GRAND TOUR OF YELLOWSTONE

The Grand Tour of Yellowstone Lodging & Learning package is designed for those who want to enjoy some of the best experiences Yellowstone has to offer while traveling in style. The package is offered in partnership with Yellowstone National Park Lodges, who will be responsible for lodging arrangements, meals, and transportation, while Yellowstone Forever provides the educational programming. We built this package to closely mirror the historic tours that Yellowstone's early visitors would have experienced. In this all-inclusive package, you'll be transported in a vintage 1930's White Motor Co. "Historic Yellow Bus" to explore and learn about Yellowstone's popular attractions all while staying at various villages through the park.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- **6 nights lodging**
  - 3 nights lodging at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel - Frontier Cabin
  - 1 night lodging at Old Faithful Snow Lodge - Premium Room
  - 1 night lodging at Lake Hotel - Cabin
  - 1 night lodging at Canyon Lodge - Deluxe Room
- **All meals, to include:**
  - 5 breakfasts (1 breakfast to-go and 4 dine-in breakfasts)
  - 5 lunches (to-go)
  - 6 dinners (3 at Mammoth Dining Room, 1 at Old Faithful Inn Dining Room, 1 at Lake Hotel Dining Room, 1 at Canyon Eatery)

- **All in-park transportation in a Historic Yellow Bus (driver gratuities included)**
- **Exceptional educational programming with a Yellowstone Forever field educator**
- **Private boat charter to a remote island on Yellowstone Lake**
- **A Nalgene water bottle (gift item)**
- **Field equipment (as needed)**

Gratuities for the Yellowstone Forever Field Educators are not included in the program costs but are recommended and greatly appreciated.

Each day, you will venture out with a Yellowstone Forever field educator and Yellowstone National Park Lodges (YNPL) driver guide for a new adventure exploring each region of the park. We will incorporate short, scenic hikes throughout the program getting to take in Yellowstone's most famous views. We'll leave early each day to beat the crowds and increase the odds of seeing Yellowstone's charismatic megafauna that are most active at dawn and will return early every evening, leaving you time to relax and wind down from the day.

Most sightings of wildlife occur at a distance; the field educator will provide high-powered spotting scopes and binoculars for group use.



PHOTO JACOB FRANK

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.



PHOTO JIM PEACO



PHOTO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK LODGES

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 formally trained.** 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.** Grand Tour of Yellowstone programs have a max capacity of 9. 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 tailor 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, 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 allows more time in the evenings.

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.



PHOTO JACOB FRANK



PHOTO MATT LUDIN

DAY 1 WELCOME & ORIENTATION

You are welcome to check into the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel beginning at 4:00 p.m. After checking in, 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. *Participants will be spending this evening at the Mammoth Hot Springs hotel.*

5:30 p.m. **Orientation at Mammoth Hot Springs Conference Room**
Specific room to be determined; ask front desk for directions.

6:30 p.m. **Dinner at Mammoth Hotel Dining Room**
Dinner is first come, first served.

DAY 2 WILDLIFE WATCHING & LAMAR VALLEY

We will depart early, traveling along Yellowstone's northern range to Lamar Valley in search of "charismatic megafauna." 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, your field educator will lead you on a hike in search of animal tracks and sign while discussing ecology, behavior, recent research, and management. *Participants will be spending this evening at the Mammoth Hot Springs hotel.*

6:00 a.m. **Depart Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel**
Hot beverages and box breakfast in the field

Morning wildlife watching
Deli lunch in the field

Afternoon hike in wildlife habitat

Return to Mammoth Hot Springs

2:00 p.m. **Dinner at Mammoth Hotel Dining Room**
Dinner is first come, first served.

DAY 3 THE YELLOWSTONE VOLCANO

Today participants will explore Yellowstone's thermal features making their way down the west side of the park and stopping at Yellowstone's geyser basins. We'll slowly make our way toward Old Faithful - into the Yellowstone Volcano! Along the way, your field educator will lead you on sightseeing trips while introducing you to Yellowstone's super volcano. *Participants will be spending this evening at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge.*



PHOTO JACOB FRANK

6:30 a.m. **Dining Room Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Depart Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel**

Travel to Old Faithful
Explore Geyser Basins en route
Deli lunch in the field

4:00 p.m. **Check in Old Faithful Snow Lodge**

5:30 p.m. **Dinner Reservations at Old Faithful Inn Dining Room**
Dinner reservations are prebooked.

DAY 4 YELLOWSTONE'S VOLCANO: GEYSERS, HOT SPRINGS, & MUDPOTS

Today we'll explore Yellowstone's Upper Geyser Basin, home to the famous Old Faithful geyser. We'll get out early to beat the crowds to the popular spots. Then we'll head south and eastward along the shores of Yellowstone Lake.
Participants will be spending this evening at Lake Hotel.

6:30 a.m. **Dining Room Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Depart Old Faithful Snow Lodge**
Old Faithful and Yellowstone's Upper Geyser Basin
Travel to Yellowstone Lake
Deli lunch in the field

4:00 p.m. **Check in Lake Hotel**

5:30 p.m. **Dinner Reservations at Lake Yellowstone Hotel Dining Room**
Dinner reservations are prebooked.

DAY 5 YELLOWSTONE LAKE

Today you'll have time to relax, reflect, and take in the panoramic views of the largest high elevation lake in North America. We'll explore the lake shores on short hikes, learn about the geothermal activity taking place below the lake's surface, and visit some of the best viewpoints overlooking the lake. Yellowstone Lake also provides a compelling backdrop to explore the enduring relationship between Indigenous peoples and this land.
Participants will be spending this night at the Canyon Lodge.

6:30 a.m. **Dining Room Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. **Depart Lake Hotel**
Travel to Bridge Bay Marina

8:45 a.m. **Private Boat Charter on Yellowstone Lake**
For participants interested in fishing, you must get a permit prior to the boat tour. Rods will be available on the boat.
Deli lunch in the field

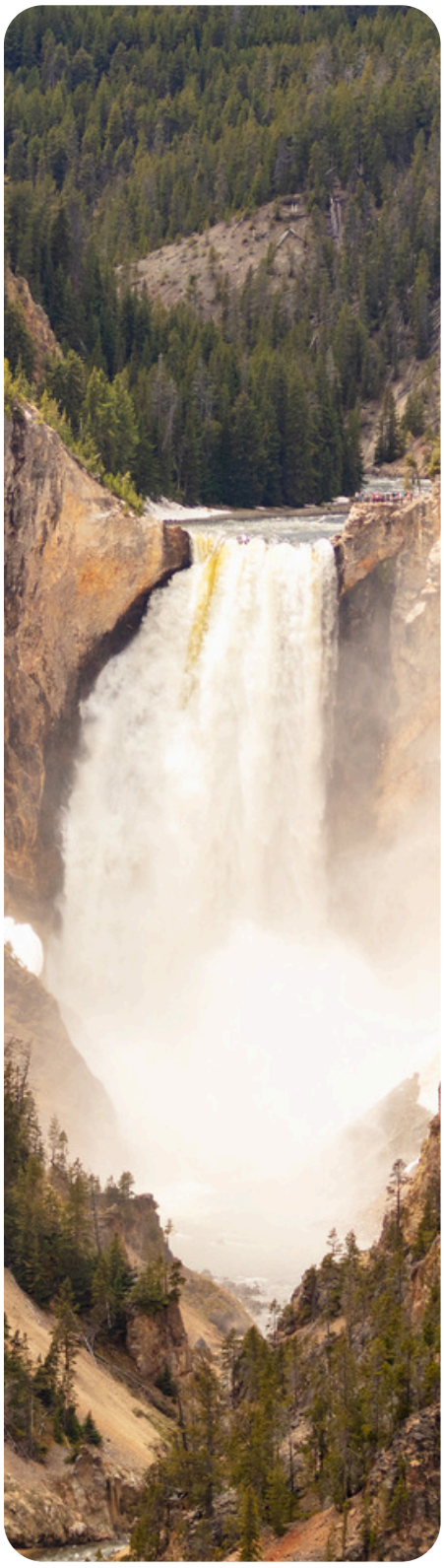


PHOTO JACOB FRANK

4:00 p.m. **Check in Canyon Lodge**

Dinner at Canyon Eatery
Dinner is first come, first served.

DAY 6 GRAND CANYON OF THE YELLOWSTONE & HAYDEN VALLEY

On the final day, we'll head out early to catch wildlife activity in Yellowstone's Hayden Valley. After wildlife viewing, we will enjoy hiking and sightseeing along the north and south rims of the iconic Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. The field educator will lead you to breathtaking views of the colorful canyon and its magnificent waterfalls while revealing the geology behind it all.
Participants will be spending this night at the Mammoth Hot Springs hotel.

6:30 a.m. **Canyon Eatery Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Depart Canyon Lodge**
Wildlife Watching in Hayden Valley
Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Deli lunch in the field

Hikes and Sightseeing

4:00 p.m. **Check in Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel**

Dinner at Mammoth Hotel Dining Room
Dinner is first come, first served.

DAY 7 CHECK OUT AND DEPARTURE



PHOTO YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

ACTIVITY LEVEL

HOW FIT DO YOU NEED TO BE?

• This program is rated **LEVEL 2 - MILD** 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 activities will take place at elevations between 7,200 to 8,000 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. These forms must be completed and returned at least 30 days prior to the program start date.

WHOM TO CONTACT

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

• Reservations, lodging, food, and payment questions, contact Yellowstone National Park Lodges at reserve-ynp@xanterra.com or 307-344-7311

• Program itinerary, health forms, and activity questions, contact Yellowstone Forever at institute@yellowstone.org or 406-848-2400 extension 3

• Road updates, park conditions, and general park information, contact Yellowstone National Park Service at https://www.nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm



PHOTO NEAL HERBERT



PHOTO JIM PEACO

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 important. Summer temperatures can range from below freezing in the mornings to 85° 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.*



PHOTO DIANE RENKIN



PHOTO JACOB FRANK

EQUIPMENT

- **Daypack**, with enough capacity to carry extra clothes, water, lunch, camera, binoculars, etc.
- **Water bottle**, participants will receive a Nalgene water bottle as a gift during the program orientation. Guests 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
- **Midweight 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

- **Hat**, 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

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

The following policies apply to Lodging & Learning packages. If you cancel:

• 60 days or more prior to the start of your package, 100% of your payment will be refunded.

• 30 days or more prior to the start of your package, 50% of your payment will be refunded.

• If you cancel with fewer than 30 days before the start of your program, your full payment will be forfeited.

Please call the Yellowstone National Park Lodges Reservations Office at 307-344-7311 to cancel.

We recommend the purchase of travel insurance to help protect you against financial loss if you must cancel or interrupt your trip due to unforeseen circumstances.



PHOTO JACOB FRANK

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 members receive a 15% discount on merchandise or at any of the locations in and around Yellowstone. Proceeds directly support Yellowstone.

Visit: **shop.yellowstone.org**

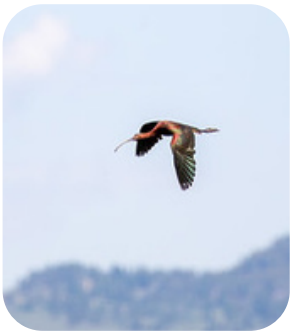


PHOTO ASHTON HOOKER



PHOTO JACOB FRANK

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

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

• 15% discount on merchandise at all Park Store 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.

• A library card for the Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center.

For more information about becoming a Yellowstone Forever supporter, visit: **Yellowstone.org/ways-to-give/member-benefits/.**

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.



PHOTO JACOB FRANK

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 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.

MAP

Plan on extra driving time in the park, the speed limit is 45 mph or lower and road conditions can vary. There may also be construction delays.

Visit **www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/parkroads.htm**, call the recorded NPS Road Report at 307-344-2117, or contact a visitor center for up-to-date travel information.

