Back to School for Bears
by Kate McCurdy

The last hint of alpine glow is fading off Half Dome as Yosemite's bear management team heads to work each evening. During the summer and fall months, bears will keep us busy on our night shift until the sun again rises over the park. Working with black bears can at times be exciting, at other times serious. But it is never dull, and this season we have added a few new elements to our program. We're sending bears back to school in a mission to keep them not only alive, but wild.

Members of Yosemite’s bear management team ready for an evening’s work (from left, Kate McCurdy, Joe Madison, Tori Seher).
Back to School for Bears

Continued from front cover

On this night, our first call takes us into a Yosemite Valley campground where a small yearling bear is tearing into a bag of potato chips, oblivious to a growing crowd of onlookers. While the bear’s attention is on the ill-gotten snack from an unattended campsite, our rangers’ technique to interrupt this destructive behavior is starting to both bear and witnesses.

First the bear is hit with a rubber plug that is fired from a shotgun. The bear immediately drops the bag of chips and turns toward the woods. Next a firecracker or “green weenie” screamer is launched from a starter pistol, causing the bear to flee in earners. The bear management team sprouts after the bear, tracking it with help from the park’s bear dog until it is well clear of the area. These efforts may seem extreme, but they are effective in teaching bears to avoid humans, and provide a sign of hope for such bears.

Back To Basics

There was an era, prior to the installation of food storage lockers, when bears obtained food from campkites and vehicles in campgrounds every night. Many of these bears became increasingly aggressive towards humans and had to be destroyed. Fortunately, bears in Yosemite have recently been granted much better protection. All overnight guests now have adequate access to bear-proof metal lockers for the safe storage of their food. The park no longer has trash cans that bears can get into. And rangers work around the clock to prevent human-bear conflicts through public education, law enforcement, bear management, and trash removal. These measures have helped to improve the bear situation dramatically. By the end of 1999, the number of bear-human incidents was reduced by over half from the year before.

One concern remains. Even though bears now rarely get unnatural foods from humans in Yosemite, a handful of them have been slow to abandon campgrounds, picnic areas, and parking lots as foraging grounds. These bears, which may have been augmenting their diets with human food for years, appear to be unwilling to return to wholly natural diets.

Re-Educating Bears

Seeking solutions to this problem is what makes the job of a bear manager interesting. In May we were given unprecedented authority to try something that, although common in other national parks, has not been tried in Yosemite. It’s called “bear hazing,” and it’s the act of instilling a fear of humans through the use of negative stimulus. Our goal is simple; provide an intense incentive for bears to leave developed areas and instead return to the park’s abundant meadows, woodlands, and other prime foraging habitats.

The tools that we are employing to assist us in hazing are sometimes very basic. Many bears respond well to simply being yelled at and chased, or hit with an acorn fired from a slingshot. Other times we use a Karelian Bear Dog (see page 7) to aggressively chase and bark at bears. Depending on the bear and the circumstances, we also haze bears using rubber shotgun slugs, firecrackers, and other pyrotechnics to elicit a flight response.

A+ Success

We are encouraged by how well bears have responded. Even the most challenging bears have shown behavior changes after a hazing experience. The main reason for this success is simple. These bears are working with are not “addicted” to human foods; they have simply been capitalizing on an easy source of calories in the park for a long time.

Through the use of hazing, we have in many cases been able to restore the natural fear of humans that has been lost through years of food conditioning. We are elated that many of these bears have abandoned developed areas in search of food elsewhere, undoubtably to areas where natural food sources are abundant and humans are not.

A Life-Saving Lesson

Evidence that this effort would work was seen early on during our trials. One large bear, wearing both a radio collar and ear tags, was seen by a wildlife ranger peering into a car at 2:30 one morning in a Curry Village parking lot. He loaded a rubber slug and a firecracker round into a shotgun and fired both at the bear from a distance of twenty yards. The bear was one rangers knew well. On any other night she would have continued her pilgrimage to find food in a car, broken out its window, and eaten until satisfied. But on this night, she was so frightened by the rubber bullet and the firecracker round that she leapt three feet in the air and fled with incredible speed from the area.

Since that night, our notorious bear has not been seen in a developed area. The signal from her radio collar now tells us that she has returned to the west end of Yosemite Valley, were she can forage for natural food and avoid humans, and their vehicles, and future frightening encounters. We feel this learning experience, although unpleasant for her at the time, provided a lesson to the bear that very well could save her life.

So, if a loud report wakes you from your midnight slumber while you are staying in Yosemite, accept our apologies. It is not our intent to disrupt vacations; it is to keep bears alive. Please take a moment while you are awake to double check your campsite to ensure that it is clean and your bear box is securely shut. Glance up at the stars, and marvel for a moment at how beautiful the park is at this time of night. And go back to sleep knowing that you just heard the sound of a bear’s life being lengthened.

Kate McCurdy is the park’s lead bear manager and has worked with black bears in Yosemite for nine years. She and her crew of technicians and interns spend countless nights patrolling campkites and educating visitors in order to protect Yosemite’s bears.
**PARK RULES**

**It's the Law**

There are federal laws and regulations specific to national parks that protect Yosemite. Its wildlife, historic and prehistoric sites and structures, and natural beauty. Protect your park by following these rules:

- Camping or sleeping in vehicles is permitted only in designated campsites and is prohibited along roadsides, in turnouts, or in parking lots.
- Bicycles (including mountain bikes), in-line skates, and strollers must remain on paved roads and designated paved bike paths. They are not allowed on hiking trails or anywhere off-pavement.
- Motor vehicles must stay on established roads open to public travel. Vehicles are not permitted off-road.
- Store your food properly, keeping it away from bears and other Yosemite animals (see page 3 for details). After dark, vehicles with food visible in them may be towed.
- Pets frighten wildlife and disturb hikers. They must be leashed at all times and are not permitted on any park trails, with the exception of paved trails on the floor of Yosemite Valley.
- Do not remove any objects from the park, including pine cones, rocks, leaves, obsidian, historic items, etc. If you find an object that may be prehistoric or historic, do not move it. Note its location and inform a ranger. If you must collect something, please pick up litter!
- The use of metal detectors in the park is illegal. Please report possible violations to a park ranger.
- Firearms and hunting are prohibited in Yosemite National Park. Report possible hunting violations to the park’s tip line, 888/DFG-CALTIP, 24 hours a day.
- All public buildings are designated as non-smoking.

**Help Keep Wildlife Wild**

Did you know that feeding or closely approaching any park wildlife is prohibited by federal law? Your food is a threat to the survival of park animals. It can damage their health, make them vulnerable to death from cars, or lead to dangerous behavior. Treat your food as if it were poison to animals, because the result is often the same. Even though animals may look tame—especially when searching for a hand-out—they are capable of inflicting serious injury, and in extreme cases, causing death. Never attempt to touch or closely approach any park wildlife. Instead, view wildlife through binoculars or telephoto lenses. A good rule-of-thumb: if an animal is aware of your presence, you’re too close.

**Fishing Regulations**

Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream through El Portal to the Foresta Road Bridge. In this stretch of the river, it is catch-and-release only for native rainbow trout. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used, and bait fishing is prohibited. Brown trout limits are five fish per day and ten in possession. It is the responsibility of the angler to identify fish species.

Trout season begins on the last Saturday in April and continues through November 15. The only exception is Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, where fishing season does not open until June 15 in order to protect spawning rainbow trout. All lakes and reservoirs are open to fishing year-round. A valid California sport fishing license must be displayed by all persons 16 years of age and older who are fishing in Yosemite National Park. Licenses must be plainly visible, attached to outer clothing, at or above the waistline. For more information about licenses and fishing, inquire at visitor centers.

**Tree Hazard Advisory**

Winter storms with strong winds or heavy snow always cause some tree failures, sometimes with property damage or tragic injuries. Trees adjacent to developments such as residences, campgrounds, lodging, offices, parking lots, and some roads are surveyed for defects that may make them likely to fall and injure people or damage property. Yosemite forestry crew prune or remove identified high priority tree hazards. Some trees without any visible defects fall during storms. To avoid injury or damage to your property, be aware of your surroundings and park in open areas when storms are blowing or forecast.

**Drive Safely**

In 1999, there were 381 motor vehicle accidents in Yosemite National Park. Sixteen bears were hit by vehicles. Speeding kills wildlife and people. Slow down and follow these driving tips to avoid accidents:

- Obey posted speed limits. Slow down when road conditions warrant. Be alert to rocks in the roadway, wildlife crossing, or other unexpected situations.
- California law requires that all vehicle occupants wear seat belts, and children 4 years of age (or under 40 lbs.) be restrained in an approved child safety seat.
- Do not stop in the roadway! Find a safe turnout if you wish to take a photo, consult a map, or enjoy park scenery or wildlife.
- Be courteous. Pull into turnouts to allow other vehicles to pass.
- Stay on your side of the road, especially on tight curves. Be aware of bicyclists and pedestrians.
- When roads are steep and slippery, shift down. Avoid excessive slowing on curves or your vehicle may slide.
- Don’t drink and drive. It’s a fatal combination.
- Obey lowered speed limits in the El Portal Road construction zone. Rough road conditions exist. No stopping or turning around in construction zone.

**Will I Need Tire Chains?**

It is recommended that you carry tire chains in your vehicle (including rental cars) between November and April, as a sudden storm could make them mandatory at any time. Due to changing weather conditions, any vehicle entering a chain control area must carry chains under park regulations, even if their use is not mandatory at the time. Chains should be obtained in advance; several towns on highways leading into Yosemite rent them. Vehicles over 6,000 lbs. are required to use link-type chains, and on sets of dual tires, only one tire needs chains. Once in the park, tire chains are available at retail outlets for purchase, but not for rent.

**For More Information**

- Food storage guidelines, see page 3.
- Camping and campfires, see page 4.
- Wilderness regulations, see page 5.
- Fire safety guidelines, see page 7.
- Bicycling rules, see page 9.
- Wildlife regulations, see page 5.
- Emergency regulations, see page 5.
Bears Are Not To Blame: Store Food Properly

Each year black bears are killed in Yosemite National Park as a direct result of human carelessness and improper food storage. Some call it a “bear problem,” but bears are not to blame.

Driven by their powerful sense of smell, black bears are drawn to human food. Once they get it, they continue to seek it—out of backpacks, picnic tables, ice chests, and even cars. As their natural fear of people fades, they may become aggressive. When bears become too aggressive, they often have to be killed. In 1999, there were 768 incidents involving bears, resulting in over $224,000 in damage and five human injuries. Four bears had to be killed. The only way to stop this devastating cycle is to make sure that all food and trash are stored properly.

No Food In Cars!

In 1999, over 318 cars were damaged by bears in the park, and most of these incidents were caused by improper food storage. If your car will be parked in Yosemite after dark, it must not contain any food or related items.

- Bears have damaged cars for as little as a stick of gum or an empty soda can, so thoroughly remove all food and remove all potential bear attractants. Bears can clearly smell any food in a car, even when it’s stored in the vehicle’s trunk!
- Bears recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food-related containers. Such items, even when empty, have residual odors. Remove them from vehicles and store them securely. Also remove drinks, garbage, and scented articles such as soap, sunscreen, and toothpaste from vehicles. Don’t forget to check the glove compartment.
- Clear your car’s interior of clutter. This will reduce the chances of a bear mistak- ing your car for a food source, and increase the chances that you will find any stray french fries or other overlooked food. Child car seats should be removed from vehicles since they often have residual food smells.
- Remove all trash and place it in animal-resistant trash cans or dumpsters.

CAMPGROUNDS

- Federal regulations require that all food and related sup- ples be stored and secured at all times in the metal “bear boxes” in each campsite (except when food is being prepared and eaten). Each box measures 38” x 48” x 32”. No food storage is allowed in vehicles.
- Keep bear boxes latched and secured with their clips at all times. Bear enter campsites during the day, even when people are present.
- Dispose of garbage frequently in animal-resistant dumpsters and cans. Don’t leave any garbage in your campsite, especially at night.

Lodging

- Remove all food and food-related items from vehicles. Guests staying in hard-sided cabins must store such supplies indoors.
- Guests staying in canvas tent-cabins must store food and related items in lockers (ask at front desk for locker locations).
- Clean out trash, empty food containers, and scented articles from vehicles before leaving them paid overnight.

Picnic Areas

Stay close to your food and put it away as soon as you are finished eating. Bears may enter picnic areas, even when people are present, so be prepared to scare them away.

Trailheads

It is highly recommended that no food or food-related supplies be left in vehicles parked overnight at trailheads. There are food storage boxes for backpackers at all major trailheads in the park. Ask for locations when acquiring a wilderness permit.

Wilderness

The National Park Service strongly encourages backpackers to carry and use bear-resistant food storage canisters. These portable containers are the most effective way for backpackers to store food in wilderness areas. Backpackers staying in design- ated backpacker camps adjacent to High Sierra Camps or in Little Yosemite Valley are required to use metal food storage lock- ers provided or portable canisters. All food, garbage, toiletries, and other scented items must be stored properly. The counterbal- ance technique (either from a cable or a tree branch) may not be used where bear boxes exist. While legal, the counter bal- ance method is generally not an effective means of food storage. Bear resistant canis- ters are required at 9,600 feet elevation and above. Plan ahead—All food, garbage, and toiletries must be contained within canis- ters. (See article below for rental locations and canister details.)

Safety

Never approach a bear, regardless of its size. If you encounter a bear, act immedi- ately: throw small stones or sticks toward the bear from a safe distance. Yell, clap hands, bang pots together. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not sur- round the bear. Use caution if you see cubs, as a mother may act aggressively to defend them.

When done immediately, these actions have been successful in scaring bears away. Never try to retrieve anything once a bear has it. Report all bear incidents to a park ranger (see hotline number below).

Use Bear-resistant Food Canisters

In an effort to decrease incidents between bears and people, and to keep bears wild, the National Park Service strongly encourages backpackers to use bear-resistant food canis- ters. These containers are the most effective way for backpackers to store food in the wilderness. All other techniques are consid- ered delaying tactics only, as bears are largely able to undo most well-known food storage methods. Each plastic canister weighs about 3 pounds, fits in a full-sized backpack, and is capable of holding a three to five day sup- ply of food for one person. Canisters may be rented for a flat fee of $3 per trip plus a refundable security deposit. They may also be purchased for approxi- mately $75. They are available at the following locations: Year-round at the Yosemite Valley Sports Shop, Mountain Shop at Curry Village, Crane Flat Store, and Wawona Store. Seasonally at Yosemite Val- ley Wilderness Center, Wawona Informa- tion Station, Big Oak Flat Permit/Information Sta- tion, Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station, Tuolumne Meadows Store, Tuolumne Meadows Sport Shop, and Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center (see pages 14 and 15 for hours). Canisters can be picked up and returned at any of the rental locations throughout the park. Increased availability of canisters parkwide and reduced rental fees are due to a cooperative agreement between the Yosemite Association and Yosemite Concession Services Corp.

Save A Bear & Save A Bear

To report trash problems, improper food storage, bear sightings, and other bear-relat- ed problems, leave a message for the Bear Management Team at 209/372-0200 (press 2, then 4). Your call can be made anonymously.

Donate A Canister & Save A Bear

Make a donation to the Yosemite Associa- tion’s “Save a Bear” campaign and help eliminate food-related human/bear conflicts in the wilderness. Donations will be used to pur- chase bear-resistant food storage canisters for use in the distribution program described in the adjacent article. The program makes canis- ters easily available and encourages their use. Help save a bear by donating a bear can! Call the Yosemite Association at 209/379- 2646 for more information.

Market Lions

Mountain lions are a normal and very important part of the park ecosystem, helping to keep deer populations in check. They are attracted to areas with healthy deer populations, which includes many areas of the park. Although lion attacks are extremely rare, they are possible, as is injury to any wild animal. We offer the following recommendations for your safety:

- Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind on the trail. Talk to children about lions, and teach them what to do if they meet one.

- What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?

Never approach one, especially if it is feeding or with kittens. Mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Always give them a way to escape.

- Don’t run. Stay calm. Hold your ground, or back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up.

- If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms, shout, and throw objects at it. The goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous yourself. If attacked, fight back!

- Generally, mountain lions are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!
### Camping Reservations

Reservations are required for Yosemite Valley's auto campgrounds year-round and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served.

Online reservations will be available in blocks of 1 month at a time, up to 5 months in advance, on the 15th of each month through the National Park Reservation System (NPRS). Thus, for:

- Campground: North Pines, Lower Pines
- Dates: 4/15/01 thru 5/14/01
- Arrival Date: 1/15/01
- Make Reservation: 9/15/00
- Method of Payment: Visa, MasterCard

From May through September, campfires are permitted only in designated campgrounds. Pet waste and soaps must be disposed of in designated utility drains. Electrical extension cords may not be connected to campground restroom outlets.

### Yosemite Valley

Check-in/check-out time for Yosemite Valley campgrounds is 1:00 a.m. Campsites are assigned by NPRS at the time the reservation is made. Campers may request a specific campground available at the time of reservation. All campsite assignments are made. All campsite assignments are final—you may not switch or change camp sites after you arrive in the park. Maximum length for recreational vehicles in Valley campgrounds is 40 feet.

- Camp 4 (Sunnyside): Walk-in Campground is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis. These campers are not on$$ the campground. Sites are rented on a per-person basis, and six people will be placed in each campsite, regard less of the number of people in your party. Camp 4 (Sunnyside) often fills before 9:00 a.m. each May through September. There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in any calendar year; however, May 1-September 15, camping limit in Yosemite Valley is 7 days inclusive.

### Outside Yosemite Valley

Check-in/check-out time for campgrounds outside the Valley is noon. Maximum length for recreational vehicles is 35 feet.

### Services

- Campfire permits are required.
- Hiking is allowed in Yosemite Valley. This includes “dead wood.”
- Campfires are permitted only in designated campgrounds.
- Campfire permits are required. For additional information, contact the local USFS district offices:
  - Yosemite National Park: 209/372-1257;
  - Groveland Ranger Station (Stanislaus NF): 209/754-3324;
  - Mono Lake Ranger Station (Inyo NF): 760/647-3044;
  - Oakhurst Ranger Station (Sierra NF): 209/966-3638.

### Sites

- **Campsites** are first-come, first-served, except for the group and stock campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds).
- **Other campgrounds** (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served.
- **Group campgrounds** are reserved. Unlike Yosemite, the national forests have separate reservation systems, as well as ceremony or visitor bureau listed on page 8.

### Areas Surrounding Yosemite

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite in the Inyo, Sierra, and Stanislaus National Forests. Many of these campgrounds are operated on a first-come, first-served basis; however, some may be reserved. Unlike Yosemite, the national forests allow dispersed camping in some areas (outside of designated campgrounds). Campfire permits are required. For additional information, contact the local USFS district offices:

### Rules and Regulations

- Campfire permits are required.
- Maximum of 6 people (including children) per campsite, regardless of the number of vehicles per campsite.
- Pets are permitted only in campgrounds operated by the U.S. Forest Service. Pets must be on a leash at all times, and are not allowed on any hiking trails, and may not be left unattended.
- Generators may be used sparsely between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Camp waste and sewage must be disposed of in designated utility drains.

### In Yosemite Valley

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<tr>
<th>Campground</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Yosemite Valley</strong></td>
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### Outside Yosemite Valley

- **Campsites** are first-come, first-served.
- **RV access** front section only.
- **Open All Year** Reservations required.
- **Wawona** Campground: 110 sites, 2 vehicles per campsite.
- **Bridgeport Creek** Campground: 60 sites, 2 vehicles per campsite.
- **Hodgdon Meadow** Campground: 105 sites, 2 vehicles per campsite.
- **CRANE FLAT** Campground: 36 sites, 2 vehicles per campsite.
- **TAMARACK FLAT** Campground: 116 sites, 2 vehicles per campsite.
- **WHITE TAIL** Campground: 34 sites, 2 vehicles per campsite.
- **Yosemite Creek** Campground: 76 sites, 2 vehicles per campsite.
- **PORCUPINE FLAT** Campground: 52 sites, 2 vehicles per campsite.
- **TOULOMNE MEADOWS** Campground: 304 sites, 2 vehicles per campsite.

### Yosemite Rules

- To improve air quality in Yosemite Valley, campfires are permitted only between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. from May 1 through October 15.
- Firewood collection is prohibited in Yosemite Valley. This includes “dead and down” wood.
- Outside the Valley, wood may not be gathered at elevations above 9,600 feet or in sequoia groves.
- Cutting standing trees or attached limbs, alive or dead, is prohibited, as is the use of chainsaws.
- Please start campfires with newspaper. Do not burn pine needles or cones, as they create unnecessary smoke.
- Campfires are permitted only in established fire rings.
- See fire safety information on page 7.

### Reservations

- Reservations may be made from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time.
- **Toll-Free Reservations:** 800/536-7275
- **On-Line Reservations:** reservations.nps.gov
- **INTERNATIONAL CALLERS:** 301/722-1257
- **TDD (TOLL-FREE):** 800/287-7122
- **MAIL-IN RESERVATIONS:** P.O. Box 1360, Yosemite Valley, CA 95389-0130
- Up to two campsites may be reserved at a time by mail or phone with Mastercard, Visa, Discover, personal check, or money order.

### Dates Approximate

- May 1 through October 15
- 7-day reservations.
- 25% of sites available for backpacking campers without vehicles

### Elevation

- **Hodgdon Meadow:** 2,468 m
- **Yosemite Valley:** 1,220 m
- **Upper Pines:** 1,220 m
- **North Pines:** 1,220 m

### Fees

- **Wawona** Campground: $15/s
- **Bridgeport Creek** Campground: $10/s
- **Hodgdon Meadow** Campground: $10/s
- **CRANE FLAT** Campground: $10/s
- **TAMARACK FLAT** Campground: $6/s
- **WHITE TAIL** Campground: $10/s
- **Yosemite Creek** Campground: $10/s
- **PORCUPINE FLAT** Campground: $6/s
- **TOULOMNE MEADOWS** Campground: $10/s
- **Yosemite Valley:** 2,194 m

### Notes

- Open April-September
- Open All Year
- Open March-October
- Open All Year/Walk-In
- Open June-September
- Open All Year Reservations required.
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- Open June-early Sept.
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<tr>
<th><strong>North Pines</strong></th>
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<td>4,000' (Sunnyside)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,100'</td>
<td>2,468 m</td>
<td>1,886'</td>
<td>2,620 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>52$</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ticora</strong></td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>52$</td>
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<td>304</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Autumn In The Wilderness

Fall is a pleasant time to backpack in Yosemite. Summer crowds begin to diminish, autumn colors the landscape, and animals are busy preparing for winter. While hiking conditions are often favorable during September and October, sudden storms are not uncommon and temperatures can drop dramatically, even at lower elevations. Temperatures are frequently below freezing at night, and snow can fall as early as September. Keep in mind that weather changes rapidly in the Sierra, and a beautiful clear morning can become a rainy (or snowy) afternoon.

Wilderness Permits

Free wilderness permits are required year-round for all overnight trips into Yosemite’s wilderness. They are not required for day hikes. Yosemite uses a trailhead quota system which limits the number of people who may begin overnight hikes from each trailhead, each day. This system is designed to avoid overcrowding and to reduce impacts to wilderness areas. At least 40% of each trailhead quota is available on a first-come, first-served basis the day of, or one day prior to, the beginning of your trip. Permit stations are located at the Wilderness Center in Yosemite Valley, Wawona, Big Oak Flat, Hetch Hetchy, and Tuolumne Meadows. Call 209/372-0200 for permit station locations and hours. Permits are also available by advance reservation online.

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESTINATION/TRAIL</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY/ ELEVATION GAIN</th>
<th>APPROXIMATE HIKING TIME</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>1/2 mile round trip (0.8 km)</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>20 minutes round trip</td>
<td>with assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake</td>
<td>Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1 mile to lake (1.6 km)</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>1/2 hour to lake</td>
<td>Vehicle access available with placard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Yosemite Falls Shuttle Stop #4</td>
<td>1/2 mile round trip (0.8 km)</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>20 minutes round trip</td>
<td>with assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail Columna Rock</td>
<td>Camp 4 Shuttle Stop #8</td>
<td>2 miles round trip (3.2 km)</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
<td>2 to 3 hours round trip</td>
<td>Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round trip (11.6 km)</td>
<td>Very Strenuous</td>
<td>6 to 8 hours round trip</td>
<td>Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mist Trail/John Muir Trail</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #15</td>
<td>1.4 miles round trip (2.0 km)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>1 to 2 hours round trip</td>
<td>Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>3 miles round trip (4.8 km)</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
<td>2 to 4 hours round trip</td>
<td>Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7 miles round trip (11.1 km)</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
<td>6 to 8 hours round trip</td>
<td>Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>17 miles round trip (27.4 km)</td>
<td>Extremely Strenuous</td>
<td>10 to 12 hours round trip</td>
<td>Cables up from June to mid-October, otherwise cable route is closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one way (7.6 km)</td>
<td>Very strenuous</td>
<td>1 to 4 hours one way</td>
<td>Check conditions at Visitor Center Closed in winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Yosemite Falls Shuttle Stop #4</td>
<td>13 miles full loop (20.8 km)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>5 to 7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Get full description from Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1999, rangers in Yosemite worked on 158 search and rescue operations. Nine people died in the park due to accidents.

Tritting and falling are common accidents on park walkways and trails, especially in slippery conditions.

At night, artificial lighting is kept to a minimum; always carry a flashlight.

Rock climbing and scrambling are the leading causes of injury and death for unprepared and inexperienced hikers. Routes are often more difficult than they appear, and even a short fall can cause serious injury or death. Before you scramble or climb on Yosemite’s rocks or walls, provide yourself with proper equipment and training.

Swift currents and wet, slippery rocks can cause you to fall and be swept over a waterfall. Never swim or wade in streams above waterfalls or in swiftly moving water.

Any unbridged stream crossing may be hazardous. If a bridge is not nearby and you must cross, do so at a wide, shallow spot that is not above rapids or waterfalls.

Supervise children closely when around all bodies of water.

Watch Your Step!
If you prefer to enjoy the Yosemite area’s magnificent scenery rather than watch the road, YARTS (Yosemite Area Regional Transit System) provides round-trip transit service from communities within Mariposa, Merced, and Mono Counties to Yosemite National Park.

Year-round:
- From Merced east along Highway 140 to Yosemite Valley (limited service only in fall and winter).

Summer only:
- From Coulterville along Highway 132 to Highway 120 West into the park via the Big Oak Flat Entrance (through September 17).
- From Mammoth Lakes and Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley on Highway 395 and 120 East.
- From Wawona.

Fares for riding YARTS vary, but generally range between $7 and $20 round trip for an adult, including entrance to the park (except for the Wawona route). YARTS also offers discounts for children and seniors.

FALL HIKES AND CLASSES

There’s still room on a few great fall seminars in Tuolumne Meadows, Wawona, and Yosemite Valley. The following is a list of some of these outdoor field courses offered by Yosemite Field Seminars, in association with the non-profit Yosemite Association.

- Hawks in Flight, September 7-10, Tuolumne Meadows
- The Bear Facts, September 8-10, Yosemite Valley
- Sketching Yosemite History, September 16-17, Yosemite Valley
- Loosening Up With Watermedia, October 6-8, Yosemite Valley
- Writing Wawona’s Wonders, October 6-8
- Poetry Alive, October 13-15, Yosemite Valley
- Understanding the Chemistry of Plants, October 20-22, Yosemite Valley
- Yosemite Valley Fall Photography, October 26-29, Yosemite Valley

Let the Yosemite Association’s top-notch instructors lead you on a learning adventure. All programs include free campground space, while those in Yosemite Valley and Wawona have rooms set aside for students at an additional cost.

For more information, call Penny or Lou at 209/379-2321, fax any requests to 209/379-2486, or e-mail: YOSE_Yosemite_Association@nps.gov. See a live web camera view of Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows along with the detailed descriptions of these and other seminars at www.yosemite.org.
FIRE MANAGEMENT IN YOSEMITE

This last August marked the ten-year anniversary of the Steamboat and A-Rock fires. Blackened trees can be seen on the Wawona Road north of Chinquapin and on the Big Oak Flat Road near Foresta. Fire managers in Yosemite realize that fire has been an essential part of the ecosystem for thousands of years and have used two tools since the early 1970s to restore the benefits of this natural process: wildland fire and prescribed fire.

Wildland fires that are caused by lightning may be allowed to burn under strictly monitored conditions in certain park wilderness areas. Since 1972, 532 lightning fires have been successfully managed by Yosemite National Park’s fire staff. Where it is not prudent to allow fires to burn, the park has a policy of fire suppression combined with a prescribed fire program. Prescribed fires are ignited under approved conditions by qualified park fire staff to protect developed areas (like Yosemite Valley and Wawona) and in other areas with unusually high amounts of dead and down woody debris. Yosemite has safely conducted 188 prescribed burns since 1970.

All human caused wildland fires are immediately suppressed no matter where they occur within the park. All managed burns are normally signed with warning signs posted in fire areas. Occasionally, trails that are within or adjacent to fires need to be closed for safety. Please heed all warning signs posted in fire areas or along the roadways. The same Yosemite Fund grant that funded the Merced, Tuolumne, and Mariposa Groves of Giant Sequoias, Yosemite National Park has some other prodigious trees. Check them out in your travels through the park:

The American Forestry Association (AFA) World Champion Trees program recognizes some of the world’s most magnificent trees. Serving as the official program by visiting the exhibits in the Valley Visitor Center. Location and status of all wildland and prescribed fires will be displayed in the Visitor Center and on a status board inside the Wilderness Center in Yosemite Village.

Yosemite’s World Champion Trees

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KARELIAN BEAR DOGS

Like many of the techniques that are now being used to re-educate bears, the park’s Karelian Bear Dog, “Logan”, has been a well-utilized addition to the Bear Management Team. Logan’s ancestors were Finnish and were known for their tenacity and fearless nature around bears, as well as their gregarious nature with humans. True to his breed, he is fearless of bears, possesses an incredibly loud bark, and will tirelessly pursue them.

Currently, there is a moratorium on both types of burning in Yosemite National Park. To continue with fire hazard reduction in Yosemite, crews are manually clearing small trees and brush in Yosemite Valley, Mariposa Grove, and other park areas to prepare the areas for burning at a later date. Alternative methods for dealing with the debris, such as chipping, will be used as long as the moratorium lasts.

GIARDIASIS

Giardia lamblia is a protozoan. Associated symptoms include chronic diarrhea, abdominal cramps, bloating, fatigue, and loss of weight. Treatment by a physician is necessary to kill the organism. Giardiasis is an intestinal disease caused by Giardia lamblia. It is out. See page 4 for campfire rules.

Build small campfires using only established campfire rings. Be aware of conditions such as weather and items nearby that could accidentally catch fire. Never leave a fire unattended. Put out campfires by stirring with water a half hour before you leave the site, and remember to carefully charred material to make certain the fire is out. See page 4 for campfire rules.

SAFE DRINKING WATER

Giardiasis is an intestinal disease caused by Giardia lamblia, a protozoan. Associated symptoms include chronic diarrhea, abdominal cramps, bloating, fatigue, and loss of weight. Treatment by a physician is necessary to kill the organism. Giardia lamblia is carried by humans as well as some domestic and wild animals, and may contaminate lakes and streams. Whenever possible, only tap water should be used for drinking. If using surface water or melted snow, treat by boiling for 5 minutes or by using a Giardia-rated water filter. If used properly, an iodine-based purifier is another alternative.

The National Park Service is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Health Services to develop a program to ensure that the drinking water in Yosemite is protected. The program, one of the first in California, will be based on an assessment of potential threats to water sources.

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CHARCOAL BRIQUETTES

Because charcoal uses oxygen rapidly, you should never use it in confined spaces, such as tents or vehicles. After use, dunk charcoal briquettes in water until cold. Check them carefully. Never empty hot or warm briquettes in trash dumpsters.

CIGARETTES

Never smoke while walking or in an area with flammable materials. Crush butts completely before throwing them into a garbage can. Never throw cigarettes out of a car window.

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TICK-BORNE DISEASES

Be aware that ticks exist in the park, and consult your doctor if you believe you’ve been bitten. If you are diagnosed with Lyme disease or relapsing fever, and you believe you got it in Yosemite, have your doctor contact the Park Sanitarian at 209/379-1033.
Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley is world famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is generally open year-round and may be reached via Highway 140 from Fresno. Highway 140 from Merced (see “Important Road Information” on page 9), Highway 120 from Manteca, and in late spring through late fall via the Tioga Road (Highway 120) from Lee Vining. Many activities and services are available in Yosemite Valley. Detailed information on Yosemite Valley is available at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center in Yosemite Village. See map on the back panel, and for scheduled Valley activities, see pages 10-11.

MARIPOSA GROVE AND WAWONA

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1½ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), 2 miles from the park’s South Entrance Station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is not plowed in winter and is subject to closure for extended periods. Activities include hiking, ranger-led walks, and tram tours of the Grove (weather permitting) late spring through fall. Trail brochures, printed in English, French, Japanese, and Spanish, are available at the Grove trailhead to reduce traffic congestion and avoid parking delays. For shuttle bus service and parking details, call the free shuttle bus line (spring through fall) from Wawona to the Grove.

GLACIER POINT

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the High Sierra, is located 30 miles (1 hour) from Yosemite Valley. The view from Glacier Point provides an opportunity to see Yosemite Valley from its rim. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41) 14 miles to the Chinquapin junction, then turn left onto the Glacier Point Road. The road ends at Glacier Point. The Glacier Point Road is generally open from late spring through late fall. In winter, the road is plowed only as far as the Badger Pass Ski Area. Glacier Point can then be reached via skis or snowshoes only. See page 12 for activities.

Transportation

To and From Yosemite

Via the Yosemite Connection / Gray Line
209/384-1315 or in CA 800/369-PARK
www.grayline-adventures.com

FRENSO — Service between Fresno/Yosemite International Airport and Fresno hotels to Yosemite Valley, seasonally. Wheelchair-lift equipped with advance notice. Schedule, prices, and reservations available by calling VIA or visiting their web site.

MERced — Service from Merced Amtrak Station and Transpo Center to Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Lodge. Deluxe coaches provide several round-trips daily between Merced and Yosemite. Wheelchair-lift equipped with advance notice. Schedules available at Yosemite Lodge tour desk, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, or by calling VIA or visiting their web site. Tickets can be purchased on board.

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) gives park visitors a break from driving by providing transit service into Yosemite. This new voluntary operation provides scheduled round-trip transit service to Yosemite from outlying communities, including Merced, Mariposa, and Mammoth Lakes. Summer service operates through September 17 and will resume in the summer of 2001. For schedule and service information, visit the YARTS web site at www.yosemite.com/yartsc/ or call toll free 877/98-YARTS (877/989-2787).

Within Yosemite

Free shuttle bus service is provided throughout the eastern portion of Yosemite Valley year-round. In summer, free shuttle buses run from Wawona to the Mariposa Grove, and from Tioga Pass to Tenaya Lake. Hiker buses run daily to Glacier Point late spring through autumn and between Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley late June through Labor Day. Call 209/372-1240 for hiker bus fee, schedule, and reservations, or stop by any tour desk.

Lodging

Reservations for all overnight lodging in Yosemite can be made by calling 559/252-4848, by writing to Central Reservations, Yosemite Reservation Services, 5410 East Home, Fresno, CA 93727, or go to www.yosemitepark.com on the internet. Lodging in Yosemite Valley includes the Ahwahnee, Curry Village, Housekeeping Camp, Yosemite Lodge, and the Ahwahnee Inn. Lodging outside Yosemite Valley includes the Wawona Hotel, and in summer, White Wolf Lodge and Tuolumne Meadows Hotels. Rates range from $45 per night for a basic tent cabin with nearby bathhouse, to $265.50 per night for a room at The Ahwahnee (rates are subject to change). Reservations are highly recommended and may be made up to 1 year and 1 day in advance.

LoDGING AND Activities OUTside THE Park

West Highway 120

Highway 120 Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1263
Hotel Charlotte, Suite B
Groveland, CA 95321
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429
wwww.datanconf.com

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 4020
542 Stockton Road
Sonora, CA 95370
800/446-1113 or 209/533-4420
www.tuolumne.org

Highway 41

Yosemite Sierrra Visitor Bureau
6037 N. Highway 41
Oakhurst, CA 93644
559/683-4636
www.sierranut.net/yosb

Highway 132/49

Coasterville Visitor Center
P.O. Box 331
5007 Main Street
Costerville, CA 95311
209/876-3870
www.mariposa.yosemite.net/visitor

Highway 40/49

Mariposa County Visitor Center
(Also info for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West)
P.O. Box 425
5158 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
800/208-2434 or 209/966-2456
www.mariposa.yosemite.net/visitor

East Highway 120

Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center
P.O. Box 138
Highway 95 and 3rd Street
Lee Vining, CA 93541
760/647-6629
www.lviving.com

Yosemite Store and Visitor Center
5027 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
209/966-3888
www.yosemite.org

California Welcome Center, Merced
710 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340
800/446-3533 or 209/844-2791
www.mercedcvb>yosemite-gateway.org

Areas to Visit in Yosemite

PLANNING

Entrance Fees

The park is open 24 hours a day, year-round. ( Fees subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>Valid for 7 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for 7 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Pass</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>Valid for 1 year in all national park areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Parks Pass</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Valid for 1 year in all national park areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Eagle Pass (lifetime)</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>Valid for 1 year in all federal fee areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Age Pass (lifetime)</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Access Pass (lifetime)</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>For blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLANNING

Eighty percent of your $20 entrance fee remains in Yosemite. Thanks to the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, approved by Congress in 1995, entrance fees have been temporarily raised to help fund projects that improve the park and your visit. Projects currently underway include:

• Requiring the deteriorated sewer line that services all of Yosemite Valley
• Refurbishing the multi-purpose auditorium in Yosemite Village

The park is awaiting approval on many other maintenance, visitor services, and natural and cultural restoration projects including:

• Replacing picnic tables, fire rings, and signs in campgrounds parkwide
• Refurbishing roads, trails, and utilities throughout the park
• Improving the shuttle bus service in Yosemite Valley


Areas to Visit in Yosemite

FLANNING

What is the best way to visit Yosemite?

There is no “best way” to visit the park. Your experience in Yosemite depends on the time you have available and your interests. Many fine maps and books are sold in visitor centers and park stores to help plan your visit. Publications such as Yosemite’s Official Park Handbook, published by the National Park Service, or The Yosemite Visitor’s Kit are available at visitor centers, gift shops, or by mail from the Yosemite Association Bookstore, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, 209/379-2648, fax 209/379-2486, www.yosemitestore.com.

Remember that road and trail conditions and available services may change with the weather. For current conditions and general information, call 209/372-0200.
Be sure to visit Yosemite National Park for a wonderful experience.

Yosemite National Park

**YOUR VISIT**

**Visitor Centers**

- Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
  - Open daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. through October 9. Closed on November 1.
  - See page 11 for more information.

- Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
  - Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. through October 9. Closed in winter.
  - See page 11 for more information.

- Wawona Information Station at the Valley Visitor Center
  - Open daily 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. through October 9; 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. October 10 through November. See page 10 for more information.

- Tioga Road and Tuolumne Meadows
  - The Tioga Road is generally open from late spring through late fall and offers a 39-mile scenic drive through forests and past meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 feet at Crane Flat to 9,900 feet at Tioga Pass. There are many scenic and recreational opportunities in these areas. Check at the Tuolumne Meadow park bulletin boards for updated information on available services and activities. From late fall through late spring, this area is only accessible by cross-country skis or snowshoes. See page 12 for activities.

**Tours**

For a relaxing and informative experience, take a seeing-tour tour on a bus or open-air tram (weather permitting). These tours, narrated by knowledgeable guides, offer daily stops and other points of interest in the park, including Yosemite Valley (year-round), Tuolumne Meadows (summer), Glacier Point, Wawona, and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias (spring through fall). Two-hour moonlight tours show Yosemite in a different light during summer months. In winter, tours are conducted on heated and enclosed motor coaches; stops are made at the best-known scenic locations in Yosemite Valley. There are fees for all sightseeing tours. For reservations and more information, call 209/372-1240 or stop by any hotel tour desk.

**Recreation**

Bicycling

- More than 12 miles of paved bikeways wind through the eastern end of Yosemite National Park. Weather permitting, rental bikes, baby jogger strollers, and bicycle child trailers are available at Yosemite Lodge (all seasons) and Curry Village (summer).

- Check with rental agent for restrictions on rental bike use.

**Rental Bikes**

- Bicycles are allowed only on paved bikeways and park roads (under the road is closed to bicycle use).

- All bikes are prohibited from pedestrian and hiking trails and off roads.

- Bicyclists must obey all posted traffic signs and travel with the flow of traffic when on roads used by automobile.

- Bicycles are not allowed in the construction zone on the El Portal Road.

**Horseback Riding**

- Weather and trail conditions permitting, horse and half-day rides depart from stable in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Wawona (spring through fall). Call 209/372-8348 for information or see page 15.

**Hiking & Backpacking**

- Yosemite offers over 500 miles of hiking trails parkwide. For updated trail information, visit the Wilderness Center in Yosemite Valley or call 209/372-0200. Wilderness permits are required for overnight backpacking. For wilderness permit information and reservations, call 209/372-0740. For some ideas on hiking, as well as information about backpacking, see page 5.

**Rock Climbing Classes**

- The Yosemite Mountaineering School and Guide Service offers beginners through advanced classes in Yosemite Valley spring, summer, and fall, and in Tuolumne Meadows in summer only. See page 15 or call 209/372-8344 for information.

**Programs and Exhibits**

- Naturalist-guided walks and programs as well as self-guided walks are available in Yosemite Valley. Cultural history demonstrations of basket-weaving, beadwork, or traditional games are offered at the Valley Visitor Center, Yosemite Museum, Nature Center at Happy Isles (summer), LeConte Memorial Lodge (summer), Wilderness Center, and The Ansel Adams Gallery. Check park visitor centers and bulletin boards for additional information, and see activities listed on pages 10-12.

**Important Road Information**

Construction and restoration projects will be ongoing in several locations throughout the park.

The Tioga Road (Highway 120) between El Portal and the Big Oak Flat Road intersection was severely damaged by the January 1997 flood. This section of the road is closed to traffic from 10:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. every day until October 1, when reconstruction will be complete. All overnight parking and recreational use in the construction area is prohibited October 1.

For current road information and access schedules, check at any ranger station or visitor center, or call 209/372-0200 (recorded information). For additional information on driving in Yosemite, see “Drive Safely” on page 2.

**Tours in Yosemite National Park**

- Recorded General Park Information: 209/372-0700; Park Road & Weather Conditions, Trip Planning Information, etc. 209/372-0200

- Western U.S. National Parks 415/554-6560

- On The Go (see page 6)

- Yosemite National Park www.nps.gov/yose

- Yosemite Concession Services www.yosemitepark.com

- Camping Reservations reservations.nps.gov

- Yosemite Area Traveler Info. www.yosemite.com

- Yosemite Association yosemite.org

- Yosemite Institute www.yi.org

- Yosemite Fund www.yosemitefund.org

- The Ansel Adams Gallery www.anseladams.com

- VIA/Gray Line www.via-advntures.com

**Average Precipitation and Temperatures in Yosemite Valley (4,000 ft/1,220 m)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>PRECIPITATION (inches/metric)</th>
<th>MAXIMUM (°F/C)</th>
<th>MINIMUM (°F/C)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>6.2/15.7</td>
<td>40/4.2</td>
<td>19/1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>8.3/21.1</td>
<td>42/6.1</td>
<td>30/1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>5.2/13.2</td>
<td>50/10</td>
<td>31/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>3.0/7.6</td>
<td>61/16</td>
<td>55/2</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1.3/3.3</td>
<td>73/23</td>
<td>42/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>0.7/1.8</td>
<td>82/28</td>
<td>53/11</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>0.4/1.0</td>
<td>90/32</td>
<td>54/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>0.3/0.8</td>
<td>90/32</td>
<td>53/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>0.9/2.3</td>
<td>87/30</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>2.1/5.3</td>
<td>74/23</td>
<td>39/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>5.5/14.5</td>
<td>58/14</td>
<td>31/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>5.6/14.2</td>
<td>48/9</td>
<td>26/3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For temperatures at 8,000 feet (2,440 m), subtract 10-20 degrees.*
VISITOR CENTER
Open daily 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. through October 9; 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. beginning October 10. Located in Yosemite Village just west of the main post office (shuttle stop #3) and #7). Information, maps, books, exhibits, and a multilingual One Day Yosemite program.

WILDERNESS CENTER
Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through November 4. Located in Yosemite Village between The Ansel Adams Gallery and the post office. One-stop resource for backpackers in need of wilderness permits, maps, bear canisters, and guidebooks. Displays and programs on pre-trip planning, microclimates, impact camping techniques, and Yosemite wilderness. After November 4, wilderness permits will be available at the Valley Visitor Center.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM
Located in Yosemite Village next to the Visitor Center. Museum Cultural Exhibit
Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Displays interpret the cultural history of Yosemite’s native Mono and Paiute people. Demonstrations of basketweaving, beadwork, and/or traditional games are presented.

MUSEUM GALLERY
Check museum door or Visitor Center for current schedule. Historic paintings from the Yosemite Museum Collection. Museum Store
Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Offering traditional Indian arts and crafts, and books on related subjects.

THE INDIAN VILLAGE OF AHWAHNEE
Located behind the Yosemite Museum and always open. Sometimes Indian Cultural Program staff are available for details on the history of the Ahwahne tribe, and other cultural and science. Inquire in the Indian Cultural Exhibit for schedule.

EVENING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES
A variety of children’s programs are offered through the Sierra Club's LeConte Memorial Lodge. See schedule below (kids' programs in color). The Ansel Adams Gallery is also a great place to be. The Gallery offers works of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. In addition, a wide selection of books, cards, gifts, and books, and photography supplies are offered. For more information, call the Gallery at 209/372-4413 or visit their web site at www.anseladamsgallery.com.

THE ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY
Located in Yosemite Village next to the Visitor Center. The Gallery offers works of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. In addition, a wide selection of books, cards, gifts, and books, and photography supplies are offered. For more information, call the Gallery at 209/372-4413 or visit their web site at www.anseladamsgallery.com.

LEYCEONTE MEMORIAL LODGE
Open Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (closed for the season September 28). Located at shuttle stop #11. LeConte Memorial Lodge, Yosemite’s first public visitor center, is operated by the Sierra Club and features a children’s corner, library, and a variety of environmental education and evening programs. For more information on programs, see activities scheduled below, bulletin boards at LeConte, campground, Visitor Center, and post office. You may also call 209/372-4542.

NATURE CENTER AT HAPPY ISLES
Open daily 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (closed for lunch). Closes for the season September 30. The center in Yosemite’s most family-oriented nature center includes wildlife dioramas, tracking tips, interactive exhibits, and a bookstore. Nearby are short trail seeking on the area’s four different environments: forest, river, talus, and fen. You can also see substantial evidence of the huge 1991 rockslide from a short hike, which is behind the Yosemite Nature Center. The center is a short walk from shuttle stop bus stop #15.

YOSEMITE CEMETARY
This historic cemetery is located across the street and just west of the Yosemite Museum. Galen Clark, the Guardian of Yosemite, is buried here along with other pioneer park visitors, native Americans, and people who played important roles in the development of what is now Yosemite National Park. A guide to the Yosemite Cemetery is available at the Visitor Center.

WALKS & TALKS
Join a ranger on an easy walk to explore Yosemite’s natural and cultural history. Programs are usually offered mornings and afternoons daily. April through October. Follow the trail may vary in wheelchairs, with assistance.

MONDAY
8:30 a.m. Yosemite Village, Camp Curry, and near shuttle stop #3. NO BARRIERS/ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY.
9:00 a.m. Mirror Lake Interpretive Trail, birthday, workshops, and yoga in the Yosemite Village, near shuttle stop #4. NO BARRIERS.

TUESDAY
8:30 a.m. Ranger Walk—People of the Oak (September 5 & 12 only)
10:00 a.m. Mirror Lake Interpretive Trail, birthday, workshops, and yoga in the Yosemite Village, near shuttle stop #4. NO BARRIERS.

WEDNESDAY
8:30 a.m. Ranger Walk—Walk the Canyons behind Visitor Center & shuttle stop #15.
9:00 a.m. Ranger Walk—Granite and Ice, 1 to 1:30 hours, shuttle bus stop #4.

THURSDAY
8:30 a.m. Yosemite Village, Camp Curry, and near shuttle stop #3. NO BARRIERS/ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY.

FRIDAY
8:30 a.m. Yosemite Village, Camp Curry, and near shuttle stop #3. NO BARRIERS/ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY.

SATURDAY
8:30 a.m. Yosemite Village, Camp Curry, and near shuttle stop #3. NO BARRIERS/ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY.

SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. Yosemite Village, Camp Curry, and near shuttle stop #3. NO BARRIERS/ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY.

MONDAY
8:30 a.m. Yosemite Village, Camp Curry, and near shuttle stop #3. NO BARRIERS/ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY.

TUESDAY
8:30 a.m. Yosemite Village, Camp Curry, and near shuttle stop #3. NO BARRIERS/ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY.

WEDNESDAY
8:30 a.m. Yosemite Village, Camp Curry, and near shuttle stop #3. NO BARRIERS/ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY.
**Yosemite Valley**

**THURSDAY**

10:00 a.m.  Ranger Walk—Edges and Open Places, 1 to 1 1/2 hours, shuttle bus stop #4

**FRIDAY**

9:00 a.m.  Photo Walk & Class (color landscapes), 2 hours

**SATURDAY**

9:00 a.m.  Ranger Walk—Feathers, Fur, and Under the Log, 1 to 1 1/2 hours

**Wawona Information Station at Hill's Studio**

Open daily 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (closed for lunch) through October 9. Bear canister rental, books, maps, art exhibits, and demonstrations. Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, Hill’s Studio was the gallery and art studio of famous 19th century landscape painter Thomas Hill. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona Store/Pioneer Yosemite History Center parking area and follow the path up the hill.

**Pioneer Yosemite History Center**

Walk across the covered bridge and visit historic buildings out of Yosemite’s past. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center will explain how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and throughout the world. The Center is always open, and explanatory signs and brochures are available.  

**To Get to the Grove**

Allow 1 1/2 hours driving time to the Mariposa Grove from Yosemite Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the parking area in the Grove, but several giant sequoias can be seen from the road. Information about access for the disabled is available at the group boarding area. Trailers are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road; motor homes are prohibited when the Mariposa Grove Road is closed for maintenance. Please use the free shuttle service between Wawona and the Mariposa Grove (see below).

**Free Mariposa Grove/Wawona Shuttle Bus**

Due to narrow roads and very limited parking, visitors are strongly encouraged to use this free bus service to help alleviate congestion and lengthy parking delays. Shuttles operate daily through October 1 and weekends only through October 22. They stop at the Wawona Store, South Entrance, and Mariposa Grove beginning at 9:00 a.m. The last shuttle leaves Wawona at 4:30 p.m.; last shuttle leaves the Grove at 6:30 p.m. Visitors may park at the Wawona Store to board the shuttle bus.

**Walking**

The trailhead for walking up through the Grove is located at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the Mariposa Grove Campground provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations are available at the trailhead (Spanish, German, French, Japanese).

**Distance & Elevation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Distance from Trailhead</th>
<th>Elevation Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grizzly Giant</td>
<td>0.0 miles/1.0 km</td>
<td>400 feet/122 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grove Museum</td>
<td>2.1 miles/3.5 km</td>
<td>800 feet/242 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallen Tunnel Tree</td>
<td>2.5 miles/4.0 km</td>
<td>1,000 feet/305 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona Point</td>
<td>3.0 miles/4.8 km</td>
<td>1,200 feet/343 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mariposa Grove Museum**

Open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed for lunch) through October 9. Offers giant sequoia displays, books, maps, and information about the area.

**Tram Schedule for the Mariposa Grove**

Trams run daily in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias for a 1-hour tour through the Lower and Upper Groves. When Mariposa Road closes due to snow, the tram is at 9:00 a.m. and the tram leaves at 3:30 p.m., running every 15 to 20 minutes from the boarding area. $8.50/ adult, $6.50/ seniors (63 or older), $4.50/children (5-12), $25 maximum for a family (parents and their children under 16). Children under 3 ride free.

**Walks & Talks**

Every day at 10:00 a.m. (through October 9), join a ranger for a 1-hour easy 90-minute walk through the lower portion of the Mariposa Grove to explore the forest and learn the secret of the tree’s survival. Meet at the Lower Mariposa Grove trailhead. At 2:00 p.m. on Fridays (through October 13), join a Yosemite Concession Services photographer for a 1/2 to 1 hour photo walk through the Mariposa Grove. Meet at the gift shop.

There are times when the parking lot at the Mariposa Grove is full and closed to private vehicles. Allow plenty of time to take the free Mariposa Grove/Wawona Shuttle Bus. No programs will be given if the Mariposa Grove Road is closed due to snow.
**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**

**Visitor Center**
Open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily through October 9. Park orientation, trail information, books, maps, and displays. Phone 209/372-0263.

**Evening Activities**
Come to a campfire program and take part in a tradition! Most evenings through September 25, join a ranger around a campfire at the Tuolumne Meadows Campground for singalong story-telling, and answers to some of your questions about Yosemite. Program topics vary and are posted at the campground, Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center.

Explore the stars with a ranger on Saturday evenings. Experience the magic and magnitude of the clear mountain sky. Bring a pad to sit on and dress warmly. Programs will be canceled if the sky is overcast.

**PARSONS MEMORIAL LODGE AND SODA SPRINGS**
Discover the natural and human history of Tuolumne Meadows and hike to the place where John Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson conceived the idea of establishing Yosemite National Park. This area is an easy 1-mile walk from Lembert Dome parking area or from the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center.
Come see the new exhibit—Place, People, Possibility—at Parsons Memorial Lodge. Staffed by park volunteers, the Lodge is usually open 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (through September 25).

**MONDAY**
2:00 p.m., Ranger Walk—Animals, 2 hours, Lembert Dome parking area
7:00 p.m., Campfire, 1 hour, Dana Circle, Tuolumne Meadows Campground b

**TUESDAY**
2:00 p.m., Ranger Walk Along the River, 3-4 hours
Bring lunch, wear, and raingear
Dog Lake parking area along Tuolumne Lodge Road
7:00 p.m., Campfire, 1 hour, Dana Circle, Tuolumne Meadows Campground b

**WEDNESDAY**
10:00 a.m., Ranger Walk—Geology, 2 hours, Frohde Dome trail marker T-29

**THURSDAY**
2:00 p.m., Ranger Walk—Indians, 2 hours, Lembert Dome parking area
7:00 p.m., Campfire, 1 hour, Dana Circle, Tuolumne Meadows Campground b

**FRIDAY**
11:00 a.m., Lunch Walk to Tuolomne Creek, 3-4 hours
Bring lunch, wear, and raingear, Frohde Dome trail marker T-29
2:00 p.m., Ranger Walk—History, 2 hours, Lembert Dome parking area
7:00 p.m., Campfire, 1 hour, Dana Circle, Tuolumne Meadows Campground b

**SATURDAY**
2:00 p.m., Ranger Walk—Hawks and Other Migrants, 2 hours
Frohde Dome trail marker T-29
7:00 p.m., Campfire, 1 hour, Dana Circle, Tuolumne Meadows Campground b

**SUNDAY**
2:00 p.m., Ranger Walk—Indians, 2 hours, Lembert Dome parking area
7:00 p.m., Campfire, 1 hour, Dana Circle, Tuolumne Meadows Campground b

**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS INFORMATION STATION**
Located just inside the park at the Big Oak Flat (Highway 120 West) Entrance Station, and offers park orientation material, trail information, wilderness permits, books, and maps. Phone 209/379-1899.

**CRANE FLAT/BIG OAK FLAT**

**BIG OAK FLAT INFORMATION STATION**
Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed for lunch) through October 9. Thursday to Monday through November 1. Station is located just inside the park at the Big Oak Flat (Highway 120 West) Entrance Station, and offers park orientation material, trail information, wilderness permits, books, and maps. Phone 209/379-1899.

**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS GROVE**
The Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of Highway 120 West and the Tioga Road. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the Tuolumne Grove, a cluster of about 25 sequoias. Now closed to cars, this 2-mile (3.2 km) round-trip hike has an elevation change of 500 feet (150 meters). The downhill walk is relatively easy, though it is moderately strenuous on the uphill return. Once in the Tuolumne Grove, there is an easy half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.

**MERCEDE GROVE**
Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, accessible only on foot. It’s a 2-mile hike into the grove from the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). Located 3.5 miles north of Crane Flat on 4.5 miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance, the trailhead is marked by a post labeled B-10 and a road sign. Allow about 3 hours for the 4-mile round-trip hike to this small group of sequoias (about 20 trees).

**YOSEMITE'S OTHER SEQUOIA GROVES**

**RANGER WALKS**
Join a ranger for a walk to discover Yosemite’s unique, tamed-away places. Experience spectacular views from Taft Point and Sentinel Dome, or hike to a seldom-seen waterfall.

**Evening Programs**
Meet a ranger to enjoy the lengthening shadows in Yosemite Valley and the alpenglow on the Sierra high country, or come for the sunset and stay for the moonrise. On some evenings, a ranger program will be co-hosted by rangers and volunteers from astronomical societies. Bring warm clothing.

**MONDAY**
2:00 p.m., Ranger Walk to Taft Point (except September 11), 2 hours, Taft Point/Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road
6:15 p.m., Sunset Talk (September 24 to October 7), except September 9, Glacier Point railing b
8:00 p.m., Stars Over Yosemite (except September 9 & 16), 1 hour, Glacier Point railing b

**TUESDAY**
2:00 p.m., Ranger Walk to Hitec Fall (except September 12), 4 hours, Glacier Point Gift Shop
6:15 p.m., Sunset Talk (September 24 to October 7), Glacier Point railing b
6:45 p.m., Sunset Talk (September 24 to October 7), Glacier Point railing b

**SATURDAY**
6:35 p.m., Sunset Talk (September 24 to October 7), except September 9, Glacier Point railing b
8:00 p.m., Stars Over Yosemite (except September 9 & 16), 1 hour, Glacier Point railing b

**SUNDAY**
2:00 p.m., Ranger Walk to Sentinel Dome (except September 12), 2 hours, Taft Point/Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road
6:15 p.m., Sunset Talk (September 24 to October 7), Glacier Point railing b
6:45 p.m., Sunset Talk (September 24 to October 7), Glacier Point railing b

Illustration by Margaret Pettis

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**CRANE FLAT/BIG OAK FLAT**

**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**

**Visitor Center**
Open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily through October 9. Park orientation, trail information, books, maps, and displays. Phone 209/372-0263.
THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

JOIN THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

The Yosemite Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of Yosemite National Park through a program of visitor services, publications, and membership activities. For over 70 years, the association has provided important financial support to the National Park Service, and has made possible the funding of many projects and purchases otherwise not affordable through normal government appropriations.

The Yosemite Association:

- Provides over $300,000 annually to the National Park Service for its use in visitor information, educational, and interpretive programs.
- Publishes popular and award-winning books on Yosemite and operates bookstores in the park.
- Provides member-volunteers to work on meadows, trails, and other much-needed park restoration projects.
- Organizes over 60 outdoor classes and field seminars on natural history, Native American lifeways, art, and photography.
- Sponsors the Ostrander Ski Hut, Yosemite Theater, Art Activity Center, and other valuable programs.

Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to become more closely involved and affiliated with the park is encouraged to become a member of the Yosemite Association. Sign up for a membership through this Yosemite Guide and receive a free gift, The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park. This book is informative and useful, lively and humorous, and earned the “Best National Park Guidebook” award from the National Park Service.

As a member, you will:

- Enjoy a 15% discount at Yosemite Association shops on all books, maps, and publications, as well as quality for a discount on most field seminars.
- Have an opportunity to volunteer in Yosemite.
- Receive the quarterly journal, Yosemite, which features informative articles on both the natural and human history of the park.
- Have a chance to attend special members’ events in the park.
- Have access to a members-only information line.
- Have the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting significant projects in Yosemite National Park.

Please enroll me as a member of the Yosemite Association

The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park

Name (please print) ________________________________

Street Address ________________________________

City ___________________ State ______ Zip _______

Daytime Phone Number ___________________________

Enclosed is my check or money order for $__________ or charge to:__________

Credit card #: __________________ Exp. date _______

E-mail address ________________________________

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift:

$25 $100 $1,000

Yes, I want to join the Friends of Yosemite who provide for Yosemite’s future!

Friends of Yosemite receive the full-color Yosemite Postcard Book ($25), beautiful Yosemite note cards ($5) or the photo book, Cycle of the Seasons ($10).

John Muir Heritage Society members, giving $1,000 or more, receive invitations to events at Yosemite, a park entrance pass and other Society benefits.

Enclosed is my check or money order, or charge to my VISA/MasterCard/AmEx

Name ___________________________________________

Address _______________________________________

City ___________________ State ______ Zip _______

Enclosed is my check or money order, or charge to my VISA/MasterCard/AmEx

Card # __________________ Exp. date _______

PROVIDING FOR YOSEMITE’S FUTURE

Behind Yosemite’s spectacular natural scenery lies another, far less obvious attraction—the park’s excellent collection of museums and educational centers. Preserving the wealth of natural and human history found at these sites and making it more accessible for visitors is an important goal of The Yosemite Fund, which has provided over $1 million to Yosemite Visitor Information Center.

This fall, the Fund is completing a major restoration project at the Nature Center at Happy Isles, which was severely damaged by a 1996 rockfall and 1997 flood. The Center, popular with families, is now wheelchair accessible and features new wayside exhibits, a native species garden, a rockfall viewing area, and many hands-on exhibits about Yosemite’s unique natural environment. The Fund has also sponsored improvements at many other hidden educational gems, including the Mariposa Grove Museum; the Yosemite Museum, Indian Village, and Wilderness Center in Yosemite Valley; and Parsons Lodge in Tuolumne Meadows.

Cultural and historical preservation is just one of many areas supported by The Yosemite Fund, a non-profit organization that raises money from Yosemite enthusiasts to protect and restore the park and enhance the visitor’s experience. Now in its 12th year, the Fund has provided nearly $12 million for more than 150 projects. Thanks to gifts from dedicated “Friends of Yosemite,” the Fund has helped:

- Install 2,000 bear-proof food lockers throughout Yosemite
- Rehabilitate Cook’s Meadow in the heart of Yosemite Valley
- Rebuild numerous sections of Yosemite’s 800+ miles of trails

This year, the Fund is sponsoring many more projects including continued scientific research on Yosemite’s wildlife, educating school children about Yosemite and natural resource protection, and the production of a new visitor orientation film.

You can help by becoming a Friend of Yosemite through a donation to the Fund. All donors of $25 or more receive:

- The 15-page full-color Yosemite Postcard Book, or other gift described below
- The Fund’s semi-annual newsletter, Approach, featuring updates on the park and information about how your donation is helping Yosemite
- Acknowledgement at the Friends of Yosemite Honor Wall at the Valley Visitor Center

Please fill out the coupon below and become a Friend of Yosemite today.

Please contact the Friends of Yosemite, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95389-0230, 209/379-2646, or visit www.yosemitefund.org.
**MOUNTAIN ROAD GRILL**

- Light snack service available $5
- 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. weekdays
- Noon to 10:00 p.m. weekends

**THE AHWAHNEE**

- An elegant dining experience in one of America’s premier dining rooms
- Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. $-$
- Sunday Brunch: 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. $$$
- Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. $-$
- Dinner: 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. $$$
- Dinner reservations suggested, call 209/372-1489

**AWHAHNEE BAR**

- Classic cocktails, specialty drinks, light snacks
- Noon to 10:00 p.m. $-$

**Curry Village**

- Over 100 years of family-oriented dining experiences
- Meals served daily in one or more of the following locations:
  - CAFE AND ICE CREAM CORNER
    - Freshly ground coffees, espressos, lattes, cappuccinos, fruit, baked goods, dessert, soft drinks, boxed lunches, and ice cream $-
    - 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
  - PAVILION
    - All you can eat buffet $-$
    - Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
    - Lunch: 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (until mid October)
    - Dinner: 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
  - HAMBURGER STAND
    - open weekend only through mid-September
    - Burgers, chicken, fish sandwiches, chicken strips, salad, side orders, and soft drinks $-
  - PIZZA
    - Enjoy pizza, salad, and beverages under the stars $-

**Happy Hours**

- SNACK STAND
  - closed late October
  - Rewarding refreshments after a long hike
  - Soft drinks, ice cream, snacks, bottled water $-
  - 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Tuolumne Meadows**

- **GRILL**
  - closed September 17
  - A quick breakfast, lunch, or dinner before or after exploring $-
  - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- **TUOLUMNE MEADOWS LODGE DINING ROOM**
  - Rustic, family-style dining adjacent to the Tuolumne River
  - Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. $-
  - Dinner: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. $$$-
  - Meals are served family style and dinner reservations are suggested, call 209/372-8413

**White Wolf Lodge**

- closed after breakfast, September 10
- A cozy dining room with outdoor seating
  - Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. $-$
  - Dinner: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. $$$-
  - Dinner reservations advised, call 209/372-8416

**Wawona Hotel**

- Old world charm with a relaxing atmosphere
  - Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. $-
  - Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. $-
  - Dinner: 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. $$$-
  - Dinner reservations advised for 8 or more, 209/372-1425
  - Sunday Breakfast Buffet: 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. $-
  - Sunday Brunch: 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. $$$-

**Glacier Point**

- SNACK STAND
  - closed late October
  - Comfortable facility serves snacks to ease hunger after a hike or drive to the Point
  - Spectacular sunset views, $-
  - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Beverage Services**

- **Yosemite Lodge Mountain Room Bar & Lounge**
  - 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. weekdays
  - Noon to 10:00 p.m. weekends

- **Curry Village Terrace**
  - 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

- **AWHAHNEE Bar**
  - Noon to 1:00 p.m. through mid-October, then 4:30 to 11:00 p.m.

- **Wawona Hotel Lobby Lounge**
  - Service to lobby lounge and verandas
  - 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Groceries**

- **Yosemite Lodge Gift/Grocery**
  - 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- **Village Store**
  - Full service grocery store
  - 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. through September
  - 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. October and November

- **Degnan’s Delicatessen**
  - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- **CURLY COUNTRY STORE**
  - Campsites and prepackaged snacks
  - 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

- **Wawona Store**
  - Fishing and fishing supplies, including fishing licenses and bear canister rental
  - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- **Cranem Flat**
  - Convenience store, bear canister rental
  - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- **Tuolumne Meadows Store**
  - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- **El Portal Market**
  - 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Gifts, Books & Apparel**

- **Yosemite Village**
  - **The Ahnell Adams Gallery**
    - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
    - October 15, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. after October 16
  - Books, original photographs, cards, Native American crafts, photography supplies, camera rentals, and more.
  - 209/372-4413
  - www.aneelsadams.com

- **Yosemite Bookstore**
  - 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
  - through October 9
  - www.yosemitebookstore.com

- **Yosemite Museum Shop**
  - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  - through October 8; 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from October 9
  - Books, traditional Indian arts and crafts
  - 209/372-0295

- **Village Store**
  - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  - Features signature Yosemite apparel, books, glassware, and signature postcard

- **Habitat Yosemite**
  - closed October 17
  - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  - located in Degnan’s building. Interpretive gifts and souvenirs inspired by nature

- **Sport Shop**
  - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  - Fishing and camping supplies, bear canister rental, California fishing license

- **Art Activity Center**
  - closed October 16
  - 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  - located south of Village Store. Free art classes daily. Books, art supplies, and fine local art

- **Wilderness Center**
  - closed November 4
  - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
  - Guidebooks, maps, wilderness permits, bear canister rental, and trip-planning displays.
  - www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness/
Recreational facilities and services

Yosemite Village
South of Village Store (Bank of America) Inside Village Store (Heritage Oaks Bank)

Yosemite Lodge
Inside main registration area

Curry Village
Inside gift shop

El Portal
On Hwy. 140 at Yosemite View Lodge

TOURS

Yosemite Turf Club
Meet first and third Thursdays of each month at Noon, The Ahwahnee.

REHABILITATION

Women's Bible Study
Worship Service: Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Recreation

Yosemite Lodge Tour Desk
(after-hours ticket sales available at front desk)

Sightseeing Tours
Two-hour open-air tram (weather permitting) or bin tours, all-day and half-day bus tours depart daily from lodging facilities in Yosemite Valley. Inquire at tour/transportation desks.

Mountaineering School
Yosemite Mountaineering School offers lessons and guided climbing at all levels, overnight backcountry, and guided private and group day hikes to spectacular areas of Yosemite and the high country.

Yosemite Village Bike Rental
Six-speed bikes with trailers.

Daily rates. Baby-joggers, wheelchairs, and

rented or returned at any rental location in

Tuolumne Meadows

Canisters may be

returned at any rental location in the park.

Bear Canister Rental
Available for $3 per trip at the Wilderness Center, Yosemite Valley Sports Shop, Curry Village Mountain Shop, Big Oak Flat Information Station, Crane Flat Store, Wawona Store, Wawona Information Station, Tuolumne Meadows Sport Shop, Tuolumne Meadows Store, and Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Canisters may be rented or returned at any rental location in the park.

Bike Rentals
Daily, weather permitting, with hourly and daily rates. Baby-joggers, wheelchair, and six-speed bikes with trailers.

Yosemite Lodge
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Crane Village
(located next to gas station)
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wawona
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Diesel available.
Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

Tuolumne Meadows
8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Propylene available.
Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

Wawona
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Diesel & propylene available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

Auto Service, Towing, and Repair (AAA)
Crane Flat: 24 hours Tuolumne Meadows: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Towing 24 hours. Emergency gas & propylene available at 209/372-8420.

Main Post Office (Yosemite Village)
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Yosemite Lodge Post Office
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wawona Post Office
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tuolumne Meadows Post Office
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to Noon

El Portal Post Office
Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Post Offices

Individuals and groups interested in community service projects in Yosemite can call the Volunteer Program Manager at 209/379-1850. Free camping is provided and entrance fees are waived during your work project.

Yosemite Concession Services
Contact Yosemite Concession Services Corporation at the General Offices in Yosemite Village on call 209/372-1236.

Yosemite Association
Outdoor seminars, some for college credit.
P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95538
209/379-2121 yosemite.org

Yosemite Institute
Non-profit environmental education organization. Week-long, field-based workshops. P.O. Box 487, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

Individuals interested in gaining work experience, contact 209/379-1850.

NPS Education Park
Banger-Ranger programs, resource information, teacher workshops.

P.O. Box 167, CA 95358
209/372-9365.

For entrance waivers for educational groups, call 209/379-1876

www.nps.gov/yose/basc.htm

Yosemite National Park
Human Resource Office, call 209/379-1805 or write: Yosemite National Park, Human Resource Office, P.O. Box 700, El Portal, CA 95358

Volunteers in Parks
Contact the Yosemite National Park Volunteer Program Manager at 209/379-1850. Free camping is provided and entrance fees are waived during your work project.

Yosemite Concession Services
Contact Yosemite Concession Services Corporation at the General Offices in Yosemite Village on call 209/372-1236.

Environmental Education

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S E P T E M B E R 5 — N O V E M B E R 1 3 , 2 0 0 0

ALL SERVICES AND HOURS OF OPERATION ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Back to School for Bears
by Kate McCurdy

The last hint of alpine glow is fading off Half Dome as Yosemite’s bear management team heads to work each evening. During the summer and fall months, bears will keep us busy on our night shift until the sun again rises over the park. Working with black bears can at times be exciting, at other times serious. But it is never dull, and this season we have added a few new elements to our program. We’re sending bears back to school in a mission to keep them not only alive, but wild.

Continued on page 1