



# ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES

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## YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK: WINTER SKI SAFARI

**Trip Dates 2010: February 5 – 12**

**Land Costs: \$1299 (Based on group size 7)**

(Note: Simple lodging-Mammoth room w/o bath and rustic cabins at Old Faithful.)

### **DAY 1 (Arrival: Friday, Feb 5, 2010)**

Depart for Bozeman, Montana. Overnight in Bozeman and meals on your own.

### **DAY 2**

Early morning shuttle from Bozeman to Mammoth Hot Springs in northwest Yellowstone Park. It is not unusual to spot big horn sheep on the steep rocky bluffs as we enter the park. We will pick up lunch along the way. We spend the night at the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel - a comfortable classic hotel located at the base of immense travertine terraces with steaming hot springs and bubbling pools. After a brief trip orientation, we enjoy an afternoon ski in the upper terraced area. Basic ski instruction provided as needed. (D)

### **DAY 3**

We enjoy a full day of backcountry skiing in the greater Mammoth area. The Tower Junction, Lamar Valley and the Blacktail Plateau trails offer wonderful rolling countryside with big open vistas, snowy meadows and spruce-fir forests. The trails in these areas are rated as easiest to more difficult. It is not uncommon in these areas to sight coyote, elk, bison and occasionally big horn sheep! In addition, this area skirts the Lamar Valley where, in 1995, fourteen gray wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone Park. There is always the possibility of seeing wolves or at the very least, signs of their presence. Evening interpretive programs covering a variety of topics related to wildlife and geothermal activity are offered at the lodge by park naturalists. (BL)

#### DAY 4

After breakfast, we depart via snow coach to the Old Faithful area. This four-hour shuttle offers great opportunity for viewing winter wildlife in their natural habitat. Our journey is narrated by a park naturalist. In addition to viewing elk, bison, pronghorn antelope and the occasional moose, this area is the winter home for many birds such as the bald eagle, osprey, snow geese and trumpeter swan. Upon arrival at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge, we enjoy a late afternoon / evening ski tour through the steaming Biscuit Basin and Old Faithful geyser areas. This area is the largest concentration of geysers in the world...these geothermal features cloaked in winter weather are spectacular! (BL)

#### DAYS 5-6

Full days of backcountry ski options in the Spring Creek / Lone Star Geyser area. We are shuttled by snow coach out to the trailhead and then follow the beautiful Spring Creek trail on a mostly gentle downhill slope (some steeper sections) to the Lone Star Geyser trail. Sightings of snowshoe hare, deer and river otter are a possibility here. Visit the Old Faithful interpretive center and evening park naturalist program. (BL)

#### DAY 7

Sunrise ski the Fern Cascades loop - a stark and stunning trail through a hilly section of the 1988 burn area. Or, if you wish, there is the option of spending the morning walking along the boardwalk through the Old Faithful geyser basin with boiling blue green hot springs, bubbling mud pots and steaming fumaroles. After lunch we return via snow coach to the Mammoth Hot Springs lodge and a final evening banquet. (BLD)

#### DAY 8 (*Departure date: Friday Feb 12, 2010*)

After breakfast, we depart for Bozeman, Montana and depart for hometown. Return flights should not be scheduled until after 2 pm. (B)

**Special Note:** Although we try to adhere to this printed itinerary, due to circumstances beyond our control (i.e. weather, traffic, flight schedules), this itinerary is subject to change.

Land Costs	Deposit	Single Supplement	2010 Dates	Group Size	Difficulty	Activities
\$1299	\$400	\$325	Feb 5-12	7	No Experience Needed	XC skiing, Wildlife, Lodges

#### A FEW IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR TRIP...Read carefully

**What is included in your Trip Fee:** Cross-country ski escorted tours; six nights accommodations (nights two through seven) based on double occupancy in Standard lodging (rooms without baths Mammoth/Frontier Cabins) – Room upgrades may be requested; all breakfasts, lunches and 2 dinners, as indicated on the itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner); roundtrip shuttle bus from Bozeman to Yellowstone; snow coach shuttles within the park; park entrance fees and permits.

**Not Included in your Trip Fee:** Transportation to Bozeman (however, we will assist with carpools from the Seattle area and flights); first evening lodging in Bozeman; final evening lodging in Bozeman if needed; single supplement (see below) if unable to share a room; meals not specified in the itinerary (5 dinners); alcoholic beverages; cross-country ski or snowshoe gear; trip insurance or medical / emergency costs.

**Single Supplement:** Fee is based upon shared twin room accommodations and is based on a group size of 7. If you are traveling alone, we'll try our best to match you with a roommate. If that is not possible or if you prefer a single room, you will be responsible for the single supplement fee of \$325.

**How Strenuous is this trip:** This trip is designed for the new and the experienced cross-country touring skier. We will ski each day on non-groomed skied-in trails. There will be plenty of opportunity for ski instruction. You will have the option of skiing with an experienced escort or you may choose to spend the day on a self-guided tour. The pace of each day is fairly flexible. A few of the all-day tours are between 5 - 7 hours in length and, although not technical, do require a hearty spirit!

**What About Clothing & Equipment:** It is recommended that you bring your own personal cross-country ski gear. There are several places in the Seattle area that rent good quality cross-country ski equipment. If you choose not to travel with gear or do not have personal gear, full package ski rentals are available at the various lodges. Upon registration, we will provide you with a complete list of suggested clothing and personal gear.

**What is the Weather Like:** Days are typically dry, cold and sunny...making for ideal skiing conditions! Temperatures may range from 45°F to below zero. Protection in the form of layered clothing and appropriate fabrics are essential. It is this cold weather that brings the large mammals down into the warmer lower basins for grazing purposes.

**Transportation/Flight Arrangements:** If you need flight arrangements to Bozeman, please contact Adventure Associates - we can assist with your travel arrangements. Please do not book your return flight home from Bozeman until after 2 pm on Day 8.

**How to Register:** If you have not downloaded an application form, please contact our office for a complete registration packet. Complete the application form and return it to our office along with the appropriate deposit. Upon receipt of your application, we will send you a confirmation and final details about your pre-trip preparation. For immediate confirmation, you may charge your deposit to Visa, Master Card or American Express by phone or fax.

**Payment Schedule:** We accept checks, Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

\$400 deposit due at the time of registration (\$100 is non-refundable)

full payment due two months prior to departure

If you are registering within 60 days of the trip departure, please submit full payment at that time.

\* We do accept Visa, Master Card and American Express for your deposit payment.

#### **Cancellation & Refund Policy**

If you must cancel prior to departure, the following fee will be assessed based upon our receipt of your written cancellation request:

Days Prior to Departure (trip destination)

90 or more ..... \$100

60 to 89 ..... \$200

45 to 59 ..... 50% fee

1 to 44 ..... 100% fee

No partial refunds are possible for any unused portion of your trip.

Penalties on airline tickets are subject to the individual air carrier's rules and regulations. Departure is defined as the date of the first flight, or the trip departure date as indicated on our Trip Schedule, whichever comes first.

Once a trip has been confirmed medical circumstances will not be considered as exceptions to our cancellation policy. However, if you have purchased a comprehensive Travel Insurance plan that covers cancellation, you may be able to retrieve some of the funds.

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