

Yellowstone in Winter

A Photographer's Dream in Snow & Steam

January 10 to 18, 2026



Bison
© Christopher Conner

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime winter safari in Yellowstone National Park, where snow-covered landscapes provide a stunning backdrop for unforgettable wildlife encounters. This expertly guided adventure with local guide Chris Desborough offers opportunities to capture frost-covered bison, elusive gray wolves, and the raw beauty of Yellowstone's geothermal wonders. Venture into Lamar Valley, listening for the haunting howls of wolf packs and the Upper Geyser Basin to witness Old Faithful erupt, sending shimmering flakes of "geyser rain" into the crisp winter air. Traverse the park aboard a private snowcoach, for the best possible wildlife viewing and photography opportunities in this winter wonderland.

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP?

- **Exclusive Wildlife Encounters:** Spot bison, elk, pronghorn, gray wolves, coyotes, and red foxes against a stunning snowy backdrop.
- **Geothermal Wonders:** Photograph Old Faithful, Mammoth Hot Springs, bubbling mud pots, and steaming geyser basins.
- **Small-Group Experience:** Travel via private snowcoach and bus, allowing for ample stops and flexible wildlife viewing.
- **Winter's Hidden Magic:** Experience Yellowstone's serene and enchanting beauty during this magical season, beyond the summer rush.

LEADER: Chris Desborough.

DAYS: 9, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 8.

COST: \$7,200 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 4.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Jan 10	Arrive in Bozeman, Montana Relax and prepare for your Yellowstone adventure.	Hampton Inn, Bozeman	—
Jan 11	Journey into Yellowstone Meet Chris and travel along the Yellowstone River, entering the park and exploring its scenic winter landscapes.	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Yellowstone National Park	B, L, D
Jan 12	Wildlife Photography in Lamar Valley Spend the day tracking and photographing wolves, bison, and elk in the wildlife-rich Lamar Valley.		B, L, D
Jan 13	Hayden Valley and Central Yellowstone Travel by private snowcoach en route to Central Yellowstone through Hayden Valley, capturing stunning winter scenes and diverse wildlife.	Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Yellowstone National Park	B, L, D
Jan 14–15	Geyser Basins and Thermal Photography Explore Yellowstone’s famous geyser basins on foot and by private snowcoach, photographing steaming thermal pools, bubbling mud pots, and wildlife in the snow.		B, L, D
Jan 16	Morning Walk Among Geysers and Scenic Return Enjoy a sunrise walk among the geysers before returning to Mammoth Hot Springs via snowcoach, passing dramatic cliffs and geothermal features.	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Yellowstone National Park	B, L, D
Jan 17	Final Wildlife Excursion and Farewell Dinner Revisit Lamar Valley for one last chance to capture wolves and other wildlife, followed by a farewell dinner and return to Bozeman.	Hampton Inn, Bozeman	B, L, D
Jan 18	Depart for home.		B

LEADER



Chris Desborough

Chris, originally from the U.K., has been living near Yellowstone’s Northwest entrance for the last 34 years. He is passionate about wildlife photography and the Yellowstone Ecosystem. His background in optical engineering has led him to work with many optical lithography systems, such as those of Canon and Nikon. Chris has embarked on multiple adventures with Cheesemans’ and understands exactly what makes our trips unforgettable.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Jan 10 ~ Arrive in Bozeman, Montana

Welcome to Bozeman, Montana—the gateway to Yellowstone National Park!

Jan 11–12 ~ Meet Chris and explore northern Yellowstone

Specific destinations within the park are subject to change depending on weather conditions and wildlife.

Meet local guide Chris and embark on a stunning journey into northern Yellowstone. Travel south along the Yellowstone River, capturing breathtaking winter landscapes and diverse wildlife, including bighorn sheep, elk, pronghorn, bison, and coyotes.

Explore Mammoth Hot Springs, where steaming mineral terraces contrast beautifully with the snowy terrain, creating unique photography opportunities. Then, venture into Lamar Valley, one of the best places in the world to spot wild wolves. This region also offers sightings of bison, elk, and a variety of birds and small mammals.

Jan 13 ~ Explore Hayden Valley into central Yellowstone

Journey south from Mammoth Hot Springs via private snowcoach, an exclusive way to experience Yellowstone in winter. Travel through Hayden Valley, a remote sanctuary where every snowflake adds to the quiet magic of Yellowstone's winter wilderness, and photograph bison, elk, pronghorn, and other winter-adapted species. Pass the frozen expanse of Yellowstone Lake, keeping an eye out for wildlife before arriving at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge.

Jan 14–15 ~ Central Yellowstone National Park

Step into the heart of Yellowstone's geothermal wonders! The Old Faithful area offers up-close views of geysers, hot springs, and steaming fumaroles, with excellent opportunities to photograph the iconic eruption of Old Faithful against the crisp winter air.

Explore the Upper and Lower Geyser Basins by private snowcoach, capturing vibrant hot springs, bubbling mud pots, and smoky fumaroles. Weather permitting, you'll have the chance to photograph sunrise over the geysers, creating breathtaking compositions. This region is also home to hardy winter wildlife, adding even more depth to your photography experience.

Jan 16 ~ Ride by snowcoach to Mammoth Hot Springs

After a morning of capturing final shots of Yellowstone's geyser fields, begin the return journey to Mammoth Hot Springs via private snowcoach. Along the way, stop to photograph wildlife and the ever-changing winter landscapes of the park.



Mammoth Hot Springs
© Tom Murphy



Big Horn Sheep
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Jan 17 ~ Lamar Valley and return to Bozeman

Take a final trip to Lamar Valley for another chance to photograph wolves, coyotes, red foxes, river otters, and bald eagles. Keep an eye out for trumpeter swans, buffleheads, and other winter waterfowl along Yellowstone’s rivers and wetlands.

After a final day in Yellowstone’s most wildlife-rich region, journey back to Bozeman stopping for a farewell dinner and reminiscing about the incredible moments and stunning images captured throughout the trip.

Jan 18 ~ Depart for home

Depart from Bozeman with unforgettable memories and an incredible portfolio of winter wildlife and landscapes.



Coyote
© Tom Murphy

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$7,200
Single Supplement	Contact us

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will try to find a roommate for you, but if we cannot pair you with a roommate, we may charge you a single supplement. Single rooms cost extra and are subject to availability.

Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$1,500
Final	August 3, 2025	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

Cancellations

Until the Final Payment due date, deposits are refundable except for a cancellation fee of \$150 per person, which can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the canceled trip’s departure date. Cancellations are non-transferable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

Included

- Carbon offsets for the duration of this trip.
- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.

- Accommodations for the nights of January 10 through January 17.
- Meals from breakfast on January 11 through breakfast on January 18.
- Transfers on January 10 and January 18 via complimentary hotel shuttle between the Hampton Inn and the Bozeman Airport (BZN).
- Gratuities to snowcoach drivers, meal services, and porters at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Old Faithful Snow Lodge.
- Trip Planning Materials – information about entry requirements, flights, packing, gratuities, etc.

Not Included

- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.
- All airfare, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees. Round-trip airfare is approximately \$500 to \$850 in and out of Bozeman, Montana from within the US, depending on origin.
- COVID tests.
- Extra hotel nights.
- Gratuities for luggage porters and shuttle drivers at Hampton Inn Bozeman, and the assistant guide.
- [Emergency evacuation insurance and trip cancellation insurance](#).
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Traveler Form.

SIGN UP

Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Traveler Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

[Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris](#)

Email: info@cheesemans.com

WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330 | Skype: CheesemansEcologySafaris

Phone: (800) 527-5330 or (408) 741-5330

OTHER DETAILS

Climate

Daytime temperatures are usually around 0°F (-20°C) but may reach up to the 20s°F (-5°C). Subzero overnight temperatures are common. Warm winds will occasionally push daytime temperatures into the 40s°F (5 to 10°C), causing significant melting of the snowpack at lower elevations, but cold snaps may drive temperatures much lower. Snow is a good possibility.

Fitness Level

You should be comfortable walking with and carrying your gear or standing for several hours at a time. The group usually covers distances under one mile at a slow pace and may occasionally walk short distances in snow. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

Transportation

Travel in a private 15-passenger bus between Bozeman and Yellowstone National Park, as well as around Lamar Valley, then in a snowcoach deep in the park to the geyser basins. For maximum flexibility, we charter a private snowcoach on two days.

Flights

Detailed logistical information is included in the Trip Planning Materials we will send you.

Flights you book

- Arrive in Bozeman, Montana (BZN) by anytime on January 10.
- Depart from Bozeman, Montana (BZN) anytime on January 18.

Terms and Conditions

Read our current [Terms and Conditions](#).

Conservation

Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while stimulating each destination's local economy. We encourage you to explore the various ways in which Cheesemans' operates within this context:

- **Cheesemans' Trips are Carbon Neutral.**
- **Offsetting your Travel to/from our Trip:** We ask you to pledge to offset the carbon emissions for your travel to and from our trips. You can purchase offsets with most airlines (Delta includes them automatically), use our handy [carbon calculator](#) and donate to Sustainable Travel International, or contribute to your favorite offsetting organization.