

YELLOWSTONE • January 23-31, 2018

CONNECT-WITH-NATURE ADVENTURES

YELLOWSTONE IN WINTER: Its Landscape and Life

Experiences

Join us for an intimate adventure in America's first national park. From geysers to gray wolves, learn about Yellowstone's rich natural history and exceptional ecosystem as we travel through its white winter landscape. Enter through the historic Roosevelt arch, spend time observing wildlife such as bison and wolves, travel by snowcoach deep into the Park's snow-covered interior, take in the spectacle of steaming hot springs and frost-rimmed branches, and find a piece of Yellowstone's solitude during its quiet winter season.

This 9-day adventure will immerse you in the landscape, wildlife, and geology of Yellowstone National Park. Our first adventure will be a trip over the snow to the Upper Geyser Basin, home to the famous Old Faithful, where steam crusts white ghost trees with ice, creating a magical atmosphere. During three days of touring in a private snowcoach, we'll have the opportunity to see the highlights of the Park's interior: the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, where a 100-foot mound of ice forms in front of the spectacular Lower Falls; Hayden Valley, a snow-swept plain where bison follow in one another's

footsteps to plow through the deep drifts; and West Thumb Geyser Basin on the shore of Yellowstone Lake where underwater thermal features melt holes in the thick ice.

We'll spend the balance of the trip exploring the wildlife-rich Lamar Valley. We'll start at dawn each day, hoping to have the chance to observe gray wolves, and perhaps even hear their mournful howls. We'll observe the bison that congregate in the low-lying valleys while also looking for more elusive species, including moose, elk, and ermine. During the middle of the day, we'll hike on snowshoes into the spruce-fir forest, where we'll have the opportunity to break fresh trail in the white wonderland.

Modeled after the Museum's successful group learning experiences for educators in Yellowstone, the Yellowstone in Winter Adventure will be an active experience — physically, mentally, and emotionally. We will experience invigorating cold and snow. We will learn about the natural and cultural history of Yellowstone, including many controversial issues that are in the national spotlight. And we will take time each day to reflect as a group on our shared experience. We hope that you will come to this adventure with an open mind and a willingness to leave your everyday world behind so that you can immerse yourself in the magical experience of winter in Yellowstone.



NORTH CAROLINA Museum of Natural Sciences
Downtown Raleigh naturalsciences.org



Guides

Your primary guides for this trip will be Melissa Dowland and Megan Chesser, who have extensive experience crafting impactful trips for educator groups in Yellowstone. We will also have the opportunity to interact with and learn from local experts, including Dan and Cindy Hartman, wildlife photographers who have lived on the edge of the Park for over 25 years.

Melissa Dowland — Melissa is an experienced educator at the Museum of Natural Sciences with a BA in environmental sciences and an MS in structural geology. She has guided over 20 trips to Yellowstone National Park since 2005. She loves sharing her passion for Yellowstone with others in engaging and meaningful ways.

Megan Chesser — Megan is an experienced educator at the Museum of Natural Sciences with a BS and an MS in wildlife science. She has guided multiple trips to Yellowstone National Park since 2014. Her enthusiasm and outdoor experience make her an excellent and responsible guide.

Level of Difficulty

Moderately strenuous — we will be hiking on snowshoes at elevations above 7,000 feet, we may experience temperatures as low as negative 20 degrees so proper gear is essential (this will be discussed at orientation meeting), we will have long days full of activities including wildlife watching, hiking, and snowshoeing.





Cost and Reservations:

This Adventure is open to Members only. To become a Member, please contact Catherine Starek, Coordinator of Membership for the Friends of the Museum, catherine.starek@naturalsciences.org or 919-707-9296.

The total per person cost is \$3,300, for double room occupancy (\$1000 extra for single occupancy). This includes all ground transportation and guides, all accommodations, some meals, 3-day snowcoach charter to tour Yellowstone's interior, snowshoe rental, and an orientation meeting. This cost does not include airfare. Personal travel/health insurance is highly recommended.

To indicate your interest visit naturalsciences.org/adventures. You will then be notified as soon as registration becomes available. Once registration is open, spaces will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis until the maximum number of 10 occupants is reached. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon reservation to hold a spot on this trip.

Registration will end on August 15, 2017 and full payment is due no later than October 15, 2017. Reservations will be acknowledged in their order of receipt until the maximum is reached, after which a wait list will be used in the event of any cancellations.

We reserve the right to cancel any trip because of inadequate enrollment that makes the trip economically unfeasible. In this event, we will refund your deposit paid. However, we are unable to refund any deposits following trip cancellation that results from factors outside our control including but not limited to terrorism, natural disaster, or other major global events and therefore we recommend that you purchase travel insurance. We are not responsible for costs incurred by a participant in preparing for a program that is altered or canceled.

For any questions about this Adventure, including cancellation policy and liability coverage details, please contact Jerry Reynolds, Head of Outreach at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, at jerry.reynolds@naturalsciences.org or 919-707-9884.

