



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

TRAINS, TRAVELERS, & TRINKETS: HISTORY OF TOURISM IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR - SUMMER 2023

INSTRUCTOR: Elizabeth "Betsy" Watry

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY: Elizabeth "Betsy" Watry holds a Master's Degree in History from Montana State University and is an independent scholar specializing in nineteenth and early-twentieth century cultural history of the American West. Her primary research interests are exploration, transportation, tourism, and women's history. A published author with several books on Yellowstone National Park, her book *Women in Wonderland: Lives, Legends, and Legacies of Yellowstone National Park* won the 2013 WILLA Literary Award for Scholarly Non-fiction.

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 up to 3 miles per day, comfortably, with elevation gains up to 600 feet. Some off trail hiking possible.*

**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 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, and ends on Saturday, September 9 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: No lodging is provided for this course, however, there may be limited lodging available through Yellowstone Forever at the Yellowstone Field Overlook Campus. For more information, please contact the Institute at institute@yellowstone.org. You can also find more information on Gardiner based lodging here: [Gardiner, MT - Lodging](#). (Yellowstone River Motel will grant you 10% off their rooms if you mention that you are taking a Yellowstone Forever Field Seminar.)

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

"If you can make but one Western trip in your life let it be through Yellowstone National Park."
Myra Emmons, 1901.

From the rustic log cabins, tent camps, and curio shops of plucky pioneers to the grand hotels, charming lodges, and a vast array of souvenir stores of enterprising entrepreneurs, this 3.25 day field seminar will take you on a remarkable journey through 150 years of Yellowstone tourism. Some of the locations we will visit include the original sites of the Park Curio store that sold "coated" curios laden with mineral water and Haynes Photo Studio in Mammoth, the Fountain Hotel at Lower Geyser Basin where Leroy Piper disappeared without a trace in 1900, the Pryor Store (later Hamilton) at old Canyon Junction, the Wylie Geyser Camp at Old Faithful where thousands of travelers enjoyed home cooked meals and singing around a blazing campfire, and many more places that have been literally erased from the Yellowstone landscape. I have hundreds of photographs to share that will make the history of these sites come alive! We will also tour the majestic Old Faithful Inn, elegant Lake Hotel, lovely Mammoth Hotel, and former Hamilton General stores. One very special stop will be Charles Hamilton's old office on the second floor of the Lower General Store at Old Faithful, which he papered with hundreds of canceled checks during the 1920s-1930s and called it the Million Dollar Room. And to make the experience tantalizingly complete, we will allow time at Old Faithful to indulge our sweet tooth at the store's famous soda fountain. Join me for an engaging exploration of why millions of travelers have declared a Yellowstone trip to be one of life's most memorable experiences.

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.*

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| Day 1 | Evening Orientation 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Welcome and introductions
PowerPoint presentation of background information
Discussion of detailed itinerary and logistics |
| Day 2 | Cinnabar, YNP Museum Collection, and Mammoth Hot Springs (9am-5pm) |
| Day 3 | Norris, Old Faithful (Upper Geyser Basin) and Lower Geyser Basin (9am – 5pm) |
| Day 4 | Roosevelt, Lake, and Canyon (9am – 5pm) |

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

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

Instructor recommendations:

- Notebook and pencil/pen for notes
- Camera or cell phone
- Binoculars (optional)
- Rain coat or poncho
- Gloves and Hat (likely chilly in September)
- Sturdy shoes or boots (sandals not recommended)
- Layered clothing allows flexibility for chilly mornings and warmer afternoons

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.

- Watry, Elizabeth A. *Women in Wonderland: Lives, Legends, and Legacies* (Riverbend Publishing, 2012).
- Whittlesey, Lee H. and Elizabeth A. Watry, *Ho! For Wonderland: Travelers' Accounts of Yellowstone, 1872-1914* (University of New Mexico Press, 2009)
- Whittlesey, Lee H. and Elizabeth A. Watry, *Images of America: Yellowstone National Park* (Arcadia Publishing, 2008).
- Watry, Elizabeth A. *Images of America: Fort Yellowstone* (Arcadia Publishing, 2012).
- Haines, Aubrey L. *The Yellowstone Story, Volume I & II.* (University Press of Colorado, 1996).

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