



Discovering Our Planet Together



Yellowstone Winter Wildlife Photo Expedition

In-Depth Photography in Yellowstone & Grand Teton in the Solitude of Winter



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Trip Details:

Days:

9 Days / Dec–Feb

Price:

From \$10995
(+ Air)

Physical**Requirements:**

Yellowstone Winter Wildlife Photo Expedition

In-Depth Photography in Yellowstone & Grand Teton in the Solitude of Winter

For serious photographers, there's no better season than winter to capture the wonders of Yellowstone and the Tetons. Silence reigns, crowds are non-existent, and wildlife abounds. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem contains the largest concentration of free-roaming wildlife in the Lower 48—a nature photographer's grail—and winter offers striking images against a frozen white tableau. This immersive adventure in two of America's most celebrated national parks gets you deeper into wild terrain, for more extended time, than any other photo safari you'll find. Rise before dawn to be in the field at sunrise and stay through twilight, when wolves are most likely to be hunting in the open expanse of the Lamar Valley. Get close-ups of bison along the Madison River, their coats crusted with ice and nostrils blowing steam in the frigid air. Photograph vast herds of elk on the floor of Jackson Hole. Geothermal features make entrancing subjects, too, as geysers erupt in a crystalline spray.

Trip Highlights

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem abounds with elk, bison, bighorn sheep, coyote and elusive wolves—get dramatic shots against winter's snowy backdrop

Spend three full days pursuing wolves in Yellowstone's Lamar Valley and Northern Range, the world's best place to seek photos of these elusive predators, using digiscopes

Access the silent interior of Yellowstone National Park by snowcoach, gaining a rare perspective on landscapes few visitors see, since most roads are closed in winter



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Itinerary At A Glance

- Day 1**
Bozeman, Montana
- Day 2**
Paradise Valley / Yellowstone National Park—Mammoth Hot Springs / Northern Range Wolf Tracking / Gardiner
- Day 3**
Wolf Tracking in the Lamar Valley / Hartman Gallery Visit
- Day 4**
Northern Range Wolf Tracking / Norris Geyser Basin / West Yellowstone
- Day 5**
Private Snowcoach Tour to Old Faithful
- Day 6**
Yellowstone Private Snowcoach Tour—Wildlife Photography

Yellowstone Winter Wildlife Photo Expedition Itinerary

In-Depth Photography in Yellowstone & Grand Teton in the Solitude of Winter

Day 1: Bozeman, Montana

Arrive in Bozeman, where you're met at the airport and transferred to our 4-star hotel in the heart of the city's historic downtown. Bozeman offers a classic example of the Old West/New West dichotomy, which makes for street photography opportunities for those who arrive in advance of our welcome dinner. With a rich mining, trapping and ranching heritage, Bozeman boasts 40 individual properties on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also home to Montana State University and has a thriving economy built on growing tourism and tech sectors.



At this evening's welcome dinner, meet your Photo Expedition Leader who will offer an overview of the adventure to come and answer questions about gear and photo opportunities. A professional photographer skilled at capturing high-quality images of the animals and landscapes of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, your guide is also an expert naturalist whose understanding of wildlife behavior will be essential to getting the images you covet.



Itinerary At A Glance

Day 7

Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center / Grand Teton National Park / Jackson

Day 8

Jackson Hole—National Elk Refuge

Day 9

Jackson / Depart

Day 2: Paradise Valley / Yellowstone National Park—Mammoth Hot Springs / Northern Range Wolf Tracking / Gardiner

Depart early this morning, traveling in specialty North American Safari Cruisers to follow the Lewis & Clark Trail over Bozeman Pass to the Yellowstone River. Today will be a primer into landscape and wildlife photography. While in transit, your Photo Expedition Leader will offer instruction on helpful skills for shooting Yellowstone in the winter: understanding focus, composition, white balance, and exposure.

We spend the morning in the Paradise Valley in search of eagles, mule deer and pronghorn antelope. The ragged heights of the Absaroka Range provide a dramatic backdrop for landscape photos. En route, look for wintering bighorn sheep in Gardiner River Canyon. We enter the park through the northern entrance at Gardiner, then continue to Mammoth Hot Springs. There's plenty of time to photograph the thermal activity as super-heated water flows over the white limestone terraces, which some observers describe as a "cave turned inside out."

Later this afternoon, we enter Yellowstone's Northern Range, the best place in the park to search for wolves, and our first possible chance to capture photographs of them. More frequently, we spot coyotes, elk and bison against the snow-mantled landscape. As dusk fades, we return to Gardiner, just outside the park boundary, to spend two nights.

Day 3: Wolf Tracking in the Lamar Valley / Hartman Gallery Visit

We rise early this morning to reach the Lamar Valley at the break of day in hopes of spotting wolves. The broad glacial valley offers wide-open vistas of a sublime landscape. If wolves are present, they are likely to stand out against the snowy backdrop, although they are almost always seen at a distance. Our Photo Expedition Leaders carry high-powered spotting scopes on board our vehicles, and if we are fortunate to spy wolves, we'll have the opportunity to obtain images via digiscoping, with coaching from our Photo Expedition Leader. Other wildlife is abundant, and we're sure to come away with exhilarating images, which may include coyotes, elk and shaggy bison with heavy coats encrusted with ice.

During the day, we'll also stop in Silver Gate, just outside the park's northeast corner, for a presentation at the Hartman Gallery. Owner Dan Hartman is a renowned Yellowstone wildlife photographer and local naturalist whose wolf images are widely acclaimed. He'll share slides, insights and observations about wolf behavior gleaned from countless hours in their presence, as well as tips for pursuing photos of Yellowstone's winter wildlife. Then, as the light wanes by mid-afternoon, we return to the Lamar Valley to turn our focus on wolf tracking again, knowing our chances to see them are best at dawn and dusk.



Day 4: Northern Range Wolf Tracking / Norris Geyser Basin / West Yellowstone

As dawn breaks over the snowy expanse of the Northern Range, we return once more in search of wolves. An onboard spotting scope is always at the ready, allowing us to observe wolf activity from a distance without disturbing their natural behavior. Many of our Expedition Leaders have worked for years with on-site researchers who track the packs daily, and together they provide us every opportunity to find these charismatic animals in their natural surroundings.

While we remain vigilant for elusive wolves, we have abundant opportunities to capture moose, bison, foxes and coyotes as they navigate the snow-covered terrain. With its soft, diffused light and mountainous backdrop, the valley offers a unique chance to create classic wildlife images like frost-covered bison plowing through snowdrifts and atmospheric landscape shots.

Leaving the Lamar Valley, we journey southwest to the Madison River, where winter's frosty embrace transforms the landscape into a realm of stillness and mist. Snow-laden trees and crystalline waters offer the opportunity to experiment with light—or its absence—as we concentrate on composition and shutter speed. At Norris Geyser Basin, the surreal beauty of steaming, bubbling pools and their vibrant hues strike a stark contrast to the white expanse. Here, we work on freezing motion, capturing the dramatic interplay of heat and cold.

Day 5: Private Snowcoach Tour to Old Faithful

Yellowstone's geysers are legendary, and today we'll capture their magic as we explore via private snowcoach, with a special focus on the iconic Old Faithful. Pack your wide-angle lens to frame these towering natural wonders. From vast landscapes to intricate ice crystals forming in geothermal mist, we'll experiment with composition, macro, and exposure against the vibrant colors of the mineral-laden crust.

Our day centers around Old Faithful, where your Photo Expedition Leader provides expert guidance and insights into the park's geothermal wonders. Beyond the famous geyser, the Firehole River Basin boasts the highest density of geothermal features on Earth, offering stunning shots of geysers, hot springs, mud pots and fumaroles. The dynamic beauty of these geyser basins inspired early explorers and conservationists like Teddy Roosevelt. Winter adds its own allure as steam vents and bubbling mud attract wildlife, creating chances to photograph trumpeter swans, bald eagles, elk and bison.



Day 6: Yellowstone Private Snowcoach Tour—Wildlife Photography

Today we focus on high shutter speed and action shots as we hone skills we've been working on over the course of our time together. With the entire day dedicated to wildlife photography, we can practice the techniques that are unique to photographing winter scenes in Yellowstone and even push ourselves to experiment with novel approaches as we tour via our private snowcoach.

Our Photo Expedition Leader will determine our route depending on where wildlife sightings are best, but we are likely to spend more time along the Madison River and in little-visited Hayden Valley, whose rolling hills are home to herds of bison and the Wapiti wolf pack that established a presence here several years ago. With luck, we might see them in action as we transit the valley.

Day 7 : Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center / Grand Teton National Park / Jackson

After immersing ourselves in the secluded Yellowstone wilds, today we focus on portraiture, capturing close-ups of bears, wolves and other rescued wildlife at the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center, an educational facility near West Yellowstone. Your Photo Expedition Leader guides you through composition so that you may make portraits that best reflect the wild essence of these magnificent creatures. Working with horizontal and vertical orientation, you will have the opportunity to shoot images that encapsulate why these predators have become such powerful western icons.

Leaving West Yellowstone, we drive south to Grand Teton National Park, stopping along the way for our first views of the Teton spires. More great shots await as sunset casts alpenglow on the jagged range, providing an incomparable backdrop for wildlife such as elk, bighorn sheep and moose.

Day 8 : Jackson Hole—National Elk Refuge

Our winter safari continues into Jackson Hole, the broad, open valley at the base of the Tetons, where we go in search of bighorn sheep, bald and golden eagles, coyotes, bison, mule deer, moose and elk.

A sleigh ride on the National Elk Refuge offers another opportunity to capture intimate wildlife shots. Established in 1912 to protect the habitat of one of North America's largest elk herds, the refuge provides an unparalleled setting for photographing not only elk but also bighorn sheep, bald eagles and stunning mountain backdrops. The open sleigh offers unique low-angle perspectives, ideal for creating dynamic compositions with leading lines in the snow or the arresting contrast of elk against the white winter terrain. Experiment with depth of field to isolate subjects or use a wide-angle lens to emphasize the grandeur of the surrounding Tetons.



Day 9: Jackson / Depart

After breakfast, the day is yours to explore the Old West town of Jackson before you depart, as your schedule permits. Stop by Tom Mangelsen's downtown gallery, where you'll find his captivating collection of wildlife and landscape photography. A Jackson resident for more than 40 years, Mangelsen's images offer a masterclass in composition, storytelling and the beauty of nature. You'll also find a wide range of other interesting subjects, from the iconic elk antler arches in the town square, made from found antlers that elk shed annually, to the western saddle barstools at the famous Million Dollar Cowboy Bar. A gondola ride up Snow King Mountain offers panoramic views over the town and Tetons beyond.



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Accommodation Details:

The Rockwell Inn at Jackson Hole

Armory Hotel

Explorer Cabins at Yellowstone

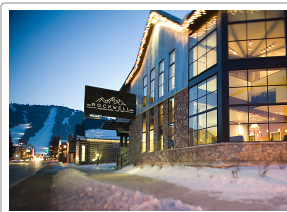
Yellowstone Gateway Inn

Ridgeline Hotel at Yellowstone

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/us-national-parks-tours/winter-yellowstone-wolves-photo-expedition/accommodations/

Yellowstone Winter Wildlife Photo Expedition Accommodations

In-Depth Photography in Yellowstone & Grand Teton in the Solitude of Winter



The Rockwell Inn at Jackson Hole

Ideally located in the heart of Jackson, Wyoming, the Rockwell Inn accommodates guests in an atmosphere of rustic mountain elegance that perfectly blends Old West heritage with contemporary comforts.



Armory Hotel

One block off historic Main Street, Bozeman's only 4-star hotel melds old and new to create sophisticated boutique lodgings that honor the heritage of the landmark Armory building.



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Explorer Cabins at Yellowstone

These cabins in the heart of West Yellowstone are conveniently located near the park's west entrance, offering rustic appeal on the outside with plenty of amenities inside for a truly comfortable stay.



Yellowstone Gateway Inn

Optimally located at the north entrance to Yellowstone National Park in walking distance from historic downtown Gardiner, this homey all-suite hotel gives you plenty of room to relax.



Ridgeline Hotel at Yellowstone

Our rooms at this well-appointed boutique hotel overlook the Yellowstone River, in walking distance of the historic center of Gardiner, the northern gateway to Yellowstone National Park.



Yellowstone's Ultimate Wolf & Wildlife Photography Opportunity

Yellowstone and the Tetons offer a spectacular backdrop for wildlife and nature photography, especially as winter's light plays upon a frosty white canvas. While most other outfitters offer shorter trips through a limited section of the parks, our comprehensive winter journey includes both, plus the National Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole. Learn more about what puts this photo safari head and shoulders above any others:

- 1 The Most Immersive Yellowstone Photo Safari on Offer**

Our decades of experience in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem ensure that you benefit from our deep local knowledge, including where the best wildlife photography opportunities lie. We get you into areas of the parks that most travelers rarely see, to facilitate the photography opportunities you covet.
- 2 A Small Group Ensures Intimate Wildlife Encounters**

Our group of no more than 12 photographers is divided into two smaller groups aboard separate vehicles, each with an Expedition Leader, for the quietest and most personalized experience. Traveling in a small group allows us to move quickly to places where wolves have most recently been spotted.
- 3 Specialized Hatch-Roof Safari Vehicles Enhance Photography Access**

In the spacious vans we use, large side windows and a roof hatch offers a panoramic view on the landscape and wildlife. Every traveler has a window seat plus plenty of space for your camera equipment and other gear. These exclusive vehicles make a big difference in your overall experience!
- 4 The Best Snowcoaches for Remote Winter Access**

To get deep into the remote reaches of Yellowstone's interior, which is off-limits to regular vehicles in winter, we charter special over-the-snow vehicles. These private snowcoaches are the most comfortable and reliable winter vehicles in the park, with huge tires, big picture windows, and a high ceiling for easy access.



5 Our Photographer Guides Are Also Professional Naturalists

You simply won't find a more superlative guide for your Yellowstone photography adventure. Our Expedition Leaders are professional photographers and naturalists, with in-depth knowledge of the natural history of the places we visit. Their intimate knowledge of resident wildlife is a boon, and our guides are in constant communication with local wolf researchers, providing the most up-to-date knowledge of wolf locations and activities. Our Yellowstone Photo Expedition Leaders also receive additional training and resources from WWF's top scientists. We can proudly state that they are the guides called upon to train and teach other local guides.

6 Meet a Renowned Yellowstone Wildlife Photographer

Drawing on our years of connections in the region, we've arranged personal time with one of the country's premier wolf and wildlife photographers. We'll visit the home and gallery of famed local naturalist-photographer Dan Hartman, renowned for his images of wolves in particular and pleased to share with you his tips for how to capture the best shots of these often-elusive animals.

7 Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Photo Tour

When you travel with Natural Habitat Adventures, you get our exclusive guarantee that states that we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.

8 Feel Good About the Way You Travel

We all care about the planet, and you can travel with us knowing that the emissions from your trip are 100 percent carbon-offset. Natural Habitat Adventures is the world's first carbon-neutral travel company, a feature that is especially critical when considering that wildlife and their habitats are under substantial threat from our planet's warming temperatures.

9 Natural Habitat Adventures Is World Wildlife Fund's Travel Partner

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our small-group nature adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat its worldwide travel partner—a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!





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Make It Private with Your Family or Friends

Travel privately, exclusively with your immediate family, multi-generational family or group of friends. And when you choose a private departure, you're assured the most exclusive and authentic Yellowstone Wolf Safari on offer. Request your private departure by completing the form below.

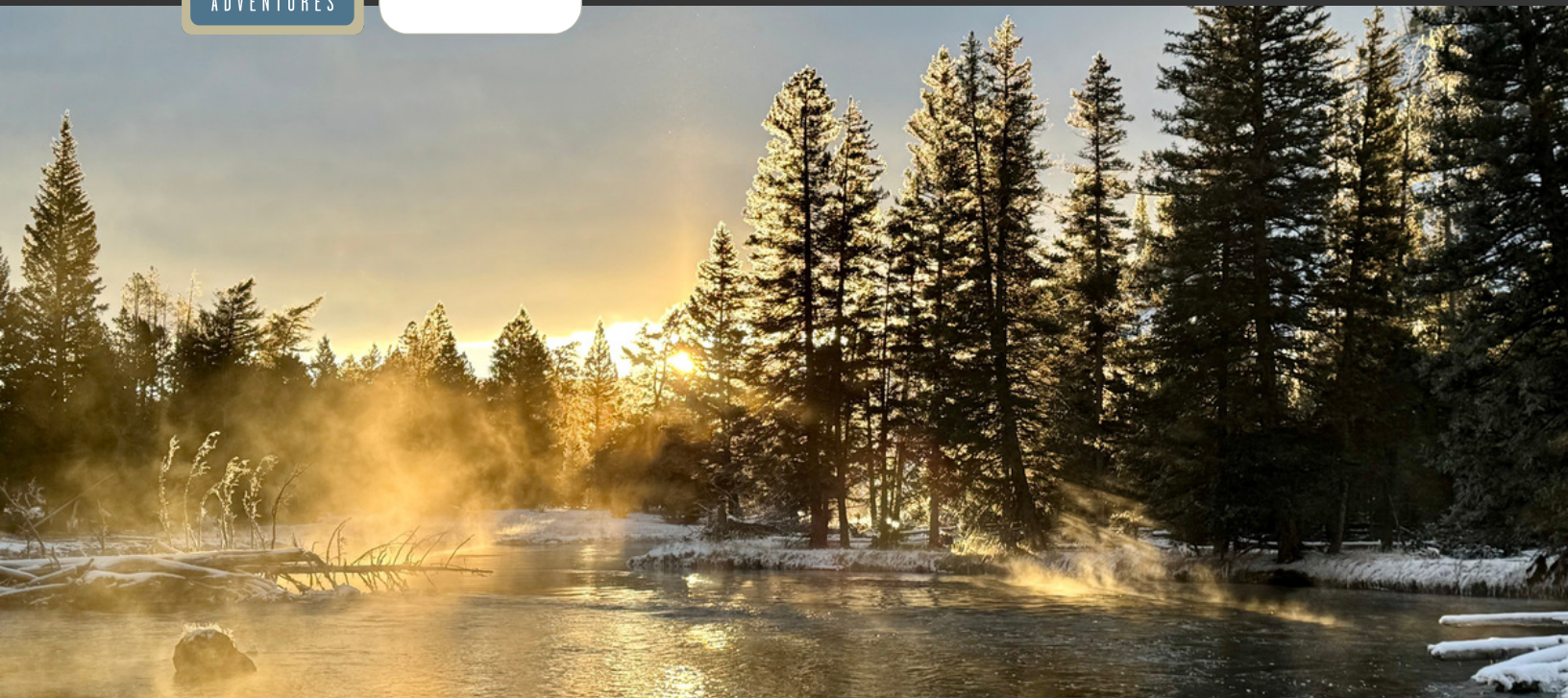
Please note that on Yellowstone Winter Wildlife Photo Expedition Make It Private departures we require a minimum group size of 7 travelers.

Also, please be aware that your per-person cost on a Make It Private trip will vary depending on the number of travelers in your group and may be as much as 10%-30% higher (ship-based trips may be even higher) than our normal trip cost unless you fill the trip.

This **Make It Private** option is available on nearly every Nat Hab trip for family and friend groups. Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917 or look for the "Make It Private" icon in the **pricing section** of a trip online at nathab.com to see prices based on your specific group size.



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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$10995
(+ Air)

Group Size:
Please note that on Make It Private departures we have a minimum group size of half the maximum size of our regularly scheduled departures.

Physical Requirements:

Yellowstone Winter Wildlife Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

In-Depth Photography in Yellowstone & Grand Teton in the Solitude of Winter

2026 Departures

Departure	Return	Notes
Jan 6, 2026	Jan 14, 2026	Bozeman to Jackson
Feb 15, 2026	Feb 23, 2026	Bozeman to Jackson
Feb 24, 2026	Mar 4, 2026	Jackson to Bozeman



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Pricing

2024 Prices

- ▶ **Photo Expedition Price**
\$10995-\$11195

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$1395.

Deposit: \$500 per person (nonrefundable)



Yellowstone: Ultimate Wolf & Wildlife Safari Photo Expedition.

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars.

2025 Prices

- ▶ **Photo Expedition Price**
\$10995

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$1395.

Deposit: \$500 per person

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars.

2026 Prices

- ▶ **Photo Expedition Price**
\$10995 - \$11195

Single Occupancy: For a single room add \$1395.

Deposit: \$500 per person

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars.

Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local staff, transportation in **Nat Hab's North America Safari Cruisers** and local snowcoaches, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, gear including warm parkas and winter boots, use of Nat Hab scopes and binoculars, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), optional travel protection and medical evacuation insurance.

Physical Requirements

Easy to Moderate

Tracking wolves in Yellowstone typically occurs in snowy, icy and/or wet conditions, and temperatures can be very cold, often dropping well below zero at night with daytime highs in the 30s. Our days



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generally start before sunrise and are filled with activities. Optional hikes and snowshoe excursions require moderate physical exertion, ranging from one to three miles in length over level ground and slight inclines, though snow and ice may create rough and/or challenging terrain conditions. If you opt to snowshoe, you must be able to go at least one-half mile. In order to view Old Faithful, participants must be able to walk 300 yards over icy, snowy pavement and boardwalk. To explore Yellowstone's geothermal basins, you must be able to walk at least one-half to one mile over ice- and snow-covered boardwalk, dirt trails and pavement. While much of our wildlife viewing takes place from our vehicles, participants should be prepared to spend extended periods of time outside in cold temperatures. Travelers should be aware that activities in the park occur at altitudes between 4,810 and 7,380 feet. While travelers are not required to participate in all activities, if you should opt out of any of the day's scheduled activities, we cannot guarantee that alternatives will be available.

On custom or private departures with smaller groups, our ability to accommodate varying levels of physical abilities or interests is limited, since these trips are staffed with a single Expedition Leader who may be assisted, pending availability, by local guides.

Important Information About This Trip

While the Lamar Valley and Yellowstone National Park offer some of the best opportunities to see wolves in the wild, these animals are still very elusive, and they usually do not come in close range of humans. This trip offers a totally natural, uncontrived experience, and as a result, most wolf viewing is done at a distance through spotting scopes. This allows us to watch the packs go about their normal behavior uninfluenced by the presence of humans. It is important to understand that it is incredibly difficult to see the wolves without the use of a spotting scope (Nat Hab provides spotting scopes on your trip). Often, the best way to get photos of the wolves is with a cell phone camera through a spotting scope. Your Expedition Leader will help you with this technique, called "digiscoping." While a long lens is a must for photographers, even then, we can't guarantee excellent shots of the wolves. However, the sheer beauty and grandeur of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem provides magnificent nature imagery, and we are likely to see plenty of the region's other iconic species. Please note that winter temperatures in the region are often very cold, and we do spend a lot of time standing in the outdoors. At times, temperatures may fall below 0° F. On some dates, our itinerary operates in the reverse order of what is listed on our trip page. Please contact our office for details.

Natural Habitat Adventures is an authorized permittee of the U.S. National Park Service.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-



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8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

Arrival: Arrive by 4 pm in order to attend a welcome dinner beginning at 6 pm on Day 1.

Departure: You may depart at any time on the final day of your itinerary.



Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than \$6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.