



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

NEW YEARS WILDLIFE WATCHING

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – WINTER 2022/23

INSTRUCTOR: Amanda Evans

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Amanda Evans is a Lead Field Educator for Yellowstone Forever. Her passion for wildlife and wild places has taken her across the country for work, including guiding in Ketchikan, AK, working as an Outdoor Education Specialist for the Ocean Institute, and an Education Specialist for the Los Angeles Zoo. Amanda has an immense passion for Yellowstone, and when not working in the park spends most of her spare time exploring and learning all she can about the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. She feels that it is through firsthand experience with the natural world that people build the strongest connections to it. Her goal is to use education to foster the same appreciation she feels and to inspire others to preserve and protect nature in all spaces.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is an activity **level 2** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike, snowshoe, or ski on snow-packed trails, up to 3 miles per day, with climbs up to 250 feet. *

**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: Lamar Buffalo Ranch – Yellowstone National Park, WY

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 29, 2022, and goes through Sunday, January 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 29, 2022 and lodging check-out is at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 2, 2023.

MEALS: This course is catered. If you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions, please include those in your registration form.

SHUTTLES: For an additional fee, we provide an optional Bozeman airport shuttle for those interested. The shuttle service will pick up participants from the Bozeman International Airport on the first day of the program with a 1:00 p.m. departure. The shuttle will return participants to the Bozeman International Airport on the last day after lodging check-out with a departure from the Lamar Buffalo Ranch at 8:00 a.m. If you opt-in to the shuttle service, please ensure that your flight booking will allow for you to be picked up and dropped off during the above timeframes.

For general information about the facilities, preparing for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Winter General Information](#) document.

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Closeout the old year and start with the new alongside existing and newfound friends. Ring in 2023 at the historic Lamar Buffalo Ranch, where wildlife can often be spotted right outside your cabin door. Daily outings along Yellowstone's famed Northern Range and Lamar Valley, will be spent looking for wolves, bison, elk bighorn sheep, and more. Engage in discussions about Yellowstone's diverse wildlife population and learn more about how these Lamar Valley inhabitants survive Yellowstone's long harsh winters. Learn about wildlife adaptations needed to live in this cold climate, interactions of predators and scavengers, how to read tracks in the snow, and much more.

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 details and timing of the agenda are subject to change.

12/29/22

Welcome

Participants are welcome to check into the Lamar Buffalo Ranch starting at 4:00 p.m.
Class orientation begins at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
After dinner meet and greet and introduction to the course.

12/30/22

Wildlife Watching

With a focus on wildlife, this day will consist of a mixture of early morning roadside wildlife watching and early afternoon wildlife discussions. In the mid-afternoon the class will go for a hike (or snowshoe depending on snowpack) and have lunch in the field. The class will return late-afternoon for free time and dinner and be followed with an evening presentation.

12/31/22

New Year's Eve

Early-morning wildlife watching, then return to the Lamar Buffalo Ranch for relaxation and New Year's festivity preparations. If time allows, the class will go back out into the field for an abbreviated wildlife watching or hike (or snowshoe) activity. Ring in the New Year among new and old friends with a delicious catered dinner and champagne.

1/1/23

Natural History

With a focus on natural and cultural history, this day will consist of a mixture of early morning roadside wildlife watching and early afternoon history discussions. In the mid-afternoon this class will go for a hike (or snowshoe depending on snowpack) and have lunch in the field. The class will return late-afternoon for dinner.
Class instruction ends at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner

1/2/23

Check-Out

Breakfast and check out of cabins by 10:00 a.m.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

This course does not require any specific equipment unless you wish to bring your own snowshoes. For a full list of what is included in this course, in addition to recommended equipment check out the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Winter General Information](#) document.

RECOMMENDED READING

There are books and reference materials at the ranch for you to enjoy during your stay. In addition to those materials, the following recommended readings are not required but may enhance your visit.

- Smith, Douglas W., et al. [Yellowstone Wolves: Science and Discovery in the World's First National Park](#). The University of Chicago Press, 2020.
- McIntyre, Rick. [The Reign of Wolf 21: The Saga of Yellowstone's Legendary Druid Pack](#). Greystone Books, 2022.
- Lamplugh, Rick. [Deep into Yellowstone: A Year's Immersion into Grandeur and Controversy](#). CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017.
- Nelson, Megan Kate. [Saving Yellowstone: Exploration and Preservation in Reconstruction America](#). Scribner, 2022.
- National Park Service. [2022 Resource and Issues Handbook](#). NPS, 2022.

WHOM TO CONTACT

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

- Program itinerary, health forms, payment, and general program questions please contact Yellowstone Forever at 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