



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

PRIVATE PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

Itinerary & Details

Summer 2023

The **Private Photography Tour** is designed for photographers of all skill levels – beginners to professional - who want to learn how to beautifully capture moments in Yellowstone, the world's first National Park. Photographers and wildlife watchers from all over the world flock to Yellowstone to see and photograph iconic American wildlife such as bison, wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, elk, moose, fox, coyotes, owls, otters, eagles, ravens and more! Naturalist photography educator, Kate Ochsman, understands wildlife behavior and natural history, where and how to find wildlife at each particular time of year, and how to make timeless images to cherish.

The instructor will cater each tour to the specific needs, interests, and photographic level of the participants. The instructor can aid on camera use, exposure compensation, composition of the image, storytelling, the post-processing of the images you make, and more.

Yellowstone Forever staff will provide transportation, meals, and equipment for the day and instructor, Kate Ochsman will take you to the best wildlife viewing areas and enhance your experience with stories and science behind Yellowstone's wildlife. The day will be curated to the participants and what they hope to see and capture with their camera. Kate will instruct on photography, wildlife natural history and behavior, Yellowstone, and photographic concepts.

Meet your instructor, Kate Ochsman!

Kate Ochsman is an award-winning, international wildlife photographer and photographic guide. Based out of Gardiner, MT, she runs her own photographic guiding company, All Things Wild, while collaborating with non-profit conservation and education organizations such as Yellowstone Forever. Kate lived in the South African bush for two years and is a certified South African Safari guide who specializes in conservation photography and fine art wildlife photography. She works all over the world as a photographic guide and instructor. Kate believes in art for a cause, and her mission is to help you connect with our natural world and for you to make timeless images of wildlife.

Kate's information:

kateochsmanphotography@gmail.com

www.allthingswildtours.com

www.kateochsman.com

IG @kateochsman

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

Gratuities for the instructor are not included in the program costs but are recommended and greatly appreciated.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Delicious field breakfast and lunch catered by [Tumbleweed Bookstore & Cafe](#) in Gardiner, MT
- Hot beverage service
- In-park and local pick-up, transportation via a 14-passenger minibus and/or transit van
 - Pick-ups only available in Gardiner, MT (up to 10 miles out of town) and Mammoth Hot Springs
- Eight hours of photography and educational programming with Kate Ochsman, local professional photographer and naturalist
 - 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- High powered scopes and binoculars

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 day begins early to catch morning wildlife activity and early morning sunrise light. You'll begin with a short orientation, instructor, Kate Ochsman will cover the plans for the day and answer any questions the participants may have.

- 6:00 AM** **Depart Gardiner or Mammoth Hot Springs to Yellowstone location based upon guest's photographic desires**
Hot beverage service and box breakfast will be provided
Morning photography and wildlife viewing
In-field instruction on photography based upon level and desires of participants
- 11:00 AM** **Lunch**
Hot beverage service and lunch, in the field, will be provided
- 12:00 PM** **Afternoon photography and wildlife viewing**
- 2:00 PM** **Return to Gardiner and/or Mammoth Hot Springs**

MULTIDAY PRIVATE PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

Participants can book a single day photography tour, or they can book multiple days to maximize their chances of seeing wildlife, getting the shots they want, and to learn more about photography from Kate. Wildlife photography is both preparation and luck. A photographer has certain shots in mind, enters nature with that goal, and then must react to the unpredictability of nature. More days in the field simply increases one's chances of getting that dream shot.

The multiday tours will have the same itinerary yet will go further in depth to the art of photography as well as provide more opportunities to photograph wildlife. For any photographer hoping for a specific shot, we recommend multiple days to best your chances.

PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT LIST

Equipment:

- **Camera**, DSLR or mirrorless
- **Lenses**, Yellowstone is a massive landscape, so telephoto, zoom and wide-angle lenses are all great! The best lens is whatever lens you have. Should you have specific questions, email instructor. Lenses can also be rented online or at Bozeman Camera.
 - Suggested lenses
 - 24-70mm
 - 100-400mm
 - 150-500mm
 - 200-600mm
 - 400mm
 - 600mm
- **Teleconverter**, if you wish
- **Extra SD cards**
- **Extra fully charged batteries with a small, padded bag for batteries to help reduce battery drainage from the cold**
- **Tripod with tripod head and mount or monopod**
- **Camera/Lens covering to protect from inclement weather**, a plastic bag and tape work well!
- **Photography friendly gloves for cold mornings**

ACTIVITY LEVEL

How fit do you need to be?

- This program can be accommodated to the group's desired activity level.
- 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](#).

To participate in this program, each participant must fill out and sign a health questionnaire and assumption of risk waiver.

WHOM TO CONTACT

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

- Program questions, refunds, and bookings contact Yellowstone Forever at institute@yellowstone.org or 406-848-2400 extension 3
- Road updates, park conditions, and general park information contact Yellowstone National Park Service at <https://www.nps.gov/yell/contacts.htm>
- Equipment questions or other questions specific to the class, please contact the Instructor, Kate Ochsman at kateochsmanphotography@gmail.com

GENERAL EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING LIST

Much of the program time will be spent outdoors, and participants should be prepared for a variety of high-elevation mountain weather conditions and temperatures. While hot during midday, summer mornings are chilly to cold. Appropriate clothing, equipment, and footwear are important. Summer temperatures can range from below freezing in the mornings to 90° Fahrenheit in the afternoons. The layered use of garments for protection against the wind, sun, and temperature extremes should guide clothing choices. ***YF Program Volunteer will be carrying a first aid kit, bear spray, and emergency communication device.**

Equipment:

- **Hand Sanitizer**
- **Daypack**, with enough capacity to carry extra clothes, water, lunch, camera, binoculars, etc.
- **Water bottle**
- **Sunglasses**
- **Lip protector**, chapstick
- **Optics**, camera and binoculars

Clothing:

- **Under layer**, a t-shirt or tank top
- **Midweight layer**, a long-sleeved layer for warmth
- **Waterproof and windproof outer layer**, lightweight and breathable, jacket
- **Pants**, jeans, outdoor pants
- **Hat**, an insulating hat that covers ears and a baseball cap to shield from the sun
- **Sunglasses**
- **Gloves**, lightweight gloves
- **Socks**, hiking socks
- **Hiking boots or athletic shoes** comfortable, waterproof shoes

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

The following policies apply to this program if you cancel:

- 60 days or more prior to the start of your package, 100% of your payment will be refunded.
- 30 days or more prior to the start of your package, 50% of your payment will be refunded.
- If you cancel with fewer than 30 days before the start of your program, your full payment will be forfeited.

Please call Yellowstone Forever at 406-848-2400 extension 3 to cancel.

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.

COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY

Yellowstone Forever's goal is to provide clear and concise information about what we are doing to protect our participants, guests, volunteers, and staff. We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic with information from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and in consultation with local authorities and partners such as county health departments and the National Park Service. The information provided on this website is not intended to be all-encompassing and should not be considered medical or legal advice.

These protocols have been updated as of November 2022, please visit our website: <https://www.yellowstone.org/covid-19-health-safety/> for up-to-date protocols and information.

ABOUT YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Park Stores

Yellowstone Forever park stores feature more than 900 books, maps, and videos to help participants plan their visit, along with a wide selection of shirts, hats, and other logo items. Yellowstone Forever members receive a 15% discount on merchandise online or at any of the locations in and around Yellowstone. Proceeds directly support Yellowstone.

Visit: shop.yellowstone.org

Membership Program

Yellowstone Forever members directly fund visitor education and park preservation. Benefits include:

- 15% discount on merchandise at all Park Stores locations, including the online store, Yellowstone National Park Lodges gift shop and Yellowstone General Stores. Exclusions apply.
- Discounts at over 400 participating public land stores across the country.
- A library card for the Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center.

CODE OF ETHICS

Yellowstone Forever is committed to demonstrating a high standard of appropriate and ethical behavior in Yellowstone. As a participant on a Yellowstone Forever program, participants will adhere to the following Code of Ethics. In addition to the ethics highlighted below, the Yellowstone Forever abides by all National Park Service rules and regulations, in addition to practicing Leave No Trace guidelines for traveling responsibly in the wilderness.

Observing and photographing wildlife: Groups will do their best to have as little impact on wildlife as possible. Yellowstone Forever adheres to National Park Service regulations by keeping a minimum distance of 25 yards from bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, coyotes, and nesting birds and 100 yards from bears and wolves. Wildlife will not be enticed with food, animal calls, or any actions that change their behavior.

Leave what you find: It is illegal to remove natural or cultural artifacts (plants, animals, bones, rocks, etc.) from Yellowstone. Yellowstone Forever staff and program volunteers have permission from the National Park Service to manipulate plants, rocks, bones, etc. for educational purposes and will return them to their natural positions and locations.

General etiquette: Yellowstone Forever groups will be considerate of other visitors and respect the quality of their experience. Voices and vehicle sounds carry great distances and affect both wildlife and people—remaining silent or very quiet while watching wildlife lets the sounds of Yellowstone (including wolf howls) prevail.

Roads and vehicles: Expect wildlife on the road and drive at or below the posted park speed limits. When stopping to observe wildlife or other park features, Yellowstone Forever field program assistants will move vehicles entirely off the road. If there is no safe pullout available, they will drive to the next safe place and walk back to observe the wildlife. Yellowstone Forever will not stop in the middle of the road and should a traffic jam develop because of the group's activities, the activity will cease.

Properly dispose of waste: Participants will pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter. YF program assistants will discuss techniques for properly disposing of human waste in the field.

Traveling lightly: When hiking or walking in Yellowstone, groups will use existing trails and boardwalks. Hikers will follow appropriate techniques when walking off-trail - walking around muddy or wet places in the trail increases erosion and negatively affects the resource; proper equipment is essential to hiking ethically. Participants should come adequately prepared with the equipment listed for the program and should expect to walk through mud, snow, or puddles in the trail.

Yellowstone Map **YELLOWSTONE FOREVER**



| POINT TO POINT DISTANCE | Miles/Kilometers |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| North Entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs | 5 mi/8 km |
| Mammoth Hot Springs to Norris | 21 mi/34 km |
| Norris to Canyon | 12 mi/19 km |
| Norris to Madison | 14 mi/23 km |
| Madison to West Entrance | 14 mi/23 km |
| Madison to Old Faithful | 16 mi/26 km |
| Old Faithful to West Thumb | 17 mi/27 km |
| West Thumb to South Entrance | 22 mi/35 km |
| West Thumb to Bridge Bay | 21 mi/34 km |
| Fishing Bridge to East Entrance | 27 mi/43 km |
| Fishing Bridge to Canyon | 16 mi/26 km |
| Canyon to Tower Falls | 19 mi/31 km |
| Roosevelt to Northeast Entrance | 29 mi/47 km |
| Roosevelt to Lamar Buffalo Ranch | 11 mi/17km |
| Roosevelt to Mammoth Hot Springs | 18 mi/29 km |

| ELEVATIONS | feet/meters |
|---------------------|-------------|
| North Entrance | 5314 / 1620 |
| West Entrance | 6667 / 2032 |
| South Entrance | 6886 / 2099 |
| East Entrance | 6951 / 2119 |
| Mammoth Hot Springs | 6239 / 1902 |
| Old Faithful | 7365 / 2254 |
| Grant Village | 7733 / 2357 |
| Lake | 7784 / 2373 |
| Canyon | 7734 / 2357 |
| Roosevelt | 6270 / 1911 |

- OPEN ROADS
- YF FACILITIES
- ENTRANCE GATES
- COMMON POINTS OF INTEREST

1 mile (mi) = 1.609344 kilometers (km)

Plan on extra driving time in the park, the speed limit is 45 mph or lower and road conditions can vary. There may also be construction delays. Visit www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/hours.htm, call the recorded NPS Road Report at 307-344-2117, or contact a visitor center for up-to-date travel information.