



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

FALL WOLF & ELK DISCOVERY

Package Itinerary & Details

Summer 2018

The **Fall Wolf & Elk Discovery** Lodging & Learning package is designed for those who want to focus on observing wolves, elk, and other charismatic animals in the wild while learning about their fascinating behavior and complex habitat. Lodging is based out of Mammoth Hot Springs, home of the most exciting elk rut in the park. Here the eerie sound of bull elk bugling echoes from the hills as they parade about in search of mates.

Each morning your naturalist guide will drive you to locations where the most recent wolf and elk activity has been reported. We will provide high-quality spotting scopes and binoculars to bring distant wildlife into crisp, clear view. If we encounter other wildlife species along the way you'll learn the role they play in the ecosystem in relation to wolves, elk, and more. Afternoons will be spent exploring the animals' habitats on short hikes in search of tracks and sign. Your naturalist guide will facilitate informative discussions about current research and management of these amazing species. Every day you'll return to Mammoth Hot Springs early in the evening, leaving you plenty of time to relax and enjoy the surroundings.

Program Highlights

- Three full days searching for and observing wildlife in Lamar Valley, along Yellowstone's northern range, and elsewhere in the park
- Use of high-powered spotting scopes and binoculars
- Opportunities to engage with National Park Service biologists and researchers in the field
- Thought-provoking discussions related to the most recent research findings and management issues
- Dinner with your Yellowstone Forever naturalist guide

Why Choose a Lodging & Learning Package?

Our award-winning Lodging & Learning packages are developed through a partnership with Yellowstone National Park Lodges. 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.*** Our mission is to partner with Yellowstone National Park to create opportunities for all people to experience, enhance, and preserve Yellowstone forever. To learn more about Yellowstone Forever, [visit our website](#).

You'll help preserve Yellowstone. Yellowstone Forever is Yellowstone National Park's official nonprofit education and fundraising partner. Proceeds collected by Yellowstone Forever for this

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package are used to preserve Yellowstone National Park and provide more opportunities for people to experience its magic. To learn more about what we do, [visit our website](#).

- ***Our naturalist guides are world class.*** Our Institute has been providing in-depth educational programs in Yellowstone for over 40 years. Our naturalist guides are among the best expert field educators in Yellowstone. They're professionals with academic credentials who are dedicating their careers to this vital work. They live in the Yellowstone ecosystem, they work alongside park researchers, and thus can provide accurate and exciting "behind the scenes" perspectives on the park's history, management, geology, flora, and fauna. They know where to go and when, and they'll handle all of the details to make your experience is as enjoyable as possible.

The same naturalist guide will lead this program from the evening orientation on the first day to the final farewells on the last day. They'll go out of their way to get to know you throughout the program, and make sure your needs are met. They'll build upon what you've learned each day, so you can better understand the fascinating story behind everything you see and experience.

- ***Small group size.*** This program has a max capacity of 13 participants. You'll enjoy camaraderie with fellow participants and receive a lot more attention in this small group package. It allows your naturalist guide to take an inquiry-based approach to learning, tailoring the experience to your specific interests.
- ***We provide the essential equipment.*** Your naturalist guide will provide high-quality spotting scopes and binoculars to bring distant wildlife into crisp, clear view, and even adaptors so you can take pictures through these scopes on your smart phone! Our guides are Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certified. They carry a first aid kit and handheld radio during all hikes, and provide bear spray if hiking in bear country. They will incorporate teaching aids such as skulls, tracks, pelts, books, i-pads with videos, and test equipment such as temperature guns for thermal features.
- ***You can't beat in-park lodging.*** All lodging in this package is located 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.

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What's Included?

- 4 nights lodging in a Mammoth Hot Springs frontier Cabin (lodging upgrades may be available)
- 4 breakfasts (1 breakfast at the mammoth Dining Room and 3 box breakfasts to go)
- 3 deli lunches to go
- 1 dinner at the Mammoth Hot Springs Dining Room with your naturalist guide
- Hot beverages in the bus on early start days
- All gratuities for foodservice
- A Yellowstone Forever naturalist guide throughout the program
- A custom 32 oz. Nalgene Tritan wide mouth bottle (gift item)
- Scopes, binoculars, bear spray, and other field equipment as needed
- An orientation on the evening of the first day to assure you will have an enjoyable and comfortable experience throughout the program.

Gratuities for your Yellowstone Forever naturalist guide are not included, but are recommended and greatly appreciated.

How fit do you need to be?

This program is rated *Level 2* on Yellowstone Forever's Activity Level Scale. You should be prepared to hike up to 3 miles per day comfortably with elevation gains of up to 600 feet. Some off-trail hiking is possible. Most hikes will take place at elevations between 6000 to 7500 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 you cannot participate in the day's activities, please let your naturalist guide know in advance.

To participate in this program, each participant must fill out and sign our health questionnaire and assumption of risk waiver. Registrants receive a link to this form in their confirmation letter which is sent via e-mail. These forms must be completed and returned at least 30 days prior to your program start date.

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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**

After checking in and enjoying dinner, you'll meet your naturalist guide for an orientation. They'll go over the program itinerary, discuss clothing and equipment needed for daily outings, and answer any questions you may have about the program.

- 4:30 p.m. Mammoth Hotel check-in begins
Ask front desk staff for directions to the orientation room
Dinner on your own
- 7 p.m. Orientation in Mammoth Hot Springs
Overnight at Mammoth Hot Springs

Days 2 - 4 **Wildlife Watching and Exploring Habitat**

Each day begins early to catch the morning wildlife activity. Wolves and bears tend to be most active in the early morning. Mountain goats, moose, bison, elk, bighorn sheep, and birds continue to be active later in the day. After viewing wildlife, your naturalist guide will lead a short hike in wildlife habitat in search of tracks and sign while discussing ecology, behavior, recent research, and management issues.

- 6 a.m. Depart for wildlife watching
Hot beverages (coffee, tea and hot cocoa) and box breakfast in the field
Roadside viewing animals that are most active in the morning
Search for other wildlife species when morning activity dies down
Deli lunch in the field
Afternoon hike in wildlife habitat
- 3 p.m. Return to Mammoth Hot Springs
Dinner on your own (Days 2 and 4)
- 5 p.m. Dinner with naturalist guide in the Mammoth Dining Room (Day 3)
Overnight at Mammoth Hot Springs

Day 5 **Check Out and Departure**

- Hot breakfast at Mammoth Hot Springs Dining Room
- Check out of Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel

Cancellation and Refund Policy

For Lodging & Learning packages, 60-day notice is required to receive a full refund of your deposit amount. Cancellations made between 30-60 days will result in 50% forfeiture of package cost. Cancellations made

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within 30 days of arrival result in 100% forfeiture of package cost. 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. For more information about travel insurance, please ask our representative when booking your reservation.

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