

Spring in Yellowstone: Bears and Wolves



All of our Yellowstone trips are popular, as the majestic beauty and wildlife of Yellowstone National Park is unparalleled. May is when the park transitions from winter to spring and this is the time to see bears, as they have recently emerged from their winter dens and are actively hunting. Wolf activity is also very dynamic as they often have pups to care for.

Our adventure starts in Mammoth Hot Springs, the headquarters to Yellowstone National Park and travels to all regions of the park. This trip has an educational focus on ecology and wildlife and is designed for a small group of individuals, allowing us maximum flexibility for wildlife viewing. By day, your guide – Dr. Jim Halfpenny, a renowned carnivore ecologist – will accompany you as you view Yellowstone’s incredible array of wildlife. You will have time to relax at the end of the day, enjoy meals and company with your fellow travelers, and enjoy slide shows and discussions about the park and its wildlife.

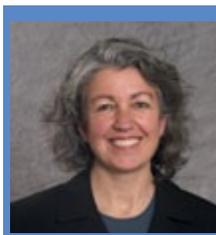
Yellowstone National Park itself is 2.2 million acres of exceptional scenery and steaming geothermal features. It has been designated as both an International Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage Site. The landscape of the park today reflects its dynamic volcanic origins. Three gigantic eruptions occurred in the past two million years, the most recent of which formed a huge volcanic caldera (28 by 47 miles) in the heart of the park. Ice Age glaciers then shaped the area’s volcanic features. Volcanism and glaciers together created more than 10,000 hydrothermal features (including Old Faithful) in the park.

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem offers abundant wildlife, easily seen in late May when the lingering late-season snows keep the large mammals in the

valleys and thermal areas to search for food. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem contains North America’s largest herds of free-roaming bison. Upwards of 6,000 elk winter in the Northern Range of Yellowstone National Park. Deer, elk, bison, pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep provide the food base for the grizzly bears and recently re-introduced wolves.

The trip includes five nights’ lodging at beautiful park lodges in Yellowstone or hotels outside the park. Standard arrangements are for double-occupancy rooms for all participants. Private rooms may be available for an additional charge. Many meals are provided during the trip, including field lunches during our daily outings. Some meals are on your own to take advantage of varied schedules and exploration of nearby geological features. All transportation is provided on the trip in a small bus. Airport pickup and drop-off are also included.

The activity level of this trip is easy and includes a variety of options for hikes throughout the week. Limited to 13 participants.



Escorted by
Louise Bradshaw,
Director of Education

ITINERARY

Spring In Yellowstone: Bears and Wolves

May 21 – 26, 2011

**\$2,175 based on double occupancy
per person land only.**

Single Supplement additional \$850

Airfare estimated to be \$400-\$500.

- › **Saturday, May 21**
St. Louis – Bozeman, MT – Gardiner
- › **Sunday, May 22**
Yellowstone National Park – Lamar
Valley and Mammoth Hot Springs
- › **Monday, May 23**
Gardiner to Grand Canyon of the
Yellowstone to Yellowstone Lake
- › **Tuesday, May 24**
Yellowstone Lake to Old Faithful
- › **Wednesday, May 25**
Old Faithful Geyser Basin
- › **Thursday, May 26**
Chico Hot Springs to Bozeman
to St. Louis

For more information, contact Altair Travel at (314) 968-9600.



Saint Louis Zoo
Animals Always®

DAY 1, SATURDAY, MAY 21
St. Louis/Gardiner, Montana

Arrive at Bozeman airport in early afternoon. Drive to Gardiner, gateway to Mammoth Hot Springs. There will be wildlife viewing opportunities in Paradise Valley along the Yellowstone River on this three-hour drive. You will have dinner and an introduction in A Naturalist's World Education Center. Accommodations are in the Absaroka Lodge, Gardiner, Montana, for the first two nights. D

DAY 2, SUNDAY, MAY 22
Yellowstone National Park/Lamar Valley/Mammoth Hot Springs

This day is dedicated to wildlife observation. We will explore the Northern Range of Yellowstone looking for elk, bison, bighorn sheep, and of course, bears and wolves. Be prepared to spend the whole day in the field, including a field breakfast and lunch at a cafe in Cook City, located outside the northeast entrance to Yellowstone National Park. At the upper end of the Northern Range is the Lamar Valley, appropriately dubbed the "Serengeti of North America." Lamar is home to various wolf packs. Dr. Jim Halfpenny has published three books detailing the ecology of Yellowstone bears and wolves and will share his experiences studying each. Time will also be available to hike the hot springs terrace at Mammoth and to visit the Yellowstone Visitor Center. Dinner will be on your own. The evening slide show is entitled Restoring Wolves to Yellowstone Park. Lodging is at Absaroka Lodge. B, L



DAY 3, MONDAY, MAY 23
Yellowstone National Park/Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone/Yellowstone Lake

We head into the interior of the park to explore the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, to observe the Upper and Lower Falls and the exhibits at the Visitor Center. Lunch will be on your own at Canyon. Then we look for wildlife in Hayden Valley on the way down to Yellowstone Lake with a stop at Mud Volcano. The bear activity around Lake Lodge, our night's lodging, is especially high in the spring. We will explore the surrounding lake shore and rivers/creeks that feed Yellowstone Lake looking for bears. This night is spent in the Historic Yellowstone Lake Hotel on the north shore of Yellowstone Lake. B

DAY 4, TUESDAY, MAY 24
Yellowstone National Park/Yellowstone Lake/Old Faithful

This day we head south down Yellowstone Lake en-route to Old Faithful, stopping along the way to visit a couple of geyser basins and cross the Continental Divide. We will be traversing coniferous forest habitats. We arrive at Old Faithful with time to explore this beautiful geyser basin. Wildlife abounds in this area in the spring and at times the trails are closed because of grizzly bear activity. We stay in Old Faithful's Snow Lodge, near the historic Old Faithful Inn. B, L, D

DAY 5, WEDNESDAY, MAY 25
Yellowstone National Park/Old Faithful/Chico Hot Springs

We head north this morning stopping at three geyser basins along the way as we follow the Fire Hole, Madison, and Gibbon Rivers. After a field lunch we head into the heart of

the Gallatin Mountain Range for spectacular scenery and a chance to see grizzlies on the open hillsides. Along the way we will stop at Norris Geyser Basin. We exit the park at Mammoth Hot Springs completing a giant loop of the park and head north to historic Chico Lodge, our final night in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. After dinner enjoy a swim in the hot spring swimming pool as you gaze up at the stars above you. B, L, D

DAY 6, THURSDAY, MAY 26

Chico Hot Springs/Bozeman/St. Louis, Missouri

After breakfast, we say goodbye to the Gallatin Range as we head north to Bozeman. We catch a mid-afternoon flight back for an evening arrival in St. Louis concluding our voyage of discovery into our nation's premier wildlife reserve. B

NOTE: All itineraries are subject to change, depending on the whims of the animals (and guide), personal abilities, interest, snow and other weather conditions, etc.

FIELD HIKES:

Hikes will be short – from 100 yards to three miles on paved trails (Old Faithful area). All hikes are optional, as most of our observations will be from the road. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes if you have them. Dress warmly, as it can be cold standing still and watching! Opportunities for easy hikes on flat terrain are available for the more adventuresome.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

The trip includes five nights lodging and some meals. The first two nights are spent at the Absaroka Inn in Gardiner at Mammoth Hot Springs Park Entrance. The Naturalist's World Education Center is just one block away where evening programs and education materials will be available. The next two nights are spent in National Park Lodges – Yellowstone Lake Lodge and Old Faithful Snow Lodge. The last night is spent at the Chico Hot Springs. The "Chico" was built at a natural hot spring in 1900. A large indoor-outdoor hot pool system soothes your tired muscles.

MEALS:

Most meals are provided, from supper on Day 1 to breakfast on the last day. Dinners and many breakfasts will be served at the Education Center or lodges' dining rooms. A field breakfast will be provided on those days with early morning departures. Field lunches will be provided in the park during our daily outings.

TRANSPORTATION:

All transportation is provided, including airport pickup and drop-off from the airport in Bozeman, MT. The group travels in a small bus throughout the trip. There is space to store day gear in the bus.

GROUP SIZE:

This trip is limited to 13 participants in order to maximize the educational and wildlife viewing experiences with Jim Halfpenny. Everyone stays together as a group and in the mini-bus so as to hear the park and wildlife interpretation provided by Jim.

TRIP DIFFICULTY:

The physical demands for trip participants are not strenuous, but you must be physically fit as Yellowstone is at high elevations. All hikes will be on trails with short, off-trail excursions to take advantage of wildlife activity. Yellowstone National Park is very large and considerable time will be spent in vans traveling and looking for wildlife.

TRIP INSURANCE:

Trip Insurance is built into the trip registration fee and will cover trip cancellation as well as post trip departure insurance.

TRIP PRICE INCLUDES:

- Ground transportation to and from the Bozeman airport and during the program
- Meals starting with supper on day 1 and ending with breakfast on day 7 as specified in the itinerary
- National park entrance fees
- Daily field trips including services of instructors
- Double occupancy at lodges and hotel
- Community field gear
- Tips are included for meals
- Emergency care including medical treatment, searches, and evacuation as provided in trip insurance

TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Transportation to and from individual departure points to the Bozeman airport
- Personal items such as clothing, film, snacks, liquor, telephone calls
- Tips for A Naturalist's World instructor and staff



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Our Yellowstone Adventures are popular. To be assured of space prior to sending in your reservation form, please call (314) 968-9600. This form with deposit should be sent to:

Altair Travel and Cruises
2025 South Brentwood Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63144
(314) 968-9600

Personal Information

Please fill out one reservation form for each traveler

Full Name of Traveler Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

2nd Traveler Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Cell Phone _____

Evening Telephone _____ Day Telephone _____

Email _____

Accommodations

Double-Rooming with _____

The single supplement is limited at an additional \$850.

Air Arrangements to Bozeman, Montana

I would like to arrange travel with the group, please send me information.

I would like to make my own travel arrangements (information will be provided on transfers)

Emergency Contact:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Relationship: _____

Payment

Spring in Yellowstone program fee is \$2,175 per person land only, based on double occupancy. Travel insurance is included in the program fee. Air fare is not included.

Airfare is estimated to be \$400-\$500.

The single supplement is limited at an additional \$850.

A deposit of \$500 per person by check, payable to Altair Travel & Cruises and sent to Altair Travel & Cruises, is required to hold space on this departure. Final payment (by check only) will be due 60 days prior to departure. Please make checks for deposit and final payment payable to Altair Travel and Cruises and send to:

Altair Travel and Cruises
2025 South Brentwood Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63144
(314) 968-9600

Refund and Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be received in writing. Airfare may be non-refundable. Please contact Altair Travel with questions regarding cancellation at (314) 968-9600.

Cancellation fees

For cancellations or reductions 25 days or less prior to arrival, the client will pay a cancellation fee of 100%.

We understand how disappointing it is for travelers in the event they are forced to cancel their adventure, especially one that they have been looking forward to for a long time. But we, too, plan for these adventures for quite a long period prior to departure and must continuously send non-refundable payments to hotels and suppliers of transportation. Therefore, we must strictly adhere to our refund policy for all travelers.

Trip Includes:

- Ground transportation to and from Bozeman airport
- Ground transportation during the program
- Meals starting with dinner on day 1 and ending with breakfast on day 6 as specified on the itinerary
- National Park entrance fees if needed
- Daily field trips
- Double occupancy at hotels and lodges
- Community field gear
- Services of our instructors
- Tips are included for meals
- Trip Insurance

Not included:

- Airfare
- Personal items
- Clothing, snacks, film, liquor, telephone calls, emergency care, medical treatment, searches, and evacuation
- Tips for A Naturalist's World instructor and staff

Terms and Conditions

The Saint Louis Zoo, A Naturalist's World, and Altair Travel & Cruises, and our cooperating agents make every effort to select reliable suppliers and contractors to provide aid and other transportation services, hotels, guides, and other travel related connections equated with such services. Each traveler agrees not to hold the Saint Louis Zoo and A Naturalist's World, and Altair Travel & Cruises, its owners, employees, agents, sponsoring organizations and/or damage which results directly or indirectly from any act of omission of any person or firm which is to or does provide goods or services in connection with the trip or with any available option.

The Saint Louis Zoo, A Naturalist's World, and Altair Travel & Cruises, its cooperating agents and sponsoring organization shall not be liable for circumstances arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, acts of nature, military, political, or terrorist action, civil disturbances, government restrictions, or regulations, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, discrepancies or changes in transit over which they have no control. On advancement of deposit, the traveler agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions set forth above.

Wildlife Viewing, Itinerary Changes and Fees

Since our programs specialize in viewing wildlife, every effort will be made to plan programs in locations where wildlife is known to exist. However, the animals we visit live wild and free, and we cannot fully predict or control their migratory patterns. In an attempt to locate wildlife which may have deviated from its normal pattern, or in the interest of traveler comfort or safety, we may be required to make reasonable changes in itineraries. If it is necessary to change hotels, boats, or other facilities, comparable accommodations will be substituted wherever possible. If such changes occur, additional costs may require the program fee to change with little or no notice.

Should fewer than 10 passengers register for this trip, it may be necessary to add a surcharge to the program fee.

I understand that by signing below I am acting for myself and for everyone in my party in acknowledging that I have read and accepted the Terms and Conditions, Payment, Refund and Cancellation Policy, Wildlife Viewing, Itinerary Changes, and Fees sections on this reservation form. I also assume all risks involved with regard to this trip and agree that the Saint Louis Zoo, A Naturalist's World, and Altair Travel & Cruises will in no way be responsible for any injury or damage to me or other members of my party.

Signature _____ Date _____