



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

PRIVATE PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

Itinerary & Details

Winter 2021/2022

The **Private Photography Tour** is designed for all photographers - from brand new to experienced - who want to learn how to beautifully capture Yellowstone in the winter. Dressed in white, Yellowstone in winter offers a truly raw canvas for photography. It is a pristine, snowy environment that lends itself to very clean and unique images. Photographers from all over the world come to Yellowstone in the winter to photograph wildlife such as bison, wolves, bighorn sheep, elk, moose, fox, coyotes, pine martens, otters, weasels, eagles, ravens and more. Naturalist photography educator, Kate Ochsman, understands wildlife behavior and natural history, where and how to find wildlife, and how to make timeless images to cherish.

With snow, there are specific photographic techniques to help achieve proper exposure without being blown out. The instructor will cater each tour to the specific needs, interests, and photographic level of the participants. The instructor can aid on camera use, exposure compensation, composition of the image and storytelling.

Yellowstone Forever staff will provide transportation, meals, and equipment for the day and instructor, Kate Ochsman will take you to the best northern range wildlife viewing areas and enhance your experience with stories and science behind Yellowstone. The day will be curated to the participants and what they hope to see and capture with their camera. Kate will instruct on photography, wildlife natural history and behavior, Yellowstone, and photographic concepts.

Meet your instructor, Kate Ochsman!

Kate Ochsman is a naturalist and wildlife photographer based outside of Yellowstone. Kate believes in art for a cause – hers being conservation. Her artistic “why” is to help people connect with the wild, both within and outside of themselves, for we protect what we know and love. Building her fine art photography portfolio, Kate travels globally to photograph wildlife and wild places. Before her move to Yellowstone, Kate, a certified South African Safari Guide, ran an innovative program in the South African bush for college-aged participants that taught them photography, filmmaking, marketing and how to use these along with social media to spread awareness for wildlife conservation issues. She has also worked in human-wildlife conflict in Namibia. These days, Kate is focusing on American wildlife and conservation issues through wildlife guiding and photography.

Kate's information:

kateochsman@gmail.com

www.kateochsman.com

IG @kateochsman

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kateochsman/>

Gratuities for the instructor are not included in the program costs but are recommended and greatly appreciated.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Delicious field breakfast and lunch catered by [Tumbleweed Bookstore & Cafe](#) in Gardiner, MT
- Hot beverage service
- In-park and local pick-up, transportation via a 14-passenger minibus
 - Pick-ups only available in Gardiner, MT (up to 10 miles out of town) and Mammoth Hot Springs
- Eight hours of photography and educational programming with a Kate Ochsman, local professional photographer, and naturalist
 - 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- High powered scopes and binoculars
 - Digiscoping equipment available
- Field equipment, to include snowshoes and poles

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.

The day begins early to catch morning wildlife activity and early morning sunrise light. You'll begin with a short orientation, instructor, Kate Ochsman will cover the plans for the day and answer any questions the participants may have.

- 7:00 AM** **Depart Gardiner or Mammoth Hot Springs for Lamar Valley and Northern Range**
Hot beverage service and box breakfast will be provided
Morning photography and wildlife viewing
In-field instruction on photography based upon level and desires of participants
- 11:00 AM** **Lunch**
Hot beverage service and lunch, in the field, will be provided
- 12:00 PM** **Afternoon photography and wildlife viewing**
- 3:00 PM** **Return to Gardiner and/or Mammoth Hot Springs**

MULTIDAY PRIVATE PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

Participants can book a single day photography tour, or they can book multiple days to maximize their chances of seeing wildlife, getting the shots they want, and to learn more about photography from Kate. Wildlife photography is both preparation and luck. A photographer has certain shots in mind, enters nature with that goal, and then must react to the unpredictability of nature. More days in the field simply increases one's chances of getting that dream shot.

The multiday tours will have the same itinerary, yet will go further in depth to the art of photography as well as provide more opportunities to photograph wildlife. For any photographer hoping for a specific shot, we recommend multiple days to best your chances.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

How fit do you need to be?

- This program can be accommodated to the group's desired activity level.
- 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.

To participate in this program, each participant must fill out and sign a health questionnaire and assumption of risk waiver.

WHOM TO CONTACT

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

- Program questions, refunds, and bookings contact Yellowstone Forever at institute@yellowstone.org or 406-848-2400
- Road updates, park conditions, and general park information contact Yellowstone National Park Service at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm>
- Equipment questions or other questions specific to the class, please contact the Instructor, Kate Ochsman at kateochsman@gmail.com

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

The following policies apply to this program 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 Yellowstone Forever at 406-848-2400 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.

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 is 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. We 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 September 2021, please visit our website: <https://www.yellowstone.org/covid-19-health-safety/> for up-to-date protocols and information.

COVID-19 guidelines for program participants:

- Program participants should stay home if they are feeling any COVID-19 symptoms.
- At the beginning of each program participants will be asked the following screening questions. If a participant answers "yes" to any of these questions they will not be permitted to attend a Yellowstone Forever course.
 - "Have you had a fever of over 100.4 °F or experienced shortness of breath or coughing in the last 10 days?"
 - "Have you been in contact with any individual known to have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days?"
- Each participant will have their temperature taken upon arrival of each program day. If a participant has a fever, they will not be permitted on the program.
- All participants, instructors, guest speakers, and program volunteers are required to wear masks indoors and in vehicles. Masks will not be required during hikes but will be recommended during outdoor stops where six feet of distance cannot be observed.
- Participants should bring their own mask(s).
- Participants will be asked to maintain social distancing practices during the program.
- Driver and passengers are not allowed to eat or drink on Yellowstone Forever vehicles.
 - Only the program instructors are permitted to serve lunch, snacks, and drinks to participants. No food or drink self-service will be available while on the program.
- Each vehicle will be disinfected before and after each trip.
- Spotting scopes and binoculars will be disinfected between programs.
 - Digiscoping (phone or tablet attached to a scope) will be available so that participants can view without touching the scope, if so desired.

PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT LIST

Winter photography in Yellowstone is as beautiful as it is raw. The cold weather and the conditions create truly unique and beautiful photography. The cold is a factor for camera use and some of the suggested equipment accounts for that.

Equipment:

- **Camera**, DSLR or mirrorless
- **Lenses**, Yellowstone is a massive landscape, so telephoto, zoom and wide angle lenses are all great! The best lens is whatever lens you have. Should you have specific questions, email instructor. Lenses can also be rented online or at Bozeman Camera.
 - Suggested lenses
 - 24-70mm
 - 100-400mm
 - 150-500mm
 - 200-600mm
 - 400mm
 - 600mm
- **Teleconverter**, if you wish
- **Extra SD cards**
- **Extra fully charged batteries with a small padded bag for batteries to help reduce battery drainage from the cold**
- **Tripod with tripod head and mount**
- **Camera/Lens covering to protect from snow**, a plastic bag and tape work well!
- **Photography friendly gloves**

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. ***YF Program Volunteer 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 facilities, and outdoors where social distancing is not possible
- **Hand Sanitizer**
- **Daypack**, with enough capacity to carry extra clothes, water, lunch, camera, binoculars, etc.
- **Water bottle**
- **Sunglasses**
- **Lip protector**, chapstick
- **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
- **Hat**, an insulating hat that covers ears
- **Gloves**, lightweight glove liners and a pair of wool/fleece gloves or mittens – waterproof/windproof outer layer is recommended
- **Socks**, lightweight liner with heavyweight synthetic or wool socks
- **Gaiters**, *knee-high to keep snow out of your boots*
- **Insulated boots** should have water repellent layers outside, thick insulation inside, and be large enough to fit over thick socks. Soles with proper traction or traction devices (i.e. Yaktrax) are essential for icy conditions.

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 online or at any of the locations in and around Yellowstone. Proceeds directly support Yellowstone.

Visit: shop.yellowstone.org

Membership Program

Yellowstone Forever members 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.
- A library card for the Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center.

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 and photographing wildlife: Groups will do their best to have as little impact on wildlife as possible. 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 staff and program volunteers 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.

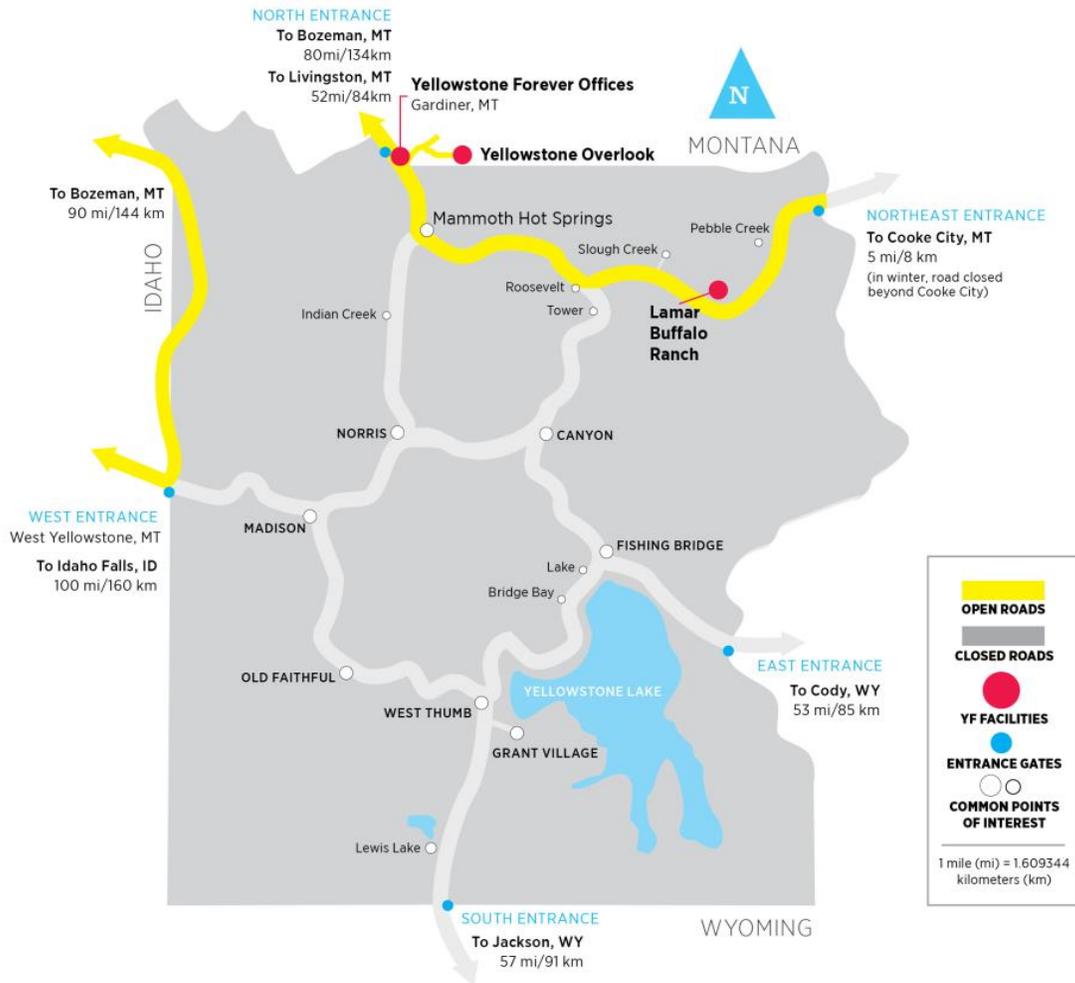
General etiquette: Yellowstone Forever groups will be considerate of other visitors and respect the quality of their experience. Voices and vehicle sounds carry great distances and affect both wildlife and people—remaining silent or very quiet while watching wildlife lets the sounds of Yellowstone (including 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 program assistants will move vehicles entirely off the road. If there is no safe pullout available, they 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. YF program assistants 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/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

The Gardiner entrance is the only open entrance to use by car in the winter.

Plan on extra driving time in the park, the speed limit is 45 mph or lower and road conditions in the winter 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.