



P.O. Box 117 Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190 \* 406-848-2400 \* [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org)

Welcome to *Roosevelt Rendezvous*. The following information will help you prepare for your upcoming program. Please read it carefully, and don't hesitate to contact the Institute at [registrar@yellowstoneassociation.org](mailto:registrar@yellowstoneassociation.org) or 406-848-2400 or with any questions.

### **The Program**

*Roosevelt Rendezvous* features four days of learning, exploration, and fun at the historic Roosevelt Lodge in Yellowstone. During the day, you will choose from a variety of full-day and half-day field trips. There are a variety of ways to learn about the natural processes and experience the distinct feel of this special time of year. Trips will allow you to participate in vigorous guided hikes, search for wildlife in the early morning, enjoy easy geology strolls, take a photography tours, and do your own thing during downtime. We'll also see and discuss effects of climate change, as well as the park's efforts towards sustainability. Each evening, you will return to the Roosevelt Lodge, a rustic log outpost in the middle of Yellowstone's northern range. All field activities take place in small groups, however it is fine if you choose not to participate in arranged activities.

Late afternoons and early evenings are reserved for rest and relaxation; you can read, have a drink on the broad Roosevelt porch, chat with other participants in the main lodge, or just take a nap. *Roosevelt Rendezvous* creates a social atmosphere allowing participants to learn from each other and build lasting relationships with the park, as well as with each other. During the cocktail hour, naturalist guides introduce the next day's excursions and participants sign up for their chosen activity. Dinners are served buffet-style in the main lodge where participants exchange tales of the days' field trips and all enjoy good food and company in a historic environment. Dinners are followed by evening educational presentations by Yellowstone geologists, wildlife biologists, historians, interpretive guides, or other fascinating guests.

### **How Fit Do You Need to Be?**

Customized sets of trips will be created that suite each person's interest, skills, and changing energy levels. Additionally, participants may choose downtime. Depending on the daily field trips you choose, activity levels will range from short walks on level ground to day-hikes of up to 12 miles and elevation change of up to 2000 feet. All field trips include some short walks, so be prepared for some level of activity.

### **What to Bring**

The weather in Yellowstone can be unpredictable in the fall; exploring the park safely and comfortably requires planning and preparation. Please study the clothing and equipment list carefully.

### **What's Included**

*Roosevelt Rendezvous* includes four nights lodging in a private cabin at Roosevelt Lodge, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 5, instruction by Institute naturalist guides, in-park transportation, and evening presentations. Each evening before dinner there will be a cocktail hour in the main lodge with a cash bar serving beer and wine. Any gratuities, including gratuities for naturalist guides, are discretionary.

Accommodations are in rustic, private, studio-style cabins that do not have bathrooms. Shower and restroom facilities are a short walk away in one of two bathhouses. A small, wood stove heats each cabin and fuel will be delivered to your cabin daily. Lighting a woodstove can be a fun experience, but can take some practice—be prepared

to take some time to learn this important skill. Please note that even a roaring fire does not last all night in the cabin woodstoves, and when the fire is out, temperatures drop quickly in these minimally insulated cabins. For those who do not relish the idea of feeding the woodstove throughout the night, we recommend bringing an extra sleeping bag or blanket to keep you warm. Remember, Yellowstone is at a northern latitude and at a high elevation, so temperatures are lower than most visitors expect.

We look forward to sharing Yellowstone with you!

## ITINERARY

Daily events will vary for each person depending on his or her choices, each day. The itinerary below lists the basic outline of the progression through each day. Field trip departure/return times will vary by topic and will be announced each evening.

### **Day 1**      **Welcome to *Roosevelt Rendezvous!***

- 3-5:30 p.m.    Arrive and register at Roosevelt Lodge
- 5 p.m.        Cocktail hour begins in the main lodge with cash bar (beer and wine)
- 5:30 p.m.    Welcome reception and program overview in the main lodge
- 6:30 p.m.    Buffet dinner in the main lodge
- 7:45 p.m.    Educational presentation in the main lodge (about 1 hour)
- Overnight at Roosevelt Lodge

### **Days 2, 3, 4**    **Exploring Yellowstone in Autumn**

- 6 a.m.        Coffee available in the main lodge
- Early departure field trips pick up box breakfasts and lunches in the main lodge
- 6:15 a.m.    Wildlife watching field trips depart
- 7 a.m.        Photography trips depart
- Buffet breakfast in main lodge (closes at 8:30 a.m.) and box lunch pick-up in the main lodge
- 8 a.m.        Other field trips depart
- 12 p.m.      Morning field trips return
- Boxed lunches in the field or at lodge
- 1 p.m.        Afternoon field trips depart
- 3 p.m.        Wildlife watching field trips return
- 4 p.m.        Full day and other half day field trips return
- 5:30 p.m.    Cocktail hour begins in the main lodge with cash bar (beer and wine)
- 6 p.m.        Field Trip Review: Instructors provide a synopsis of the day's events and an overview of next day's options—participants must be seated in the main lodge no later than 6 p.m. for this presentation. During this time, sign-ups will be made for the following day's field trips.
- 6:30 p.m.    Buffet dinner in the main lodge
- 7:45 p.m.    Educational presentation in the main lodge (about 1 hour)
- Overnight at Roosevelt Lodge

### **Day 5**        **Check-Out and Farewell**

- 6 a.m.        Coffee available in the main lodge
- Wildlife watching field trip **check-out** and pick up box breakfasts in the main lodge
- 6:15 a.m.    Wildlife watching field trip departs
- 7 a.m.        Buffet breakfast in the main lodge (closes at 8:30 a.m.)
- 10 a.m.      **Check-out**
- 11 a.m.      Wildlife watching field trip returns

## CODE OF ETHICS

The Yellowstone Association Institute is committed to demonstrating a high standard of appropriate and ethical behavior in Yellowstone. As a participant in an Institute program, we ask you to adhere to the following Code of Ethics. In addition to the ethics highlighted below, the Institute abides by all National Park Service (NPS) rules and regulations. We also practice Leave No Trace guidelines for traveling responsibly in the wilderness.

**Observing Wildlife:** We will do our best to have as little impact on wildlife as possible. Animals will be observed from a distance, using high powered spotting scopes to help keep our presence from affecting their behavior. Participants should not expect to get close-up photographs of wildlife. We will adhere to NPS regulations by keeping a minimum distance of 25 yards from bison, elk, bighorn sheep, deer, moose, coyotes, nesting birds, and 100 yards from bears and wolves. We will not entice wildlife with food, animal calls, or any actions that change their behavior.

**Leave What You Find:** It is illegal to remove natural or cultural artifacts (plants, animals, bones, rocks, etc.) from the park. Institute instructors have permission from the NPS to manipulate plants, rocks, bones, etc. for educational purposes, and will return them to their natural positions and locations.

**General Etiquette:** Institute groups will be considerate of other visitors and respect the quality of their experience. Voices and vehicle sounds carry great distances and affect both wildlife and people. Remaining silent or very quiet while watching wildlife lets the sounds of Yellowstone (including wolf howls) prevail.

**Roads and Vehicles:** Expect wildlife on the road, and drive at or below the posted park speed limits. When stopping to observe wildlife or other park features, the Institute will move vehicles entirely off the road. If there is no safe pullout available, we will drive to the next safe place and walk back to observe the wildlife. We will not stop in the middle of the road, and should a traffic jam develop as a result of our activities, we will cease the activity.

**Properly Dispose of Waste:** We will pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter. Your instructor will discuss techniques for properly disposing of human waste in the field.

**Traveling Lightly:** When hiking or walking in Yellowstone, we will use existing trails and boardwalks, and follow appropriate techniques when walking off-trail. Walking around muddy or wet places in the trail increases erosion and negatively affects the resource; proper equipment is essential to hiking ethically. Participants should come adequately prepared with the equipment listed for their course and should expect to walk through mud, snow, or puddles in the trail.

**Practice Sustainable Methods:** We will reduce waste by minimizing paper and other disposable products used during programs. Recycling will be practiced in vehicles and at YA facilities. Effects of climate change, especially those evident in Yellowstone, will be highlighted by instructors, as well as the efforts of Yellowstone National Park and its partners to mitigate these effects.

**Thank you for helping us set a good example in Yellowstone!**

## CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT LIST

Weather in Yellowstone is unpredictable in the spring and fall; you will need to prepare for greater temperature and weather extremes. The elevation in the park interior is 6000 to 7000 feet. Conditions could range from a warm, summer-like experience to snow. Nights will likely be cold. When dressed properly, even the most challenging conditions can be encountered successfully. If you are adequately equipped with the right gear and clothing, you will have a more comfortable and enjoyable experience. If you have any questions about appropriate clothing or gear, please do not hesitate to contact the Institute at 406-848-2400.

### Clothing

The layered use of garments for protection against the wind, sun, and temperature extremes should guide your clothing choices. Loose fitting layers of synthetic or non-cotton material allow you to maintain a comfortable and dry body as outside temperatures change and as your own body's temperature and moisture output changes with different levels of exertion.

**Insulating Underwear:** Capilene, silk, polypropylene, or similar. Should have ability to wick moisture away from the body. A light or medium weight is adequate.

**Lightweight Insulating Layer:** A light 200-weight synthetic fleece shirt or wool garment is a good choice.

**Mid-Weight Sweater or Jacket:** Can be wool, down, or 300-weight fleece for less active times.

**Wind/Rain Jacket and Pants:** A layer that breaks the wind yet breathes is important. Gore-Tex shells do both, but are expensive. Coated nylon blocks wind and rain and is economical, but doesn't release sweat. If your rain jacket does not breathe, you might consider a separate wind jacket. A jacket with a hood is a plus. Wind pants should be wind/water resistant and loose fitting.

**Shirts:** Cotton t-shirts are OK, but synthetic shirts are ideal, because they wick moisture away from the body.

**Pants:** Synthetic hiking pants, lightweight pile/fleece pants or tights, or similar pants. Jeans are not recommended.

**Hat:** Bring two, a brimmed hat to protect you from the sun and an insulating hat for cool weather.

**Gloves:** Lightweight silk/capilene/wool/polypro gloves liners for early summer.

**Socks:** Wool or synthetic. Cotton socks do not wick moisture and are not recommended

**Hiking Boots or Shoes:** If you do not already have a favorite pair (which is probably adequate), get a pair of boots that provide stability, traction, and comfort. Unless you've consistently hiked in athletic shoes, go with something that provides ankle support. Also, boots offer protection from frequently wet or muddy seasonal conditions.

**Off-duty Shoes:** Sandals, athletic shoes, or other leisure footwear.

### Equipment

Your instructor will be carrying a first aid kit, bear spray, and emergency communication device.

**Daypack:** In addition to extra clothes, you'll be carrying water, lunch, and maybe a camera, binoculars, field guides, and other items during excursions away from the vehicle. Make sure your daypack is large enough to accommodate these items.

**Water Bottle (reusable):** Staying hydrated is very important. One quart/liter is the minimum recommended.

Camelback or similar hydration systems work, as well. We will provide one complementary YAI bottle at orientation, but we encourage you to bring one reusable bottle of your own, as well. To reduce our impact, we do NOT provide disposable water bottles.

### Sunglasses

### Sunscreen/Lip Protector

**Camera, Binoculars:** If you have them, bring them. If you have a digital camera, you may be able to take close photos of surprising quality through the Institute spotting scopes.

**Personal First Aid Kit:** Please bring any personal medications you require.

**Alarm Clock:** Make sure you're ready for early mornings! Not all hotel rooms/cabins have alarm clocks.

**Sleeping Bag/Heavy Blanket:** Autumn evenings in the Roosevelt Lodge rustic cabins can be cold. The wood stoves in the cabins do not burn all night long—bringing an extra sleeping bag or blanket will keep you more comfortable after the fire burns out and is strongly recommended.

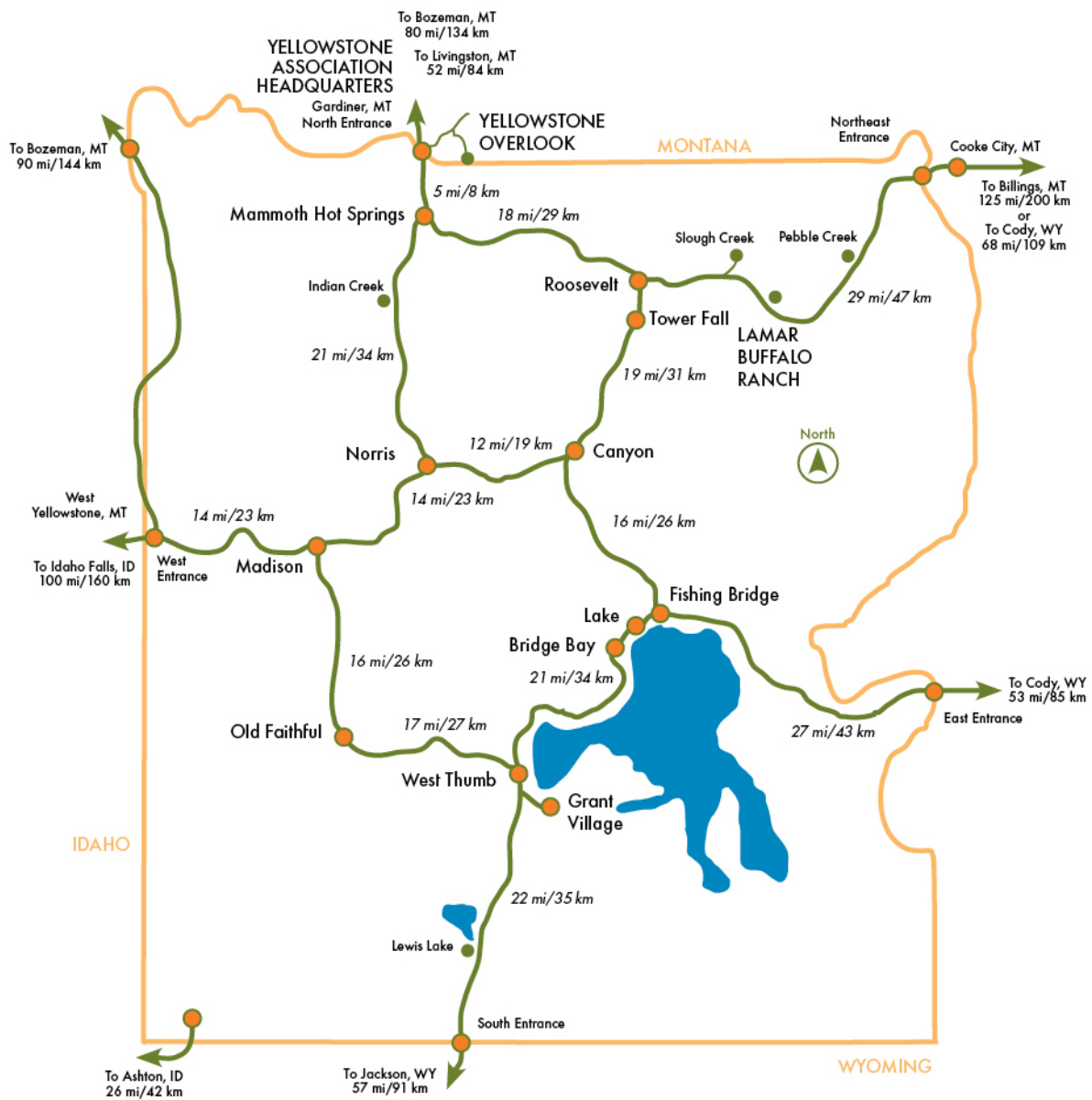
**Flashlight:** A small light for walking to and from your cabin in the evenings and mornings.

### OPTIONAL READING LIST

No prior reading is required, but you might want something to occupy the long plane or car ride to Yellowstone. Whether your passion is history, geology, wildlife or ecology, there's something for everyone. Most publications are available from the Yellowstone Association's online store at [www.YellowstoneAssociation.org](http://www.YellowstoneAssociation.org) or by calling 406-848-2400. Yellowstone Association members receive a 15 percent discount and all proceeds go directly back into the park for education and research.

- Craighead, F.C.Jr., 1994. *For Everything There is a Season: The Sequence of Natural Events in the Grant Teton-Yellowstone Area*. Falcon Publishing, Inc. 206 pp.
- Marchand, P, 2000. *Autumn: A Season of Change*. University Press of New England. 224 pp.
- Phillips, M.K. and Smith, D., 1998. *The Wolves of Yellowstone*. Voyageur Press, Inc. 128 pp.
- Ferguson, G. 2003. *Hawk's Rest: A Season in the Remote Heart of Yellowstone*. National Geographic. 240 pp.
- Schullery, P.D., 1999. *Searching for Yellowstone: Ecology and Wonder in the Last Wilderness*. First Mariner Books, Houghton Mifflin Company. 338 pp.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION



Plan on extra driving time in the park. The speed limit is 45 mph or lower. There may also be construction delays. Visit [www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/hours.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/hours.htm), call the NPS at 307-344-2107, or check in at a visitor center for up-to-date travel information.

### USE OF IMAGES/AUDIO

During your course a staff member may document the course through photos, video, or audio. The Institute uses audio and visual media in a variety of ways to further our educational mission and encourage others to participate in our courses. For example, videos might be used to train new instructors, or posted online to give folks at home a chance to learn about Yellowstone and experience what our courses are like from a distance. Similarly, we might use photographs of the class in our publications, such as the Institute catalog. If you would prefer not to be photographed or recorded, please let your instructor know.