

Yellowstone's Steamboat geyser sees rare eruption

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Steamboat Geyser, in Yellowstone National Park's Norris Geyser Basin in Wyoming, erupts on Wednesday, July 31, 2013. Steamboat Geyser—the world's tallest—has erupted for the first time in more than eight years. Park geologist Hank Heasler says Wednesday night's nine-minute blast sent steaming hot water an estimated 200 to 300 feet in the air. (AP Photo/Robb Long)

Old Faithful it's not.

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Unlike Old Faithful, which spews water like clockwork every hour-and-a-half, no one knows when Steamboat will erupt next.

In the past, it's gone as long as 50 years without a major event. In 1964, it erupted a record 29 times.

Steamboat is one of more than 500 [geysers](#) at Yellowstone, which boasts the largest collection of hydrothermal features in the world. They're fueled by cold water seeping into a natural underground plumbing network, where heat from the park's volcano causes the periodic eruptions.

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