

OLD FAITHFUL



SNOW LODGE

Prior to 1915 when the first private automobiles were allowed into Yellowstone, it was primarily a destination for the wealthy. The automobile opened Yellowstone to a greater portion of Americans who began to request inexpensive lodging in the Old Faithful area. In the late 1920's a new facility, called the Old Faithful Campers Cabins, was opened. The main building was a simple frame structure with a laundry, showers, cafeteria, registration desk, and employee housing on the second floor. By the late 1930's, more than 400 guest cabins stood in this area.

The original Campers Cabins lodge building burned down in 1955. It was replaced with a larger and more modern structure, built on the site of the present Snow Lodge, and it retained the services and housing of the original building.

The Old Faithful Inn (1904) and Old Faithful Lodge (1923) were built to accommodate summer visitors, so when guest lodging was needed for the 1971-72 winter season, the newer Campers Cabins facility was selected and officially became the Old Faithful Snow Lodge. As Yellowstone's winter season became more popular, it became evident that the Snow Lodge was insufficient in both size and design to accommodate the increase in winter visitation.

As the entire Old Faithful area is designated a National Historic District, the design of a new Snow Lodge required a great deal of thought and foresight. The new structure was designed to accommodate guest services, harmonize with the landscape, and complement the historic buildings in the area. Inside, the lobby was created to feel like a forest, as only half the beams are actually necessary to support the structure. The overhead curved balcony was designed to feel like a forest canopy; the curved front desk the edge of a meadow. The lamps throughout the building and the chandelier in the Dining Room symbolize nature and Yellowstone.

Ground was broken for the new Old Faithful Snow Lodge on May 5, 1997. The old Snow Lodge was demolished on April 20, 1998, after serving Yellowstone's visitors for 27 winter seasons. Half of the new Snow Lodge opened on July 8, 1998, and the remaining half was opened on July 19, 1999.

The first full service hotel to open in Yellowstone since the Canyon Hotel in 1911, it is hoped that the Old Faithful Snow Lodge will take its place among the grand hotels of Yellowstone's past and present, providing rustic beauty and fine service for generations to come.



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