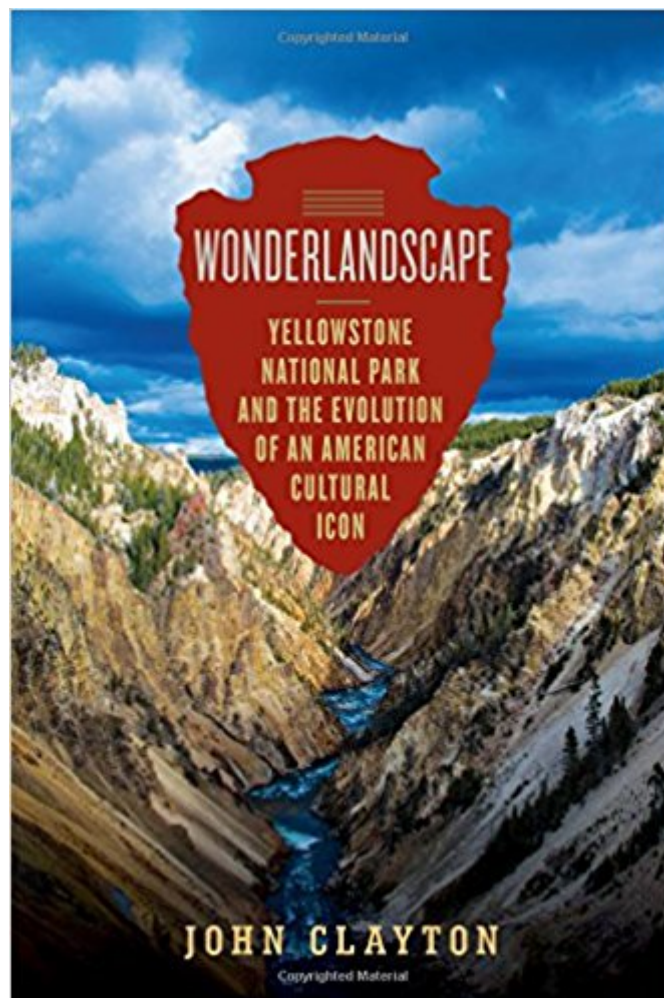




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# Wonderlandscape: Yellowstone National Park And The Evolution Of An American Cultural Icon



## Synopsis

An evocative blend of history and nature writing that tells the story of Yellowstone's evolving significance in American culture through the stories of ten iconic figures. Yellowstone is America's premier national park. Today Yellowstone is often a byword for conservation, natural beauty, and a way for everyone to enjoy the great outdoors. But it was not always this way. Wonderlandscape presents a new perspective on Yellowstone, the emotions that various natural wonders and attractions evoke, and how this explains the park's relationship to America as a whole. Whether it is artists or naturalists, entrepreneurs or pop-culture icons, each character in the story of Yellowstone ends up reflecting and redefining the park for the values of its era. For example, when Ernest Thompson Seton wanted to observe bears in 1897, his adventures highlighted the way the park transformed from a set of geological oddities to a wildlife sanctuary, reflecting a nation was concerned about disappearing populations of bison and other species. Subsequent eras added Rooseveltian masculinity, democratic patriotism, ecosystem science, and artistic inspiration as core Yellowstone hallmarks. As the National Park system enters its second century, Wonderlandscape allows us to reflect on the values and heritage that Yellowstone alone has come to represent — and how it will shape the America's relationship with her land for generations to come. 16 pages of color photographs

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“The author has crafted a book that will appeal to national park aficionados and fans of

Yellowstone National Park, and by breaking down the pivotal moments in bite-size chunks, he's also written a terrific page-turning experience. - Associated Press  
"Energetic and insightful." - Washington Post  
"Clayton illuminates the history and development of Yellowstone. He enthusiastically tells the foundational stories of the magnificent park, which continues to capture the imagination of millions, and explains Yellowstone's impact on how we manage our natural resources." - Booklist  
"A fine book about Yellowstone National Park. Wonderlandscape offers more than a few surprises. A great primer on Yellowstone history and a unique discussion of the park's place in America, in both physical and cultural geography." - Yellowstone Insider  
"A sensitive portrait of the iconic national park in terms of the American people's place in it. A thoughtful study of a celebrated natural wonder that has come to truly embod[y] American ideals." - Kirkus Reviews  
"Clayton succeeds in presenting Yellowstone as a core American institution that shares an intimate relationship with Americans as a cultural concept and that acts as a mirror through which Americans have redefined themselves across generations." - Publishers Weekly

The question that drove me was, 'Why is Yellowstone famous?' When I asked people, they would cite different qualities: the geysers, the grizzlies, the bison, the ecosystem as a whole, the fact that it was the first national park--and even Yogi Bear. What really fascinated me was when I realized how these qualities took turns driving Yellowstone's fame.

I like to learn as much as I can about an area before I travel to visit it. Next month I'm going to Yellowstone and this book was the perfect choice. It's not a listing/description of sights, it's a rich history of the park that tells of the people involved in making the park what it is today. It is also a history of how the American people used it. I will get so much more from my visit thanks to this book. It's well written and just so good.!

With the disclosure that the author is a valued friend of mine, I'd like to tell you that this book offers compelling, well-researched, smoothly reading stories that explain how Yellowstone National Park has both reflected and affected the way we live and work, throughout the country. Whether you've been to Yellowstone, or it's on your bucket list, or you may never see it at all, this book is well worth your while for its insights into our culture, leisure, art, social status, attitudes toward science and ourselves as

Americans. And, yes, he talks about the super volcano, so read this book before it blows!

Thoroughly enjoyed the cultural, historical perspective.

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