A group of five hikers, four women and one man, are standing on a rocky, dirt trail overlooking a coastline. They are all wearing backpacks and hiking gear. The background features a steep, rocky cliff on the left, a sandy beach, and the ocean under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The hikers are smiling and posing for the photo.

# ALUMNI TRIPS CATALOG

2023

# Come travel the world with NOLS!



This map is a representation of the world many of us are familiar with, but presents a view of the world that is centered on Europe and North America. While we've chosen to use this map for clarity, we invite you to educate yourself on different versions of maps and how these can impact your view of the world [here](#).



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Spread the Word  
Reunions  
NOLS Fund

## ACTIVITY SCALE ✓

*This is a subjective rating of anticipated physical difficulty for alumni trips. Weather, route, and group dynamics can combine to make alumni trips more or less difficult.*



Moderate

Difficult

Cover photo: Hilary Murnigham

## Thank you.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has been a challenging time for everyone and NOLS was no exception. The school is still struggling with the impacts but thanks to the generosity and support of our Alumni we see a path forward.

NOLS Alumni trips are incredible adventures that take us to some of the world's most amazing places. To make it even better, we get to do it with fellow NOLSie's. The true value in these trips though is bringing our passionate grads, their families, and friends back to NOLS to inject our community with energy and life.

## Thank you for being a part of NOLS.

Travis Welch  
NOLS Alumni Trips Director

## LIST OF TRIPS BY TYPE

### Backpacking

Alaska's Talkeetna Mountains  
Backpacking and Fly Fishing with Llamas  
in Wyoming  
Bhutan's Chomolhari Circuit  
Bhutan's Snowman Trek  
Chile's Torres del Paine National Park  
Croatia's Velebit Mountains  
India's Himalayas  
Iceland's Volcanic Trails  
Ireland's Coast  
Italy's Alps - Tour de Combin  
Italy's Dolomites - Alta Via #1  
Italy's Lakes District  
Italy's Tuscan Countryside and Ligurian Coast  
Lightweight Backpacking  
Nepal's Manaslu Circuit  
New Zealand's Old Ghost Road  
Portugal's Fisherman Trail  
Scotland's Isle of Arran  
Scotland's Speyside Way  
Slovenia's Julian Alps  
Sweden's Kungsleden Trail  
Thailand's Northern Jungles  
Utah's Canyons  
Washington's Olympic Coast  
Wyoming's Wind River Traverse  
Wyoming's Wind Rivers-Peak Bagging

### Mountaineering & Technical

Alaska's Denali  
Argentina's Aconcagua  
Arizona's Mount Lemmon Rock Climbing  
Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro  
Utah's Technical Canyoneering  
Washington's Mount Rainier  
Washington's Mount Baker  
Wyoming's Gannett Peak

### Water

Canoeing Utah's San Juan River  
Rafting Utah's Gates of Lodore  
Sailing in Greece's Ionian Sea  
Sea Kayaking Alaska's Prince William Sound  
Sea Kayaking along Croatia's Dalmatian Coast  
Sea Kayaking in New Zealand

### Unique Experiences

Backcountry Skiing Japan's Hokkaido Island  
Horsepacking in Wyoming's Wind River Range  
Nordic Skiing under Sweden's Northern Lights





## Mountaineering on Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro



### DATES

March 26–April 3, 2023  
 April 6–14, 2023  
 April 16–24, 2023

### COST

\$3,895  
 Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Arusha

Join us for an attempt at the summit of Tanzania's iconic Mount Kilimanjaro (19,340 feet). This expedition attempts Africa's tallest peak while exploring the landscape and culture of Tanzania. The route travels on muddy trails, up steep rocky scrambles, across hard snow, and through thick jungles. Porters help carry the loads as well as preparing meals and sharing their culture with the group. [More info](#)

### Physicality

Low activity, easy walking High altitude, rough trails, long uphill, heavy packs

### Sleeping & Eating

Hotel lodging, restaurant meals Camping, simple meals

### Weather

Moderate temps, little precipitation Extreme hot/cold temps, lots of precipitation

### OVERALL DIFFICULTY

Mild Difficult

Porters carry the heavy gear, but it's a long hike at high elevation.

ASIA

## Backpacking Bhutan's Chomolhari Circuit



Join NOLS on this culturally-immersive trip to Bhutan and see for yourself why the “Land of the Thunder Dragon” is so enchanting. This hiking trip ascends gradually to a high point of 16,000 feet using horses to carry the bulk of the gear. The base of Chomolhari (24,000 feet), Bhutan’s holiest mountain, is your goal for the trek. Along the way you will visit the rural villages, farms, and people who thrive in the valleys of the Himalaya.

[More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



High altitude and elevation gains make this a physically demanding trip.

### DATES

March 26–April 5, 2023

### COST

\$11,895

Includes round-trip flight to Bhutan from Bangkok

Travis Welch



NEW

ASIA

# Backpacking Bhutan's Snowman Trek



Fewer people complete Bhutan's Snowman Trek each year than successfully climb Mt. Everest. This ambitious, month-long, 200+ mile route rarely dips below 13,000 feet and has a high mark of nearly 17,500 feet. The trail crosses eleven high mountain passes as it wanders along the trade routes of the Himalaya. Those that walk this route are rewarded with remote Himalayan vistas and villages that few others ever see. [More info](#)

## Physicality



## Sleeping & Eating



## Weather



## OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Mule's carry the bulk of the gear, but this high-altitude hike is extremely challenging.

## DATES

September 23–October 22, 2023 (tentative dates)

## COST

\$TBD

Includes round-trip flight to Bhutan from Bangkok

Travis Welch

## Backpacking Nepal's Manaslu Circuit

Travis Welch

### DATES

October 19–November 3, 2023  
November 6–12, 2023

### COST

\$4,395

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Kathmandu*

The Manaslu Circuit is one of Nepal's great treks and also one of its least popular because of the challenges to get to it. The route moves up two massive glacial valleys for the first 10 days, stopping in small villages to stay in tea houses. Then, cresting a 17,000-foot pass, you reach the pinnacle of the journey with the help of your team of NOLSies. Come along with NOLS as we smooth out the logistics and make this incredible journey truly the trip of your life. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*You will carry a 25-35 lb pack and hike into high elevations.*



# Backpacking India's Himalayas

Travis Welch



## DATES

June 19-29, 2023

## COST

\$2,995

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Leh*

India's Ladakh region is one of the historic seats of Buddhism in the world and the soaring peaks around you will certainly inspire thoughts outside of yourself. This high-altitude trip will travel through the passes and mountains of the Ladakh region of Northern India. You will have a light pack as mules carry your gear from camp to camp and our expedition team provides full support. [More info](#)

## Physicality



## Sleeping & Eating



## Weather



## OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Your pack is light, but high elevation and camping life is a challenge for most folks.*

## Backpacking in Thailand's Northern Jungles



Explore the rugged mountains and villages in northern Thailand with NOLS. Local guides join NOLS instructors as the team travels through and stays in the small villages of the Karen people. The mountainous Mae Hong Son region is a must-see in Thailand. This beautiful province offers remote landscapes, jungle environments, Buddhist culture, and welcoming rural communities. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Cultural immersion blends with challenging, trailed jungle backpacking.

### DATES

January 2024

### COST

\$2,695

Includes intra country flight and pre- and post-trip lodging in Chiang Mai



NEW

ASIA

## Backcountry Skiing Japan's Hokkaido Island



### DATES

January 31-February 8, 2023  
February 10-18, 2023

### COST

\$4,895  
Includes pre-and post-trip lodging

Japan's Hokkaido island is quickly becoming a world-class destination for skiers of all types. While most skiers stay in-bounds, coming with NOLS will allow you to get off-piste and ski terrain that most people only dream about. Stringing together hotels ensures creature comforts so bodies can recover from routinely robust and demanding days in the backcountry.

### More info

#### Physicality



#### Sleeping & Eating



#### Weather



#### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



You will have to earn those downhill turns by skinning to the top of most runs.

## Bring your friends and family along!

NOLS Alumni trips are a great way to introduce your friends and family to NOLS. Most of our Alumni trips are appropriate for bringing guests along to join in the fun. Your job is to make sure they know what they are getting into: remember, NOLS Alumni trips are not guided vacations; folks have to pull their own weight in order to get to the places we go!





## Backpacking Scotland's Speyside Way



Join a group of NOLS grads for spectacular walking from Scotland's high Cairngorms peaks to the North Sea. We will trek ~70 miles between small hotels with light backpacks in the heart of pastoral whiskey country. The challenge on this trip is typically the weather while the food and lodging is a highlight!

### More info

#### Physicality



#### Sleeping & Eating



#### Weather



#### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Enjoy light packs, lengthy hikes, a luggage shuttle, and inn living.

#### DATES

May 13-21, 2023

May 24-June 1, 2023

#### COST

\$3,395

Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Aviemore

# Backpacking Scotland's Isle of Arran



Join us for a circumnavigation of Scotland's remote Isle of Arran, a rugged island with such topographic diversity that it's called "Scotland in miniature." This 65-mile backpacking trip blends trails, beach/boulder walking, highland-like grassy peaks, and shuttles. Highlights include Goat Fell peak, comfortable inns, Brodick Castle, exploration of a Buddhist retreat, extensive Bronze-Age standing stones, and a wee whiskey tasting at the Arran Distillery. [More info](#)

## Physicality



*Low activity,  
easy walking*

*High altitude, rough trails,  
long uphill, heavy packs*

## Sleeping & Eating



*Hotel lodging,  
restaurant meals*

*Camping, simple meals*

## Weather



*Moderate temps,  
little precipitation*

*Extreme hot/cold temps,  
lots of precipitation*

## OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Mild*

*Difficult*

*Enjoy light packs, challenging hikes, and inn living.*

## DATES

May 2-9, 2023

## COST

\$3,595

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Brodick*



## Backpacking Ireland's Coast

Marina Egorova



### DATES

July 1-7, 2023  
July 9-15, 2023

### COST

\$3,395

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Ennis*

Explore the trails of Ireland's western coast from Ennis north to the Cliffs of Moher, the Aran Islands, and the Connemara region with a light backpack and a group of fellow NOLS grads, families, and friends. This trip stays in small inns where the music is traditional and the food is incredible. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Enjoy variable hikes, light backpacks, and upscale inns along the Emerald Isle's west coast.*



NEW

EUROPE

## Backpacking Iceland's Volcanic Trails



### DATES

July 11-18, 2023  
July 20-27, 2023

### COST

\$3,995  
Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Reykjavik

Join us for a challenging and immensely scenic backpacking trip in Iceland as we hike hut-to-hut under the midnight sun. This trip travels amongst Iceland's Volcanic Trail huts, one of Iceland's most remote and impressive wilderness areas. Highlights include dramatic and varied topography, incredible flora, and glaciers that drain into wild, raging rivers, and a natural hot springs. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Sleeping in huts lightens your backpack, but long trails and fickle weather make this trip challenging.*

Travis Welch

## Backpacking Slovenia's Julian Alps



### DATES

June 29–July 6, 2023  
 August 29–September 6, 2023  
 September 8–16, 2023

### COST

\$2,595  
 Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Ljubljana

Join us on a spectacular hike in Slovenia's Julian Alps where we'll explore the steep trails, high passes, peaks, and rich cultural milieu of Triglav National Park. This unique trip merges rural mountainous landscapes with old-Europe charm and new-country independence. This hut-to-hut backpacking trip starts in Slovenia's capital, Ljubljana, and includes a visit to Slovenia's top tourist destination, Lake Bled. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Inn lodging means culture, comfortable rooms, cooked meals, and light backpacks on trail days.

# Backpacking Italy's Lakes District

Massimo Fersini



## DATES

June 7-14, 2023

## COST

\$3,395

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging*

This trip is NOLS' newest Italian hiking adventure and will explore the world-famous lakes district in north-central Italy. Spend seven days hiking the shores and nearby spires around spectacular Lakes Como, Lugano and Maggiore, while staying in a combination of hotels and "rifugi" (rustic inn-style lodgings). Explore the peaks, culture and cuisine of this iconic region with NOLS. [More info](#)

## Physicality



## Sleeping & Eating



## Weather



## OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*There are a few long days with elevation gains, but also light packs and comfortable lodging.*



## Backpacking Italy's Dolomites - Alta Via #1



### DATES

June 17-24, 2023  
August 28-September 4, 2023  
September 6-13, 2023  
September 14-21, 2023

### COST

\$3,295  
Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Bolzano

NOLS grads, friends, and families are invited to spend a week hiking in the awe-inspiring Dolomites. Traveling between “rifugi” (rustic inn-style lodgings), your group will savor Italian cuisine and culture with mostly European travelers. The team carries light backpacks on challenging daily hikes among the stunning peaks of northern Italy. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Long trail days include steep up and down hiking, but hut living means backpacks are light.

## Backpacking Italy's Alps - Tour de Combin



Join a convivial NOLS team for spectacular hiking in the heart of the Alps—backpacking between “rifugi” and “cabanes” (rustic inn-style lodging) in the alpine high country. This challenging adventure starts in Italy, crosses the famed St. Bernard Pass, circumnavigates Switzerland’s Grand Combin Peak (elevation 4314 m.) and re-crosses the border into Italy. The group carries light packs on this demanding hike among iconic spires, glaciers, valleys, and peaks. [More info](#)

### Physicality



*Low activity,  
easy walking*

*High altitude, rough trails,  
long uphill, heavy packs*

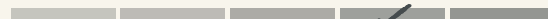
### Sleeping & Eating



*Hotel lodging,  
restaurant meals*

*Camping, simple meals*

### Weather



*Moderate temps,  
little precipitation*

*Extreme hot/cold temps,  
lots of precipitation*

### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Mild*

*Difficult*

*Steep up and down hiking with consistent long days, but hut living means backpacks are light.*

### DATES

August 17-24, 2023

### COST

\$3,495

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging*



# Backpacking Italy's Tuscan Countryside and Ligurian Coast



Join a group of NOLS grads, friends, families, and instructors for exploration and camaraderie along the Ligurian Coast and Tuscan countryside. We use a combination of trains, shuttles, and foot power to connect small hotels in Italy's early autumn. This trip mixes backpacking with exploration of the region's iconic towns, villages, rural areas, and ancient landmarks. [More info](#)

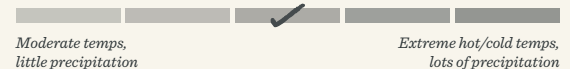
## Physicality



## Sleeping & Eating



## Weather



## OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Inn lodging means culture, comfortable rooms, cooked meals, and light backpacks on trail days.

## DATES

September 18-16, 2023

## COST

\$3,795

Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Milan



# Backpacking Portugal's Fisherman Trail



## DATES

April 12-21, 2023  
 April 23 May 2, 2023  
 October 20-29, 2023  
 November 1-10, 2023

## COST

\$3,495-\$3,595  
*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Lisbon*

Join this trip along Portugal's stunning southwestern coast. The trip includes cultural connection in Lisbon and a daily gear transfer service to keep packs light on the trail. We'll lodge in guesthouses and small hotels, dining on simple regional cuisine. It's real hiking with long mileage, seaside cliff navigation, plenty of sand and beaches with jaw dropping vistas.

## More info

### Physicality



*Low activity,  
easy walking*

*High altitude, rough trails,  
long uphill, heavy packs*

### Sleeping & Eating



*Hotel lodging,  
restaurant meals*

*Camping, simple meals*

### Weather



*Moderate temps,  
little precipitation*

*Extreme hot/cold temps,  
lots of precipitation*

### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Mild*

*Difficult*

*Long trail days include beaches, sand, and some country lanes, but a daily gear transfer keeps daypacks light.*

## Backpacking Sweden's Kungsleden Trail



Hiking along Sweden's Kungsleden trail and staying in backcountry huts allows this trip to carry easily manageable backpacks. This style of travel is common in Europe and our group will share time and space with Scandinavians along the route. The trail is spectacular, winding through northern Sweden and exploring Lapland on foot while the foliage transitions to stunning fall colors. [More info](#)

### Physicality



*Low activity,  
easy walking*

*High altitude, rough trails,  
long uphill, heavy packs*

### Sleeping & Eating



*Hotel lodging,  
restaurant meals*

*Camping, simple meals*

### Weather



*Moderate temps,  
little precipitation*

*Extreme hot/cold temps,  
lots of precipitation*

### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Mild*

*Difficult*

*Hiking on uneven terrain with full packs is challenging.*

### DATES

September 7-16, 2023

### COST

\$2,995

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Kiruna*

*Molly Hagbrand*

NEW

EUROPE

## Skiing under Sweden's Northern Lights



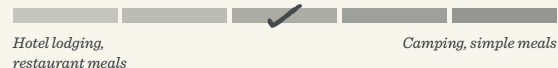
NOLS has been operating in Sweden for years, but this trip is our first Scandinavian winter adventure. You will ski from heated hut to heated hut along Sweden's national trail, the Kungsleden. This is true Nordic skiing according to the Swedes but cross country skiing is the most comparable style of travel on this well marked trail, no experience is needed. Anticipated highlights of this trip are the Northern Lights, Scandinavian culture, short hours of daylight, and miles of rolling trail.

[More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Skiing with packs can be challenging.*

### DATES

March 8-15, 2023  
March 18-25, 2023

### COST

\$3,195  
*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging*


*Tim Nordstroem*



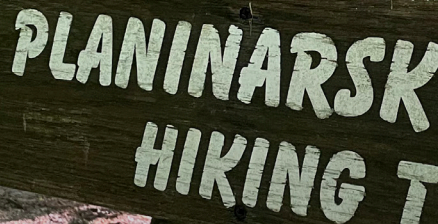
NEW

EUROPE

## Backpacking Croatia's Velebit Mountains



← 1, 2, 3



← PLANINARSKI  
HIKING TRAIL

### DATES

June 6-15, 2023

### COST

\$2,995

Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Zagreb

Travis Welch

Join NOLS on our Inaugural trip to the Velebit coast range in Croatia! We have been eyeing this outstanding hut to hut trip for many years now and are excited to add it to our offerings. The limestone mountains of the Velebit are relatively unexplored by non-Croatians but a rustic hut system is in place to make the adventure a bit more comfortable. Vehicle support keeps our packs minimal and allows hikers to stretch their legs a bit further each day. [More info](#)

### Physicality

Low activity,  
easy walking

High altitude, rough trails,  
long uphill, heavy packs

### Sleeping & Eating

Hotel lodging,  
restaurant meals

Camping, simple meals

### Weather

Moderate temps,  
little precipitation

Extreme hot/cold temps,  
lots of precipitation

### OVERALL DIFFICULTY

Mild

Difficult

Vehicle support means daypacks are light, but the terrain and mileage is challenging.

## Sea Kayaking along Croatia's Dalmatian Coast

Travis Welch



### DATES

June 19-26, 2023

September 17-24, 2023

September 26-October 3, 2023

### COST

\$2,695-2,795

Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in  
Dubrovnik

Paddle Croatia's Elaphiti Island Archipelago and make nightly stops at guesthouses in picturesque villages. Sea kayaking and exploring the scenic southern Croatian coastline offers opportunities to indulge in traditional Adriatic culture and culinary specialties. You'll also develop and practice technical paddling and rescue skills in the area's renowned turquoise seas. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Guesthouse lodging means light gear, but paddling on windy days and carrying boats takes effort.



## Sailing in Greece's Ionian Sea

Join us sailing along Greece's Ionian Sea. This trip for novices and experienced sailors alike builds upon individual experience and adds more complex sailing skills, while exploring the islands' incredible cultural histories and beautiful seas aboard a 40+' liveaboard keelboat.

[More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Keelboat sailing in Greece means challenging winds and tight quarters.

### DATES

April 30-May 9, 2023  
May 11-20, 2023

### COST

\$5,595  
Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Nidri



## Canoeing Utah's San Juan River

The San Juan River in southern Utah provides an incredible opportunity to travel through stunning red rock canyon country. This canoe float trip will provide a family friendly environment for exploration of the geological and human history of the river valley. Appropriate for canoeists of all levels, this is a great adventure to share with your family and friends. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



This trip is relaxed, but there is plenty to do around camp and on short hikes.

### DATES

May 28–June 3, 2023

### COST

\$2,595

# Rafting Utah's Gates of Lodore



## DATES

August 4-7, 2023

## COST

\$1,295

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging*

Designed for families but great for anyone, this trip floats the Green River through Utah's Gates of Lodore Canyon. Bring the kids along (ages 12+) and have a rafting adventure through one of the most scenic river canyons in the U.S. Your instructors will help navigate the Class III river in rafts and possibly inflatable kayaks, ensuring that fun is had by all. [More info](#)

## Physicality



## Sleeping & Eating



## Weather



## OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Participants are expected to paddle, but life on this river trip isn't too strenuous.*



NEW

NORTH  
AMERICA

## Backpacking Alaska's Talkeetna Mountains



### DATES

July 30–August 5, 2023

### COST

\$2,195

Join NOLS for a week long backpacking trip in Alaska's Talkeetna Mountain Range. On this trip you will shoulder a full-size pack and head into the Alaskan wilderness for some mostly on-trail travel with a group of fellow NOLSie's. We will aspire for grand views of Denali on this trip and hope for the best possible weather. [More info](#)

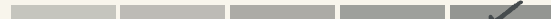
### Physicality



*Low activity,  
easy walking*

*High altitude, rough trails,  
long uphill, heavy packs*

### Sleeping & Eating



*Hotel lodging,  
restaurant meals*

*Camping, simple meals*

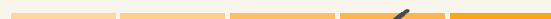
### Weather



*Moderate temps,  
little precipitation*

*Extreme hot/cold temps,  
lots of precipitation*

### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Mild*

*Difficult*

*Carrying a full pack with a week of rations is challenging.*

*Ethan Mauldin*



NEW

## Backpacking Washington's Olympic Coast



### DATES

September 10-16, 2023

### COST

\$2,195

Coastal hiking in the Pacific Northwest means you will travel through one of the rare temperate rainforests in the continental U.S. This truly unique forest and tidepool environment is a playground for aspiring naturalists wanting to explore the zone where the sea meets the land. Backpack your way along the rocky coast, timing hikes with the tide while enjoying the camaraderie of a NOLS group. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Hiking on uneven coastal terrain with heavy packs is challenging.

# Backpacking Wyoming's Wind River Traverse

Kristen Lovelace



## DATES

August 6-14, 2023

## COST

\$2,295

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Lander*

Wyoming's Wind River Range is calling! Polish your backcountry travel and camping techniques on an amazing and challenging traverse of one of America's best mountain ranges. The team hopscotches the Continental Divide, reviewing all parts of the NOLS backpacking curriculum, including fly fishing. [More info](#)

## Physicality



## Sleeping & Eating



## Weather



## OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*This trip includes challenging hikes with heavy packs on an aggressive route.*



## Backpacking Wyoming's Wind Rivers: Peak Bagging



### DATES

August 17-26, 2023

### COST

\$2,495

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Lander*

*Sage Catton*

“Peak bagging” means hiking up high, prominent summits, crossing steep slopes, navigating boulder fields, and doing what it takes to get safely to the summit and back. This is a non-technical expedition—you won’t need ropes or carry climbing gear. This challenging backpacking trip will attempt as many named peaks and high points as possible in the granite core of the iconic Wind River Mountains.

[More info](#)

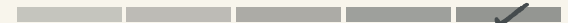
### Physicality



*Low activity,  
easy walking*

*High altitude, rough trails,  
long uphill, heavy packs*

### Sleeping & Eating



*Hotel lodging,  
restaurant meals*

*Camping, simple meals*

### Weather



*Moderate temps,  
little precipitation*

*Extreme hot/cold temps,  
lots of precipitation*

### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Mild*

*Difficult*

*This trip includes challenging hikes with heavy packs on an aggressive route.*

## Lightweight Backpacking



### DATES

November 12-20, 2023

### COST

\$3,195

*Includes lightweight gear bundle*

Who doesn't want a lighter pack? This adventure offered in Arizona and beyond will introduce you to numerous strategies to implement and drop your pack weight on backcountry trips. The goal of this experience is to see a variety of ideas rather than being prescriptive on how to lighten your pack. Included in this experience is a bundle of lightweight and high quality gear that you can use on this trip and many more to come. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Packs should be lighter than you are used to, but you are still camping and hiking in the mountains!*

# Mountaineering on Alaska's Denali



## DATES

June 2-27, 2023

## COST

\$11,040

This is an expedition for ambitious, driven alumni looking to summit Denali, North America's highest peak (20,320 feet). This challenging course includes long days with heavy packs, close living quarters, and extended time spent on glacier. If you're aiming for a unique, hard-won experience, this is the course for you. For qualified alumni only (interview required). [More info](#)

## Physicality

*Low activity,  
easy walking*

*High altitude, rough trails,  
long uphill, heavy packs*

## Sleeping & Eating

*Hotel lodging,  
restaurant meals*

*Camping, simple meals*

## Weather

*Moderate temps,  
little precipitation*

*Extreme hot/cold temps,  
lots of precipitation*

## OVERALL DIFFICULTY

*Mild*

*Difficult*

*Heavy packs, high altitude, harsh conditions, and a short summit window.*



# Mountaineering on Wyoming's Gannett Peak



## DATES

July 16-23, 2023

## COST

\$2,495

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Lander*

Nestled deep in the wilderness, Gannett Peak (13,804 feet) is Wyoming's highest summit. This fast-paced trip moves over steep trails and moraines with heavy backpacks. Your group's training starts with the basics, so novice mountaineers are welcome. Participants will learn and practice glacier mountaineering, rock, and snow skills for the mixed-route summit. [More info](#)

### Physicality



*Low activity,  
easy walking*

*High altitude, rough trails,  
long uphill, heavy packs*

### Sleeping & Eating



*Hotel lodging,  
restaurant meals*

*Camping, simple meals*

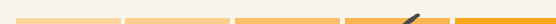
### Weather



*Moderate temps,  
little precipitation*

*Extreme hot/cold temps,  
lots of precipitation*

### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Mild*

*Difficult*

*Long hikes, full packs, and steep terrain make a challenging trip.*

# Mountaineering on Washington's Mount Rainier



## DATES

June 18-23, 2023

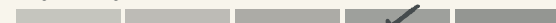
## COST

\$2,695

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging*

This fast-paced trip attempts to summit Mount Rainier (14,410 feet), one of the best mountaineering training grounds in Washington. Prior mountaineering experience and a high fitness level are encouraged. You'll traverse steep terrain and glaciers with a heavy backpack and learn glacier mountaineering skills needed to reach this high summit. Expedition graduates only but all levels of mountaineers are welcome. **More info**

## Physicality



*Low activity,  
easy walking*

*High altitude, rough trails,  
long uphill, heavy packs*

## Sleeping & Eating



*Hotel lodging,  
restaurant meals*

*Camping, simple meals*

## Weather



*Moderate temps,  
little precipitation*

*Extreme hot/cold temps,  
lots of precipitation*

## OVERALL DIFFICULTY

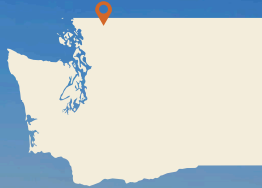


*Mild*

*Difficult*

*Full packs, high altitude, and a short summit window provide challenge.*

# Mountaineering on Washington's Mount Baker



This technically focused, physically demanding trip on Washington's Mount Baker (10,781 feet) provides fantastic opportunities to learn and practice mountaineering and glacier travel skills. Your group will concentrate on rope work, crampon and ice axe use, snow and ice protection placement, and crevasse rescue training. This is a great trip for novice to intermediate mountaineers. [More info](#)

## Physicality



## Sleeping & Eating



## Weather



## OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Full packs, high altitude, and glacier travel make this a challenging trip.

## DATES

July 1-7, 2023

## COST

\$2,495

Includes pre- and post-trip lodging

Darcy Owens



## Backpacking and Fly Fishing with Llamas in Wyoming



### DATES

July 16-22, 2023  
July 30-August 5, 2023  
August 13-19, 2023

### COST

\$1,995  
Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Lander

Refine your NOLS skills while embracing new ones like fly fishing, photography, and llama packing in Wyoming's beautiful Wind River Range. Instructors will help with the technical skills while you soak in the scenery and experience of this trip. Relive fond memories of NOLS by bringing your family along on this adventure! [More info](#)

### Physicality

Low activity, easy walking High altitude, rough trails, long uphill, heavy packs

### Sleeping & Eating

Hotel lodging, restaurant meals Camping, simple meals

### Weather

Moderate temps, little precipitation Extreme hot/cold temps, lots of precipitation

### OVERALL DIFFICULTY

Mild Difficult

Llamas carry some of the weight, but mountain backpacking is challenging.

## Horsepacking in Wyoming's Wind River Range

Zach Snavelly



### DATES

August 12-20, 2023

### COST

\$2,995

Throughout history, Wyoming's Wind River Range has been explored largely on horseback. This trip is a chance to experience the work and benefits of traveling in this time-honored way. Travel into the Winds with a train of horses to camp, fish, and ride. Your group focuses on western horsemanship activities, including herd dynamics, tack, horse behavior, camp and feed selection, pacing, and Leave No Trace camping. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Loading and caring for horses in the backcountry is hard work.





## Plan a Private or Custom Trip with NOLS Alumni

Interested in taking your family or a group of friends on a NOLS adventure? We would love to build a private or custom trip for your team! You can choose from any of our trip options and request a private departure or we could build something different and unique for your crew. Drop us a line at [alumni\\_trips@nols.edu](mailto:alumni_trips@nols.edu) and we would be happy to help shape your next vacation and build the trip of your dreams.



## Rock Climbing on Arizona's Mount Lemmon

Matt Hage



### DATES

February 19-25, 2023

### COST

\$2,295

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Tucson*

Mount Lemmon is NOLS' playground in the Southwest. It is the local crag for folks working at the NOLS Campus because of its year-round climbing and outstanding routes. Tailored for climbers of all experience levels, this base camping trip focuses on climbing techniques, knots, rope handling, belaying, anchors, protection placement, traditional and "sport" climbing systems, rappelling, and lead climbing theory. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Base camping is comfortable, but daypacking rock gear and steep climbs are hard work.*

## Technical Canyoneering in Utah



### DATES

March 26–April 1, 2023  
October 9–14, 2023

### COST

\$2,195–\$2,295  
Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in  
Grand Junction

This physically demanding trip explores tight canyons using ropes to navigate slots and manage risks. This is a base-camping, vehicle-supported expedition to maximize your opportunities to rappel, scramble, wade, and use creative rope skills in remote canyon terrain. After challenging days, enjoy camaraderie, natural history, and technical systems practice back at camp. [More info](#)

### Physicality

Low activity,  
easy walking

High altitude, rough trails,  
long uphill, heavy packs

### Sleeping & Eating

Hotel lodging,  
restaurant meals

Camping, simple meals

### Weather

Moderate temps,  
little precipitation

Extreme hot/cold temps,  
lots of precipitation

### OVERALL DIFFICULTY

Mild

Difficult

Rope work and creative body movement through tight canyons is challenging.



## Backpacking in Utah's Canyons

Spend a week with NOLS exploring some of the fabled canyons in Central Utah. This trip will establish a connection with the ancient people that called these canyons home and thrived in their protection. Building upon your current backcountry skills, the group will work as a team to move through the canyons and enjoy many dark nights under the stars together. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Canyons hiking can be challenging, but the weather tends to be very comfortable.

### DATES

October 15-21, 2023

### COST

\$1,995

Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Grand Junction

Thomas Conor Kensok



## Sea Kayaking Alaska's Prince William Sound



### DATES

July 23-29, 2023  
August 7-13, 2023

### COST

\$2,395

This trip explores one of the most iconic sea kayaking destinations in the world. You will stare up at glaciers and mountains while floating among icebergs, whales, and other marine mammals. Instructors tailor the kayak instruction to any level of experience so that first time paddlers can enjoy a new type of expeditioning alongside their more experienced peers. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Cold water and challenging weather are almost guaranteed, but long sunlight hours keep spirits up!

## Sea Kayaking in New Zealand



### DATES

February 20-27, 2023

### COST

\$3,995

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Nelson*

We are ditching the tents for this lodge-to-lodge coastal kayaking trip on New Zealand's South Island. A bit more comfortable than most of our expeditions, this style of expeditioning allows you to paddle light boats and minimizes time-consuming boat loading. NOLS has kayaked along this stunning coastline for many years, and we are excited to bring our Alumni on this relaxed adventure.

### More info

#### Physicality



#### Sleeping & Eating



#### Weather



#### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Sea kayaking can be tiring, but ending each night in a hotel or lodge adds comfort.*

# Backpacking New Zealand's Old Ghost Road

Becca Backer



## DATES

March 3-8, 2023

## COST

\$2,795

*Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Nelson*

Join NOLS on one of New Zealand's hidden trails! The Old Ghost Road is a hut-to-hut hiking experience that few but locals ever experience. We smooth the way for you to have a lighter pack, sleep indoors, but still experience the rugged beauty of New Zealand's backcountry that as appropriately garnered so much attention. [More info](#)

## Physicality



## Sleeping & Eating



## Weather



## OVERALL DIFFICULTY



*Rustic hut living means lighter backpacks but the trail is challenging.*



## Backpacking in Chile's Torres del Paine National Park, the "O" Trek

Patagonia's "O" trek is the most immersive trek you can do in Torres del Paine National Park. The route is a loop moving from one established camp to another in order to minimize impacts on the surrounding land and provide some additional comforts in this very remote region. This is an extraordinary opportunity to experience Patagonian culture while backpacking through remote, rarely visited, and stunning wilderness.

### More info

#### Physicality



#### Sleeping & Eating



#### Weather



#### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



You'll only need a day pack on this trip as horses carry most of the load.

#### DATES

March 6-15, 2023  
March 19-28, 2023

#### COST

\$4,295  
Includes pre- and post-trip lodging in Puerto Natales

## Mountaineering on Argentina's Aconcagua

Join NOLS as we climb South America's tallest mountain (22,841')! This non-standard offering is a unique opportunity for those questing after the tallest mountains in the world. Climbing Aconcagua will require intensive physical preparation before the trip, combined with extended time on the mountain for acclimatization. Spots on this challenging expedition are limited, so sign up early. [More info](#)

### Physicality



### Sleeping & Eating



### Weather



### OVERALL DIFFICULTY



Full packs, high altitude, and long days.

### DATES

December 2023

### COST

\$6,995

Includes pre- and post-trip lodging and  
climbing permit



## ALUMNI BENEFITS

### Jobsnetwork

Turn your outdoor passion into your profession. Join the NOLS Alumni Jobsnetwork, our free online outdoor jobs clearinghouse where NOLS grads are matched with employers. See [www.nols.edu/jobsnetwork](http://www.nols.edu/jobsnetwork) for employer and alumni details.

### Equipment & Other Discounts

We've teamed with brands to provide lodging, education, and gear discounts for NOLS grads. Check out our evolving list of discounts here: [www.nols.edu/benefits](http://www.nols.edu/benefits).

### Alumni Reunions & Networking

The global NOLS alumni team is diverse, interesting, well-connected and large! No matter where you go, there's probably a fascinating and adventurous grad somewhere near you. You can connect for social events, service, or ongoing learning with other grads at reunions in your community, via local loosely organized groups, or through numerous online communities. Join the NOLS conversation on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram. Check out networking ideas here: [www.nols.edu/stay-connected/](http://www.nols.edu/stay-connected/).







## GIVING BACK

### Spread the Word

Share what you loved about your NOLS experience and help more people find out about NOLS. Ways to spread the word include flying NOLS colors with a sticker or t-shirt, telling your story on social media, submitting stories and photos to the NOLS Blog or *The Leader*, helping organize a reunion and donating to the NOLS Fund. Learn more at [www.nols.edu/spread-the-word](http://www.nols.edu/spread-the-word).

### Reunions

NOLS Reunions will be back in 2023! After a multi-year hiatus, we are excited to return to in-person gatherings in major cities around the USA. Our schedule isn't set yet, but **keep an eye on the website** for upcoming events in your area..

### NOLS Fund

The NOLS Fund fuels our mission. It funds global scholarships, research, and outreach programs, and helps make NOLS more innovative and accessible. Learn more about the fund and how you can join our team at [www.nols.edu/donate](http://www.nols.edu/donate).



*Molly Hagbrand*

## A NOLS course is just the beginning

Grounded in wilderness and backed by recognized expertise, with NOLS, you can find a course to give you the training to start a new career, a certification to get your foot in the door, an immersive experience to deepen your education, or an investment in the future of your organization.

A NOLS education can include a progression of complementary skills that build personal and team capacity. You might start backpacking in the mountains, add a dollop of wilderness medicine, layer on a dose of rock climbing and wrap it all up with one of the Seven Summits.