



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

AUTUMN DAY HIKING IN YELLOWSTONE #180904

Start: 9/19/2018 at 7:00 p.m.

End: 9/22/2018 at 4:00 p.m.

Location: Yellowstone Forever's Gardiner Offices
308 Park Street, Gardiner, MT 59030

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 Gardiner, Montana, a wonderful Yellowstone gateway community that many of us at Yellowstone Forever call home. 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 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

Three days of hiking in the golden light of autumn in Yellowstone National Park—what could be better? We'll share experiences and talk everything from natural history to controversial issues to human history, all while wandering in bug-free beauty! The goal of this course is to introduce you to the diversity of the Yellowstone landscape and the complex issues confronting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Please bring Yellowstone-related questions, thoughts, and comments for opening discussions, and remember—Yellowstone is one of *thousands* of wild places in our country alone! Start thinking about how what you know from your backyard wilderness applies here...and vice versa. The natural world is endlessly interconnected, and we'll share insights on that too!



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The enclosed information should help you prepare for your trip and make clothing, gear, and food choices a little easier. The gear list below is a good starting point, but it is important to consult as many sources as possible before making your final decisions. Go to a reputable backpack/outdoor store and ask lots of questions, read magazines, books, and travel guides, and talk with experienced friends. In Yellowstone, autumn has the very real possibility of varied weather. While days can be warm and sunny, rain, cold weather, and even snow are not unlikely. Come prepared to dress in layers and with appropriate gear to stay comfortably dry while enjoying Yellowstone's backcountry. Having the right gear, *especially properly fitting, sturdy footwear*, will make your trip much more enjoyable.

Day hiking is a rigorous activity. For your own enjoyment and for the safety and enjoyment of the group, you should arrive in top physical condition. If you have any questions or concerns relating to your physical condition, please contact Yellowstone Forever Institute staff or the instructor so we can clear up any potential problems before entering the backcountry. It cannot be over emphasized how important good conditioning is for your health and safety as well as the general well-being of the group. Aerobic activities will best prepare you for day hiking; indeed, the best exercise is to put on your gear and get out and enjoy your surroundings at home. If you live at a low elevation, you should consider coming to Yellowstone a day or two early to acclimate yourself. Eating a well-balanced diet and staying well hydrated will help your body acclimatize once you've arrived.

Here are a few additional things to keep in mind about hiking trips:

1. A hiking trip is not a good time or place to break in new boots. Come with well-fitting, broken-in boots. Your feet will thank you.
2. Your instructor and volunteer will have first aid kits, a radio, and bear spray. If you know that you are prone to blisters, you may want to bring your usual blister repair materials.
3. While we will have the ability to purify water, not all trails are along water courses. It is important to have sufficient containers for a full day (at least 2-3 liter capacity for most hikers).
4. Bring your binoculars and reasonable-sized cameras, as well a way to protect them from water while in your pocket or pack. I've found a simple Ziploc baggie works wonders!
5. While the equipment list below is complete, I would like to emphasize the following items:
 - Rain gear—never leave home without it!
 - Sunscreen/sunglasses
 - Hiking poles (optional)
 - Water shoes for possible fords
 - And, naturally, a good day pack to haul it all around.
 - Re-usable water bottles
 - Lunch & snacks
 - An extra layer
 - Gloves and a warm hat as well as sunhat

See a more complete equipment and clothing list below.



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During the first evening we'll have a quick introduction, equipment/clothing check, discuss backcountry etiquette including Leave No Trace principles, and address any questions. At this time, we'll firm up the itinerary for the following three days and finalize our hike choices. Yellowstone hiking in autumn is limitless, but trail choices may vary depending upon conditions, weather, and bear closures, **and can change at any time, up to, and including, the day of!** Your flexibility is appreciated but know that I will always have backup options in mind, so regardless of unexpected route changes, the hike will go on!

When we meet each morning, expect to be ready to go with all gear for the day. This includes having your lunch packed and your water bottles filled. We should be back to Gardiner by about 5 p.m. each day. Evenings and early mornings are on your own to continue exploring. When you leave Yellowstone I hope that you'll take with you love for place, understanding of Yellowstone's issues, an ability to travel in comfort while leaving minimal impact, and a desire to connect with nature around your own home.

If you have any questions, please contact the Yellowstone Forever Institute, or email me personally at tyreneriedl@gmail.com. I am so excited to share my boundless love and passion of this place with you, and to take you into wild Yellowstone.

Tyrene Riedl

Program Itinerary

Flexibility is a virtue in Yellowstone where weather and wildlife sightings can be determining factors in arrival/departure times, and trail choices. Trails may be changed at the discretion of the instructor.

Day 1

7:00 p.m. Meet in the Yellowstone Forever classrooms in Gardiner, Montana: Introductions, LNT, safety, pack demonstration, finalize trail choices, question/answer.

(The following trails are tentative, depending on weather and wildlife. I've highlighted my favorites)

Days 2, 3, 4

7:00-8:00 a.m. Leave for the day's hike (departure time is dependent on weather conditions and trail choices)
Possible hikes include but are not limited to:

- Glen Creek/Snow Pass/Claggett Butte/Beaver Ponds Loop
Mostly on-trail travel, no fords, no good water availability
Distance: 9.5 miles, Elevation gain/loss less ~ 1500 ft.
- Lamar River Trail to Cache Creek to Wahb Springs – on- and off-trail, in and out, various creek fords, rich biologic and geologic history of Wahb Springs
Distance 11-12 miles, Elevation gain/loss ~ 500 ft.
- Mount Everts—off-trail, shuttle, possible water (ponds), no fords, student supported shuttle



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Distance: 9-10 miles, Elevation gain: 1394 ft., Elevation loss: 2660 ft.

- Blacktail Creek to Gardiner via Black Canyon of the Yellowstone. On-trail, possibility for small stream crossings.
Distance: 11.5 miles. Elevation Gain: ~ 1000 ft. Elevation loss: ~ 1200 ft.
- Pebble Creek: Shuttle hike, mostly on trail with many off-trail options, several creek fords
Distance 12 miles. Elevation gain/loss ~ 1100 ft.
- Hellroaring area off-trail meander: combination of on-trail and off-trail travel, loop, about 8-10 miles, 1000 ft. elevation gain/loss
- Hellroaring to Slough Creek: shuttle hike, mostly off-trail, about 8-10 miles, ford of Slough Creek required
- Specimen Ridge and Petrified Trees: one-way, shuttle, about 6 miles
- Mount Washburn to Canyon via Dunraven and Washburn Cutoff Trails: Shuttle hike, about 12 miles, 1500 ft. elevation gain/2000 ft. elevation loss. Very steep descent.
- Bunsen Peak to Osprey Falls: Loop, on-trail, 9.5 miles, elevation gain/loss 2000+ ft.

What's Included:

Your tuition includes daily outings and transportation during your program. It does not include transportation to the park, park entrance fees, meals, or lodging. 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 Gardiner, Montana, may have the opportunity to stay in our comfortable lodging at the Yellowstone Overlook Field Campus for an additional charge. The Yellowstone Overlook features comfortable cabins on 80 acres, awe-inspiring views, and easy access to the northern section of the park. Cabins include self-serve kitchens for preparing meals and open-floor plans for group dining and evening activities. 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?



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This program is an activity level 5 and students enrolled in this program are expected to be active participants. Be prepared for brisk, aerobic, destination-oriented hiking up to 12 miles a day. You should be physically conditioned to do these hikes comfortably and keep pace with the rest of the group. Elevation changes up to 2000 feet on dirt trails or off-trail. Loose rock, uneven footing, steep hillside traverses, and stream crossings are possible. Good coordination is required. 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.



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- 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

While these Yellowstone books are not necessary for your program, they are some of the instructor's favorites and may add to your enjoyment.

- Craighead, Frank C. 2006. *A Naturalist's Guide to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks*.
- Leopold, Aldo. 1949. *A Sand County Almanac*. Collection of essays by the forefather or modern ecology
- Schullery, Paul. 2004. *Searching for Yellowstone*. History of Yellowstone, well-written.
- Marschall, Mark C. and Joy Sellers Marschall. 2008. *Yellowstone Trails: A Hiking Guide*.
- NPS. 2017. *Yellowstone Issues and Resources Handbook*. Everything you want to know about Yellowstone! Available as a hard copy from Yellowstone Forever Park Stores, or online: <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/resourceandissues.htm>
- Smith, D.W. and Ferguson, G. 2012. *Decade of the Wolf: Returning the Wild to Yellowstone*. Revised and updated. The Lyons Press. Well-written stories of our famous wolves.
- Young, Jon. 2012. *What the Robin Knows*.

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



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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 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



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ethically. Participants should come adequately prepared with the equipment listed for their course and should expect to walk through mud, snow or puddles in the trail.

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

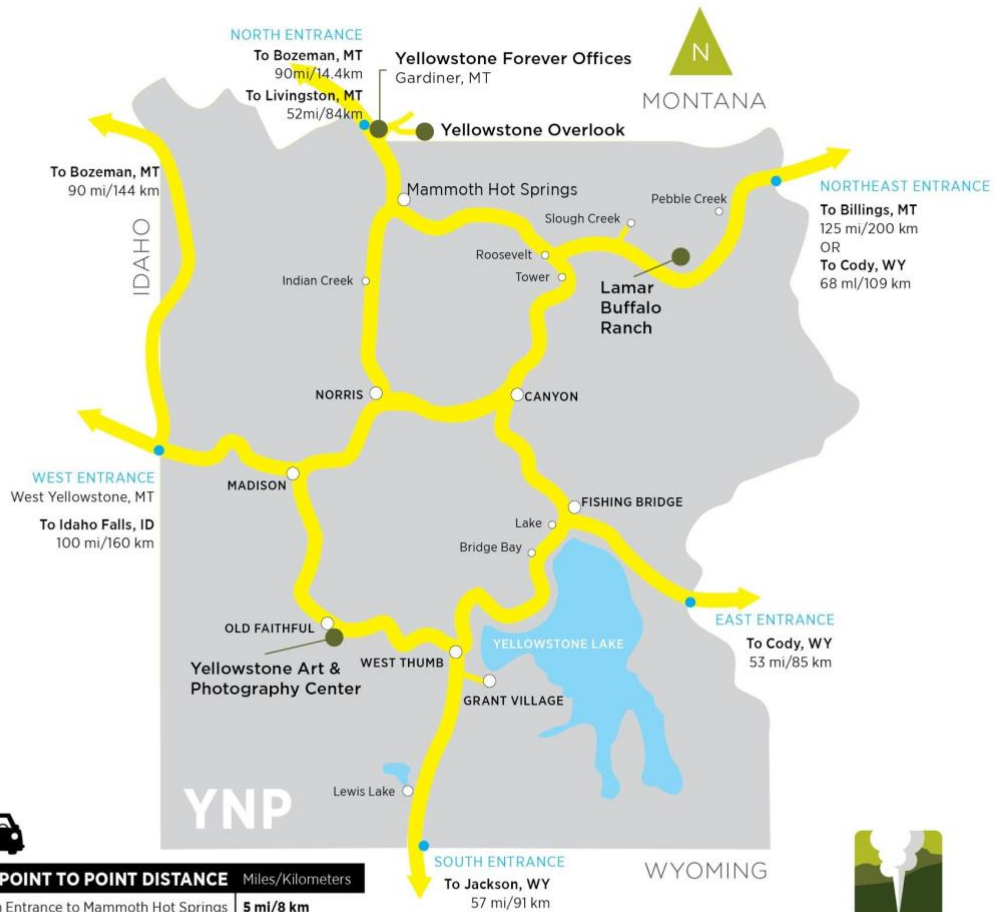
Field Seminar Cancellation and Refund Policy

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](https://www.travelguard.com). Travel insurance can help protect you against financial loss if you must cancel or interrupt your trip.



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Yellowstone Map **YELLOWSTONE FOREVER**



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/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	



OPEN ROADS

YF FACILITIES

ENTRANCE GATES

COMMON POINTS OF INTEREST

1 mile (mi) = 1.609344 kilometers (km)



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YELLOWSTONE OVERLOOK FIELD CAMPUS INFORMATION

Directions:

From Livingston, travel south on Highway 89 into Gardiner, Montana. Just before you cross the Yellowstone River, you will see the Conoco gas station on your right and 4th Street on your left. Turn left on 4th Street (you'll see a green sign indicating 5 miles to Jardine) and go up the hill for 1.5 miles. Turn right on Above the Rest Lane at the sign for the Yellowstone Overlook Field Campus (by the mountain man carving) and follow the signs to the cabins.

From Yellowstone, leave the park through the North Entrance and go through the Roosevelt Arch. Turn left on Highway 89 towards Livingston. Cross the bridge over the Yellowstone River. You will see the Conoco gas station on your left and 4th Street on your right. Turn right on 4th Street (you'll see a green sign indicating 5 miles to Jardine) and go up the hill for 1.5 miles. Turn right on Above the Rest Lane at the sign for the Yellowstone Overlook Field Campus (by the mountain man carving) and follow the signs to the cabins.

What to bring:

Each cabin includes a fully equipped kitchen for you to prepare meals. You will need to bring your own food and toiletries. Groceries are available nearby in Gardiner. Linens and towels are provided. Smoking is not allowed in the cabins. Camping and pets (with the exception of service animals) are not permitted.

Arrival and departure:

Our volunteer campus host will be available to greet you between 4 and 8 p.m. on the day of your arrival. Check out is by 9 a.m. the day of your departure to allow our volunteers to begin preparing the cabins for the next group. Parking is available in front of your cabin. Please do not store food in your vehicle as it can attract animals.

If you are visiting during the winter we recommend an all-wheel- or 4-wheel-drive vehicle as roads can be snow-packed and icy. Feel free to call our office at 406.848.2400 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to check the local weather and road conditions.

During your stay:

Our volunteer caretakers live on-campus in the cabin with the "Welcome" sign. They will help orient you to the Overlook campus. An emergency phone is available all hours outside their cabin. We do not have a housekeeping staff at the Overlook. Quiet hours are observed between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Verizon is the only cell phone provider currently providing reliable coverage at the campus. In the event of an emergency during your stay, the caretaker's cabin phone number is: 406.848.9128. Wireless Internet is available in the cabins and at several businesses in Gardiner.

The campus has a picnic table and pond. A marked, 1-mile-long trail leads down to the Yellowstone River. Wildlife is abundant. You may see bison, wolves, elk and deer. You may also see rattlesnakes. Please exercise caution, and notify someone of your plans if you will be away from the campus alone. Each cabin has a TV/DVD player and an educational library with books and videos. The Overlook is designed to be a comfortable and peaceful base from which to explore and learn in America's first national park. We look forward to your visit!