

## Yellowstone Spring

### “The Bears of Yellowstone”

June 1-8, 2013

**Cost \$2195 (with double occupancy) Deposit \$350**

*Limited to 6 participants, from Bozeman, Montana*

Spring in the world’s first and perhaps finest national park is a time of excitement. New life may be found everywhere in Yellowstone National Park. Bison, elk, and moose calves and antelope and deer fawns are proudly displayed by their mothers in lush green meadows filled with wildflowers. The grizzly and black bears are very visible this time of year and will be our primary objective. This combined with a variety of nesting birds will afford us hours of endless photo opportunities during this exciting tour.

No where else in North America can you witness, with such consistency, wolves and grizzly bear roaming free in their native habitats. During the time of this tour the wonderful carnivores will be following age old instincts and hunting elk calves. Having spent many years photographing within the park and now living just outside the east gate we spend a tremendous amount of time in Yellowstone and know the prime locations to witness this behavior. In addition to the incredible wildlife, Yellowstone is famous for its geysers, hot springs, mud pots, and canyons which offer unlimited potential for scenic photography and we'll be sure to visit them during this tour. Make sure you sign up early for this extremely popular adventure.

### **Itinerary**

**Day 1** - Arrive in Bozeman, Montana. Tour participants will be picked up at the airport at 1pm We will then drive to the north entrance of Yellowstone and arriving in Gardiner, Montana in late afternoon. That

evening we'll meet for a welcome dinner and discussion of our upcoming photo adventure.

## **Days 2-7**

We spend the next 6 days exploring the park. Our daily locations within the park will vary in accordance to animal activity and weather conditions. We will meet early to drive into the park before daylight to take advantage of the prime lighting conditions and animal activity. The days are very long this time of year so we may head back to our rooms to take a midday break while the light is harsh. We'll head out again in the late afternoon for the evening shoot and will not return to the motel each evening until after sundown. As we work our way into Yellowstone each day we will search hard for the very best photographic situations and spend time thoroughly working each subject we find. Our goal is for you to take home the best photographs that conditions will allow.

**Day 8** - We'll go out this morning for one last shoot in the park. We return to our rooms in time to check out and drive back to Bozeman. You may schedule your depart for home anytime after arrival in Bozeman which will be at approximately 1:00 pm.

## **What to Bring**

**Equipment:** We recommend a minimum of 400mm telephoto lens for this tour in addition to a variety of wide angle lenses or zooms and a mid range zoom lens. Digital shooters will want to bring along a couple of flash cards and a means to download images when cards get full. We always suggest you bring along 2 camera bodies if possible in case of equipment failure. A tripod and a good ballhead is strongly encouraged.

**Clothing:** Clothing should be comfortable and adequately cover a full range of weather conditions and temperatures. Expect everything from warm and sunny temperatures into the 70's to very cool and rainy; possibly snow especially in some of the higher elevations we will be working. In the mornings temperatures will likely be in the 30's so we recommend layering clothing and even a light pair of gloves would be

advised. A sturdy yet light weight, comfortable and maybe waterproof hiking boot is suggested.

The cost of this tour includes 7 nights lodging (double occupancy), field transportation, and a welcome dinner.

**Single supplement for this tour is \$250.**

***Franzfoto Tours comply with current Yellowstone National Park regulations. All Yellowstone instructional photo tours are operated in conjunction with an authorized Yellowstone Photo Tour concessionaire.***

**GROUP MINIMUM:** Occasionally, we are able to run a tour below our group minimum which is usually 4. In such instances it may be necessary to apply a small group supplement fee in which case you would be contacted regarding such a situation but you would not be obligated to accept the new terms.

**RESERVATIONS:** Your \$350 deposit is required to secure your place on any tour, with the balance due 60 days prior to the departure date. Deposits are fully refundable if cancellation is received at least 120 days prior to the departure date. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will mail you our acknowledgment and tour reservation form. Details of hotels, flight arrival recommendations, and other trip tips will be mailed when the tour is full.

**MEALS:** Some meals and refreshments are included depending on the trip details, but not alcoholic beverages.

**ADMISSIONS:** Access to public buildings and national parks etc. is not included in the land price.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Due to the high number of cancellations we've received in the past several years a new refund policy has been implemented.

Cancellations more than 120 days ahead of the tour are refunded minus a \$50 handling charge.

Cancellations between 60-120 days ahead of the tour will be refunded if the spot can be filled.

Cancellations less than 60 days ahead of the tour are non-refundable.

Franzfoto Tours strongly suggest that tour participants invest in trip cancellation insurance.

**CANCELED EXPEDITIONS:** In the event of insufficient tour sign-ups, Franzfoto Tours reserves the right to cancel any given tour. In that event 100% of moneys received will be returned. However, Franzfoto Tours is not responsible for expenses incurred by its customers.

**LUGGAGE:** Franzfoto Tours requests that tour participants limit their luggage to the equivalent of one suitcase, one flight bag, one camera bag, and tripod. We do not wish to be dictatorial in this matter, but asks that group members bear in mind space and comfort in our vehicles. All personal luggage is the responsibility of the owner.

**SMOKERS:** Smoking is not permitted at meals or in vehicles. It may be permitted at photo stops where local ordinances permit, photography and photographers are not affected.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Franzfoto Tours and its agents act only as agents for the passenger in all matters relating to travel arrangements, and as such, do not assume responsibility for injury, accident, damage, loss, delay or irregularity which may occur via defect of transportation or any other cause. Franzfoto Tours reserves the right to substitute hotels, and other previously outlined arrangements as necessary, to either improve or equal the travel experience. Franzfoto Tours reserves the right to pass on to tour members any additional and unplanned expenditure incurred during a tour, via events beyond Franzfoto Tours control. The right is reserved to accept or decline any person as a member of any tour. Payment of tour fees by trip participants constitutes their acceptance of all conditions contained herein.