



PennState
Alumni Association

JANUARY 24-30, 2026

Featuring Faculty Host
Derrick Taff

WOLVES AND WILDLIFE OF YELLOWSTONE



Orbridge



Dear Penn State Travelers,

Join us on a thrilling wintertime expedition to Yellowstone National Park for a unique opportunity to witness packs of wolves in their pristine natural habitat. Aboard specially equipped vehicles that allow for both comfort and proximity to incredible wildlife, you'll have a chance to view wolves, bison, elk, an array of bird species and other magnificent creatures that call the park home.

Visiting Yellowstone in winter is an experience that transcends words. The air is crisp with the scent of pine trees and the promise of adventure. A serene hush envelops the snow-covered landscapes, providing the perfect backdrop to nature's drama unfolding before your eyes.

In addition to daily park exploration, you'll marvel at awe-inspiring geothermal features including the travertine terraces at Mammoth Hot Springs, iconic Old Faithful at Yellowstone's Upper Geyser Basin, and mud pots and fumaroles at Grand Teton National Park. You'll also meet an award-winning wildlife photographer at his studio and hear his stories of amazing animal encounters.

This is a small-group expedition and space is limited. With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly.

Let Penn State Alumni Association be your passport to more than 30 destinations around the globe. Our educational travel program allows you to explore historic sites, other cultures, and local cuisine, all in the company of fellow alumni. Be a part of our traveling pride of Nittany Navigators on a carefree adventure! For information on all our tours please visit www.alumni.psu.edu/travel.

For the glory,
Penn State Alumni Association

Featuring Faculty Host Derrick Taff



Derrick Taff is an Associate Professor in the Recreation, Park and Tourism Management Department (RPTM) at Penn State University, the Suzie and Allen Martin Professor, the Science Advisor for the Leave No Trace organization, and the Director of the RPTM Graduate Program. His research strives to improve communication strategies aimed at influencing human health and environmental sustainability in parks and protected areas. Much of his research has focused on Leave No Trace-based communication

strategies and how to positively influence human perceptions and behaviors in a manner that promotes social and ecological well-being. Derrick has two decades of experience in higher education and protected areas management research, with previous stints working for the National Park Service at the Denver Service Center, and at Rocky Mountain National Park, where he served as their Scholar in Residence in 2023. He holds a PhD from Colorado State University in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources, and a Master's Degree in American Studies, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Wilderness Recreation from the University of Alabama.

Witness the mysteries of the wild as you step into a world transformed by winter's touch. Be captivated by the unique allure of Yellowstone in the colder months—it's a testament to the untamed and the extraordinary.



Itinerary Highlights *(subject to change)*

- Day 1** **ARRIVE IN JACKSON, WY** Refresh at the hotel before gathering with fellow travel companions for a special welcome dinner.
Overnight: The Rockwell Inn (D)
- Day 2** **JACKSON | GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK | NATIONAL ELK REFUGE | JACKSON** Set off on an exciting animal safari through Grand Teton National Park providing an opportunity to spot for wildlife roaming through the stunning Teton Range. Visit the National Elk Refuge—home to an estimated 7,000 elk—for a special horse-drawn sleigh ride. This evening gather with the group for a relaxing wine and cheese reception.
Overnight: The Rockwell Inn (B,L,R)
- Day 3** **JACKSON | OLD FAITHFUL** This morning depart Jackson for a scenic drive to Flagg Ranch keeping a keen eye open for wildlife across the snow-touched landscape. Journey aboard special safari snow coaches to reach the iconic Old Faithful geyser. Then set off on a nature walk to the Castle Geyser to explore the Upper Geyser Basin.
Overnight: Old Faithful Snow Lodge (B,L,D)
- Day 4** **OLD FAITHFUL | MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS | LAMAR VALLEY, WY | GARDINER, MT** Watch Old Faithful erupt before heading to Mammoth Hot Springs. Walk through historic Fort Yellowstone or along the boardwalk above steaming hydrothermal features. Continue to Lamar Valley teeming with bison, bald eagles and elusive wolves.
Overnight: Yellowstone Gateway Inn (B,L,D)
- Day 5** **GARDINER | LAMAR VALLEY, WY | COOKE CITY, MT | GARDINER, MT** Safari through the Northern Range, where wolf packs have been spotted. Later visit an award-winning photographer at his studio for a tour of his impressive gallery. Before returning to the hotel, and if weather permits, snowshoe along one of Lamar Valley's forested ski trails.
Overnight: Yellowstone Gateway Inn (B,L,D)
- Day 6** **GARDINER | LAMAR VALLEY, WY | PARADISE VALLEY, MT | BOZEMAN** Venture into Paradise Valley flanked by snow-covered ranges to the east and west, where bison, elk and coyotes are often wandering. Stay alert for wolf packs tracking from a distance as they stay in range of their prey. Tonight gather together for a convivial farewell dinner.
Overnight: GranTree Inn (B,L,D)
- Day 7** **DEPART BOZEMAN** After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception)



Your Expedition Leaders

From their vast knowledge of the best wildlife viewing spots to identifying the wolves' signs and tracks, your two expert Orbridge Expedition Leaders, who are naturalist guides, will make all the difference in your wildlife expedition. Enriched by their expertise, you'll bring home a deeper understanding of the apex predator's reintroduction to Yellowstone, along with a new appreciation of the drama and beauty of nature's hierarchy.





Activity Level: This itinerary has early morning starts. The majority of the program's activities take place outdoors with extended time walking on varying terrain. It is our expectation that guests can withstand cold temperatures; walk on uneven, frozen, or snow-covered terrain; climb in and out of all-terrain vehicles; and manage stairs without assistance. (Maximum elevation: 8,391 feet at the Continental Divide)



What's Included

- 6 nights accommodations
- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners (including special welcome and farewell dinners) plus a wine and cheese reception
- A fully guided program with 2 expert Orbridge Expedition Leaders who are professional naturalists
- All unique excursions and activities listed in the 7-day itinerary, including transportation
- In-field lectures and presentations, including an overview of the wolf packs and family trees, a naturalist's summary of the science and research on the biological impact of the repopulation of the wolves in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and a discussion of the political history of the wolves' reintroduction
- Use of in-field gear, including high quality binoculars and spotting scopes, Yaktrax, snowshoes and adjustable hiking poles
- Hot beverages, water and snacks throughout touring
- Admission and park fees throughout
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to Orbridge Expedition Leaders, hotel housekeeping staff, porters and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



Orbridge

Orbridge Standard of Excellence

Orbridge understands travel today can be complicated. From cabin or room selection to airport transfers, dietary requests, or pre- or post-tour details—we are dedicated to making your journey seamless and special from the moment you leave home.

Our curated destinations—featuring outstanding properties and ships, meticulously crafted itineraries, and knowledgeable guides, travel directors and expedition leaders—offer life-changing experiences you'll never forget.

Our Guest Services team is staffed by well-traveled professionals who provide personalized attention, ensuring all your questions are answered and all the details of your trip are explained to you.

Our air partners can make flight arrangements for guests. In the event of flight delays and/or schedule changes, they will provide guests with personalized assistance. To book flight reservations with our air partners, contact (206) 319-5011 and select the option for your destination to discuss flight details with our air colleagues. Upon ticketing, a fee will be charged.

Accommodations *(subject to change)*

THE ROCKWELL INN

This property offers comfortable, contemporary, western-style accommodations. After a full day of outdoor activities, sip a hot chocolate beside the fireplace or take a dip in the beautiful indoor pool or hot tub.



OLD FAITHFUL SNOW LODGE

A short walk from its famous namesake, the Old Faithful Snow Lodge makes abundant use of natural wood and big-beam construction, with fixtures that echo back to historic Yellowstone lodges. The rooms are simple, comfortable, and outfitted with lodge details, such as wooden shutters over windows that open for fresh air.



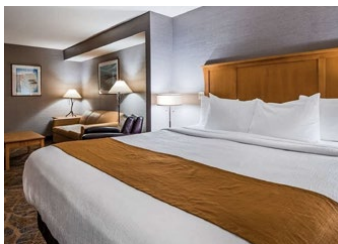
YELLOWSTONE GATEWAY INN

Conveniently located near the North Entrance of Yellowstone, this all-suite property features recently renovated apartment-style rooms and a self-service laundry facility. Each spacious suite offers a fully equipped kitchen and living room, and easy access to nearby restaurants and shops.



GRANTREE INN

The GranTree Inn features comfortable guest rooms near the best of Bozeman, Montana. Relax at the indoor pool and hot tub, get a workout in at the fitness center, or mingle with fellow travelers at the onsite Club Tavern & Grill. This property has been awarded the "Best of Housekeeping" distinction by AAA.





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Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$6,499	\$5,995
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DEPOSIT AMOUNT PER PERSON: \$850

*Special group rates; limited offer. All rates are per person in U.S. dollars based on double occupancy except where noted as Single. Single availability limited. Unless noted otherwise, airfare is not included. **An exclusive Early Booking Bonus, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per room will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; call for details. Full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com. Any payment to Orbridge, LLC constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation and refund terms.

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 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.





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WOLVES AND WILDLIFE OF YELLOWSTONE

JANUARY 24-30, 2026

Special Alumni Rate:

Save more than \$1,000 per couple

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AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY
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Reserve by
July 18, 2025**

Trip cancellation insurance is available through the Penn State Alumni Association for comprehensive coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellations due to illness or accident as well as damaged or lost luggage. You will receive insurance information, via email, from Penn State after you make your reservation. Complete details are available on the Alumni Association website at alumni.psu.edu/travel.

If you choose to make your own flight arrangements for an alumni tour and not use those provided by the tour company, we recommend that you not do so until making your final payment to the tour company confirming details of your trips scheduled departure. However, if you choose to make your own flight arrangements, the Penn State Alumni Association is not liable for any loss resulting from your cancellations or changes to tour dates. Participants attending this or other tour programs offered by the Penn State Alumni Association may be photographed for the educational and promotional use of the Alumni Association and Penn State.

Please note that all package rates and itineraries listed are subject to change. The most current information is available on the Alumni Association website at alumni.psu.edu/travel.

All alumni tours include optional physical activities for those inclined to be more active.

Unless promoted as a Penn State exclusive tour, your group may include travelers from other universities.

Penn State encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact the tour operator in advance of your participation or visit:

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