“Wilderness to the people of America is a spiritual necessity, an antidote to the high pressure of modern life, a means of regaining serenity and equilibrium.”

- Sigurd Olson

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Trip Overview

Long considered America’s most beautiful National Park, Grand Teton National Park is the picture-perfect image of mountain grandeur, and the most iconic range in the country.

Located in northwest Wyoming, sitting just South of Yellowstone, jagged and often snowy, mountain peaks spring from out of the plains towards the heavens, inspiring a sense of wonder and creativity in those who stand in marvel before them. These mountains are some of the youngest in the world yet are made up of some of 2.7 billion year old rock, which are among the oldest in North America (This is the relatively the same age as the basement rock in the depths of Grand Canyon). The peaks rise approximately 7,000 vertical feet from the valley floor, and no foothills obstruct the incredible views. French-speaking trappers named this area “les trois tetons,” which translates to “the three teats,” named for the range’s tallest mountain, Grand Teton.

At 13,775 feet, Grand Teton jets upward more than 7,000 feet from the plains. Grand Teton National Park is home to a number of lakes, including 15-mile-long Jackson Lake as well as streams of varying
length and the upper main stem of the Snake River. Around a dozen small glaciers still remain here in the higher elevations. These glaciers, along with erosion and time have been at work here, carving and shaping the landscape creating lakes, rivers and forests which provide a perfect habitat for the wildlife that lives here. Join Backcountry Journeys this spring or fall to explore and photograph this vibrant alpine landscape. Here the sagebrush valleys modify into conifer forest and then again into sub alpine terrain with granite spires reaching toward the heavens. While this standard tour is designed with a focus on landscape photography, Grand Teton National Park is considered to be one the best in the national park system for viewing wildlife, so we certainly will not ignore any of those opportunities, if they should arise. The same species of flora and fauna that have existed here since prehistoric times can still be found within. There are more than 1,000 species of vascular plants, dozens of species of mammals, 300 species of birds, more than a dozen fish species and a few species of reptiles and amphibians, as well.

Through meadows and forests, past roadside herds of bison and meadows adorned with wildflowers, Grand Teton offers easy access to an awe-inspiring collection of elk and bison herds, as well as a pristine mountain wilderness roamed by wolves, grizzly, moose and Pronghorn. Many of these animals can be encountered from the roadside, which is where we’ll often be while exploring the Park on this standard trip. In warmer months, such as June, waterfowl like the White Pelican and swan are regularly seen. With sharp eyes, and some good fortune, it could even be possible to see and photograph more elusive wildlife like wolves, osprey, owl and bald eagle. We’ll be staying in the quaint cowboy town of Jackson Hole, each day setting out to explore the park by vehicle in search of the best landscape photography spots and wildlife opportunities. Our guides have been guiding, hiking and photographing the Tetons for years, and will show you areas of this 310,000-acre park that most visitors easily miss. We’ll also learn about the compelling cultural and natural history of the area. Look forward to photographing the best spots in
the park at precisely the best lighting conditions. We’ll get you those shots you know you want, and some you didn’t even know existed. We offer this trip during the Spring and Fall Seasons. While spring brings a cornucopia of wildflowers with still snow-capped peaks, autumn in Grand Teton features an incredible display of changing colors.

Join Backcountry Journeys at Grand Teton National Park, this year, for the trip of a lifetime. You’ll be sure to leave with an assortment of excellent new images for your portfolio, as well as memories to last a lifetime.

**Highlights**

- Iconic landscape photography
- Photograph newborn wildlife
- Bears, Coyotes, Moose, Elk, Bald Eagles & possibly Wolves
- Beautiful Glaciers and Lakes
- Cozy lodges
- Learn from & shoot alongside a seasoned pro

**Noteworthy Travel Logistics**

- This trip begins & ends in Jackson, Wyoming
- You can arrive anytime on the Day One of the tour, as long as you are at the orientation meeting at 5pm at your arrival hotel
Itinerary

Most meals included – (B,L,D) denotes Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day One (Travel Day)(D)

Plan to arrive in Jackson, Wyoming, for an orientation meeting and dinner. Please meet in the hotel lobby at 5pm. We’ll go over camera gear and itinerary.

Day Two (B,L,D)

We’ll get started early on our first morning, setting off pre-dawn to set up for an iconic sunrise location. Once the sun has fully risen and we’re satisfied with our work, we’ll head for town for a nutritious breakfast before setting our sights on wildlife. If you’re with us in spring, we’ll be at the Park during calving season, so wildlife like elk, bison, and
pronghorn, among others, should be quite active. If you are with us in Autumn, the local wildlife will be beginning their winter preparations, and while we cannot guarantee sightings, we’ll nearly, almost guarantee wildlife sightings on this tour.

This evening we will setup at the famous Snake River Overlook for some dramatic backlighting as the sun sets behind the striking Teton Range. This is the spot made famous by Ansel Adams - You know the shot. After dark we’ll head out “on the town” for a fantastic dinner in Jackson Hole.

Day Three (B,L,D)

Is there anything more serene than a mountain landscape reflected in still, glassy water? This is precisely the scene we’ll be expecting at Schwabacher’s Landing, our sunrise location for this day.

After shooting our morning scene, we’ll of course be on the lookout for potential grizzly bear sightings as we cruise through the Park. Grand Teton has always been noted for roadside wildlife sightings, so we’ll be able to “hunt” for wildlife from our vehicle.

We’ll break for a bit following a delicious and filling lunch before gearing up for yet another sunset that is sure to please. En route we’ll look for moose, Bald eagle, fox, Bighorn sheep, and any other critter who might show up along the way. Dinner back in Jackson will fill our bellies prior to a nice night of rest.

Day Four (B,L,D)

One of the finest sunrise scenes in the Park will be our destination for our morning shoot today. Here, at Oxbow Bend, as the Snake River flows east from Jackson Lake it leaves behind a perfect view (and reflection) of 12,610-foot Mount Moran. Idyllic and iconic, this location will be as rewarding as any. Expect fall colors to add to this image on the autumn tour.
We’ll take a midday break in order to rest and perhaps go over our images prior to heading back to the Park in search of more wildlife, and of course another spectacular Teton sunset before dinner.

**Day Five (B)**

The T.A. Moulton Barn, part of the famous “Mormon Row,” will be the focus of our final shoot together.
Capturing the first rays of the sun with the barn in the foreground might just be the most classic landscape image at Grand Teton, and we’ll be sure to get it before saying our goodbyes and heading our separate ways following breakfast/brunch.

**Please Note:** Please note that the exact sequence of the itineraries on all photography trips will be based on weather and lighting conditions. The goal on these trips is to make sure we are at the right place at the right time for the perfect light on our subjects. Also, itineraries can change for a variety of other circumstances including floods, forest fires, national park closures, road closures and more. Due to the nature of wildlife and nature photography we do not guarantee any specific sightings or specific compositions regarding wildlife or natural phenomena.
Trip Details

Physical Requirements
All participants must be in good physical condition and have the ability to hike/walk with camera equipment and essential hiking gear. For example, tripod, camera, lense(s), sunscreen, water (up to 2 liters per person), snacks, and extra layers (if necessary). The weight of your pack largely depends on what gear you choose to bring on each outing. Typically backpacks weigh between 15 and 20 lbs. But remember the choice is yours 😊

Group Size
We keep groups small to maximize your one on one time with the guide/instructor.

Trip Length
5 days
Fitness Level
Able to complete short walks with camera gear – up to one mile

Meeting Time and Place
5pm on Day One at the Hampton Inn

Trip Conclusion
Jackson, Wyoming. We can either drop you off directly at the airport or anywhere in Jackson

Price/Start Dates
Grand Teton National Park

Pre and Post Trip
Recommended lodging Hampton Inn – Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Accommodation
We will be staying in comfortable hotels near the Grand Tetons

Meals
Most meals are included during the trip dates and we typically eat at handpicked local restaurants. We often eat snacks and prepare lunch on the trail. We typically return for a late breakfast or eat breakfast on the road during photography trips as we are often out early to capture the morning light.

Weather
Expect warm pleasant days with cold mornings and nights. The weather can prove unpredictable in the Northern Rockies and can change on a moment’s notice. Remember some of the best photographs are made before, during and immediately after a storm cycle. There is no such thing as bad weather just poor layering and gear choices – please plan accordingly! Make sure you are prepared for rain and snow!

General Links to Weather Conditions: Teton National Park Weather Conditions
We recommend checking these weather links prior to your trip departure to plan your gear and clothing packing accordingly.

**Price Includes**
Most meals, ground transportation, accommodation during the trip dates: from the evening of day 1 through the morning of day 5, professional photography instruction, park entrance fees, medically certified wilderness guide, & gratuities for service personnel such as drivers, pilots, captains as well as hotel & restaurant staff.

**Price Does Not Include**
Airfare, alcoholic beverages, accommodations before or after the trip dates, one meal on your own, souvenirs & trip leader gratuities *industry standard is typically 10%-20% of the trip cost based on your experience)*
Lodging & Meals

Backcountry Journeys Photography Tours & Workshops include most meals, lodging from day one through the morning of the last day of the tour, ground transportation while on the tour, National Park entrance fees, guide fees and other items essential to a successful trip – meaning that once your there all you will have to focus on is your photography. We can accommodate most special diets so please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.
Gear List

This gear list should answer a lot of your gear questions so please read through this carefully. If you still have questions, please give us a call.

Your clothing should be a system of layers that you add and subtract according to the weather and temperature. A good pair of good synthetic “Smartwool” type socks under sturdy boots works well. Clothing should be light-weight nylon pants (maybe base-layers), a polypro shirt and either a sunhat or warm hat depending on the weather. As weather conditions change add insulating and waterproof layers to your base setup. Don’t bring any cotton clothing. Cotton is not a good insulator and once it gets wet it takes forever to dry. Absolutely no jeans!

Photo & Field Gear

Recommended Camera Gear:

- DSLR or Mirrorless Camera. (*Nikon, Canon, Sony, Panasonic etc.*)
- Telephoto Lenses (ranging from 100-600mm approximately)
- Wide-angle Lens (10-20mm, 16-35mm or equivalent zoom)
- Normal Lenses (ranging from approximately 35mm to 100mm)
- Sturdy but lightweight Tripod
- Memory Cards
- Batteries & Chargers
- Filters such as a circular polarizer and neutral density
- Lens cleaning pen & cloth
- Camera Day Pack (this should appropriately carry all your camera & hiking gear and have a rain cover)
- Camera Rain Sleeve
Optional (but recommended) Camera Gear:

- Back-Up Camera Body
- 1.4x tele converter
- Laptop Computer with Lightroom / Photoshop Pre-Installed (for personal use in hotels for downloading images while on tour)
- External Hard Drives
- Bean bag
- Remote Shutter Trigger
- Camera’s Instruction Manual

Suggested Field Gear & Clothing:

- Personal Field Clothing (think layers)
- Warm top, such as a long-sleeved sweater or fleece jacket
- Long pants, or convertible hiking pants, one pair of leggings or lightweight trousers to block sun and give warmth at night
- Warm Hat & Gloves
- Down Jacket (My favorite piece of gear in Yellowstone!)
- “Softshell” Jacket lightly insulated windproof/breathable jacket for layering and protection from wind
- Long Underwear (synthetic top & bottom)
- Shorts & T-Shirts for on the go during warmer months
- wool Socks (Smartwool, Darn Tough etc.)
- Brimmed Sun Hat
- Sunglasses
- Good walking or tennis shoes
- Casual wear, for your evenings off the trail
- Rain shell, waterproof/breathable jacket
- Rain Pants
- Shooting Gloves
- Headlamp (for evening shoots, conditions permitting)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Sunscreen
- Bug-spray
• Knee pads (for low-angle shooting)
• Personal toiletries & medications
• Money, for tipping your guide (industry standard is generally 10%-20% of the trip cost based on your experience) and for any personal expenses not included in the tour package such as alcoholic beverages, a few of the meals, souvenirs, etc.

This is a general list. Please call with any questions!

Note on Packing for the tour:

Please pack your extra clothing, toiletries, extra camera gear, and other travel items into a suitcase, duffel or travel bag. You will not bring all your camera gear on every hike or outing. Each evening you will be briefed on which lenses, filters, etc. you will need to carry the following day on the scheduled tour or hike.