



YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

CONNECTING TO WINTER – THROUGH A PHOTOGRAPHER'S LENS

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: Lamar Buffalo Ranch – Yellowstone National Park, WY

PROGRAM DATES & TIMES: The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, and goes through Friday, December 8, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

LODGING CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT: Lodging check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 and lodging check-out is at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 9, 2023.

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

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Connection. Being in nature is all about connection: connection with the world at large, and more importantly, with connecting to ourselves. This course looks inward to help see the external world in a new way. The purpose of this course is to make gorgeous images, but also to slow down and to reflect on our inner lives. This course is about photography and connection. Winter in Yellowstone is magical. There is an ancient stillness with a feeling of quietude and solitude. Winter's role is rest, hibernation, stillness, reflection. The purpose of this course is to slow down, be present, and make beautiful images of Yellowstone landscapes and wildlife from a place of being centered. This seminar will emphasize being still and present in these conditions and developing a deep sense of joy and belonging. This seminar is open to all photographer levels - from phone photographers to professional photographers, all are welcome!

Mornings will be spent doing wildlife photography and searching for wolves and snowy bison, amongst Yellowstone's other wild inhabitants. Midday, the class will return to the Lamar Buffalo Ranch for lunch and a brief rest. Post-lunch, venture out on short (2-3 mile) afternoon snowshoe excursions. These meanders are about each individual's experience in winter wonderland and focusing on the small things seen. One of the snowshoe excursions will take the group to Rose Creek Pen to better understand the story of wolf reintroduction and the dedication of people who worked to reintroduce wolves. Following snowshoe excursions, enjoy late-afternoon and sunset wildlife and landscape photography, followed by returning to the Ranch for dinner and evening reflections.

Cameras will be the lens through which this magical season is experienced; spending time with wildlife and creating beautiful wintery images. Participants will be provided journals and each morning and evening will be given a quote or journal prompt to encourage reflection.

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. All snowshoe hikes are weather and snowpack dependent.

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

Day 1

Welcome

Meet and greet at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch. Evening presentation on the overall agenda and course expectations.

Days 2 – 4

Photography in the Field

Each day will start with breakfast before sunrise and private time for journaling, if desired. After breakfast the day will be spent in the field photographing and looking for wolves and bison. At midday the group will travel back to the Ranch for lunch and some rest. Post-lunch there will be a 2-mile roundtrip snowshoe, a slow meander through winter for wide-angle shots as well as detail shots. Snowshoe hikes are set-up to deeply experience the surroundings, including the small things (like frost on trees, tracks, etc). After the meander and until sunset, the group will continue to photograph wildlife and landscapes. The evening will conclude by traveling back to the Ranch for dinner and journaling.

Day 5

Check-Out

Breakfast and check out of cabins by 9:00 a.m.

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

This course requires the items listed below; participants may also wish to bring their 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.

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

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

- Lamplugh, Rick. *In the Temple of Wolves: A Winter's Immersion in Wild Yellowstone*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. 2013.
- Gibran, Kahlil. *The Prophet*. Rupa (Educa Books). 2003.
- Ambler, Marjane. *Yellowstone Has Teeth: A Memoir of Living in Yellowstone*. Riverbend. 2013.
- Blakeslee, Nate. *American Wolf*. Broadway Books, 2017.
- Punke, Michael. *The Last Stand: George Bird Grinnell, the Battle to Save the Buffalo, and the Birth of the New West*. Bison Books. 2009.

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