

Collector's Journal

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2010 Yellowstone National Park Quarter - Wyoming

Second in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

The Yellowstone National Park Quarter is the second coin issued in 2010 in the America the Beautiful Quarters Program. It is also the second coin in the overall collection, which started with Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas. It will be followed in 2010 with coins for Yosemite National Park in California, Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, and Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon.

The America the Beautiful Quarters Program will eventually honor a National Park or other national site in each state, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories. Sites are honored in the order in which they were set aside by the federal government for public use. Five coins will be issued each year.

Each coin will feature a unique one-time-only design on the reverse to highlight the selected National Park or other national site. Designs for the five 2010 coins were revealed in March, 2010.

The Philadelphia Mint and Denver Mint both struck America the Beautiful Quarters for circulation. The two different coins are identified by the small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark under "In God We Trust." Proof coins are made at the San Francisco Mint ("S" mint mark).

Yellowstone National Park is the oldest National Park in the world. It was created on March 1, 1872, when President Ulysses S. Grant signed an Act of Congress into law. Covering more than 2.2 million acres, it is the second-largest National Park in the lower 48 states after Death Valley National Park in California and Nevada.

The first American to venture into Yellowstone was John Colter in 1807-1808. A former member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition that forged an overland route to the Pacific Ocean in 1804-1806, he discovered the geysers and



landscapes that came to define the beauty of Yellowstone. Tourism flourished in the late 1800's when trains to nearby towns made Yellowstone accessible.

Despite its relative isolation in northwestern Wyoming, Yellowstone is one of the most popular National Parks; it is visited by about three million people each year. Old Faithful geyser is the most famous landmark, but the park is also renowned for the Yellowstone River canyons, spectacular vistas, about 10,000 geysers and hot springs, and wildlife such as buffalo, moose, wolves, and grizzly bears.

The Yellowstone National Park Quarter shows a mature bull buffalo standing on front of the erupting Old Faithful geyser. Buffalo once roamed by the millions across the western plains, but Yellowstone National Park is now home to the last free-roaming herd of buffalo in the United States. Old Faithful erupts for between 1.5 and 5 minutes about every 90 minutes. It shoots up to 8,400 gallons of boiling water up to 185 feet in the air.

Three different designs were considered for the Yellowstone National Park Quarter. All three designs showed Old Faithful. One of the rejected designs depicted Old Faithful on the left side with the wooden Old Faithful Inn on the right, while the other rejected design portrayed Old Faithful in the center with trees in the background and tourists in the foreground.

The Yellowstone National Park Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in June, 2010.

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