



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## ELK RUT PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

### Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2022

**INSTRUCTOR:** Kate Ochsman

**INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:** 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.

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** This course is an activity **level 1** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 1 mile per day through relatively flat terrain on maintained or snow-packed trails.

*\*All field activities will be conducted as a group. If you cannot meet the activity level expectations during your program, you may be restricted from participation in daily outings. We will not alter program itineraries or activities to accommodate participants who cannot meet the expectations of the stated activity level.*

**LOCATION:** Course begins at the Yellowstone Forever classrooms located in Gardiner, MT.

**PROGRAM DATES & TIMES:** The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 1, 2022, and ends on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

**LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT:** No lodging is provided for this course. You can find more information on Gardiner based lodging here: [Gardiner, MT - Lodging](#)

**MEALS:** You will need to bring your own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field with you.

For general information about the facilities, preparing for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

## FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

The elegant masculine sings its beauty across the landscape.

The elk rut is one of my favorite wildlife events, for there is no animal more elegant and beautiful than a bull elk with his glorious crown. I love contrast and I'm fascinated by opposites. It's one of the reasons I love black and white photography so much. Bull elk with their full antlers, calling their high-pitched bugles, are raw masculine power and energy coupled with a graceful beauty. There's no animal like elk.

During the rut, males bugle constantly, a sound that signals the arrival of autumn in the Rocky Mountains. The colors have changed to the warm, amber, maroon hues of autumn. Giant, beautiful bull elk compete for breeding rights with the females. Their courtship style is a harem style, and the males are constantly busy claiming and protecting an entire breeding herd of females. The rut is dynamic, noisy, and beautiful. We will spend most of our time in Gardiner/Mammoth, and then we will also spend one day down by Lake/Fishing Bridge.

Shots we hope to get:

- Bull portraits
- Bulls fighting/standoffs
- Bull and Cow nuzzling
- Bulls and the harem with wide angles in the massive Yellowstone backdrop

Based in Gardiner, we will spend most of our time in the field and in the company of the elk, watching, waiting, understanding/observing behavior, and making photographs in an ethical way. Although focusing on elk, we will also have the opportunity to photograph other wildlife as we find it.

Our classroom time will cover the natural history and behavior of the elk, provide time for personal editing, editing assistance and any questions you may have. I will also provide feedback on your favorite images, should you want it.

**This course is for intermediate+ photographers, who know the fundamentals of their camera and how to use it, in addition to basic knowledge of post processing.**

Please reach out with any questions you may have, and hopefully you will join me to photograph one of my favorite species of all time!

- *Love and Roars, Kate*

[kateochsman@gmail.com](mailto:kateochsman@gmail.com)

[www.kateochsman.com](http://www.kateochsman.com)

IG @kateochsman

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

## PROGRAM ITINERARY

The itinerary is designed to spend as much time in the field and with elk as possible, but may be adjusted to adapt to weather conditions, wildlife activity, holidays, and road construction. *The details and timing of the agenda are subject to change.*

### Day 1

**7:00 p.m.**

#### **Welcome!**

Introduction to Gardiner, and course schedule and specifics. Instructor will give a brief presentation on the natural history of elk, behavior and show some inspirational images.

### Day 2

#### **Elk in the Northern Range**

Safari schedule: morning and afternoon in the field for photography. Midday lunch and downtime in Gardiner.

### Day 3

#### **Elk in the Northern Range**

Safari schedule: morning and afternoon in the field for photography. Midday lunch and downtime in Gardiner. Post-Lunch photo critique.

### Day 4

#### **Final Day: Elk Down South**

Safari schedule: morning and afternoon in the field for photography. Midday lunch in the field.

**5:00 p.m.**

Course concludes. Thank you for joining as we photograph one of my favorite animal seasons in Yellowstone!

## PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of recommended equipment for all courses see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

### REQUIRED Camera Gear and Equipment

- ☐ Camera Body (one or more – whatever you like!)
- ☐ Lenses – Go as big as you want! The longest lens I have is a 400, and I don't believe in teleconverters. I am happy to debate. Although portraits are wonderful, wider shots showing the majestic Yellowstone Landscape are truly masterful. I will have at least:
  - 24-70mm
  - 100-400mm
  - 400mm
  - Other recommended lenses:
    - 24-105
    - 70-200mm
    - 200-600mm
    - 150-500mm
    - 600mm
    - Feel free to go super wide with a 16-35mm! Let's try it all!
- ☐ Extra batteries and charger
- ☐ Extra SD cards to make sure you can get all the images you want in the field!
- ☐ Laptop with charging cord and editing software of your choice
- ☐ Software for editing images

*As you pack your gear keep in mind that the class will be traveling through the park together on a small, but comfortable, bus. Camera equipment, except tripods, will be with participants in their seats. Many participants bring a camera bag packed with camera essentials and a separate small bag for other day essentials and personal items.*

- ☐ Tripod and camera mount
- ☐ Hard drives and cords for uploading images
- ☐ Teleconverter – If you have one and like them!
- ☐ Card reader and attachment cord
- ☐ Rain cover – This does not need to be fancy, but it does need to be effective, even when the wind is blowing (lightly), for your camera and lens as they sit waiting on a tripod.
- ☐ Microfiber cloth to dry and clean your equipment with.
- ☐ Gloves that you can photograph in

## WHOM TO CONTACT

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

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and activity questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at [institute@yellowstone.org](mailto:institute@yellowstone.org) or 406-848-2400
- Road updates, park conditions, and general park information please contact Yellowstone National Park Service at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm>
- If running late for a program, please contact 406-848-2400
- Equipment questions or other questions specific to the class, please contact the Instructor, Kate Ochsman at [kateochsman@gmail.com](mailto:kateochsman@gmail.com)