

# YELLOWSTONE ECLIPSE



*"The thought of standing with the Teton Mountains as the backdrop as we watch a complete Solar Eclipse build up to its peak is thrilling indeed! It will be fascinating to see whether the Bison and other wildlife react to the unexpected darkness!"*  
Roy Atkins

Dates Sat 19 Aug - Sat 2 Sep 2017

Price £4,995

Deposit £950 Single Supp £1000

Leaders Roy Atkins and Julian Sykes

Flights United Airlines, scheduled  
Outbound: Morning, Heathrow-Jackson Hole (via US stop)  
Inbound: Overnight, Jackson Hole-Heathrow (via US stop)

Weather In August the weather can be nice and warm through to hot, though cooler in the early morning and evening (5°-30°C)  
It is likely to be sunny but there is always a chance of a build up of clouds

Walking There'll be some short, easy walks on wide paths with optional short, easy walks off tracks in the forest

Note that Yellowstone National Park is at high altitude. Most of the Park is above 7,500 feet / 2,275 metres

Meals All included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 14 and are of good quality

Insects Biting insects are rarely a problem

Accom Twin and single rooms all ensuite

Group 12

Just some of what we hope to see:

Solar Eclipse!	River Otter
Gray Wolf	Pika
Coyote	Trumpeter Swan
Grizzly Bear	White Pelican
Black Bear	Bald Eagle
Moose	Prairie Falcon
American Elk	American Dipper
Beaver	Sandhill Crane

Sally Dowden: Solar Eclipse Lin Gregory: Bison  
Mary Braddock: Bald Eagle Mark Denman: Wolf  
Duncan Macdonald: Beaver, Prismatic Pool

## A once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Grand Teton and Yellowstone in search of wolves, bears, bison, beavers and birds - but with the bonus of a complete Solar Eclipse!

- Legendary wildlife of the Yellowstone wilderness
- Complete Solar Eclipse in spectacular Grand Teton National Park
- Geothermal wonders - geysers, bubbling mud and multi-coloured pools
- Bison, Pronghorn and Gray Wolf plus chance of Grizzly and Black Bears
- Four centre tour, staying in Jackson, Yellowstone NP and Cooke City
- Beaver, Moose, Pika, Chipmunks and River Otters all possible
- Bald Eagle, White Pelican, Trumpeter Swan, hummingbirds, woodpeckers and more

**1-4** Arriving early evening, there is a short transfer to our hotel in Jackson Hole. From here, we explore the breathtaking Grand Teton National Park, a land of jagged peaks soaring above a sagebrush plain dotted with Bison and Pronghorn. Willows along the Snake River are great places to look for Moose, the males growing their 'racks' of antlers and we'll look out for birds such as Yellow-headed Blackbird, Sandhill Cranes, Ruby-throated Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Harrier and Broad-tailed Hummingbird. We'll also visit at dusk, when Beavers will be tending to their lodges.

Our exciting third day holds the prospect of a Solar Eclipse!! We can expect the Park to be very busy, with hundreds of people out to see this fantastic spectacle in such a beautiful place. There should be an amazing atmosphere as we approach the late morning eclipse, Americans

know how to get excited! We'll be in a good spot, perhaps basing ourselves by the historic barns at Mormon Row, in plenty of time to watch the build up and finale and really make the most of it. This area is great for birds too, with Mountain Bluebirds, Vesper and Savannah Sparrows, Turkey Vulture and with luck, Prairie Falcon.

Further north at Jackson Lake, the first migrant shorebirds may be heading south and we'll look out for wildfowl like Trumpeter Swan, Cinnamon Teal and Lesser Scaup, as well as Western Grebe and White Pelican.

**5-7** We'll travel north to the world's first and most famous National Park - Yellowstone. At 7,700 feet, we stay beside the immense Yellowstone Lake, hosting Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Loon. We are in the middle of a vast wilderness, realm of both Grizzly and Black Bears, though in the summer they may



"We may need to make an extra effort to be out early and late to avoid the crowds and make the best of the wildlife in the cooler parts of the day - but there is always so much to see and the combination of terrific wildlife watching and geothermal formations make Yellowstone National Park an incredible experience." Roy Atkins



prove hard to find, as they head to higher ground to escape the heat.

An early start takes us to nearby Hayden Valley where we've often seen Gray Wolf and Coyote. There may be lingering Harlequin Ducks and raptors include Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawk. We'll explore lofty Dunraven Pass, scanning for higher altitude wildlife such as Golden Eagle, Clark's Nutcracker, Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel and Yellow-bellied Marmot.

We'll visit the mighty Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, where the Yellowstone River has carved a stunning landscape of colourful eroded pillars and spectacular waterfalls. Early mornings and evenings at Pelican Creek and Fishing Bridge provide a chance of River Otter, Beaver and Belted Kingfisher.

**8-10** We move to Cooke City just outside the National Park, to the north of the Lamar Valley, perhaps the best valley in which to search for wolves. A successful re-introduction programme was started in 1996 and now there are numerous packs and we shall spend time early morning scanning and searching for these exciting animals. Herds of bison and pronghorn are dotted across the landscape, Elk graze on the slopes and we'll hope for Grizzly Bears too, as they may follow wolf packs to scavenge on the carrion from wolf kills. Birds may include American Dipper, Williamson's Sapsucker, Fox Sparrow and Gray Jay.

In the other direction is the spectacular Beartooth Pass with peaks over 12,000ft. We'll look for more specialities of the high country like Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, Pika, Pine Grosbeak and Black Rosy Finch. One day we shall visit Mammoth Hot Springs, where travertine terraces create steaming shelves of white calcite in beautiful layers - a must see in this area.

**11** We journey south to the centre of the geothermal wonders of Yellowstone at Old Faithful - 70% of the world's geysers are here! As its name suggests, Old Faithful Lodge is beside the planet's most well-known geyser and is perfectly placed for marvelling at the expulsion of steam and water in the cool air. Neighbouring geysers are even more spectacular and there are the bubbling mud-pools of Fountain Paintpots, plus the largest multi-coloured pool at Grand Prismatic.

**12-15** We travel south, watching for birds and mammals as we go and perhaps stopping enroute to scan from Signal Mountain viewpoint. Back at Jackson we have a whole day to enjoy more birding and mammals then our flight leaves on Day 14, arriving in the UK on the morning of Day 15.



### Outline Itinerary

- Day 1** Fly to Jackson Hole, via US stop, short transfer to 49er Inn - 4 nights
- Days 2-4** Three days exploring Grand Teton NP including Elk Refuge, Mormon Row, Jenny Lake and Ox Bow Bend. On Day 3 watch the Solar Eclipse
- Day 5** North, via Jackson Lake, to Lake Yellowstone - 3 nights
- Days 6-7** Explore Hayden Valley, north shore of Lake Yellowstone and Grand Canyon of Yellowstone
- Day 8** Relaxed day transfer, via Dunraven Pass, to Cooke City - 3 nights
- Days 9-10** Two days to explore north section of Yellowstone, including Lamar Valley, Beartooth Pass and Blacktail Plateau
- Day 11** Drive via geothermal features at Norris to Old Faithful - 1 night
- Days 12-13** Geyser gazing at Old Faithful then south to Jackson Hole 49er Inn - 2 nights
- Days 14-15** Morning flight out, then evening flight to Heathrow, arriving morning of Day 15

