

Winter Adventures in Yellowstone

LAMAR VALLEY WILDLIFE, OLD FAITHFUL SNOW LODGE, AND SNOWSHOEING



Wilderness Travel

Overview



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 7 days
Arrive: Bozeman, Montana
Depart: Bozeman, Montana
Lodging: 6 nights hotels
Meals: All meals included except 1 dinner
Activity: Walking, Wildlife & Natural History

Trip Level: 1 2 ③ 4 5 6

Wildlife viewing by private vehicle, easy to moderate walks, snowshoeing, extremely cold weather

QUESTIONS?

Our Area Specialists are your single point of contact and would be happy to answer any questions about your trip!

800.368.2794 | 510.558.2488

HIGHLIGHTS

- Get to the ideal wildlife viewing sites in Yellowstone with our expert naturalist guide
- Go wolf-tracking at sunrise in the epic Lamar Valley, a Serengeti in the snow
- Explore on snowshoe outings
- Travel by Snowcoach to Old Faithful and experience the famed geyser when it is free of summer crowds

Introduction



Enjoy the majesty of Yellowstone National Park as few other travelers do—in winter, when peace and solitude permeate the land. We journey into the glacier-sculpted Lamar Valley, a veritable Serengeti in the snow, in search of bison, elk, and pronghorn as well as their attendant predators—Yellowstone’s iconic grey wolves. The sight of steaming geysers and snowy mountains under crisp blue skies will create perfect photo opportunities, and we’ll enjoy snowshoe outings, plus a special overnight at Old Faithful Snow Lodge, right next to the famous geyser (crowd-free in winter)! Our highly knowledgeable biologist Trip Leader will maximize our chances of spotting wildlife every day. Join us for winter fun and an “insider” opportunity to learn about Yellowstone's ecology, scientific studies, and conservation efforts.

TRIP DATES

January 25-31, 2026

Itinerary



Overnight: 406 Lodge

Located in downtown Gardiner and close to the park's North Entrance, 406 Lodge is a simple and comfortable lodge with large bedrooms, a small sitting area, and a kitchenette for those who prefer their morning coffee in bed. The staff is friendly and accommodating. If you have time, be sure to peruse the nearby gift shops.

Meals: D (Day 1); B, L (Day 2)

Driving Details: 1.5 hours (Day 1); 2 hours (Day 2)

DAYS 1-2 BOZEMAN, MONTANA / GARDINER

Day 1: Welcome to Montana! Your Trip Leader will meet you at the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport for a scenic drive to the town of Gardiner, where you'll check in to the 406 Lodge in the downtown area. We gather at 6:30 pm for a trip briefing and Welcome Dinner.

Day 2: We head into Northern Yellowstone's magnificent Lamar Valley at sunrise, with a packed breakfast in the field (hotels in Gardiner do not provide breakfasts). Besides wolves, the Lamar Valley is renowned for other wildlife, from bison to elk, antelope, otters, bald eagles, and coyotes. The drive to the valley takes about an hour, and when we get there, we will join other wolf enthusiasts with their spotting scopes in hopes of seeing wolves. The wolves' reintroduction into Yellowstone in 1995 is considered one of America's best conservation success stories. Mornings are the best time for viewing, when the packs are most active. After a gourmet winter picnic (packed lunch), we have afternoon options to choose from, including easy strolls on established paths or more challenging routes. We'll also offer snowshoeing (it's just like hiking—no previous experience necessary!). After a return to Gardiner, dinner is on your own. The Trip Leader is happy to make recommendations, depending on how local or fancy you want to go.

Itinerary



Overnight: 406 Lodge
Meals: B, L, D
Driving Details: 2 hours

DAY 3 SUNRISE WOLF VIEWING / LAMAR VALLEY / COOKE CITY

We return to the Lamar Valley for morning wolf viewing, with breakfast in the field. We'll also be on the lookout for bison, elk, coyote, big horn sheep, moose, and more. After a picnic lunch, we'll drive to the small town of Cooke City at the northeast entrance to Yellowstone. Here we'll stop by the house of Dan Hartman, a local character and wildlife photographer who lives in a log cabin between Cooke City and Yellowstone's Northeast Entrance. He will welcome us and share stories of life in a homesteader cabin with his wife and daughters and of the adventures he has had as a wildlife photographer and filmmaker. His property is filled with bird feeders and it's a phenomenal place for seeing and photographing prolific Yellowstone birdlife up-close. We return to Gardiner and dine together in a local eatery.

Itinerary



Overnight: Old Faithful Snow Lodge

You couldn't ask for a more scenic—or convenient—location than the Old Faithful Snow Lodge, the only accommodation in the Yellowstone National Park interior that is open during the winter. The staff is friendly and helpful and the rooms are small, but clean and comfortable. Old Faithful geyser is about a five-minute walk away. The lodge was completed in 1999 and built in the tradition of grand park lodges, using heavy timber beams for accents. There is a spacious lobby with a stone fireplace.

Meals: B, L, D

Driving Details: 15 minutes

Snowcoach Details: 8 hours

DAY 4 MAMMOTH / OLD FAITHFUL / OLD FAITHFUL SNOW LODGE

After breakfast, we drive to Mammoth and board our private “snowcoach” for a spectacular ride over the snowy Yellowstone landscape to Old Faithful, where we overnight at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge. It’s an exciting way to travel, with good wildlife viewing all the way. We stop en route to view the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River and other fantastic sights including Hoodoos, Swan Lake Flats, Obsidian Cliff, and Roaring Mountain. On arrival, experience the world-famous Old Faithful geyser free of summer crowds! The geyser is just a five-minute walk from the hotel. Sometimes bison and other wildlife are drawn to the geyser area by the warmth of the steam. Overnight at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge, completed in 1999 and built in the manner of classic park lodges.

Itinerary



Overnight: Mammoth Hot Springs Hotels and Cabins

The Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, a national park lodge, was built in 1936 and has been renovated over the past few decades to include more modern guest rooms and facilities. Although it is not a deluxe property, it offers a unique experience of Yellowstone in winter and easy access to some of Yellowstone's famous geothermal features.

Meals: B, L, D

Snowcoach Details: 4 hours

DAY 5 UPPER GEYSER BASIN / MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS

This morning we'll enjoy a sunrise walk around the Upper Geyser Basin, exploring Geyser Hill and the many geothermal features surrounding Old Faithful. Geyser Hill has numerous hot springs and more than 40 geysers, including the Beehive and Giantess Geysers on the right bank of the Firehole River across from Old Faithful, with the Giantess Geyser dominating Geyser Hill. After lunch at the lodge, we'll return by snowcoach (shared this time), with a stop at Fountain Paint Pots for a quick walk through the geothermal features. We'll reboard and continue wildlife viewing as we travel to our next lodge, Mammoth Hot Springs Hotels and Cabins, arriving around 6pm. The hotel, originally built in the park in 1936, gives access to the park's natural travertine terraces.

Itinerary



DAY 6 GARDINER / BOZEMAN

The morning is for enjoying Mammoth Hot Springs, with its bubbling hot springs and travertine terraces. We can also set out for snowshoeing in Yellowstone's frosty landscape. For lunch, we'll drive to Gardiner, then continue to Bozeman and gather for our Farewell Dinner.

Overnight: The Lark Bozeman

A modern, eco-friendly boutique hotel in downtown Bozeman, The Lark is within walking distance of the best shops, restaurants, and nightlife in the city. Many decorative elements in the hotel are sourced from local artists and there's an outdoor fireplace for relaxing with a glass of wine.

Meals: B, L, D

Driving Details: 1.25 hours

Meals: B

DAY 7 DEPART

After breakfast, transfer to the Bozeman airport for departing flights.

Pricing

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy

2026

\$8,695 (5-7 members)

Single supplement: \$1,275

Please contact us for future years' pricing

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

PAYMENT TERMS

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION & TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No Charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in hotels and small comfortable inns
- All meals included except 1 dinner as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary

TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to Trip Leaders or staff
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)

Extensions

To help you make the most of your adventure, please see below for our selection of curated trip extensions. Please view our website for detailed information, including full itineraries, accommodations, and complete pricing.



LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH EXTENSION

Experience the beauty of Montana's winter landscape from Lone Mountain Ranch, surrounded by 150 acres of rolling ranchland and braided rivers just 18 miles from Yellowstone. We've chosen this historic, award-winning lodge for a three-night extension that brings you farm-to-table cuisine, 50 miles of epic cross-country ski trails, snow shoeing, dog sledding, and sleigh rides. The ranch is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and offers a stunning array of activities, including a full-day Snowcoach tour through Yellowstone to witness the wonder of Old Faithful—without the summer crowds (and with an opportunity to snowshoe or cross-country ski part of the way to Old Faithful!) Lone Mountain Ranch is deeply interconnected with Yellowstone National Park and has shared land, air, resources, and guides with this national treasure for over 100 years. It was recently voted “Best Family Ranch” by Top 50 Ranches. *4 days. From \$3325.*

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Suggested Airport: Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN)

Suggested Date & Time: Please arrive by 2:00 pm on Day 1

Meeting Place: You will be met on Day 1 at the Bozeman airport for a transfer to the group hotel in Gardiner, Montana.

DEPARTURE

Suggested Airport: Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 7, anytime

AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Bozeman. There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at (970) 818-8459 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com. Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific departures they will be leading, please visit wildernesstravel.com/leaders.



ERIC ROCK

Eric began his career as a professional naturalist guide while studying wildlife biology and photography at the University of Alaska. His field work took him all across Alaska, studying subjects ranging from river otters, seabirds, and waterfowl to small mammal population dynamics. He soon realized he wanted to share what he was seeing with others, and he began leading international nature and photography adventures, first in Alaska's Denali National Park and then Yellowstone National Park—one of his favorite ecosystems. Eric has a gift for translating his passion into unique insights that create lasting memories, and his easy going personality and passion for the natural world make him a perfect guide for any outdoor adventure.



MELISSA SCOTT

In 1987, Melissa moved to the mountains of Montana, began guiding in Glacier National Park in 1992, and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem has been her home playground ever since. Melissa completed her degree in Environmental Science Education and has dedicated her career to inspiring conservation through relevant, firsthand encounters with the natural world. She is a dynamic and enthusiastic professional naturalist/guide with over 28 years of experience leading backpacking, fly-fishing, rafting, hiking, natural history, and cultural trips around the globe. Her knowledge of the region's ecosystem and wildlife is unsurpassed! Melissa is also an accomplished photographer and enjoys helping guests capture exceptional images of nature and wildlife. So, wherever you are exploring, you can be sure she is excited to share her knowledge and enthusiasm with you.



PAUL BROWN

Paul Brown is a professional naturalist guide who also serves as faculty for the Teton Science Schools. He has led programs for top universities, zoos, and conservation organizations. In addition to his 19 years of environmental education programming, he has worked on several research projects in the Wyoming and Montana area, including studying the wolf population of Yellowstone National Park with the Yellowstone Wolf Project. In his free time, Paul does what he likes best, continuing to explore the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a **Level 3, Moderate**, with elevations ranging from 5,200 to 7,300 feet. There will be wildlife viewing by private vehicle, easy to moderate walks, optional snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, all in cold winter weather.

TERRAIN

Yellowstone has miles of trails for skiers and snowshoers, with a wide range from easy to challenging. Many trails are groomed throughout the winter season.

WEATHER

The winter landscape of Yellowstone is a big draw for photographers, with the lack of dense foliage making wildlife easier to see. Nevertheless, it is very cold in January. Temperatures typically range from zero to 20°F during the day and often drop to sub-zero at night.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations are in comfortable hotels and lodges ideally located to get you as close as possible to the best wildlife viewing.

TRANSPORTATION

We travel by 4WD vehicle most days, plus a wildlife-viewing trip to and from Old Faithful Snow Lodge by snowcoach.

CLOTHING

You will need insulating fleece and wool (not cotton) layers, including a mid-weight and a heavyweight layer, an insulated hat that covers the ears, gloves, a neck gaiter, and heavyweight synthetic or wool socks. Choose insulated and water-repellant boots that fit over thick socks, and remember that your regular hiking boots probably won't be warm enough to keep you comfortable in winter. Pack your long underwear (tops and bottoms), a warm, insulated down or synthetic winter jacket or parka, waterproof or water-resistant winter shell and pants (such as snow/ski pants), plus slippers or other comfy shoes for coming down to dinner at Old Faithful Snow Lodge. Remember to bring sunscreen and lip protector. We will provide hand and foot warmers plus insulated mugs for hot drinks.

Additional Information

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 or email us at info@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us.

ABOUT NEW TRIPS

This is a new adventure and one that we are particularly excited about offering. However, as with all new departures, flexibility and a spirit of adventure are always appreciated! Activities are described in the itinerary but they can vary, sometimes considerably, depending on weather conditions, the group, and other factors.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
+ KLEEN KANTEEN 27OZ WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at wildtrav.com/resources/toucan-club.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel stainless steel water bottle by Klean Kanteen and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$100 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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Wilderness Travel

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