



National Park Service
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Yellowstone National Park

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Yellowstone National Park News Release

Steamboat, World's Tallest Active Geyser, Erupts In Yellowstone National Park

Visitors to Yellowstone National Park's Norris Geyser Basin were awarded with a unique experience when Steamboat, the world's tallest active geyser, erupted after an almost two- year hiatus. Eruptions of Steamboat Geyser are entirely unpredictable.

On Monday, May 23, 2005, at approximately 2:40 p.m., a National Park Service employee reported that Steamboat Geyser was erupting. Steamboat Geyser rarely erupts in its major phase. More commonly, Steamboat ejects water in frequent bursts of 10- 40 feet. During a major eruption, Steamboat can reach heights of over 300 feet, showering viewers with mineral-rich waters; yesterday's eruption expelled approximately 11,500 gallons of water. For hours following its rare 3- 40 minute major eruptions (water phase), Steamboat thunders with powerful jets of steam; this steam phase can continue as long as 12 hours after the water cessation.

Steamboat's intervals vary from three days to fifty years (Steamboat was dormant from 1911-1961). In recent years, Steamboat has erupted in 1989 (3 times), 1990 (1 time), 1991 (1 time), 2000 (1 time), 2002 (2 times) and 2003 (3 times).

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