OLD FAITHFUL WINTER EXPEDITION

The Old Faithful Winter Expedition Lodging & Learning package is designed for those who want to explore the heart of Yellowstone's winter wilderness with an expert field educator. The serenity and beauty of Yellowstone in winter is truly one-of-a-kind, and this will provide the setting for discovery, reflection, and fascination. Wildlife, history, ecology, and geology will be incorporated into daily activities, additionally the group will discuss a variety of issues that affect the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Yellowstone Forever field educator will lead you through the most scenic and awe-inspiring features in the park and share stories behind the rare magic of Yellowstone National Park.

This program begins at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, where a field educator will deliver an informative evening orientation. The following three days will be based out of the Old Faithful Snow Lodge. Days will be spent visiting some of Yellowstone National Park's most iconic interior-based locations, such as the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and Old Faithful. The final day of programming will be spent traveling back to Mammoth Hot Springs where participants will spend their final night, before departing the next morning.

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- **5 nights lodging**
  - 2 nights lodging at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel– Deluxe Room
  - 3 nights lodging at Old Faithful Snow Lodge– Deluxe Room
- **All 14 meals, to include:**
  - 5 breakfasts (2 at Mammoth Hot Springs Dining Room & 3 at Old Faithful Snow Lodge Dining Room)
  - 4 lunches (to-go)
  - 5 dinners (2 at Mammoth Hot Springs Dining Room, 3 at Obsidian Dining Room)
- **In-park transportation via a snow coach**
- **Exceptional educational programming with a Yellowstone Forever field educator**
- **A Nalgene water bottle (gift item) and a Snow Card**
  - *The Snow Card provides 10% discount on select Yellowstone National Park Lodges' gift shop items, tours, rentals & meals*
- **Baggage handling is provided throughout the entire stay**
- **Field equipment (trekking poles and snowshoes)**
- **Access to ice skating rink and free ice skate rentals at Mammoth Hot Springs and Old Faithful**

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



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.





PHOTOS JACOB FRANK

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.**

• **Supports 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.** Old Faithful Winter Expedition programs have a max capacity of 10. 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 and CPR certified. They carry a first aid kit and handheld radio during all outings and bear spray if hiking. 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 for this package is inside 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.





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DAY 1 **WELCOME & ORIENTATION**

Participants 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. After the orientation, guests will have dinner at the Mammoth Hot Springs Dining Room.

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

7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. **Participant Dinner at Mammoth Dining Room**
Dinner for this night is provided and reservations have been pre-booked.

DAY 2 **DEPART FOR OLD FAITHFUL**

The group will board a chartered snow coach for a scenic trip to the Old Faithful Snow Lodge. The group will explore points of interest along the way, such as Norris Geyser Basin and Madison Junction, and stop to enjoy wildlife sightings. The group will settle into the Old Faithful Snow Lodge to finish up the day.

Breakfast at Mammoth Hot Springs Dining Room

9:00 a.m. **Depart for Old Faithful**
Sightseeing along the way
Deli lunch in the field

4:00 p.m. **Arrive at Old Faithful Snow Lodge, check-in**

5:45 p.m. **Dinner at Obsidian Dining Room**
Dinner for this night is provided and reservations have been pre-booked.

DAY 3 **GEYSER BASINS**

On the first full day at Old Faithful, participants will venture out into the nearby geyser basins, forests, and riparian habitats on snowshoe, while taking in fascinating sights and sounds of the surrounding thermal features. The Yellowstone Forever field educator will interpret wildlife tracks and signs found in the snow and explain the science behind the survival of these hardy animals.

Breakfast at Obsidian Dining Room

9:00 a.m. **Meet in lobby with gear**
Deli lunch in the field



PHOTO JACOB FRANK

3:00 p.m. **Arrive at Old Faithful Snow Lodge**

5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **Dinner at Obsidian Dining Room**
Dinner for this night is provided and reservations have been pre-booked.

DAY 4 THE GRAND CANYON OF THE YELLOWSTONE

Participants will board a chartered snow coach for a full day excursion to the spectacular Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Along the way, a field educator will provide stories and information about Yellowstone's vast natural and cultural history. Once at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, visitors will experience the incredible views of the famed waterfall and canyon while snowshoeing.

Breakfast at Obsidian Dining Room

8:30 a.m. **Meet in lobby with gear**
Board snow coach and depart for Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, sightseeing along the way
Deli lunch in the field

6:00 p.m. **Return to Old Faithful Snow Lodge**

6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. **Dinner at Obsidian Dining Room**
Dinner for this night is provided and reservations have been pre-booked.

DAY 5 RETURN TO MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS

This is the last full day on the program. For this final program day, the group will return to Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel via snow coach with sightseeing stops along the way.

Breakfast at Obsidian Dining Room

9:00 a.m. **Meet in lobby with gear**
Depart for Mammoth Hot Springs, sightseeing along the way
Deli lunch in the field

4:00 p.m. **Return to Mammoth Hot Springs**

5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Dinner at Mammoth Hot Springs Dining Room**
Dinner for this night is provided and reservations have been pre-booked. Confirm reservations at check-in.

DAY 6 CHECK OUT AND DEPARTURE

Breakfast at Mammoth Hot Springs Dining Room

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 or snowshoe up to 3 miles per day comfortably with elevation gains of up to 250 feet. 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.



PHOTO MATT LUDIN

WHOM TO CONTACT

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

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

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

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



PHOTO JACOB FRANK

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. Winter temperatures can range from below freezing in the mornings to 40° 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.





PHOTOS MATT LUDIN

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

• **Pants,** wool, fleece pants are preferred, no cotton

• **Hats,** 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

• **Insulated boots,** must have water repellent layers outside, thick insulation inside, and be large enough to fit over thick socks. Tight boots are the surest way to get painfully cold feet. Soles with proper traction or traction devices (i.e. Yaktrax) are essential for icy conditions. General hiking boots will not provide adequate insulation or traction in most cases.

• **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.



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**





PHOTOS 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, visit: **Yellowstone.org/donate.**

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, 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.



PHOTOS 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

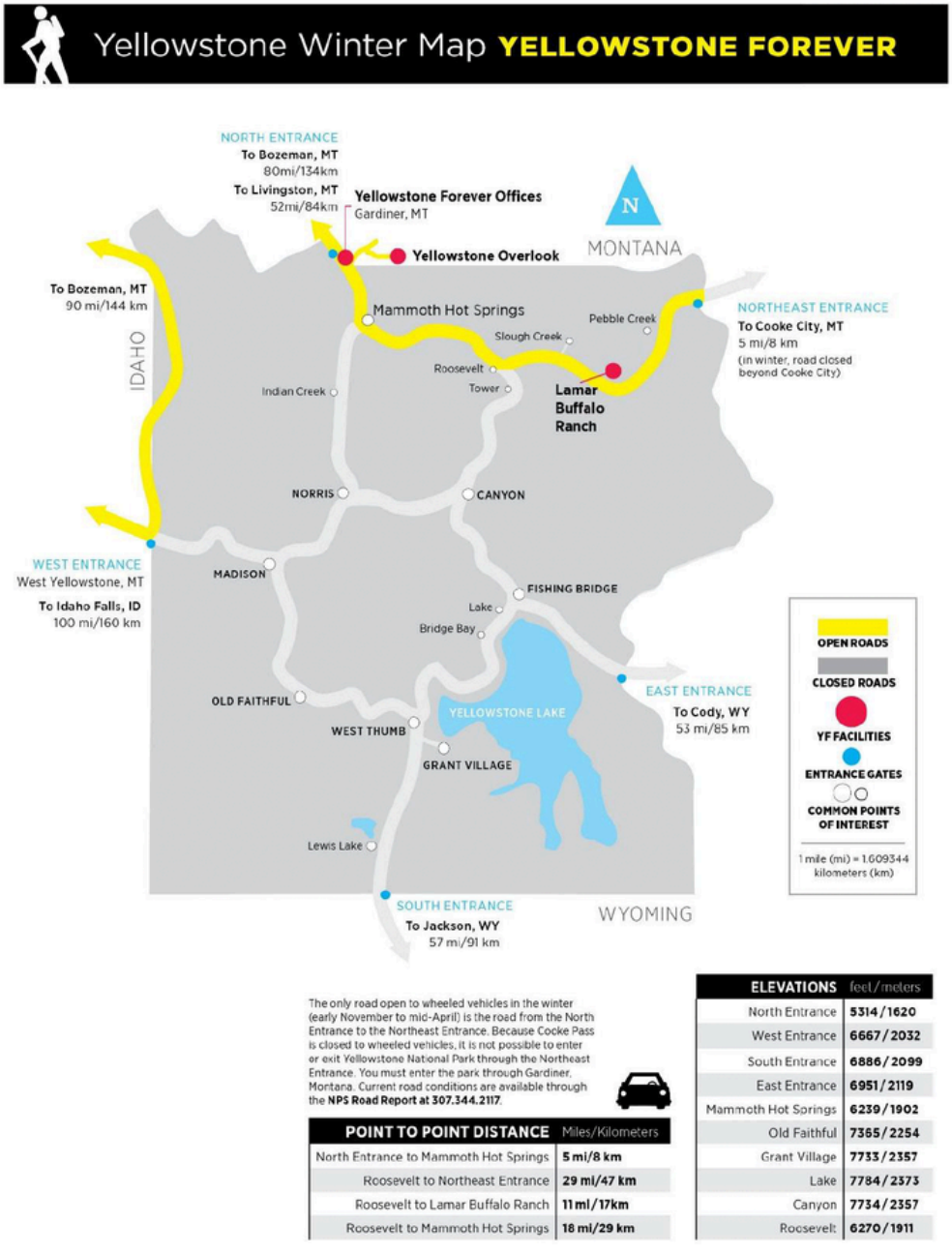
When hiking or walking Yellowstone, groups will use existing trails and boardwalks. Hikers will follow appropriate techniques when walking off-trail – walking around muddy or wet places in the trail increases erosion and negatively affects the resource; proper equipment is essential to hiking ethically. 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/hours.htm**, call the recorded NPS Road Report at **307-344-2117**, or contact a visitor center for up-to-date travel information.

Participants are encouraged to take advantage of the airport shuttle provided by Yellowstone National Park Lodges for a safe and comfortable ride to and from Mammoth Hot Springs from the Bozeman, Montana airport. Those interested should call the Yellowstone National Park Lodges Reservations Office at **307-344-7311** (select "winter reservations" from the phone directory options) for more information.



The only road open to wheeled vehicles in the winter (early November to mid-April) is the road from the North Entrance to the Northeast Entrance. Because Cooke Pass is closed to wheeled vehicles, it is not possible to enter or exit Yellowstone National Park through the Northeast Entrance. You must enter the park through Gardiner, Montana. Current road conditions are available through the **NPS Road Report at 307.344.2117**.

POINT TO POINT DISTANCE	Miles/Kilometers
North Entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs	**5 mi/8 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**