



## CHEESEMAN'S ECOLOGY SAFARIS

2059 Camden Ave. #419  
San Jose, CA 95124 USA  
(800) 527-5330 (408) 741-5330  
info@cheesemans.com  
cheesemans.com

### Yellowstone National Park

#### *Essence of Winter*

February 5 to 13, 2022



Bison in the Snow  
© Tom Murphy

## SAFARI OVERVIEW

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Capture images of snowy Old Faithful geyser, ice-covered bison alongside thermal pools, foxes, coyotes, and perhaps wolves with professional wildlife photographer Tom Murphy. Step carefully around delicate, chalky mineral terraces at Mammoth Hot Springs and discover multihued steaming pools and bubbling mud pots in the Geyser Basins. Witness small crystals and flakes form into "geyser rain" as Old Faithful erupts. Track elk, pronghorn, and red fox amidst a snowy and steamy landscape. Listen for the echoing howls of a pack of gray wolves haunting the stillness of Lamar Valley. Delve into the heart of Yellowstone National Park to create your own photographic stories of winter survival that leave your audience speechless.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn about animal behavior and Yellowstone from local expert and photographer, Tom Murphy.
- Observe Yellowstone's famous wildlife – bison, elk, gray wolf, and more.
- Photograph spouting Old Faithful geyser and other fascinating geologic features.
- Study photographic composition and technique in this hands-on photography workshop.
- Maximize wildlife viewing opportunities with ample stops and detours while traveling via private bus and snowcoach.

**LEADER:** Tom Murphy.

**DAYS:** 9, including estimated travel time.

**GROUP SIZE:** 8.

**COST:** \$6,900 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 3.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Meals</b>
Feb 5	Arrive in Bozeman, Montana, USA.	Hampton Inn, Bozeman	–
Feb 6–7	Meet Tom and follow the Yellowstone River south into the park. Explore Mammoth Hot Springs and wildlife-rich Lamar Valley.	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Yellowstone National Park	B, L, D
Feb 8	Explore Hayden Valley by private snowcoach en route to central Yellowstone to photograph winter scenes and wildlife.	Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Yellowstone National Park	B, L, D
Feb 9–10	Capture images of wildlife and thermal features while exploring the geyser basins by foot and private snowcoach.		
Feb 11	Morning walk among the geysers, then return to Mammoth Hot Springs by snowcoach, alongside dramatic cliffs and geyser basins.	Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Yellowstone National Park	B, L, D
Feb 12	Revisit Lamar Valley. Enjoy a farewell dinner, and then return to Bozeman.	Hampton Inn, Bozeman	B, L, D
Feb 13	Depart for home.		B

## LEADER

### Tom Murphy

Tom has offered custom photographic tours and seminars for nearly 30 years, specializing in snowy environments such as Yellowstone National Park and Antarctica. He is passionate about photographing wildlife in their environment to tell a story. Much of his work centers on Yellowstone as highlighted in a popular PBS Nature series program, *Christmas in Yellowstone*, and several of his own books ([www.tmurphywild.com](http://www.tmurphywild.com)).



## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Feb 5 ~ Arrive in Bozeman, Montana

### Feb 6–7 ~ Meet Tom and explore northern Yellowstone

*Specific destinations within the park are subject to change depending on weather conditions and wildlife.*

Meet Tom Murphy in Bozeman to embark on this special photographic journey. Drive south along the Yellowstone River into northern Yellowstone National Park. Discover the wild countryside where bighorn sheep, elk, pronghorn, bison, and coyotes roam. Use Tom’s familiarity of animal behavior to capture outstanding wildlife images. Take in the distinct smells and sounds of Mammoth Hot Springs where colorful mineral terraces are as spectacular as the wildlife. Explore the wildlife-rich Lamar Valley, the best place to see gray wolves as well as bison, elk, and a host of smaller mammals and birds.

**Feb 8 ~ Explore Hayden Valley into central Yellowstone**

Travel south from Mammoth Hot Springs to central Yellowstone by private snowcoach, passing Yellowstone Lake and exploring beautiful Hayden Valley. Work on perfecting photographic technique while composing images of bison, pronghorn, elk, and other wildlife in different park habitats and pristine winter landscapes.

**Feb 9–10 ~ Central Yellowstone National Park**

Explore the Old Faithful area on foot by way of the extensive boardwalk system. Observe eruptions of Old Faithful geyser and discover other fascinating thermal features. The wildlife at the heart of Yellowstone is magnificent, creating striking photo opportunities amidst the contrasting backdrop of steaming pools and snow-blanketed terrain. Spend a full day exploring the Upper and Lower Geyser Basin by private snowcoach. Search for ideal winter scenes and wildlife to observe and photograph, and delight in bubbling mud pots, smoky fumaroles, and thermal pools of rainbow hues. Capture early-morning images of geysers illuminated by the rising sun, weather permitting.



Geyser  
© Tom Murphy

**Feb 11 ~ Ride by snowcoach to Mammoth Hot Springs**

Spend your last morning in central Yellowstone walking among the geysers, then return to Mammoth Hot Springs by snowcoach, stopping along the way to photograph wildlife and Yellowstone’s intriguing topography.

**Feb 12 ~ Lamar Valley and return to Bozeman**

Return to Lamar Valley for more wildlife viewing. In addition to wolves and larger mammals, search for coyote, red fox, river otter, bald eagle, as well as trumpeter swan, bufflehead, and other waterfowl. Visit Tom’s hometown of Livingston for dinner together before returning to Bozeman.

**Feb 13 ~ Depart for home**

**COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)**

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**Cost**

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$6,900
Single Supplement	\$2,245

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will find a roommate for you, but if we cannot find you a roommate, we may charge you a single supplement. Single rooms cost extra and are subject to availability.

## Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$500
Second	March 3, 2021	\$1,000
Final	September 30, 2021	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

### Cancellations

Until the Final Payment due date, deposits are refundable except for a cancellation fee of \$150 per person, which can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the cancelled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferrable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

### Included

- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Privately chartered snowcoach in Yellowstone National Park on February 8 and February 10.
- Accommodations for the nights of February 5 through February 12.
- Meals from breakfast on February 6 through breakfast on February 13.
- Non-alcoholic beverages during meals.
- Gratuities for snowcoach drivers and meal service.
- Gratuities to porters at Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel and Old Faithful Snow Lodge in Yellowstone National Park.
- Trip Materials – information about flights, packing, entry and departure requirements, airport transfers, gratuities, etc.

### Not included

- All airfare, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees.
- Transfers between the Hampton Inn and Bozeman Airport, but the hotel has a free shuttle available subject to hours of operation.
- We can arrange extra hotel nights for an extra cost.
- Gratuities to luggage porters at hotels outside the park.
- Emergency medical and evacuation insurance and trip cancellation insurance. For more information see [www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance](http://www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance).
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Reservation Form.

## SIGN UP

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Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Reservation Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Email: [info@cheesemans.com](mailto:info@cheesemans.com)

Website: [www.cheesemans.com](http://www.cheesemans.com)

WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330 | Skype: CheesemansEcologySafaris

Phone: (800) 527-5330 or (408) 741-5330

## OTHER DETAILS

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### Climate

Daytime temperatures are usually around 0°F (-20°C) but may reach up to the 20s°F (-5°C). Subzero overnight temperatures are common. Warm winds will occasionally push daytime temperatures into the 40s°F (5 to 10°C), causing significant melting of the snowpack at lower elevations, but cold snaps may drive temperatures much lower. Snow is a good possibility.

### Fitness Level

You should be comfortable walking with and carrying your gear or standing for several hours at a time. The group usually covers distances under one mile at a slow pace and may occasionally walk short distances in snow.

### Transportation

Travel in a private 15-passenger bus between Bozeman and Mammoth Hot Springs then in a snowcoach deep in Yellowstone National Park. For maximum flexibility, we charter a private snowcoach on two days.

### Flights

Airfare is not included in trip costs. Detailed logistical information and the contact information for our recommended flight-ticketing agent are included in the Trip Materials we will send you. Please let us know if you are arriving earlier or staying later as we are happy to assist you with any extra overnights that you might want to arrange.

Flights you (or a travel agent) book: Arrive in Bozeman, Montana (BZN) by the night of February 5. Depart from Bozeman, Montana (BZN) anytime on February 13.

### Terms and Conditions

Read our current Terms and Conditions at <https://cheesemans.com/terms-and-conditions>.

### Conservation

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris is passionate about conserving the precious regions that we travel to and supports many conservation efforts. By visiting these areas, we contribute to sustainable conservation of these valuable wildlife habitats. We urge you to support conservation organizations that protect and restore natural habitats and write letters to tourism and government agencies to promote work in preserving wildlife.

We aim to make all our trips carbon neutral by splitting the cost of carbon offsetting with our participants. For your convenience, the optional donation amount for your half of the carbon offset will be indicated on your invoice. We source high quality offsets through CarbonTree Conservation Fund, a non-profit we helped found, supporting pioneering forest conservation in the Rio Bravo Reserve in Belize, a Nature Conservancy project ([www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/latin-america/belize/rio-bravo-conservation-area/](http://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/latin-america/belize/rio-bravo-conservation-area/)).