



TRIP DESCRIPTION
NOLS ALUMNI LLAMA TREK IN THE WIND RIVER MOUNTAINS
JULY 11 – 16, 2011

Features of This Trip

- 6 days and 5 nights in the field
- Approximately 15-mile route
- Hiking at elevations of 7,000- 10,500 feet
- NOLS core curriculum
- Backcountry Camping in the Wind Rivers
- Options for fishing, non-technical peaks and day hiking
- llama support
- Group size: up to 12 participants and 3 instructors

Cost: \$1,275

Minimum Age: 10 (accompanied by adult)

Trip Description

This six-day trip provides NOLS grads, families and guests an opportunity to re-connect with NOLS in the high country of Wyoming's stunning Wind River Mountains. The route offers a moderate level of hiking with average hiking days around 3 miles. For those that want more hiking, there will be options to do additional day hiking with an instructor. The route offers opportunities for fly-fishing, non-technical peak ascents, photography and learning about area ecology. Llamas will lighten the group's packs by carrying most team gear and food. As usual on a NOLS course, participants carry personal clothing layers. Cooking will be done as instructor-lead teams in a group kitchen.

Environment

The Wind River Mountains offer a variety of terrain— wooded trails, mountain lakes, flowery meadows and expansive granite slabs. Moose, elk, mule deer and coyotes live in the area and are often seen by quiet watchers at dawn and dusk. Black bears frequent the range. The majority of our hiking will be done on established trails with limited signage. In addition, weather this time of year can be variable including hot sunny days or several days of wet, overcast weather. Mosquitoes can be tenacious, especially early and late in the day. The route, team and topography lends itself to many optional activities— spend time day hiking, fly-fishing, reading, taking photographs, baking, or learning plant identification. Sharing NOLS backcountry activities with friends and family creates fantastic lifetime memories.

Curriculum

This trip's curriculum focuses on traditional NOLS skills and practical llama handling. The trip format provides a chance for everyone to learn new skills and share in the education. Instructors will present information and techniques for the group to comfortably travel and camp in the wilderness. Additional topics like backcountry baking, fly-fishing, flower identification and leadership can also be presented to those interested.

Alumni trips are more relaxed than a typical NOLS course however; it is not a vacation or a guided trip. Trips are self-reliant expeditions through remote wilderness areas where evacuation to modern medical facilities can take several days. Throughout the trip, you live outdoors, prepare your own meals, and care for yourself and the team. The expedition format emphasizes hands-on learning and application of new skills in a variety of situations.

Planned Itinerary

July 10 – 7 p.m,	Orientation meeting @ NOLS HQ – 284 Lincoln Street, Lander	To allow for travel challenges and jet lag, we urge participants to arrive in Lander this day. Lodging is on your own.
July 11 – 8 a.m.	Trip starts – NOLS Rocky Mtn. outfitting facility –502 Lincoln Street, Lander. Breakfast on your own.	We'll pack up and head to the mountains to meet the llamas. Hiking distance is about 3 miles.
July 12-15	Backcountry	Mix of hiking and layover days.
July 16 – mid-day	Pickup at the trailhead.	Return to Lander to clean and deissue gear. Lodging on your own. Optional non-host dinner.

Trip Logistics

There will be an informal meeting at the NOLS Headquarters building (corner of Lincoln and 3rd streets) at 7:00 pm on Sunday July 10 to meet everyone and to briefly review the details of the trip. The trip officially begins at 8:00am on Monday, July 11. That morning will be spent pulling gear together and packing our packs to hit the road that afternoon. It will be very helpful to have spent some time going over your gear before you arrive and making sure that it meets the requirements of the equipment list.

Your tuition includes meals starting with lunch on July 11 through lunch on July 16, as well as all group equipment, field transportation, llama support, access fees and instruction. Not included in the tuition are travel to/from Lander; lodging on July 10 and 16; and meals not indicated.

The hiking portion of the trip ends in the early afternoon of Saturday, July 16. We will use the rest of the afternoon de-issuing our gear, showering and formally end our trip. Dinner on July 16 is not provided but there will be an option to go dine as a group for those interested.

Travel Options

Riverton, Jackson Hole, Casper, Wyoming, and Salt Lake City, Utah are all viable airports. Since the closest airport to Lander is 30-miles, you'll need to utilize a rental car or regional shuttle (Wind River Transit Authority: 800. 439.7118). Check your maps for driving times and distances.

If you are delayed

If you have any problems on arrival day, please leave a message at (307) 332-2265, the front desk at the NOLS Noble Hotel.

Accommodations in Lander

Camping is available in City Park and Sinks Canyon State Park (6-miles from town). Try the Pronghorn Lodge (307.332.3940) or the Inn at Lander (800.528.1234) for lodging near NOLS and eateries in the downtown area. Luggage not going into the field will be stored in lockers at NOLS. Although we assume no responsibility, due care will be taken to prevent theft or damage of your stored items. Valuables may be stored in our safe. Vehicles will be parked in an unfenced parking lot with little or no security.

Registration and Payment

To reserve a space on this trip, please submit a non-refundable deposit to the NOLS Alumni Department. We take Mastercard or Visa via phone at 800.332.4280 or a check can be mailed to: NOLS Alumni Department, 284 Lincoln Street, Lander, WY 82520. The remainder of the tuition and all application forms are due 30-days before to the trip's start.

If you have any questions about this trip, please contact the NOLS alumni office at 800.332.4280, or alumni@nols.edu