

# Rivers of time: A Naturalist's Journey



**JUNE 20-27, 2025**

*Tracing the upper Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers, this exclusive, week-long eco-adventure masterfully weaves together history, ecology, and exhilarating exploration. Your participation directly supports Montana Freshwater Partners' vital river conservation initiatives.*

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- The unique opportunity to connect with nature and support conservation is provided by locally owned, women-led businesses
- A portion of the trip cost will be donated to Montana Freshwater Partners to protect and restore Montana's rivers
- A fully guided trip including transport, lodging, riverside camping, and meals



## TRIP COST & DETAILS

- \$3,295/\$2,795 for single/double occupancy
- Moderate activity level
- Minimum Age: 16 years old
- Trip start/end in Livingston, MT
- Max. 10 guests
- \$500 deposit to secure your spot, remainder due by April 15, 2025
- *Travel insurance is recommended*

## LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

CONTACT: WENDY WEAVER  
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*Montana Freshwater Partners is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working on wetland and river conservation across Montana.*

## DAY 1 (JUNE 20) LIVINGSTON, MT TO GARDINER, MT:

Meet in Livingston at 4:00 PM for introductions with Freshwater Partners Staff, your guides from In Our Nature and your fellow explorers. We'll have dinner, go over the trip plan and travel to our lodging at the Yellowstone River Motel in Gardiner Montana (eta by 8PM).

## DAY 2 (JUNE 21) YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK:

Meet for hot drinks and light breakfast at 5:30 AM. Depart to Yellowstone at 6:00 AM. We'll take in the incredible views of Yellowstone Lake and discuss the greater Yellowstone ecosystem's connections to major river systems on both sides of the continental divide, then follow the Yellowstone through Hayden Valley and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. We are likely to see a variety of Yellowstone's iconic birds and wildlife today. Bring your binoculars or borrow ours. We'll have spotting scopes for you to use. Lunch will be a riverside picnic. We'll return to Gardiner around 3:00 PM, in time for a wander along the Gardner River or a nap before dinner (on your own).



*In Our Nature  
Guiding Services*

## DAY 3 (JUNE 22) YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK:

Meet for hot drinks and light breakfast, depart at 5:30 AM for Yellowstone's famous northern range, exploring Slough Creek, the Lamar River and other tributaries of the Yellowstone River. We'll focus on watching wildlife and birds in the early morning, then learn about the history of the valley from geologic, pre-european and historic times to recent floods. We'll enjoy a riverside brunch and a short hike to Trout Lake. We'll be back in Gardiner by about 2 PM, in time for a nap and a walk before dinner (on your own). An afternoon rafting trip would be is an option and we are happy to help arrange.

## DAY 4 (JUNE 23) GARDINER, MT TO FORT BENTON, MT:

Sleep in a little and meet for hot drinks & light breakfast at 7:00 AM. Depart by 7:30 AM, making our way north through Paradise Valley and Shields Valley. We'll visit some of MT Freshwater Partners restoration sites to see some of the work that you are supporting by taking this trip. Lunch will be at the Harvest Moon Brewery in Belt, MT, where you'll say goodbye to your Yellowstone guides from In Our Nature Guiding Services and be welcomed by the guides at Upper Missouri River Guides. They'll take you to historic Fort Benton, where you'll stay in the beautiful Grand Union Hotel, right on the Missouri River! After checking in and seeing a little bit of the historic town, you will convene for a trip briefing. Guides will bring dry bags, give packing instructions, a safety briefing and discuss events and timing for the next day. This is a great opportunity for you to ask questions. Dinner is on your own, we'll provide recommendations.



## WHITE CLIFFS 46 MILES CANOE, CAMPING AND HIKING:

Each day, we canoe 8-14 miles with optional hikes ranging from short walks to longer treks. Breaks for stretching, swimming, and rehydrating are built into the day. Guides share the rich history, geology, and ecology of the area, spot wildlife, and highlight the incredible birding opportunities.

The trip covers the renowned 46-mile "White Cliffs" section of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, following the Lewis and Clark Expedition route. Highlights include camping at historical sites, exploring tepee rings, petroglyphs, a slot canyon, and the famous Hole in the Wall. You'll also learn about the area's unique geology and the ecological impacts of development.

Disconnect from modern life and immerse yourself in this remote, wild landscape. Our all-inclusive service provides equipment, meals, and camp setup (just bring your sleeping bag, pillow, and personal items). A preparation sheet ensures you're ready and comfortable for the adventure.



### DAY 5 (JUNE 24) LAUNCH DAY:

7:30 am: Meet at HQ (2210 Main St., Fort Benton) to park vehicles and pack. Shuttle to the launch point (~45 min drive)

10:00 am: Explore while guides prepare and load gear

11:00 am-1:00 pm: Paddle 5 miles to a riverside lunch spot, with a short hike to teepee rings and a scenic overlook

1:00-3:30 pm: Paddle 8 miles to Eagle Creek Camp, with a swim stop along the way

3:30-5:00 pm: Settle into camp while guides unload gear. Refresh with a swim or relax

5:00-7:30 pm: Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and a gourmet dinner prepared by the guides

After dinner: Optional walks to petroglyphs or camp markers, games, or relaxation. End the evening with a campfire (when permitted)!

### DAY 6 & 7 (JUNE 25 & 26):

Paddling, exploring, learning, hiking and relaxing!

6:30 am - Coffee and hot water is ready! The days progress much like the itinerary above. We paddle between 8-13 miles each day, always broken into several sections with breaks, lunch and optional hikes. The scenery just keeps getting better, and everyone settles into river life. In the afternoon and evening, enjoy the riverside relaxation, gourmet dinner and magnificent sunsets.

### DAY 7 (JUNE 27) TAKE-OUT DAY AND RETURN TO LIVINGSTON, MT:

6:30 am: Coffee & hot water ready

7:30-9:30 am: Enjoy the last morning with a sunrise, bird songs, and breakfast. Camp will be packed up one final time

9:30 am-12:00 pm: Final 12-mile paddle to Judith Landing Take-Out, with a mid-paddle stop for a bathroom break and leg stretch

12:00-1:00 pm: Arrive at take-out. Enjoy lunch under cottonwood trees while guides load gear

1:00-3:00 pm: Two-hour drive back to Fort Benton with a bathroom stop if needed

3:00 pm: Arrive at Headquarters to collect personal items and say goodbyes

Then shuttle back to Livingston.

Paddling the Missouri River Breaks



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