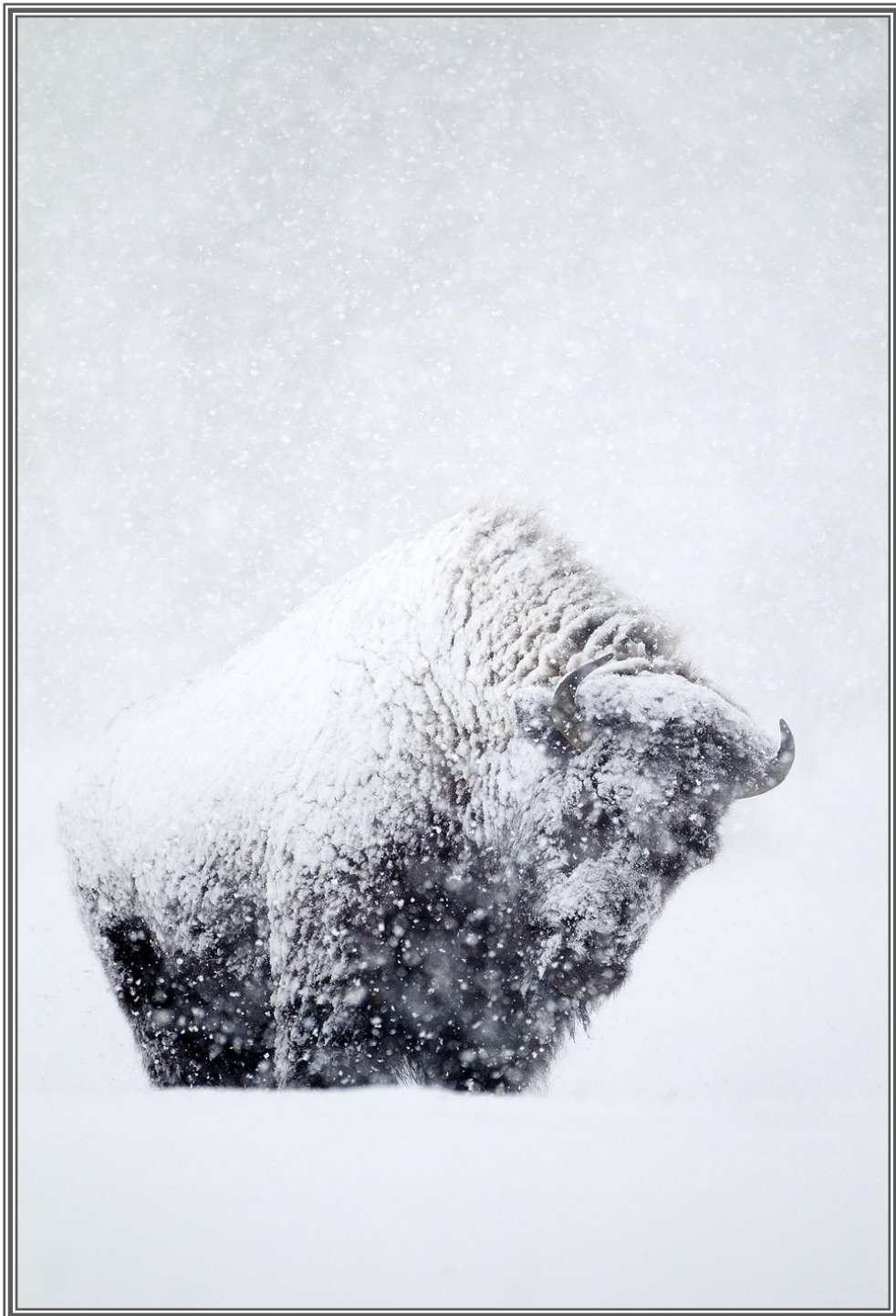




**Yellowstone Winter - 9<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012**



## Itinerary

### Tour Leader: Danny Green

**Day 1:** A day of travelling as it's a long flight to Bozeman airport in Montana and you will almost certainly not be arriving until around 23.00 hours that evening too, so it'll be off for a well-needed first nights rest at the local Best Western Hotel.

**Days 2 – 4:** We will transfer ourselves to the base for the next 3 nights which will be the Absaroka Lodge in Gardiner, a small town on the edge of Yellowstone Park. From here, and using the large 4WD drive vehicle we have at our disposal. We will look to explore and photograph under our own steam the dramatic settings, scenery and wildlife along the Lamar Valley, the only area of the park open to the public during the winter months. The valley is one of the best places to see wolves during your time here. (There are several territories that the road cuts through), and they are attracted to the area because of the large groups of elk who gather in the northern reaches of the park. You will also expect to encounter bison, bald eagle and coyote as well as plenty of landscape, scenic and macro winter opportunities in this 40 odd mile long valley – there's plenty to explore.



**Day 5:** We will drive back into the park and leave our vehicles at Mammoth where we will transfer to the snow-coach that we have at our disposal for the next few days. We will head to our base for the next 3 nights at Old Faithful Snow Lodge we will again be looking for wildlife en route. (Our guide/driver will be up-to-date with what's happening and where in these otherwise non accessible parts of the park that species like bison, elk, otter, bald eagle, red fox and trumpeter swans can be found). We will certainly be looking for scenic opportunities at Roaring Mountain and Norris Geyser Basin en route.



**Days 6 and 7:** Although there will and has to be a degree of flexibility with this based on what we've achieved to date and want to prioritise our potential programme for the next couple of days should include a day travelling over Craig Pass and photographing along Lake Yellowstone, the Hayden Valley and Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and another day exploring Upper and Lower Geyser Basin. Whilst we are based at Old Faithful Lodge the geyser itself is an obvious additional target, and the geysers generally are the main attraction for bison too, so steam and bison combinations will be high on the wish list for sure. You should also have the opportunity (given some clear overnight skies) for some low light long exposure photography here too – the paths are not lit though so bring a torch if you're interested in this option.



**Day 8:** We'll look to prioritise areas we want to revisit and work on as we begin our snow coach trip back to Mammoth for the cars and then the drive back to Bozeman where we will once again stay at the Best Western near the airport before our flights home the next day.

**Day 9:** Return flights to Europe, but please note that they won't actually land until the morning of Day 10 (i.e. Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February).





## **What to Bring**

The accommodation is clean and comfortable with all bedding and towels provided so you simply need to bring yourself. Breakfasts and packed lunches will be simple and speedy affairs with a main meal in the evening – we are talking US portion sizes too so you won't go hungry. You might also want to consider bringing a thermos to fill up with coffee in the morning for our days out.

In terms of clothing you'll obviously need plenty of warm and weatherproof clothing as it can and will be very cold. That said with the depth of snow off road/path you will never be wandering too far from a vehicle at any time, so there's always an option to return and thaw out.

The following are very much recommended - a good pair of strong waterproof walking boots and ideally those offering some thermal lining or maybe even a pair of thermal overshoes such as those made by Neos to go over your walking boots. Keeping warm feet, hands and head should be your priorities. Good waterproof overtrousers (lined ones are best as they'll keep you warmer especially with a normal pair of trousers and some thermal leggings underneath as well) and dependant on how these 2 items fit together some gaiters can be useful as well. For the top half it's very much a question of having several layers – like a thermal type vest, t-shirt, thin jumper, fleece and then a waterproof down coat that is built for keeping out the wind chill. You'll know your own cold thresholds but it really is a question of build it up in layers. A good hat, some fingerless mittens and then some warm waterproof gloves to go over the top (the former so that when you come to photograph your fingers can still work the camera) should round the piece off.

In terms of camera kit you'll need a tripod, the longest lens you have (500mm + convertor would be our recommendation/choice for a full-frame sensor, 300mm+ if you have a crop body should be fine too) and then you must have some

supplementary lenses for the other opportunities of the trip such as a 24-70mm for landscapes. We would suggest a macro lens of some sort and then maybe an intermediate zoom (70-200mm or 100-400mm) so that you don't miss anything in terms of opportunity. You'll get the chance to decide what you want and need each morning, so you won't be burdening yourself with heavy equipment.



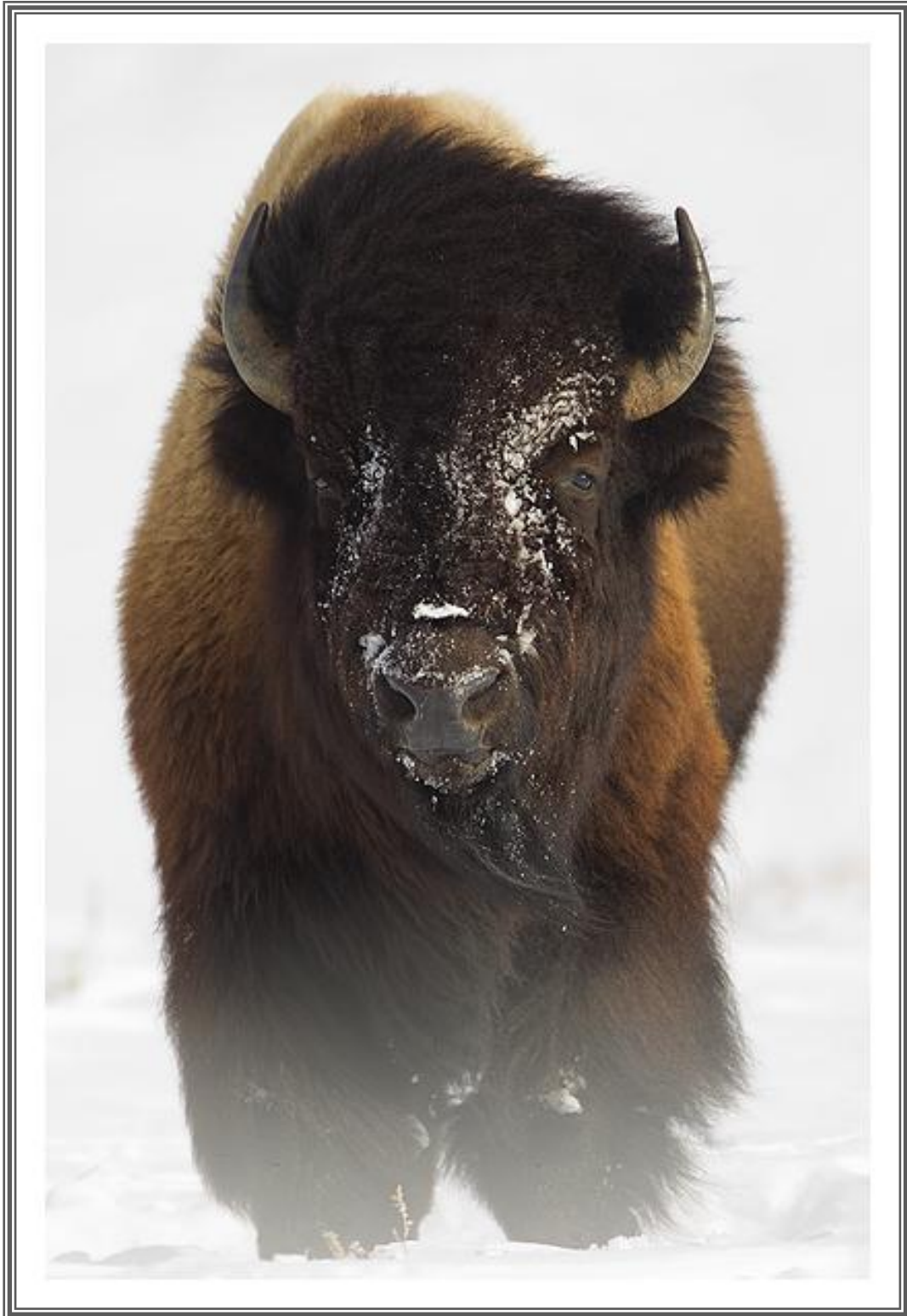
Don't forget to pack a small torch too if you want to try out some long-exposure night photography as covered in the Days 6-7 itinerary.

The days are not overly long at this time of the year so in the evenings we will have a chance to critique and look at individuals work if you so wish. Feel free to bring anything you'd like to share on either a laptop or memory pen/CD. We will eat out most evenings so for any drinks or incidentals you may want then a small amount of US dollars may be useful – the best rate is generally achieved by using your cashpoint card on arrival in the US for the amount you think you need for the trip but it's obviously up to you to manage this as you choose.

The office contact number in the build up to and for the duration of the trip is **01952 411436** or **07905 569685**. Please call if you are unsure about anything. My mobile number before and during the trip is **07951 945433** – it does work in the US too.

I look forward to seeing you soon for what I'm sure will be a great adventure!

*Danny*



Registered Office:  
4 Deer Park Drive, Newport, Shropshire TF10 7HB  
Tel: 01952 411436  
E-Mail: [sales@natures-images.co.uk](mailto:sales@natures-images.co.uk)  
[www.natures-images.co.uk](http://www.natures-images.co.uk)  
Registered in England and Wales No: 6635478  
Natures Images is the Trading Name of Natures Images Ltd