

Gerlach Nature Photography

***Yellowstone National Park Winter Photography
Workshop***

www.gerlachnaturephoto.com

with John Gerlach and Dixie Calderone

**January 18 – 25, 2025
January 25 – Feb. 1, 2025
February 1 – 8, 2025**

Gerlach Nature Photography is an Authorized Permittee of the National Park Service



Figure 1 The dark clouds, late afternoon sunshine and shadows on the foreground snow make this a dramatic Old Faithful image.

John has lived near the west gate of Yellowstone since 1990. During that time, between John and Dixie, they have over 800 days of experience leading winter photo tours in Yellowstone. Their experience and enthusiasm for leading photo tours while teaching innovative photography techniques during winter in Yellowstone makes them super photo leaders. Please join us for five days of intensive Yellowstone photography. The interior of the park is terrific for landscapes. However, deep snow causes most wildlife to migrate north to the lower elevations around Mammoth and the small town of Gardiner where there is less snow and warmer temperatures. The abundance and variety of wildlife along the northern range is amazing. For three full days we drive our Ford Expedition photographing herds of elk, bison, mule deer, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep at close distances. Plus, we will find some smaller species like coyote, red fox, river otter, long-tailed weasel, pine marten, and wolf. Come join like-minded nature photographers and be inspired by the incredible scenes and wildlife found here. Dixie and John have spent many thrilling days in Gardiner photographing the herds of wildlife. Where our Yellowstone photo tours were 80% landscapes and 20% wildlife when based in West Yellowstone, now they are 70% wildlife and 30% landscapes when based in Gardiner. You will love seeing and photographing all the wildlife! This is a wildlife intensive photo tour along with magnificent landscapes!



Figure 2 The approachable pronghorn are plentiful near Gardiner.

This Yellowstone photo tour is limited to **only 5 participants** allowing unlimited personal instruction. Contact Dixie now at 812-350-0799 to secure your spot in this small photo workshop!

For three full days, we will drive everyone around in our Ford Expedition mainly photographing wildlife around Mammoth and along the park road to Cooke City. We also photograph landscapes at Mammoth hot springs and Undine falls. And for two full days, we enjoy the comfort and safety of a chartered snowcoach for only us to photograph the incredible winter landscapes in the interior of Yellowstone National Park during this magical time of the year. One full day we photograph the best landscapes all the way to Old Faithful and another day our destination is the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and Hayden Valley. Since our group size is only seven (five clients and Dixie and John),

we all enjoy the extra room on our private 12-passenger snowcoach! If your passion is wildlife, Yellowstone, and photography, this is your photo workshop!

Our days are long as we thoroughly cover the park and northern range photographing everything of interest. We begin about 8am at first light and we do not quit until the light fades away around 5:30 pm.

Your Trip Schedule

Your arrival day. Fly to Bozeman and stay at one of the two hotels we have listed here for the night.

Day 1 Saturday – Fly to Bozeman and stay at the hotels we have listed in this brochure. This room you will pay on your own. For those who are driving to our rented home near Gardiner, plan to arrive around noon on Sunday Day 2. Day 1 is meant to get participants to Bozeman, so we can gather them at the hotel on Day 2 and take everyone to Gardiner.

Day 2 Sunday – We pick you up at the hotel at 10am then drive to our rental house near Gardiner, MT. When we arrive at our home for the week, we will help you move into your private bedroom, have a meet and greet, eat lunch and dinner, and have a detailed session about camera techniques that work tremendously well for winter in Yellowstone. If you are driving to this workshop, you can meet us at our rental home around noon once we return from picking everyone else up in Bozeman.

Day 3 – 7 Photograph wildlife and landscapes on the north side of Yellowstone with two of the days on a private snowcoach photographing our way to Old Faithful and Hayden Valley.

Day 8 - Saturday – Our departure day. We plan to leave Gardiner around 7am to arrive at the airport in Bozeman by 9:00 am. The airport suggests arriving two hours before departure time. **Do not book your departure flight sooner than 11 am.**

Any hotel rooms you may need in Bozeman are not included in this tour price. Please book them yourself and reserve your room ASAP. For those who are driving to the workshop, we will plan to meet you at the rental home near Gardiner around noon on Sunday. We will be in touch by phone to coordinate our arrival time.

Bozeman Hotels

Hampton Inn
75 Baxter Lane
Bozeman MT 57915
406 522-8000

Holiday Inn Express
2305 Catron St.
Bozeman MT 59718
406 582-4995

A Winter Fairyland of Beauty

Winter is spectacular in Yellowstone. Heavy snow in the lofty mountains force wildlife down to the geyser basins, rivers, and low valleys of the northern range where they seek food and warmth. Most Yellowstone wildlife migrate to the northern range of the park. At no other time of the year are the wildlife of Yellowstone easier to see and photograph. Bison and trumpeter swans are frequently photographed in the dancing mist of rivers warmed by the runoff from hot geysers and herds of mammals that include mule deer, bighorn sheep, bison, elk, and pronghorn antelope are found around Gardiner and along the plowed road to Silver Gate. We also found two moose and a couple red fox near Silver Gate in 2024.

Using a private snowcoach for our group, we spend one day photographing our way to Old Faithful and another day at Canyon and Hayden Valley. Although some winter wildlife photo opportunities occur in the interior of Yellowstone, the interior highlights are the unbelievable landscapes. You have not seen Old Faithful erupt until you photograph it exploding into a cloud of steam on cold and clear winter days. The billowing steam created when superheated water clashes with frigid winter air is impressive! Artist point is incredible during winter at Canyon and so is the scenes at Hayden valley where you may get the chance to see and photograph trumpeter swans, coyotes, red fox, and wolves. During 2024, we photographed wolves on four different days!

Itinerary:

For those who need transportation from Bozeman to our rental home, we will gather everyone in our SUV from the hotel you are at in Bozeman at 10am on Sunday Day 2. We tow a trailer behind our Ford Expedition to accommodate all luggage.

Day 1 Sat. – Fly to Bozeman and stay at one of the two hotels we have suggested. (see page above)

Day 2 Sun. – We pick you up at the hotel around 10:00 am and take you to the River House where we are staying for six nights. If you are driving to our meeting spot in Gardiner, plan to meet us there around noon. Call Dixie at 812-350-0799 to coordinate our schedules.

Day 3 – We spend the entire day photographing wildlife and landscapes of Yellowstone's northern range using our Ford Expedition for transportation.

Day 4 – We board our snowcoach in Mammoth and spend the day photographing our way to the Old Faithful area or the Canyon area.

Day 5 - We spend the entire day photographing wildlife and landscapes of Yellowstone's northern range using our Ford Expedition for transportation.

Day 6 - We board our snowcoach in Mammoth and spend the day photographing our way to the Old Faithful area or the Canyon area.

Day 7 – We spend the entire day photographing wildlife and landscapes of Yellowstone's northern range using our Ford Expedition for transportation.

Day 8 Sat.- Breakfast and then we drive you to Bozeman airport or a hotel if you need to catch a flight the next day. Please schedule a flight departure time no earlier than 11:00 am. We plan to be at the Bozeman airport by 9:00 am.



Figure 3 We are likely to photograph large bull elk!

In the geyser basins, snow and hoar frost cling to every tree that photographs beautifully against cobalt blue skies. Scenes we will photograph include:

- Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
- Hayden Valley and its famous tree
- Upper Geyser basin around Old Faithful
- Grand Prismatic Spring
- Firehole and Gibbons Falls
- Chocolate Pot
- Upper and Lower falls on the Yellowstone

We spend our time leading you to outstanding places to photograph while teaching you how to shoot better wildlife and winter landscapes.

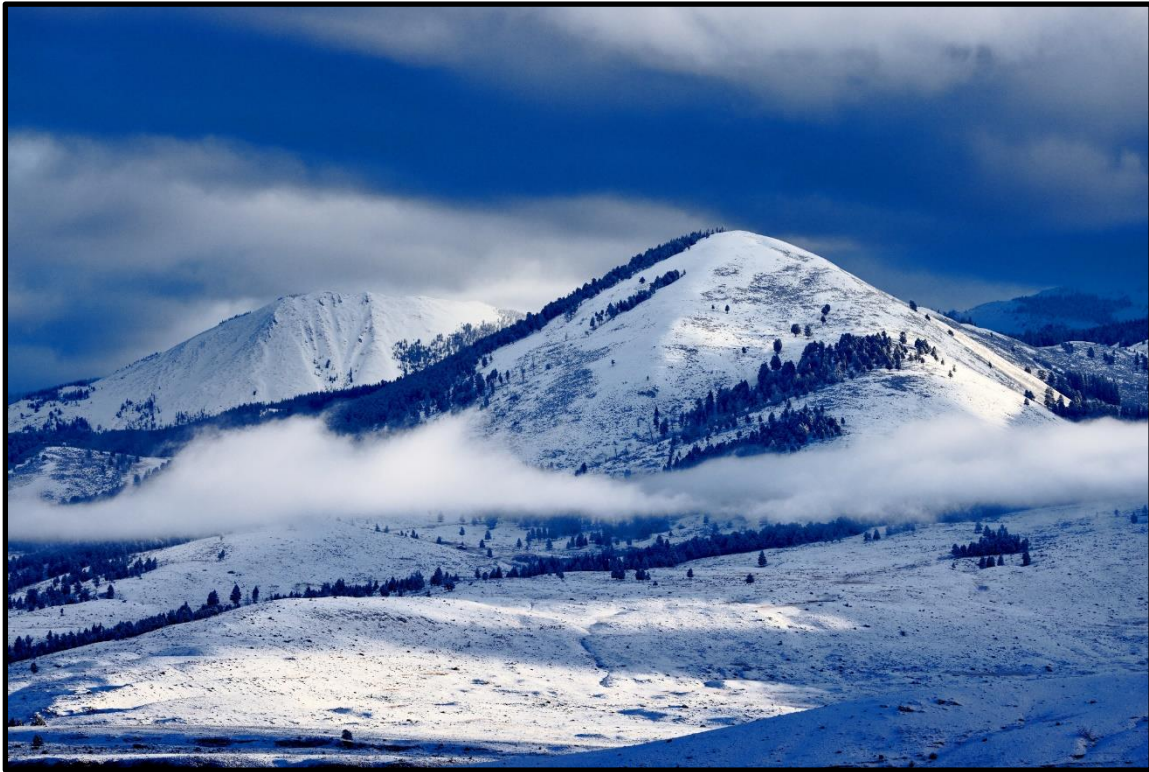


Figure 4 We can get wonderful morning scenes along the new road between Gardiner and Mammoth.

Our Flexible Itinerary

A day-to-day itinerary is not possible because weather determines our schedule. We lead our photo groups to the best locations prevailing weather conditions allow. There is no reason to visit Old Faithful if it is snowing as this famous geyser is invisible in a snowstorm. But a snowy day is ideal for wildlife. Cloudy days without snow are superb for many landscapes such as the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and all waterfalls. Sunny days are best for the thermal basins and Old Faithful. We always stop to photograph any wildlife we find in appealing situations.

You will have a wonderful time exploring Yellowstone's interior and northern wildlife winter range, shoot terrific images, learn about the park, and increase your photo skills considerably. We work hard to ensure this all happens—and it always does!

What you will learn!

- Expose snow quickly and accurately
- Compose memorable images
- Precisely focus every time
- Maximize depth of field with focus stacking
- How to photograph wildlife
- Master the polarizer – how and when to use it
- How to process images and focus stack them together with Helicon Focus
- Greatly improve your shooting techniques for sharp images
- How to focus in heavy snowfall using the focus stacking tool in an unusual way

How to use mirrorless cameras most effectively



Figure 5 Our private snowcoach.



Figure 6 Large bighorn sheep rams are easy to photograph.

What about the cold?

It can be cold on some mornings. Temperatures below zero are possible, but not likely around Gardiner. However, modern clothes are terrific for keeping you warm. We have enjoyed many below zero mornings during our tours over the decades and nobody has suffered from the cold and a warm

vehicle is always close by. For example, the **average** high temperature on Feb. 1 in Gardiner is 36 degrees and the average low is 17 degrees.

What is a typical day like?

We will prepare breakfast at our rental home in the morning. Then we leave in our Ford Expedition to photograph the abundant wildlife along the northern range or board the snow coach for travel to the park's interior. We board the snowcoaches by 8:00 am and stay out all day and return to Gardiner late in the day around 5:00pm.



Figure 7 Sometimes you get lucky. This is a Yellowstone wolf approaching our snowcoach to within 35 yards! You cannot expect such a close encounter, but it is always possible!

Meals

We eat all meals as a group. We plan to prepare breakfast at our rental home and sometimes have lunch and dinner there too or at a restaurant in Gardiner. When using the snowcoach, we pack a lunch. The packed lunch allows flexible travel as it lets us eat whenever and wherever we feel like it. At the end of the day, we enjoy dinner at a restaurant in Gardiner.

Tips

We will collect tips for the snowcoach drivers who work long days on our behalf. Budget 25 dollars per day (total \$50 for 2 days) for the coach driver. John and Dixie do not accept tips for themselves. You might want to leave a tip for the folks who clean your room at the rental home.

How to get to Gardiner, Montana

Fly to the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN) and contact the hotel to send a shuttle to take you to the hotel. The next morning, we pick you up in our SUV and take you to our rental home near Gardiner, MT. We have plenty of room for your luggage as we are towing an 8-foot cargo trailer. On the last day, we return you to the airport by 9 am. If you cannot fly out on the last day, then book a hotel, and we will drop you off at the hotel and you can fly out the next day.



Figure 8 Bison are plentiful on Yellowstone's northern range. Vast herds are enjoying the grass they easily find in the snow.

Price of this Deluxe Yellowstone Photography Workshop

\$3850 per person with a private bedroom and sharing a bath with one other person

\$4050 single rate (For the one suite that is available with a private bathroom)

We prefer you pay with a check, but you can pay with a credit card (3.5% fee applies with a credit card). Call Dixie at 812-350-0799 to pay with a credit card or save money and mail your check, **payable to Gerlach Nature Photography** to:

John Gerlach/Dixie Calderone
PO Box 318
Island Park ID 83429

Tour Package Includes:

- Six nights **lodging** in Gardiner, MT
- Six days use of required National Park guides (snowcoach driver, John, and Dixie)
- Lunch begins on the day we pick you up at the airport and end with a breakfast on the day we leave the rental home to go back to the airport
- Intensive photo instruction from John Gerlach and Dixie Calderone
- Instructional slide programs on wildlife and landscape photography
- All ground transportation in our SUV
- 2 Full Days riding on our private Snowcoach

We made the tour price as complete as possible. However, items of a personal nature, alcoholic drinks, travel from your home to Bozeman and back, motel rooms you might need in Bozeman, trip cancellation insurance, and your personal Yellowstone National Park pass are not included in the tour price.

Yellowstone National Park Pass

Your pass to enter Yellowstone National Park is not included because most of you already have a pass. If you visit a few to many national parks each year, purchase a National Parks pass that is good at all National Parks for one year. If you are 62 years of age or older, buy an Interagency Senior Pass for \$80 and it is good for life. That is a fantastic deal! Or you can purchase a \$35 pass that is good in Yellowstone for the week. Have the pass and your driver's license with you each day, as sometimes the gate attendant may ask to see it. If a pass is needed, you can buy it at the entrance gate near Gardiner on the first morning we enter the park.

The Rental Home we are Staying In

Since we are a small group of only seven, we decided to make this exciting photo workshop like a family get together. We rented a home a few miles north of Gardiner along the Yellowstone River. The home has two separate units, each with one bedroom and a bath, and a much larger interior unit with four bedrooms and two full baths. Everyone will be assigned their own bedroom and four will share two bathrooms. We will be able to cook some meals at the house and have lots of room to download, sort, and process the thousands of images you shoot. And one of the best places to photograph pronghorn, elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep is only a few miles away! Our clients loved the home along the Yellowstone River immensely! It works well for our needs!

Your home for the week is called *The River House* and located at 1099 HWY 89 South near Gardiner, MT. The home is divided into three units (119, 120, and 121) and we have rented all three of them. The website is: <https://yellowstonegatewayinn.com/accommodations/vacation-rentals/>



Figure 9 The River House where we are all staying.



Figure 10 Silex spring is always fun to photograph. The breeze blowing the steam away reveals the colorful foreground.

Pre-departure Information

Once we receive your deposit, we will send you a confirmation with pre-departure information that explains everything you need to know in detail, such as clothing and camera gear to bring.

How to Enroll

Call Dixie now at 812-350-0799 to find out if space is available and to pay your \$1500 non-refundable deposit on this trip. You can send a check or pay with a credit card (3.5% service fee applies). Save money and use a check! Make the check payable to Gerlach Nature Photography.

John Gerlach/Dixie Calderone
PO Box 318
Island Park, ID 83429

Tour Fee per person

\$3850 Per Person – everyone has a private bedroom and a shared bath with one other person.

\$4050 Per one single occupancy room with your private bath.

\$1500 Deposit is required to hold your spot in the tour. Full payment is due 120 days before the start of your tour.

Yellowstone Winter Photo Tour

January 18 – 25, 2025

January 25 – Feb. 1, 2025

February 1 – 8, 2025

The tour begins on Sunday when we pick you up at your hotel in Bozeman and ends the following Saturday morning when we drop you off at the airport in Bozeman. If you are driving to the workshop, we can plan to meet you at the home we have rented around noon on Sunday.

Refund Policy

A \$1500 non-refundable deposit is required to enroll in this workshop. The balance is due 120 days before departure.

Cancellation fee:

90 days or more before departure: \$100% of deposit is forfeited

89 to 61 days before departure: 75% of tuition is forfeited

60 or fewer days before departure: 100% of tuition is forfeited

Gerlach Nature Photography understands that challenges in life may cause you to cancel your trip with us. Broken bones, illness, severe weather, natural disasters, covid concerns, sick pets, family troubles, and many other reasons may cause you to have to change your plans.

No matter the reason for your cancellation, we will follow our cancellation policy exactly as written. Now that we are conducting many all-inclusive workshops, fees for rental housing or motels, ranch fees, snowcoach fees, and many other fees must often be paid far in advance, and most are non-refundable to us. Should you decide to cancel the photo workshop, we still must pay for what you would have used even though you are not there. That means we cannot refund your money beyond what is in our cancellation policy. We wish we could be more generous, but we simply cannot afford to absorb significant financial losses because you cancel. When you enroll in our workshop, we reserve a spot for you and turn away others who would have gladly paid for your spot. Even though we often have a waiting list, in most cases those on the waiting list make other plans and are not available to replace you. If we can get a replacement for you (no guarantee) or you get a replacement, then we are happy to be more generous with the refund. We hope you understand our position. We wish to continue to offer high-quality photo workshops for small groups at reasonable prices. Gerlach Nature Photography encourages everyone to purchase Trip Cancellation Insurance that covers the most likely reasons you would cancel. And to be safe, you can buy 'Cancel for Any Reason' trip cancellation insurance for a higher price. Many companies that provide trip cancellation insurance are found on the web. Two well-known insurance companies include:

www.allianztravelinsurance.com

www.travelguard.com

Let us hope you never need to cancel your trip with us or anyone else! Happy travels!

For Additional Information

Contact:

John Gerlach/Dixie Calderone

(812) 350-0799 (Dixie's cell)

johngerlachphotography@gmail.com



Figure 11 We enjoy all the mule deer found here too. Many of them live in downtown Gardiner.



Figure 12 Moose are most sometimes seen along the road to Silver City during a Yellowstone winter. We are going to Silver City, so maybe we will get lucky.



Figure 13 Cold clear nights produce frosty bison by the following morning.



Figure 14 Even on a cloudy day, the springs in the thermal areas like Norris geyser basin make colorful photos. All of the wildlife photos below were shot in 2023 over a three-week period with a Canon R5 and the 100-500mm lens.



Figure 15 Old Faithful Sunstar



Figure 17 Chocolate Pot



Figure 16 Pronghorn antelope



Figure 19 Grand Prismatic Spring



Figure 18 A restful coyote!



Figure 20 Bison on a COLD morning!



Figure 21 Sometimes luck is with us, and we find a red fox who poses!



Figure 24 Frosty bison with calf.



Figure 29 Bobcat



Figure 25 Chinese spring



Figure 26 Pine marten



Figure 28 Blue Star Geyser



Figure 27 Castle geyser



Figure 30 Bull elk



Figure 31 Wolf



Figure 34 Red Fox



Figure 33 Red Squirrel



Figure 32 Bighorn Sheep