

Panorama of the canyon both above and below the falls:



Looking down over the falls:



We then continued on to Inspiration Point (not stopping at Lookout or Grandview Points as vehicles were parked on the side of the road and there was no chance of getting an actual parking space at either of these locations, whereas the throngs of tourists seemed to have not yet reached Inspiration Point); we passed the Glacial Boulder on this road to Inspiration Point, which is presumably like the ones mentioned in the March 2012 issue of National Geographic:



Looking up-canyon from Inspiration Point:





The lower part of the viewpoint was closed; this is a panorama from the only accessible part of the viewpoint:



We decided to head up the North Rim Trail for a short distance to find a less busy place to have lunch; this view of the canyon was very nice:



The hillside actually was as colorful as it appears in this photograph:



Panorama from a short distance towards the canyon rim from the trail; unfortunately (but not surprisingly) we were not able to see the lower falls from here:





After leaving the Canyon Area, our next stop was a turnout between the Washburn Hot Springs Overlook and Dunraven Pass; this panorama is of the view southeast towards the Avalanche Peak area, with Mount Washburn to the far left:



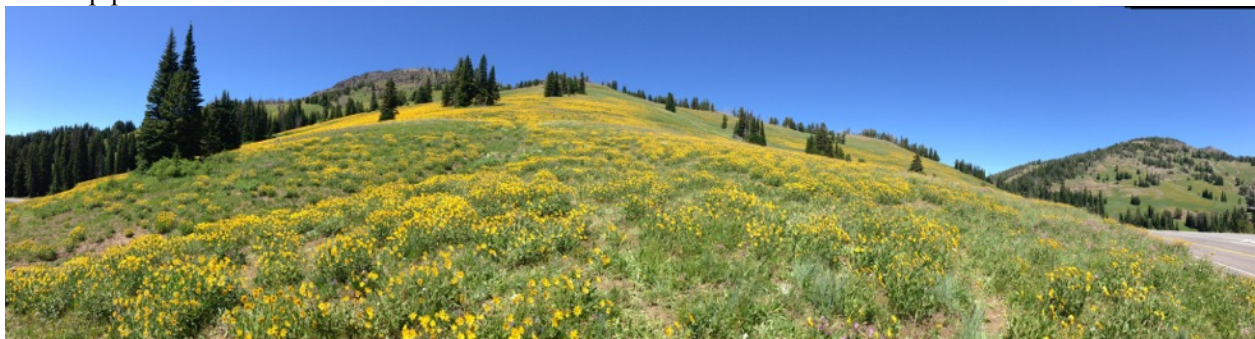
Picking out Avalanche Peak would require a better telephoto lens than I currently have:



Panorama of the expanse of yellow wildflowers from the parking lot:



A more close-up panorama of these wildflowers:



There were so many flowers that it would be difficult not to get a good photo of them:



Wildflowers, with the mountain range containing Avalanche Peak barely visible in the far background:



Two close-up photos of these yellow wildflowers; it was breezy here, so some patience was required to get an in-focus photo of nearby flowers:



The majority of the flowers were yellow, but there were some pinkish-purple flowers, and there may have been one western anemone (*anemone occidentalis*):





One last panorama of these wildflowers:



Our next stop was an overlook of the Yellowstone River, below Tower Falls:



These hexagonal basalt columns are very much like those at Devil's Postpile, as well as the ones at nearer-by Sheepeater Cliff:



Distorted panorama of the Yellowstone River from here:



Looking down-river:



An impressively gnarled tree on the cliff edge:



Our next stop was the Petrified Tree, which was very crowded:



There had previously been three petrified trees in this location, but tourists had chipped away souvenirs from the other two to the point that no trace of them can still be seen (!), hence the fence surrounding this one. These petrified trees once were redwoods:





Finally, we decided to check out the "Forces of the Northern Range" boardwalk, which seems to not be popular as there was nobody else on the boardwalk:



Panorama of the surrounding mountains (looking south on the left side of the panorama and west on the right side):



More close-up view of the peaks near the Blacktail Deer Plateau:

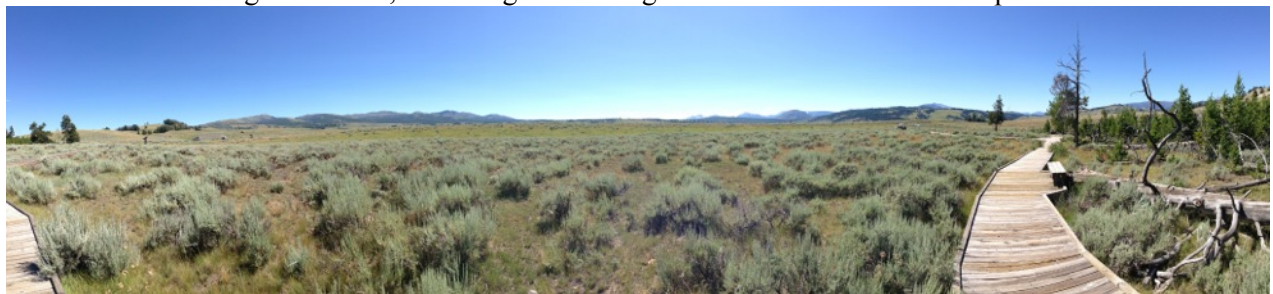




There were a lot of informative signs along this boardwalk; this one clarifies that the "buffalo" commonly seen really are North American Bison:



Panorama of the surrounding mountains, with a sign informing readers of the name of each peak:



Another glacial boulder can be found along this trail:



Panorama of the boardwalk, with the glacial boulder to the far left:



There were numerous aspen trees along this trail; interestingly, aspen leaf stems have a flat edge perpendicular to the leaf itself, which causes the "quaking aspen" appearance:



Another informative sign, this one regarding Yellowstone's volcano:



There were some nice flowers along the boardwalk, though not in the massive quantities previously seen:





One of the exhibits contained a photograph and description of many of the common flowers seen in this area of the park, which I photographed for future reference:





Four final signs along this trail, regarding the seasons, fire, and wolves. This is a very well put together informative boardwalk, and it is disappointing that it does not see more use:



Our last stop of the day was to walk around the buildings of the Mammoth Hot Springs area; interestingly, some of these buildings once were part of Fort Yellowstone, which between 1886 and 1918 was the (military) administrative center of the park; this is the "employee pub":

