

# Yellowstone & Grand Teton Wildlife Adventure

FROM GRAY WOLVES TO GEOTHERMAL WONDERS



Wilderness Travel



# Yellowstone & Grand Teton Wildlife Adventure

## TRIP DATES

2026

September 18-24, 2026

Track the iconic wolf packs of Yellowstone, hike in the majestic landscapes of the Grand Tetons, drift down the Snake River by private dory, and witness the geological wonder of Yellowstone. As we explore with our expert biologist Trip Leader, each day brings something different, whether we're hiking or spotting an amazing variety of wildlife—from herds of bison to elusive wolf packs on the prowl (our Trip Leader is involved with the local wolf-monitoring community). We offer this journey in September, when Yellowstone edges into its autumn glory and the bugling call of the bull elk echoes across the valleys. Begin your journey with an extension to hidden Flat Creek Ranch for three idyllic days of hiking, horseback riding, and fly fishing.



### TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 7 days
- Arrive:** Jackson Hole, Wyoming
- Depart:** Jackson Hole, Wyoming
- Lodging:** 6 nights hotels and lodges
- Meals:** All meals included except 1 dinner (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Activity:** Wildlife and Natural History
- Trip Level:** 1 2 3 4 5 6  
Wildlife viewing, easy to moderate walks and hikes

## Itinerary

### DAY 1 JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING / WELCOME DINNER / PRE-TRIP EXTENSION TO FLAT CREEK RANCH

Arrive in Jackson, where you are met for a transfer to Huff House Inn, located just a couple blocks from the historic main square in Jackson. Tonight we'll gather for our Welcome Dinner. Overnight at the Huff House Inn and Cabins...D

Pre-Trip Extension: Begin your adventure at hidden Flat Creek Ranch for idyllic days of hiking, horseback riding, and fly fishing (4 nights/5 days).

### DAY 2 WILDLIFE VIEWING IN THE GRAND TETONS / NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WILDLIFE ART

The morning is for wildlife viewing in magnificent Grand Teton National Park.. In the afternoon, we'll visit Jackson's renowned National Museum of Wildlife Art, which overlooks the National Elk Refuge. This famous museum features wildlife art by prominent artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe, Andy Warhol, Robert Kuhn, and John James Audubon. We'll enjoy lunch at the museum's restaurant. Dinner is on our own, and the Trip Leader will be happy to make recommendations, depending on how local or fancy you want to go. Overnight at the Huff House Inn and Cabins...BL

# Itinerary

## DAY 3 WILDLIFE VIEWING / GRAND TETON N.P. TO YELLOWSTONE

We'll be up early (6:00 am) to start our full day of wildlife viewing as we head through the Grand Tetons and up to the North Entrance of Yellowstone National Park. It's a full day of exploring, with many incredible stops en route and a gourmet packed picnic lunch in the field. The Trip Leader knows the best spots along the way to look for wildlife, which should include moose, bison, and pronghorn. By the afternoon, we'll be in the world of Yellowstone's impressive geothermal wonders, including Old Faithful geyser. Dinner tonight is in Gardiner and we'll stay overnight at the 406 Lodge, just outside the park's north entrance... BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 4 hours, plus stops for breakfast, lunch and wildlife viewing, for a total of about 8 hours

## DAY 4 YELLOWSTONE / SUNRISE WOLF VIEWING / HIKING / WILDLIFE VIEWING

Our mornings begin early (about 5:30 am so we can take advantage of wildlife activity and the soft dawn light—and see sunrise over the Tetons!), as we head into Yellowstone National Park, on the lookout for iconic packs of gray wolf.

Mornings are the absolute best time for viewing them, when the packs are most active. In addition to wolves, we'll keep an eye out for other wildlife from bison to elk, grizzly bear, black bear, pronghorn, otter, osprey, bald eagle, and coyote. 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.

We'll meet a local wildlife photographer at his property between Cooke City and Yellowstone's northeast entrance to learn about living in this remote corner of Montana, fascinating wildlife encounters he's experienced over the years photographing in the area, and we'll also have time to visit his gallery and even photograph wildlife—from pine martens to foxes—that live around his cabin.

Wildlife viewing in Yellowstone is always good, but our visit in September means we're here at the time the bull elk are making their famous mating season bugling calls and rounding up their harems. Migrating hawks and eagles begin their flights south, soaring over the mountains, and bears return to lower elevations to fatten up by gorging on berries



# Itinerary

before hibernation. The fall hues of orange and gold make this month absolutely spectacular for photography. We head back to Gardiner for dinner. Overnight at 406 Lodge...BLD  
Approximate Driving Time: 2-3 hours, plus stops for wildlife viewing

## DAY 5 WILDLIFE VIEWING / GRAND CANYON OF THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER

We'll start our journey south towards Jackson this morning with more opportunities for wildlife viewing en route. After a picnic lunch in the field, we visit the spectacular Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River, over a thousand feet deep and graced with multi-colored walls and thundering waterfalls. Our leisurely walk to the waterfall overlook reveals Yellowstone's complex geologic history in dramatic shapes and colors. Puffs of steam mark the hydrothermal features of the canyon's walls and both the Upper and Lower Falls are grand cascades. Arriving in Jackson in the late afternoon, we check into our hotel, the Bentwood Inn, for our overnight... BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 4 hours, plus stops for wildlife viewing and a picnic, for a total of about 8 hours

## DAY 6 BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST HIKE / FLOAT TRIP ON THE SNAKE RIVER

Our hike today brings us far away from the crowds of Grand Teton National Park for a much better hiking experience in 3.4-million-acre Bridger-Teton National Forest, with its abundant wildlife and immense wildlands. We'll enjoy a packed lunch en route. In the late afternoon, we'll embark on a 1.5-hour float trip aboard a private, hand-crafted vintage dory (wooden boat) to drift down a calm stretch of the Snake River as it winds through Grand Teton National Park. With the eye-catching peaks of the Grand Tetons on the horizon, we'll keep an eye out for wildlife, particularly bald eagles, before arriving at the private Tipi Camp for our celebratory Farewell Dinner in a pristine riverside setting, a time to reflect on our week amid the wildlife wonders of Yellowstone and the Tetons. Overnight at the Bentwood Inn...BLD

## DAY 7 DEPART

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for departure...B



# Pricing

## TRIP COST

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy  
2026

\$9,295 (6-7 members)

\$9,995 (4-5 members)

Single supplement: \$2,225

*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. 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.

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert Trip Leader and private transportation throughout the trip
- Accommodations per the itinerary
- All meals included except 1 dinner as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- 1 alcoholic drink at dinners
- Drinks and snacks available daily in the vehicle
- All entrance fees and activities per itinerary

## TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Air travel or other transportation from your home city to Jackson, Wyoming, and return; excess baggage charges; airport fees and charges; gratuities; optional travel insurance; personal expenses including extra hotels nights pre/post-trip, airport transfers, etc.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

## CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 131 days prior to departure: No charge!

91-130 days prior to departure: \$600 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:

[www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance)

# Flat Creek Ranch Extension (pre-trip only)



Ride a horse, fish in a legendary trout stream, hike the trails of Bridger-Teton National Forest. Historic Flat Creek Ranch (nearest neighbor—10 miles away!) is a fantastic getaway for couples, families, and friends. Enjoy your own cozy cabin and fine dining in the main lodge. This extension can be taken either pre- or post-trip and must begin on a Friday.

## DAY 1 FLAT CREEK RANCH

An afternoon transfer brings you 16 miles across the National Elk Refuge and into the mountains over a private jeep track. At the end of the road, you reach the hidden Flat Creek Ranch, where you are welcomed for cocktail hour and dinner at the ranch. Flat Creek Ranch offers five log cabins with creekside or lake views and a main lodge building whose kitchen is supplied with local, organic meat and produce. Overnight at Flat Creek Ranch...BD

## DAY 2 TRAIL RIDING / FLY FISHING

Head out this morning for a half-day horseback ride in the Gros Ventre National Wilderness Area, with 287,000 acres of pine forests, mountains, and steep valleys. Return for a delicious lunch at the ranch. In the afternoon, try your hand at fly fishing, with instruction, on the ranch's mile-and-a-half stretch of upper Flat Creek's challenging waters or on 50-acre Flat Creek Lake. Enjoy appetizers and dinner tonight at the ranch. Overnight at Flat Creek Ranch...BLD

## DAY 3 BRIDGER-TETON NATIONAL FOREST HIKE

Today get out and active with a half-day hike in Bridger-Teton National Forest. There are rigorous hikes or easy ambles that will bring you across elk trails and brilliant meadows with stunning views. Your afternoon is at leisure to read a book on the porch of your private cabin, hop on one of the stand-up paddle boards, or kayaks and head out onto the lake. Enjoy appetizers and dinner tonight at the ranch. Overnight at Flat Creek Ranch...BLD

## DAY 4 MORNING AT THE RANCH / JOIN MAIN TRIP OR DEPART FOR HOME

If you take this extension pre-trip, you'll be transferred to Jackson after breakfast to join the main Yellowstone & Grand Teton Wildlife Adventure. If you take it post-trip, you will have one last morning at the ranch before returning to Jackson Hole Airport for your flight home. Departing flights should leave between noon and 4:00 pm...B

## EXTENSION COST

**Prices are per person, based on double occupancy 2026**

From \$3,995

*Prices are not guaranteed until services are confirmed.*

## EXTENSION COST INCLUDES

Accommodations at the ranch as indicated in itinerary; all meals included; all transportation to/from ranch; gratuities to guides and staff; shared activities and guides for hiking, fishing, and horseback riding.

## EXTENSION COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Airfare to/from Jackson from your home town, any private guides for activities listed (ask your regional specialist for private guide costs), any activities, meals, or drinks not explicitly identified in the itinerary, travel insurance, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule changes or other factors, expenses such as immunizations (if any), and other expenses of a personal nature.

# Lodging



## HUFF HOUSE INN AND CABINS

*Jackson, USA*

*Days 1 to 2 (2 nights), Days 5 to 6 (2 nights)*

Located just a couple of blocks from the main square in Jackson, this cozy B&B captures rustic charm with modern furnishings and offers beautiful views of the surrounding mountains. At the end of an exhilarating day, you can relax in the secluded garden patio, with its hot tub and gas firepits.



## 406 LODGE

*Gardiner, USA*

*Days 3 to 4 (2 nights)*

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.



## BENTWOOD INN

*Jackson Hole, USA*

*Days 5 to 6 (2 nights)*

Bentwood Inn, one of the National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World, has a secluded location five miles from the town of Jackson. Each of the five rooms has a private fireplace and nice views of the surrounding trees, creating a cozy ambiance, and every stay includes a chef-prepared breakfast and an evening wine-and-cheese hour.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Yellowstone and Grand Teton Wildlife Adventure* webpage and click on "Accommodations."

# Arrival & Departure

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Jackson, Wyoming

**Suggested Airport:** Jackson Hole Airport (JAC)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, by 2:30pm

**Meeting Place:** A complimentary transfer is provided from the Jackson Hole airport to the hotel for all trip members arriving on Day 1. For those arriving by car, you can leave your vehicle in the airport's overflow parking lot for the duration of the trip. For those taking the Flat Creek Ranch Extension, complimentary transfers will be provided from the Jackson Hole Airport.

## DEPARTURE

Jackson, Wyoming

**Suggested Airport:** Jackson Hole Airport (JAC)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 7, anytime

A complimentary transfer is provided from the hotel to Jackson Hole Airport for all trip members departing on Day 7.

## AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Wyoming. 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 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](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it may be necessary to depart from your home city one day 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 Leader

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” experience as you explore the legendary landscapes of Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons.



## **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.

# What to Expect

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

The trip is **Level 2+, Easy to Moderate**, according to our trip grading system. Wildlife viewing takes place during drives and on nature walks on mountain roads. The hikes cover a variety of terrain and are usually on well-marked trails. There is no extensive hiking on the trip, but you should be in good physical shape to enjoy it to the fullest. Jackson, Wyoming, is at an altitude of 6,200 feet and Gardiner, Montana, is at 5,200 feet. The hikes and drives within the national park are at altitudes upwards of 8,800 feet, and can be higher on some hikes. If we drive on the Beartooth Highway, the altitude reaches 11,000 feet.

## WEATHER

The months between Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend are exceptionally beautiful in Yellowstone, although they draw the highest volumes of visitors. From June through August, average temperatures are in the 60s and 70s, making for great hiking conditions. Excellent months to visit are from mid-May through early June and between September and October, when there are fewer crowds. Spring in Yellowstone can be unpredictable, with the park emerging from winter hibernation. It can be quite cold (20F to 50F, so plan to pack layers). Visiting Yellowstone in September and early October can be especially exciting because the elk are in rut. The weather is cooler, with average daytime temperatures ranging from 35F to low 60F. Park facilities such as visitors' centers can close as early as mid-October.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

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

## 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](mailto:northamerica@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## TOUCAN CLUB

We're proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business! The Wilderness Travel Toucan Club was established to reward our travelers for their loyalty. For details, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club).

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://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.

### AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Jackson, Wyoming	27/1	31/4	41/14	50/24	61/32	71/38	81/43	80/41	70/33	65/24	38/14	27/2
Gardiner, Montana	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

Jackson, Wyoming	2.6	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.6	2.7
Gardiner, Montana	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*, 2025, 12-time winner

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2025, 5-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.

Revised: November 17, 2025 11:14 AM