

2004

South Dakota and Wyoming

Jewel Cave

Jewel Cave is the 3rd longest mapped cave in the world, with 129 miles of passages currently surveyed. It contains many varieties of cave formations, and the formation shown here is called "cave bacon." Jewel Cave National Monument is located in the Black Hills of South Dakota.



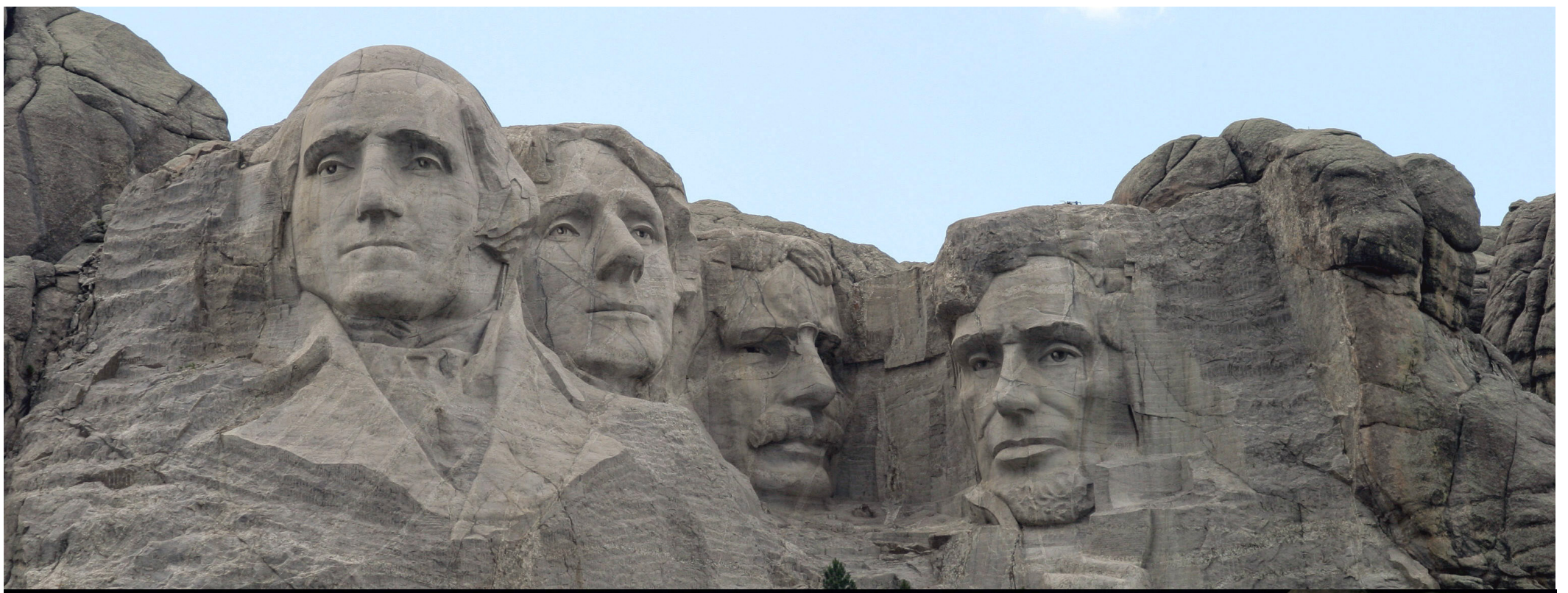
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Badlands National Park

A huge thunderstorm approaches some pinnacles near the Ben Reifel Vistor Center in the Badlands National Park in southwest South Dakota. (7/4/2003)

January 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				New Year's Day		
				1	2	3
			full moon 07:40 PST			
4	5	6	 7	8	9	10
			last quarter 20:46 PST			
11	12	13	 14	15	16	17
	Martin Luther King Day		new moon 13:05 PST			
18	19	20	 21	22	23	24
			first quarter 22:03 PST			
25	26	27	 28	29	30	31





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Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore National Memorial is not just open during the day, but for a nighttime lighting ceremony as well. Each head is about 60 feet tall. Mount Rushmore is located in the Black Hills of South Dakota. (7/8/2003)

February 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Groundhog Day				full moon 00:47 PST	
1	2	3	4	5	 6	7
				Lincoln's Birthday	last quarter 05:40 PST	Valentine's Day
8	9	10	11	12	 13	14
	President's Day				new moon 01:18 PST	
15	16	17	18	19	 20	21
Washington's Birthday					first quarter 19:24 PST	
22	23	24	25	26	 27	28
29						



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Devil's Tower

Devil's Tower stands 1,267 feet tall. Located in northeastern Wyoming, it is the nation's first national monument. Hikers enjoy the trails around the base, while climbers find the walls a popular destination. (7/12/2003)

March 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						full moon 15:14 PST
	1	2	3	4	5	6 
						last quarter 13:01 PST
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 
			St. Patrick's Day			new moon 14:41 PST
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
first quarter 15:48 PST						
 28	29	30	31			



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Castle Geyser

Castle Geyser is located in the Upper Geyser Basin along the Firehole River in Yellowstone National Park. A typical eruption reaches 75 feet, and lasts for about 20 minutes. Yellowstone is our nation's first national park, and its Upper Geyser Basin contains the highest concentration of geysers anywhere in the world, with some 150 geysers in a single square mile, including the famous Old Faithful. (7/13/2003)

April 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				April Fools' Day		
				1	2	3
Daylight Saving (+1 hour)	full moon 04:03 PDT					
4		5	6	7	8	9
Easter last quarter 20:46 PDT						
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	new moon 06:21 PDT					
18		19	20	21	22	23
		first quarter 10:32 PDT				
25	26		27	28	29	30







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Sandhill Cranes

A family of sandhill cranes walks out of Heron Pond, located near the Colter Bay Visitor Center in Grand Teton National Park. Although sandhill cranes are primarily gray (see their heads), it is not uncommon for their feathers to be colored by the dirt and mud they are around, which explains their reddish color here. (7/16/2003)

May 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						May Day 1
2	3	full moon 13:33 PDT  4	Cinco de Mayo	5	6	7 8
Mother's Day		last quarter 04:04 PDT  11				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	new moon 21:52 PDT  18		19	20	21 22
23	24			first quarter 00:57 PDT		
Memorial Day 30	31	25	26	 27	28	29




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Main Terrace at Mammoth Hot Springs

The Main Terrace here is formed by New Blue Spring, part of the large terrace system at Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone National Park. Hot geothermal water bubbles up through the limestone carrying calcium carbonate, which gets deposited in the form of travertine, creating the terraces. The water comes from springs which vary with the season and precipitation, causing terraces to be formed and to die away quite quickly as the years go by. The colors are caused by thermophiles (heat-loving microorganisms). The hottest water has colorless and yellow thermophiles, while orange, brown, and green thermophiles live in cooler waters. (7/15/2003)

June 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			full moon 21:20 PDT			
		1 	2	3	4	5
			last quarter 13:02 PDT			
6	7	8 	9	10	11	12
	Flag Day			new moon 13:27 PDT		
13	14	15	16 	17	18	19
Father's Day					first quarter 12:08 PDT	
20	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27	28	29	30			



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Yellow Mounds - Badlands National Park

These "Yellow Mounds" near Dillon Pass in Badlands National Park obviously contain a lot more colors than just yellow, but their official name is the Yellow Mounds. A thunderstorm had just passed through the area, and the combination of sun on the Yellow Mounds with the dark thunderstorm in the background made this a gorgeous stop beside the road.
(7/5/2003)

July 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					full moon 04:09 PDT	
					1 	2 
Independence Day					last quarter 00:34 PDT	
4	5	6	7	8	8 	9 
						new moon 04:24 PDT
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 
						first quarter 20:37 PDT
18	19	20	21	22	23	23 
						full moon 11:05 PDT
25	26	27	28	29	30	30 
						31 



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Skyrocket Gilia

This Skyrocket Gilia, also called Scarlet Gilia, was located by the trail to Hermitage Point in Grand Teton National Park (7/16/2003)

August 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						last quarter 15:01 PDT
1	2	3	4	5	6	 7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
new moon 18:24 PDT						
 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	first quarter 03:12 PDT					
22	 23	24	25	26	27	28
full moon 19:22 PDT						
 29	30	31				



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Grand Prismatic Spring

Grand Prismatic Spring is located in the Midway Geyser Basin of Yellowstone National Park. Grand Prismatic Spring is the largest hot spring in Yellowstone, and the third largest in the world, at about 250 x 380 feet. In addition to the blue colors of the spring itself, cyanobacteria mats create yellow, orange, and red colors around the edge, and the water then runs down over many small step-like terraces. In the background, the dead trees are a reminder of the huge forest fires that burned much of the park in 1988. To give some sense of the magnitude of the destruction, on the single day of August 20, 1988, more acres burned than in all of the previous years of Yellowstone's recorded history combined. (7/17/2003)

September 2004





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	Labor Day last quarter 08:11 PDT 	6	7	8	9	10
12		new moon 07:29 PDT 13	14	15	16	17
19		first quarter 08:54 PDT 	21	22	23	24
26		full moon 06:09 PDT 	28	29	30	



Bull Elk

A bull elk grazes in a meadow in Yellowstone National Park. The bull elk can get quite large, reaching as much as 1,100 pounds. During the summer, the bull elk grow antlers that are covered in a soft, velvet-like skin. The blood flowing through this skin cools, serving as a natural "air conditioning." By fall, the skin-covering will be gone, and the antlers are hard and ready for mating battles. (7/15/2003)

October 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
			last quarter 03:12 PDT			
3	4	5	 6	7	8	9
	Columbus Day		new moon 19:48 PDT			
10	11	12	 13	14	15	16
			first quarter 14:59 PDT			
17	18	19	 20	21	22	23
			full moon 20:07 PDT			
24						
Halloween Standard Time (-1 hour) 31	25	26	 27	28	29	30






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Sunset over Colter Bay

Sunset over Colter Bay on Jackson Lake in Grand Teton National Park. (7/16/2003)

November 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				last quarter 21:53 PST		
	1	2	3	 4	5	6
7	8	9	10	Veterans Day	new moon 06:27 PST	13
				first quarter 21:50 PST		
14	15	16	17	 18	19	20
				Thanksgiving	full moon 12:07 PST	
21	22	23	24	25	 26	27
28	29	30				



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Old Faithful

No trip to Yellowstone can be complete without a visit to Old Faithful. Old Faithful geyser is far from the largest or tallest geyser in Yellowstone National Park, nor is it even the most predictable, but Old Faithful is certainly the most famous. With 17-20 eruptions per day, no visitor will have to wait much over an hour to have a chance to see it go off. Old Faithful erupts to an average of 130 feet into the air, with each eruption lasting 2-5 minutes. (7/18/2003)

December 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						last quarter 16:53 PST
			1	2	3	4 
						new moon 17:29 PST
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 
						first quarter 08:40 PST
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 
						Christmas
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
full moon 07:06 PST						
 26	27	28	29	30	31	