



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## BIGHORN SHEEP RUT: A FOCUSED PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

### Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – WINTER 2023/24

**INSTRUCTOR:** Kate Ochsman

**INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:** Kate Ochsman is an award-winning international wildlife photographer and naturalist, and is based outside of Yellowstone. Kate believes in art for a cause – her's 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. Kate owns her own photographic guiding company, All Things Wild, that operates locally in the GYE and internationally. As a certified South African Safari Guide, Kate also runs an innovative youth conservation program in the South African bush for college-aged participants that teaches 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. Aside from guiding others to make timeless images, Kate's main focus is her fine art photography portfolio, and Kate travels globally to photograph wildlife and wild places.

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

*\*All field activities will be conducted as a group. If participants cannot meet the activity level expectations during the program, they may be restricted from participation in daily outings. Program itineraries or activities will not be altered 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 PM on Thursday, November 30, 2023, and ends on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 5:00 PM

**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](mailto:institute@yellowstone.org). More information on Gardiner-based lodging here: [Gardiner, MT - Lodging](#).

**MEALS:** This course is not catered. Participants will need to bring their own food; lunch should be able to travel in the field.

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

## PROGRAM ITINERARY

The bighorn sheep rut is one of the most impressive events in the Rockies. Dive deep into the lives of bighorn sheep, behavior, and natural history all while creating beautiful images of these stunning animals. This seminar is grounded in the appreciation of everything bighorn, from rutting and displaying males, to females and their herd positions, last year's babies, and cultural significance.

The class will start with an evening seminar orientation and presentation about bighorn sheep, including photography tips and tricks. The next two mornings and afternoons will be spent in the field with bighorn herds. Following time in the field, the group will travel back to Gardiner for lunch and discussions. All photographers interested in spending time with these incredible residents of the high mountains are welcome to join!

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            Evening Orientation**

Welcome and introductions.

### **Days 2- 3        Bighorn Sheep Intensive**

Both days will be similar in structure. The group will meet at the appointed early morning time in the Yellowstone Forever parking lot. Participants will go into the field, look for bighorns, and ideally spend hours observing behavior and photographing them. The group will return to Gardiner at midday for lunch, to upload, rate, and process images or enjoy personal downtime in town. Once again, participants will return to the field to photograph bighorn sheep until sunset (or light is lost). While bighorns are the primary focus, other wildlife may also be photographed during field time.

## PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

This course requires participants to bring the items listed below. Additionally, for general program gear and for a full list of what is included in this course, check out the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Winter General Information](#) document.

### REQUIRED GEAR & EQUIPMENT (*participants are responsible for bringing*)

*The weather will likely be cold, and possibly windy or snowy. Participants should bring warm boots, a winter coat, hat, neck warmer, and gloves.*

*The class will be traveling through the park together on a 14-passenger 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.*

- ☐ **Camera Body** - one or more, whatever is preferred. The instructor typically has two camera bodies with different lenses on each when photographing the Yellowstone ecosystem.
- ☐ **Lenses** – participant's choice (note: the longest lens the instructor will have is a 400mm and doesn't use teleconverters). The instructor recommends:
  - 24-70mm
  - 100-400mm
  - 400mm
  - Other recommended lenses:
    - 24-105
    - 70-200mm
    - 200-600mm
    - 150-500mm
    - 600mm
    - 16-35mm, if wanting to go super wide.
- ☐ **Batteries and Charger** – bring extra.
- ☐ **SD Cards** – bring extra.
- ☐ **Laptop** – including charging cord.
- ☐ **Software** – participant's preferred choice for editing images.
- ☐ **Tripod and Camera Mount**
- ☐ **Hard Drives and Cords** - for uploading images.
- ☐ **Teleconverter** – if wanted.
- ☐ **Card Reader and Attachment Cord**
- ☐ **Rain Cover** – does not need to be fancy, but it does need to be effective, even when the wind is blowing (lightly), for camera and lens as they sit waiting on a tripod.
- ☐ **Microfiber Cloth** - to dry and clean equipment.
- ☐ **Gloves** – should be able to photograph with gloves on.

## RECOMMENDED READING

No specific readings are required, but participants might enjoy a variety of Yellowstone themed publications by visiting Yellowstone Forever's online store at [shop.yellowstone.org](http://shop.yellowstone.org). Yellowstone Forever supporters receive a 15% discount and proceeds directly support the park.

## 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