

# WILDLIFE TOURS



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### About this activity

Jackson Hole is one of the best wildlife watching locations in the world, and that's not an exaggeration. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is the only area left in the lower 48 where every species that should be here still is. And winter is one of the best times to see the local fauna. Though bears are hibernating and the pronghorn have migrated south, it's the time to catch a group of 10 to 12 moose together in Grand Teton National Park, bighorn sheep clashing heads along Miller Butte or a pack of wolves looking over the thousands of elk on the National Elk Refuge.

But the key to finding the animals is to have knowledgeable and experienced guides who know when and where to look. On a guided wildlife tour you'll be driven through the valley, taken to not just the hot spots, but the places guides know you might see something special. Along the way the guides, who normally have backgrounds in wildlife biology or natural history, will give you a customizable and educational trip. "It's about providing personalized experiences, not just the hits," says Tenley Thompson, a wildlife biologist and guide with EcoTour Adventures.

Things might look a little different this year, so here are a few things to keep in mind:

- This is one of the most popular activities in the valley so plan ahead to ensure availability for your guided tour.
- Group sizes may be limited, so making reservations is key.

- Indoor services may be limited, so call ahead for information and prepare to spend more time outdoors.
- Bring warm clothes and make sure to dress in layers in case you spend time watching animals out of the vehicle and make sure to have a mask.



"We want people to feel comfortable," Thompson said. "They're going to have a great time, but a safe experience." Each guide service is taking precautions to keep our community, and you, safe and there are a few things you can do to recreate responsibly.

- Wear a mask while in vehicles with other groups or your guide. The CDC does not recommend neck gators or buffs for full protection against COVID-19. Dry, double layered face coverings are recommended. Bring an extra in case one gets wet.
- Know that vehicles and anything used during the tour like binoculars or iPads are being sanitized.
- Some tours may be limited to private groups, so inquire ahead of time.