

July 24 -29, 2011



# LEE METCALF WILDERNESS PHOTO TOUR BY HORSEBACK

With  
John & Barbara Gerlach



Join Yellowstone Mountain Guides and wrangler/photo guides Barbara and John Gerlach for an exciting back country adventure into the heart of Montana's Lee Metcalf wilderness. We will spend six days and five nights exploring this rugged and gorgeous land above treeline. You will photograph wildflowers galore, rocky landscapes with mirror reflections in small alpine lakes, horses and mules, and camp life. Our comfortable camps, wonderful horses, and fantastic "wrangler" guides will make this a vacation you won't forget!



Yellowstone Mountain Guides Outfitter License #6485

# Lee Metcalf wilderness Photo Tour by Hor seback

Terry Search of Yellowstone Mountain Guides: Outfitter License #6485  
with John & Barbara Gerlach as your wrangler photo guides

© 2008 Gerlach Nature Photo Revised 3/11

July 24-39, 2011 5 Nights and 6 Full Days in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness

## Howdy!

If high mountain alpine country, horseback riding, superb photography, terrific food, relaxing wilderness camping, colorful alpine wildflowers, breath-taking mountain peaks reflecting in crystal clear mountain lakes at 9,000 feet, and fun-loving wrangler guides sounds like a great time, then this is the perfect adventure for you.

You'll photograph spectacular landscapes, colorful meadows carpeted with wildflowers, and photogenic brooks cascading over rocky talus slopes. You'll receive plenty of photo instruction in the field from John and Barbara Gerlach, great conversations with the group members, and exciting stories - some of them true - from our experienced wranglers. We'll fill our days leisurely riding horses - often above the treeline - to magical places where wonderful photo opportunities abound. Riding horses is a relaxing and quiet way to enjoy the wilderness in a way that few people ever experience.

## Spectacular Hilgard Basin - Our Lee Metcalf Destination

The rugged and incredibly scenic Hilgard Basin lies about 10 miles north of Quake Lake and 15 miles northwest of West Yellowstone, Montana. This secluded basin is our primary destination because it is dotted with small lakes and tiny rocky creeks cascading over talus slopes. Melting snow from the slopes of the towering mountains only a mile or less to the west are the source of all this water. Although our trip runs in late July, it's spring in the Hilgard Basin. Numerous small, but colorful alpine wildflowers blanket the moist meadows and line the meandering creeks throughout the basin.

Many small ponds and lakes dot the landscape. With towering mountain peaks to the immediate west, clear and calm mornings offer world-class opportunities for capturing spectacular reflections of rugged mountains. These reflections are perfect for shooting sets of images to be made into panoramas or employing high dynamic range (HDR) shooting techniques for making exquisite images of the

landscape. We'll teach you how to master the fabulous new techniques for successfully capturing high contrast scenes.

John and Barbara Gerlach are avid equestrians who prefer high mountain trail and cross-country riding. We have ridden over numerous mountain peaks, but the Hilgard basin area is our favorite. The scenery is simply spellbinding! Everyone on our first trip in 2008 said, "the Hilgard Basin is the most beautiful place they have ever visited!"

## Will You be Roughing It?

No, but tell your friends you plan to rough it in the rugged alpine country of the Lee Metcalf wilderness anyway. Don't tell them that a warm sleeping bag, air mattress, and tent is provided. And you can omit the fact that you'll have access to a solar shower. The wranglers cook meals that are so delicious and ample, that you may gain weight on this tour, too. With a little imagination, you'll create some cowboy "tall tales" of your own to tell the folks back home.

## Do you need previous horseback riding experience?

Absolutely not. Terry's horses are experienced taking good care of riders with little to no experience. They frequently carry beginners along mountain trails and across shallow creeks and rivers. However, you must be physically able to spend a couple hours at a time in the saddle.

## Daily Trip Schedule

Day 1 - Arrive in West Yellowstone. Stay at any of the hotel's listed toward the end of this brochure.

Day 2 - We pick you up and transport you to the trail head in the morning. After an orientation meeting at the trail head, you'll meet your horse, of course! We mount up and begin our horseback journey to the first campsite. We'll enjoy a leisurely ride, climbing gradually all of the time. We will photograph along the way, take breaks as needed, and eat our lunch, too. Plenty of wildflowers make fine photo subjects at our first camp. This will be your first night camping in this beautiful wilderness, far from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

day 3 - Our day begins by photographing wildflowers and landscapes around our camp and enjoying a hearty breakfast. Then we take a leisurely ride along photogenic streams, photographing landscapes and the multitude of wildflowers as we encounter them. We will enjoy one more night at the first camp site, before riding farther up the mountain slopes on the following morning.

day 4 - We make our longest, but leisurely, ride of the trip passing through lush forests, crossing creeks, and through huge open meadows - climbing slowly all the way - to our camp along the shore of fabulous Lake Ha Hand at 9,300 feet. This campsite is nestled in a small group of whitebark pines at the treeline. It offers million dollar views in all directions. It is so gorgeous that you may have trouble believing you get to spend so much time here. The abundant alpine wildflowers include mountain bluebells, shooting stars, American globeflower, alpine laurel, pink mountain heather, pygmy bitter root, yellow mountain heath, bracted lousewort, marsh marigold, indian paintbrush, and many others.

day 5 - We remain at this fabulous camp for three more nights. After enjoying a yummy breakfast and photographing scenes and wildflowers at dawn each morning around camp, we take day rides to explore and photograph the alpine wilderness all around us.

day 6 - We continue shooting rugged landscapes at dawn, looking for mirror reflections in the numerous small lakes around the campsite. As always, we will photograph the amazingly abundant wildflowers around camp, before taking an optional day ride/photo trip to nearby peaks and ridges that offer outstanding views and wonderful photo opportunities. Be sure to bring a dedicated electronic flash with a wireless controller or a two-foot long cord so we can help you master the art of "fill-flash." Also, with our help and guidance, everyone on this trip will master the art of shooting superb sets of HDR images. This is a new technique using specialized software where detail in the brightest highlights and the darkest shadows can be easily captured, so scene contrast is no longer a problem. HDR is an awesome technique!

day 7 - We'll photograph wildflowers and landscapes before and after breakfast. Then we pack up and leisurely ride down the mountain slopes. We expect to reach the trail head by 4:00 p.m. Then we transfer you to your hotel or car.

day 8 - This is a travel day for you to return home or to continue your Yellowstone adventure on your own. If you have time to visit nearby

Yellowstone or Grand Teton National Parks, we strongly encourage you to rent or drive your own car to visit these wonderful places, too. We'll happily offer suggestions about where to go and what to see and photograph. Our instructional DVD, "Photographing Yellowstone National Park," tells you where to go to find the best photo prospects in the front country.

#### Trip Dates:

This trip begins on the morning of July 24 (Sunday) and ends in the late afternoon on July 29 (Friday), 2011.

#### Trip Cost:

Tour price is \$2550.

#### This price includes:

- \* All outfitter fees which include horses, mules, tents, sleeping bags, wranglers, camp chef, and national forest user fees.
- \* All meals beginning with lunch on Day 2 and ending with lunch on Day 7
- \* Transfers to and from the Island Park/West Yellowstone meeting site
- \* Photographic instruction from wrangler guides John & Barbara Gerlach during the trip
- \* All the "tall tales" you want to hear

#### What is not included:

Tips to the other two wrangler/guides who also cook - about \$150 total suggested. John and Barbara do not accept tips.

Items of a personal nature

Motel lodging before or after the tour

#### Our First Meeting

For those who have their own vehicle, we would like to meet at John & Barbara Gerlach's home near Henry's Lake in Island Park, ID where your vehicle will be safe. You will be transported from their home to the trail head. If you are staying in West Yellowstone, Terry Search will pick you up and drive you to the trail head.

We'll pick you up in the morning on Day 2 and return you to the hotel late in the afternoon on Day 7. (The exact time will be arranged.) You will need a room for the night of Day 1 and perhaps the night of Day 7.

You can fly into West Yellowstone. A small airport near town services the city during the summer months. The following three area hotels all offer free shuttle service from and to the airport. Contact them directly to make room reservations. We'll be happy to pick you up at the hotel on the morning of Day 2 and

return you to the hotel in the evening on Day 7.

Holiday Inn (1-800-646-7365)  
 Brandin' Iron Motel (1-800-217-4613)  
 Pony Express Motel (406)-646-7644)

### Packing Instructions:

Remember that we are using horses and mules, so we must pack light which includes both clothes and camera gear. That means you can't take everything. Here is the equipment John is taking. This provides an example of what we think is most likely to be used. (You do not need to duplicate what is listed here. It is only meant as a guideline.)

- 1 Canon EOS 7D digital camera
- 1 Canon 70-200mm zoom lens
- 1 Canon 24-70mm zoom lens
- 1 Canon 17-40mm zoom lens
- 1 Canon 180mm macro
- 1 small Gitzo Tripod (smaller than I normally use to save on weight)
- 1 Kirk BH-3 ball head (it's smaller than BH-1)
- 1 Electronic Cable release
- Polarizing filters to fit all lenses, except 180mm macro
- 2 16GB Compact Flash cards
- 1 Plamp to hold flowers still
- Extra batteries for camera and flash
- 1 Canon ST-E2 wireless flash controller
- 1 Canon 580 II flash

All of this should weigh less than 25 pounds.

We really don't get a chance to photograph much wildlife, so leave your long lenses at home, unless you plan to shoot the Yellowstone front country on your own. However, most digital cameras have a crop factor, so even a 300mm lens acts like a 450mm lens on a camera with a 1.5x crop factor.

We know you may still have questions, so please Email them to [michele@gerlachnaturephoto.com](mailto:michele@gerlachnaturephoto.com). Your outfitter, Yellowstone Mountain Guides, will send you complete pre-departure information when you enroll. We are really looking forward to sharing with you this fantastic photo tour of Lee Metcalf's Hilgard Basin by horse. It's a wonderful way to explore the rugged wilderness mountain peaks while capturing spectacular images of places few people ever see.

### How to Enroll in This Tour

Please contact Terry & Angela Search who own Yellowstone Mountain Guides. They will send you all the paperwork. A deposit of 50% of the trip price which is \$1275 is required to hold your spot. The balance of \$1275 is due two weeks before the start of the trip.

Terry & Angela Search  
 Yellowstone Mountain Guides  
 P.O. Box 70  
 West Yellowstone, MT 59758  
 Phone/Fax 406-646-7230

Email: [Search@Yellowstone-Guides.com](mailto:Search@Yellowstone-Guides.com)  
[www.Yellowstone-Guides.com](http://www.Yellowstone-Guides.com)

### Your Guides:

Terry and Angela Search own Yellowstone Mountain Guides. Terry has been leading wilderness horse and mule pack trips for more than 20 years. His experience and love for the mountains surrounding West Yellowstone is readily apparent when you meet him. He is a long-time licensed tour outfitter in the national forest (#6485) and in Yellowstone National Park. He is considered to be one of the finest outfitters in the entire Yellowstone ecosystem!

John & Barbara Gerlach, your photo wrangler guides, are professional nature photographers who live in the picturesque mountains near West Yellowstone, Montana. Barbara grew up on a horse farm in Ohio, so she has owned and ridden horses her entire life. She's a skilled mountain rider who enjoys teaching others how to ride. John and Barbara ride their horses more than one-hundred times a year into the mountains to find wonderful subjects to photograph like wildflowers, mountain scenery, moose, blue grouse, and waterfalls. John and Barbara agree the best way to see the back country is from the back of a horse. That's why they call it back country (we think!). It's a quiet way to travel, so you can hear the birds sing, creeks babble, leaves rustle in the breeze, and other pleasant sounds of nature. The height advantage from a horse provides a wonderful viewpoint for spotting both wildlife and wildflowers alike. John and Barbara ride their own trail horses (Teton & Joker - both gentle, but spirited Tennessee Walkers)!

Please consider joining us to explore the magnificent Lee Metcalf wilderness. It's certain to be a memorable trip that offers a tremendous amount of fun and fantastic photo possibilities. Space is limited, so please reserve your spot right away. Call Terry Search now at (406) 646-7230 to enroll.

Happy trails partner,

Terry & Angela Search  
 John & Barbara Gerlach



### Reservation Form

Please call **Terry Search** first to make sure space is still available. Call him at (406) 646-7230 or [search@yellowstone-guides.com](mailto:search@yellowstone-guides.com). Please return this completed reservation form along with your \$1275 deposit

TO: Yellowstone Mountain Guides

PO Box 70

West Yellowstone MT

(406) 646-7230

This information below will help with the rooming.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Male     Female    Age \_\_\_\_\_

If traveling with someone Name of Second Person

\_\_\_\_\_

Male     Female    Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone :Day: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Night: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please enroll me in the workshop session as indicated below:  
Lee Metcalf Wilderness Photo Tour

July 24-29, 2011

### Method of Payment

Personal Check:

I enclosed  \$1275 deposit per person

\$2550 full payment per person

Full Amount is Due July 7, 2011

Make checks payable to:

**Yellowstone Mountain Guides**

