



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

YELLOWSTONE SPRING WILDLIFE & LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2023

INSTRUCTOR: Kevin League

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Kevin is a Helena, Montana based award-winning professional landscape, lifestyle, and wildlife photographer, capturing Montana and the western United States' most beautiful, fleeting, and fascinating moments.

He has been a student of photography for several decades beginning as a teenager when his parents handed down their 35mm film Nikon cameras to him. Fast forward a few decades later, Kevin would establish his photography business in 2015, and in 2020 he opened a gallery in downtown Helena, fulfilling a lifelong dream and quickly becoming one of Montana's favorite new visual artists. Inspired by early conservation photographers, Kevin believes his ability to share the beauty of our last best places will inspire others to respect, protect, and enjoy them. Kevin has dedicated his life to conservation through his photography, educational workshops and throughout a career protecting natural places that has spanned over 20 years with governmental and non-governmental organizations.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: This course is an activity **level 3** and students enrolled in this course are expected to be active participants. Be prepared to hike up to 5 miles per day, comfortably, with occasional elevation gains up to 1000 feet in undulating terrain.*

**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 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, and ends on Monday, May 29, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 27, 2023, and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 30, 2023.

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 [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information](#) document.

FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

Spring is one of the most splendid times to capture Yellowstone's wildlife and stunning landscape! This workshop focuses on capturing the park's pristine spring scenery and abundant wildlife. We will explore the park's northern half from our base in Lamar Valley, through Hayden Valley and beyond - stopping to capture the park's inspiring spring landscape scenes while searching for elusive predators like bears, wolves, foxes, and coyotes, as well as large mammals like big-horned sheep, moose, elk, bison, and mule deer. Immerse yourself with your fellow enthusiasts during Yellowstone's most exciting season!

The workshop is intended to coincide with peak bear viewing season and the opening of Dunraven Pass which allows for vehicles to complete the Grand Loop. Yellowstone's landscape will be emerging from winter – snow-capped mountains and hills are juxtaposed with colorful wildflowers, roaring waterfalls, swollen rivers and beautiful reflections. There should be no shortage of subjects to capture. In addition, we will be on the lookout for migratory and nesting birds such as sandhill cranes, swans, eagles, and the rare and ornate harlequin duck which reliably show up in the park this time of year.

Finally, while there will be a short classroom period on day one, discussing camera techniques and settings, a solid understanding of photography fundamentals and your camera's features and settings is recommended for this workshop. If you are newer to photography or maybe you have a new camera, spend the time necessary to become familiar with your gear. For example, be able to change ISO, aperture, shutter speed and focus points, with gloves on and without looking at your camera. Learn where to activate your camera's live view, different autofocus settings, exposure bracketing and self-timer functions as well, as we will use those features frequently during our time together. If, at any time during the class, you have fundamental type questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

I look forward to sharing the wonders of winter in Yellowstone with you and experiencing and capturing the beauty and grandeur of this special place.

- Kevin

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 details and timing of the agenda are subject to change.*

Day 1 Welcome and Orientation

7:00 p.m. Participants will meet for orientation. We will spend some time in the classroom discussing camera technique and settings for landscape and wildlife photography.

Day 2 In the Field!

We will be meeting early (before sunrise ~5:30 a.m.) and staying out late (a little after sunset ~9 p.m.). There will be some time mid-day for taking some well-deserved downtime as we will likely circle back to the Buffalo Ranch for a break before heading out again in the afternoon.

Day 3 In the Field and conclusion

We will conclude the workshop after we return from our morning shoot (12 p.m.)

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of recommended equipment for all courses see the [Lamar Buffalo Ranch - Summer General Information](#) document.

Items specific to this course are:

- 1 or 2 DSLR or Mirrorless Camera body(ies)
- Tripod – good quality, sturdy
- Camera manual(s)
- Extra batteries and chargers
- Wide angle lens (14-35mm) - for landscape
- Medium lens (24-120mm)- for landscape
- Long lens (200-600mm) - for wildlife
- Teleconverter - optional
- Spare liner gloves
- Microfiber or dry cloths – for moisture maintenance
- Weather covering for camera/lens

RECOMMENDED READING

No prior reading is required, but participants might enjoy the following publications, that complement the program. Most publications are available at Yellowstone Forever's online store at shop.yellowstone.org Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15% discount and proceeds directly support the park.

- Camera manual

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 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