

Yellowstone Winter Tour



Highlights

The winter scenery adds a whole new dimension to Yellowstone and the areas surrounding it. Coupled with the snowy landscape, the odds of seeing wolves in their natural habitat is dramatically increased thanks to the expert guide in tow for the duration of this two day tour.

Although inhabited for over ten thousand years, Yellowstone was only truly discovered by North American settlers in the last 150 years. Explorers who chanced upon the region before the 1860s were dismissed as fantasists who had fabricated their accounts of Yellowstone - after all, tales of a land filled with prehistoric forests and giant erupting geysers were difficult to buy into at the time!

The park is an astounding land of wonders in the summer months, but magic truly happens in the winter. The complex icescape stretching northwards into Montana is a great place to see gray wolves - usually elusive, they're easier to spot in the snow and become more active during the winter months, long after the bears have holed up for the cold stretch. On this two-day tour you'll get to watch wolves prowl and hunt on native elk, staying overnight at a log cabin and escorted around the area by your own personal biologist.

Also on the itinerary is opportunity to see coyote (cousins to the gray wolf), bald eagles and more bison and elk than you could shake a frozen stick at!

Is it for me?

Yellowstone Park, neighbouring Montana, can get quite cold in the winter. This is not as silly a point to mention as it may look - by 'quite cold', we're talking lows of -20 Celsius. Best to pack some mittens!

The tour is primarily conducted with vehicle support, but can be combined with some more physical activity including snow-shoeing if that's your kind of thing. Otherwise, the tour is relatively easy-going so long as you don't mind the biting cold.

Accommodation

Depending on which is available, you'll be staying in one of the cabin lodges affiliated with the operator on the edge of the park. Each lodge is clean, comfortable and suitably atmospheric enough for a cabin in the great outdoors! Modern shower, kitchenette and toilet facilities are provided, and rooms are based on a double or twin room share.

Picnic lunches and snacks are included in the price, as is a filling breakfast on the second morning. Evening meal on day one is not provided, but all cabins have self-catering facilities.

Itinerary

For a near-guaranteed chance of seeing wolves, the ideal time of year to visit the park is between December and mid-April. Both days of the tour are rather open-ended and not limited to a strict schedule, with the group starting early on each day to set out with the guide on the search for wildlife. As mentioned above, there is vehicle support for the tour, so walking is minimal, and there is a good chance of having enough time left over to see some of the other attractions in the park.

Prices from

522 GBP (2 days) per person

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Binoculars and spotting scopes are provided while on the tour for viewing the animals at a safe distance.

Details

Getting there

The guides can pick you up at a convenient location near to the park. The tour starts in the general Bozeman area north of Yellowstone - the nearest regional airport is in Bozeman city itself.

Price includes

Price quoted is per person based on 2 people sharing and includes expert guide for two days, access to the park, one night accommodation, transport, two lunches, one breakfast, snacks. Yellowstone National Park entrance fee (\$12 per person, valid 7 days) and guide gratuities are paid on trip separately.

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed