

# YELLOWSTONE SPRING



*"The landscapes of Yellowstone and Grand Teton NPs are just beautiful. The towering Teton mountains, endless forests, rocky canyons and sage brush all play host to a wealth of wildlife. Bears with cubs are just out of hibernation, wolves are denning and Moose and Elk have small calves." Darren Rees*

**Dates** Sat 31 May - Sat 14 June 2025  
**Price** £7,385  
**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, cold snaps and some snow

**Walking** There'll be some short, easy walks on wide paths with optional 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 / 3,353 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 may occasionally be a nuisance, so bring repellent

**Accom** Twin and single rooms all ensuite

**Group** 12

## Just some of what we hope to see:

Gray Wolf	Bald Eagle
Black Bear	Sandhill Crane
Grizzly Bear	Harlequin Duck
Moose	Trumpeter Swan
Pronghorn	Mountain Bluebird
Bison	Great Horned Owl
Beaver	Gray Jay
Elk	Clark's Nutcracker
Coyote	Western Tanager
Yellow-bellied Marmot	American Dipper

Spring in the world's first and most famous National Park. A beautiful wilderness, with birds, flowers and fabulous mammals – the best place for big game in the Americas!

- Wolf, Bison, Moose, plus Grizzly and Black Bear
- Eagles, cranes, bluebirds and colourful migrants
- Cute critters! Chipmunks, Ground Squirrels, Pika and Beaver
- Exceptional photo opportunities for wildlife and landscapes
- Geo-thermal wonders, with erupting geysers and bubbling mud pools
- Comfortable hotels and food, with friendly hospitality
- Our years' of experience really make the difference

**1-3** Arriving at night we transfer to our hotel in Jackson Hole. We begin our tour exploring the breath-taking Grand Teton NP; a land of towering peaks, pine forests, sagebrush plain, jewel-like lakes and the meandering Snake River. Birds will include Mountain Chickadee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Mountain Bluebird and Broad-tailed Hummingbird and at nearby Flat Creek we'll see Trumpeter Swan, Cinnamon Teal and smart Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

The historic Mormon Row barns set amongst the sprawling Antelope Flats, will have you reaching for your camera and we'll probably see our first Bison, Pronghorn and irresistible Least Chipmunks and Uinta Ground Squirrels. The National Elk Refuge holds Sandhill Crane, Rock Wren, Horned Lark and perhaps our first Coyote. We'll stop at



famous Oxbow Bend beneath lofty Mount Moran looking for River Otters, Moose, Osprey and soaring Bald Eagles and we'll return for an evening along the river looking for crepuscular Beavers. Watching these animals swimming back and forth, tending to their dams and lodges is a tour highlight!

**4-6** We travel north along scenic Jackson Lake exploring the wild north section of Grand Teton Park. We'll see White Pelicans, Common Loons and may encounter our first bear! 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 are here and we'll explore the



*"The re-establishment of wolf into the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem has been one of the greatest ecological projects of modern times. The influence on the landscape of these top predators is quite extraordinary and is still being monitored. The entire landscape has benefitted from the return of these dynamic predators and we have had some amazing encounters with them over the years. They will be high on our wish list!"* Darren Rees



bewildering collection of bubbling mud pools, erupting steam jets and multi-coloured pools. Predictable geysers include Castle, Daisy, Riverside, 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 Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawk and along the nearby Yellowstone River are splendid 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, Yellow-bellied Marmot 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 specialities 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 and the friendly ground squirrels will be on the lookout for the local Prairie Falcons. 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, Hammond's Flycatcher and Western Tanager. Around the Blacktail Deer Plateau we'll look for Williamson's Sapsucker, Three-toed Woodpecker and MacGillivray's Warbler, 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 NP. 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 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 National Park
- 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 the northern section of the Park and Blacktail Plateau. 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

**Franky and David Perry:** Black Bear  
**Ian Tulloch:** Mormon Row, Coyote  
**Stephen Rowland:** Moose  
**Simon Eaves:** Mountain Bluebird  
**Stephen Batt:** Grand Prismatic Pool