

# Yellowstone & Grand Tetons Wildlife & Geology Expedition

May 16 – 23, 2024



*Old Faithful*

*Bison thundering downslope to the Yellowstone River bridge*

***We invite you to join us to discover Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons in May 2024!***

*Exploring this mecca for wildlife in the spring is an amazing experience! The bison have calved their baby “red dogs” and hundreds of bison are gathered in the Lamar Valley. Grizzlies have emerged from their winter dens with their cubs, and black bears may sometimes be seen along the forest edges. New pups of the wolf pack in northern Yellowstone may be out and about. Big horn sheep may be gathered on Miller Butte in the Grand Tetons.*

*With a backdrop of the stunning peaks of the Grand Tetons, the park has just awakened from the winter snowpack and wildflowers are emerging. Snow may still be seen in the high country in Yellowstone, where bison and other wildlife gather in the lower elevations.*

*On this expedition, we will explore the major features in both the Tetons and Yellowstone, with a special look at the geothermal features in Yellowstone and the wildlife of the Lamar Valley.*

*We hope you will join us for a truly remarkable expedition!*



*The famous grizzly 399 & her 4 cubs  
May 2020*

**Betchart Expeditions Inc. 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014**

Phone (800) 252 4910 or Email: [betcharterri@gmail.com](mailto:betcharterri@gmail.com).



*Bison with their “Red Dogs”*

*Leading this expedition will be a superb educator, wildlife biologist **Dr. Rich Harris**. Rich is a Professor at the University of Montana in the Wildlife Biology Program, and has served as Grizzly Bear Planning Coordinator for the State of Montana. He has also done wildlife research in China, Tibet, and Mongolia. Rich will be joined by a geologist knowledgeable about the fascinating geology of the Tetons and Yellowstone.*



## Itinerary

**Day 1** Arrive Jackson, Wyoming. Flights via Salt Lake or Denver arrive Jackson shortly after 5 pm. Transfer to *Flat Creek Inn (3 nights)* overlooking the Elk Refuge. Welcome dinner in Jackson.

**Day 2** We'll explore Grand Teton National Park today, including Jenny Lake. You may stroll along the lake to the moose ponds, or possibly walk to Taggart Lake. The vistas of the Tetons are simply staggering and it will be fascinating to hear our geologist's overview of the geologic history of the Tetons. We hope to attend the Indian powwow in Jackson this evening. This is a dazzling fiesta of Indian dancing.

**Day 3** This morning, the Antler Fest will take over the town square in Jackson. Each spring, the Boy Scouts gather the “sheds” of the elk antlers in the National Elk Refuge (just across from our lodging). The antlers are sold at the Antler Fest to support the Boy Scouts and raise funds to buy feed for the elk for next winter (they raised over \$200,000 at the antler auction this year.) Thousands of elk overwinter in the refuge along with other wildlife. We'll then head to Rendezvous Peak for a tram ride to the top of the peak and a mountain top view of Jackson Hole spread out 4,000 feet below us. In late afternoon, we'll head for Miller Butte to look for the Big Horn sheep.

**Day 4** Today, we will head north through Grand Teton National Park to the Black Tail turnoff (a good spot to look for elk and occasionally a moose). Then continue across Antelope Flats to the Oxbow Bend of the Snake River, looking for bison and antelope as we go. We'll pause as we pass Pilgrim Creek, to see if the famous female Grizzly 399 is there with her cubs (her den is just up Pilgrim Creek). Our destination will be Old Faithful and Yellowstone National Park. *3 Bear Lodge, West Yellowstone.*

**Day 5** We'll explore geothermal features in Yellowstone today, with interpretation and information from our trip geological leader. Enjoy the boardwalks and trails at the Lower Geyser Basin and Norris Geyser Basin, then head toward Mammoth Hot Springs and Gardiner, Montana with stops at geological features en route. *Antler Inn (3 nights).*

Day 6 Today we will slowly drive east into the Lamar Valley, with stops for wildlife and photography. En route, we will head up the Tower Falls road, which can be good for spotting black bears. As we travel up the Lamar Valley, there will be hundreds of bison with their “red dog” calves in nearby meadows. We’ll take a left at the Slough Creek Road and go look for the wolves that have a den on the mountain slopes across the creek (volunteer wolf watchers are often there with a spotting scope). We may also see Bald eagles or other wildlife along the road. We’ll return to the Lamar Valley road and then head further east toward the Cooke City entrance to Yellowstone (which crosses the Beartooth Range which will likely be closed by snow.) En route, the Lamar River meanders along the valley on willow-edged flats covered with stream cobbles. This can be a great place to look for grizzlies and other wildlife.

Day 7 We will meander back up the Lamar Valley road today, with stops for wildlife and other points of interest. They are building a new bridge over the Yellowstone River where flooding in 2021 caused damage. The bison use the old bridge, just like we will be doing! In Mammoth Hot Springs we’ll see the Travertine Terraces. Enjoy a farewell dinner in celebration of our expedition!

Day 8 Depart for Bozeman, Montana this morning for flights to Salt Lake at 1:15 pm or Denver at 2:30 pm.

**Please Note:** This itinerary is a guideline and is subject to change due to local circumstances. Your naturalists will keep you informed.



*Rams*

*Bison  
on the  
road*



*Margaret Kayaking on Jenny Lake in the Tetons*

**Trip Fee:** \$3,995 per person twin share + air home to Jackson Hole, WY, with return from Bozeman MT. Single Supplement: \$995 or we'll see if we can pair you with a roommate. Tips to your naturalists are additional.

**What to expect:** A wonderful outdoorsy adventure in these national parks. We will delight in these geologic wonderlands, and in the wildlife. and learn about the history of these fascinating parks. Travel in 15-passenger vans with excellent naturalist leaders.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit is refundable until 90 days before departure, less a handling fee of \$200 per person. There is no refund for any cancellation after the 90-day period unless your space can be resold; then a \$200 per person handling fee applies. No refunds are made for unused services. Air fare is non-refundable, non-transferable.



Gray  
Wolf

**Please mail the reservation form and your deposit check for \$500 per person to:** Terri Stevens, Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014; Phone (800) 252 4910 or email: [betcharterri@gmail.com](mailto:betcharterri@gmail.com). Balance is due February 15, 2024 (90 days before departure).

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**RESERVATIONS** #1729  
**YES!** I/We want to join the **Yellowstone & Grand Tetons Wildlife Expedition, May 16-23, 2024** offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ double \_\_\_\_\_ twin or \_\_\_\_\_ single accommodations.

Membership (please circle): AAAS   Sigma Xi   ACS   Planetary Society   \_\_\_\_\_ other

*Responsibility: For a statement of Responsibility, please contact the Betchart office.  
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