

Winter Yellowstone Photography Tour

With John & Barbara Gerlach



Jan 29 - Feb 4
Or
Feb 5 - Feb 11
Or
Feb 12 - Feb 18
2012



WINTER YELLOWSTONE PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

by SNOWMOBILE

Jan. 29 - Feb. 4, 2012 OR Feb. 5 - 11, 2012 OR Feb. 12 - 18, 2012

with *JOHN & BARBARA GERLACH*

LIMITED TO ONLY **10** PARTICIPANTS



Why Are We Offering this Tour?

We've been avid snowmobilers since 1985 and winter loving photographers all of our lives. Winter is a fabulous time to capture outstanding photographs anywhere, but there is no better place to do it than Yellowstone Country. Our home is nestled in the lodgepole pine forests near Henry's Lake, only 17 miles from West Yellowstone. We know Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding national forests extremely well. It's our home, so it's easy for us to plan a schedule to maximize your photo opportunities. Everyone on our tour is assigned their own snowmobile to drive. (Note: If you wish, John or Barbara Gerlach will be happy to drive you around on your two-passenger snowmobile, so you don't have to be concerned with driving the machine and can spend all of your time looking at the wildlife and scenery). On this photo tour, we promise you a unique winter adventure that combines incredible snowmobiling, fabulous photo opportunities, and magnificent wildlife amid magical landscapes. With 2 guides and a maximum of 10 participants, we'll give you the kind of one-on-one guidance and photo instruction that you deserve.

We have plenty of experience leading photo tours in Yellowstone. We've been licensed snowmobile guides in the park since 1994. We work part-time for Yellowstone Tour and Travel guiding snowmobilers in Yellowstone National Park. Altogether, we have spent more than 300 full days snowmobiling and photographing in Yellowstone during the winter. Indeed, we pioneered and perfected the art of leading photo tours of Yellowstone by snowmobile.

A Winter Fairyland of Beauty

Winter is the quiet time in Yellowstone. Heavy snows in the high mountains push elk, bison, and coyotes down to the geyser basins, rivers, and low valleys of Yellowstone country where they can find food and stay warm. At no other time of the year are the wildlife of Yellowstone easier to see and photograph well. Often elk, bison, and trumpeter swans can be photographed in the dancing mist of rivers warmed by the run off from hot geysers. Wintering Bald Eagles and otters patrol the rivers and lakes for fish while friendly Gray Jays, Raven's, and Clark's Nutcrackers willingly pose for photos.

Although wildlife photo opportunities are outstanding in Yellowstone during winter, the highlights really are the unbelievable landscape possibilities. You just haven't seen Old Faithful erupt until you see and photograph it exploding into a cloud of steam in freezing temperatures. The billowing steam that is created when superheated water clashes with cold winter air is awesome! In the geyser basins, snow and hoar frost cling to every tree which photographs beautifully in the swirling mist or against cobalt blue skies. Scenes we'll photograph include the magnificent Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, several spectacular waterfalls, geysers, fumaroles, and gurgling mudpots.

Special Bonus

We'll enjoy one day of snowmobiling and photography outside the park. We'll lead you on groomed trails through the Targhee National Forest to a spectacular high elevation vista at TWO TOP MOUNTAIN which is about 9000 feet high. Frequent blizzards, fierce winds, and below zero temperatures create magnificent snow encased trees you won't believe when you first see them. Imagine photographing a forest of trees that are all bent and twisted and entirely cloaked in white. No needles, trunks, or branches are seen. Just white ghostly shapes of all kinds patiently wait for spring to release them from their icy white robe. (Of course, we'll watch the weather to make sure our visit coincides with the best photography weather possible.) On a clear day at the top of TWO TOP MOUNTAIN, you can see the stunning Grand Tetons that lie 75 miles to the southeast and Sawtelle Peak to the southwest. Sometime during the week when the weather and light conditions are most suitable, we'll visit the Grizzly Bear and Wolf Discovery Center to photograph both. The wolves offer especially good opportunities for closeup images of their faces. Admission to the center is included in your package price.

What If You Have Never Driven a Snowmobile?!

Don't worry! Driving a snowmobile is easy. Anyone can do it. We'll provide instruction on the first day. There is a lever on the right handle bar that controls the gas. When you squeeze it, you go. When you let up on the lever, you come to a gradual stop. And if you want to stop quicker, just squeeze the brake lever on the left handle bar. That's about all there is to it. No shifting is necessary. Since we'll be doing our riding on groomed trails, you don't need to know any advanced riding skills.

By the way, we have been using the new four-stroke snowmobiles for our tours since they first became available in 1998. These snowmobiles are quiet and clean burning. They get about 25 mpg and the electric ignition makes them easy to start. Everyone loves them. These new snowmobiles are very comfortable to drive. We typically drive the snowmobiles about 380 miles during the week.

What about the Cold!

It's true that it can and probably will be very cold on some mornings in West Yellowstone. Temperatures of 25 degrees below zero are possible, especially on mornings following clear nights. However, do not underestimate the capability of modern clothes for keeping you warm. We've had many

below zero mornings during our tours and nobody has had a problem with the cold. Of course, we make sure everyone is dressed properly and all snowmobiles have hand and seat warmers. We stop at all warming huts to warm up, get snacks, and visit the restroom.

What's the Typical Day Like?

Breakfast is served at 6:30 AM. We like to leave the parking lot on our snowmobiles by 8:15 AM. We'll stay out all day and return to the hotel after sunset around 6:30 PM. We try to photograph sunset whenever possible. By the way, other parks tours are usually required to return by 4:30 PM which means you may have to pull out when the light is best to get back in time. However, we have paid for extended hours, so we don't have any time restriction at all. We return to the Holiday Inn in West Yellowstone only when we finally lose the light for the day.

Meals

We'll eat all meals as a group. The Holiday Inn Hotel will prepare a breakfast for you each morning. John and Barb will not be joining you for breakfast. We'll eat lunch at various restaurants during the day which depends on the direction our travels take us. Lunches may not be the most deluxe because it's hard to find a fancy place for lunch when you are far out in the snowy forest on snowmobile, but we'll do the best we can. For lunch, everyone will order off the menu and we'll pick up the tab which includes tips. We'll eat dinners as a group in West Yellowstone after dark, so we can get a full day of snowmobiling and photography in each day. Dinner includes the main meal, non-alcoholic drinks, and dessert.

Tips

John and Barb do not join you for breakfast. Please tip for your morning meal. We'll pay the tips for all other meals that are included in the tour price. John & Barbara Gerlach have a policy of not accepting tips for their services, so

please don't offer anything.



How to Get to West Yellowstone

West Yellowstone is located close to the intersection of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Since Yellowstone National Park's roads are closed during the winter, you cannot drive through the park unless you are riding a snowmobile. The best route from the south is to take highway 20 north from Idaho Falls. From the north, take highway 287 or 191 south from the Bozeman, Montana area. If you wish to fly in, the closest airport is Gallatin Field at Bozeman, Montana. Karst Stage Lines is the shuttle bus at the airport that will bring you to West Yellowstone. The round-trip price of the shuttle in 2010 was about \$95. Their local phone number is 406-388-6404 or call 1-800-517-8243. You can rent a car at Gallatin Field, but we suggest saving your money because once you get to West Yellowstone, you won't need a car since you'll be driving a snowmobile. If you wish to shop in West Yellowstone, everything is within walking distance.

YELLOWSTONE TOUR & TRAVEL is our local tour packager. They can easily answer any questions you might have regarding the snowmobiles, lodging accommodations, and the best way for you to get to West Yellowstone. YELLOWSTONE TOUR & TRAVEL can research the best rate for your airfare into Bozeman, Montana. Please call them at 1-800-221-1151 for details.

Tour Fee per Person

Single (1 Person/1 Bed)	\$2917
(Includes Single Room Supplement)	
Twin (2 People/2 Beds)	\$2540
Double (2 People/1 Bed)	\$2540

Tour Package Includes

- * Six nights lodging at the deluxe HOLIDAY INN with private rooms and baths
- * Five days use of your own snowmobile and fuel
- * Five days use of special snowmobiling clothing which includes suit, boots, gloves, helmet, and stocking facemask
- * Five days use of required National Park guides (John & Barbara Gerlach) with extended hours
- * Forest Service use fees
- * Breakfast each morning Monday thru Saturday
- * All lunches Monday through Friday

* All dinners Monday through Friday

* Extensive photographic instruction from John & Barbara Gerlach while in the field

* Instructional slide programs by John & Barbara during the night hours

* Admission to Grizzly Bear and Wolf Discovery Center

We have tried to make the tour price as complete as possible. However, items of a personal nature, alcoholic drinks, transportation to and from West Yellowstone, Yellowstone National Park pass, and optional snowmobile insurance are not included in the tour price.

Yellowstone National Park Pass

Your pass to enter Yellowstone National Park is not included because it's not fair to charge everyone for it when many of you already have a pass. If you visit a few to many national parks each year, it's best to purchase a National Parks Pass which is good at all National Parks for one year. If you are 62 years of age or older, you qualify for a Golden Age Pass - a \$10 lifetime pass. Just present one of these passes when we arrive at the gate each morning. Otherwise, you may purchase a \$20 pass when you arrive in West Yellowstone that is good for the week.

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to hold your space. 50% of your deposit is refundable. All remaining unpaid balances are due in full 45 days prior to the start of your tour. 50% of the total package is refundable up to 72 hours before the beginning of your tour.

For Additional Information

Contact:

Tracie Frontin
Yellowstone Tour & Travel
P.O. Box 410
West Yellowstone, MT 59758
(800) 221-1151
(406) 646-9310
Fax: (406) 646-9490
tracie@yellowstone-travel.com

John & Barbara Gerlach
PO Box 642
Ashton ID 83420
(208) 652-4444 Phone
michele@gerlachnaturephoto.com

Enroll Now!!

This tour is sold out with only 10 participants maximum.

Pre-departure Information

Once we receive your reservation form and deposit, we'll

send you pre-departure information that covers everything you need to know in great detail such as what to bring in the way of clothing and camera equipment.



Important Reservation Form

Please call **Tracie** first to make sure space is still available. She can be reached at (800) 221 - 1151. Please return this completed reservation form along with your \$500 deposit to:

Yellowstone Tour & Travel PO Box 410 West Yellowstone, MT 59758. (800) 221 - 1151

Name: _____
 Male Female Age _____

 Name of Second Person



 Male Female Age _____

 Address: _____

 Phone: Day: (_____) _____
 Night: (_____) _____
 E-mail _____

Make check payable to: Yellowstone Tour & Travel
 enclosed:
 \$500 deposit x _____ (# of people to attend)
 \$2540 full tuition payment x _____ (# of people to attend)
 \$2917 full tuition payment *Including Single Supplement*
 Please find enclosed check # _____
 for \$ _____.
 Please charge the credit card indicated for a total amount charged of \$ _____.

Please enroll me in the workshop session as indicated below:
Yellowstone Winter Photographic Tour
 Jan 29 - Feb 4 , 2012 Feb 5 - Feb 11, 2012
 February 12 - 18, 2012
Type of Accommodations
 Single, One person, one bed \$2917
(Includes Single Supplement)
 Double, Two People, one bed \$2540
 Twin, Two People, two beds \$2540
 Please try to find me a room mate

Method of Payment
 Personal Check: Visa: MasterCard
 # _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
 Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____
 Full Amount is Due December 2011 

Michigan Field Workshops

<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
August 7 - 13, 2011	August 5-11, 2012
August 14 - 20, 2011	August 12-18, 2012
August 21 - 27, 2011	Aug 19 - 25, 2012
October 2 - 8, 2011	Sept 30 - Oct 6, 2012
October 9 - 15, 2011	Oct 7 - 13, 2012
Oct 16 - 22, 2011	Oct 14 - 20, 2012

Kenya Photo Safari
 January 3 - 17, 2012

Hummingbirds of British Columbia
 May 15 - 21 or May 22-28 or May 29 - June 4, 2011
 Late May and early June 2012

Yellowstone BackCountry By Horse
 July 17 - 22 2011

Alpine Wilderness By Horse
 July 24 - 29 2011

If you would like additional information on any of the above Workshops & Tours, please ask and we'll send it right out. (208) 652 - 4444
 Thank You
 John & Barbara Gerlach