

# FIND SOLITUDE AND OBSERVE NATURE ON A HIKING TRAIL IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK, WYOMING.

To get to Grand Tetons' main scenic road -- drive north from Jackson, Wyoming on highway(s) 191/26/89. At "Moose Junction" (perhaps 12 or 14 miles north) - turn left. This is "Teton Park Road". If you don't turn here, you will, for the most part, miss all of the parks really beautiful places. If camping, arrive early - perhaps 9 or 10 A.M. If you do arrive any later, sites are usually still available at the Gros Ventre (pronounced - "gra vault") campground, except perhaps, on major national holidays. To access it, drive east from Gros Ventre Junction - about 6 miles (or so) south of the Moose Junction turnoff. Note: The "Jenny Lake Campground", north of Moose Junction is very beautiful - but it's very difficult to get a site there.

**A SUGGESTION** - Campers (or others) might follow the scenario below - which is typical of my park visits .If arriving late, spend your first night at the Gros Ventre Campground. ----- **DAY NUMBER ONE** ----- Early the next morning drive to the "Signal Mountain Campground" -- near the north end of the park. Sites at it tend to be large, wooded, and feel more private and relaxed. Immediately adjacent to this campground is lodging, a small ranger station, a gas station, and a restaurant open long summer hours. The view from the restaurant is of Jackson Lake and the Tetons. The food is great! After breakfast, drive the entire length of Teton Park Road from Signal Mountain to Moose Junction. Be sure to turn right at the "North Jenny Lake Junction" (near the south end of the road). This one way drive, with gorgeous views of the lake, may well be the highlight of your visit. Shortly after getting back on Teton Park Road, you'll see the turnoff to the area of Jenny Lake that includes a gift shop, trail, and ranger station.

**UPDATE:** On my most recent visit I was pleased to learn that the "Signal Mountain Campground" now has (for a small fee) showers available. They are located adjacent to the store and gas station.

----- **DAY NUMBER TWO** ----- Hike the Taggart Lake Trail. This trail is fabulous. It is also a great place to get exercise. I love it most of all!

----- **DAY NUMBER THREE** ----- Visit the "Oxbow Bend" area north of Signal Mountain. There are some pretty spots in this area. Occasionally, moose can be spotted. After a few hours, head south again, to the Jenny Lake Trail. Quiet and beautiful, it follows the southern shore of the lake to "Hidden Falls". If you want to hike further, continue hiking until you reach "Cascade Canyon". --NOTE-- If you don't want to hike, a boat shuttle is available near the trailhead that cuts across the lake to the waterfall.

----- IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE ! ----- NEVER LEAVE FOOD OUT . This will attract bears. While bears may be fun to watch , they should only be seen from a distance because - THEY ARE VERY DANGEROUS !!!!! The campgrounds have metal boxes/containers about the size of a footlocker to put belongings, such as cooking utensils, in. Any personal items left out at your campsite while you are away - ANYTHING WHATSOEVER - even an ice cooler or propane stove will be promptly removed by park rangers . You may then end up having to wait until the next morning before you are able to reclaim them . Keep all belongings in your vehicle AT ALL TIMES except during the time you are eating.

THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER ROBERT PEAR. ALL INFORMATION IS BASED ON MY OWN EXPERIENCES AND OBSERVATIONS.