

Bringing Adventure to Life

Tour Name | Black Canyon of Yellowstone

Keywords |

Yellowstone River	Deep canyon	Gentle river trails	River-side camping
Orange salmon fly	Native & wild trout	Hiking & Relaxation	Family-oriented Recreation

Tour Duration | 4-Day/3-Night

Tour Description |

The wild Yellowstone, the longest untamed and free-flowing river in the lower 48 states. From its headwaters in Lake Yellowstone downstream 670 miles to the Missouri River in North Dakota, the Yellowstone River flows as it has for centuries, in its natural state, undammed and untamed. We invite you to enjoy its splendor as it makes its way through Yellowstone National Park - the world's first and premier National Park.

Our tour takes us to the Black Canyon of the Yellowstone, a well-hidden, deep, and remote river canyon on the north side of the Blacktail Deer Plateau. Over 1,000 feet deep, named for the dark rocks of the canyon walls and holding fascinating geology, it stretches 20 miles along Yellowstone's northern border. The well-maintained Yellowstone River Trail follows the entire distance of the canyon with excellent campsites along its way.

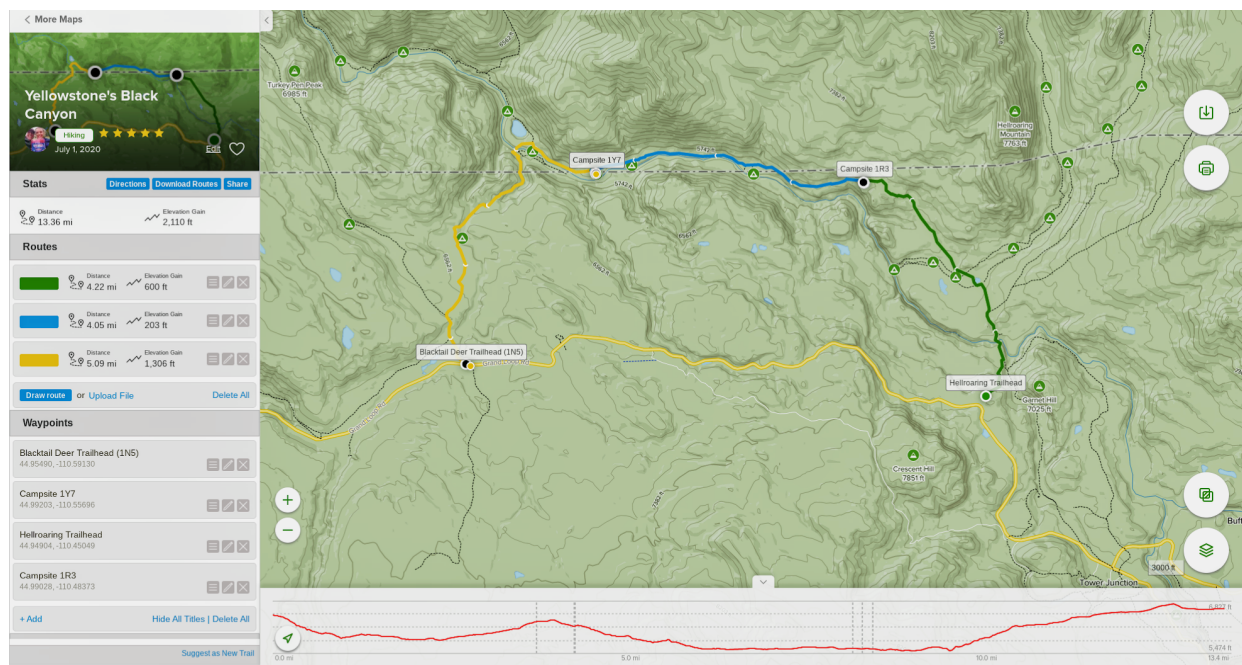
Except at its upper and lower ends of our tour, Black Canyon is miles from the nearest road, with the heart of the Canyon seeing few visitors. As one of the classic backpacking trails of the northern Rockies, it offers everything an adventurous hiker might want.

Our Black Canyon tour departs either from the Blacktail Creek or the Hellroaring Creek (see below) trailheads between Mammoth and Tower Junction providing excellent access to the middle reaches of the Canyon while affording big canyon views. On this tour, you can hike, rest, relax, and recharge. By many accounts, this stretch of the river is one of the best rivers to fish for native Yellowstone Cutthroats, with their characteristic orange slash on the underside of their gills. Here the Yellowstone

teems with cascades and waterfalls consisting of fast runs with deep pools. Fish populations are healthy and plentiful.

The Black Canyon of the Yellowstone is famous for its prolific mid-July salmon fly hatches. The salmon fly, a huge winged insect of the stonefly family, hatches are a trout angler's dream and reason alone to head for the Canyon.

The Yellowstone is one of those magical places, its wildness and splendor will form deep memories which call upon your return to this untamed jewel of the Rockies. It's a great place for a family vacation in the great outdoors!





Tour Schedule |

Start Date	July 1, 2020
End Date	July 4, 2020
Price Per Person	\$400
Operating Season	July 1 - September 30
Where to Meet	Hellroaring Creek Trailhead
Reservation Type	Private trip
Vehicle Shuttling Required	YES

Participants |

Maximum # of Participants on Tour (Not including Guides)	Family of 5
# of Guides on Tour	2

Tour & Route Type |

Item	Type	Definition
	Day Tour	A day hike for novice and experienced hikers to get a taste of trail life, without the time commitment needed to go on an overnight hike, often with a particular tour emphasis such as scenery, fishing, wildlife watching, or natural and geological history.
X	Overnight Tour	A multiple-day hike for new and experienced hikers including tent camping in designated campsites often with a particular tour emphasis such as scenery, fishing, wildlife watching, or natural and geological history.
	Base Camp Tour	Base camping involves hiking to a specific destination to spend several days at the same campsite, setting up gear, and then using the extra days for daily activities such as fishing, relaxing, or day-hiking.

X	Long Distance Tour	Long-distance hiking encompasses two or more consecutive days and nights, often point-to-point, with the objective of completing a specific trail in one continuous hike.
	Peak Bagging Tour	Hiking with the specific goal to climb to the summit of a mountain; when the summit is reached the peak is "in the bag".
	Out-And-Back Route	Hiking to a specific destination and then retracing steps back to the trailhead.
X	Point-to-Point Route	Starting and finishing a hike at different trailheads; requires shuttling or pre-arranged pickup.
	Loop Route	Starting and finishing a hike at the same trailhead with little retracing of steps.

Trailheads & Campsites |

Permit #	20-OR 089
AllTrails Tour Map	https://www.alltrails.com/explore/map/yellowstone-river-tour
Starting Trailhead	Hellroaring Creek Trailhead (2K8)
Ending Trailhead	Blacktail Creek Trailhead (1N5)
Campsite Night 1	1R3
Campsite Night 2	1Y7
Campsite Night 3	1Y7

Tour Information |

Day	Distance (miles)	Elevation Gain (ft)	Trail Condition	Difficulty *	Solitude Rating **
All Days Combined	13.4	2,110	good	2	3
Day 1	4.2 (assuming we can ford Hellroaring creek safely. If not add 3.5 miles.	600	good	2	2

Day 2	4.1	203	excellent	1	3
Day 3	Layover day, hiking optional	-	good	optional	4
Day 4	5.1	1,306	excellent but steep	3	2

* Difficulty Ratings based on a scale of 1-5; level 1 is the least difficult, level 5 the most difficult. For all levels, expect to carry a daypack weighing up to 20 pounds with your personal belongings.

1	Level 1 denotes a hike suitable for any novice to experienced hiker, including children or elderly persons, without serious elevation gain or hazardous trail sections. These are low-risk hikes on well-marked and maintained trails. In general, hiking shoes and hiking poles are recommended. Hiking distances range from 3-6 miles, and elevation gain is less than 2000 feet.
2	Level 2 denotes a hike of up to 7 miles and 3000 feet of elevation gain on maintained trails, or up to 5 miles and 2000 feet of elevation gain on more rugged, less-maintained trails. You should be comfortable hiking 6-8 miles in a day in hilly or mountainous terrain with a light day pack. A good pair of hiking boots are highly recommended, and trekking poles can be an asset.
3	Level 3 denotes a hike suitable for more experienced hikers with at least average fitness level; hikes are less suited for children under 10 or the elderly. Distances are up to 9 miles with <4500 feet of elevation gain on maintained trails, or up to 7 miles and 3000 feet of elevation gain on more rugged trails. You should be comfortable hiking 7-9 miles in a day in hilly or mountainous terrain with a day pack.
4	Level 4 denotes a hike on established but rugged, unmaintained trails and suitable for more experienced hikers.. The hiking can be steep and sustained with long daily distances (up to 9 miles) and significant elevation change (up to 4,000 feet). You should be comfortable running/biking/hiking for several hours without many breaks.
5	Level 5 denotes a hike suitable for experienced hikers with above-average fitness levels. It includes serious elevation gain, sections with rugged terrain, and potentially hazardous conditions such as extreme terrain, large rocks, steep slopes, or a combination. Expect prolonged, rugged hiking with very strenuous, difficult sections. The terrain can be steep, loose, rocky, and/or exposed. You must be able to exercise vigorously at home (extended runs, swims, bike rides, etc.) to join a hike with a "5" rating.

** Solitude Ratings. Our Solitude Ratings are based on a scale of 1-5, tours with a 1 rating having the least amount of solitude, tours with a 5 rating having the most.

1	Expect to be around other hikers and travelers most of the time.
2	Expect to have some solitude, as much as an hour at a time without seeing other groups.
3	Expect hours of solitude at a time.

4	Expect to see no more than one or two groups per day.
5	Expect to see only a group or two over the entire duration of your tour.

What's Included |

- A qualified and professional guide, usually two, who are medically trained, energetic, knowledgeable, and friendly
- A fleet of well-trained and experienced trail llamas
- Healthy and filling meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and trail snacks
- Trekking poles for hiking and crossing streams
- A technical day-backpack for you to carry up to 20 pounds of personal belonging
- Industry-leading tents, sleeping bags, and sleeping pads
- Bear spray, and bear hanging gear
- Water filters and purification tablets
- Emergency equipment, First Aid Kit, and satellite communication device (we have no cell coverage)
- Our effort and commitment to make the tour informational, exciting, informative, and unforgettable.

Meals |

Expect high-quality meals on our tours. Since llamas do the carrying, we can bring fresh and quality foods. We provide a diversity of foods with the necessary nutrition for sustained energy output including an assortment of proteins, carbohydrates, and fat. Meals start with staples that travel well in the backcountry - rice, pasta, lentils, beans, couscous, oatmeal, granola, etc. Mealtimes are also supplemented with trail foods such as crackers, cheese, granola, energy bars, fresh and/or dried fruit, and electrolyte powder. Fresh fruits and vegetables are available for snacks and meals; a snack selection is provided at the beginning of each day.

Please be sure to let us know of any dietary needs by informing us by email or via our tour registration form which every participant is required to complete. Special dietary requests may require an



additional fee or other arrangements. Important note: It's important that you specify any dietary needs with registration - it's too late once we are at the trailhead.

Gear Access WILD Provides |

Access WILD provides all group gear including industry-leading day-backpacks; Kelty or Sierra Design sleeping bags (professionally cleaned prior to each tour. Note: in 2020, we are experimenting with the option of guests purchasing brand new sleeping bags (Klymit Wild Aspen 0 degree bag) at company cost to keep or donate after the tour); Big Agnes sleeping pads; Kelty or Leki trekking poles; Mountain Safety Research cooking stoves; GSI outdoor cookware, bowls, cups, and utensils; Counter Assault bear spray and food-hanging gear; company-issued First-Aid kit; satellite calling device i.e., Garmin In-Reach. We also provide bear spray self-defense for each participant (18 years of age or older). Access WILD will discuss bear safety with all participants before we get on the trail.

Gear Participants Bring |

The following items are required (unless noted 'optional') for any participant on the tour—these are a must for safety and comfort. We hike in rugged terrain and weather conditions can change quickly.

- ☐ Sturdy hiking boots, mid-weight, lug-soled, height above the ankle, water-resistant/proof, and ideally, well broken in. Important note: Buy your boots 1/2 size to 1 size large to allow for feet swelling and thicker socks and be sure to break them in for at least 25 miles before you arrive.
- ☐ Lightweight, closed-toed sandals or shoes such as Crocs® (with straps) to cross streams and use in camp. Your hiking boots need to breathe (as do your feet) at the end of a day of hiking.
- ☐ Hiking socks, one pair for every two days of the tour, plus an extra pair of socks to sleep in. Some individuals wear a thin silk sock liner to protect feet from hot spots/blisters.
- ☐ Gaiters (optional, depends on the time of year).
- ☐ Sunhat or baseball cap, cotton bandana, sunglasses, and sunscreen.
- ☐ Warm hat and gloves—best is a lightweight beanie and light-to mid-weight fleece or wool gloves.
- ☐ Base layer/long underwear: one pair of wicking tops and bottoms that are light-to-midweight, made of Capilene®, merino wool, polypropylene, etc. Ideally no cotton.
- ☐ A warm, lightweight, and packable fleece jacket or a coat insulated with a synthetic material or down.

- ☐ Nylon or quick-dry pants and shorts, or zip-offs.
- ☐ Bathing suit (optional, if you plan to soak or swim).
- ☐ Rainproof/breathable jacket and pants such as Gore-Tex®.
- ☐ Water bottle(s), or bladder system, such as a Nalgene® with a 2-liter capacity.
- ☐ Lightweight, quality dry bag or stuff sack (25-30 liter volume) to store clothes and belongings to place into a llama pannier during our hike. We have some dry packs for you to use.
- ☐ Lightweight, packable camp pillow (optional). We provide inflatable pillows.
- ☐ Contact lenses and glasses (if you wear contact lenses also bring glasses—contacts may be lost and/or difficult to clean).
- ☐ Lip balm (optional)
- ☐ Bug repellent—preferably a product containing at least 25% DEET (unless sensitive to this product) and mosquito head net (optional).
- ☐ Toiletries including blister care. Store in a ziplock or reusable bag (for hanging at night in bear country).
- ☐ Small washcloth (bandana can serve as a washcloth).
- ☐ Headlamp and spare batteries (preferably an L.E.D. type that works with AA or AAA batteries).
- ☐ Camera (optional).
- ☐ Notebook (optional).
- ☐ Paperback book (optional).
- ☐ Knee brace, if needed.
- ☐ Prescription medicine (inform your tour leader of any medications you take); vitamins (optional).
- ☐ Fly fishing gear (optional) plus valid license and fishing regulations (it's the participant's responsibility to know the fishing regulations and purchase a valid fishing license).
- ☐ Lightweight binoculars (optional).
- ☐ Flora and fauna field guides (optional).
- ☐ Money to tip your guide (optional and appreciated, generally 10-20% of your tour cost based on the quality of experience).