



Winter in Yellowstone Private Journey

WHEN TO GO

Mid-December through March

ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—even if it's just the two of you—yet still enjoy a guided adventure.

Contact us for availability, questions, or to book your adventure!

Experience the majesty of Yellowstone National Park as few others do-in winter, when peace and solitude permeate the land, the snowy forests are cloaked in mystical silence, and the rivers breathe clouds of steam into the frosty air. Accompanied by your private naturalist guide, you'll journey into the glaciersculpted Lamar Valley, a veritable Serengeti in the snow, in search of the herds of bison, elk, and pronghorn that descend to this lower elevation refuge, as well as their attendant predators—the iconic grey wolves. Yellowstone's wildlife is easier to spot in the snow during this "secret season"—you can even see their tracks. The sight of steaming geysers and snowy mountains under crisp blue skies creates perfect photo opportunities, and you'll have many on your snowshoe and cross-country ski outings on the park trails. All these outings are tailored to your interests, and they offer an ideal way to explore Yellowstone in winter. Having your own private guide maximizes your chances of seeing wildlife and also offers an "insider's" opportunity to learn about the ecology, scientific studies, and conservation efforts in Yellowstone. Your final overnight is at century-old Chico Hot Springs Resort, a stone's throw from the Yellowstone River, where you can soak in the big, open-air pools fed by natural mineral hot springs. We highly recommend our day-trip extension by snowcoach to Old Faithful, where you'll have the famous geyser almost all to yourself!











Itinerary

TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length: 5 days

Arrive: Bozeman, Montana
Depart: Bozeman, Montana

Lodging: 4 nights hotels and lodges

Meals: All meals included

(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch,

D=Dinner)

Activity: Photography, Walking,

Wildlife and Natural

History

Trip Level: 1 2 (3) 4 5 6

Wildlife viewing by private vehicle, optional snowshoeing and crosscountry skiing, cold winter

weather

DAY 1 BOZEMAN, MONTANA / PARADISE VALLEY / GARDINER

Arrive in Bozeman, Montana, where you will meet your private naturalist guide for a drive to your hotel in the "Old West" town of Gardiner. This scenic drive winds its way along the banks of the Yellowstone River through Paradise Valley and in the shadow of snowy peaks. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner and trip orientation. Overnight at the Wonderland Lodge and Café or the 406 Lodge. Both are ideally situated and provide a home for the next three nights that is convenient to the wildlife viewing you will enjoy in the coming days...D

Approximate Driving Time: 1.5-2 hours

DAY 2 LAMAR VALLEY / SUNRISE WOLF VIEWING / SNOWSHOEING

You'll get an early start (about 6:00-6:30 am) today so you'll have the best chance of seeing the elusive grey wolves that have become the star attraction of the Northern Yellowstone Range. Your naturalist guide is actively involved with Yellowstone's wolf-monitoring community and knows the best areas for viewing. The wolves' reintroduction into Yellowstone in 1995 is considered one of America's best conservation success stories, a case study on the effect a single species can have on an entire ecosystem. An hour's drive brings you to the valley, and when you get there, you will join other wolf enthusiasts with their spotting scopes. Spend the morning in this world-famous wolf habitat on the lookout for the packs. With luck, you will see wolves interacting with other packs or prowling along the river on their early morning hunt.

After a lunchtime spread of sandwich options and beverages in the field, strap snowshoes on your boots for an active outdoor adventure in Yellowstone! Under a mantle of pure white snow, Yellowstone's landscape is totally transformed, and you'll have a magical opportunity to explore the park's

trails, on the lookout for wildlife and sights you would miss in a vehicle. You can choose between many options, from easy strolls to challenging routes away from the established trails. Snowshoeing is like hiking, and you can easily stop to take pictures and look around. Don't worry if you have never done it—if you can walk, you can snowshoe, and modern lightweight snowshoes are provided for you. Tonight your guide will host you at one of Gardiner's charming local restaurants...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 2 hours, plus stops for wildlife viewing

DAY 3 LAMAR VALLEY / SUNRISE WOLF VIEWING / AFTERNOON WILDLIFE VIEWING / (THE OLD FAITHFUL EXTENSION CAN BE INCLUDED ON EITHER DAY 3 OR DAY 4 OF THE MAIN TRIP)

Another early morning start allows you to explore farther into the Lamar Valley, hoping for a glimpse of the iconic packs

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of grey wolf along with other wildlife. Mornings are the time when the wolf packs are the most active and easily viewed. Lamar Valley is known for an abundance of year-round wildlife, from bison to elk and coyote. These animals descend in winter from their habitats among the high peaks to forage in the lower, warmer meadows. After lunch at a local eatery, 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 you and share stories of life in a homesteader cabin with his wife and daughters and of the wildlife adventures he has had as a photographer and film maker. His





OLD FAITHFUL EXTENSION

Extend your journey to see the Old Faithful geyser in winter, when it is free of the summer crowds! You'll travel over the snow by guided snowcoach to reach this natural wonder, looking for wildlife en route. Enjoy an overnight at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge, just a five-minute walk from the Old Faithful geyser, at an altitude of 7,349 feet. See web for further details. From \$1695.

property is filled with bird feeders and it's a phenomenal place for seeing and photographing prolific Yellowstone birdlife up close. Return to Gardiner for dinner this evening. Overnight at the Wonderland Lodge or the 406 Lodge...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 2 hours, plus stops for wildlife viewing

DAY 4 CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING / CHICO HOT SPRINGS RESORT

Enjoy a morning of cross-country skiing on trails that meander through Yellowstone's winter landscape (no previous experience necessary, all equipment provided). The routes will be tailored to your skills and interest, as easy or challenging as you like. As an alternative, snowshoe options will also be offered this morning. Tonight your overnight is at historic Chico Hot Springs, built in 1900, a stone's throw from the Yellowstone River and surrounded by the spectacular peaks of the Absaroka Mountains. Enjoy a relaxing soak in the big mineral hot springs swimming pool before your gourmet Farewell Dinner, a fitting celebration of your epic winter adventure. The restaurant features meals with locally sourced

items such as steak, duck, and trout. Overnight at Chico Hot Springs Resort...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 1 hour

Optional Upgrade: Sage Lodge, five minutes from Chico Hot Springs, with a spa and fine dining.

Overnight Alternative: You can choose to head directly to Bozeman this afternoon, with overnight at the Lark Hotel in downtown Bozeman.

DAY 5 DEPART

After breakfast and one last soak (depending on your flight time), transfer to Bozeman Airport for your homeward-bound flights...B

Approximate Driving Time: 1 hour











Trip Details DATE AND PRICING INFORMATION

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through Spring 2024

\$6,095 (6-7 members)

\$6,695 (4-5 members)

\$7,295 (3 members)

\$7,995 (2 members)

Single supplement: \$495

Prices are based on double occupancy and not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

Make it Your Trip!

The prices above are for the ready-to-book adventure outlined in this Detailed Itinerary, a popular option that has been handcrafted by our Area Specialists to include the best of every destination. While many travelers choose to book this tour as is, our Area Specialists are also happy to work with you to customize this Private Journey to suit your specific interests and style of travel. We can arrange for longer or shorter stays, offer hotel upgrades (see below for sample costs), or add an extension to additional places of interest. We can even add special activities or customize excursions depending on your interests. We invite you to contact us to discuss your options!

Optional Hotel Upgrades

All upgrade pricing is per person, based on double occupancy. Please call for single occupancy pricing.

Pray: Sage Lodge, from \$210

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Accommodations per the itinerary
- Expert naturalist guide services and private transportation throughout
- All meals included as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- One alcoholic beverage with dinner and all non-alcoholic beverages with mealss
- All activities listed on a private basis
- Drinks and snacks available daily in the vehicle
- All entrance fees and activities per itinerary

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Airfare to/from Bozeman, Montana; gratuities to the private naturalist guide; alcoholic beverages with meals except as noted; travel insurance and other personal expenses.

SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early reservations are recommended since accommodations often sell out far in advance. Please call 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our North America Manager or email us at northamerica@wildernesstravel.com with any questions that you may have about this trip. To reserve your Private Journey, we will need to know your preferred dates of travel. We will then check availability and send you a proposed itinerary with exact pricing for your adventure. We can typically hold a provisional booking for one week. At that time, we must collect your initial deposit or accommodations will be released. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or American Express card. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a letter of confirmation, Detailed Itinerary, Trip Application, Medical Form, and Pre-Departure Information Booklet with information to help you prepare for your adventure. Please see our Cancellations and Transfer Fee Schedule for specific payment information.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: 25%

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$500 per person

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

*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

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: http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/travel-insurance

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!)

DAY 1 (DAY 5 OF MAIN TRIP) CHICO HOT SPRINGS TO LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

You'll be transferred from Chico Hot Springs this afternoon for a two-hour drive to Lone Mountain Ranch, set just beyond the northwest border of Yellowstone in rolling ranchland threaded by rivers. Tonight you'll dine at the Horn & Cantle Restaurant. Cozy fireplaces and ranch décor create a friendly ambiance, and the menu is based around locally sourced ingredients that reflect a true Montana heritage, from bison short ribs and elk bolognese to mountain trout, washed down with a flight of Montana whiskey. The adjacent saloon with live Western music is a great way to end the evening with a nightcap. Overnight at Lone Mountain Ranch...D

DAY 2 DOG SLEDDING / CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING OR SNOWSHOEING / SLEIGH RIDE TO DINNER

Join your sledding guides and their team of rambunctious Alaskan huskies this morning, sit back in your sled, and enjoy miles of gorgeous winter landscapes by dogsled. Guests can even try a hand at mushing if you want to get in touch with your inner Jack London! After lunch at the Horn & Cantle, enjoy self-guided cross-country skiing or snowshoeing, with ski gear and snowshoe equipment provided. You can also choose to hire a private guide for these activities. Lone Mountain Ranch has over 50 miles of beautifully maintained trails—it's one of the top cross-country trails systems in North America, and you'll have full access to it. Tonight, a magical ride by horse-drawn sleigh brings you through a snow-blanked wonderland to the lantern-lit North Fork Cabin for a family-style prime-rib dinner, rounded out by tunes from a cowboy musician. Overnight at Lone Mountain Ranch...BLD

DAY 3 SKIING / SNOWSHOEING / SNOWCOACH RIDE TO OLD FAITHFUL

The range of activities today includes cross-country skiing or snowshoeing on the ranch's trails, winter fly fishing (at extra cost), morning yoga, or a day of alpine skiing at Big Sky Resort (transfers provided, lift tickets and rental equipment at extra cost, advanced booking required). One exciting option is a full-day Snowcoach journey to Old Faithful (at extra cost). Overnight at Lone Mountain Ranch...BLD

Snowcoach Ride to Old Faithful with Optional Snowshoeing or Cross-Country Skiing

Take a full day's journey by shared Snowcoach (a sturdy, heated 12-guest bus with oversized tires that allow it to travel safely over snow). You'll explore the most iconic scenery and enjoy lunch, with plenty of time to view the eruptions of the world's most famous geyser—without the crowds of summer! You'll have the choice to snowshoe or ski the final distance to Old Faithful (about 1-1.5 hours of activity) or continue by Snowcoach.

DAY 4 SKIING / SNOWSHOEING / YOGA / DEPART

After breakfast, enjoy a final morning of morning yoga or snowshoe and ski excursions at the ranch, then depart via a private one-hour transfer to Bozeman Airport...B

2024 EXTENSION COST

TBA

INCLUDED FOR LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH EXTENSION (SHARED)

- Accommodations as per the itinerary
- All meals included
- Transportation services throughout
- All cross-country ski and snowshoe gear
- All entrance fees as required per the itinerary
- Airport transfers

NOT INCLUDED

Airfare to/from Bozeman, Montana; gratuities to guides; alcoholic beverages with meals, except as noted; travel insurance or other personal expenses

Lodging

DAYS 1 TO 3 (3 NIGHTS): HOTELS NEAR YELLOWSTONE NORTH ENTRANCE

Near the North Entrance to Yellowstone National Park, we stay at one of the following accommodations based on availability and pricing:



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.



YELLOWSTONE GATEWAY INN

Yellowstone Gateway Inn is in the classic western town of Gardiner, Montana, and features cozy apartment-style cabins and suites with living rooms and full kitchens. Elk are often seen grazing on the inn's lawn, and the Yellowstone River is just across from the hotel.

DAY 4 (1 NIGHT): HOTELS IN PARADISE VALLEY

Near Paradise Valley, we stay at one of the following accommodations based on availability and pricing:



CHICO HOT SPRINGS RESORT

Chico is a turn-of-the-century hot springs resort set amid 800 acres in the beautiful Paradise Valley. While not fancy, it is a refreshing and relaxing place to stay, and the architecture of the old building is full of quirky and historic charm. In winter, it's a treat to settle in by the fireplace in the lobby for a drink before dinner then enjoy a relaxing soak in the hot spring before bed. The resort's acclaimed restaurant has a great wine list, tasty local beers on draft, an innovative menu, and a welcoming atmosphere. Chico Hot Springs began as a modest boarding house that catered to fortune-seekers who mined gold claims in nearby Emigrant Gulch. It now has 60 rooms and two large geothermally heated pools, great spots for watching sunrise over the Absaroka Mountains or gazing at the brilliant night sky.



SAGE LODGE (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

Located on the banks of the Yellowstone River just a half-hour from Yellowstone National Park, Sage Lodge is a luxury resort getaway set on 1,200 acres. There are 50 spacious guest rooms in the main lodge, four free-standing ranch houses, a full-service luxury spa, and a wood-fired grill and bar with outdoor vantage points. The property has snowshoe and xc ski trails, hot tubs, stunning sunsets, and perfect views of formidable Emigrant Peak (10,926').

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Bozeman, Montana

Suggested Airport: Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, midday

Meeting Place: A complimentary transfer is provided from the Bozeman Airport to the hotel for all trip members arriving on Day 1. You will be met and driven to your hotel in Gardiner, Montana.

DEPARTURE

Bozeman, Montana

Suggested Airport: Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 5 (or Day 6 with Old Faithful Extension), afternoon

On Day 5 (or 6), a complimentary transfer is provided from the hotel to the Bozeman Airport for all trip members departing Day 5 (or Day 6 with Old Faithful extension). If you continue on to to the Lone Mountain Ranch, you will depart 2 days after the last main itinerary day.

AIR TRAVEL

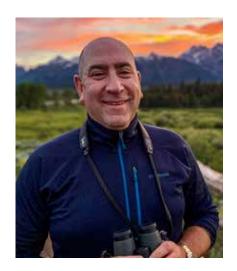
You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Montana. There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it may be necessary to depart from your home one day prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

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.

Our Guides MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Our Trip Leaders are experienced guides with a genuine gift for bringing the rich natural history and local cultures to life. Their connections, deep knowledge, and insights give you an "insider's" experience as you explore Yellowstone's legendary landscapes.



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.



MELISSA SCOTT

In 1987, Melissa moved to the mountains of Montana and never looked back. 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.

What the Trip is Like

TRIP LEVEL

The trip is Level 3, Moderate, according to our trip grading system. Wildlife viewing takes place during drives and stops along mountain roads. Early mornings are the best time to see wildlife, so you will have early starts (about 6:00-6:30 am). There are wonderful options for snowshoeing and crosscountry ski outings of your choice on established trails. These are tailored to your personal interests, as easy or moderate as you choose. There is no extensive physical activity on the trip, but you should be in good physical shape to enjoy it to the fullest during the cold winter season. Gardiner, Montana, is at an altitude of 5,200 feet, Old Faithful geyser is at an altitude of 7,349 feet, and Yellowstone is in the far north of the US. Winter temperatures are extremely cold, averaging around 20°-30°F during the day but dropping as low as below 0°F sometimes. That said, you can be very comfortable outdoors if you have the right boots and clothing. We provide a suggested packing list, which will include felt-lined boots (such as Sorrel), a hooded, insulated jacket, water-resistant pants (ski pants are good), and insulated gloves. At Yellowstone's moderately high altitudes, sunglasses are a must for sunny days. Accommodations are in comfortable hotels and lodges. Cuisine on the trip will be American-style, often with locally sourced items such as steak, trout, and duck.

WEATHER

With an average snowfall of 72 inches in December, it's no wonder that the majority of roads in Yellowstone are closed during the winter season. Daytime temperatures range from around 20-30°F throughout the day but can drop as low as 0°F. Sub-zero temperatures are common, especially at night and at higher elevations. Snowfall is highly variable. This kind of weather requires proper layers of clothing and footwear for comfort during outdoor activities.

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 and ask for the North America Manager or email us at northamerica@wildernesstravel.com.

ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

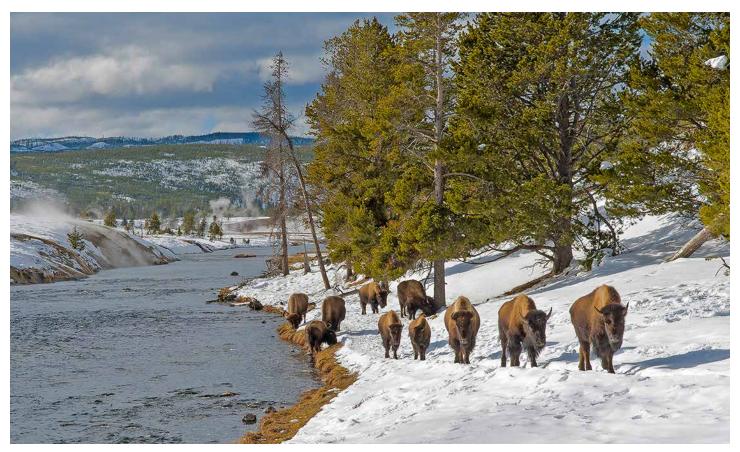
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TOUCAN CLUB / TRAVEL AGENTS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and special WT Expeditions that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access a complete library of our detailed itineraries and browse the customized reading guides for each of our adventures.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Old Faithful, WY	27/0.8	31/2	38/10	47/19	55/28	65/34	75/39	74/37	64/29	51/22	36/11	27/1
Gardiner, MT	27/2	33/4	42/11	50/20	61/28	70/34	80/38	79/36	69/28	56/21	38/11	28/2
Rainfall - Inches												
Old Faithful, WY	2.4	1.7	2.3	1.9	2.3	2.2	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.6	2.0	2.3
Gardiner, MT	1.3	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.9	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.3















WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: Travel + Leisure, 2022, 11-time winner
Best Travel Specialists in the World: Conde Nast Traveller, 2022, 3 years in a row
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.

Revised: August 18, 2023 4:06 PM

