

Yellowstone National Park

A Frozen Wilderness Adventure

January 8 to 16, 2028



Coyote and Raven
© Marc Lombardi

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Discover **Yellowstone National Park** in its most dramatic season – where geysers steam against snow-draped valleys, waterfalls lock in ice, and wildlife roams freely across a frost-covered landscape. Join expert local guide, Chris Desborough, for an intimate look at the park's most iconic residents, including **bison**, **elk**, **foxes**, and the legendary **gray wolf** – each encounter offering stunning photographic opportunities unique to the winter season. Venture into the **Lamar Valley**, a vast wildlife corridor renowned as 'America's Serengeti,' where wolf pack sightings rank among the most thrilling and most sought-after shots in **wildlife photography**. Time spent in the **Upper Geyser Basin** puts you front and center for Old Faithful's signature eruption, a spectacle made even more striking and more photogenic against a crisp winter sky. We've also timed this trip to coincide with a shallow **partial lunar eclipse** and **supermoon**, offering a rare chance (weather permitting) to **photograph Old Faithful** erupting beneath a luminous, larger-than-life moon – a truly once-in-a-lifetime shot. Enjoy the comforts of private bus and **snowcoach** travel throughout the tour, ensuring access to the park's more remote and rewarding corners, giving photographers time and flexibility to capture the raw beauty of Yellowstone in winter.

WHY CHOOSE THIS TRIP?

- **Extraordinary Wildlife and Landscapes:** Capture stunning images from frost-covered bison to the brilliant colors of the iconic Grand Prismatic Spring glowing against a snow-covered backdrop.

- **Special Lunar Timing:** Delight in the rare chance to photograph Old Faithful against a dramatic celestial backdrop of a supermoon and partial lunar eclipse (weather permitting), timed to coincide with this trip.
- **Intimate Group Size:** Enjoy a small-group experience that allows for a flexible pace, spontaneous stops, and personalized support from the guide.
- **Learn from a Local Expert:** Gain insight from seasoned guide Chris Desborough, whose deep familiarity with Yellowstone's winter rhythms maximizes every wildlife encounter and photographic opportunity.
- **Explore Beyond the Beaten Path:** Venture into more remote corners of the park, teeming with undisturbed wildlife and untouched scenery – accessible only by snowcoach.

LEADER: Chris Desborough.

DAYS: 9, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 8.

COST: \$7,750 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 5.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Jan 8	Arrive in Bozeman, Montana. Settle in and rest up – your Yellowstone adventure begins tomorrow.	Hampton Inn, Bozeman	—
Jan 9	Journey into Yellowstone. Meet your guide and driver to begin your journey to the park along the Yellowstone River. Take in the first glimpses of the park's breathtaking winter scenery.	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Yellowstone National Park	B, L, D
Jan 10	Wildlife Photography in Lamar Valley. Explore Lamar Valley, tracking and photographing iconic wildlife, including bison, elk, moose, and hopefully wolves.		B, L, D
Jan 11	Hayden Valley and Central Yellowstone. Board the private snowcoach and travel through Hayden Valley en route to Central Yellowstone, with plenty of stops along the way for wildlife sightings and photography.	Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Yellowstone National Park	B, L, D
Jan 12–13	Upper Geyser Basin Exploration. Travel on foot and by private snowcoach through Yellowstone's famous geyser basins, capturing steamy thermal pools, bubbling mud pots, and wildlife in the snow.		B, L, D
Jan 14	Sunrise among the Geysers and Return to Mammoth. Begin the day with a morning walk among the geyser basin boardwalk before a scenic snowcoach ride back to Mammoth Hot Springs, watching for wildlife along the way.	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Yellowstone National Park	B, L, D
Jan 15	Final Wildlife Encounters and Farewell Dinner. Make one last visit to Lamar Valley for a final day of wildlife photography before heading back to Bozeman.	Hampton Inn, Bozeman	B, L, D
Jan 16	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 8 ~ Arrive in Bozeman, Montana

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

Jan 9 ~ 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 10 ~ 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.



Bighorn Sheep
© Isaac Ho



Bison
© Elise Spata

Jan 11 ~ 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 12–13 ~ 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 14 ~ 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 15 ~ 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.



Trumpeter Swans
© Chris Desborough

Jan 16 ~ 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	\$7,750
Single Supplement	\$1,500

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 1, 2027	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 8 through January 15.
- Meals from breakfast on January 9 through breakfast on January 16.
- Transfers on January 8 and January 16 via complimentary hotel shuttle between the Hampton Inn and Bozeman Airport (BZN).
- Gratuities for bus and snowcoach drivers, meal services, and hotel staff 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.
- Divergent airport transfers and extra hotel nights.
- Gratuities for luggage porters, hotel staff, and shuttle drivers at the Hampton Inn 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

WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330

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, because many interior park roads are closed to regular vehicles during winter. For maximum flexibility, we charter a private bus and snowcoach on four days.

Flights

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

Please wait to book your flights until you receive confirmation from your Coordinator that the minimum number of participants has been met to operate the trip. If you choose to book flights before receiving this confirmation, we strongly recommend purchasing flight cancellation insurance to protect your investment.

Flights you book

- Arrive in Bozeman, Montana (BZN) anytime on January 8.
- Depart from Bozeman, Montana (BZN) anytime on January 16.

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.

Together, we can continue exploring and cherishing this planet while working toward its long-term protection. Thank you for being part of this important journey with us.

FAQS

Is this a good trip for non-photographers?

Absolutely! While this is a photography-focused trip, the wildlife encounters, geothermal landscapes, and intimate group experience are equally rewarding for nature lovers of all kinds. The small group size also allows for flexibility of pace for photographers and non-photographers alike.

Will wolf sightings be guaranteed?

Lamar Valley is widely regarded as one of the best places in the world to spot wild gray wolves, and sightings do occur; however, as with all wildlife, they can never be guaranteed. Your leader, Chris, assisted by an additional local guide in Lamar Valley, will do their best to maximize your chances of a sighting.

Is Yellowstone crowded in winter?

Winter visitation is significantly lower than summer, allowing for a quieter experience and more opportunities to enjoy wildlife and geothermal areas without the large crowds that accompany the other seasons.

Is winter a good time to visit Yellowstone National Park?

Many travelers consider winter the most magical season in Yellowstone. Snow-covered landscapes, fewer visitors, abundant wildlife viewing opportunities, and steaming geothermal features create a unique experience not found during summer, fall, or spring.