Reflections of a Winter Hutkeeper

By Howard Weamer from his book
The Perfect Art: The Ostrander Ski Hut and Yosemite Ski Touring

It is embarrassing to admit that my interest
in the history of the Ostrander Lake ski hut
was ten years in developing, since I had
come to Ostrander with materials to com-
plete doctoral research on Yosemite history.
Perhaps those who
have felt the lure of the place, the warmth of
friends, the seduction
of the ski bowls, and
the attraction of wilder-
ness travel in winter
will understand how
my life and ambitions
became redirected in
Yosemite.

Continued on page 1
A life of splendid isolation in spectacular wilderness is a cornerstone of the ranger myth. In the popular mind, rangers are distantly related to the trapper, miner, or sailor, with personalit-ies forged by hardship, and manifesting self-reliance and fortitude. No more. Isolation at Ostrander is as rare as rangers in patrol cars are common, occurring most frequently during storms when roads and trails are blocked by snow. Most visitors sense that we are more isolated than in fact we are. Perhaps it’s the lack of a telephone. We have abundant company and can ski out in an emergency anytime. Ostrander is not Antarctica. The normal shift is ten days on, four off, to minimize travel time. In fact I prefer 20 or 30 day stretches at a time by myself. In the winter backcountry, I have watched them leap high and range by traveling in our ski tracks. The fringes of winter fill out the record of mammals. Actual sightings of black bear and California grizzly bear have occurred only in December and January, but tracks are seen every month, most often in the lower and warmer drainage of the Ostrander area. Tracks remain for investiga- tion, but the snow distorts and blends, making positive identification often impossible. Three tracks far outnumber all others in the Ostrander area: the pine marten, the Douglas squirrel and, of course, the field mice.

The Ostrander ski hut is a welcome sight to this skier after a nine-mile journey through stormy wilderness. Photo by Mike Maciaszek

THE JOB

There is a philosophical edge to my response to a ranger who asked me exactly what my responsibilities at Ostrander were. I answered, “as few as possible,” meaning I didn’t get needlessly worried about people, did no aggressive law enforce- ment or aggressive interpretation or even aggressive snow shoveling. 50% maintenance; 45% interpretation; 4.9%; assistance; 1% law enforcement, all mini-mized to get in the way of the day as little as possible. What we do here is grow by doing our thing, and sometimes, we grow by doing nothing. We are the fringes, not the center. I have seen tracks at 11,000 feet in January, yet rarely see car-on the snow surface. If the coat of the arctic fox keeps him warm at rest at –40 degrees, perhaps the coyote’s calorics need are deceptive. In any event, I’m glad they’re around; there is nothing like a pair of coyotes howling across the lake to put a wild chill in the air.

DO YOU EVER GET BORED?

If one considers nature a source of value and, like Wordsworth, the imagination as a means of grace, the winter landscape surrounds you with opportunities. With each passing year, what some see as “the same old thing” both changes subtly in itself and becomes a friendly mirror for our own changes in perception. With time, appreciation grows, discriminations become finer, discoveries seem more ecstatic, and are welcomed as signs of growth rather than seen negatively as something previously missed. No one would spend much time here who saw the glass half empty rather than half full, who lived a life of regrets, who wanted to “make something of themselves” in conven-tional terms, or who thought they had seen it all in a week or a season. The above pretty much answers the often heard question “Don’t you ever get bored here?” It must appear that a life so simple can’t possibly be very satisfying, but I can’t recall 20 minutes of boredom in 20 years at the hut. Every tour yields something of interest, something new, if only in a small way. It may only be a short-term memory loss, but no two days, no two snow textures, no two nuts, are the same.

In December, Howard Weamer will begin his 27th winter as hutkeeper at Ostran-der. He spends the spring and fall months working on his fine art photography. In summer he leads Yosemite Association seminars and guides photography back-packs for both Yosemite Guides and Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides.

The Ostrander ski hut is a welcome sight to this skier after a nine-mile journey through stormy wilderness. Photo by Mike Maciaszek

TO LEARN MORE...

Howard Weamer’s book, The Per-fect Art: The Ostrander Hut and Ski Touring in Yosemite can be pur-chased in the park at the Valley Visitor Center.

For more information about Ostrander Ski Hut see page 2.

Join a snowshoe walk at Badger Pass. See page 9 for details.

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Park Rules

There are federal laws and regulations that protect Yosemite, its wildlife, historic and prehistoric sites and structures, natural beauty, and park visitors. Protect your park by following these rules:

- Store your food properly, keeping it away from bears and other Yosemite animals (see page 3 for details).
- 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, scooters, and strollers must remain on paved roads and designated paved bike paths. They are not allowed on hiking trails or anywhere off-pavement (see bike rules on page 7).
- Motor vehicles must stay on established roads open to public travel, and are not permitted off-road.
- 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.
- Firearms and hunting are prohibited in Yosemite National Park. Report possible hunting violations to the park’s tip line, 209/372-0741, or to the Department of Fish and Game’s tip line, 888/DFG-CALIF, 24 hours a day.
- 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 it up after you.
- The use of metal detectors in the park is illegal. Please report possible violations to a park ranger.
- All public buildings are designated as non-smoking.
- Snowmobiling is not allowed in Yosemite National Park.

Yosemite Field Seminar Packages

Enjoy Yosemite’s quieter seasons by taking a winter or spring seminar. The Yosemite Association offers excellent field courses for both adults and families. Sign up now for one of the following field courses scheduled from February through April. All courses include discounted lodging, fees, and some meals. Contact us at 209/379-2646 for more information.

February 6 – 8     Snowshoe Yosemite
February 13 – 14   Yosemite Valley Winter Hikes
February 20 – 23   Winter Photography
February 20 – 21   Snowshoe Yosemite
March 7 – 8        Yosemite Valley Winter Ecology
March 20 – 23      Observing Wildlife
April 18 – 20      A Walk in the Wild (writing & reading)
April 25 – 26      Early Spring Birds & Flowers

Call or write for the free catalog of seminars: YOSEMITE FIELD SEMINARS, PO Box 230, El Portal, California 95318.
Full program description can be seen on our Web site: www.yosemite.org
Phone: 209/379-2321
FAX: 209/379-2486
E-mail: YOS_Yosemite_Association@NPS.gov

Yosemite Literary Winter Conference

Enjoy Yosemite in the winter season while meeting Western authors, scientists, and artists at Yosemite Association’s First Annual Yosemite Literary Winter Conference from February 25 to March 1, 2001, at the Ahwahnee Hotel. Gary Snyder, Terry Tempest Williams, Ira Spring, Robert Hass, Gretel Ehrlich, and Pam Houston are among the many speakers. This four-day event will include presentations by authors, winter outdoor activities, and park ranger-led programs. To request more information, call 209/379-2646.

Enjoy the Journey with YARTS!

If you prefer to enjoy the Yosemite area’s magnificent scenery rather than watch the road, YARTS transit service to and from the park could be the option for you. The Yosemite Area Regional Transport System provides bus service to communities within Mariposa, Merced, and Mono Counties to Yosemite National Park.

Year-round:
- From Merced east along Highway 140 to Yosemite Valley (winter schedule offers limited service)
- Summertime:
  - From Coulterville along Highway 132 to Highway 120 West into the park via the Big Oak Flat Entrance (begins May 18, 2001)
  - From Mammoth Lakes and Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley on Highway 395 and 120 East. (begins June, 2001)
  - From Wawona (begins May 18, 2001)

Fares for riding YARTS vary, but generally range between $7 and $15 round trip for an adult, including entrance to the park. YARTS also offers discounts for children and seniors. For winter and spring schedule information, check the YARTS web site at www.yosemite.com/yarts or call toll free 877/98-YARTEX (877/989-2889). For information on the Highway 120 East service (Mammoth Lakes to Yosemite Valley) please call 800/626-6684.

On the Web

- The official Yosemite NPS home page (www.nps.gov/yose) contains the latest park information.
- The Yosemite Association’s Yosemite Online (www.yosemite.org) features visitor information, a bookstore, a listing of outdoor classes, membership news, the daily weather forecast, a live-camera view of Half Dome and Yosemite Valley, and even a 3-D “QuickTime video of Yosemite Valley.
- The Yosemite Fund home page (www.yosemitefund.org) frequently has project updates with photographs and features photos of the restoration work at Glacier Point. Other features include “Wild Card,” “Waterfalls,” and “Tips For Travelers,” along with current donation information.
- The Yosemite concession Services site (www.yosemitepark.com) features 200 pages of information on lodging, shopping, dining, and park activities with links to other Yosemite-related web sites. It also includes a live-camera view of Half Dome, online gift shop, and off-season lodging reservations.
- The Ansel Adams Gallery site (www.anseladams.com) features fine art photography, gifts, calendar of events, and photos of Yosemite and Mono Lake.
- The Yosemite Institute’s Web page (www.yosemite.org) describes its residential, in-park, outdoor programs and activities, school and summer programs, and even Manzanar National Historic Site near Independence, California. All are part of the Yosemite Institute’s mission to make Yosemite a point of light to the world, an emerging center of environmental education and research.
- Yosemite.com (www.yosemite.com) provides the latest information on an 11,000-square-mile area containing and surrounding Yosemite. Includes lodging information, travel advisories, and road and weather conditions.
- Camping reservations can be made online from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time (reservations.nps.gov)

Ostrander Lake Ski Hut Information

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut is operated for the National Park Service by the Yosemite Association. The trip to the hut is approximately nine miles, and all routes to the hut require considerable stamina and cross-country skiing experience. The trip is not for novices. Reservations are required. The charge is $20.00 per person/per night. Skiers must provide their own food, water filter, sleeping bag and personal gear. The hut is open from December 22, 2000 to April 18, 2001 (depending on snow conditions). For further information please call 209/379-2317 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For reservation information please write: Ostrander Reservations, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95369 or call 209/372-0740 after December 4.
THE CHANGING SEASONS
When planning a trip to Yosemite, keep in mind the changing seasons. The timing of your visit will determine the amount of clothing to bring, the availability of different campgrounds and parking lots, and the need for tire chains. Call road and weather information (209/372-0200) before you leave home. Here are some general guidelines:
ROADS
The Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) and Glacier Point Road beyond Badger Pass Ski Area are closed each year from late fall through spring. These roads generally close for the season with the first major snowstorm after November 1 and re-open by Memorial Day weekend, conditions permitting. The road to the Mariposa Grove is also closed in winter.

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, under park regulations, any vehicle entering a chain control area must carry chains, 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; 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.

TEMPERATURE
Weather in Yosemite can change rapidly during all seasons of the year. Since areas in the park range from 2,000 to 13,000 feet in elevation, the lower foothills can be experiencing spring while the higher elevations remain in the grip of winter.

Bears in Winter
Many people falsely believe that once winter descends on Yosemite, all of the bears are safely tucked away in hibernation. Black bears can be active throughout the winter and spring months, which means proper food storage is required in Yosemite year-round.

As of September 2000, there were 490 incidents this year involving bears, resulting in over $108,000 in damage. Four bears were killed when their behavior in over $108,000 in damage. Four bears were killed when their behavior was considered a threat to life or property. As of September 2000, there were 238 motor vehicle accidents this year in Yosemite National Park. Twelve bears have been hit by vehicles so far. Speeding kills wildlife and people. Slow down and follow these driving tips to avoid accidents:

California law requires that all vehicle occupants wear seat belts, and children under four 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.

In winter and early spring, road conditions may change suddenly. Wet asphalt may be slippery or icy, especially in shady spots or on bridges. Keep speed down and allow extra distance from the vehicle in front of you.

Water from melted roadside snow often freezes on road surfaces, creating treacherous “black ice.” This can occur even when the weather appears dry and fair.

Anticipate snowplows as they may be working just around the next curve. Wait for a signal from the plow driver before passing.

Don’t drink and drive. It’s a fatal combination.

Snow Play Safety
Each year sleds, toboggans, innertubes, saucers, and other sliding devices cause more injuries, on the average, than any other winter activity. To reduce your chances of being injured, consider the following guidelines:

Choose a snow play area that has a long, gentle runout.

Slow down! The faster the speed, the less control.

Slide one-at-a-time. Several people on one sliding device have a greater chance of being injured. Small children riding at the front or in the laps of others can suffer injuries during sudden stops or spills.

Sledging is not allowed in the Badger Pass area.

WINTER WATCH

Yosemite National Park’s 2000 Christmas Bird Count, part of the National Audubon Society’s annual holiday census of North American birds, is scheduled for December 16. Both experienced and novice birdwatchers are welcome to participate in this exciting activity. For more information, call Steve Thompson on weekdays at 209/379-3261, or write to P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389.

Keep Yosemite’s Water Clean
Yosemite’s utility systems serve hundreds of employees and nearly 4 million visitors annually. On a busy summer day, 700,000 gallons of wastewater flows through the pipeline from Yosemite Valley to a wastewater treatment facility 17 miles away. To help prevent damage or clogging to the system and pumps, flush only appropriate items down drains or toilets and never flush chemicals that could contaminate surface or groundwater. A list of the items never to flush down drains is posted on bulletin boards and in public restrooms throughout the Park.
CAMPING RESERVATIONS

Reservations are required year-round for Yosemite Valley's auto campgrounds and sum-
mer 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.

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

- Campground Arrival Date
- First Day to Make Reservation

All dates thru 4/14/01
3/15/01
11/15/00
7/15/01 thru 8/14/01
5/15/01 thru 6/14/01
2/15/01
6/15/01 thru 7/14/01
1/15/01
5/15/01 thru 6/14/01
4/15/01 thru 5/14/01
3/15/01
From May through September, campers are in high demand and prospective campers are encouraged to call NPRS as early as possible in the period.

Written requests should be made to NPRS so they are received no sooner than two weeks before the 15th of the month that the desired camping arrival date goes on sale. Written requests will not be processed until the 15th of the month (at the same time telephone requests are being taken). Include desired location, type of equipment you will be camping in (i.e., tent, RV, etc.) and as method of payment. Online reservations can be accessed through reserva-
tions.nps.gov from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time.

Check-in/check-out time for Yosemite Valley campgrounds is 10:00 a.m. Campsites are assigned by NPRS at the time the reservation is made. Campers may request a specific campsite number if it is available at the time the reser-
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CAMPING IN 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: Highway 120 West, Groveland Ranger Station (Stanislaus NF) 209/962-7822, Highway 140, Mariposa Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 209/966-3638; Highway 120 East, Mono Lake Ranger Stations (Inyo NF) 760/847-3044; Highway 41, Oakhurst Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 559/683-4636. For private campgrounds and lodging outside Yosemite, call the respective chambers of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 6.

GROUP CAMPGROUNDS

There are group campites at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds. Reservations can be made through NPRS; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets are not permitted in group sites. Check-in/check-

CAMPFIRE RULES

In order to improve air quality in Yosemite Valley, through October 15, campfires are permitted only between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

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 or other coniferous trees. Campers are not permitted to cut firewood in the park.

Campfires are permitted only in established fire rings.

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Yosemite is a popular destination for winter skiing and snowshoeing. Most winter wilderness users prefer to enjoy the marked ski and snowshoe trails at Yosemite’s three winter use areas. (Maps and descriptions of winter trails at Badger Pass, Crane Flat, and the Mariposa Grove are available at visitor centers.) Visitors to the wilderness should be familiar with the use of snowshoes or skis in order to navigate deep snow conditions. Those who choose to explore Yosemite’s more remote wilderness areas should be competent in winter wilderness travel, route finding, winter camping, avalanche safety, and survival skills.

PLANNING AND SAFETY

- Register for a wilderness permit and pick up regulations and proper food storage information at the Ranger A-Frame at Badger Pass for all trips originating from this area or register for other trips at the Wawona or Big Oak Flat Information Stations or the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.
- Choose a reasonable route. Cold and altitude can sap energy. Allow plenty of time for rest, campsite selection, and proper food storage. Use topographic maps and guidebooks to plan your trip.
- Check weather conditions and forecasts before your trip. Plan for sudden, extreme changes in weather.
- Leave an accurate itinerary with friends or family before beginning a trip. Carry a signal mirror and whistle.
- Don’t go out alone unless you are very experienced.

- Stay oriented to where you are and how to get back. Carry a map and compass—know how to use them.
- Carry plenty of food and water. You will need to eat and drink more in cold weather.
- Be prepared for an emergency bivouac even when out just for the day. Be familiar with your gear and carry minimum repair materials.
- Prevent hypothermia by avoiding the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Know symptoms and treatment methods. Carry emergency fire starting materials.
- Prevent avalanches by avoiding the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Know snow conditions and treatment methods. Carry emergency fire starting materials.
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PROTECT YOSEMITE’S WILDERNESS

- Pack out all trash.
- Use a portable stove rather than wood fires.
- Stay 100 feet away from any water source when camping, washing, and disposing of human waste.
- Store food properly using a bear-resistant canister; bears can be active even in winter and early spring.
- Camp at least four miles from the trailhead in populated areas and one mile from the trailhead in unpopulated areas.

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WILDERNESS PERMIT RESERVATIONS

Wilderness users who plan to enjoy Yosemite’s beautiful high country during the peak season (May through September) are encouraged to make permit reservations. Call 209/372-0200 for the latest information. Currently, reservations are available from 24 weeks to 2 days in advance of the trip start date, and can be made by writing to Wilderness Permits, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389, or by calling 209/372-0760. Include the following in your request: name, address, daytime phone, number of people in the party, method of travel (i.e., ski, snowshoe, foot, horse), number of stock (if applicable), start and end dates, entry and exit trailheads, and principal destination. Include alternate dates and/or trailheads. A $5 per person non-refundable processing fee is charged for all reservation requests. Payment by check or money order should be made to the Yosemite Association. Credit card payments are accepted with valid card number and expiration date.

WINTER TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Do not hike or snowshoe in cross-country ski tracks. People on snowshoes should walk alongside, but not in, the ski trail.
- Yosemite’s wilderness is a wildlife preserve; pets and weapons are prohibited. Bicycles, strollers, and motor vehicles are not allowed on unpaved park trails or in wilderness areas.

For wilderness information, call 209/372-0200 or go to www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness

VALLEY DAY HIKES

Hiking is generally not recommended above the Valley floor due to winter hazards; however, experienced winter hikers may wish to venture upwards. Consult the grid below for day hikes originating in Yosemite Valley. These trails are open in the winter (weather permitting) unless otherwise noted.

Be Safe
- Trails may be icy or slick. Wear solid footwear and do not exceed your limitations.
- Be aware of the possibility of falling ice and/or snow when hiking below cliffs.
- Follow the same precautions listed for wilderness travelers under “Planning and Safety” to the left. Wilderness permits are not required for day hikes.

WINTER TRAIL ETIQUETTE

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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>Mirror Lake 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</td>
<td>Camp 4 Shuttle Stop #5</td>
<td>2 miles round trip (3.2 km)</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,000 (300 m) elevation gain</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 Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round trip (11.6 km)</td>
<td>Very Strenuous 2,700 (910 m) elevation gain</td>
<td>6 to 8 hours round trip</td>
<td>Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mist Trail or John Muir Trail</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #15</td>
<td>1.4 miles round trip (2.0 km)</td>
<td>Moderate 400 (120 m) elevation gain</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 1,000 (300 m) elevation gain</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>Extremely Strenuous 3,900 (1,260 m) elevation gain</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 4,800 (1,460 m) elevation gain</td>
<td>10 to 12 hours round trip</td>
<td>Cables up from June to mid-October, otherwise cable route 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 3,300/ 960 (1,040 m) elevation gain</td>
<td>3 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>
TRANSPORTATION

To and From Yosemite
The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) offers park visitors an alternative to driving their car into Yosemite by providing regional transit service throughout the region. This new voluntary bus service provides scheduled round-trip transit service to Yosemite from the outlying communities. Winter service is limited to the Highway 140 corridor. Summer service begins May 18, 2001, from Coulterville and Wawona. Service from Mammoth Lakes begins in June, 2001. For schedule and service information visit the YARTS website at www.yosemite.com/yarts or call toll free 877-96-YARTS (877/969-2787).

VIA, the Yosemite-Amtrak Connection/Gray Line, offers service from Merced Amtrak Station and Transpo Center to Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Lodge. Deluxe coaches provide several round-trip 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 website. Tickets can be purchased from drivers 209/384-1115 or in CA 800/369-PARK www.via-adventures.com

Within Yosemite
Free shuttle bus service is provided through-out the eastern portion of Yosemite Valley year-round. In summer, free shuttle buses run between Wawona and the Mariposa Grove, and from Tioga Pass to Tenaya Lake. Hikers’ 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 hikers’ bus fee, schedule, and reservations, or stop by any tour desk.

Lodging
Reservations for all overnight lodg-
ing in Yosemite can be made by calling 559/225-4884 or by writing to Central Reservations, Yosemite Concession Services, 5410 East Home, Fresno, CA 93727 or visit www.yosemitepark.com. Lodging in Yosemite Valley includes Curry Village, Housekeeping Camp, Yosemite Lodge, and The Ahwah-nee. Lodging outside Yosemite Valley includes the Wawona Hotel, and in sum-
mer, White Wolf Lodge and Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. Rates range from $36 per night for a basic tent cabin with near-by bathroom, to $246.50 per night for a room at The Ahwahnee (rates are subject to change). Reservations are highly recom-
ended and may be made up to one year in advance and one day in advance.

INFORMATION OUTSIDE THE PARK

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour of the center through and beyond. See page 9 for activities and additional information about Wawona and the Mariposa Grove.

Yosemite Valley
Yosemite Valley is world famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unique rock forma-
tions. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno to Highway 140 from Merced. Highway 120 from Mariposa, and in late spring through late fall via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East). For the latest on services and activities available in Yosemite Valley. Detailed information is available at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center in Yosemite Village. See the shuttle bus map on the back panel, and for scheduled Valley activities, see page 8.

Mariposa Grove
The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 16 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 closed in winter. Activities include hiking, ranger-led walks, and tram tours of the Grove (weather permitting) late spring through fall. Trail brochures printed in Eng-
lish, French, Japanese, and Spanish are available at the Grove trailhead. To reduce traffic congestion and avoid parking delays, use the free shuttle bus (spring through fall) from Wawona to the Grove. The Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour of the center through and beyond. See page 9 for activities and additional information about Wawona and the Mariposa Grove.

Glacier Point
Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Sierra Nevada, is located 30 miles (a 1-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. The view from Glacier Point provides an opportunity to see the 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 at the Badger Pass Ski Area, and then Glacier Point can be reached via ski or snowshoes only.

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau P.O. Box 4020 342 Stockton Road Sonora, CA 95370 800/446-1333 or 209/533-4420 www.thegreatfallscap.com

Highway 41 Yosemite Sierra Visitor Bureau 40637 Highway 41 Oakhurst, CA 93644 559/683-4636 www.yosemitevisitor.com

Highway 132/49 Coulterville Visitor Center P.O. Box 5007 Main Street Coulterville, CA 95311 209/876-3073 www.mariposa.yosemite.net/visitor

Highway 140/49 Mariposa County Visitor Bureau (also info) for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Yosemite Lodge P.O. Box 962 5139 Highway 140 Mariposa, CA 95338 800/204-2414 or 209/966-2456 www.homeofyosemite.com

East Highway 120 Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center P.O. Box 130 Highway 395 and 3rd Street Lee Vining, CA 93541 760/947-5629 www.visitingand.com

What is the best way to visit Yosemite?
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 Road Guide are available at visitor centers, gift shops, or by mail from the Yosemite Association Bookstore, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95328, 209/379-2648, fax 209/379-2486, web site, www.yosemite.org.

Remember that road and trail conditions and available services may change with the weather. For current conditions and general information, call 209/372-0200.
YOUR VISIT

CRANE FLAT

Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat Road and the Tioga Road. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East), and walk one mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. In winter, snowshoes or cross-country skis may be needed. For activities and area information, see page 9.

Bicycling

More than 12 miles of paved bikeways wind through the eastern end of Yosemite Valley. Weather permitting, rental bikes, baby jogging 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.

TI OGA ROAD AND TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

The Tioga Road is generally open from late spring through late fall and offers a 38-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 the Tioga Pass Entrance Station. There are many scenic and recreational opportunities in these areas. Check visitor centers and 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.

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water for the city of San Francisco, is also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many less-used wilderness trails. Towering cliffs and high waterfalls are easily seen from the walkway on top of O'Shaughnessy Dam. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. Vehicles over 25 feet are prohibited on the road due to its narrowness.

Horseback Riding

Wilderness and trail conditions permitting, 2-hour and half-day rides depart from stables in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Wawona spring through fall. Closed in winter. Call 209/372-8348 for information.

Hiking & Backpacking

Yosemite offers over 800 miles of hiking trails throughout. For updated trail information, visit the Wilderness Center in Yosemite Valley (spring through fall), in winter check at the Valley Visitor Center, or call 209/372-0200. Wilderness permits are required for overnight wilderness users. For wilderness permit information and reservations, call 209/372-0740 or go to www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness. 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 beginner through advanced classes in Yosemite Valley spring through fall, and in Tuolumne Meadows in summer. Call 209/372-8344 for information.

RECREATION

Skiing and Snowshoeing

In winter, Yosemite offers downhill skiing at Badger Pass in addition to three main areas for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing: Badger Pass, Crane Flat, and the Mariposa Grove. These areas all have marked winter trails. Badger Pass offers approximately 10 miles (40 km) of groomed track at no charge. Ski trail maps and topographic maps can be purchased at park visitor centers. For cross-country and downhill ski school information and conditions, call 209/372-1000. For Ostrander Ski Hut reservations call 209/372-0740 or on or after December 4, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ice Skating

The Curry Village Ice Skating Rink (shuttle bus stop 412) is open from mid-November through early March, conditions permitting. Session hours are Monday through Friday, noon to 2:30 p.m.; noon to 4:00 p.m., 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.; and weekends and holidays 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; noon to 2:30 p.m.; 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.; 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Rental skates are available. For more information, call 209/372-8341.

Hiking and Backpacking

Yosemite offers eight nature hikes, narrated by informed guides, operating daily to most points of interest in the park, including Yosemite Valley (year-round), Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows, the Mariposa Grove, Glacier Point, and area information, see page 9. These tours, narrated by informed guides, operate daily to most points of interest in the park, including Yosemite Valley (year-round), Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows, the Mariposa Grove, Glacier Point, and are many scenic and recreational opportunities in these areas. Check visitor centers and 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.

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VALLEY VISITOR CENTER
Open: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Located in Yosemite Village just west of the main post office (shuttle bus stops #6 and #7). Information, maps, wilderness permits, books, and exhibits.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM
Located in Yosemite Village next to the Visitor Center. Briar Bates
INDIAN VILLAGE OF AHWAHNEE
Located behind the Yosemite Museum and always open. Sometimes there are opportunities to join Indian Cultural Program staff for demonstrations or programs about Ahwahneechee skills and culture.
**ACTIVITIES**

**BADGER PASS**

Badger Pass, California’s oldest operating ski area, is the center of Yosemite ski and snowboarding activity during the winter. It is located at 7,300 feet in elevation and is a 1-hour drive from Yosemite Valley on the Glacier Point Road. There are 10 runs, ski lifts, a downhill and cross-country ski school, ski rentals, and a day lodge; cross-country skiers can utilize groomed and ungroomed trails that originate at Badger Pass; tracks are groomed on the Glacier Point Road all the way to Glacier Point. Call 209-372-1000 for ski conditions.

**BADGER PASS BUS**

Ride the free bus to Badger Pass Ski Area (bus begins running when ski area opens for the season). Road and weather conditions permitting, the bus leaves daily from Curry Village at 8:05 a.m. and 10:35 a.m. The Ahwahnee at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., and Yosemite Lodge at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Return buses leave Badger Pass at 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Several buses operate on busy days. Allow at least one hour for a one-way trip. Additional information is available at hotel front desks. Call 209-372-0200 for current road and weather information.

**SNOWSHOE WALKS**

Join a ranger everyday (except for February 6) at 10:30 a.m. to Explore the Forest in Winter. Wear warm clothing and boots for this 2-hour, moderately strenuous snowshoe walk. While snowshoes are provided, they are not recommended for children under 10 years of age. A $3 maintenance fee is charged for use of the snowshoes. Meet in front of the Badger Pass A-frame. NESTE Ranger walks start for the season when the Badger Pass Ski Area opens. Walks will be canceled if the Badger Pass Road closes, or if weather conditions are too severe.

On clear, moonlit nights, Yosemite Concession Services offers a Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (December 10, 11, 12, January 8, 9, 10; February 7, 8, 9; March 8, 9, 10, and April 7, 8, 9 only). Sign up at the Yosemite Lodge front desk and meet at the Badger Pass Lodge. A fee is charged for use of snowshoes.

**WAWONA**

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.

**EVENING PROGRAMS**

Discover Wawona’s human and natural heritage in a 1-hour presentation offered by Yosemite Concession Services (YCS) interpreters at the Wawona Hotel.

**SEQUOIA GROVES IN WINTER**

**MARIPOSA GROVE DESTINATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Distance from Trailhead</th>
<th>Elevation Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grizzly Giant</td>
<td>0.8 mile/1.3 km</td>
<td>400 feet/122 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grove Museum</td>
<td>2.1 mile/3.5 km</td>
<td>800 feet/242 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallen Tunnel Tree</td>
<td>2.5 mile/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/418 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TUOLUMNE GROVE**

The Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of the Big Oak Flat Road and the Tioga Road. The former route of the old 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 round-trip walk or ski is relatively easy, depending on conditions, and it is moderately strenuous on the uphill return.

Meet a ranger at the Tuolumne Grove parking area for Sequoias in Winter on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and enjoy a magnificent walk among giant sequoias in the silence of winter. Wear warm clothing and waterproof boots for this moderate to strenuous walk into the Tuolumne Grove; bring a lunch (three hours and approximately three miles round-trip). While snowshoes are provided when necessary ($3 maintenance fee is charged), they are not recommended for children under 10 years of age.

**MARIPOSA GROVE**

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, located at the southernmost end of Yosemite, is the largest stand of giant sequoias in the park (about 500 trees). Allow 11⁄4 hours driving time from most end of Yosemite, is the largest stand of giant sequoias in the world. It is accessible only on foot. It’s a 2-mile hike or ski is relatively easy, depending on conditions, and it is moderately strenuous on the uphill return.

**MERCEDE GROVE**

Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, accessible only on foot. It’s a 2-mile hike or ski into the grove from the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). Located 3.5 miles north of Crane Flat or 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).

**ACTIVITIES**

**Just for Kids**

You can become a Junior Ranger by purchasing a self-guided booklet for $3.50. This booklet is sold at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. In order to earn a Junior Ranger patch, the booklet must be completed, a bag of trash collected, and a guided program attended.

**Little Cubs Wanted!**

Are you between the ages of four and six? Yosemite has a program for YOU! Little Cubs is a self-guided booklet that encourages our young visitors and their families to discover Yosemite’s wonders and to earn a Little Cubs button. This booklet is sold for $3.00 in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

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**PIONEER YOSEMITE HISTORY CENTER**

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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 Guidebook and receive as 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 fill out the coupon below and become a Friend of Yosemite today.

PROVIDING FOR YOSEMITE’S FUTURE

Endangered California bighorn sheep are still struggling throughout the Sierra Nevada, and unfortunately, Yosemite’s herd is no exception. The Yosemite Fund supported the reintroduction of the sheep to the Yosemite region in 1986, and every year since, donations to the Fund have paid for a field census to help track the sheep’s progress. But mountain lion predation and a number of other factors are placing tremendous stress on the sheep.

During last year’s census, just 14 sheep were sighted, and this year, no sheep were seen. However, both tracks and scat were found, the latter of which now can be used to conduct DNA analysis. This method will give researchers more definitive data on the number and range of the elusive sheep and help Fund-sponsored scientists and other organizations continue to do everything possible to help the bighorns survive.

The bighorn sheep census is one of many projects 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 over 30 miles of Yosemite’s trails
- sponsor a field census every year
- provide Yosemite’s Yosemite Postcard Book, or other gift described below

This year, the Fund is sponsoring many more projects including wilderness restoration, additional trail reconstruction, education of 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 semiannual 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

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NOVEMBER 14, 2000 – MARCH 12, 2001
ALL SERVICES AND HOURS OF OPERATION ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### FACILITIES & SERVICES

#### Emergency Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire – Police – Medical</td>
<td>(888) CALL 911, 709-3340</td>
<td>24 hours a day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Medical Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Care</td>
<td>(888) CALL 911, 709-3340</td>
<td>24 hours a day</td>
</tr>
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#### Dental Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Care</td>
<td>(888) CALL 911, 709-3340</td>
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#### Accommodations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodations</td>
<td>(888) CALL 911, 709-3340</td>
<td>24 hours a day</td>
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</table>

#### Restaurants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restaurants</td>
<td>(888) CALL 911, 709-3340</td>
<td>24 hours a day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Groceries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Groceries</td>
<td>(888) CALL 911, 709-3340</td>
<td>24 hours a day</td>
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#### Service Stations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service Stations</td>
<td>(888) CALL 911, 709-3340</td>
<td>24 hours a day</td>
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#### Post Offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post Offices</td>
<td>(888) CALL 911, 709-3340</td>
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#### Services for Disabled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services for Disabled</td>
<td>(888) CALL 911, 709-3340</td>
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#### Religious Services

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religious Services</td>
<td>(888) CALL 911, 709-3340</td>
<td>24 hours a day</td>
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#### Recreational Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Facilities</td>
<td>(888) CALL 911, 709-3340</td>
<td>24 hours a day</td>
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#### Miscellaneous

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>(888) CALL 911, 709-3340</td>
<td>24 hours a day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Additional Information

- **NPS Education Branch**
  - Ranger-guided programs, resource information, teacher workshops. Yosemite Valley Ranger Station, P.O. Box 40, Yosemite, CA 95389, 209/375-9305. For entrance waivers for educational organizations, call 209/379-1876 www.nps.gov/yose/talk.htm

- **Service Organizations**
  - Al-Anon Yosemite Valley, Wednesday 7:00 p.m., YCS General Office Building (Employee Training Center), Yosemite Village
  - Yosemite Alcoholics Anonymous Yosemite Valley, Sunday, Thursday, and Tuesday 7:00 p.m., YCS General Office Building (Employee Training Center), Yosemite Village
  - Narcotics Anonymous Yosemite Valley, Saturday 7:30 p.m., YCS General Office Building (Employee Training Center), Yosemite Village

- **Lions Club**
  - Meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m., The Ahwahnee

- **Rotary International**
  - Meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m., The Ahwahnee

- **Religious Services**
  - Church of Christ of Yosemite Valley, other services, contact Ron Skelton, 209/379-2307
  - El Portal Chapel Worship Service: Sunday 9:00 a.m.

- **Crossway Church (Christian Protestant)**
  - Pastor Steve Hughes 209/379-2428
  - www.crossway.org/crossway

  - Bible Study: 7:00 p.m. Library/Girls Club

  - Worship Service: Sunday 7:00 p.m., Yosemite Chapel

- **Yosemite Community Church**
  - Protestant Nondenominational

  - Pastor Brian Empeji 209/379-4881

  - Rev. John Pais available for weddings. Call number above

- **Yosemite Chapel**
  - Worship Service with Children’s Church: Sunday 9:15 a.m.

  - Worship Service: Thursday 7:00 p.m.

  - Thanksgiving Day Service (Nov 23): 10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Dec 24): 4:00 p.m.

- **Roman Catholic**

- **El Portal Community Church**
  - Pastor Ross Marsh 209/379-2553

  - Pastor Steve Hughes 209/379-2428

  - Worship Service: Saturday 7:30 p.m., El Portal Chapel (first and third weekends)

  - Sunday 10:30 a.m., El Portal Chapel (second, fourth, fifth weekends)

  - For information on weddings, Bible studies, children’s and youth activities, call number above or email Room3@rehmace.com

- **Wawona Christian Fellowship**
  - Pastor David Adamek 209/966-3039

  - www.adamsgallery.com

  - Women’s Bible Study: Wednesday 1:00 p.m.