

July 18 - 23, 2010



# YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK BACK COUNTRY PHOTO TOUR BY HORSEBACK

With  
*John & Barbara Gerlach*



Join Yellowstone Mountain Guides and wrangler/photo guides Barbara and John Gerlach for an enjoyable back country adventure into the heart of "Cascade Corner" of Yellowstone National Park. We will spend six days and five nights in this wonderful wilderness. You will photograph Yellowstone's most impressive waterfalls, wildflowers galore, beautiful landscapes, horses and mules, and soak in natural hot springs. Our comfortable camps, wonderful horses, and fantastic "wrangler" guides will make this a vacation you won't forget!



Yellowstone Mountain Guides Outfitter License #6485



# **YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK BACK COUNTRY PHOTO TOUR BY HORSEBACK**

Terry Search of Yellowstone Mountain Guides: Outfitter License #6485  
with John & Barbara Gerlach as your wrangler photo guides

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**JULY 18 - 23, 2010** (exact dates will be announced when we get dates from the Park office)

5 Nights and 6 Full Days in the Yellowstone Back Country - LIMITED TO ONLY EIGHT GUESTS

## **HOWDY!**

If Yellowstone National Park, horseback riding, superb photography, terrific food, comfortable wilderness camping, Yellowstone's most spectacular waterfalls, soaking in natural hot springs, and fun-loving wrangler guides sounds like a great time, then this is the perfect adventure for you.

You'll see and photograph spectacular scenery, colorful meadows carpeted with wildflowers, and thundering waterfalls. You'll get plenty of in the field photo instruction from John & Barbara Gerlach, great conversations with the group members, and exciting stories (some of them true) from our highly experienced wranglers. We'll fill our days leisurely riding horses to special places where wonderful photo opportunities abound. Riding horses is a relaxing and quiet way to enjoy the back country in a way that few people ever experience.

## **INCREDIBLE CASCADE CORNER-OUR YELLOWSTONE DESTINATION**

The southwestern corner of Yellowstone National Park is officially known as the Bechler Region, but those who have visited this area know why most call it "Cascade Corner." This remote region is covered with marsh, streams, and lush forest covered mountains. It has the highest concentration of waterfalls in Yellowstone National Park. Few park visitors have seen or photographed these falls because hiking many miles or riding horses is required to reach them. In addition to wildflowers and landscapes, we'll spend considerable time photographing the most spectacular waterfalls which includes Union (perhaps Yellowstone's most beautiful waterfall), Dunanda, Silver Scarf, Iris, Colonnade, Ragged, and others.

## **WILL YOU BE ROUGHING IT?**

No, but tell your friends you plan to rough it in the

back country of Yellowstone National Park anyway. There is no need to tell them that a warm sleeping bag, air mattress, and tent is provided. And you can omit the fact that you'll have access to a solar shower. We'll spend two nights where we can all soak ourselves in a natural hot spring. The meals are so delicious that you may gain weight on this tour, too. With a little imagination, you'll create some cowboy "tall tales" of your own to tell the folks back home.

## **DO YOU NEED PREVIOUS HORSEBACK RIDING EXPERIENCE?**

Absolutely not. Terry's horses are experienced taking good care of riders with little to no experience. They are used to carrying beginners along mountain trails and across shallow rivers. However, you must be physically able to spend a couple hours at a time in the saddle.

## **DAILY TRIP SCHEDULE**

**DAY 1** - Arrive at the hotel in West Yellowstone

**DAY 2** - We pick you up at your hotel and transport everyone to the trail head in the morning. We'll have an orientation meeting at the trail head and meet your horse, of course! Then we'll mount up and begin our horseback journey to the first campsite near Union Falls. We'll photograph incredible Bechler and Cave Falls that afternoon. That evening we'll enjoy the first night camping in the Yellowstone wilderness.

**DAY 3** - After a hearty breakfast, we make a 4.7 mile one-way ride to fabulous Union Falls - considered by many to be the most beautiful waterfall in the park. We take our time photographing this incredible scene. Then we visit tiny nearby Ouzel Falls where a hot spring enters the river just up stream. The sandy bottom creates a perfect swimming hole in the warm water. Then we ride 4.7 miles back to camp.

**DAY 4** - We begin our longest ride of the trip (taking breaks as needed) to reach our farthest destination in the park in the Bechler Canyon region. We enjoy two nights at this campsite, taking short day rides to the numerous special subjects to photograph here. In the evening, we'll soak in a natural hot spring, so bring your bathing suit. This is a special treat!

**DAY 5** - We walk or ride in the Bechler Canyon area photographing all the special wonders this fabulous canyon has to offer. We'll be busy shooting numerous images of fantastic waterfalls, wildflowers, camp life, and the most photogenic hot spring in the park.

**DAY 6** - After photographing in the morning, we'll pack up the camp and move to our third and final campsite near Dunanda Falls where we'll camp near a large wildflower filled meadow for the final night. This campsite is the perfect location for making the short ride to Dunanda and Silver Scarf Falls.

**DAY 7** - We'll shoot photos in the morning and enjoy our final hearty breakfast together. Then we pack up our last campsite and leisurely ride out to the Bechler Ranger Station. We should reach the trail head in mid-afternoon. Then you will be transferred to your hotel or parked car.

**DAY 8** - This is a travel day for you to return home or to continue your Yellowstone adventure on your own. If you have never seen Yellowstone or Grand Teton National Parks before, we encourage you to rent or drive your own car to visit the front country that can easily be accessed by road. We are happy to offer suggestions about where to go and what to see and photograph.

### TRIP DATES:

This trip begins on the morning of Day 2 and ends in the late afternoon on Day 7. The park doesn't assign back country camps until mid-March so we can't give exact dates until they do. Terry will let you know what the dates are as soon as he knows.

### TRIP COST:

Tour price is \$2550 with 8 guests maximum.

### THIS PRICE INCLUDES:

- \* All outfitter fees which include horses, mules, tents, sleeping bags, wranglers, and camp chef
- \* All meals beginning with lunch on **Day 2** and ending with lunch on **Day 7**
- \* Transfers to and from the Island Park/West Yellowstone meeting sites

- \* Photographic instruction from wrangler guides John & Barbara Gerlach during the trip
- \* All the "tall tales" you want to hear

### WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

Tips to wrangler/guides and camp cook (about \$150 total suggested) The Gerlachs do not accept tips.

- Items of a personal nature
- Motel lodging before or after the tour

### OUR FIRST MEETING

In the past, many tour participants have driven their own vehicle to join our photographic trip by horseback since it is popular with our local Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana clients. However, we don't want to pack the trail head with a lot of vehicles for a week. This is discouraged by the park service and the potential for vandalism by bears or possibly humans is too great. Instead, for those who have their own vehicle, we would like to meet at John & Barbara Gerlach's home near Henry's Lake in Island Park, ID where your vehicle will be safe. You will be transported from their home to the trail head.

For participants who wish to fly in for the photo tour, there is no sense renting a car just to leave it parked for six days. Instead, fly into the airport at West Yellowstone. We'll pick you and your gear up in the morning on **Day 2** and return you to the hotel late in the afternoon on **Day 7**. (The exact time will be arranged.) You will need a room for the night of **Day 1** and perhaps the night of **Day 7**.

You can fly into West Yellowstone. A small airport near town services the city during the summer months. The area hotels offer free shuttle service from and to the airport. Contact them directly to make any room reservation you might need. We'll be happy to pick you up at the hotel on the morning of **Day 2** and return you to the hotel in the evening on **Day 7**.

Holiday Inn (1-800-646-7365)  
Brandin' Iron Motel (1-800-217-4613)  
Pony Express Motel (406) 646-7644

Please call your hotel and make shuttle arrangements from the airport.

## PACKING INSTRUCTIONS:

## CONTACT:

Remember that we are using horses and a few pack mules so we need to pack light which includes both clothes and camera gear. That means you won't be able to take everything.

Here's what John took in 2009:

- 1 Canon EOS 1D Mark III digital body
- 1 Canon 70-200mm zoom lens
- 1 Canon 24-105mm zoom lens
- 1 Canon 17-40mm zoom lens
- 1 Canon 180mm macro
- 1 small Gitzo Tripod (smaller than I normally use to save on weight)
- 1 Kirk BH-3 ball head (smaller than my BH-1)
- 1 Electronic Cable release
- 1 77mm & 67 mm Polarizing filter
- 2 8GB Compact Flash cards for the digital camera
- 1 Plamp to hold flowers still
- 1 Canon 580II dedicated Flash
- 1 Canon ST-E2 wireless flash controller
- Extra batteries for camera (you can't recharge in the field)

All of this should weigh less than 20 pounds.

We really don't get a chance to photograph wildlife, so leave your long lenses at home, unless you plan to shoot the front country on your own.

We know you may still have questions, so please Email them to [michele@gerlachnaturephoto.com](mailto:michele@gerlachnaturephoto.com). Your outfitter, Yellowstone Mountain Guides, will send you complete pre-departure information when you enroll. We are really looking forward to this fantastic photo tour of Yellowstone by horse. It's a wonderful way to see the Yellowstone back country and take spectacular images of places few people have seen.

## HOW TO ENROLL IN THIS TOUR

Please contact Terry & Angela Search. They will send you all the paperwork. A deposit of 50% of the trip price which is \$1275 is required to hold your spot. The balance of \$1275 is due two weeks before the start of the trip.



Terry & Angela Search  
Yellowstone Mountain Guides  
P.O. Box 70  
West Yellowstone, MT 59758  
Phone/Fax 406-646-7230

Email: [Search@Yellowstone-Guides.com](mailto:Search@Yellowstone-Guides.com)  
[www.Yellowstone-Guides.com](http://www.Yellowstone-Guides.com)

## YOUR GUIDES:

Terry and Angela Search own Yellowstone Mountain Guides. Terry has been leading back country horse pack trips for more than 20 years. His experience and love for Yellowstone country is readily apparent when you meet him. He is a long-time licensed tour operator (#6485) in Yellowstone National Park. He is considered to be one of the finest outfitters in the entire Yellowstone ecosystem!

John & Barbara Gerlach, your wrangler photo guides, are professional nature photographers who live in the rugged mountains near West Yellowstone, Montana. Barbara grew up on a horse farm in Ohio, so she has owned and ridden horses her entire life. She is a skilled mountain rider who enjoys teaching others how to ride. John loves riding horses, too. They ride their horses 100 plus times a year into the back country to find wonderful subjects to photograph like wildflowers, mountain scenery, moose, blue grouse, waterfalls, and much more. John and Barbara agree the best way to see the back country is from the back of a horse. That's why they call it back country (we think). It's a quiet way to travel so you can hear the birds sing, creeks babble, leaves rustle in the breeze, and other pleasant sounds of nature. The height advantage of riding a horse provides a wonderful viewpoint for spotting both wildlife and wildflowers alike. John and Barbara ride their own trail horses (Teton & Joker)!

Please consider joining us to explore the Yellowstone back country. It's certain to be a unique trip that offers a tremendous amount of fun and fantastic photo possibilities. Remember, we can only accept eight participants, so space is limited. Call Terry Search now at (406) 646-7230 to enroll.

Happy trails partner,

*Terry & Angela Search*

*John & Barbara Gerlach*



### Reservation Form

Please call **Terry Search** first to make sure space is still available. Call him at (406) 646-7230 or [search@yellowstone-guides.com](mailto:search@yellowstone-guides.com). Please return this completed reservation form along with your \$1275 deposit

TO: Yellowstone Mountain Guides

PO Box 70

West Yellowstone MT

(406) 646-7230

This information below will help with the rooming.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Male     Female    Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Second Person If traveling with someone

\_\_\_\_\_

Male     Female    Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone :Day: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Night: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please enroll me in the workshop session as indicated below:

### **Yellowstone National Park Back Country Photo Tour**

Session 1 **JULY 18 - 23, 2010**

### **Method of Payment**

Personal Check:

I enclosed  \$1275 deposit per person

\$2550 full payment per person

Full Amount is Due June 29, 2010

Make checks payable to:

**Yellowstone Mountain Guides**

