STUNNING VISTAS: As soon as you enter the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, you’ll understand why it inspired our national parks. The landscape’s singular beauty, abundance of wildlife, and fascinating thermal features combine to make this high-altitude plateau a distinctive and extraordinary ecosystem. Experiencing Yellowstone in the winter is a unique treat—there is a solitude and beauty in winter in Yellowstone that you can’t find during the crowded and bustling summer months.

YOUR FIELD WORK: You’ll meaningfully contribute to research projects that will get you out in the field tracking the park’s five major ungulate species, including bison and bighorn sheep, in order to collect information about group composition and individual diets, data that are critical for ongoing studies. You’ll also spend a morning observing Yellowstone’s wild wolves, learning the story of wolf reintroduction and exploring how species interact to significant shape their ecosystem.

ON THE FELLOWSHIP: The small western town of Gardiner, Montana, on the northern edge of Yellowstone National Park, is your home for the week - it’s also home to the famous Roosevelt Arch entrance to the park. Each day you’ll head into the snowy landscape of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem to explore thermal features or collect data about wildlife movements and behavior. EPI’s instructors will introduce you to our unique model for creating positive learning environments in the field and applying field science at home.
SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1: ARRIVE IN BOZEMAN, MONTANA
- Get to know your instructor team
- Head south to Gardiner, MT—the gateway to Yellowstone National Park
- Settle into the cozy lodge that will be your home for the next week

Days 2-5: WILDLIFE TRACKING & DATA COLLECTION
- Use radiotelemetry to locate and track ungulates across the landscape
- Collect snow and wildlife data using your newfound skills

Day 6: EXPLORE GEOTHERMAL FEATURES & OBSERVE WOLVES
- Explore the area’s geothermal features - travertine terraces, steam vents, and more
- Observe wolves in the wild Lamar Valley with a wolf education specialist from Yellowstone

Day 7: RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS & COURSE GRADUATION
- Present your research findings to your peers
- Enjoy a soak at Chico, a developed hot springs just outside the park
- Celebrate your completed course and your contribution to the park

Day 8: DEPART YELLOWSTONE

NORTH YELLOWSTONE LODGE
Just outside of Gardiner, the North Yellowstone Lodge is a cozy base for your Yellowstone program and is conveniently located for access to your research sites. You’ll prepare meals together in the lodge’s kitchen and enjoy the peaceful scenery of the Yellowstone River.

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