

IDAHO WILDERNESS YURTS

WINTER GUIDE



IDAHO WILDERNESS
YURTS
IDAHO CITY

VERSION 1.2 - 11/28/2023

INTRODUCTION

Idaho Wilderness Yurts is a family project that has been years in the making. Each detail has been curated to facilitate incredible adventures and give rest to our souls. This camp came to life through a desire to connect family and friends in nature while preserving many of the comforts and conveniences of home. I am excited to be able to welcome you, your loved ones, and adventure buddies to our backcountry huts that have a twist of luxury. I know you'll enjoy your backcountry experience at the yurts as much as I do. Adventure on!

An aerial photograph of a campsite in a mountainous, forested area. The campsite features two white yurts, a blue tent, and several vehicles. A river flows through the landscape, and the surrounding terrain is a mix of green and brown, suggesting a mix of forest and open land. The sky is clear and blue.

Chris

CHRIS
OWNER



RESERVATION INFORMATION

- Reservations to stay in one of the Idaho Wilderness Yurts can be made online at www.idahowildernessyurts.com
- Reservations are accepted up to 6 months in advance of your intended stay and no later than 24-hours prior to your intended arrival.
- Check in time is 2:00 PM on the day of arrival. Check out time is 12 noon.
- The maximum number of persons sleeping in a yurt is 8. Each yurt has two queen beds, two twin beds, and a large leather couch with dual recliners.
- The door access codes for the sauna and yurt will be emailed to you 48 hours prior to your stay. **There is no cell phone reception on site, so make sure to write the codes down and bring them with you.**
- If you have not received this confirmation email or have further questions, contact reservations at info@idahowildernessyurts.com.

ROUTE

- There is no cell service near the yurts. Make sure to plan ahead and download/print directions beforehand. We recommend using a GPS navigational app such as Gaia or OnX.
- The closest point with cellular reception is Mores Creek Summit.
- Winter overnight parking is available at the Whoop-Em-Up Park-N-Ski lot.
- From Whoop-Em-Up, follow the snowmobile trail marked with orange diamonds until it connects with Crooked River Road (NF 384). The route to Idaho Wilderness Yurts continues east along NF 384. The route is a total of 3.3 miles, one way.
- Snowmobiling, snowshoeing, or skiing are the best ways to access the yurts in the winter.
- The address is [325 Crooked River Rd, Idaho City, 83631](https://www.google.com/maps/place/325+Crooked+River+Rd,+Idaho+City,+ID+83631). Google Maps gives the correct location if loaded prior to losing reception. The coordinates for the yurts are: [43.969990, -115.581911](https://www.google.com/maps/place/43.969990,-115.581911).



PARKING

- Parking is available at the yurts when Crooked River Road is open for automobile travel. If the road is closed, parking is available at the Whoop-Um-Up Park N' Ski parking lot, which is located 18 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21, just past mile marker 56.
- An Idaho Park N' Ski permit is required to park in the Whoop-Um-Up parking lot from November 15th to April 30th.
- You can purchase a Park N' Ski pass in advance online [here](#) or in Boise at IDPR headquarters (5657 Warm Springs Avenue, Boise ID 83716).
- Always check the road conditions before heading up.
- Parking on Highway 21 is not allowed.

BEFORE YOUR TRIP

We recommend following these steps as you prepare for your trip:

- Check all equipment prior to heading out to ensure it is functional.
- Print a copy of the yurt location map for all group members.
- Make sure to **bring the door access codes with you!**
- Download a navigation app such as [Gaia](#) or [OnX](#), which allows you to track your location as you travel to and from the yurt.
- Be prepared for all weather, conditions, and outcomes - including the possibility of spending the night outside.
- Always tell a friend or relative where you are going, your route, and when you plan to return.
- Check the [NOAA weather forecast here](#).
- Check the [511 Road Conditions here](#).
- Check the [Mores Creek Summit snow conditions here](#).
- Check the [Smoky Mountain Avalanche Report here](#).
- Call the Idaho City Park N' Ski Area Snowline (208-514-2423) for snow conditions and trail grooming status.
- Prepare your vehicle for cold temperatures.
- Have snow chains, shovels, and recovery gear available in your vehicle.
- Be experienced with a map, compass, and/or GPS and carry these with you.
- Consider taking a day trip prior to your reservation to locate the yurts.



SAFETY INFORMATION

Please exercise caution and care in everything you do while at Idaho Wilderness Yurts. Using the wood and propane stoves, starting the fire, chopping wood, opening the dome etc. should all be done with care and attention to detail. There is no local ski patrol and the closest hospital is in Boise. Call the Boise County Sheriff at (208) 392-4411 for any urgent concerns or call 911 for emergencies. There is no cell service at the yurts so it is essential that your party come prepared. The backcountry is inherently dangerous and it is your responsibility to be prepared.

Here are a few more important safety considerations:

- Always keep your party together on trail
- Turn around if the weather becomes severe or visibility becomes difficult.
- Be prepared for all outcomes. Carry the equipment necessary to spend the night outdoors in case you are unable to find the yurts.
- Travel at a slow, steady pace.
- Start your trip early: Snow conditions (deep snow, breaking trail, heavy wet snow, etc.) can make travel times much longer than anticipated. Plan to be on the trail by noon. Daylight is limited in the winter; sunset is as early as 5:00pm.
- All group members should have a map to the yurt and proficient navigation and self-preservation skills.

WATER

Water can be brought to the yurt from home, retrieved from the river nearby, or obtained by melting snow. Boiling, filtering, or treating the river water and snow melt is strongly recommended to prevent illness. There are large pots in the yurts for snowmelt and a water container that goes above the sink. The sink drains into a bucket underneath the counter which can be emptied at the gray water disposal location. Remember to pack enough water for the trip to and from the yurt as there will not be clean water sources along the trail.

PETS

Pets are allowed in the blue and green-roofed yurts. In order to allow a comfortable stay for those who have allergies and/or are looking for an extra degree of cleanliness, pets are NOT allowed in the red yurt. Pets are not allowed on the furniture or beds under any circumstance. In the blue and green yurts, two large dog beds are provided for guest use.

SOLAR PANELS

Each yurt is equipped with a solar-powered electrical system that requires the panels being free of snow in order to charge the battery. Clear the solar panels of any snow as soon as you arrive with the provided scraper tool stored under the yurt (green). This will maximize the charging time. The lights and refrigerator require power to function. Further, the exhaust fan located in the toilet composting shed requires power to operate. If the batteries lose charge, odor from the composting shed may enter the yurt. Please do your part to help keep the batteries charged for everyone.

YURT AMENITIES

Each Yurt is equipped with the following features and supplies:

Wood Stove Heating System

- Hybrid catalytic wood stove with adjustable burn rate
- Stove can be used for cooking
- Lighters (NO fire starter provided - BYO cardboard/newspaper)
- Pre-split wood (needs to be split further for kindling)
- Wood-carrying bag, ember handling tools, ash bucket
- Splitting ax and sledge hammer (located under the yurt)
- Lighting under the yurt for easy wood retrieval

Composting Toilet Inside of Yurt

- Urine-diverting composting toilet drains the liquid waste into a septic drainage field and the solid waste gets deposited into a composting shed via a foot-pump conveyor belt.
- Toilet paper
- Vanity with mirror

Solar Electrical System

- Roof-top solar panels (snow clearing equipment provided)
- System powers the LED lights, (2) USB ports, 12V cigarette lighter outlet, 10 cubic foot refrigerator/freezer, exhaust fan (in compost shed), and propane detector
- USB-C, Apple Lightning, and USB-Micro charging cords

Dining Arrangements

- Table with 7 or 8 chairs (depending which yurt)
- Dishes, cookware, and silverware for 8 people

Covered Deck Bar

- Overlooks meadow and adjacent mountains
- LED accent lighting

Primitive Water System

- A large stainless steel stock pot with removable faucet hose is provided and can be used to melt snow or boil river water on the wood stove.
- The water pot can also be placed above the sink and used as a gravity-fed faucet to simplify doing the dishes.

Fully Equipped Kitchenette (NOT stocked with food)

- Dishes, silverware, cookware, and utensils.
- Countertop Camp Stove: Propane is NOT included. We recommend you bring 2 screw-in, one pound propane tank canisters for each day of your stay. Or pack light and use the wood stove to cook meals.
- Refrigerator. Please note the refrigerator runs on solar power and may need time to come to temperature if the batteries are not charged.
- Dish soap, surface cleaner and scrub pads
- Avocado oil, salt, pepper and basic seasoning blend
- AeroPress coffee maker - BYO medium-fine ground coffee

Sleeping Arrangements

- Two bunk beds, each with queen bottom bunk and twin XL top bunk
- Memory foam mattresses with mattress protectors provided
- Bedding is NOT provided, bring your own sleeping bag
- One leather sofa with dual reclining seats can be used to sleep persons 7 and 8

Entertainment

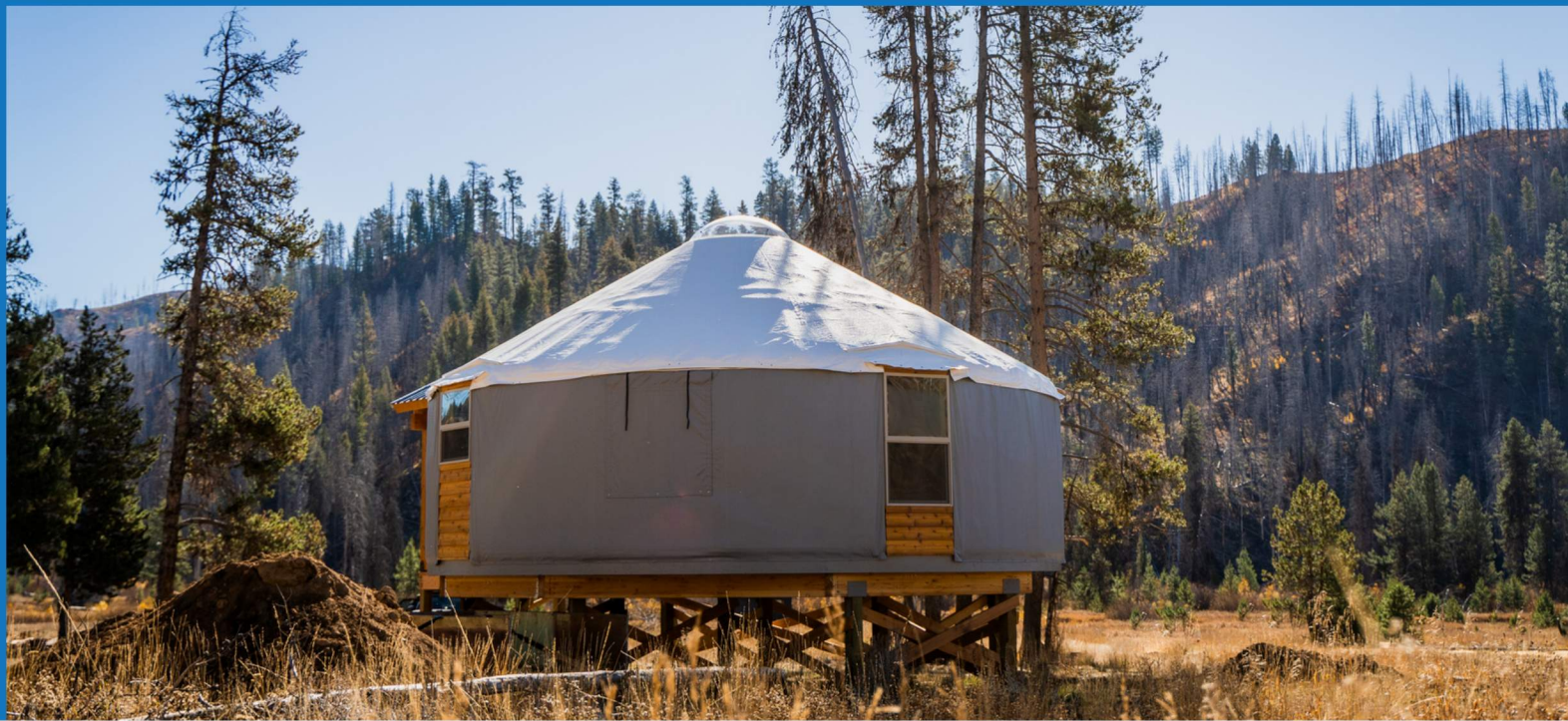
- Games, decks of cards, adult and children's books, coloring supplies
- Scenic daytime vistas and the epic night sky - visible through the yurt domes

Safety

- Combination smoke/carbon monoxide detector, propane detector
- Fire extinguisher
- Snow shovel and ice saw
- Basic first aid kit and instructional book

Wood-Fired Steam Sauna (Shared between all 3 yurts)

- Beautiful, luxury cedar interior with large window overlooking the river, solar powered lights, option for dry or steam sauna, and a changing area



AT THE YURTS

When you first arrive:

- Store skis, snowshoes, pulks and other snow travel equipment under the yurt porch or on the deck.
- Start a fire to warm up the yurt.
- Remove snow from the yurt deck, stairs, and solar panels.
- Boil water or snow for drinking water and doing dishes
- An instructional manual is located inside each yurt detailing how to complete these tasks
- Unpack and enjoy your stay!

A portable crib is available on a first come basis and is located inside the front room of the sauna (bring the sauna code with you).

Please be mindful of the rules while staying at the yurts:

- The yurts and the sauna are all non-smoking.
- Keep floors clear of water to avoid damage. Bring towels or use the provided mop.
- Hunters are welcome at the yurts. Please do not discharge any firearm within ¼ mile of the yurt.
- Do not put mattresses on the floor.
- Do not chop wood on the deck or inside of the yurt.
- Only dispose of gray water in the designated area.
- Using deadfall for fires is prohibited and outdoor fires are not allowed.
- Pets are not allowed in the red yurt, on the mattresses or on the furniture.

CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

Please make sure to complete every item on this list before leaving. No cleaning service comes between guests. We trust you will help keep the yurts in good condition for everyone to enjoy. A detailed check-out list is provided in the informational manual stored inside each yurt.

- Wash, dry, and put away all dishes.
- Clean the sink and dispose of gray water in the designated area. Return the bucket underneath the sink.
- Empty water from the water pot above the sink, the bucket below the sink, and from any snow melt pots so they do not freeze. Disconnect the hose from the pot so it can dry.
- Wipe down the table, kitchen counters, and toilet seat.
- Make sure the gas valve on the propane stove is turned off and the propane tank is disconnected.
- Restock the yurt with wood and kindling for the next group.
- Sweep the floor including under the beds. Mop the floor.
- Return hanging items to their proper location (broom, dome opener, fire poker, ax, solar panel snow scraper, and shovels).
- Make sure the yurt dome is securely shut. Do not over-tighten the dome.
- Close all windows. Leave them unlocked.
- Pack out all garbage and food to prevent attracting insects, mice, or other animals. Even small crumbs can attract unwanted pests. Full propane bottles may be left to share (disconnected from the stove).
- Turn off all lights. Leave the master power switch on.
- Securely shut the yurt door and make sure it is locked.
- Verify all cleaning is completed as documented in the yurt manual.
- Remember to take check-out photos.



GEAR LIST

This list should serve as a guide to help you prepare for your trip. Share it with all members of your party. Dress in layers during your journey to the yurts. A wool or synthetic base layer (NOT cotton) will wick moisture away to keep you warm and dry. Next, we recommend an insulating layer such as fleece or down. Last, a waterproof shell with a hood to protect you from wind, snow, or rain. Avoid cotton clothing, which holds moisture against your skin and can contribute to hypothermia.

PERSONAL ITEMS

- Base layer top and bottom (non-cotton)
- Wool socks
- Fleece mid layer/sweater
- Waterproof, breathable snow pants
- Waterproof jacket/shell, preferably with a hood
- Hat
- Neck gaiter/buff
- Boots
- Warm waterproof gloves/mittens
- Comfy clothes for relaxing in the yurt
- Slippers or warm socks for inside the yurt
- Bathing suit and towel for the sauna
- Toiletries (hairbrush, toothbrush, etc.)
- Sunglasses or ski goggles
- Hand/foot warmers (helpful to have for kids)

GEAR

- Pack or pulk sled
- Sleeping bag (0 F recommended)
- Snowshoes or skis and poles
- Headlamp
- Water filter (or boil water/snow)
- Waterproof matches and a lighter
- Emergency gear (First aid kit, shovel, outdoor sleeping gear, knife, etc.)
- Paper towels or kitchen towels
- Satellite communicator/GPS/map
- Park N' Ski Permit, one per vehicle
- Yurt and sauna door codes
- Newspaper/fire starter
- 2 screw-in, one pound propane canisters for each day of your stay. The stove also accepts full-sized propane tanks. **Alternatively, skip the propane, and cook on the wood stove.**
- Food and drink for the duration of your stay

