

Three Summer Days with the Kids in Grand Teton National Park



Day One	Day Two	Day Three
<p>If driving into the park from Yellowstone, stop at Jackson Lake Lookout. Picnic tables are available at several locations on Hwy 89, and offer spectacular views of the Tetons.</p> <p>Get oriented at Colter Bay Visitor Center. Check with ranger for wildlife sightings. Ask for park maps and your activity guide. Reserve park activities and ranger events if you haven't already done so.</p>	<p>Rise early and take in a hardy breakfast before heading out for Jenny Lake. Check in at the Jenny Lake Visitor Center for trail updates. Take the shuttle boat to Hidden Falls (cascading waterfall) and hike to Inspiration Point. You can take the boat back or take the long walk back to the Visitor Center. You can also go on a ranger led hike, and learn the names of plants and landforms.</p>	<p>Sleep in and indulge in a leisurely breakfast, or start your morning with a guided wildlife tour. They'll pick you up really early, or you can lead your own tour on woodsy Moose-Wilson Road. Drive out near the Laurance D. Rockefeller Preserve, and you'll find prime moose and bear country to scout. If you have time, visit Lower Schwabacher Landing off Hwy.89. You'll find a pond with a charming mallard family, and a beaver family lives in the area too. Bring bear spray!</p>
<p>Walk to the marina & explore your watercraft options. Consider a breakfast or dinner excursion on the lake.</p> <p>Continue south to Jackson Lake Lodge for lunch or libations. Skip the Mural Room and find an open-air spot at the Blue Heron patio bar. Let the kids run amok while they're waiting for lunch, and enjoy your wine and spectacular view!</p>	<p>Enjoy lunch at Jenny Lake Lodge (adv. reservations). They are accommodating to families and it will give you a chance to peek into this rustic and renowned park treasure.</p> <p>If picnicking is your pleasure, you'll find picnic tables at the Leigh & String Lakes Trailheads. String Lake would also make a good family hike.</p> <p>If the skies are clear consider a drive to Signal Mountain – 40 minutes round trip with rewarding views.</p>	<p>Splurge on a Snake River scenic float this afternoon, or a whitewater thriller if the kids are older. The afternoon trip is warmer and more comfortable than the early tour. Some outfits offer a morning wildlife tour followed by the river float.</p> <p>If you prefer horses to rafting, consider an afternoon trail ride. There are many outfitters, but kids must be 8 plus years.</p> <p>Visit the Craig Thomas Discovery Center.</p>
<p>Consider a moose hunt before checking into your hotel or campsite. Continue driving south. Turn left onto Antelope Flats, then right on Antelope Flats Rd (Mormon Row) and right on Gros Ventre. Best time to view is dusk and dawn.</p> <p>Historic homesteads on Mormon Row make great photos. Follow the Gros Ventre River for moose sightings. Stay in the car!</p> <p>Tonight don your cowboy hats and prepare yourself for Wyoming hospitality at a Chuckwagon dinner show. Haven't been there, but Bar J has the best ratings.</p>	<p>For those who haven't been to Teton Village, you can finish the day here with a Bridger Gondola ride (impressive views) followed by dinner at the mountaintop restaurant (adv. reservations).</p> <p>Or head to downtown Jackson for BBQ and more cowboy fun. Don't miss the six o'clock shootout in front of the arch in Jackson Town Square. Last stagecoach ride is at 4pm. Shops are usually open a bit past six in the summer.</p> <p>End the day stargazing at the big Wyoming sky and share family time with a movie or games.</p>	<p>Make your last night in the Tetons a grand affair with dinner and a theater production at the Jackson Hole Playhouse. The actors serve dinner with a bit of entertainment prior to the production (advance reservations).</p> <p>Seven Brides for Seven Brothers was featured when I was there, and it was excellent. Kids will hoot and howl throughout the show. Not recommended for children under four.</p> <p>Hope you enjoy your three days in the Tetons.</p>