YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

SPRING WOLF & BEAR DISCOVERY

Itinerary & Details

Spring/Summer 2021

The **Spring Wolf & Bear Discovery** Lodging & Learning package focuses learning about wolves, bears, and other exciting wildlife. Yellowstone's famous northern range is a prime location to view wolves and bears in the spring. This package is designed to take advantage of both rare opportunities. A Yellowstone Forever field educator will share up-to-date information about Yellowstone wildlife biology, behavior, and ecology throughout daily outings. Each evening, participants will return to their comfortable accommodations at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel.

The first evening includes an informative orientation with a Yellowstone Forever field educator. The following three full days involve getting up early and traveling to viewing points in hopes of observing wolves in the wild. Afternoons are spent exploring wildlife habitats and traveling on snowshoes to examine tracks and other animal sign. Participants will likely encounter many other wildlife species during daily outings, where field educators will discuss the role these other species play in the ecosystem.

Most sightings of wildlife occur at a distance; the field educator will provide high-powered spotting scopes and binoculars for group use. However, participants are encouraged to bring additional scopes and binoculars if they have them.

Meal and lodging accommodations in this package are based out of Mammoth Hot Springs.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- (4) nights lodging at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel - Frontier Cabin *(lodging upgrades may be available)*
- Most meals, to include:
    - 3 box breakfasts (to go)
    - 3 box deli lunches (to go)
- In-park transportation via a 14-passenger minibus
- Instruction and orientation by a Yellowstone Forever field educator
- A 32 oz. Nalgene wide mouth water bottle (gift item)
- Field equipment as needed

Gratuities for the Yellowstone Forever field educators are <u>not</u> included but are recommended and greatly appreciated.

WHY CHOOSE A LODGING & LEARNING PROGRAM?

These award-winning Lodging & Learning packages are developed through a partnership with Yellowstone National Park Lodges and Yellowstone Forever. These packages combine the best lodging locations with an exceptional immersive field education experience.
Here's why this package stands out:

- **Yellowstone Forever is Yellowstone National Park's official nonprofit education and fundraising partner.** Yellowstone Forever's mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance Yellowstone National Park through education and philanthropy. To learn more about Yellowstone Forever, visit our website, yellowstone.org.

- **Support Yellowstone National Park.** Proceeds collected by Yellowstone Forever educational programs are used to preserve Yellowstone National Park and provide more opportunities for people to experience its magic.

- **Yellowstone Forever Field Educators are world class.** The Yellowstone Institute has been providing in-depth educational programs in Yellowstone for over 40 years. Yellowstone Forever field educators are among the best experts in Yellowstone. Educational staff are passionate professionals with significant training who are dedicating their careers to this vital work. They live in the Yellowstone ecosystem, they work and train alongside park researchers and educators, and thus can provide accurate and exciting behind the scenes perspectives on the park's natural and cultural history. They know where to go and when, and they handle all the details to make the experience as enjoyable as possible.

- **Small group size.** Typically, Lodging & Learning programs have a max capacity of 13, however, due to Covid-19 safety precautions, this program is currently been limited to 9 participants (up to 12 same family). The program capacity size allows participants to enjoy camaraderie with fellow participants and receive more attention in a small group setting. It allows the educator to take an inquiry-based approach to learning and tailoring the experience to the group's specific interests.

- **Essential equipment provided.** Yellowstone Forever provides high-quality scoping equipment to bring distant wildlife into crisp, clear view. Educators are at a minimum Wilderness First Aid certified. They carry a first aid kit and handheld radio during all outings and provide bear spray to participants if hiking in bear country. Additionally, they incorporate teaching aids such as skulls, tracks, pelts, books, I-Pads with videos, and test equipment such as temperature guns for thermal features.

- **Incredible in-park lodging.** All lodging in this package is in the park, within short walking distance from popular features and spectacular scenery. This minimizes drive time during daily outings and allows more time to enjoy the park's features at a relaxing pace. It also allows more time in the evenings, after daily outings, to relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

PROGRAM ITINERARY

The itinerary is designed to take advantage of the best opportunities in the park, but may be adjusted to adapt to weather conditions, wildlife activity, holidays, and road construction.

Day 1 **Welcome and Orientation**

Participants are welcome to check into the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel beginning at 4:30 p.m. After checking in and enjoying dinner, guests will meet a Yellowstone Forever field educator for an orientation. Education staff will go over the program itinerary, discuss clothing and equipment needed for daily outings, and answer any questions participants may have.

This evening guests are responsible for dinner on their own and will be spending this night at the Mammoth Hot Spring hotel.

7:00 p.m. **Orientation at Mammoth Hot Springs Conference Room**
Specific room to be determined; ask front desk for directions.

Days 2 - 4 **Wildlife Watching and Habitat Exploration**

Each day begins early to catch the morning wildlife activity. Wolves and bears tend to be most active in the early morning, while mountain goats, moose, bison, elk, bighorn sheep, and birds continue to be active later in the day. After viewing wildlife, participants will be led on a hike in search of tracks and sign while discussing ecology, behavior, recent research, and management.

These evenings guests are responsible for dinner on their own and will be spending their nights at the Mammoth Hot Spring hotel.

6:00 a.m. **Depart Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel**
Hot beverages and box breakfast in the field
Morning & afternoon roadside animal viewing
Afternoon hike in wildlife habitat
Deli lunch in the field

3:00 p.m. **Return to Mammoth Hot Springs**

Day 5 **Check Out and Departure**

ACTIVITY LEVEL

How fit do you need to be?

This program is rated ***Level 2*** on Yellowstone Forever's Activity Level Scale.
Participants should be prepared to hike up to 3 miles per day comfortably with elevation gains of up to 600 feet. Some off-trail hiking is possible. Most hikes will take place at elevations between 6,000 to 7,500 feet. Participants residing at lower elevations may want to arrive a day early to adjust to the altitude. To learn more about how specific medical conditions can be affected by Yellowstone's environment and our activities, please visit our site page on health information.

All field activities will be conducted as a group. If members of the group cannot participate in the day's activities, they need to let the educator know in advance.

To participate in this program, each participant must fill out and sign a health questionnaire and assumption of risk waiver. Registrants receive a link to this form in their confirmation letter which is sent via e-mail. These forms must be completed and returned at least 30 days prior to the program start date.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

For Lodging & Learning Packages, 50% of package cost is due at time of booking with remaining balance due upon arrival. A 30-day notice is required to receive full refund of the deposit amount. Cancellations made within 30 days of arrival will result in 100% forfeiture of deposit amount.

Guests are strongly recommended to purchase travel insurance to help protect against financial loss if participant must cancel or interrupt their trip due to unforeseen circumstances. For more information about travel insurance, please ask a Yellowstone Park Lodges representative when booking a reservation.

WHO TO CONTACT

For any questions, concerns, or additional information please contact the following:

- Reservations, lodging, food, and payment questions please contact Yellowstone Park Lodges at reserve-ynp@xanterra.com 307-344-7311
- Program itinerary, health forms, and activity questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at institute@yellowstone.org or 406-848-2400
- Road updates, park conditions, and general park information please contact Yellowstone National Park Service at https://www.nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm

COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY

Yellowstone Forever continues to adopt appropriate sanitization measures as prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Guests are encouraged to refer to this respected resource when making near-term travel plans.

Yellowstone Forever and Yellowstone Park Lodges are in frequent contact with local authorities and partners such as county health departments and the National Park Service to continually monitor the situation on a regional level. Both entities are closely monitoring government policy changes, CDC guidelines, government mandates, and public health advancements, and will continue to make changes as necessary and appropriate to operations.

COVID-19 guidelines for program participants:

- Program participants should stay home if they are feeling any COVID-19 symptoms.
- At orientation each participant will be asked the following screening questions. If a participant answers "yes" to any of these questions they will not be permitted to attend a Yellowstone Forever course.
    - "Have you had a fever of over 100.4 °F or experienced shortness of breath or coughing in the last 10 days?"
    - "Have you been in contact with any individual known to have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days?"
- Each participant will have their temperature taken upon arrival of each program day. If a participant has a fever, they will not be permitted on the program.
- All participants, instructors, and program volunteers are required to wear masks indoors and in vehicles. Masks will not be required during hikes but will be recommended during outdoor stops.
- Participants should bring their own mask(s).
- Participants will be asked to maintain 6-foot social distancing practices during the program.
- Driver and passengers are not allowed to eat or drink on the vehicle.
    - Additionally, only the program instructors are permitted to serve lunch, snacks, and drinks to participants. No food or drink self-service will be available while on the program.
- Yellowstone Forever will use the largest-capacity vehicle available for each program to maximize space between participants during transport.
- Each vehicle will be disinfected before and after each trip.
- Only the educator leading the tour will be allowed to touch spotting scopes. Digiscoping (phone or tablet attached to a scope) will be used so that participants can view without touching the scope.
- Binoculars will not be loaned to participants. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own binoculars or purchase from the Park Store

GENERAL EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING LIST

Much of the program time will be spent outdoors, and participants should be prepared for a variety of mountain weather conditions and temperatures. Appropriate clothing, equipment, and footwear are very important. Spring temperatures can range from below freezing in the mornings to 70 degrees Fahrenheit in the afternoons. The layered use of garments for protection against the wind, sun, and temperature extremes should guide clothing choices.
*The field educator will be carrying a first aid kit, bear spray, and emergency communication device.

Equipment:

- **Mask,** facial masks will be required to wear in all vehicles and where social distancing cannot be adhered to
- **Hand Sanitizer**
- **Daypack,** with enough capacity to carry extra clothes, water, lunch, camera, binoculars, etc.
- **Water bottle,** participants will receive a 32 oz. Nalgene Tritan wide mouth quart water bottle as a gift during the program orientation. Participants should always keep a minimum of one quart of water on hand to facilitate proper hydration.
- **Sunglasses**
- **Sunscreen/lip protector,** sun at high altitude can burn unprotected skin quickly
- **Optics;** camera and binoculars

Clothing:

- **Insulating underwear**, capilene, polypropylene, wool, or similar wicking fabric
- **Mid-weight insulating layer**, a light synthetic fleece or wool shirt/pullover
- **Heavyweight insulating layer,** wool, down, or heavy-weight fleece jacket
- **Waterproof and windproof outer layer,** lightweight and breathable, jackets and pants
- **Short-sleeve shirt,** cotton is okay in summer, but synthetic wicking shirts are ideal
- **Pants,** synthetic hiking pants - jeans are not recommended
- **Hats**, both a brimmed sun hat and an insulating hat for cool weather
- **Gloves,** lightweight glove liners and a pair of wool/fleece gloves or mittens
- **Socks,** specifically designed for hiking, that wick moisture
- **Hiking boots that provide stability and traction,** make sure they are broken in, comfortable, and do not cause hot spots or blisters
- **Off-duty shoes**, sandals, athletic shoes, or other leisure footwear

SUGGESTED READING

No prior reading is required, but participants might enjoy the following publications, that complement the program. Most publications are available at Yellowstone Forever's online store at shop.yellowstone.org Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15 percent discount and proceeds directly support the park.

- *Decade of the Wolf: Returning the Wild to Yellowstone*. Smith, D.W. and G. Ferguson. 2005. Lyons Press, Guilford, CT
- *Searching for Yellowstone: Ecology and Wonder in the Last Wilderness.* Schullery, P. 1999. Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, NY
- *Track of the Grizzly*. Craighead, F. C., Jr. 1979. Sierra Club, 530 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94108. ISBN: 0-87156-223-5.

ABOUT YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Park Stores

Yellowstone Forever park stores feature more than 900 books, maps, and videos to help participants plan their visit, along with a wide selection of shirts, hats, and other logo items. Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15% discount on merchandise online or at any of the locations in and around Yellowstone. Proceeds directly support Yellowstone.
Visit: shop.yellowstone.org

Supporter Program

Yellowstone Forever supporters directly fund visitor education and park preservation. Benefits include:

- Seasonal lodging discounts throughout Yellowstone National Park.
- 15% discount on merchandise at all Park Stores locations, including the online store, Yellowstone National Park Lodges gift shop and Yellowstone General Stores. Exclusions apply.
- Discounts at over 400 participating public land stores across the country. For a list of participating organizations visit: www.publiclandsalliance.org
- A library card for the Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center.

If participants are not yet a supporter of Yellowstone Forever, an introductory membership (one year) to Yellowstone Forever is included with the tuition. For more information, visit: yellowstone.org/donate.

Yellowstone Forever Supporters, and additional registrants who are staying in rooms occupied by a Yellowstone Forever supporter, each receive a $15 discount on Lodging & Learning packages.
A valid Yellowstone Forever supporter card must be presented at check-in to receive this discount.
This discount cannot be applied retroactively after initial check-in.

CODE OF ETHICS

Yellowstone Forever is committed to demonstrating a high standard of appropriate and ethical behavior in Yellowstone. As a participant on a Yellowstone Forever program, participants will adhere to the following Code of Ethics. In addition to the ethics highlighted below, the Yellowstone Forever abides by all National Park Service rules and regulations, in addition to practicing Leave No Trace guidelines for traveling responsibly in the wilderness.

Observing wildlife: Groups will do their best to have as little impact on wildlife as possible. Animals will be observed from a distance, using high-powered spotting scopes to help keep the group presence from affecting their behavior. Participants should not expect to get close-up photographs of wildlife. Yellowstone Forever adheres to National Park Service regulations by keeping a minimum distance of 25 yards from bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, coyotes, and nesting birds and 100 yards from bears and wolves. Wildlife will not be enticed with food, animal calls, or any actions that change their behavior.

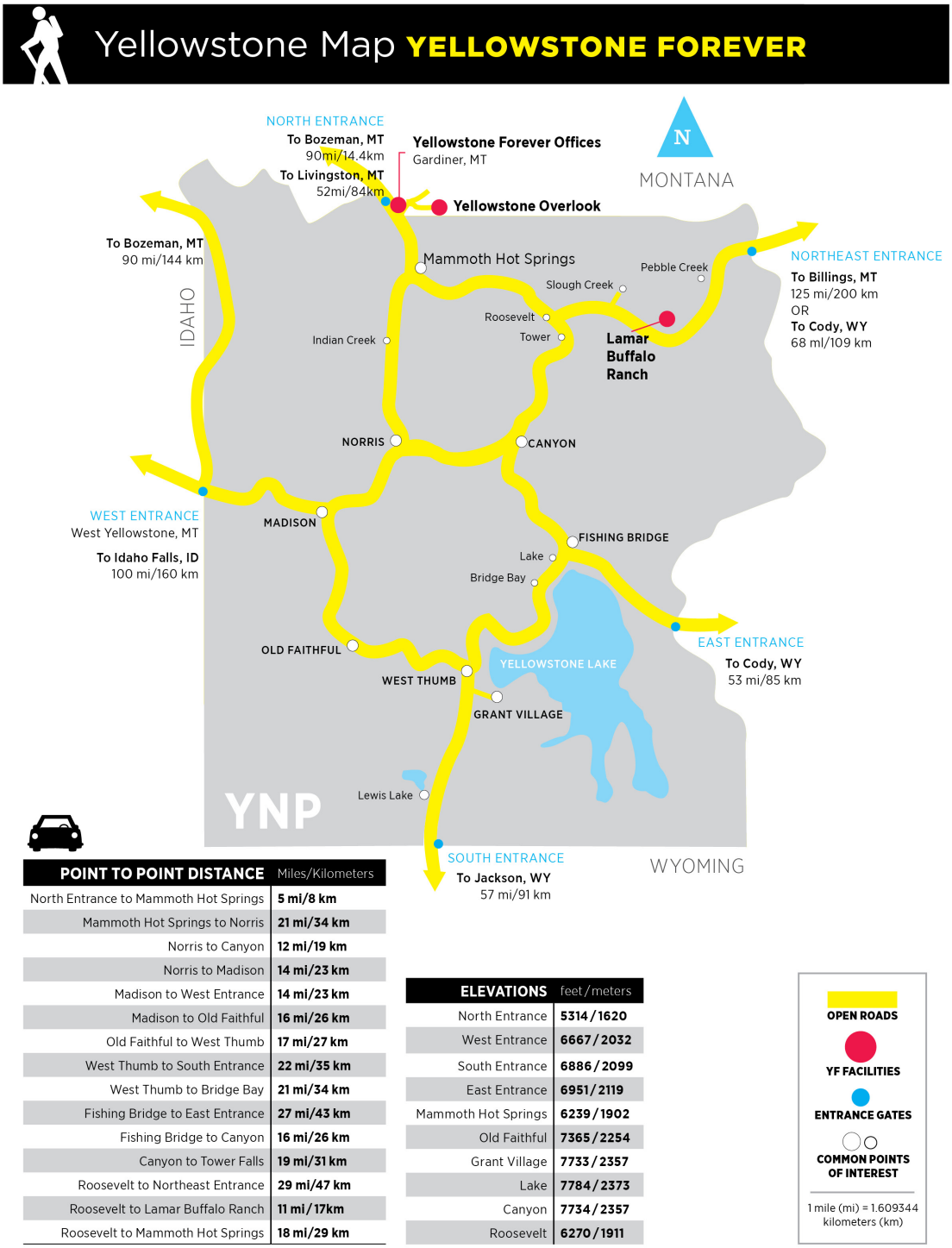
Leave what you find: It is illegal to remove natural or cultural artifacts (plants, animals, bones, rocks, etc.) from Yellowstone. Yellowstone Forever educators have permission from the National Park Service to manipulate plants, rocks, bones, etc. for educational purposes and will return them to their natural positions and locations.

General etiquette: Yellowstone Forever groups will be considerate of other visitors and respect the quality of their experience. Voices and vehicle sounds carry great distances and affect both wildlife and people—remaining silent or very quiet while watching wildlife lets the sounds of Yellowstone (including wolf howls) prevail.

Roads and vehicles: Expect wildlife on the road, and drive at or below the posted park speed limits. When stopping to observe wildlife or other park features, Yellowstone Forever field educators will move vehicles entirely off the road. If there is no safe pullout available, educators will drive to the next safe place and walk back to observe the wildlife. Yellowstone Forever will not stop in the middle of the road and should a traffic jam develop because of the group's activities, the activity will cease.

Properly dispose of waste: Participants will pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter. Field Educators will discuss techniques for properly disposing of human waste in the field.

Traveling lightly: When hiking or walking in Yellowstone, groups will use existing trails and boardwalks. Hikers will follow appropriate techniques when walking off-trail - walking around muddy or wet places in the trail increases erosion and negatively affects the resource; proper equipment is essential to hiking ethically. Participants should come adequately prepared with the equipment listed for the program and should expect to walk through mud, snow, or puddles in the trail.



POINT TO POINT DISTANCE	Miles/Kilometers
North Entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs	5 mi/8 km
Mammoth Hot Springs to Norris	21 mi/34 km
Norris to Canyon	12 mi/19 km
Norris to Madison	14 mi/23 km
Madison to West Entrance	14 mi/23 km
Madison to Old Faithful	16 mi/26 km
Old Faithful to West Thumb	17 mi/27 km
West Thumb to South Entrance	22 mi/35 km
West Thumb to Bridge Bay	21 mi/34 km
Fishing Bridge to East Entrance	27 mi/43 km
Fishing Bridge to Canyon	16 mi/26 km
Canyon to Tower Falls	19 mi/31 km
Roosevelt to Northeast Entrance	29 mi/47 km
Roosevelt to Lamar Buffalo Ranch	11 mi/17km
Roosevelt to Mammoth Hot Springs	18 mi/29 km

ELEVATIONS	feet/meters
North Entrance	5314/1620
West Entrance	6667/2032
South Entrance	6886/2099
East Entrance	6951/2119
Mammoth Hot Springs	6239/1902
Old Faithful	7365/2254
Grant Village	7733/2357
Lake	7784/2373
Canyon	7734/2357
Roosevelt	6270/1911

OPEN ROADS
YF FACILITIES
ENTRANCE GATES
COMMON POINTS OF INTEREST
1 mile (mi) = 1.609344 kilometers (km)

Plan on extra driving time in the park, the speed limit is 45 mph or lower. There may also be construction delays. Visit www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/hours.htm, call the recorded NPS Road Report at 307-344-2117, or contact a visitor center for up-to-date travel information.
***Dunraven Pass, road between Tower and Canyon, will be closed for most of the summer 2021, please plan accordingly.**