

Yellowstone in Winter - A Photo Expedition with Barbara Eddy

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February 5 - 9, 2024 - Limited to 6 guests
5 days/6 nights



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WINTER PHOTOGRAPHIC TOUR

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - A CUSTOM SNOWCOACH TOUR

Winter in Yellowstone National Park is a magical and spectacular time of year. The summer crowds are gone but the wonders of the Park remain for hardy visitors to explore and enjoy. There is nothing comparable to a winter visit to the geyser basins or seeing bison and elk warming near the mist of a hot springs. Beginning in 1996, I have been fortunate to lead dozens of five-day photo tours into this winter fairyland. My winter photo tours allow me to share my knowledge of photography and the Park with my special guests. I invite you to join me this winter for five full days of photography exploring the heart of Yellowstone National Park. I'll offer personalized instruction so you will come away with incredible images, fabulous memories and new friends! Bison, coyotes, and swans await us!

A Winter Wonderland

Winter snows push the wildlife down to the geyser basins, rivers, and lower valleys of Yellowstone in search of food and warmth making this the best time of year to photograph wildlife. We often see and photograph coyotes, foxes, elk, bison, and trumpeter swans, even bobcats in the magical fog rising from the warm, geyser-heated rivers. Hungry bald eagles and river otters overwinter near open water where they seek fish under the gaze of nearby magpies and ravens.

Although abundant wildlife is a major lure, the winter landscape is unsurpassed for photography. The summertime Old Faithful does not compare to geyser's winter explosion of steam and mist. Hoarfrost clings to every tree in the geyser basins in sharp contrast to the azure skies. We'll visit the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and photograph from Artist Point. Our itinerary will take us to waterfalls including Firehole, Gibbon, Lower, Upper, and Kepler Cascades, as well as geysers, fumaroles, and the colorful Fountain Paint Pots. I spend my time helping you with your camera equipment in order for you to get once-in-a-lifetime photos. I use my own equipment to demonstrate special techniques and compositions.





Flexible Itinerary

Winter weather determines our daily schedule. I will take you to the best locations as permitted by the weather. We are rarely shut out by conditions. A snowfall is ideal for wildlife. Overcast days are perfect for shooting the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and waterfalls. Direct sun illuminates the thermal areas and geysers. Subzero cold intensifies the fog where the animals graze. A bison covered in frost and snow is a magical photo opportunity. A coyote pouncing on a mouse in soft snow is a common but unique sighting. Because Yellowstone is renown for wolves and bears, we will also visit the Grizzly Bear and Wolf Discovery Center which provides incredible photographic opportunities for these two animals.

I endeavor to provide each of my guests with personal instruction and an enjoyable winter experience in Yellowstone. I will do everything I can to help you get the images you want and create a unique photography-centered vacation.





Dates: February 4 - 9, 2024.

Our journey will begin in West Yellowstone, Montana. We will stay in a cozy inn just outside of the west gate to Yellowstone.

Daily Schedule - Itinerary

Day One: Sunday - Arrive in West Yellowstone - overnight at our comfy inn.

Day Two through Five: Monday through Friday - After breakfast near the inn's fireplace we will venture out into the Park and remain there until after the light fails for the day. Our lunch will be carried in the coach so that we can stop whenever we get hungry often in an inspiring location. Upon returning to the inn after our full day in the Park, we will savor a delicious catered dinner by the crackling fire.

During our week together we will enjoy a few hours at the **Grizzly Bear and Wolf Discovery Center**. Photographing both the wolves and bears at the center can be very productive and entertaining.

Day Six Saturday - Depending on your return schedule, you can enjoy a leisurely breakfast and extend your stay in town or maybe explore more of Montana before heading home. Before the workshop, I will be offering an optional 2-3 day extension. Details of the extension will be available soon.

Camera Gear

Yellowstone offers many photographic opportunities ranging from landscapes to close-ups of frosty pinecones to the diversity of wildlife. Lenses from a 24mm to a 400 or 500mm will be

useful. I like using zoom lenses. Below you will find what I will be packing for this trip. For wildlife you can't beat a zoom lens in the range of 200-500mm. I will be bringing my Nikon 100-400 but the zooms of 80-400 or 150-600 will do well in Yellowstone. These particular lenses allow you to zoom in on more distant or smaller animals as well as closer subjects. A tripod is useful to support the camera and lens in position while awaiting an attractive pose. If you are using a camera with a crop factor (small sensor) consider what it does to your focal length. If your camera has a 1.5x crop factor, the field of view of a 300mm lens is similar to a much longer 450mm lens. The focal length is still 300mm, but the animal will be much larger in the viewfinder! Of course 500mm or 600mm telephotos are also good choices, but the zoom lenses offer greater versatility with less weight.

Here is a list of the equipment that I am bringing. You do not need to duplicate this list. It is meant only as a guide to help you decide what to bring. Remember, I typically favor long focal length lenses for wildlife, so I need the reach of a 400mm or 500mm to make my subjects larger in the frame.

Barbara's Nikon Gear

This is what Barbara will bring				
<i>Nikon D850 and Z9</i>	<i>100-400mm lens</i>	<i>2x teleconverter</i>	<i>24-120mm lens</i>	<i>70-200mm lens</i>
<i>Kirk BH-1 ball head</i>	<i>Gitzo tripod</i>	<i>Camera/lens raincoat</i>	<i>Wimberley Sidekick (optional)</i>	

This is my list, and your guideline. I don't expect you to have all this but bring comparable.



Don't forget these important items

Here are some suggestions		
<i>Laptop computer with 3TB external hard drive for storing images</i>		<i>Chargers for camera and computer</i>
<i>Day pack with plastic liner bag</i>	<i>Lens cleaner, blower for sensor</i>	<i>Extra Camera Batteries</i>

Weather Note:

Mornings in West Yellowstone, our base of operations, may be cold, sometimes down to minus 30. More often than not, the temperature is above zero, sometimes even above freezing. Proper clothing and footwear is essential. Our snowcoach is heated and comfortable and at all times offers a respite from the weather. Remember, the cold creates the magical conditions we seek! I plan for the worst and hope for the best when it comes to dressing for the cold. Layering is a perfect way of warming up or cooling down as the weather dictates.

What to Wear

Yellowstone is very cold in Late-January through mid-February. Warm winter boots that are comfortable for short hikes are essential. Also bring warm snow pants, winter jacket, neck scarf, and a hat for both you and the camera will come in handy. Warm gloves and glove liners will allow you to shoot and warm up your hands when they get cold. I use hand warmers to put into my gloves and pockets.

Our Days in the Park

After an early breakfast, we board the snowcoach directly from our cozy inn and drive into the Park. Typically, we stay out all day and only return after the light fails. Many Park tours are usually required to leave the Park by 4:30 p.m but we typically get back before six. We may be a bit later if the sunset looks promising. Sunsets can be spectacular.

Meals are included

The inn will prepare breakfast for you each morning. Our caterer, "Uncle Laurie", will prepare a generous packed lunch for us each day. You will be able to choose your favorite sandwich ahead of time. The packed lunch gives us more flexibility in our travels which allows us to eat whenever we want. At the end of each day, I will call Laurie and let her know when we plan to arrive at the inn so that she can have our homemade meal ready for us upon arrival! We will enjoy our dinner by the inn's fireplace. Dinner will include a specialty salad, fresh vegetables, main entrée, dessert and artisan bread. After the first dinner, you'll know how fantastic the meals are and look forward to these nightly feasts! You won't go hungry on this trip.

While dining we can talk about the beauty of our day and what adventures may await us for the following day. Of course there will be plenty of time for discussing photography techniques and post-processing. Perhaps ending the day with a photography program.





Fitness and Health - Hiking

This trip does not require long distance hiking, but we regularly walk on the paths at the geyser basins. We traverse snowy and icy spots, I like to attach "Yaktrax" on my boots for added traction. You will be carrying your camera and tripod and you will want to be safe. Even though the usual walking distances are less than a mile, if you have trouble walking or hiking this trip may not be for you. People of average physical condition for hiking will have no problem.

Don't forget to bring some cash for Tips

Please tip the restaurant staff for your morning meal. We will collect tips for Laurie—our fabulous chef—at the end of the week. \$45-\$50. Budget about \$20 to \$25 per day for the snowcoach driver who will be working extra-long hours on your behalf.

Our Tour Begins in West Yellowstone

The closest airport is Bozeman International Airport (BZN) near Bozeman, Montana. There are many car rentals agencies available at the airport. Here is a the airport's primary link: <https://bozemanairport.com/ground-transportation>. Airport shuttles to West Yellowstone can be arranged through Karst Stage Lines. You can find more information at <http://karststage.com/>. Their local phone number is 406-556-3540 or call 1-800-287-4759.

Yellowstone National Park Pass

A park pass is required to enter Yellowstone National Park. Many of you already have a pass. If you don't have a pass we can stop before entering the Park and you can purchase one.

You have a choice of purchasing a weekly pass or an annual pass. A Golden Age Pass is available for those 65 and older for a fee of \$80 and is good for your lifetime. You will need to have your Park pass and a photo ID with you when you enter the Park.

Tour Cost - \$4995 per person - a small group surcharge will be assessed if the group size is less than 4 paying guests

What <u>IS</u> included:	What <u>IS NOT</u> included:
Five days on Snowcoach in Yellowstone Park	Park Pass
Personalized photo instruction by Barbara	Items of a personal nature
Six nights Lodging in West Yellowstone	Transportation to and from West Yellowstone
Breakfast - Monday thru Saturday	Alcoholic beverages
Lunches and Dinners - Monday thru Friday	
Admission to Grizzly and Wolf Discover Center	
Nightly photography instructions - time and energy permitting	
Discussions and help with post processing	
Tea, coffee and hot chocolate with evening meal	



To Enroll: Please email contact@barbaraeddyphotography.com to check availability. A deposit of \$1500 is required to secure your enrollment. Balance of \$3495 is due on October 29, 2023

Make Check out to: Barbara Eddy and mail to: Barbara Eddy - PO Box 575 - Ronan MT 59864

Cancellation Policy:

For complete peace of mind, we strongly recommend that you purchase [Travel Insurance](#) to protect yourself against cancellation penalties and travel costs. We understand that life happens. If you must cancel a reservation, please notify contact@barbaraeddyphotography.com as soon as possible. All cancellations must be requested via email and we will try our best to accommodate. [Travel Insurance](#) should cover any non-refundable fees and travel expenses. We will make every attempt to fill your spot.

- At the time of booking, you have the option to pay a \$1500 deposit or the full workshop amount. If you pay the deposit, the remaining balance of \$3495 will be due on October 29, 2023.
- For cancellations more than **121 days from departure**, we will refund your deposit minus a \$500 cancellation fee once we fill the vacancy. If we are unable to fill the vacancy, your cancellation fee of \$500 will be forfeited or applied to another workshop conducted within the next calendar year.
- If you must cancel between **91 to 120 days prior to departure**, a \$700 cancellation fee will be assessed plus any funds paid by Barbara Eddy Photography to suppliers that are non-refundable. If we can refill your space on short notice the non-refundable supplier fees will be returned to you. The \$700 cancellation fee can be applied to a future workshop conducted within 365 days of the cancellation date.
- Unfortunately, within **90 days of departure**, no refunds can be given. If we are able to fill the vacancy, your payment minus the \$700 cancellation fee can be applied to a future workshop conducted within 365 days of the cancellation date.
- We strongly recommend that all participants purchase [Travel Insurance](#) to cover any non-refundable deposits and workshop fees.

Additional Items:

- Any non-refundable fees paid to a third party in connection with your tour cannot be refunded.
- Barbara Eddy Photography cannot offer partial refunds for unused services. If you have to cut your trip short, no refunds can be given.
- If you are not present at the time of trip departure, we will try our best to contact you. We cannot offer any refunds for no-shows.

Thank you for your interest in my photography expeditions. Any questions please email me at contact@barbaraeddyphotography.com or call 208-244-1887.

Warm
Wishes,

Barbara



Yellowstone Awaits You!



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