Yellowstone

A Winter Wildlife Odyssey

January 16 to 24, 2027

Bison
© Georgia Struhsaker

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Embark on an unforgettable **winter safari** in **Yellowstone National Park**, where snow-covered valleys, steaming **geysers**, and frozen waterfalls create a breathtaking backdrop for **wildlife photography**. Led by our experienced local guide Chris Desborough, this immersive Yellowstone winter tour offers the rare opportunity to photograph bison, elk, foxes, and **elusive gray wolves** against the park's frosty wilderness. Explore the legendary **Lamar Valley**, often called "America's Serengeti," and listen for the haunting howls of Yellowstone's wolf packs echoing across the snow. Visit the Upper Geyser Basin to witness the iconic **Old Faithful** geyser eruption, sending clouds of mist and ice crystals into the crisp winter air. Traveling by private snowcoach, guests enjoy unparalleled access to remote park regions and exceptional opportunities for wildlife viewing and photography, the ultimate way to experience Yellowstone's winter magic.

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP?

- **Unforgettable Wildlife Encounters**: Watch bison, elk, pronghorn, gray wolves, coyotes, and red foxes roaming through a pristine winter landscape.
- **Iconic Geothermal Sights**: Capture striking images of Old Faithful, Mammoth Hot Springs, bubbling mud pots, and steaming geyser basins.
- **Small-Group Adventure**: Travel in comfort by private snowcoach and bus, with plenty of time for spontaneous stops and exceptional wildlife viewing.

- **Winter's Enchanting Magic**: Discover Yellowstone's serene, snow-covered beauty—a peaceful contrast to the busy summer season.

LEADER: Chris Desborough.

DAYS: 9, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 8.

COST: $7,500 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 5.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Jan 16	**Welcome to Bozeman, Montana.** Rest up and prepare for your Yellowstone adventure.	Homewood Suites, Bozeman	—
Jan 17	**Journey into Yellowstone.** Meet Chris and your driver and travel along the Yellowstone River to the park entrance. Take in the first glimpses of the park's breathtaking winter scenery.	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Yellowstone National Park	B, L, D
Jan 18	**Wildlife Photography in Lamar Valley.** Spend the day exploring Lamar Valley—one of the best places to spot and photograph wolves, bison, and elk in their snowy habitat.		B, L, D
Jan 19	**Hayden Valley and Central Yellowstone.** Journey through Hayden Valley, by private snowcoach, en route to Central Yellowstone. Capture breathtaking winter scenery and keep an eye out for wildlife.	Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Yellowstone National Park	B, L, D
Jan 20–21	**Upper Geyser Basin Exploration.** Travel by private snowcoach and on foot through Yellowstone's iconic geyser basins, capturing steamy thermal pools, bubbling mud pots, and wildlife in the snow.		B, L, D
Jan 22	**Walk Among Geysers and Return to Mammoth.** Enjoy a sunrise walk among the geysers before taking a scenic snowcoach ride back to Mammoth Hot Springs, keeping an eye out for wildlife on the move.	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Yellowstone National Park	B, L, D
Jan 23	**Last Wildlife Excursion and Farewell Dinner.** Return to Lamar Valley for a final chance to photograph the iconic wildlife and landscapes, before beginning the journey back to Bozeman.	Homewood Suites, Bozeman	B, L, D
Jan 24	**Depart for home.**		B

LEADER

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris carefully selects leaders who are experts in their field to ensure that your experience is the best it can be. One leader will provide a range of expertise for your trip.

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 16 ~ Arrive in Bozeman, Montana
Welcome to Bozeman, Montana—the gateway to Yellowstone National Park!

Jan 17 ~ Meet Chris and Head to 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.

Once in the park, explore Mammoth Hot Springs, where steaming mineral terraces contrast beautifully with the snowy terrain, creating unique photography opportunities.

Jan 18 ~ Lamar Valley
Venture into Lamar Valley, one of the best places in the world to spot wolves in the wild. This expansive, snow-covered valley also offers excellent opportunities to see bison, elk, moose, and a variety of birds and small mammals. With its open terrain and dramatic winter light, Lamar provides ideal conditions for wildlife and landscape photography.

Return to the hotel in the early evening to enjoy a warm dinner and prepare for your next day.

Coyotes
© Ann Laubach

Raven
© Chris Desborough

Jan 19 ~ 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 20–21 ~ 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.

Bison
© Mary Ann Fernandez

Jan 22 ~ 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.

Jan 23 ~ 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.

Geyser
© Max Salfinger

Jan 24 ~ Depart for home
Depart from Bozeman with unforgettable memories and an incredible portfolio of winter wildlife and landscapes.

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	$7,500
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 9, 2026	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 16 through January 23.
- Meals from breakfast on January 17 through breakfast on January 24.
- Transfers on January 16 and January 24 via complimentary hotel shuttle between the Homewood Suites and 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.
- Extra hotel nights.
- Gratuities for luggage porters and shuttle drivers at the Homewood Suites Bozeman.
- Emergency evacuation insurance and trip cancellation insurance.

- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic 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
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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.

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) anytime on January 16.
- Depart from Bozeman, Montana (BZN) anytime on January 24.

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.