



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## WINTER WOLF DISCOVERY

### Itinerary & Details

Winter 2023/2024

The **Winter Wolf Discovery** Lodging & Learning package focuses learning about wolves, and other exciting wildlife, along Yellowstone's famous northern range. Winter is prime time to view wolves in Yellowstone, and this package is designed to take advantage of this rare opportunity. A Yellowstone Forever field educator will share up-to-date information about Yellowstone wolf biology, behavior, and ecology throughout daily outings. Each evening, participants will return to their comfortable accommodations at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel.

The first evening includes an informative orientation with a Yellowstone Forever field educator. The following three full days involve getting up early and traveling to viewing points in hopes of observing wolves in the wild. Afternoons are spent exploring wildlife habitats and traveling on snowshoes to examine tracks and other animal sign. Participants will likely encounter many other wildlife species during daily outings, where field educators will discuss the role these other species play in the ecosystem in relation to wolves.

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?

- (4) nights lodging at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel - Deluxe Room
- Most meals, to include:
  - (4) breakfasts
    - (3) box breakfasts (to go)
    - (1) dining room breakfast
  - (3) lunches
    - (3) box lunches (to go)
  - (1) dinner
    - (1) dinner at Mammoth Hot Springs Dining Room (*reservation is pre-booked*)
- In-park transportation via a 14-passenger minibus or transit van
- World class educational programming with a Yellowstone Forever field educator
- A Nalgene water bottle (gift item)
- 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.** Winter Wolf Discovery programs have a max capacity of 14. 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, 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.*

**6:45 p.m. -      Participant Dinner at Mammoth Dining Room**  
**7:30 p.m.      Dinner for this night is provided and reservations have been pre-booked.**  
**Confirm reservations at check-in.**

### Days 2 - 4 **Wildlife Watching and Habitat Exploration**

Each day begins early to catch morning wildlife activity. After viewing wildlife, participants will be led on a short snowshoe hike in search of tracks and sign while discussing ecology, behavior, recent research, and management.  
*This evening guests are responsible for dinner on their own and will be spending this night at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel.*

**6:30 a.m.      Depart Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel**  
*Hot beverages and box breakfast in the field*  
**Morning & afternoon roadside animal viewing**  
**Afternoon snowshoe hike in wildlife habitat**  
*Deli lunch in the field*

**3:30 p.m.      Return to Mammoth Hot Springs**

**6:00 p.m. –      Dinner Reservations**  
**7:45 p.m.**

### Day 5 **Check Out and Departure**

## 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](mailto:reserve-ynp@xanterra.com) 307-344-7311
- Program itinerary, health forms, and activity questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at [institute@yellowstone.org](mailto: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>

## COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY

Yellowstone Forever's goal is to provide clear and concise information about what we are doing to protect our participants, guests, volunteers, and staff. We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic with information from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/) and in consultation with local authorities and partners such as county health departments and the National Park Service. The information provided on this website is not intended to be all-encompassing and should not be considered medical or legal advice.

These guidelines have been updated as of November 2022.

<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:

- **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 and 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
- **Pants**, synthetic hiking pants - jeans are not recommended
- **Waterproof and windproof outer layer**, lightweight and breathable, jackets and pants
- **Short-sleeve shirt**, synthetic wicking shirts are ideal
- **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](http://shop.yellowstone.org) Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15% discount and proceeds directly support the park.

- *American Wolf*. Blakeslee, Nate. 2017. Broadway Books. 320 pp.
- *Decade of the Wolf*. Smith, D. and Ferguson, G. 2005, Lyons Press, NY 212 pp.
- *Rise of Wolf 8*. McIntyre, Rick. 2019, Greystone Books. 304 pp.
- *Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival*. Heinrich, Bernd. 2009. Harper Perennial. 400 pp.
- *Yellowstone Wolves: In the Wild*. Halfpenny, J.C. 2003. Riverbend Press, Helena, MT. 135 pp.

## 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](http://shop.yellowstone.org)

### Supporter Program

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

- 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](http://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](http://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.

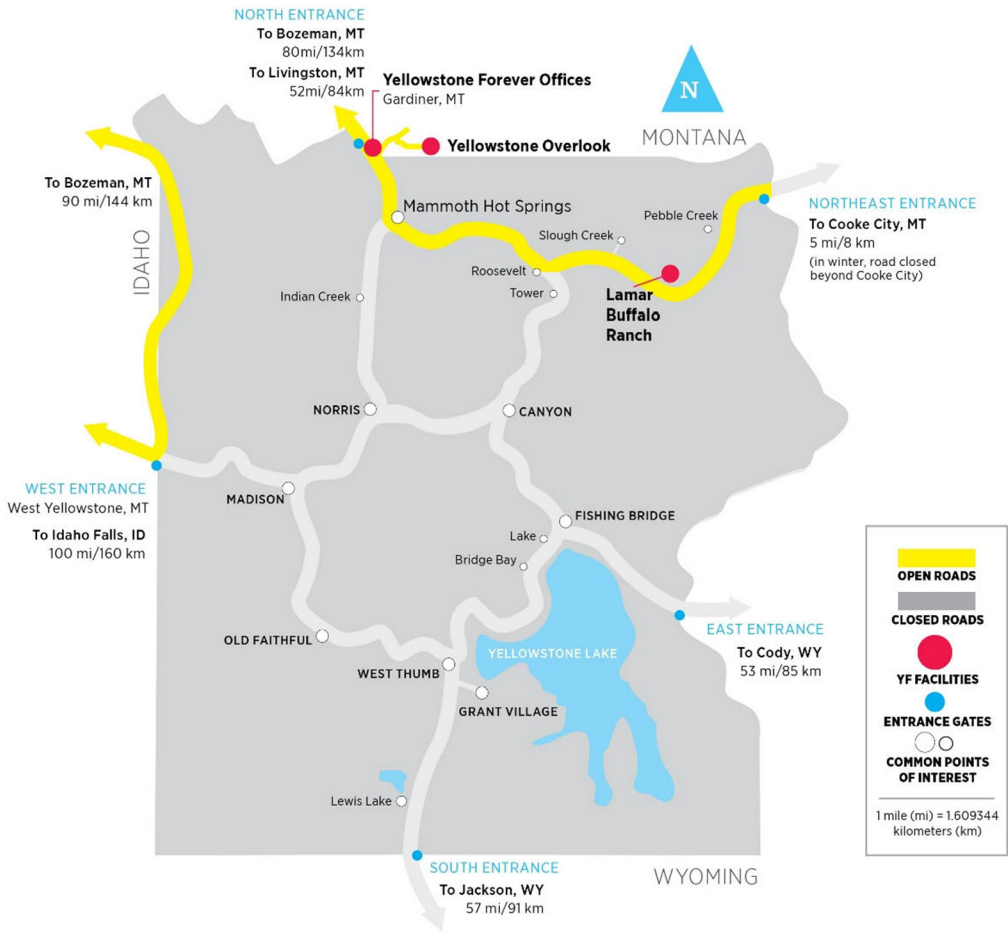
**General etiquette:** Yellowstone Forever groups will be considerate of other visitors and respect the quality of their experience. Voices and vehicle sounds carry great distances and affect both wildlife and people—remaining silent or very quiet while watching wildlife lets the sounds of Yellowstone (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	<b>5 mi/8 km</b>
Roosevelt to Northeast Entrance	<b>29 mi/47 km</b>
Roosevelt to Lamar Buffalo Ranch	<b>11 mi/17 km</b>
Roosevelt to Mammoth Hot Springs	<b>18 mi/29 km</b>

ELEVATIONS	feet/meters
North Entrance	<b>5314 / 1620</b>
West Entrance	<b>6667 / 2032</b>
South Entrance	<b>6886 / 2099</b>
East Entrance	<b>6951 / 2119</b>
Mammoth Hot Springs	<b>6239 / 1902</b>
Old Faithful	<b>7365 / 2254</b>
Grant Village	<b>7733 / 2357</b>
Lake	<b>7784 / 2373</b>
Canyon	<b>7734 / 2357</b>
Roosevelt	<b>6270 / 1911</b>

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](http://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.