

D. Robert Franz | Nature & Wildlife Photography Tours | 307-272-6671

Yellowstone Winter – “The Wolves of Yellowstone” 2013

January 28-February 1, 2013 (4 photography days with 2 snowcoach days)

February 2-9, 2013 (7 photography days with 2 snowcoach days)

Winter is a magical time in Yellowstone, the world’s first national park. The boiling hot pools, steaming geysers, dense concentrations of wildlife, a little fog to add mood, and the lack of crowds make this, perhaps, one of the most extraordinary times of year to visit.

**Tour 1: Jan 28-Feb 1 Cost \$1495 with double occupancy (Deposit \$250)
Single supplement is \$125**

**Tour 2: Feb 2-9 Cost \$2195 with double occupancy (Deposit \$350)
Limited to 6 participants From Bozeman, Montana
Single supplement \$250**

Since the wolf reintroduction in 1995 winter visits to Yellowstone National Park has taken on a new exciting dimension. Yellowstone is now the premier location in the world to view wolves and be able to witness natural behavior. Wolves hunt the large herds of elk which winter in the Lamar Valley, near Mammoth, and other areas within the park often close enough to witness. Commonly heard is the haunting sound of wolves howling from several directions at the same time. To be there to witness that is an experience that will stay with you forever. We will work hard to try to photograph these incredible predators.

We will also spend time photographing elk, bighorn sheep, coyotes, moose, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and perhaps even less seen inhabitants such as otters, pine marten, bald eagles, and trumpeter swans. We will be out each day from dawn to dusk in search of as many excellent nature and wildlife images as possible. Private chartered snow coach trips will take us into the parks interior to visit locations such as the Norris Geyser Basin, Hayden Valley, Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and the Firehole Basin. Here frost covered wildlife in addition to the magical thermal features will provide us with extraordinary photographic possibilities.

As with all wildlife photography there are never any guarantees but in the past we have had very good luck photographing the wolves at this time of year. This is sure to be a photographic adventure you'll never forget.

Day 1 - Arrive in Bozeman, Montana. After a beautiful afternoon drive to

Yellowstone we will meet for an orientation dinner and discussion on our upcoming photo adventure.

Days 2-3 We spend 2 days exploring the park along the 52 miles of road from Gardiner to Cooke City which includes the beautiful Lamar Valley a prime spot in the park for wolf watching. Our goal is for you to take home the very best photographs that conditions will allow.

Day 4-5: We will spend 2 days exploring the interior of the park via snowcoach. We'll likely spend one day working towards Old Faithful and the other day to Fishing Bridge.

Day 6-7: We will again focus our efforts on the Lamar Valley and other locations where wildlife activity is high.

Day 8 - we will make one last run into the Park this morning. We will return to our rooms by 10am in time to check out and make our journey back to Bozeman. You will want to schedule your departure 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. Extra batteries for your camera are vital in these cold conditions

Clothing: Clothing should be comfortable and very warm. Below zero temperatures are possible so we recommend layering your clothing. Good warm boots and gloves are essential; chemical hand and foot warmers are very helpful. Remember, since most of your body heat is lost through your head, warm headgear is a necessity.

The cost of this tour includes 7 nights lodging (double occupancy), field transportation, orientation dinner. Single supplement for this tour is \$250.

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 in which case you would be contacted regarding such a situation but you would not be obligated to accept the new terms.

RESERVATIONS: Your 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 minus a small handling fee 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.

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 luggages are the responsibility of the owner.

SMOKERS: Smoking is not permitted at meals or in vehicles. It can 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.

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.