

NPCATRAVEL



The Travel Program of the National Parks Conservation Association

JUNE 2-8, 2024

GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATIONS
AND ANCIENT MIGRATIONS:

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem



—
ADVENTURE
THROUGH GEOLOGICALLY
DIVERSE LANDSCAPES

SEARCH
FOR BISON, WOLVES
AND BEARS

VIEW
CANYONS CARVED BY
ANCIENT FORCES

Bison, Yellowstone National Park

PARK HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike within lesser-known areas of the **Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem**, including the green meadows of **Tom Miner Basin**
- Spend time in **Lamar Valley**, often called America's Serengeti for its abundant wildlife
- Journey to explosive geysers, jewel-toned hot springs and the magnificent, colorful layers of the **Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone**

NPCA EXCLUSIVES

- Take part in a **one-of-a-kind trip**, custom designed with NPCA's mission, work and partners at its heart
- Hike the bison trails atop **Specimen Ridge**, where you'll **learn about NPCA's work** to expand Yellowstone bison habitat
- Get up-close to **Grand Prismatic Spring** and **Old Faithful Geyser** with **NPCA and local experts** and hear about the various geological processes that created these iconic sites
- **Engage with a local wolf expert** in Lamar Valley to learn about the complex story of wolf reintroduction into the park
- Look for grizzlies, bison and wolves as you learn from **NPCA staff** about efforts to protect some of Yellowstone's key species



FEATURED BIOS: BETSY BUFFINGTON

Betsy Buffington serves as NPCA's Northern Rockies regional director. She oversees NPCA's work in Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and Idaho. Betsy has worked on issues such as wolf reintroduction, protection of Idaho's high deserts, creation of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument and winter use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton.

Snake River Overlook at sunset

BOOK ONLINE AT [NPCA.ORG/TRAVEL](https://npca.org/travel) OR CALL 1.800.628.7275



Geothermal Explorations and Ancient Migrations: The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

AVAILABLE DATES: June 2-8, 2024 | Min/Max: 12/14

Length of Tour: 7 days/6 nights

NPCA Member Price: \$6,570 per person double occupancy; \$7,310 single occupancy

Deposit: \$980 per person due at registration

Arrive/Depart: Bozeman, Montana

Reservations: Please contact NPCA's National Parks Experiences Program at 1.800.628.7275 or email travel@npca.org.

Activity Level: Travelers should be prepared for full-day adventures of walking, standing and sitting. This tour includes activities which may require physical exertion like hiking and long walks. We recommend travelers bring hiking poles. All hikes are optional and, whenever possible, your guides will provide alternative options for either a shorter or less demanding route. Hikes, walks and vehicle transportation may be on rough terrain and take multiple hours.

Inclusions: All outlined accommodations, meals as noted in the itinerary (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner), non-alcoholic beverages (alcoholic beverages *will* be included for the welcome dinner), all transportation as noted, standard gratuities, entry fees for activities listed in the itinerary and carbon offsets for each trip day. Any physical conditions requiring special attention, diet or treatment should be reported when booking to determine what accommodations can be made.

Exclusions: Airfare to arrival location and from departure location, luggage charges, meals not included in the itinerary, alcoholic drinks (alcoholic beverages *will* be included for the welcome dinner), travel insurance, items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed in Inclusions.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate



Join NPCA for an insider look at Yellowstone — America's first national park. From the rolling valley of the Tom Miner Basin through the heart of Yellowstone country, the diverse Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is an adventurer's playground. Tour participants can hike mountains, peer at rivers coursing through canyons, dip their toes in high-altitude lakes, stand beside waterfalls and wander amid one of the most geothermally active areas of the world. This landscape is also home to an abundance of wildlife, boasting the

largest concentration of mammals in the lower 48, including grizzly bears, wolves, bison and elk.

We'll get off the beaten path with our NPCA staff hosts and local experts as we learn why this park is so special. We'll hear about the landscape's geysers and wolves, as well as its rich Indigenous history. We'll discuss how NPCA is working with local Tribal communities to help the National Park Service share Indigenous perspectives and communicate these valuable stories to the public.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 JUNE 2: Bozeman to B Bar Ranch

1 Welcome to Montana! After an early afternoon arrival to **Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN)**, we'll meet our Iconic Trip Leader and NPCA experts upon exiting baggage claim. Once the entire group has arrived, we will hop in our private vans for a 2-hour drive to B Bar Ranch, which is nestled in the beautiful **Tom Miner Basin**. We'll stop in **Livingston** to stretch our legs en route.

We'll have the chance to settle into our home for the next two nights before we meet as a group for a brief orientation and introductions. Then, we'll grab a cocktail or hot chocolate and gather around the fire as we get an overview of the landscape we will explore over the coming days. This will be followed by a group welcome dinner. The resident chef's healthy and diverse menus feature ranch-raised organic beef and locally grown vegetables. [B Bar Ranch \(D\)](#)

DAY 2 JUNE 3: Tom Miner Basin

2 The day starts with a freshly prepared ranch breakfast at B Bar. Then, we'll embark on a group hike to take in the impressive views of the **southwest Montana** landscape and **Paradise Valley's Tom Miner Basin**. Keep your eyes peeled for grizzlies, elk and moose. As we walk, our NPCA staff host will introduce us to the challenges that Yellowstone species face when they cross park boundaries and enter private land. For over a decade, NPCA has worked with volunteers, veterans and neighboring landowners to protect migration patterns critical to species' survival. We'll relax at B Bar Ranch in the afternoon before partaking in a delicious dinner followed by s'mores around the outdoor firepit. Don't forget your binoculars! If it's a clear night, the sky is sure to dazzle! [B Bar Ranch \(D\)](#)

DAY 3 JUNE 4: Tom Miner Basin to Lamar Valley

3 After breakfast, we'll check out of the B Bar Ranch and head into the park, where our first stop will be **Mammoth Hot Springs**. We'll enjoy a short hike to **Sheepsteater Cliff**, break for lunch and then drive into **Lamar Valley**, often called America's Serengeti for its immense and easy-to-see populations of large animals. Our NPCA staff host will discuss the impacts of last summer's flood and share the opportunity park staff now have to rebuild in a way to benefit wildlife. As we make our way through the valley, we will stop for wildlife viewing opportunities before exiting the park and arriving at Silver Gate Lodge, our home for the next two nights. We'll have some downtime at the lodge before our group dines in Cooke City. [Silver Gate Lodge \(B, L, D\)](#)

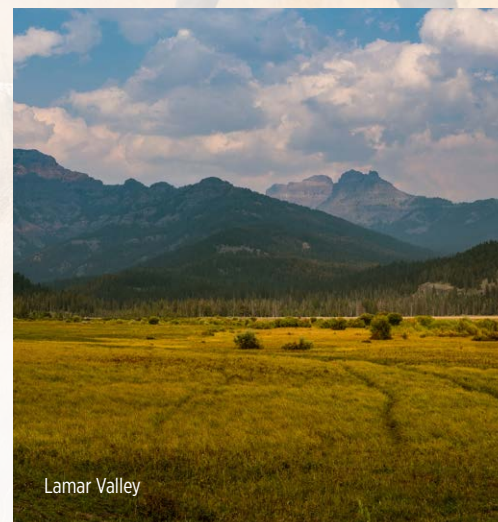
DAY 4 JUNE 5: Lamar Valley and Wolves

4 We'll get an early start to get to **Lamar Valley** with a chance of spotting wolves in the morning light during our 45-minute drive. We'll then traverse Lamar's impressive landscape with a local wolf expert. We'll learn about the wolf reintroduction that took place in the 1990s, including NPCA's role in securing protections for the species, get a sense for where the six pens that housed those first wolves were placed in the park and gain insight into this complex and evolving story.

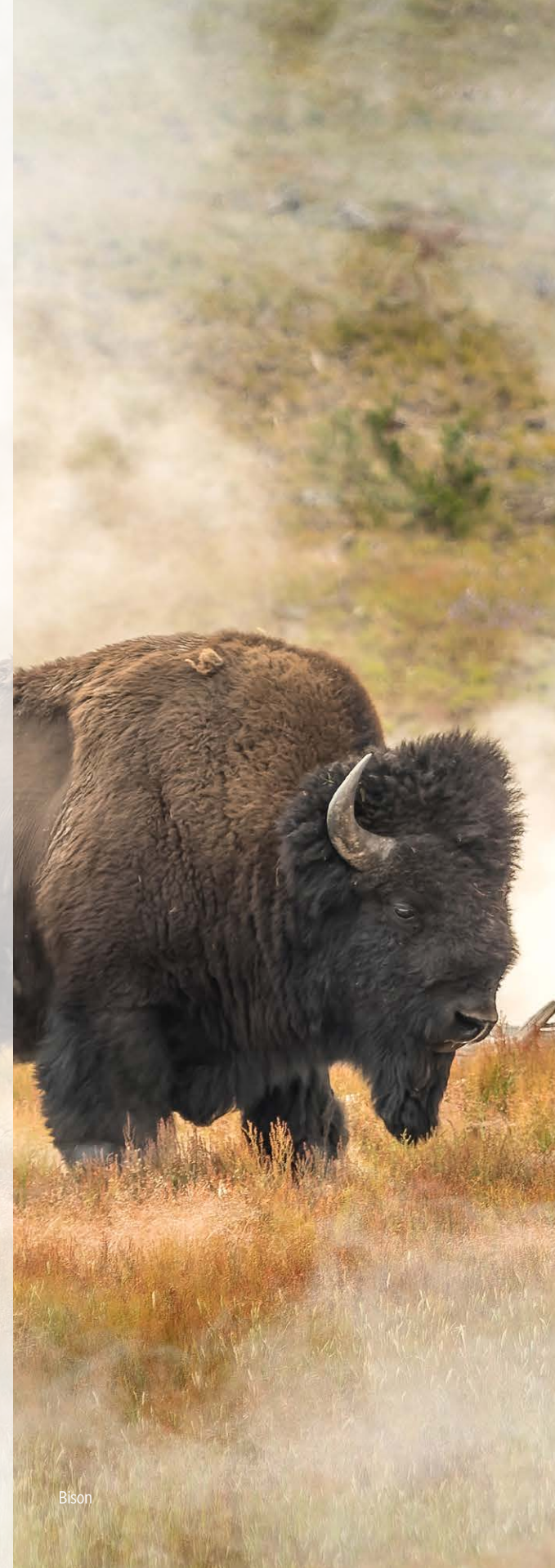
After a picnic lunch among the trees, we will set out for a hike along the bison trails atop **Specimen Ridge**. During our walk, we'll learn how bison use the land and what this landscape used to look like. We'll also learn about the steps NPCA has taken to expand bison habitat outside of Yellowstone, such as its work to ensure park bison are transferred to Tribal and public lands rather than being shipped to slaughter. Our evening will be spent back at Silver Gate Lodge with dinner nearby. [Silver Gate Lodge \(B, L, D\)](#)

DAY 5 JUNE 6: Lamar Valley to West Yellowstone

5 After breakfast in our cabins, we will load up our luggage and head into the park for an epic journey through some of Yellowstone's most iconic landscapes. We'll drive for an hour and then stop for a short, rewarding hike to **Tower Fall**. We'll then enjoy a picnic lunch before continuing on to the **Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone**, an hour's drive away depending on road closures and wildlife. At the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, we will take in the incredible views as we choose from a wealth of hiking options. After exploring the canyon, we'll drive the remaining 75 minutes to Hibernation Station, our home in **West Yellowstone** for the next two nights. After checking into our cabins, we'll gather as a group for dinner in West Yellowstone. [Hibernation Station \(B, L, D\)](#)



Lamar Valley



Bison



Wolves

DAY 6 JUNE 7: Yellowstone National Park
 The day begins with breakfast in **West Yellowstone**. Then, we'll embark on today's adventure: touring the geothermal features that make Yellowstone such a unique place to visit. With our NPCA staff hosts by our sides, we'll learn about the various geological processes that created **Grand Prismatic Spring** and **Old Faithful Geyser**. We'll then hike around **West Thumb Geyser Basin** and take in views of magnificent **Lake Yellowstone**. Upon our return to Hibernation Station, we'll relish in some downtime before our final dinner together where we can reflect on our memorable experience in Yellowstone. ***Hibernation Station (B, L, D)***

DAY 7 JUNE 8: Departures
 After breakfast in **West Yellowstone**, we'll drive to **Bozeman** for flights home. **(B)**

Accommodations and activities are subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond NPCA's control.



Geothermal pools, geysers and bison near Firehole River



Lake Yellowstone in West Thumb Geyser Basin

Travel Insurance: To protect yourself from the loss of deposit and cancellation fees, you are encouraged to purchase travel insurance. If you need assistance, NPCA recommends contacting Travel Insurance Services through USI Affinity at 1-800-937-1387 or at <http://my.travelinsure.com/npca>; email confirmation packets will include additional details.

Traveler Responsibility: Travelers are responsible for choosing an NPCA trip consistent with their ability, fitness and overall health. All travelers are required to complete and return their NPCA waiver of liability, personal information form, flight form and accept Iconic Adventure's Terms and Conditions before being allowed to participate in a trip. Travelers also are responsible for reading and understanding all pre-departure materials and bringing appropriate clothing and gear.

Trip Cancellation Policy: Written cancellations must be received in Iconic's sales office for a cancellation to be valid. Iconic strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance.

Cancellation charges will be as follows:

231+ days prior to departure	230-201 days prior	Nov 15, 2023	200-121 days prior	120-0 days prior
Deposit is 100% refundable	Deposit is 50% refundable	Final payment is due	50% of trip cost is refunded	No refund

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Each of our travel partners has developed robust safety protocols to protect the health of our guests, staff and the communities we visit. Please contact us for details.

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Why Travel with NPCA?

Our goal is to offer premium itineraries in educational travel in the places we know best: America's national parks.

For over 100 years, NPCA has worked to protect places of unparalleled natural wonder, historical significance and cultural value. Now we want you to experience them firsthand. Our curated itineraries offer more than just sightseeing. With NPCA, you'll delve into the cultural and natural history of each destination, guided by passionate experts who bring these stories to life. We believe that true appreciation for our parks goes hand in hand with awareness of the conservation efforts being made to protect them. Engage with park rangers, NPCA partners and local communities as they share their invaluable insights and discuss the challenges and triumphs of safeguarding these natural treasures. Leave with a deeper understanding of the critical role we all play in the future of our parks.

ACCESS NPCA STAFF EXPERTISE

Embark on extraordinary adventures led by our team of knowledgeable staff who represent a wide range of backgrounds. With expertise spanning environmental conservation, cultural heritage, wildlife biology and more, our staff brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to each journey. Delve into engaging discussions and gain unique insights into the issues that shape our parks, including land preservation, climate change and Indigenous perspectives. Together, we'll explore the multifaceted aspects of these remarkable landscapes.

TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

When you choose to travel with NPCA, you're not just embarking on an incredible journey – you're making a meaningful impact. Our commitment to conservation runs deep, and we are proud to share that a portion of every trip's fees directly supports NPCA's vital work. Your choice to travel with us helps protect and strengthen the National Park System for generations to come.

ENJOY PERSONALIZED AND INTIMATE EXPERIENCES

Escape the crowds and embrace the beauty of small-group travel, where personal connections and tailored experiences take center stage. Our trips offer a more intimate setting, allowing you to forge meaningful connections with fellow travelers who share your passion for adventure and conservation.

CONNECT WITH NPCA PARTNERS AND LOCAL EXPERTS

Collaborate with key NPCA partners and local experts who are deeply connected to the destinations we visit. Engage in dialogue with scientists, community leaders and Tribal members who are at the forefront of conservation and preservation efforts. Their firsthand accounts and valuable perspectives will deepen your understanding of the challenges and successes in protecting our national parks.

TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Embrace the spirit of responsible travel as you embark on a journey that leaves a positive footprint on the planet. At NPCA, we prioritize partnering with responsible tour operators who share our commitment to sustainability and conservation. With their expertise and dedication, we ensure that every step of your trip aligns with our shared values.

Old Faithful Geyser Erupting, Yellowstone National Park

NPCA is the only independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of the National Park System. Over 70% of our funding comes from donations from individuals like you. NPCA trips are an exclusive NPCA member benefit. One traveler per group must be an NPCA member to participate in an NPCA trip. An annual membership starts at \$15 per person. Please make dues payable to NPCA by check or credit card at npca.org.