



THE BISON OF YELLOWSTONE #180802

Check-in starts at 4:00 p.m.

Start: 8/3/2018 at 7:00 p.m.

If you are running late please call us at
307.344.7749

End: 8/6/2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Lamar Buffalo Ranch

Welcome to Yellowstone National Park. If you are a newcomer to the Yellowstone Forever Institute, you will be amazed at what awaits you during each day of exploration. We are glad that you are able to join us in Lamar Valley, a truly special place to call home while in Yellowstone! Our goal is to provide you with an enjoyable, high-quality educational experience and a safe and memorable visit to Yellowstone.

The following information is provided to help you prepare for your program. Please read it thoroughly and call us at 406.848.2400 or email [Contact@yellowstone.org](mailto>Contact@yellowstone.org) if you have any questions. We recommend all first time visitors seek general park information through the National Park Service at 307.344.2107 or www.nps.gov/yell.

Important Information Included in this Document:

- Letter from Your Instructor
- What's Included
- How to Prepare for this Program
- Suggested Reading
- Yellowstone Forever Park Store Information
- Yellowstone Forever Supporter Information
- Code of Ethics
- Cancellation Policy
- Travel Information
- Supplemental Lodging Information

From the Instructor

One of the classic, enduring symbols of the American West, the bison, survived in the wild in only one place in the United States: Yellowstone. Today it is still prominent in the Yellowstone country and is still a potent symbol—one of some controversy. It has been a symbol, often one of mythic proportions and power since it, and its older, larger kin became entwined with native peoples of this part of the world when they came along our coasts, down the ice-free corridor, or through the hole from the lower world.

Besides all that, the rut is on. There is nothing like the bison rut. The animals get together in large herds, and as each cow comes into heat, all the bulls become interested. The result is some fascinating behavior, not to mention some colossal fights between bulls that weigh in at around a ton.



The class, which will begin at 9 a.m. on the first day, will explore the bison's natural history, looking at the individual, the herd, and how it relates to other species. We will look at the bison as a creature of myth and folklore; an animal of critical importance not just to native people's survival but to their identity. We will look at the bison of history; its role in the white settlement of the West, its near extinction, and the incredible tale of its recovery. Lastly, we will look at the bison in America today; from buffalo ranching to the controversy of Yellowstone's herd as it leaves the park.

The class requires a certain amount of time in the classroom but we'll spend much of our time in the field. Even in late July it's a good idea to come prepared for any type of weather, quite possibly in the same day. In particular, we may stay in the field longer than planned if we get into interesting bison behavior, so it's a good idea to have water and snacks with you when we go out.

Note: All scheduling is subject to change due to the whims of the weather, the critters, and/or your instructors.

Looking forward to seeing you, we remain

Y'r af't & ob't ser'ts,

Jim Garry and Harold Picton (pictonmt@yahoo.com)

Program Itinerary

All scheduling is subject to change due to the weather, the critters, or the whim of your instructors.

Day 1

7:00 p.m. Class begins. Introductions

Day 2

9:00 a.m.	Biology lecture
11:00 a.m.	Break
11:15 a.m.	Folklore lecture
12:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m. - Dark	Watching bison in the field with discussions

Day 3

5:30 - 8 a.m.	Early morning critter watch
9:00 a.m.	Biology lecture
10:15 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	Folklore lecture
11:45 a.m.	Lunch
12:45 p.m. - Dark	In the field watching and discussing bison



Day 4

5:30-8 a.m.	Early morning critter watch
9:00 a.m.	Biology lecture
10:15 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	Folklore lecture
11:45 a.m.	Lunch
12:45-3:00 p.m.	In the field watching and discussing bison
3:00 p.m.	Program ends

What's Included:

Your tuition includes daily outings and transportation during your program. It does not include transportation to the park, park entrance fees, or lodging. Meals are included only on select programs with included catering. Gratuities are not included in the price of programming. If you would like to recognize exceptional service by a Yellowstone Forever Institute staff member, tips are appreciated. Donations to support Yellowstone Forever educational programs are also appropriate and will be used to improve and expand opportunities for people to make deep connections to Yellowstone.

Continuing Education Credit

Many of our Field Seminars are recognized by universities across the country. We are happy to provide a letter of completion and supporting documentation that you can submit to the institution of your choice to request approval for university credit or CEUs.

Lodging Option

Yellowstone Forever Institute students in Field Seminars based out of Lamar Valley have the opportunity to stay in our comfortable lodging at the historic Lamar Buffalo Ranch for an additional charge. Each log cabin has three single beds, chairs, propane heaters, and reading lamps. The ranch has a bathhouse with private showers and a common building with a fully equipped kitchen where you can prepare your own meals. For more information please see the last page of this document. Feel free to call our contact center at 406.848.2400 to make your reservations today.

How to Prepare for this Program:

How fit do you need to be?

This program is an activity level 1 and students enrolled in this program are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 1 mile per day, comfortably, through relatively flat terrain on maintained trails. We recommend you begin an exercise program right away if you have not already done so. 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 www.Yellowstone.org/experience/health-information/



General Clothing and Equipment List

Much of your time will be spent outdoors and all programs are held rain, snow, or shine. You should be prepared for a variety of mountain weather conditions and temperatures. Appropriate clothing, equipment, and footwear are very important. Spring, summer, and fall temperatures can range from below freezing in the mornings to 85 degrees Fahrenheit in the afternoons. The layered use of garments for protection against the wind, sun, and temperature extremes should guide your clothing choices. Loose-fitting layers allow you to maintain a comfortable and dry body as outside temperatures change, and as your own body temperature and moisture output changes with different levels of exertion. Some colder-weather items may not be needed in July or August, but please keep in mind that Yellowstone's weather is unpredictable.

Equipment:

Yellowstone Forever field staff assigned to your program will be carrying a first aid kit, bear spray, and emergency communication device.

- Daypack**, with enough capacity to carry extra clothes, water, lunch, camera, binoculars, field guides, etc.
- Water bottle**, one-quart is the minimum recommended. Camelback or similar hydration systems work well in summer but can freeze in winter.
- Sunglasses**
- Sunscreen/lip protector**, sun at high altitude can burn unprotected skin quickly.
- Camera, binoculars**
- Notebook/pencil**
- Pocket hand and foot warmers**, recommended November through May.
- Flashlight/Headlamp**, a small light for walking to and from your cabin in the evenings and mornings.
- Alarm**, so you're on time for the day's activities.

Summer Clothing:

- Insulating underwear**, capilene, polypropylene, or similar wicking fabric.
- Midweight insulating layer**, light, 200-weight synthetic fleece or wool shirt/pullover.
- Heavyweight insulating layer**, wool, down, or heavy-weight fleece jacket, for less-active times.
- Waterproof and windproof outer layer**, lightweight and breathable. Jackets and pants are recommended.
- Short sleeved shirt**, cotton okay in summer, but synthetic wicking shirts are ideal.
- Pants**, synthetic hiking pants, lightweight pile/fleece pants or tights or similar. 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**, light wool or synthetic liner sock with heavier wool or synthetic outer sock. The inner-outer sock combination helps prevent blistering, wicks moisture and reduces friction. Cotton socks do not wick moisture and are not recommended.



- Hiking boots**, that provide stability, traction, and comfort. Unless you've consistently hiked in athletic shoes, bring boots that provide ankle support.
- Off-duty shoes**, sandals, athletic shoes, or other leisure footwear.

Suggested reading

This is a much-abbreviated list. If you want to read only one book before class, I'd probably recommend either #2 or #4 as general overview. Additional reading material covering the biology of the bison will be handed out in class.

1. *The Buffalo Book*, David Dary, 1974. Avon Books. A good general study.
2. *The North American Buffalo*, F. G. Roe, 1972. David & Charles, Ltd. A thousand page opus; subtitled "A critical study of the species in the wild state."
3. *The Time of the Buffalo*, Tom McHugh, 1972. University Nebraska Press. This one, like Dary's, is a good general study.
4. *The Hunting of the Buffalo*, E. Douglas Branch, 1962. University Nebraska Press. An excellent reference on the "Great Hide Hunt."
5. *Lord of Beasts: the Saga of Buffalo Jones*, R. Easton & M. Brown, 1961. University Nebraska Press. Only a bit of it is about his time helping establish the captive bison program in Yellowstone, but his name is important if shaded in gray.
6. *The Yellowstone Story*, Aubrey Haines, 1977. Yellowstone Association. The classic two volume history of the park.
7. *Wolves, Bison ... & The Dynamics Related to the Peace - Athabasca Delta in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park*, L. N. Carbyn, S. M. Oosenbrug, D. W. Anions, 1993. Canadian Circumpolar Institute. The title explains it as well as I can.
8. *Lakota Myth*, James R. Walker, 1983. University Nebraska Press. A pretty good look at the buffalo in Lakota Myth.
9. *From the Heart of the Crow Country*, Joe Medicine Crow, 1992, Orion Books. The best descriptions of how buffalo jumps really worked.
10. *The Cheyenne Indians: History and Society*, George Bird Grinnell, 1923. Yale Press (Bison Books reprinted in 1972.) A good look at the Cheyenne's' relationship to the buffalo.
11. *Blackfoot Lodge Tales*, George Bird Grinnell, 1962. University Nebraska. Same for the Blackfoot.



12. *Yellowstone Bison: conserving an American bison in modern society.* by P.J. White, R. Wallen and D. Haller.

Park Stores

Our Park Stores feature more than 900 books, maps, and videos to help you plan your visit, along with a wide selection of shirts, hats, and other logo items to remind you of your visit to Yellowstone. Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15 percent discount on merchandise online or at any of our 11 locations in and around Yellowstone. Proceeds directly support Yellowstone. Visit: Shop.Yellowstone.org

Supporter Program

Yellowstone Forever Supporters directly fund priority park programs and projects. Supporters also provide scholarships for teachers and help expand programming for underserved youth. Benefits include a subscription to our magazine *Yellowstone Quarterly*, early registration and discounts for Yellowstone Forever Institute programs, and discounts on retail purchases throughout Yellowstone (exclusions apply). If you are not yet a supporter of Yellowstone Forever, an introductory subscription (one year) to our magazine *Yellowstone Quarterly* is included with your tuition. For more information, visit: Yellowstone.org/donate

Code of Ethics

The Yellowstone Forever Institute is committed to demonstrating a high standard of appropriate and ethical behavior in Yellowstone. As a participant in a Yellowstone Forever Institute program, we ask you to adhere to the following Code of Ethics. In addition to the ethics highlighted below, the Yellowstone Forever Institute abides by all National Park Service rules and regulations. We also practice Leave No Trace guidelines for traveling responsibly in the wilderness.

Observing wildlife: We will do our 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 our presence from affecting their behavior. Participants should not expect to get close-up photographs of wildlife. The Yellowstone Forever Institute will adhere 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. We will not entice wildlife 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 Institute instructors 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 Institute 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, the Yellowstone Forever Institute will move vehicles entirely off the road. If there is no safe pullout available, we will drive to the next safe place and walk back to observe the wildlife. We will not stop in the middle of the road, and should a traffic jam develop as a result of our activities, we will cease the activity.

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

Traveling lightly: When hiking or walking in Yellowstone, we will use existing trails and boardwalks. We 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 their program and should expect to walk through mud, snow or puddles in the trail.

Thank you for helping us set a good example in Yellowstone!

Field Seminar Cancellation and Refund Policy

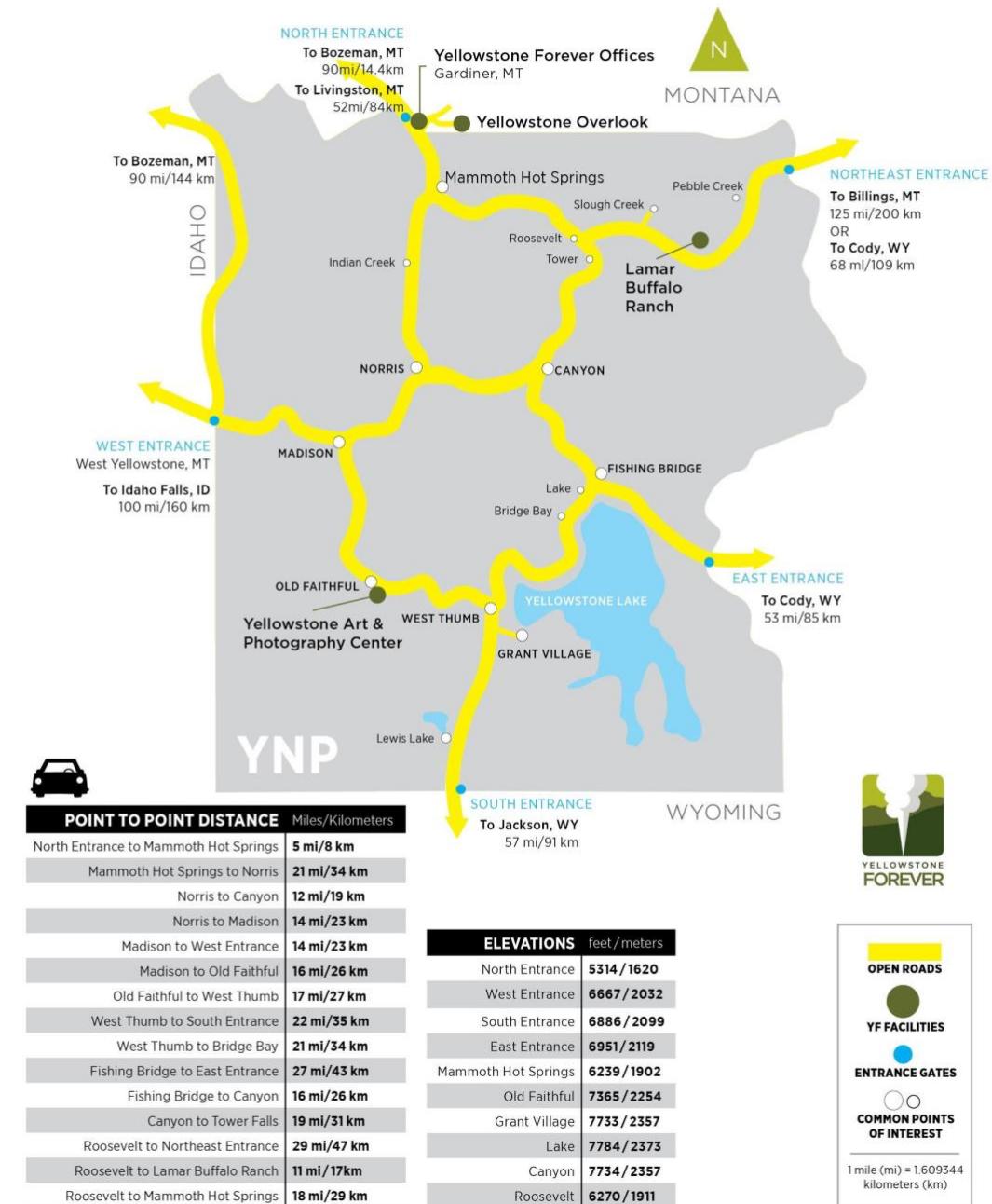
If you cancel within seven calendar days of your registration date, your payment is refundable less a \$50 per person per course processing fee. Under most circumstances, if you cancel on the eighth calendar day or after, from the date of registration, 100% of registration payments will be forfeited. If lodging is cancelled after the eighth calendar day from the date of registration, 100% of lodging payments will be forfeited. Applicable taxes will be refunded in the event of program or lodging cancellations. We reserve the right to cancel a course up to 30 days before the first class day. If we cancel, you will receive a full refund of your payment. We urge you to take out accident, baggage, and trip cancellation insurance through a travel agent or website such as [TravelGuard.com](#). Travel insurance can help protect you against financial loss if you must cancel or interrupt your trip.



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER



Yellowstone Map **YELLOWSTONE FOREVER**





LAMAR BUFFALO RANCH INFORMATION

If you need to be reached during your class, the number at the ranch is 307.344.7749.

Directions

Proceed to “Roosevelt” on the map; road signs say Tower Junction, on the northeast side of the Grand Loop Road. Signs at Tower Junction —“Yellowstone Inst 11” — direct you to turn onto the Northeast Entrance Road (opposite the Roosevelt Lodge) heading towards Cooke City. From Mammoth, it’s a left turn; from Canyon, it’s a right turn. The campus is located approximately 11 miles from the intersection, can be seen from the Lamar Valley road sign as you enter the valley and is the first and only group of buildings on that road. If driving from the Northeast Entrance, the campus is approximately 18 miles from that entrance.

What to bring

Shared cabins have three single beds, chairs, propane heaters, and reading lamps. Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, extra blankets if you like, a flashlight for getting around at night and a non-electric alarm clock (cabins do not have outlets). Stoves, lanterns, and candles cannot be used in or around the cabins, and smoking and food are not permitted in the cabins. The heated bathhouse is nearby and has hand soap and paper towels. You need to bring towels and toiletries.

Meals should be kept simple since participants will prepare their own meals in a shared cooking facility. The kitchen has gas stoves, a microwave, toaster, plates, silverware, pots and pans and spices, as well as coffee, tea, sugar and creamer. Please bring only what you will need during your stay as space in the kitchen and refrigerators is limited. There is no cell phone reception in the Lamar Valley and there is no Internet service. Please bring a calling card to use with the common phone.

What not to bring

The historic ranch runs on limited solar power with backup generators. For this reason, please do not bring electrical appliances such as radios, hair dryers and crock pots as these items overload the system and can cause black-outs. Camping and pets (with the exception of service animals) are not allowed.

When you arrive

Check-in is anytime between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. the day of your arrival. We strongly encourage you to arrive before dark. Come to the bunkhouse (the building with the Yellowstone Forever Institute sign on it). During normal check-in hours, a staff member will greet and orient you to the ranch. If you must arrive after 8:00 p.m., please call us at 307.344.7749 so we know when to expect you. If no one is there to greet you, please find your cabin assignment and the code to the bathhouse on the bulletin board in the kitchen — located at the back of the building — and we'll be happy to greet you the following morning. Check-out is by 9:00 a.m. the day of your departure.

During your stay

Yellowstone Forever Institute programs and facilities benefit from the hard work and generosity of a team of seasonal volunteer program assistants. You'll likely meet one or more of our program assistants hosting your program. Our program assistants receive professional training in Wilderness First Aid, emergency response and procedures and bus driving. They help with program logistics, cleaning and maintenance of facilities and anything you need during your time with us. The bunkhouse is open at all times and is the center of activity, housing classrooms, the kitchen, and bathrooms. Make yourself at home in the bunkhouse; meet new people; enjoy a midnight snack; relax with classmates and enjoy your experience. The kitchen is a community area where everyone does their own cooking and cleans up after themselves. In the winter, the first classroom is used as a mudroom where coats and boots can be left by the door. Be sure to bring a pair of slippers or moccasins to wear in the bunkhouse.