

# Yellowstone Expeditions

43  
Years  
1983 to 2026

A circular logo with a laurel wreath border. Inside the circle, the number '43' is prominently displayed above the word 'Years'. Below the circle, a ribbon banner contains the text '1983 to 2026'.

# ***Yellowstone Expeditions***

***Back-Country Ski Tours  
and the Canyon Skier's Yurt Camp  
in Yellowstone National Park***



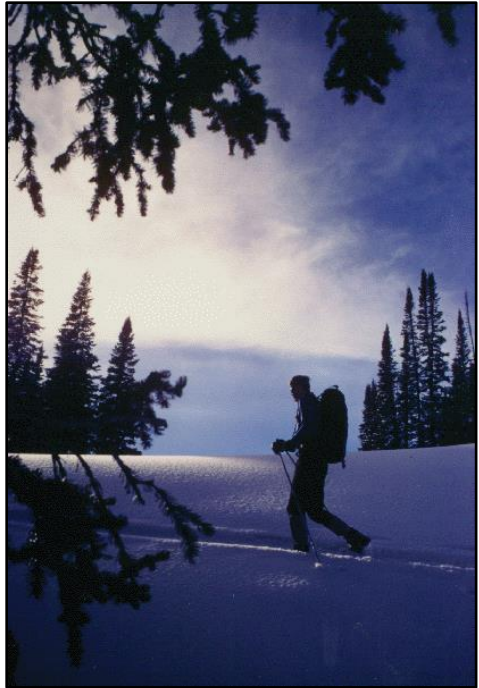
***Imagine the sensation*** of cross-country skiing the Yellowstone back-country, your only neighbors the bison and elk herds dotting the landscape, and the trumpeter swans and Canada geese floating on the Yellowstone River. Explore the majesty of winter in Yellowstone Park, after the summer tourists have departed and the Park has been transformed into a frozen landscape of serene beauty and mystery. This remarkable land awaits your discovery, and there is no better way to experience the wonder of Yellowstone in winter than skiing with Yellowstone Expeditions.

## *This is What We Offer*

Yellowstone Expeditions has offered naturalist guided XC ski and snowshoe excursions from the Canyon Skiers Yurt Camp since 1983. Located near the Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River, the Canyon Skiers Yurt Camp is designed so that our group of adventurers can explore Yellowstone's back-country, during the winter season, in relative comfort and with personal guides. Tour packages range in length from four to eight days to provide plenty of time to relax and explore the wonders of Yellowstone.

### *Our Philosophy*

At Yellowstone Expeditions we believe that a large part of enjoying the outdoors is to be inquisitive about our natural surroundings. With this in mind, we strive to make each of our ski trips a relaxed and



enjoyable learning experience. All of our guides are trained and knowledgeable about Yellowstone's natural and human history. We try to incorporate many learning experiences into our day to day life at camp, whether it is learning to ski better, stopping along the trail to listen to wolves or coyotes howl, digging a snow-pit to look at snow crystals on the slopes of Mt. Washburn, building a quinzhee snow shelter, listening for owls hooting at night, or stopping along the trail to examine the tracks of an ermine or wolf.



A view of the Yellowstone Yurt Camp with five feet of snow on the ground.

## *The Yellowstone Yurt Camp*

The Canyon Yurt Camp, (elevation 8,000'), is located in a small meadow surrounded by a pine forest, near the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River. We are smack dab in the middle of Yellowstone National Park, only one-half mile from the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River and the waterfalls viewpoints. At the camp, cross country skiers can enjoy the comforts of an outfitted and heated back country Yurt base camp with private heated individual sleeping huts and a common gathering area in the dining room Yurt. The availability of a camp shower, sauna and a heated (and well lit) outhouse increase the level of comfort well above that of your ordinary winter camping experience! The Yellowstone Skiers Yurt Camp is accessed by a 40 mile snowcoach shuttle from West Yellowstone. Our location in the heart of Yellowstone is unique: there are no other overnight visitor accommodations within 35 miles of the Yurt Camp. This lends itself to our guests being better able to experience some of Yellowstone's winter wildness.

## *At the center of Canyon Skier's Camp are the two main Yurts ...*



There's always hot water on the stove for tea...

Our two main Yurts, heated by wood burning stoves and lit by solar recharged electric lights, serve as the camp social center, kitchen, and dining area. The Dining Room Yurt serves as the common area for eating and socializing, while our delicious family style meals

are prepared in the Kitchen Yurt. Yurts similar to ours were originally used as portable homes by nomadic Tannu-Tuva and Mongolian tribes, who called them "gers" (rhymes with bears). Designed to survive the brutal weather of Mongolia's high plateaus, yurts function exquisitely as a "home" for back country skiers (Various articles about yurts appear in several issues of National Geographic). We build our own yurts with steeper roofs to shed the snow and insulation to ensure comfortable warmth.

Our dining room and kitchen Yurts are surrounded by several smaller, double occupancy private heated tent cabins (we call them sleeping huts or "yurtlets"). The private "yurtlets" are each heated by a propane heater with an adjustable thermostat.



Propane heaters keep the sleeping huts toasty warm even on the coldest nights...

The thermostats in each “sleeping hut” allows guests to control the heat level to provide carefree warmth that insures comfortable sleeping each night. The two person sleeping huts are lit by solar recharged, and battery powered electric lights. Each hut is equipped and outfitted with a double size or two single beds, sleeping bags and sheets, pillows, cozy comforters and a clothes line and hooks for hanging and drying ski clothes. All you need to bring is your personal gear, skis and an adventurous spirit.



Our heated outhouse is cozy and well lit. We also have a wonderful homemade Cedar Camp Sauna (we like it at about 160 degrees). In addition to the sauna, we can provide you with plenty of fresh hot water for washing in our heated camp shower facility. We believe the availability of a sauna and hot shower at the end of the day lends our camp an air of backwoods elan.



## Sample Trip Itinerary

**The First Day:** We pick you up from your hotel in West Yellowstone around 9:00 a.m. for the snowcoach trip into the Canyon Skier's Camp. The snow-coach road enters Yellowstone Park through the Madison River Canyon where we usually will see dozens of bison and elk, many trumpeter swans, and a few coyotes and eagles. Lunch is often eaten at Norris Geyser Basin, with time



One of our Snow-Vans, named "Eleanor"

for a stroll among Norris' many thermal features. After our fill of sightseeing, geysers, and critters we typically arrive at the Canyon Skiers Camp in the early afternoon. After arrival at camp you are free to spend some time getting settled into your double occupancy "tent cabin/sleeping hut/yurtlet" or you may accompany your guide on a ski tour along the Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River. We end the day with a hearty family style dinner in the Dining Yurt and then a peaceful evening with the group around the wood



Danny and his group enjoying the view toward Mt Washburn

stove. We'll spend some time planning the coming days' wilderness ski trips and adventures before you retire to your cozy warm private sleeping hut for the night.

**The Middle Days:** Days at the Skier's Camp start with a made to order breakfast (and for early risers "dawn patrol" on the Roller Coaster



A group photo before departing the "Yurt Camp"

ski trail). During breakfast and packing lunches, we will select the days ski trail options, some of which start right from camp, others at trail heads accessible by a short "snow van" shuttle ride. Lunch is typically eaten on the trail with a mid-afternoon return to camp. Many days, late in the afternoon, we will take the snow van for a short sightseeing tour to the Hayden Valley to observe wildlife or just to watch the sun set. The evening meal is served family style in the dining yurt (we promise you won't go hungry, a snow coach load of fresh groceries arrives at the ski camp every few days). Evenings are customarily



spent planning the next days' skiing, playing games at the dining room table, laughing about the days "face-plants", looking at the moon through the telescope, gazing at the brightest stars you've ever seen, relaxing in the camp sauna or shower, or retiring to the privacy of your own tent cabin to read a good book.

On clear moonlit nights an evening ski to one of the Canyon Rim vistas is often in order. With the next nearest overnight accommodations over thirty five miles away, peaceful quiet evenings at our camp are the norm.

Viewing the Canyon from the Seven Mile Hole Trail

**The Last Day:** After a morning ski and packing, the snow van departs the Canyon Skiers Yurt Camp during the early afternoon. Arrival in West Yellowstone usually is in the late afternoon, but we recommend making bus and airline reservations for the next day or later.



Dinner in the Dining Room Yurt

It is also possible to spend another day or more on your own in the town of West Yellowstone. The day can be spent skiing the local trails, such as the Rendezvous Ski Trail or the Riverside Ski Trail, or let us take you on a sightseeing / ski trip to Old Faithful Geyser. Please ask about this option.



Leave only tracks...Take only memories...



## *Our History and Goals*

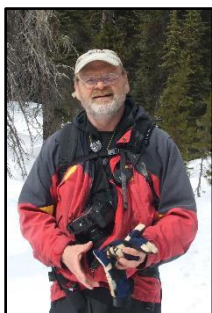
(By Arden Bailey, Founder of Yellowstone Expeditions)

I started Yellowstone Expeditions in 1983 in order to allow park guests to experience the backcountry of Yellowstone from a comfortable base camp. I felt that a trip to Yellowstone in the winter needed to be more than a bus ride to a distant hotel; I felt it needed to be a personal experience. With that goal in mind, I set up our trips to be small sized tours with plenty of guides. With our remote location in the heart of Yellowstone, the stillness of winter, and our knowledgeable guides, we can take you away from the crowds and deep into the wildness of Yellowstone. We cannot guarantee that on every trip we will see otters or wolves, but we can promise that you will experience Yellowstone as few people do.

Yellowstone was set aside as the world's first national park in 1872, mostly because of its scenic and geologic wonders. As a geologist myself, I find the geologic wonders amazing. But over the years, Yellowstone has become, I believe, even more important as a sanctuary for a wild and relatively intact ecosystem. It seems that there are fewer and fewer places left in the world where you can watch wild nature express itself as you can in Yellowstone. What is most important to my guides and to me is to protect, preserve, and yet to share with our guests this very special place. So as we all go about our busy lives, I think that it is important to remember, that up in the high country of Yellowstone...wildness is waiting for us.



## *Your Hosts*



**Arden Bailey:** Owner of Yellowstone Expeditions: Arden began working in Yellowstone in 1979 and started Yellowstone Expeditions in 1983. He has spent several summers working for the National Park Service as a park naturalist and also as a research geologist. In more recent years he has spent the spring, summer, and fall working as a geologist for engineering and environmental firms, working the last several summers in Alaska. Arden is a PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors of America) Nordic ski instructor and PSIA backcountry ski guide. He has completed the Red Cross Advanced First Aid as well as the American Avalanche Institute avalanche safety and forecasting courses. His goal is to share his knowledge and love of Yellowstone with our visitors.

**Erica Hutchings:** Office Manager: Erica began working in Yellowstone as a tour guide and bus driver in 1987 and has been with Yellowstone Expeditions since 1989. She has summured as a National Park Service ranger in Grand Teton, Yellowstone, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. She has completed the American Avalanche Institute backcountry avalanche safety and forecasting course. Erica is a PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors of America) backcountry ski and Nordic ski instructor. Erica manages our office and reservation system as well as helps out with driving/guiding in the Park.



A fox catches a mouse in Hayden Valley



**Cat Hickman:** Camp Chef: Cat's motto is "feeding extraordinary people in extraordinary places" and that she has done. Cat graduated with honors from Le Cordon Bleu Institute of Culinary Arts and then went on to be a chef for many years at McMurdo Station and at the WAIS Divide Field Camp in Antarctica. She was also a chef at the Summit Camp on the Greenland Ice Sheet (Our guide Cody also works at the Summit Camp as a carpenter). Cat believes that a snowcoach delivering food to the

yurt camp every week is an absolute luxury as her other locations involve monthly deliveries of supplies by C-130 Hercules Aircraft..

**Nadia Garbaj:** Yurt Camp Manager and Senior Photography Guide: Nadia's love for Yellowstone runs deep, and it's no surprise she has discovered the magic of living and working in this incredible landscape. She traded in her desk job for a life of adventure and excitement and has never looked back!



Working in Yellowstone has opened a world of opportunity for Nadia. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our operation with 10 years of Yellowstone experience, a Wilderness First Responder Certification, American Avalanche Association Level 1 Avalanche Course Certification, and Certified Interpretive Guide training. Nadia is committed to providing an unforgettable Yurt Camp experience, complete with epic adventures, a wealth of knowledge, a focus on safety, and endless laughs.

From Alaska to Yellowstone, Nadia thrives in the great outdoors and loves sharing her passion with others. When she isn't out exploring the park, you may find her chatting with guests all about Yellowstone's history, flora and fauna or cracking jokes and keeping things light-hearted back at Yurt Camp. With her infectious energy and sense of humor, she has a way of making every experience fun and memorable. For Nadia, Yellowstone isn't just a job - it's a way of life



**Snowcoach and Yurt Camp Guides:** Our guides have careers that have taken them around the world. They bring a plethora of experiences from guiding in Norway to Alaska and from Greenland to New Zealand. All of our guides bring a wealth of experience, curiosity, and calm confidence to every adventure. It is typically the call of Yellowstone's quiet, snow-covered beauty that draws them to the Park.

Most of our guides have completed their Wilderness First Responder Certification, American Avalanche Association Level 1 Avalanche Course Certification, and Certified Interpretive Guide training. Many of our guides are Professional Ski Instructor of America (PSIA) certified ski instructors.

All of our guides thrive in the great outdoors and love sharing their passion for Yellowstone with others. More detail about each guide can be found on our web site.

## *Ski Trails from the Canyon Yurt Camp*

Yellowstone Expeditions has been offering guided cross country ski trips into the Yellowstone Backcountry since 1983. Many of our XC ski and snowshoe trips start from the Canyon Skier's Yurt Camp while other trail heads are accessed by a short snowcoach ride. We typically have a ratio of approximately four guests to each guide so that each day we can offer a variety of guided trips for different skiing abilities - at least two options. Depending on your skills, stamina, or your desires and expectations for the day, you can pick an easier or more difficult trail.

The following descriptions are just a sample of some of the typical full day backcountry cross country skiing excursion routes that we explore from the Skier's Yurt Camp. Most of our skiing is moderate backcountry skiing on rolling terrain, and is at 8,000 feet elevation or a little bit higher, as noted. We generally ski backcountry routes that range from five to ten miles per day. (We also have some longer trails for those of you who would like more distance.) Skiers should be in pretty good physical condition and ready for adventure. Unless otherwise noted, each of the following trips takes a full



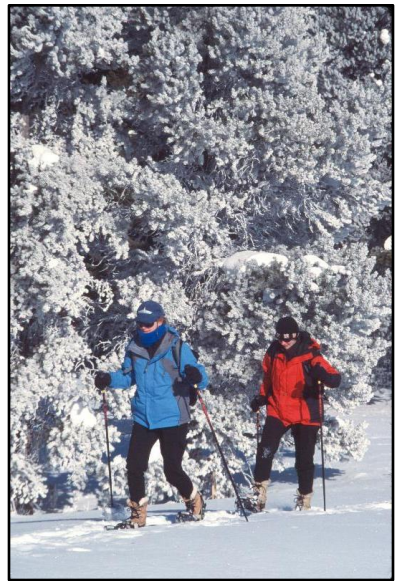
On the trail with the Washburn Range in the background



Making tracks on the slopes of Dunraven Peak

day and, depending on snow conditions, has the potential to be strenuous, especially when breaking trail in fresh snow.

Most of our ski trips are covered in the following four 7 1/2 minute series topographic maps: Canyon Village, WY, Cook Peak, WY, Crystal Falls, WY, and Mount Washburn, WY.



On the trail with ghost trees

## *Easier Trails:*

### ***Inspiration Point and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone:***

*Difficulty Level: Easier to More Difficult.*

The North Rim Loop Trail starts right at the Skier's Camp front door. We can ski a 10 to 16 kilometer (6 to 10 mile) loop along the North Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River. This loop trail follows the edge of the Canyon and provides spectacular views of the canyon and falls of the Yellowstone. On the longer version of this route, you will also get some pretty nice views across the Canyon of Silver Cord Cascade (600 feet high), as well as additional views down the Canyon.



The Yellowstone Canyon from the North Rim



The Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River (308 feet high) view from Artist Point

## **Forest Hot Springs / Grand Canyon South**

### **Rim:**

*Difficulty Level: Easier.* The trailhead for the Forest Hot Springs Trail is located on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, a 3 mile snowcoach ride from the Yurt Camp. It is a very scenic 2.5 kilometers (1.5 mile) ski across the northeast side of Hayden Valley into the hot springs basin. Forest Hot Springs is an acidic basin with lots of boiling mud pots and some colorful sulfur rich pools. Fresh snowfall caps the rocks in the basin and turns the area into "The Land of the Mushrooms". Bison are also usually seen along the way. This is one area where you will get a sniff of sulfur!



Snow Mushrooms at Forest Hot Springs

Several loop options are available for returning to the snow van. Some of the various return trail options will take us along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon (Easier, More Difficult, or Most Difficult -You pick the return option), providing exceptional views of the Lower Falls (94 meters / 308 feet high) and Upper Falls (33 meters / 109 feet high) of the Yellowstone River.



The view from the pass

### **Dunraven Pass:**

*Difficulty Level: Easier.* The starting point for the Dunraven Pass trail is located at the very end of the snow van road 7 kilometers (4.5 miles) north of the Skier's Camp. From the trailhead at Washburn Hot Springs Overlook, we usually ski 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) up to Dunraven Pass. Due south 120 kilometers (75 miles) the Teton Mountain Range of Grand Teton National Park rises up and looks almost within touching distance. We usually loop back to the snow van by taking a side trip past the Washburn Hot Spring Basin (West Portion).

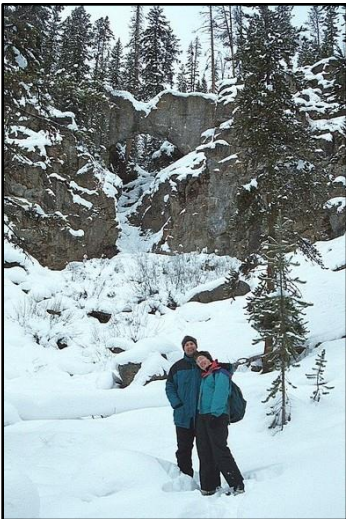
## ***Cascade Lake:***

*Difficulty Level: Easier.* The Cascade Lake Trail starts from the front door of the Skier's Yurt Camp. This fairly level trail heads west along Cascade Creek and through several meadows to Cascade Lake. The length can be varied from 8 to 16 km (5 to 10 miles) round trip.

Good views of the Washburn Range can be had from the midway point along cascade meadows, and usually we see a bison or two along the way.



Skiing to Cascade Lake



Natural Bridge Trail

## ***Natural Bridge and Gull Point Trail:***

*Difficulty Levels: Easier.* These two short trails in the Yellowstone Lake Area (plan on skiing both trails) start from a trailhead located 25 kilometers (16 miles) south of the camp, along the “Canyon to Lake” road. It takes a little longer to get to the Yellowstone Lake Area, but the snow van trip is worth it. The snow van trip takes us through Hayden Valley; a 13 kilometer (8 mile) wide by 20 kilometer (12 mile) long open meadow, which often has bison grazing on the banks of the (frozen) Yellowstone River. We may also see coyotes in the meadows, trumpeter

swans, golden eye ducks and bald eagles near thermally warmed waters, and maybe an otter or two in the Yellowstone River rapids.

The Yellowstone Lake / Gull Point Trail is a level trail along the edge of Yellowstone Lake that is about 4 km (2 ½ miles) long. The view of the mountains across the frozen lake is spectacular.

The Natural Bridge Trail is a 4 kilometer (2 ½ mile) long trail that ends at a natural rock bridge spanning a branch of, you guessed it, Bridge Creek.

### **Crater Hills:**



On the trail to Crater Hills

*Difficulty Level: Easier.* The starting point for the Crater Hills trail is located along the snow road in the east center portion of Hayden Valley 9 kilometers (6 miles) south of the Skier's Camp. The trail to the thermal area is gently rolling terrain with a few scattered trees with a total round trip distance of 4 to 5 kilometers. The basin has several mud pots, steam vents and one geyser. We occasionally see wolves, coyotes, or foxes in this area and often see their tracks entering the basin.



A coyote in Hayden Valley

### ***More Difficult (Intermediate) Trails:***

*Difficulty Level: Intermediate.* Additional trail routes can be added on to many of the trails listed in the “Easier” trail section to make them more challenging. This additional trail length, and in many cases, technically more challenging sections will provide enjoyment for the intermediate skier.

### ***Mount Washburn / Washburn Hot Springs:***

*Difficulty Level: Intermediate.* The starting point for the Mount Washburn trip is located at the very end of the snow van road 7 kilometers (4.5 miles) north of the Skier's Camp. From the trailhead at Washburn Hot Springs Overlook, we usually ski 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) up to Dunraven Pass and then begin the trip up the south shoulder of Mount Washburn. Due to avalanche concerns on the upper portion of the peak we normally stop on a scenic shoulder at about 3,000 meters (~9500 feet) above sea level (500 meters above camp). From this vantage point (often lunch time) the Beartooth Mountain Range is visible to the northeast, the Absaroka Range to the east, the Gallatin Range to the west, and due south 120 kilometers (75 miles) the Teton Mountain Range of Grand Teton National Park



A pine marten seen along the trail to Mount Washburn



Powder snow and open slopes at Dunraven Pass

looks almost within touching distance. After lunch and the "high point" of the day we usually loop back to the snow van by taking a side trip to the Washburn Hot Springs Group. This side loop takes us through a scenic heavy fir and spruce forest ending at the springs. From the springs a 1.5 km, (1 mile) ski brings us back to the snow van.



Entering the Gorge of Sour Creek

### ***The Gorge of Sour Creek / Wrangler Lake:***

*Difficulty Level: Intermediate.* The trailhead for the Sour Creek / Wrangler Lake trail is located on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River near Chittenden Bridge. The trail winds along Sour Creek through the

open meadows of Hayden Valley for a couple of miles. We then follow a side trail up a small unnamed creek and through several smaller meadows (often covered with ermine tracks) skiing to the south and to the frozen waters of Wrangler Lake. Continuing along the loop trail will bring us back to the Valley of Sour Creek. We then head downstream through the narrow gorge of Sour Creek and back towards the Grand Canyon. A side trip to explore Forest Hot Springs can be made on the return trip.

## ***The Central Plateau and Violet Hot Springs:***

*Difficulty Level: Intermediate.* The trail head for Violet Hot Springs is 6 kilometer (4 mile) west of the Yurt Camp and is accessed by a trip in the snow van. The route to Violet Hot Springs is approximately 8 kilometers (5 miles) of skiing across the rolling forested terrain of the Central Plateau. The trail passes through some of the burned forests left from the fires of 1988. Several small to medium size meadows as well as the upper reaches of Otter Creek are crossed along the way. An 8 kilometers (5 miles) ski “out” along Alum Creek through Hayden Valley brings us back to the snowcoach road 6 kilometers (4 miles) south of the Yurt Camp. This ski trail/route has very seldom been skied by anyone other than us in the decades that we have been guiding skiers in Yellowstone. In actuality, most of the way is not on an established or marked trail. Your ski guide will navigate this area by utilizing a series of compass bearings for cross country travel and route finding through the forest. We may see wolf tracks on this trip. The hot spring basin aroma and panorama is worth the effort for this trip.



Skiing through Hayden Valley



Hot ground melts the snow at Violet Hot Springs Basin

Violet Hot Springs basin itself is a wonderful, vapor dominated, very acidic hot spring basin. Abundant free sulfur mineral deposits can be seen around many of the steam vents and pools. This area truly conjures up images of mountain man tall tales of “Colter's Hell”. Occasionally bison inhabit the steamy basin in the winter.



Skiers cross the first meadow of Pelican Creek headed for the upper meadows

### ***Pelican Creek and the Valley of Death:***

This is a good day to place in the middle of the trip when you want to do some wildlife viewing in the Hayden Valley and along the Yellowstone River. We use our snowcoach to travel 17 miles through the Hayden Valley to the trailhead located on the north shore of Yellowstone Lake. The Pelican Valley Trail (Intermediate) is an 11 kilometer (7 mile) round trip to the Sulfur Hills Thermal Area. The thermal area is composed of mostly fumaroles (steam vents) and yellow sulfur vents. We get a very nice view of Yellowstone Lake and Pelican Creek meadows from the top of Sulfur Mountain. Bison are commonly seen in the meadows of Pelican Creek.



An early morning frosty bison

## ***Most Difficult (Advanced) Trails:***

Difficulty Level: Advanced. Additional trail sections can be added on to many of the trails listed in the “Intermediate” trail section to make them more challenging. This additional trail length, and in many cases, technically more challenging trail sections will provide enjoyment for the advanced skier.



The Yellowstone River at the bottom of the Canyon

### ***Seven Mile Hole Trail:***

*Difficulty Level: Advanced (endurance).* A fairly level three mile trail leads us to the Canyon rim above Seven Mile Hole. There we begin a 1,500 ft. descent to the Yellowstone River. There are also several hot springs near the bottom of the Canyon that are quite pretty. This round trip requires a full day and is physically quite challenging.

### ***The Washburn Range Ridge Run:***

*Difficulty Levels: Advanced (technical and endurance).* The ridge top and summit bowls of the Washburn Range provide a challenge for the more adventurous skiers. Physical endurance and good technical skills are needed for this trip. There could be several days of skiing in this area.



The view of Cascade Lake from the top of the ridge

## ***Glen Africa Basin:***

*Difficulty Levels: Advanced (technical and endurance).* The trail to Glen Africa Basin follows the Alum Creek drainage to its headwaters at the very western edge of Hayden Valley. The trail is 18 miles in length and can be completed as an in and out or as a loop trail.

### ***Valhalla:***

*Difficulty Levels: Advanced (technical and endurance).* The trail to Valhalla continues on from Inkpot Springs/Washburn Springs. The trail leads to the Canyon rim for a view into the middle reaches of the Canyon. Some skiers have reported visions of Valkyries accompanied by ravens along this trail. We will save the mead for later when we return back to the Yurt Camp.



On the trail to Valhalla

### ***Shorter Trails / Less than a full day***

Many trails are shorter and we ski them on the afternoon of the first day or morning of the last day, allowing time for the snowcoach shuttle from West Yellowstone. Some of our shorter trails include:

The North Rim Trail and the Glacial Boulder / Inspiration Point Trail provide views of the Canyon and Falls of the Yellowstone.

The Roller Coaster ski trail (Intermediate) is a 3 kilometers ( 2 miles) trail that starts right from the Yurt Camp.

The Virginia Cascades ski trail is a scenic 2 mile easier level trail that is near Norris Junction. We often ski this trail on the way out of the park.

The Upper Falls trail is a one mile long trail along the north (west) shore of the Yellowstone River from Chittenden Bridge to the view point of the Upper Falls of the Yellowstone River.

## *Equipment Check List*

Please bring the following camping and skiing equipment with you. Bring what you need, but try to keep your luggage to one suitcase or duffel. Use this list as a check list!

### **FOR SKIING and to carry in your daypack:**

- ✓ Daypack, (sufficient large size to carry warm clothing and a coat to put on during lunch stops, (or emergencies) extra mittens, water bottles and thermos, snacks and lunch, sitting pad, ski waxes, etc.)
- ✓ Water bottles (two, at least 1 qt. capacity each, and you may want to bring your own Thermos for hot drinks at lunch.)
- ✓ Insulated pad for sitting at lunch stops. (We do have a few sitting pads at the camp to loan out.)
- ✓ Skis and Ski poles (a Mid Weight touring ski is best)
- ✓ Ski boots (over the ankle)
- ✓ Gaiters, for Yellowstone powder snow - to keep your feet warm and dry
- ✓ Ski wax, scrapers and cork for waxable skis
- ✓ Maxi glide® for waxless skis
- ✓ Warm winter ski Hat or balaclava, neck gaiter or scarf, also ball cap or sunhat with brim for sunny days
- ✓ Ski Gloves, an extra pair (or two), also warm mittens for lunch stops
- ✓ Sunglasses, Ski Goggles, Sunscreen, Chapstick

### **TO WEAR FOR SKIING:**

- ✓ Warm wool socks, (a pair for each day), polypro sock liners
- ✓ First layer of long underwear, top and bottom, (wool or synthetic, ie. polypropylene / capilene)
- ✓ Warm shirt and wool or synthetic pile fleece sweater, (remember to dress in several layers, no cotton!) add a fleece vest for extra comfort.
- ✓ Warm ski pants or knickers (fleece or wool)
- ✓ Wind pants or ski pants and jacket, with hood
- ✓ Winter storm coat or down jacket, for warm up at lunch stops

## OTHER EQUIPMENT:

- ✓ Flashlight or headlamp, with an extra light bulb and batteries. A flashlight or headlamp is essential around the camp as well as being a good piece of safety equipment in your pack.
- ✓ Pocketknife
- ✓ Bandanna or Kleenex
- ✓ Swimsuit or shorts for the sauna (or the pool at your hotel), and shower shoes (Teva sandals are good). Towels are available at the Yurt Camp upon request.
- ✓ Personal hygiene gear (toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, etc.)
- ✓ Light shirt and pants (sweats are good), for around the camp and sleeping
- ✓ Snow Boots and Camp Shoes: Boots for sightseeing and hiking boots or shoes for after skiing and around the camp, or down or synthetic fill booties...several of our guests have even recommended sneakers!
- ✓ Blister kit for feet, personal first aid kit, personal medications
- ✓ Binoculars,
- ✓ Camera, batteries, lenses, tripod for time exposures at night.
- ✓ Note book or journal, reading material, poetry, stories or jokes, something to share in the evening around the wood stove.
- ✓ In addition, consider items such as Pocket knife, flashlight, compass, topographic maps of the area, sunglasses and sunscreen, extra clothing and socks, hat and gloves or mittens (We have some chemical pocket warmers at the Skier's Camp.
- ✓ Ski "Rental" packages and Snowshoe "Rentals" are available from us at the Yurt Camp for no charge. Please ask for information on this option.



A Bobcat hunting mice along the river bank



## *Special Excursions and Customized Tours*

We offer several special excursions each winter that include Winter Photography Workshops, Snowshoe excursions, Yellowstone Wildlife, Yellowstone Geology and Geysers, and

Natural History of Yellowstone. Please inquire for a current schedule.

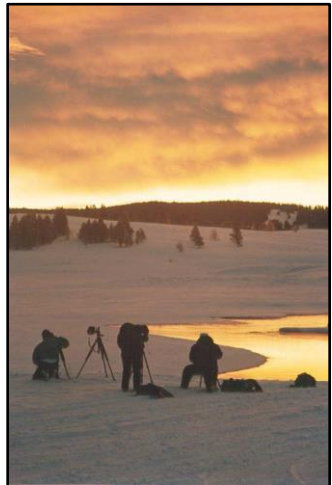
We can offer a variety of customized itineraries to accommodate your special needs. Special options include pickup and/or drop off at Old Faithful or Mammoth Hot Springs. There will be a surcharge for these options. These options are not always available as they are scheduling dependent.

## *Getting Here from There*

Each winter Yellowstone Park is open to over snow vehicles from mid-December through early March. In order to fully enjoy Yellowstone Park and the Canyon Skiers Yurt Camp we recommend a minimum stay of four or five days. Many of our returning guests prefer the eight day trip.

**The closest airport** to West Yellowstone during the winter months is at Bozeman, Montana, as our local airport is closed during the winter by deep snows. West Yellowstone, MT. is located 90 miles, a (2.5 hour bus ride) south of the Bozeman airport. Bozeman Airport (Gallatin Field) is served by Alaska Airlines, Allegiant, American Airlines, Avelo, Delta Air Lines, jetBlue, Southwest Airlines, and Sun Country. A regular scheduled bus service to West Yellowstone or rental cars are available at the Bozeman airport.

**Idaho Falls, ID Airport Alternative Option:** It is sometimes less expensive to fly to Idaho Falls, Idaho. Idaho Falls is located 110 miles south of West Yellowstone, MT. A bus/van service or rental cars are available to get from Idaho Falls to West Yellowstone.



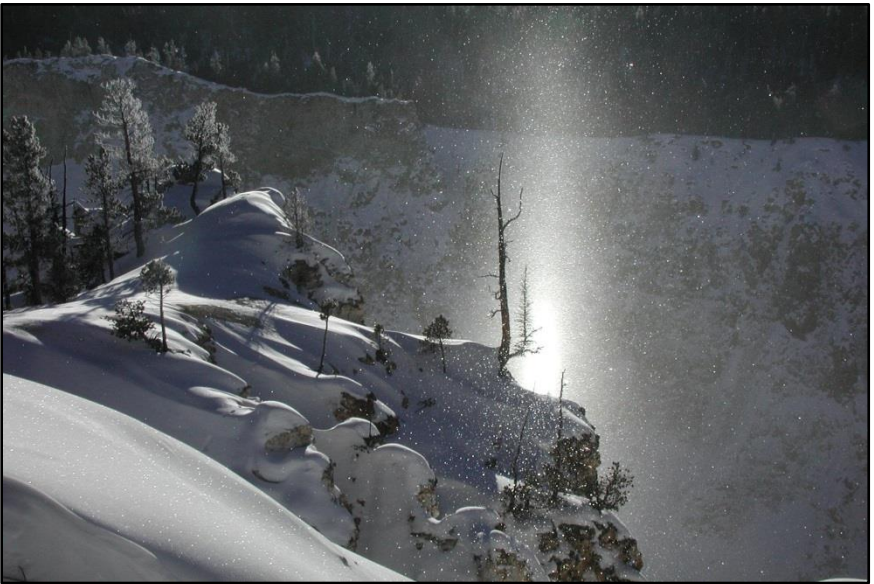


Sunrise on the Yellowstone River

Please arrive in West Yellowstone at least the day before your trip is scheduled to depart, to allow some time for acclimatization. If you arrive in West Yellowstone early enough to do some skiing, we recommend you try the well groomed Rendezvous Trail System ([www.rendezvouskitrails.com](http://www.rendezvouskitrails.com)). This beautifully groomed trail system is also the race course for the Yellowstone Rendezvous Ski Race held each year in early March. The race is one of the races in the American Ski Marathon Series.

Another option for a short ski while in West Yellowstone would be the Madison River Trail. This trail leads into Yellowstone National Park right from town and travels along the banks of the

Madison River. This is a good choice for scenic wildlife viewing, although the trail is often times not as well-groomed as the Rendezvous Trail system.



A sun pillar at the canyon rim, seen shortly after sunrise on cold and clear days

## *Winter and Summer Information Resources for the Yellowstone / Grand Teton Area*

For Information on back-country camping permits, outfitters, tour guides, hotels, activities, general park information (ask for Visitor Services)

- Yellowstone National Park.(307) 344 7381 or 344-2263. On the Web at <https://www.nps.gov/yell>
- Grand Teton National Park.(307) 739 3301. On the Web at: <https://www.nps.gov/grte>

Information on Gateway communities and hotels, campgrounds, outfitters, services and businesses.

- Chamber of Commerce. West Yellowstone, MT.(406) 646 7701
- Chamber of Commerce. Jackson, WY.(307) 739 3316
- Chamber of Commerce. Gardiner, MT.(406) 848 7971
- Chamber of Commerce. Bozeman, MT.(406) 586 5421
- To get any of the books or maps of Yellowstone on our reading list, contact our excellent local bookstore and they can mail them to you or many are available online. (The Book Peddler.(406) 646 9358.106 Canyon St.)

West Yellowstone (population: 600), has two bookstores, a drug store, two grocery stores, and a couple of coffee shops. We have a small sporting goods store/ski shop in the town of West Yellowstone where you can make any last minute purchases.

- Free Heel and Wheel: (Kelly or Melissa) (406) 646 7744 40 Yellowstone Ave, West Yellowstone.

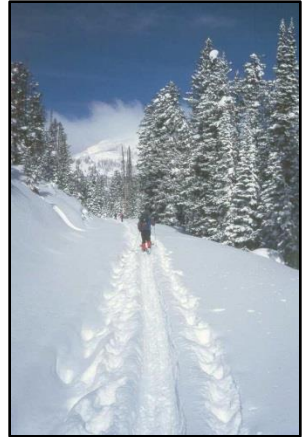
Please contact us if you need to rent a cross country ski package or snowshoes. We have a selection of skis and boots by Alpina available for loan at the Canyon Yurt Camp.



A scenic lunch stop along the trail

## *Canyon Skier's Camp, Basic Excursions*

Four, five and eight day Package Cross Country Ski Excursions depart from West Yellowstone every Sunday and Thursday. Packages include: All meals, lodging at the Canyon Skier's Yurt Camp in double occupancy sleeping huts (with heaters), sleeping bags and sheets, towels, camp shower and cedar sauna, a tour and ski guide, and snowcoach skier shuttles and supply shuttles. Package priced trips start and end in West Yellowstone. Pick-ups or drop offs at other locations need to be arranged in advance and may incur a charge. Please call us for prices and availabilities. We also have weekend excursions and daytrips with skier drops to Old Faithful or backcountry one day ski trips into Yellowstone Park from West Yellowstone.



### *The Fine Print and Details*

**Deposits:** A \$500 per person deposit is required within ten days of making the reservations. If the required deposit is not received within this time we will consider the reservation canceled.

**Final Payment:** Payment in full is due two months prior to the excursion departure date. If the required full payment is not received at this time we reserve the right to consider the reservation canceled.

**Cancellations:** Cancellations made prior to September 1st will receive a full refund less a \$75 / person handling fee. Cancellations made after Sep. 1, but more than one month before departure will forfeit the deposit of \$500. We cannot make refunds for cancellations made less than one month before the departure of the reserved excursion. However, based on space availability, we may be able to reschedule your trip with a credit of 50% of payments made. Rescheduling credit is good for one year from the originally scheduled trip. No refunds will be given once a trip has commenced. If you need to leave your package excursion before the scheduled end of the trip, there will be an evacuation fee. In the event of an emergency and that you need to cancel your vacation we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance, especially if there are airplane tickets involved. Trip insurance is inexpensive and usually available from travel agents or your insurance company.

## *Rates for Excursions to the Yurt Camp*

### *Winter Season 2026 - 2027*

Our forty third winter season begins on December 20, 2026 and runs through March 11, 2027.

Most weeks, package trips depart from West Yellowstone as follows:

4 day trip: Thursday through Sunday

5 day trip: Sunday through Thursday

8 day trip: Sunday through Sunday or Thursday through Thursday

<b>Package length</b>	<b>Double Occupancy</b>	<b>Single Occupancy</b>
4 days/3 nights	\$2500/person	\$2900/person
5 days/4 nights	\$3000/person	\$3400/person
8 days/7 nights	\$4000/person	\$4500/person

- Above rates do not include a West Yellowstone 4% tax. The National Park Service requires us to collect a \$20 per person park entrance fee from all persons age 16 through 61 unless you have a National Park Service Pass which is good for 4 people in your group. (America the Beautiful Annual pass, Access Lifetime Pass, Military Pass, 4th Grader Pass, or Senior Park Pass)
- Package Rates include skier guide service, double occupancy sleeping huts with thermostat controlled heater, sleeping bags and sheets, all meals, and camp shower and cedar sauna also includes snowcoach transportation from West Yellowstone to the Yurt Camp, and skier snowcoach shuttles to trailheads. Package rates do not include ski rentals or gratuity to your guides.
- Pickups or drop offs at other than West Yellowstone will incur a surcharge.
- Dates of the full moon this winter are: December 24<sup>th</sup>, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, and February 21<sup>st</sup>. Aim for a moonlight night-ski of the Canyon Rim or star gaze during a new moon (January 7<sup>th</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup>, and March 8<sup>th</sup>).
- We accept personal checks, MasterCard, and Visa credit cards.



### *To Make Your Reservation with Us*

1. Please choose the dates you want, (first and second choices, etc.)
2. Then call us to check on availability, (the camp holds only 12-16 guests).
3. While you are on the phone with us, we will take your reservation and "pencil you in" with your name, address and phone number.
4. You then have about a week to make your airlines reservations and check on hotels, finalize time off work, arrange child/pet care, etc.
5. Please call us when you have your airline reservations and are ready to make your deposit.
6. Then send us the deposit money to confirm your trip with us. The deposit is \$500 / person.
7. Final payment is due two months before departure.

***Yellowstone Expeditions***

***P.O. Box 865***

***West Yellowstone, MT 59758***

***Call us for reservations:***

***(406) 646-9333 or (800) 728-9333***

***YellowstoneExpeditions.com***

***e-mail: [info2020@YellowstoneExpeditions.com](mailto:info2020@YellowstoneExpeditions.com)***



***Yellowstone Expeditions has been an authorized concessioner  
of the National Park Service since 1983.***

*Cross-country skis and snowshoes  
are available for use at Yellowstone Expeditions' Canyon Yurt Camp*



**Yellowstone Expeditions has been a concessionaire of the  
National Park Service since 1983**

