



# YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## WOMEN IN WONDERLAND

### Itinerary & Details

FIELD SEMINAR – SUMMER 2024

**INSTRUCTOR:** Elizabeth Watry , M.A.

**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. In addition to being a historian and author, she has also served as a museum professional in Arizona, Montana, and Wyoming.

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:** This course is 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 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 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, and goes through Saturday, September 7, 2024, 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](mailto: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:** 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, preparation for classes, what to expect, cancellation policies, and more, please see the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.**

## PROGRAM ITINERARY

You will discover the lives, legends, and legacies of more than twenty remarkable women who figured significantly in the development of Yellowstone National Park. From developing nature trails to researching bison and plants to concessioners supplying visitors with lodging and curios, you will learn about their spirited, ambitious, and independent contributions that have long been unacknowledged in the park's historical record. You will learn of their contributions, visit some of the places they worked, and celebrate their accomplishments as well as their lives through engaging discussions and field trips throughout the park.

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**

The course will begin on the first evening in the Gardiner Yellowstone Forever Store classrooms. In addition to taking care of preliminary logistics, essential paperwork, and the distribution of handouts, the course will start with an introductory PowerPoint presentation that briefly summarizes the lives of the women featured in *Women in Wonderland: Lives, Legends, and Legacies* as well as those who will appear in the forthcoming second volume of *Women in Wonderland*.

### **Day 2**

The day will begin in Gardiner, and from there you will travel to Mammoth, where you will spend the bulk of the day exploring numerous sites connected with the women in *Wonderland*. Later that afternoon you will explore the site of the Wylie Swan Lake Camp just south of Mammoth.

### **Day 3**

This day you will travel south to Lower and Upper Geyser Basin (Old Faithful).

### **Day 4**

This day will head out to Fishing Bridge, Lake, Canyon.

## PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

For a full list of what is included in this course, in addition to recommended equipment check out the [Gardiner Field Seminars - Summer General Information](#) document.

Participants should bring a hat, sunglasses, good walking shoes, several bottles of water, and a poncho or jacket in case of an occasional rain shower. You may want to bring a camera or a small journal as a way to record your adventure as well as other things we might see along the roadside. A small backpack may be useful for carrying these items as well as lunch.

## RECOMMENDED READING

There is no required reading for this course, but it is highly recommend that participants read or skim *Women in Wonderland: Lives, Legends, and Legacies* by Elizabeth A. Watry in advance of the class. Another book that may be of interest is *Images of America: Yellowstone National Park*. This book explores a chronological history of Yellowstone with photographs and expanded captions, and offers readers a basic familiarity with Yellowstone and its vast cultural history. For an in-depth history of the park, I recommend Aubrey Haines, *The Yellowstone Story, Volume I & II* (Volume II is more specifically applicable to this class). All of these books are available from the Yellowstone Forever bookstore and can be purchased online or over the phone.

Reading List Details:

- Watry, Elizabeth A. *Women in Wonderland: Lives, Legends and Legacies of Yellowstone National Park*. Riverbend, 2012.
- Whittlesey, Lee H., and Elizabeth A. Watry. *Images of America: Yellowstone National Park*. Arcadia Pub., 2008.
- Haines, Aubrey L. *The Yellowstone Story, Volume 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 general program 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.