lake Hotel* (see below).

For the rest of the way the road skirts the W. bank of \**Yellowstone Lake* (7740 ft.; 1447 ft. above the top of Mt. Washington. p. 144), one of the largest bodies of water in the world at so lofty an altitude, having an area of 140 sq. M., a shore-line of about 100 M., and a longest diameter of 18 M. Its shape is irregular and has been likened to a hand with three fingers and a thumb. The outlet is at the wrist (N.), near the *Yellowstone Hotel*. The lake is surrounded by lofty mountains. The *Yellowstone River* enters it on the S. and issues from it on the N. Before reaching the hotel we circle *Bridge Bay*, so called from a curious *Natural Bridge*, about 1½ M. from the lake.

The \**Yellowstone Lake Hotel*, 35 M. from the *Upper Basin*, is well situated on a bluff overlooking the lake and backed by a forest. It commands a fine view of the lake and of the *Absaroka Mts.* beyond. Among the chief of these (named from N. to S.) are *Mts. Cathedral* (10,700 ft.), *Chittenden* (10,190 ft.), *Silver Tip* (10,400 ft.), *Grizzly* (9700 ft.), *Doane* (10,715 ft.), *Langford* (10,780 ft.), *Stevenson* (10,420 ft.), *Atkins* (10,700 ft.), *Schurz* (10,900 ft.), *Eagle Peak* (10,800 ft.), and *Table* (10,500 ft.). Nearly S., considerably to the

right of those just mentioned, are the **Red Mts.**, culminating in *Mts. Sheridan* (10,385 ft.) and *Hancock* (10,235 ft.). The numerous islands in the lake also enter pleasantly into the view.

**BOATS** (50 c. per hour) may be hired for excursions on the lake, and the fishing is excellent, the trout being large and voracious (use of fishing-tackle 50 c. per hr.). — The bears in the adjoining forest are almost as tame as those mentioned at p. 432. — To the E., among the Absaroka Mts. (p. 435), is the region known as **Hoodoo** or **Goblin Land**, where the extraordinarily grotesque forms of the rocks and crags will repay the lover of the marvellous who is prepared for a somewhat rough and trying expedition.

### e. From Yellowstone Lake to Yellowstone Cañon.

17 M. STAGE in 4 hrs.

The road leads to the N. and N.W., following the left bank of the *Yellowstone River*. About 7 M. from the hotel, to the left, is the \***Mud Caldron** or **Volcano**, one of the weirdest and most extraordinary sights in the Park. It consists of a circular crater about 20 ft. deep, the bottom of which is filled with boiling mud, constantly rising in pasty bubbleings, interspersed with more violent eruptions. The horrible appearance of the muddy pulsations and the groaning sounds which accompany them suggest an entrance to Inferno, with the spirits of the damned making abortive efforts to escape. — About 2 M. farther on the road through *Hayden Valley* (see p. 434) joins ours on the left, and 2 M. beyond the cross-roads, to the right, rises the *Sulphur Mt.*, or the *Crater Hills* (150 ft.), where large amounts of sulphur have been deposited by the various vents. The large boiling spring, at the foot of the highest hill, is strongly impregnated with sulphur, and its fumes are very disagreeable. To the left are several small mud-springs.—As we approach the Hotel, about 4 M. farther on, we obtain glimpses of the *Upper Fall* and the *Cañon* (see below). Finally we cross a bridge over a small stream forming the *Crystal* or *Cascade Falls*.

The \***Grand Cañon Hotel** (7710 ft.) is finely situated on an elevated plateau, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  M. from the river and the upper end of the cañon. It is a good point to spend a few days, as the attractions of the cañon demand repeated visits, while good fishing may be enjoyed in the river above and below the falls.

The \*\***Grand Cañon of the Yellowstone**, in some ways the most marvellous and indubitably the most beautiful of the wonders of the Yellowstone, extends from the Great Falls (p. 437) to a point near the E. Fork, a distance of about 24 M. Its depth is from 600 to 1200 ft., and its width at the top varies from about 300 yds. to 1500 yds. The upper part of the cañon, where it is at its deepest and narrowest, is also the scene of its most gorgeous colouring, the tints of the enclosing cliffs including the most brilliant shades of red, orange, yellow, and purple, 'as if a rainbow had fallen from the sky and been shattered on the rocks'. The formation of the crags and cliffs is exceedingly bold and picturesque. Far below flows the