

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.



PHOTO ERIC JOHNSTON



PHOTO MATT LUDIN

Daily events will vary each day for each person depending on their choice. The itinerary lists the basic outline of the progression through each day. Field trip departure/return times will vary by topic and will be announced each evening.

DAY 1

WELCOME & ORIENTATION

You are welcome to check into the Roosevelt Lodge beginning at 3:00 p.m. After checking in and enjoying dinner, guests will meet for an orientation. Education staff will go over the program itinerary, discuss clothing and equipment needed for daily outings, and answer any questions participants may have.

This evening guests will attend a cocktail hour and buffet-style dinner and will be spending this night at the Roosevelt Lodge.

- 3:00 p.m. **Arrive and check in at Roosevelt Lodge**
- 5:00 p.m. **Cocktail hour begins in the main lodge with cash bar (beer and wine)**
- 5:30 p.m. **Orientation in Roosevelt Lodge**
- 6:30 p.m. **Buffet dinner in the main lodge**
- 7:45 p.m. **Evening presentation in the main lodge (approximately 1 hour)**

DAYS 2 - 4

YELLOWSTONE EXPLORATION IN AUTUMN

Each day begins early to catch morning wildlife activity. Wolves and bears tend to be most active in the early morning, while mountain goats, moose, bison, elk, bighorn sheep, and birds continue to be active later in the day. After viewing wildlife, you will be led on a hike in search of tracks and sign while discussing ecology, behavior, recent research, and management.

This evening guests will attend a cocktail hour and buffet-style dinner and will be spending this night at the Roosevelt Lodge.

- 6:00 a.m. **Buffet Breakfast & Depart Roosevelt Lodge**
Coffee and buffet breakfast available in the main lodge
Pick up deli lunches in the main lodge
Field trip adventures
- 12:00 p.m. **Morning field trips return**
Deli lunch in the field
- 1:00 p.m. **Afternoon field trips depart**
- 2:45 p.m. **Day 3 ONLY - Cowboy Cookout until 6/6:30 p.m.**
- 5:30 p.m. **Cocktail hour begins in the main lodge with cash bar (beer and wine)**
- 6:30 p.m. **Buffet dinner in the main lodge**
- 7:45 p.m. **Evening presentation in the main lodge (approximately 1 hour)**

DAY 5

CHECK OUT AND DEPARTURE

- 6:00 a.m. **Buffet Breakfast & Depart Roosevelt Lodge**
Coffee and buffet breakfast available in the main lodge

FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

These descriptions are intended to give more detail about each field trip to help you determine your top choices. The descriptions are intentionally basic - each field educator lends their particular personality and expertise to the field trip and adjusts the content and itinerary to take advantage of the best interpretive opportunities.



PHOTO AMANDA EVANS



PHOTO MATT LUDIN

DAY 2 ITINERARY

ALL DAY FIELD TRIPS	<p>Hot Springs & Human History <i>Depart: 7:00 a.m. / Return: Approx. 4:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Come see the iconic geysers, hot springs, and mud pots that have attracted people to the Yellowstone area for millennia! As we travel the full lower loop – visiting Old Faithful, West Thumb Geyser Basin, Mud Volcano, and the Tribal Heritage Center – we’ll unpack how Yellowstone’s powerful geothermal forces shape not only the land, but the human stories, cultures, and connections tied to this place.</p>
	<p>Elk Rut & Beaver Ponds <i>Depart: 7:00 a.m. / Return: Approx. 4:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Enjoy bulls, bugles, and beautiful views on the way to Beaver Ponds! Start the morning at Mammoth Hot Springs watching the terraces steam in the crisp fall air while looking for elk performing their mating rituals and fighting off rivals. Then head out on a 6-mile trail that loops through forests, meadows, and ponds with great views of the Absaroka Mountains along the way.</p>
HALF DAY FIELD TRIPS (MORNING)	<p>Canyons & Cascades <i>Depart: 8:00 a.m. / Return 12:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Immerse yourself in the breathtaking beauty of Yellowstone’s iconic Grand Canyon! We’ll head over Mount Washburn to look for wildlife in Hayden Valley before exploring the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone with its thundering waterfalls and gorgeous color palette.</p>
	<p>Northern Range Wildlife Watching <i>Depart: 6:30 a.m. / Return 12:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Search for Yellowstone’s fall wildlife along the park’s northern range! The area surrounding Lamar Valley is one of the best places in the world to view animals interacting in the wild. This road-based wildlife watching tour will search for wolves, bears, and other charismatic animals, taking advantage of current wildlife reports, seasonal patterns, and your educators’ deep experience with this landscape.</p>

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PHOTO ADDY FALGOUST



PHOTO MATT LUDIN

DAY 2 ITINERARY

HALF DAY FIELD TRIPS (AFTERNOON)	<p>Tracking Tales <i>Depart: 1:00 p.m. / Return 4:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>This afternoon is about learning to see what others walk right past. Head out in search of wildlife tracks & sign along Yellowstone’s Northern Range. We’ll focus on print and gait patterns, and other common tracking strategies. The exact location will be based on recent sightings and animal activity. Come discover the stories hidden in plain sight! <i>*We will be walking along creeks where mud is expected!</i></p>
	<p>Yellowstone River Trail Loop <i>Depart 1:00 p.m. / Return 4:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Head out along the Yellowstone River Picnic Trail to enjoy spectacular views of the Calcite Springs, a thermal area in a steep canyon layered with columnar basalt and volcanic hoodoos stretching back millions of years. Keep an eye out for bighorn sheep and other wildlife as we stroll around this 4-mile loop.</p>

DAY 3 ITINERARY

ALL DAY FIELD TRIPS	<p>Northern Range Wildlife Watching <i>Depart: 7:00 a.m. / Return: 2:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Search for Yellowstone’s fall wildlife along the park’s northern range! The area surrounding Lamar Valley is one of the best places in the world to view animals interacting in the wild. In the morning, we’ll search for wolves, bears, and other charismatic animals using current wildlife reports, seasonal patterns, and field-tested strategies. In the afternoon, we’ll go on a small hike to look for animal sign and explore the wild landscape that these creatures call home.</p>
	<p>Norris Geyser Basin <i>Depart 7:00 a.m. / Return 2:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Explore Yellowstone’s hottest and most dynamic thermal area! This tour will take you through a landscape of steaming geysers, bubbling mudpots, and vibrant hot springs, offering a unique glimpse into the park’s geothermal wonders and living microbes. We will also look for wildlife as we round out the Upper Grand Loop on the way back.</p>

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PHOTO MATT LUDIN



PHOTO XANTERRA

DAY 3 ITINERARY

ALL DAY FIELD TRIPS	<p>Junction Butte Off Trail Exploration <i>Depart: 7:00 a.m. / Return 2:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Join us for an off-trail adventure on this lesser-traveled feature of Yellowstone's famous northern range. Discover hidden gems and learn about the ecological and geological significance of Junction Butte while exploring this region of Yellowstone.</p>
	<p>Clear Lake Loop & Canyon <i>Depart: 7:00 a.m. / Return 2:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Experience a beautiful hike that truly has a little of everything: forests, meadows, and pristine lakes; backcountry thermal basins with bubbling mud pots; jaw-dropping views of the Lower & Upper Falls and the iconic Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.</p>

COWBOY COOKOUT	<p>Cowboy Cookout <i>Depart: 2:45 a.m. / Return 6:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>This evening we will experience the magic of the Old West with an unforgettable Old West Dinner Cookout. We'll travel to Yancey's Hole either by wagon or stagecoach, where the welcoming aroma of authentic cowboy cooking will fill the air. Indulge in hearty beef steaks, our famous Roosevelt baked beans, and an array of other mouthwatering dishes. After dinner, unwind with a steaming cup of campfire-brewed cowboy coffee while our talented singing cowboy fills the air with melodies.</p>
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DAY 4 ITINERARY

ALL DAY FIELD TRIP	<p>Lake Scenic Cruise <i>Depart: 8:00 a.m. / Return 4:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Come aboard the Lake Queen II and explore the largest high elevation lake in North America. We'll watch for wildlife on the drive over Mount Washburn before embarking on a scenic cruise of the lake. You'll get unique perspectives of the historic Lake Hotel, Steamboat Point, and Yellowstone's infamous shipwreck. We'll keep an eye out for eagles, shorebirds, and other wildlife along the lakeshore.</p>
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PHOTO JACOB FRANK

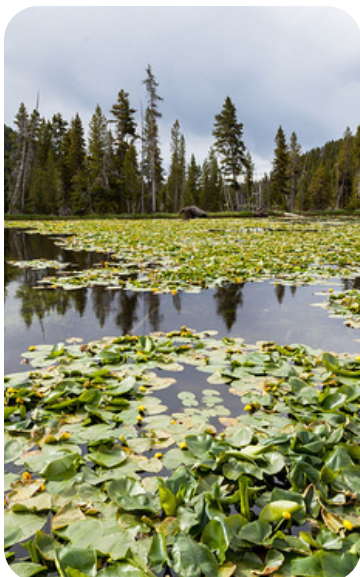


PHOTO MATT LUDIN

DAY 4 ITINERARY

<p>HALF DAY FIELD TRIPS (MORNING)</p>	<p>Birding Under Big Skies <i>Depart 8:00 a.m. / Return 12:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Head into the crisp autumn morning with an eye to the sky. Yellowstone is known for its charismatic megafauna, but on this morning, we will be watching our feathered friends. Raptors will be migrating, summer residents will be on the move, and corvids will be amassing food caches as the season turns on this morning with the birds!</p>
	<p>Fire Ecology <i>Depart 8:00 a.m. / Return 12:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Wildfire is one of the most powerful and overlooked forces shaping Yellowstone today. Join us to investigate how this transformative force shaped the park in the past, and what fire ecologists predict for the future. We will explore past burn sites and conduct hands-on experiments to highlight how fire moves across a landscape.</p>
<p>HALF DAY FIELD TRIPS (AFTERNOON)</p>	<p>Macroinvertebrate Marvels <i>Depart: 1:00 p.m. / Return 4:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Cool off as you explore the invisible world of macroinvertebrates—tiny animals that tell big truths about stream health! Whether you are an angler trying to match the hatch or just an inquisitive mind looking to explore the hidden ecosystems in every local stream, this half-day tour is for you. We will conduct permitted citizen science research sampling the many macroinvertebrate species found within Yellowstone streams, and discussing how these diverse species shape water quality, stream health, and ecosystems.</p>
	<p>Lost Lake <i>Depart: 1:00 p.m. / Return 4:00 p.m.</i></p> <p>Explore the wild right outside! We'll depart right from Roosevelt for one of Yellowstone's quieter trails. The Lost Lake trail loops 3 miles, past a quiet lake and standing 50-million-year-old petrified trees, all in an area that's known for abundant wildlife.</p>