

YELLOWSTONE AUTUMN



"Yellowstone's mammals are looking their best, with bears fattening up for hibernation, wolves and Coyotes wearing winter coats and Moose and Elk sporting full racks of antlers – a photographer's dream." Darren Rees

Dates Sat 12 - Sat 26 Sept 2026
Price £7,395
Deposit £1,475 Single Supp £2,050

Leaders Darren Rees and Julian Sykes
Flights United Airlines, scheduled
Outbound: Morning Heathrow-Jackson Hole (via US stop)
Inbound: Overnight, Jackson Hole-Heathrow (via US stop)
Weather It can be cool (even cold), but daytime temperatures rise to warm and sunny (0°-15°C), with a chance of showers and some snow possible at high altitudes
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 National Park is above 7,500 ft / 2,275 m and the Beartooth Highway ascends to nearly 11,000 ft / 3353 m, where we shall take a very short walk
Meals All included from dinner on Day 1 to lunch on Day 14
Insects Biting insects are rarely a problem, but you may still wish to take repellent
Accom Twin and single rooms all ensuite
Group 12

Just some of what we hope to see:

Gray Wolf	Least Chipmunk
Coyote	Trumpeter Swan
Grizzly Bear	White Pelican
Black Bear	Bald Eagle
Moose	Ferruginous Hawk
American Elk	Prairie Falcon
Bighorn Sheep	Great Horned Owl
Mountain Goat	American Dipper
Beaver	Mountain Bluebird
River Otter	Horned Lark
Pika	Black Rosy Finch

A favourite time to visit two of the finest National Parks in America, Grand Teton and Yellowstone, resplendent with fall colours, plus wolves, bears, bison, beavers and birds.

- Legendary wildlife of the Yellowstone wilderness
- Bison, Pronghorn and Gray Wolf in the Lamar Valley
- Encounters with Grizzly and Black Bears feeding before hibernation
- Crazy critters: Beaver, Moose, Pika, Chipmunks and River Otters
- Lots of migrant wildfowl, shorebirds and passerines
- Spectacular Grand Teton National Park with breathtaking autumn colours
- Geothermal wonders of geysers, bubbling mud and multi-coloured pools

1-3 Arriving in the 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 towering peaks, pine forests, sagebrush plain and jewel-like lakes. With the changing of seasons, flocks of American Robins, Audubon's Warblers, White-crowned Sparrows and Brewer's Blackbirds will be on the move, but perhaps the mammals will be greater prizes: willows along the Snake River are great places to look for Moose – the males will be looking magnificent with 'racks' of antlers. We'll also visit at dusk, when Beavers will be tending to their lodges.

The historic barns at Mormon Row will have you reaching for the cameras and we'll be alert for birds of the sagebrush such as Vesper Sparrow, Prairie Falcon and maybe Sage Grouse. There may

be our first Coyote and perhaps our first bear - bushes full of choke-berries are favourites for Black Bears, keen to pile on the calories before winter.

4-6 We travel north along scenic Jackson Lake where wildfowl numbers are increasing, so expect Trumpeter Swan, Cinnamon Teal and Lesser Scaup, as well as Western Grebe, White Pelican and migrant shorebirds. We stay overnight at Flagg Ranch.

Continuing north, steadily climbing through endless lodgepole pine forests, we reach the world's first and most famous National Park - Yellowstone. At Old Faithful and Norris basins we are at the centre of the geo-thermal wonders of the Park - an incredible 70% of the world's geysers and we'll explore the bewildering collection of bubbling mud pools, erupting steam jets and multi-coloured pools. Predictable geysers include



"Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks are so beautiful in the fall, with jagged peaks, yellow aspens, rusting cottonwoods and bewildering volcanic wonders, the backdrops to memorable wildlife encounters." Darren Rees



Castle, Daisy, Riverside and Grand, as well as Old Faithful, so expect a fun time geyser-gazing!

From West Yellowstone we'll explore the wildlife rich south section of the National Park. We'll visit the famous Hayden Valley, where the wide open spaces are dotted with herds of Bison and American Elk and we've often seen charismatic Gray Wolf and Grizzly Bear. Flying raptors include Northern Harrier and both Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawk and along the nearby Yellowstone River are Harlequin Ducks and American Dippers. We'll also spend time at Pelican Creek and Fishing Bridge in search of River Otter, Beaver and Belted Kingfisher.

7-9 Travelling north we drive through the most spectacular country, stopping at Canyon where the river cuts a deep gorge appropriately named the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone - a stunning landscape of colourful eroded pillars and huge spectacular waterfalls. Climbing over Dunraven Pass and Mt Washburn, we'll be on the lookout for endearing Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel and American Pika, before dropping into the open country of North Yellowstone, a wildlife haven.

From our base at Cooke City we'll need some early morning excursions to the famous Lamar Valley if we want to see magnificent Gray Wolves. Re-introduced in 1995, these superb animals are an integral part of the restored ecosystem and we've had some amazing encounters: packs travelling the valley floor; chasing Elk and Bison; defending carcasses from Grizzlies. What might we see in America's Serengeti?



On the spectacular Beartooth Highway, listed as one of the most beautiful roads in America, we'll look for specialties of the high country such as Mountain Goat, Bighorn Sheep, Golden Eagle and Black Rosy Finch.

10-11 We move to Gardiner at the northwest gate of Yellowstone, where Elk graze the lower elevations - in September the males 'bugle' to round up their harems - confrontations between rival bulls and their ritual calling can go on through the night! Nearby, at Mammoth, are the beautiful volcanic travertine terraces and an early morning visit is perfect for photos and birds such as Townsend's Solitaire, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Around the Blacktail Deer Plateau we'll look for Williamson's Sapsucker and Three-toed Woodpecker, along with Gray and Steller's Jay.

12-13 Travelling south our route takes in the impressive Yellowstone Lake at 7,700 feet. The lake hosts Barrow's Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Common Loon, as well as River Otter. Reluctantly we leave Yellowstone, crossing the Continental Divide for an overnight at Flagg Ranch.

Our last full day takes us back through Grand Teton National Park, watching for wildlife as we go. We're sure to stop at Jenny Lake and Signal Mountain for a last look at the stunning mountain scenery, before checking in at Jackson Hole for our last night.

14-15 Leaving Jackson Hole, we fly home, arriving in the UK on the morning of Day 15.



Outline Itinerary

- Day 1** Fly to Jackson Hole, via US stop, arriving in the evening - 3 nights 49er Inn
- Days 2-3** Two days exploring Grand Teton NP, including Elk Refuge, Mormon Row and Ox Bow Bend
- Day 4** North via Jackson Lake
1 night Headwater Lodge at Flagg Ranch
- Days 5-6** Old Faithful and Norris geo-thermals, then exploration of south Yellowstone
2 nights Kelly Inn West Yellowstone
- Day 7** Transfer day via the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone and Dunraven Pass
3 nights Alpine Motel, Cooke City
- Days 8-9** Two days to explore north-east section of Yellowstone, including Lamar Valley and Beartooth Highway
- Days 10-11** Drive through northern section of Park. Visit Mammoth travertine terraces
2 nights Big Rock Inn, Gardiner
- Day 12** Drive south through Yellowstone
1 night Headwater Lodge at Flagg Ranch
- Day 13** South to Signal Mountain and Jenny Lake before last night in Jackson Hole
1 night 49er Inn
- Days 14-15** Overnight flight back to the UK, via US stop, arriving on Day 15

Chris Piper: Black Bear, Coyote
Jim and Anne Shaw: Grand Prismatic Spring, Steller's Jay
Lin Gregory: Bison
Aiden Martin, David Robinson: Yellowstone Falls