



Day 3- Grand Teton National Park

Get the full itinerary on the [Simply Awesome Trip's website](#) or find it on [Amazon](#).

Overview

Enjoy an easy hike to String and Leigh Lakes, wade in the cold shallow water, and picnic. Later, saddle up at Jackson Lodge Corals for your choice of a 1 or 2 hour horseback ride. Afterwards, take a short stroll on the Lakeshore Trail to find a beach to skip rocks or cool off in its cold water.

Day 3 Morning-String Lake and Leigh Lake

This short, easy family-friendly hike takes you to blue clear waters surrounded by the backdrop of beautiful mountain vistas. String Lake is one of the best swimming holes in the Tetons because it's the least cold of the many lakes in the park due to its shallow water. The sandy bottom of String Lake is also easy on the feet making it a very kid-friendly lake to enjoy.

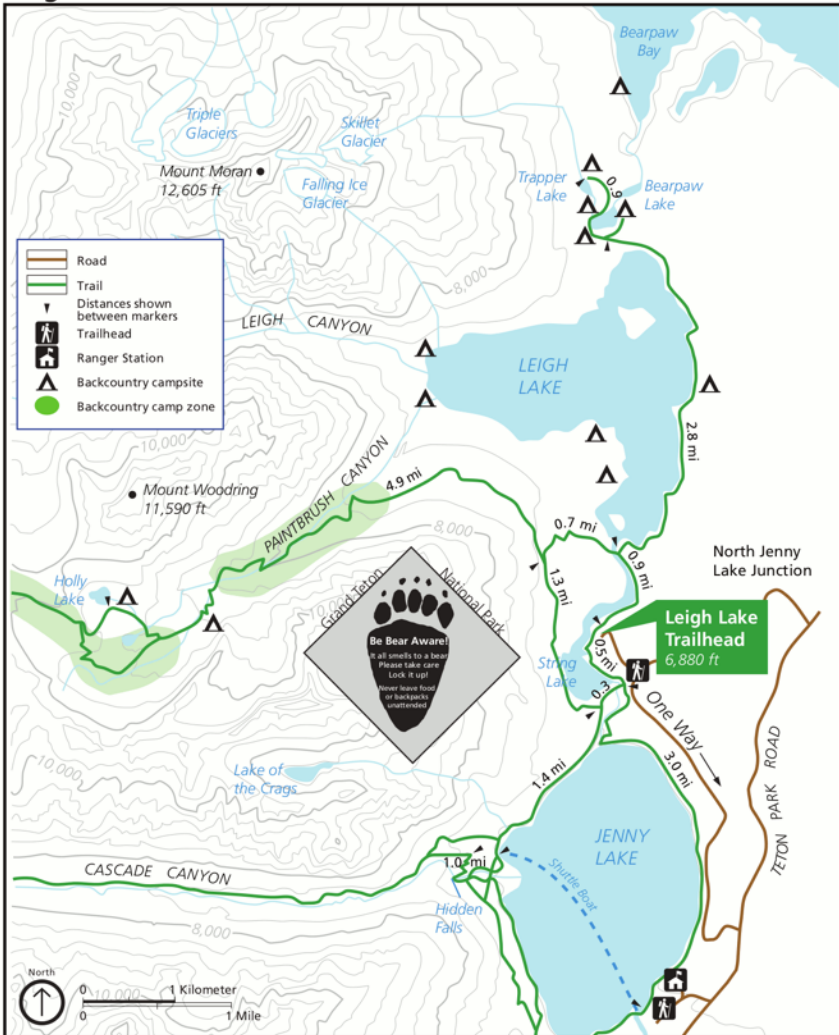


String Lake at the 1/2 mile mark from the Leigh Lake Trailhead



You'll find a lot of people at String Lake, because visitors can park at the nearby picnic area and walk a short distance to its shore. You can do this too with your own inflatable inner tubes but keep in mind that you'll be sharing the water with dozens of folks on tubes, canoes, SUPs, etc. It's still beautiful.

Leigh Lake Trailhead



Map courtesy of National Park Service



Leigh Lake Trailhead- Escape the Crowds

Alternatively, you can park at the picnic area and proceed to the north end of the parking lot where you'll find the trailhead to Leigh Lake. This flat, easy trail leads you along the eastern shore of String Lake on the way to Leigh Lake. Simply walk this beautiful and easy trail, and you'll leave most of the crowds behind.

At the 1/2 mile mark, you'll find a small sandy beach and a bench to enjoy the view. Spend some time here and then continue on the trail another 1/2 mile or so to where the trail splits right to go to the Leigh Lake canoe portage area or left to continue toward the bridge crossing the Leigh Lake outlet. Go right toward the portage area, and you'll have views of Leigh Lake, a beautiful wildflower meadow, and a fun rock to climb.



The portage area of Leigh Lake



From here, return to the trail junction and this time take the trail leading to the bridge. Cross the bridge and have fun climbing the large boulders, skipping rocks, and listening to the sound of the roaring water.



Leigh Lake Outlet Bridge



Leigh Lake Trail Tips

Arrive early (before 9am) or arrive later in the afternoon (after 5pm). It's a popular spot so finding a parking spot can be a challenge.

Bring bear spray. We saw a bear walking through the trees going the opposite direction of us during our hike. Some folks stopped to observe but we zoomed on!

Bring mosquito spray. Once you stop walking, the mosquitos are happy to greet you.

Wear good shoes for this somewhat rocky terrain.

Pack an inflatable tube. Consider wearing swimsuits under your clothes and packing small inflatable tubes in your backpack to inflate later at a less-crowded beach area along the trail.

If you want a longer hike, you can extend either of these trails. From the Leigh Lake trailhead at the parking lot, you can hike 3.7 miles past the canoe portage area to the north end of Leigh Lake or you can cross the Leigh Lake Outlet bridge to loop around String Lake for a 3.4 mile roundtrip hike.

Directions

Turn at the North Jenny Lake Junction and take a right at the stop sign to follow the road to the String Lake area. Do not park at the first parking lot but continue to the end of the road to park at the picnic area.



Day 3 Afternoon- Horseback Riding

A guided horseback ride is a wonderful way to experience Grand Teton National Park. The kids will love being a cowboy for the day, and you will enjoy the beautiful vistas of the Tetons and Oxbow Bend while riding among wildflower meadows and aspen trees.

Grand Teton Lodging Co. offers 1 and 2 hour wrangler-guided horseback rides departing from Jackson Lake Lodge and Colter Bay Village.



Horseback riding at Jackson Lake Lodge Corals

Horseback Rider Requirements

- Riders must be at least 8 years old and at least 4 feet tall.
- Riders under 15 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Riders must weigh no more than 225 pounds.
- Riders must wear shoes that are closed-toed and cover the entire foot.



The one-hour ride departing from Jackson Lake Lodge Corals is ideal. The horses are completely tame and know the route without any guidance from the rider. Which is a good thing for many, but maybe not for an experienced rider. \$45 per rider. Helmets are provided but bring a water bottle. It can get hot in the afternoon.

If your children are too young to participate in a horseback ride, you can also make arrangements for a pony ride for \$5.

Reservations

Make reservations in advance by calling 307-543-2811. Before going to the Coral, you will need to enter Jackson Lake Lodge to pick up your tickets at the Concierge Desk. You might want to budget some extra time to enjoy the beautiful view from the lobby of Jackson Lake Lodge. More information can be found at www.gtlc.com.



Lobby of the Jackson Lake Lodge

Tip: After your ride, stop by the **Pioneer Grill in Jackson Lake Lodge** for a scoop of huckleberry ice cream.



Lakeshore Trail

After horseback riding, either head back to your lodging or take a short 11 minute drive to Colter Bay Village to walk around Colter Bay's shoreline on the easy and flat Lakeshore Trail. Bring your swimsuits and inflatables and float for a while in the cold water.



Find a sandy beach to skip rocks or take a swim in the cold water

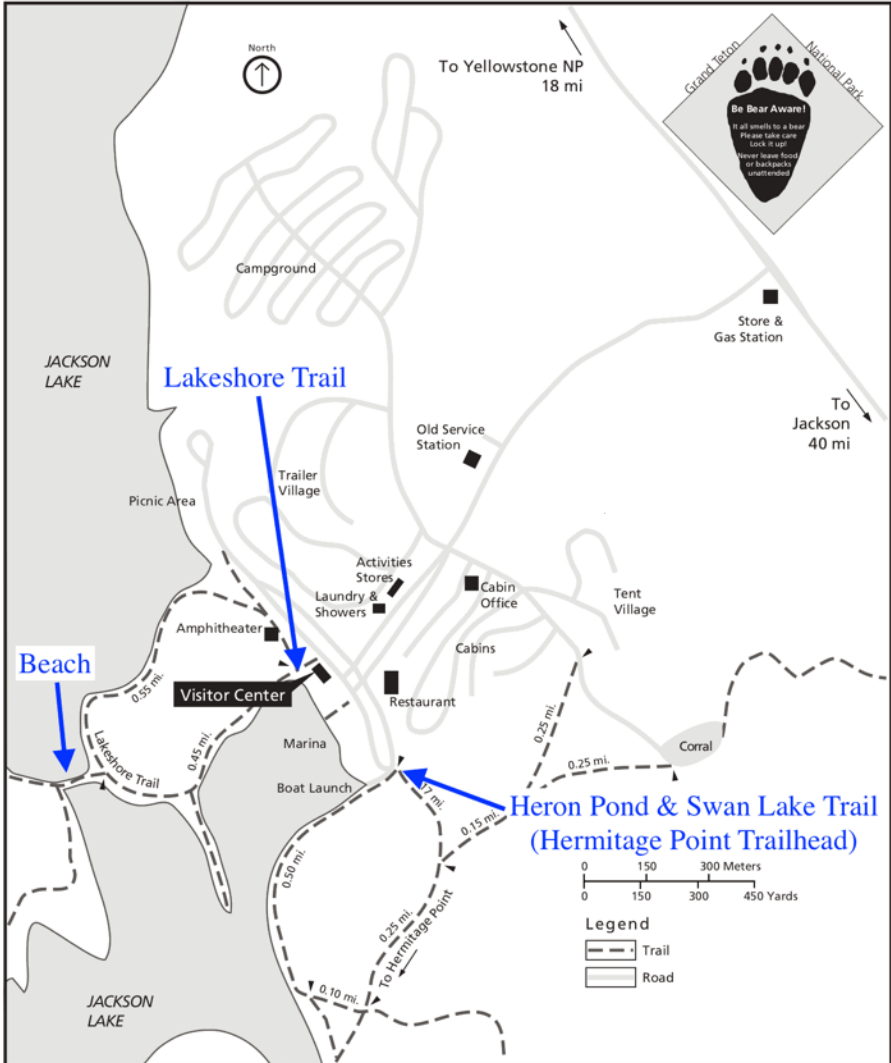
The Trail

The Lakeshore Trail loop hike begins from the backside of the Colter Bay Visitor Center. To reach the trailhead, drive 5.4 miles north from Jackson Lake Junction and turn left. You'll drive another 0.9 miles, passing through Colter Bay Village to reach the Visitor Center and its parking area.

Once behind the Visitor Center, turn right and begin walking north along the old paved road that circles around the north side of the Colter Bay Marina. The Lakeshore Trail consists of two connecting loops, essentially forming a figure 8. I recommend walking along the trail until you find a nice place to swim. For us, we explored the first loop of the "figure 8" and stopped to splash at a long, narrow causeway and beach just before the second loop began.



Colter Bay Area



Map Courtesy of National Park Service



Note: Though planned for Day 5, the easy 3 mile roundtrip **Heron Pond & Swan Lake Trail** is nearby and can be hiked instead of or in addition to the Lakeshore Trail.

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Where To Stay

The lodging choices for each destination have been carefully selected for their ideal location, price point, safety, and proximity to the day's activities. We tell you the best area to stay so you can minimize driving or walking distances and maximize your moments having fun. Knowing what part of town to stay in is a huge part of making a trip a success, and that's hard to do when you are not familiar with a destination. We save you time and energy by doing all the research for you.

Where To Eat

Local dining establishments are highlighted. The kind where children are welcome but isn't necessarily a restaurant geared primarily towards kids. You won't find many restaurant chains in our itineraries, just good local food mirroring the destination's culture. This could mean a food truck, a pizza place, or a nice sit-down restaurant, but always delicious. If there are any local brews, specialty foods, wines, or coffee houses around, we'll mention those too.

Where To Play

The organization of each day has been thoughtfully planned in order to group activities together by proximity, ideal time of day to visit, and the best nearby dining choices. It's all been laid out for you, along with directions, maps, travel tips, links to more info, and more. We cover the most worthwhile activities to do in a destination (based on our own family's reviews) without forgetting that vacations are meant to be fun and



relaxing, not a list to be checked off while hauling around whining children.

You'll find plenty of outdoor activities for the family as well as cultural and historical sites unique to the destination. Many itineraries include easy hikes, bike rides, and float trips that have been selected for their kid-friendly length and ease of difficulty as well as their scenic beauty. (Always worth it!) We are all about getting families outdoors so we include as much fresh air as we can in our itineraries, whether it is a day-long trek in a national park or just the location of a fantastic playground perfect for a break from sight-seeing.

Unbiased Recommendations

At the founding of Simply Awesome Trips, we agreed to travel as we always have with our families—on our own dime. No free nights, no comped visits, not even any swag. We continue to feel good about that decision. We do participate in affiliate marketing with some of the companies that we personally use (Booking.com, VRBO.com). They don't pay us to write, we simply get a commission if you enter those sites through our "gate" as opposed to say a Google search. But we also recommend lodging, restaurants, and activities, where we don't receive any commission, such as Airbnb or private rental companies. If it's good; it's good. We don't change recommendations based on vendor.

As Seen In

