



# Yellowstone Wild

## Important Information for your Winter Tour

### Tour includes:

- Full-day (8 hour) private guided tour
- Local naturalist guide
- Transportation in our fully equipped touring vehicle (we drive, you enjoy the scenery)
- Plenty of space for your extra clothing - please bring warm clothing (see "What to Bring" list)
- Optics for everyone- top-of-the-line binoculars and high-powered spotting scopes for all
- Fresh-baked breakfast pastries
- Hot drinks (coffee, tea, hot cocoa)
- Healthy and hearty snacks (various bars and trail mix, etc.)
- Healthy fruit juice soft drinks and water
- Full picnic lunch spread (GF and vegetarian/vegan and kosher options available)
- Dynamic and engaging discussions interpret the wildlife activity and behavior observed
- Informed and accurate information on the biology and conservation issues surrounding the wildlife you will observe
- Optional photo/video package (\$50 value - *see website for details*)

**Gratuities are NOT included in the price of the tour. Tipping your guide is a common practice in North America, and tips are an important part of their income.**

### What to bring - recommended list of clothing and equipment

Yellowstone possesses some of the most extreme changes in temperature and weather conditions anywhere. Temperatures on any given tour could range from -40°F to +40°F (-40°C to +10°C). We therefore recommend plenty of warm clothes that can be layered and easily removed; therefore, allowing you to adjust and stay comfortable throughout your tour.

As far as clothing goes, here are our suggestions and what our guides wear on winter tours:

- Long underwear. Starting with your base layers, synthetic or wool long underwear tops and bottoms are critical to your comfort (we can find places to shed this layer later in the day if necessary). Please stay away from cotton, which can hold moisture and drastically chill the body, whereas wool and synthetics wick moisture and can even insulate while wet.
- Sweater or fleece. Ideally more than one layer of insulating layers like fleece or wool sweaters will allow for effective layering and allows you to easily shed layers as the day warms up.
- Fleece or down vest. Vests are great as a layering item that can really hold in core body temperature, yet also allow for maximum comfort and mobility.
- Jacket. A windproof and water repellent insulated jacket is your most important protection from the biting Wyoming winds. Gore-tex or something similar is highly advised as the best moisture/wind barrier and goose down insulation is the best insulation.
- Snow pants/ski pants - Insulated pants with moisture/wind barrier. You should have long underwear thermal layers in addition.
- Heavy gloves or mittens with windproof barrier.
- Warm hat that covers your ears. We lose tremendous body heat from our heads. Protect your ears from the chilly wind with a wool or fleece hat.
- Socks. Warm wool or synthetic socks are key to keeping those toes from hampering your good time. Be sure you have plenty of wiggle room inside your boots. If your socks are too thick and fit too tightly in your boots, you will actually reduce blood flow to your feet, resulting in cold toes, regardless of how warm your socks are.
- Insulated winter boots (roomy boots are better as you do not want to restrict circulation in your feet/toes)

There are several ways you can go for boots: the insulated rubber "muck" boots that farmers and ranchers like. These are slip on boots that come in varying levels of insulation (up to -50 degrees). They are fine for short walks, but you would not want them for full-day hikes. For the purpose of this trip, they would be fine. Good brands there are Muck and LaCrosse. These are probably the best bang for your buck.

[https://www.lacrossefootwear.com/men/work/work-boots/?sortId=product-family&comfort\\_zone%5B%5D=6689&comfort\\_zone%5B%5D=6666&gender%5B%5D=5590&gender%5B%5D=5338](https://www.lacrossefootwear.com/men/work/work-boots/?sortId=product-family&comfort_zone%5B%5D=6689&comfort_zone%5B%5D=6666&gender%5B%5D=5590&gender%5B%5D=5338)

[https://www.muckbootcompany.com/collections/arctic-ice/audience\\_men](https://www.muckbootcompany.com/collections/arctic-ice/audience_men)

The other option is a lace up insulated boot. There are lots of them on the market and you could spend a lot for a boot that you may never use again.

Here is a link with discussion about boots recommended for Antarctica tours.

<https://www.coolantarctica.com/Shop/antarctica-clothing/antarctic-boots.php>

If you need to order boots, you could have them shipped here, and we will have them on hand for you when you arrive, not a problem at all. Just let us know.

- Hand and toe/foot warmers. These are lifesavers! We advise everyone to place a full-sized foot warmer inside your boots every morning before the tour. This keeps the edge off and keeps you comfortable to be able to enjoy yourself to the fullest during those hard-earned wildlife encounters! Toe and hand warmers can be used as needed
- Sunscreen. With high elevation sun, many of us burn easily, especially when we are distracted by something like watching wolves for extended periods of time.
- Camera. Even if you are not a serious photographer, a camera is nice to have on tour.
- Daypack. A day pack is very handy for personal items: hand and toe warmers, water bottle, sunglasses, camera, and of course for all the extra layers you will want.

I hope that helps. Please let us know if you have more questions on gear.

## **Weather**

Yellowstone National Park is a very large place divided by mountain ranges, deep valleys and a massive lake. The weather within the 2.2 million acres can vary widely, so checking the weather in the park can be a difficult task. We recommend checking several different NOAA weather stations around the park, and working an average of those if you're planning to travel around the entirety of the park.

- Gardiner MT  
<https://weather.com/weather/today/l/59030:4:US>
- Tower Junction, WY  
<https://weather.com/weather/today/l/USWY0216:1:US>
- Cooke City, WY  
<https://weather.com/weather/today/l/USMT0076:1:US>

## **Can you expect to see all the wildlife you hope for?**

- It is important to remember that the wild animals we seek to observe are exactly that, WILD free-ranging animals that can roam across all of Yellowstone's vast and rugged 2.2 million acres. The probability of locating and observing them is greatly elevated due to your guide's intimate personal familiarity with the landscape and the animals themselves. We do not guarantee any wildlife sightings on our tours; however, we will guarantee that your guide will use their knowledge, skills, and network of other guides, wildlife watchers and photographers to do everything we can to find you the animals you'd like to see. We are in the park nearly every day searching for and watching wildlife, and that consistent experience pays off in finding the animals you've traveled to see.

## **Park Rules and the Yellowstone Wild Code of Ethics**

As a licensed Commercial Use Permit holder with Yellowstone National Park, we must follow all park rules and regulations. Additionally, as life-long proponents of wildlife and wild places, we will also follow our own ethical wildlife viewing practices. We will take this opportunity to teach you about how we can have the very best viewing and photography opportunities possible without having negative impacts and respecting the animals' space and movements as they go about their lives.

While on tour with Yellowstone Wild, we will observe the following park rules (subject to law enforcement):

- Keep at least 25 yards from all wildlife
- Keep at least 100 yards from wolves and bears
- Avoid remaining near or approaching wildlife, including birds, at any distance that disturbs or displaces the animal.

It is also our ethical responsibility to make sure that our actions do not inflict undue stress or hardship upon the animals that we are observing. Wild animals in a natural setting do not have easy lives and the last thing we want to do is make their lives any more difficult. Your guide is an expert at reading animal behavior, and the moment that our presence is bothering an animal we **MUST** back off until we are no longer disturbing its natural behavior.

This is where our optics prove invaluable. We use only the finest quality Swarovski spotting scopes so that we can thoroughly enjoy our wildlife sightings at a distance that allows the animals to carry on about their business as if we were not there. In fact, much of the time they probably don't know we are there, yet our high powered and crystal clear optics give us an up-close and personal view.

Furthermore, we must be mindful of any animal feeding on or resting near a carcass. Approaching such an area may drive the animal(s) away and deprive them of valuable food. It is also important to remember that a carcass is regularly scavenged upon by any number of other animals, including grizzly bears, who will violently defend such a food source. Approaching such an area is strictly prohibited and can seriously put people in danger. Finally, it is important to be mindful of the other park visitors and biologists who may also be observing the same animals. We promote quiet, respectful behavior to maximize everyone's wild Yellowstone experience.

## **Restroom Stops**

We will make multiple restroom stops throughout our tour. At any given location, we are always within 10-15 minutes of a Park Service restroom, and we routinely make restroom runs when guests request. We strongly advise our guests to stay well hydrated and not refrain from drinking liquids as an effort to keep from having to go to the bathroom. Park service restrooms are generally well maintained and relatively clean. And again, we can get you to a restroom within 10-15 minutes from anywhere in the park.