



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

OLD FAITHFUL WINTER EXPEDITION

Itinerary & Details

Winter 2022/2023

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. However, participants are encouraged to bring additional scopes and binoculars if they have them.

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) breakfasts at Mammoth Hot Springs Dining Room
 - (3) breakfasts at Old Faithful Snow Lodge Dining Room
 - (4) lunches
 - (4) box lunches (to go)
 - (5) dinners
 - (2) dinners at Mammoth Hot Springs Dining Room (*reservations are pre-booked*)
 - (3) dinners at Obsidian Dining Room (Old Faithful) (*reservations are pre-booked*)
- In-park transportation via a snow coach
- World class educational programming with a Yellowstone Forever field educator
- Hot beverages and snacks on the road
- A Nalgene water bottle (gift item)
- Baggage handling is provided throughout the entire stay
- Field equipment as needed; ex: snowshoes, trekking poles

Gratuities for the Yellowstone Forever field educators are not 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](https://www.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.** 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 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 4:00 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 reservations 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
Will be provided meal coupons for all included meals*

7:00 p.m. Participant Dinner at Mammoth Dining Room

*Dinner for this night is provided and reservations have been pre-booked.
Confirm reservations at check-in*

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. To finish up the day, the group will settle into the Old Faithful Snow Lodge.

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.
Confirm reservations at check-in*

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 provide 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

3:00 p.m. Arrive at Old Faithful Snow Lodge
5:45 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 snowcoach 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 snowcoach 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
7:00 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 snowcoach.

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
6:00 p.m. Dinner at Mammoth Hot Spring 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. Registrants receive a link to this form from Yellowstone National Park Lodges 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

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.

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 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/cont>

COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY

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

Yellowstone Forever and Yellowstone National 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.

These protocols have been updated as of February 2022, please visit our website: <https://www.yellowstone.org/covid-19-health-safety/> for up-to-date protocols and information

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.**

Equipment:

- **Mask**, facial masks will be required to wear in all vehicles and where social distancing cannot be adhered to (see Covid-19 Health & Safety information above for up-to-date information)
- **Hand Sanitizer**
- **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, chapstick**
- **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**, synthetic wicking shirts are ideal
- **Pants**, synthetic hiking pants - jeans are not recommended
- **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

SUGGESTED READING

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

- *Searching for Yellowstone: Ecology and Wonder in the Last Wilderness*. Schullery, P. 1999. Houghton Mifflin Co.
- *Decade of the Wolf*. Smith, D. and Ferguson, G. 2005, Lyons Press.
- *Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival*. Heinrich, Bernd. 2009. Harper Perennial.
- *Yellowstone Has Teeth*. Ambler, Marjane. 2013. Riverbend Publishing

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.

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.

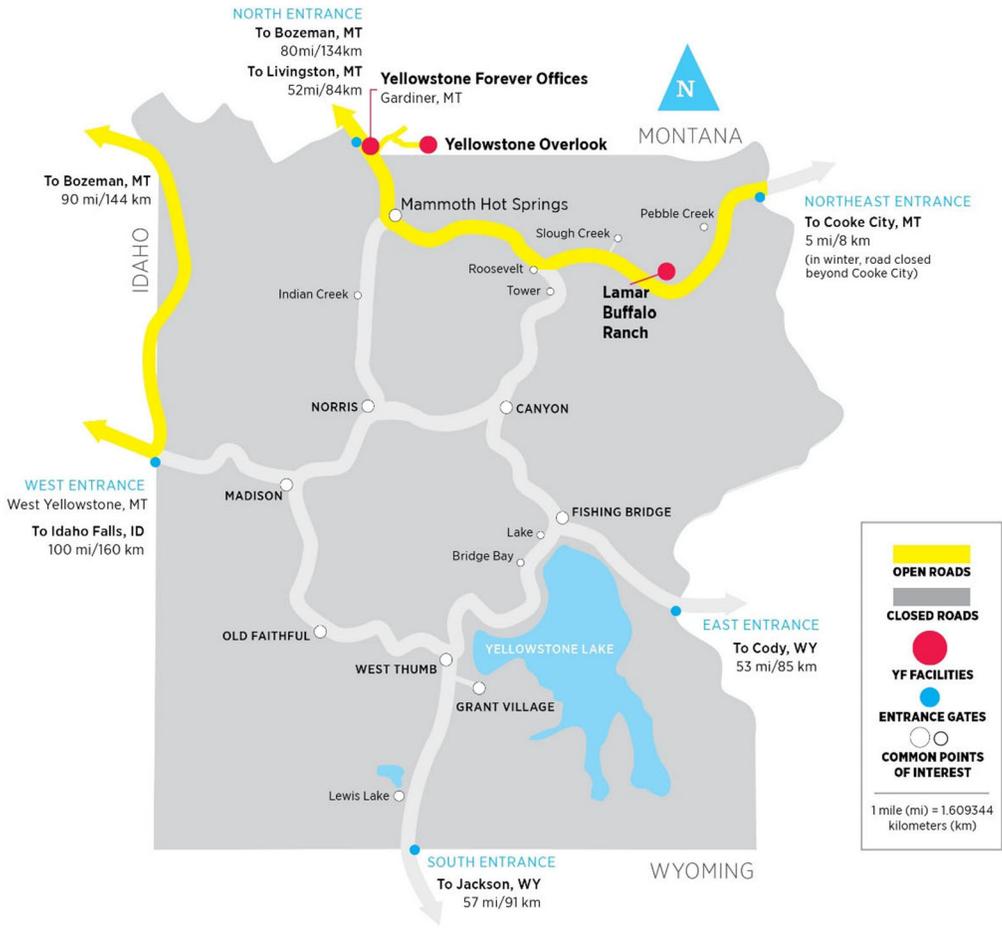
General etiquette: Yellowstone Forever groups will be considerate of other visitors and respect the quality of their experience. Voices and vehicle sounds carry great distances and affect both wildlife and people—remaining silent or very quiet while watching wildlife lets the sounds of Yellowstone (including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

Yellowstone Winter Map **YELLOWSTONE FOREVER**



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/17 km
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

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.

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.