“IS IT WORTH THE DRIVE?”

This question always brings a smile to the faces of rangers at the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station who know what’s awaiting visitors down the road—sheer cliffs, lofty domes, two of Yosemite’s most beautiful and least famous waterfalls, and large areas of little-used wilderness. Yet, few visitors know about Hetch Hetchy. And those who do assume that after the Tuolumne River was dammed earlier in the 20th century, everything beautiful about the Hetch Hetchy region disappeared.

Discover for yourself the beauty and solitude of Yosemite’s quietest corner.

Continued on page 1
Hetch Hetchy's Beauty and Solitude

John Muir called Hetch Hetchy "...a wonderfully exact counterpart of the Merced Yosemite...one of nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples." It's not surprising that Hetch Hetchy's scenery resembles that of Yosemite Valley as both Sierra Nevada valleys were originally eroded by major westward flowing rivers—with the Merced River carving Yosemite Valley and the Tuolumne River carving Hetch Hetchy Valley. Between 2 million and 10,000 years ago, glaciers scoured the phial granite valleys into their present form with domes, waterfalls, and sheer cliffs.

"HATCHATCHIE" HISTORY
Hetch Hetchy Valley's glacier-carved features dominate the scene, but the valley's name is derived from "Hatchatchie," the Native American word for a species of grass with edible seeds that once grew there. The valley's first inhabitants, the Ahwahneechee and Paiute tribes, came to Hetch Hetchy every year to gather acorns. The valley's first Euro-Americans arrived in the 1840s. However, it wasn't until the turn of the century that anyone paid much heed to rarely-visited Hetch Hetchy.

In 1867, the city of San Francisco began searching for a dependable water source. So it was that the U.S. Geological Survey, with a mandate to search for a dependable water source, arrived in the Hetch Hetchy region. In 1913 when Congress passed, and President Wilson signed the Baker Act, allowing construction of the O'Shaughnessy Dam (named for Michael O'Shaughnessy, San Francisco's city engineer and chief of the Hetch Hetchy construction project). The dam was built between 1913 and 1923 and was raised 80 feet from 1935 to 1938.

“Hetch Hetchy” Valley was one of the few remaining wild areas in the west. Muir and other nature conservators were greatly opposed to the dam project. Muir likened the transformation of Hetch Hetchy Valley into a reservoir to the flooding of a cathedral.

Ultimately, the matter was decided in 1913 when Congress passed, and President Woodrow Wilson signed, the Baker Act, allowing construction of the O'Shaughnessy Dam (named for Michael O'Shaughnessy, San Francisco's city engineer and chief of the Hetch Hetchy construction project). The dam was built between 1913 and 1923 and was raised 80 feet from 1935 to 1938.

Take In The Scenery
Today, the Hetch Hetchy area is perfect for visitors who want to enjoy spectacular scenery and outdoor recreation opportunities without the crowds. Like Yosemite Valley, Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is rimmed with spectacular features, and most are easily seen from the walkway on top of the O'Shaughnessy Dam.

Waterfalls Tureculala (pronounced TWEEL-la) and Wapama Falls both drop more than 1,000 feet from cliffs on the north side of the reservoir. It’s easy to see and photograph the two together. Late spring is the best time to view them, since Tureculala Falls dries up by early summer.

Domes and Cliffs Look for Hetch Hetchy Dome on the north side of the reservoir and conical Kolana Rock on the south side. Kolana Rock is particularly noteworthy to park wildlife specialists as it is an active breeding area for endangered Peregrine Falcons.

O'Shaughnessy Dam When 312-foot high O'Shaughnessy Dam was dedicated in 1923, it was the largest structure on the west coast. In spring and summer, water may pour over the spillway, creating an artificial waterfall.

Hetch Hetchy trails.

Enjoy Plant and Animal Life
Hetch Hetchy is as biologically diverse as it is beautiful. Dense forests, and scrub regions, and wide outcroppings of granite can be found here. In spring and early summer, wildflowers are abundant on the trail from O'Shaughnessy Dam to Wapama Falls and at Smith, Cottonwood, and Beehive Meadows. Look for such flowers as shooting stars growing in moist meadows, waterfall buttercups in trickling canyon cascades, bright California fuchsia, and Sierra letigia.

Also, enjoy a variety of trees along the Wapama Falls trail such as California black oak, big leaf maple, Ponderosa pine, and incense-cedar. Be aware and avoid contact with the plentiful poison oak; with or without its three-lobed leaves it can cause an itchy rash. It’s not unusual to see wildlife from black bears and mule deer to squirrels and California mountain kingsnakes. Fishing is permitted with a valid California fishing license, but live bait is not allowed in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

Opportunities for Solitude
Trails originating from O'Shaughnessy Dam and Hetch Hetchy Road take visitors into the heart of Hetch Hetchy's backcountry. Wilderness destinations in the area are generally low in elevation, so these places are among the first open to backpackers in the spring. Better yet, these trails get much less use than those in more well-known areas of Yosemite, providing excellent opportunities for solitude.

Day Hiking Take advantage of the easy and scenic trail from the dam through the granite tunnel and on to Tureculala and Wapama Falls. It’s about 5 miles round-trip (8.5 km) and could take up to 4 hours. Another short trail leads from the Hetch Hetchy Entrance to Lookout Point, which provides a sweeping view of the north-west corner of the park. Beyond Wapama Falls, the trail to Rancheria Fall is an ambitious all-day hike of approximately 13 miles (21 km).

Backpacking The Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, Laurel Lake, Lake Vernon, Jack Main Canyon, Poopoo Canyon, and Smith Peak are a few of the scenic destinations backpackers can choose from in the Hetch Hetchy region. Lake Eleanor and Kibbie Lake may also be reached from O'Shaughnessy Dam, but are more accessible from Stanislaus National Forest. Get a wilderness permit and go! But don’t forget to bring a bear food storage canister, as bears are extremely active in the Hetch Hetchy area.

A variety of showy lupine is common along Hetch Hetchy trails.

Tips for Visiting Hetch Hetchy
Bring your camera—Hetch Hetchy’s scenery is memorable, and postcards, books, or souvenirs of the area are rare.

Bring a picnic and a good wildflower book. Wildflowers of Yosemite by Lynn and Jim Wilson is an excellent source for identifying flowers along the trail. Facilities at the reservoir are limited to restrooms, a picnic area, and a pay-telephone.

Leave your swimsuits and boats behind. Swimming and boating are not allowed in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, as it holds the drinking water for millions of people.

For more information and directions to the Hetch Hetchy region, turn to Planning Your Visit on page 9. Also look up Hetch Hetchy in the wilderness web site at www.nps.gov/yose/wildrex.
On The Web
The official Yosemite National Park web site (www.nps.gov/yose/) contains the latest park information.

Camping reservations can be made online from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time (reservations.nps.gov).

The Yosemite Association’s Yosemite Online (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 web site (www.yosemitefund.org) frequently has project updates with photographs online. It currently 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 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 site (www.yosemiteinstitute.org) describes its residential, in-park field-science program for elementary, middle, and high school students, and post-visit challenge units.

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.

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 Transportation System (YARTS) 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 (expanded summer service begins mid-May).
• From Coulterville along Highway 132 to Highway 120 West into the park via the Big Oak Flat Entrance (begins weekends mid-May).
• From Mammoth Lakes and Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley on Highway 395 and 120 East via the June Lake Loop (begins weekend ends in June; daily service in July and August).

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 spring schedule information, check the YARTS web site at www.yosemite.com/yarts or call toll free 877/98-YARTS (877/989-2787). For information on the Highway 120 East service (Mammoth Lakes to Yosemite Valley) please call 800/626-6684.

Yosemite’s “untold stories” while you’re here and how you can help us.

Welcome to Yosemite. With each day that I spend in Yosemite, I am continually astounded by its beauty, its wonders, and its rich diversity of cultural and natural history. We can be grateful that over 100 years ago, early visitors to this place recognized that it was worth protecting for future generations. Today, the preservation of our nation’s treasured resources for the enjoyment of future generations is at the heart of the National Park Service mission.

While you’re here, I hope you will take some time to enjoy the spectacular sights and sounds of spring in the Yosemite. Take time to learn about the park as suggested in this Yosemite Guide. Remember too, as you thrill to the thundering of Yosemite Falls in the rush of spring thaw, that it takes hundreds of square miles of the “ unseen” Yosemite to produce the water. That part of the park, too, must be protected — not just what you see in the Valley. I urge you to learn more about Yosemite’s “untold stories” while you’re here and how you can help us.

Yosemite is the place where the spark of the National Park Service first took flame. If this visit is your first, welcome! If you’ve been here before, welcome back!

Sincerely,
David A. Mihalic,
Superintendent

Explore the World of Nature
Are you interested in learning more about Yosemite’s birds, rocks, and trees at your own pace? Borrow an Explorer Pack, a convenient day pack filled with activities and guidebooks designed to help the whole family explore the world of nature.

Four different packs are available at the Nature Center at Happy Isles in Yosemite Valley. Featuring Feathers will help you learn to identify many of Yosemite’s birds. Rocking in Yosemite teaches the geology of the park. The World of Trees aids in tree identification, and Small Wonders will help you discover the many tiny miracles around you. Packs are available for check-out and are free. A $50 deposit (cash or credit card) is required and will be refunded when the pack is returned.

Parks As Classrooms
Yosemite National Park is the ideal outdoor classroom for exploring natural and cultural history. Yosemite’s Parks As Classrooms program coordinates with the California State Frameworks for upper elementary grades and offers ranger-led field trips. Each program lasts 1 to 2 hours. Park entrance fees are waived for the visit.

These programs emphasize the National Park Service message of protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources. Spring visits feature a bear information theme. Reservations can be made beginning February 1. Class size is limited to 35 students, although it may be possible to schedule 2 classes the same day.

For further information regarding this and other National Park Service education programs, call at 209/372-0663, or visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose/teach.htm.

Take a Yosemite Learning Vacation
Join one of the 51 outdoor educational vacation seminars presented by the nonprofit Yosemite Association and experience the thrill of seeing the park with an expert instructor. Programs are designed to be fun and informative, and include room reservations (at an extra cost) or free camping nearby. Seminar length is from two to five days and is described in the new 2001 Yosemite Field Seminar catalog, now available at all visitor centers.

Class topics include wildflowers, Yosemite’s incredible geologic formations, Native Americans, mammals and birds, natural history day hikes, backpack trips, drawing, painting, nature writing, and family outdoor programs. Class sizes are small in order to offer excellent interaction between students and instructors. Most involve some hiking from a saunter, to an intermediate level hike, up to a strenuous ten- to twelve-mile days at high elevations. Many participants return year after year. To receive a free seminar catalog call 209/379-2321 or write Yosemite Field Seminars, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318 or visit any park visitor center. The catalog can also be viewed online at www.yosemite.org.
NATURE NOTES

Yosemite Spring Almanac

Spring Runoff—Spectacular, But Dangerous

The water level of rivers and streams depends on snow-melt, and during warm weather can increase quickly in both depth and speed. A placid stream early in the morning may be a raging torrent by late afternoon. High water is expected throughout spring runoff. Don’t underestimate the danger and power of moving water in ALL bodies of water.

- Stay back from stream and riverbanks and avoid “rock hopping.” Rocks near the water’s edge can be dangerously slippery.
- Supervise children closely when around ALL bodies of water.
- Hikers and backpackers: Any unbridged stream crossing can be extremely hazardous. Use common sense – it is better to cut your hike short to avoid an unsafe crossing than to continue and risk your life. If you choose to attempt a crossing using a natural bridge of rocks or logs, consider where you will land or be swept off if you fall. Unbuckling your pack’s waist strap will allow you to shed your pack and avoid being pulled under by it’s deep and/or swift water.
- Rafting and boating are prohibited during periods of high water (see article on page 4 for rafting regulations).

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.

- Refuel stoves only when they are cold and in a well-ventilated area.
- Be aware that ticks may 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.

Early April

Red-Winged Blackbirds establish territories in Cook’s Meadow. Listen for their glissade-like song!

Treefrog eggs hatch in ponds in meadows. Tadpoles are visible.

Mid-April

Earliest wildflowers bloom in the Valley: rock cress, slender phlox, miner’s lettuce, baby-blue eyes, mountain violet, gooseberry and redmaid.

Reptiles begin spring activity. Glitter skinks, western fence lizards and garter snakes can be spotted in sunny locations.

Butterflies—mourning cloaks, tortoise-shells, and skippers—flit about meadow foliage.

April 21...Earth Day

April 22

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Early May

Dogwood trees and western azalea bushes bloom in moist areas. The drive into the Valley along Southside Drive should be spectacular!

Monarch butterflies return, some after a 1,000-mile migration from Mexico. Female mosquitoes hatch. (Females bite!)

Striped coral root, a delicate saprophytic member of the orchid family, flowers in the forest. You can see these along the Old Big Oak Flat Road heading down to the Tuolumne Grove.

Mid-May

Showy red snow plants push their way up through the decaying humus of the forest floor. This is an unusual looking plant that is not easy to identify. It’s pink flowers are reminiscent of a small sweet pea.

Showier wildflowers bloom: Sierra onion, lupine, Mariposa lily, penstemon, alum root, and lady slipper orchid.

Golden Eagles may be sighted soaring above Yosemite Valley cliffs.

Mid-June

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PARK RULES

It's the Law

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 5 for details).
- Camping or sleeping in vehicles is permitted only in designated campsites and is prohibited along roadways, 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 9).
- 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: 209/372-0214, or to the Department of Fish and Game’s tip line, 888/DFW-CALTIP, 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 up litter.
- 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.

FISHING REGULATIONS

Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles down-stream to Pohono 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 opens 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.

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 results are 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 them through binoculars or telephoto lenses. If an animal is aware of your presence, you’re too close.

RAFTING REGULATIONS

Rafting regulations have been implemented to protect river habitat and provide for visitor safety.

Rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is open to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device between Stoneman Bridge and Sentinel Beach from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. In addition, the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open for rafting from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily between Swinging Bridge and Wawona Campground.

Each occupant of vessels or flotation devices on park rivers must have in their possession, and readily available, an appropriately sized U.S. Coast Guard approved life vest.

In order to protect the river's banks, rafters are encouraged to get out only on sand or gravel bars, and swimmers should use sandy beaches to enter and exit the water. Rafters must be aware that fallen trees may exist in the river. This natural debris can create hazardous conditions to river users, so extreme caution should be used.

The entire length of the Merced River within Yosemite Valley will be closed to all flotation devices during periods of high water or whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher.

These rafting regulations may be subject to change.

Drive Safely

In 2000, there were 338 motor vehicle accidents in Yosemite National Park. Twelve bears were hit by vehicles. Slow down and follow these driving tips to avoid accidents:

- Be watchful for rocks in the roadway, wildlife crossing, or other unexpected situations. Bicyclists and pedestrians sometimes share the roadway.
- 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.
- The sights are spectacular, but 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 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 for 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.

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 tire 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 About...

- Fire safety guidelines, see page 3.
- Food storage guidelines, see page 5.
- Camping and campfires, see page 6.
- Wilderness regulations, see page 7.
- Bicycling rules, see page 9.

At 3,700 feet in elevation, Hetch Hetchy is often in the throes of spring while other areas of the park remain deep in winter.
MOUNTAIN 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 from any wild animal. We offer the following recommendations for your safety:

Do not leave pets or pet food outside and unattended, especially at dawn and dusk. Pets can attract mountain lions into developed areas.

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. Most 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!

SAVE-A-BEAR HOTLINE

To report trash problems, improper food storage, bear sightings, and other bear-related 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 Association’s “Save a Bear” campaign and help eliminate food-related human/bear conflicts in the wilderness. Donations will be used to purchase bear-resistant food storage canisters for use in the distribution program described in the adjacent article. The program makes canisters 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.

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— from 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 may become dangerous. Federal regulations require that all food and related supplies 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”X48”X22”. No food storage is allowed in vehicles.

Keep bear boxes latched and secured with their clips at all times. Bears 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.

Bears recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food-related container, even when empty, they 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 mistaking an article for food, and increase the chances that you will find any stray french fries or other overlooked food.

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 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 designated backpacker camps adjacent to High Sierra Camps or in Little Yosemite Valley are required to use metal food storage lockers provided or portable canisters. All garbage and food items must be stored in a food locker or canister. The counterbalance technique (either from a cable or a tree branch) may not be used where bear boxes exist. Bear resistant canisters are required at 9,600 feet elevation and above. Plan ahead, as you may need to carry one or more canisters.

On your trip:

- Transport cans in airtight bags on your person.
- Store canisters in airtight bags while cooking.
- Store canisters in useable, bear-resistant, airtight containers in a tree branch)
- Store canisters in useable, bear-resistant, airtight containers in your car.
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Camping Reservations

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

Camping reservations will be available in blocks of one month at a time, beginning with the first of the month in advance, on the 15th of each month through the National Park Reservation System (NPRS).

Thus, for:

- April reservations can be made beginning on 11/15/01
- May reservations can be made beginning on 12/15/01
- June reservations can be made beginning on 01/15/01

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

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 campground available at the time the reservation is made. All campground assignments are final—you may not switch or change campgrounds once you arrive in the park. Maximum length for recreational vehicles in Valley campgrounds is 40 feet.

Camp 4 (Sunrise Campground) is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis. These campgrounds are not wheelchair accessible. Sites are assigned by NPRS at the time of reservation. A permit for a specific campsite may not be issued when reservations are not available for a tent site or camping area, or when campers have not paid the fees in advance.

Outside Yosemite Valley

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

There are three day-limit campings within Yosemite National Park in any calendar year; however, May 1, September 15, and October 31, 2001, are the first-come, first-served basis; however, some may be closed due to fire danger, weather, low water, or other reasons. In Yosemite Valley, reservations are required year-round for Yosemite Valley campgrounds (check grid below). For additional information, contact the local USFS district offices: Highway 120 West, Groveland Ranger Station (Stanislaus NF) 209/962-7285, Highway 140, Mariposa Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 209/966-3638, Highway 120 East, Mono Lake Ranger Station (Inyo NF) 760/847-2044, Highway 41, Oakhurst Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 559/983-4036. Reservations can be made through NPRS; 1 to 30 people are allowed in each group camp. Tent camping only. Pets are not permitted in group sites. Check-in/check-out time is noon.

Yosemite Valley

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

There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows. Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley; see page 15 for locations and hours of service. Bear-proof food storage lockers are available in all Yosemite campgrounds (they measure 45”w x 18”h x 34”d). See Bears Are Not To Blame on page 3 for food storage guidelines.

Rules and Regulations

- Camping in Yosemite Valley is permitted only in designated campgrounds.
- Maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles per campsite.
- Campfires are permitted only in specified campgrounds (check grid below). Pits must be on a lead at all times, are not allowed on any hiking trail, and may not be left unattended.
- Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Generators may be used sparingly between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Camp wastewater and sewage must be disposed of in designated utility drains.
- Electrical extension cords may not be connected to campground restroom outlets.

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 are not first-come, first-served on a first-come, first-served basis. These campgrounds are operated on a first-come, first-served basis only. Some may be limited to seven days. Wawona and Hodgdon Meadow are open all year. Other campgrounds outside the Valley are open only during the summer months. See grid below for details.

Camping Areas

- Yosemite Valley: Campgrounds outside the Valley are open only during the summer months.
- Wawona and Hodgdon Meadow are open all year.
- Other campgrounds are limited to seven days, except for Wawona, which is limited to 14 days, except for Wawona, which is open all year.
- There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in any calendar year; however, May 1, September 15, and October 31, 2001, are the first-come, first-served basis; however, some may be closed due to fire danger, weather, low water, or other reasons.

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- Electrical extension cords may not be connected to campground restroom outlets.
**SPRING IN THE WILDERNESS**

Spring wilderness users will find lower elevations a little soggy with a new crop of wildflowers waiting for the warmth of the sun. Some trails will be open and clear, but hikers should remember that most of Yosemite's trails rise rapidly from spring thaw to deep snow cover into mid-July, and unexpected snowstorms can bring snow to lower elevations throughout the spring.

**PLAN CAREFULLY**

- Use maps and guidebooks to plan your trip. Carry a "topo" map and compass, and know how to use them.
- Choose a route that allows plenty of time for rest, food storage, and campsite selection.
- Maximum group size is 15 people for on-trail and 8 people for off-trail travel.
- Leave an accurate itinerary with friends or family. Carry a signal mirror and whistle.

**Wilderness Permits**

Free wilderness permits are required year-round for all overnight trips into Yosemite's wilderness. They are not required for day hikes. To avoid overcrowding and reduce impacts to wilderness areas, Yosemite limits the number of people who may begin overnight hikes from each trailhead each day. 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 in Yosemite Valley, Wawona, Big Oak Flat, Hetch Hetchy, and Tuolumne Meadows. Call 209/372-0200 or go to the wilderness web site for open permit station locations and hours. Permits are also available by advance reservation.

**Protact Yosemite's Wilderness**

- Use gas stoves rather than wood fires.
- More food, garbage and toiletries properly (see page 5).
- Camp in an existing, well-used campsite at least 100 feet from water, 4 miles from any populated area and 1 mile from any road.
- Bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.
- Purify all drinking water (see page 3).
- Bury human waste (at least 1 mile deep) and do all washing at least 100 feet from water and trail.
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.

**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 345, Yosemite, CA 95389, via the web (see address at right) or by calling 209/372-0740. 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.

**Watch Your Step!**

In 2000, rangers in Yosemite worked on 147 search and rescue operations.

- Tripping 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.
- 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 near-by and you must cross, do so at a wide, shallow spot that is not above rapid waters.
- Supervise children closely when around all bodies of water.

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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 #18</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 #6</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 (Sunnyside Campground) near Shuttle Stop #7</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</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round trip (11.6 km)</td>
<td>Very Strenuous 2,700' (810 m) elevation gain</td>
<td>6 to 8 hours round trip</td>
<td>Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mist Trail or John Muir Trail</td>
<td>Happy Isles/Shuttle Stop #17</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 (11.3 km)</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,900' (570 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' (1,461 m) elevation gain</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 3,200' (960 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 #6</td>
<td>11 miles full loop (20.8 km) 6.5 miles half loop (10.4 km)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>5 to 7 hours full loop 2.5 to 3.5 hours half loop</td>
<td>Get full description from Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For wilderness information, call 209/372-0200 or go to www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness
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 transit service throughout the region. This new voluntary bus service provides scheduled round-trip transit service to Yosemite from the surrounding communities. Expanded summer service begins mid-May. New daily service from Maripoloth Lakes begins in July. For schedule and service information visit the YARTS website at www.yosemite.com or call toll free 1-877-995-YARTS.

Via the Yosemite-Amtrak Connection/Gray Line, offers service from Merced Amtrak Station and San Francisco to Yosemite. Some 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 website. Tickets can be purchased from drivers. 209/384-1315 or in CA 800/369-PARK, or visit www.via-adventures.com.

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. Hikers’ buses run daily to Glacier Point late spring through autumn. Artists can be reached via skis or snowshoes only. Day. Call 209/372-1240 for hikers’ bus schedule, and reservations, or stop by any tour desk.

Lodging

Reservations for all overnight lodging in Yosemite can be made by calling 559/232-4848 or by writing to Central Reservations, Yosemite Concession Services, P.O. 1000, Yosemite, CA 95389. Lodging in Yosemite Valley includes Yosemite Valley Lodge, the Ahwahnee, and Yosemite Lodge. Reservations for all overnight lodgings in Yosemite Valley are available at www.yosemite.com. Lodging in Yosemite Valley includes Yosemite Valley Lodge, and in summer, White Wolf Lodge and Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. Rates range from $36 per night for a basic tent cabin with nearby bathroom, to $245.60 per night for a room at The Ahwahnee (rates are subject to change). Reservations are highly recommended and may be made up to one year and one day in advance.

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 95318, 209/379-2648, fax 209/379-2486, or 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.

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 seven days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for seven days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Pass</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>Valid for one year in Yosemite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Parks Pass</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Valid for one year in all national park areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Age Pass</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Access Pass</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>For blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“WHAT HAPPENS TO MY ENTRANCE FEE DOLLARS?”

Thanks to the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, a temporary program approved by Congress in 1995, 80% of your $20 entrance fee remains in Yosemite to fund projects that improve the park and your visit. Yosemite anticipates earning $63 million by 2002 and completing projects by 2005.

PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY INCLUDE:

- Refurbishing the multi-purpose auditorium at the Valley Visitor Center (to be completed spring 2001)
- Replacing picnic tables, fire rings, and signs in campgrounds
- Refurbishing roads, trails, and utilities throughout the park
- Improving the shuttle bus service in Yosemite Valley

PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLETION:

- Refurbishing the multi-purpose auditorium at the Valley Visitor Center (to be completed spring 2001)

FUTURE PROJECTS INCLUDE:

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

Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year-round. Yosemite Valley may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 from Manteca, and in late spring through late fall via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East). Reservations for all overnight lodgings in Yosemite Valley are available at www.yosemite.com. Detailed information is available at the Valley Visitor Center in Yosemite Village. See the shuttle bus map on the back panel, and for scheduled Valley activities, see pages 10 and 11.

Mariposa Grove and Wawona

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 hour) 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 English, Japanese, and Spanish are available at the Grove trailhead. To reduce traffic congestion and avoid parking delays, ride the free shuttle bus (spring through fall) from Wawona to the Grove. 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 year-round. See page 12 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 (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 as far as the Badger Pass Ski Area, and then Glacier Point can be reached via skis or snowshoes only.

Information Outside the Park

West Highway 120

120 Yosemite Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1263
Hotel Charlotte, Suite B
Groveland, CA 95321
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429
www.yosemite-chamber.com

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 4120
542 Stockton Road
Sonora, CA 95370
800/446-1313 or 209/533-4420
www.tuolumneinfo@comcast.net

Highway 41

Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
4057 Highway 41
Oakhurst, CA 93644
559/956-4616
www.sierranevada.org

Highway 132/49

Coasterville Visitor Center
P.O. Box 333
5007 Main Street
Coarseuil, CA 95311
209/978-3074
mariposa.yosemite.net/visitor

Highway 140

Mariposa County Visitor Bureau (also info. for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Buck Meadows)
P.O. Box 967
5138 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
800/208-2434 or 209/966-2456
www.homelyosemite.com

East Highway 120

Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center
P.O. Box 130
Highway 99 and 3rd Street
Lee Vining, CA 93541
760/647-6629
www.levining.com

Yosemite Store and Visitor Center
3027 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
209/966-3688
www.yosemite.org

California Welcome Center, Merced
170 W. 16th Street
Merced, CA 95340
800/345-3333 or 209/384-2791
www.yosemitegateway.org

Yosemite Valley

YOSEMITE VALLEY

Mariposa Grove

MARIPOSAGROVE

AND WAWONA

YOSEMITEVALLEY

WAWONA

YOSEMITE

AND WAWONA

YOSEMITE

PLANNING

AREAS TO VISIT IN YOSEMITE

YOSEMITE VALLEY

MARIPOSAGROVE

AND WAWONA

Information Outside the Park

West Highway 120

120 Yosemite Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1263
Hotel Charlotte, Suite B
Groveland, CA 95321
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429
www.yosemite-chamber.com

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 4120
542 Stockton Road
Sonora, CA 95370
800/446-1313 or 209/533-4420
www.tuolumneinfo@comcast.net

Highway 41

Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
4057 Highway 41
Oakhurst, CA 93644
559/956-4616
www.sierranevada.org

Highway 132/49

Coasterville Visitor Center
P.O. Box 333
5007 Main Street
Coarseuil, CA 95311
209/978-3074
mariposa.yosemite.net/visitor

Highway 140

Mariposa County Visitor Bureau (also info. for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Buck Meadows)
P.O. Box 967
5138 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
800/208-2434 or 209/966-2456
www.homelyosemite.com

East Highway 120

Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center
P.O. Box 130
Highway 99 and 3rd Street
Lee Vining, CA 93541
760/647-6629
www.levining.com

Yosemite Store and Visitor Center
3027 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
209/966-3688
www.yosemite.org

California Welcome Center, Merced
170 W. 16th Street
Merced, CA 95340
800/345-3333 or 209/384-2791
www.yosemitegateway.org

Hiking & Backpacking Yosemite offers over 800 miles of hiking trails park-wide. 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/yosewilderness. For some ideas on hiking, as well as information about backpacking, see page 7.

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

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.

Bike Rules For your safety and to protect Yosemite National Park, please follow these rules:
  California law mandates bicyclists under 18 years of age wear helmets.
  Bikes are allowed only on paved bikeways and park roads (unless the road is closed to bicycle use).
  Bikes are not allowed off roads or on pedestrian and hiking trails.
  Bicyclists must obey all posted traffic signs and travel with the flow of traffic when on roadways used by automobiles.

RIVER & TRAIL CAMPS Campers can enjoy the outdoors on the Merced River. Begins at Wawona in April and ends at Tuolumne Meadows in late September. For reservations, call 559/924-1475. Call 209/372-0200 for information.

Get More Info...

- Recorded General Park Information including: Road & Weather Conditions, Trip Planning Information, etc. 209/372-0200
- Western U.S. National Parks nps.gov
- On the Web (see page 2) Yosemite National Park www.nps.gov/yose Yosemite concession services www.yosemite.com
- Camping Reservations reservations.nps.gov
- Regional Information www.nps.gov
- Yosemite Association www.yosemiteassociation.org
- Yosemite Institute www.yosemite.org
- Yosemite Fund www.yosemitefund.org
- The Ansel Adams Gallery www.anseladams.com
- VIA/Gray Line www.via-advantures.com

RESERVATIONS

- Lodging Reservations 559/225-4448
- TDD 559/225-8345
- Campground Reservations (callers from U.S. and Canada) 800/444-7275 TDD 888/800-0796
- Campground Reservations (international callers only) 301/722-1257

AVERAGE PRECIPITATION

AND TEMPERATURES

Yosemite Valley

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<th>MONTH</th>
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<th>MAXIMUM (F°)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>14</td>
<td>48/9</td>
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</table>

Average annual precipitation is 40 inches. For more information see page 2.

Visitor Centers

The four visitor centers in Yosemite National Park provide excellent resources for park information, wilderness permits, and park-related publications and programs.

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
Open daily 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through May 31; 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. (closed for lunch) daily beginning April 15. See page 12 for more information.

Big Oak Flat Information Station
Open for the season May 12, daily 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (closed for lunch) daily beginning April 15. See page 12 for more information.

Tioga Pass Information Station
Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through May 31; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed for lunch) daily beginning April 15. See page 10 for more information.

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through May 31; 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. (closed for lunch) daily beginning April 15. See page 12 for more information.

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Visitor Activities

Programs and Exhibits
Naturalist-guided walks and programs as well as self-guided walks are available. Cultural history demonstrations of basket-weaving, beadwork, or traditional games are offered at the Indian Cultural Center, Yosemite Museum, and the Yosemite Cultural Encampment. Check with rental visitor centers and bulletin boards for additional information, and see activities listed on pages 10-12.

Tours
For a relaxing and informative experience, take a sightseeing tour on a bus or open-air tram (weather permitting). These tours, narrated by informed guides, operate daily to most 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 is a fee 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 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.

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  Bicyclists must obey all posted traffic signs and travel with the flow of traffic when on roadways used by automobiles.

Bike Times

- January 8.0
- February 8.0
- March 8.0
- April 8.0
- May 8.0
- June 8.0
- July 8.0
- August 8.0
- September 8.0
- October 8.0
- November 8.0
- December 8.0

Average annual precipitation is 40 inches. For more information see page 2.
Yosemite Valley

Services and The Ansel Adams Gallery lead camera walks and daily. Topics may include geology, ecology, wildlife, waterfalls, Join a ranger or naturalist for an easy walk to explore Yosemite's www.anseladams.com photography supplies are offered. For more information, In addition, a wide selection of handcrafts, books, gifts, and Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. Located in Yosemite Village next to the Visitor Center. The Gallery offers the work of Ansel to the Visitor Center. The Gallery offers the work of Ansel

The Ansel Adams Gallery
Located in Yosemite Village next to the Visitor Center. b. basin, extrusion, bryozoan
Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed for lunch). Displays photographing and field sketching, an ethnic’s native Minnow and Paulea people from 1830 to the present. Demonstrations of basketweaving, woodworking, and/or traditional games are pre- sented. Check the Visitor Center for a schedule of Indian Cultural Demonstrations if the museum building is closed.

WALKS AND TALKS
Join a ranger or naturalist for an easy walk to explore Yosemite's natural and cultural history. Programs are often offered twice daily. Topics may include geology, ecology, wildlife, waterfalls, human history, and current park management issues. Additional ranger walks may be offered when staffing allows. Check fliers at lodging docks and the Visitor Center for additional programs and detailed descriptions.

Monday
8:30 a.m. Camera Walk, 2 hours, sign up/meet at Ahwahnee front desk (TCS) B$ 10.00 p.m. Ranger Walk—Upland Stories, 1 to 1 1/2 hours Front of Ahwahnee Center
1:00 p.m. Ranger Walk—Bean. Vogel and other Boo Boo Bear, 1 1/2 hour Curry Village Amphitheater B$ 4.30 p.m. History Tour (begins April 16; except June 11 & 18), 1 hour Sign up at the Ahwahnee concierge desk (TCS) B$ 7:30 p.m. Old-fashioned Campfire and Sing-along with the Recycled String Band (begins June 6), 1 hour, location near Curry Village Village Store. Supplies are available in the Visitor Center.

Tuesday
8:30 a.m. Camera Walk, 2 hours, sign up/meet at Yosemite Village Visitor Center (TCS) B$ 10:00 a.m. Ranger Walk—It’s All About Habitats (except April 30 & May 10) 1 to 1 1/2 hours, behind Visitor Center B$ 2:30 p.m. Ranger Walk—Yosemite’s First People (except April 30 & May 10) 1 to 1 1/2 hours, behind Visitor Center B$ 4:30 p.m. History Campfire Tour (begins April 3; 1 hour), location near Curry Village Village Store. Supplies are available in the Visitor Center.

Wednesday
9:00 a.m. Photo Walk, 2 hours, sign up in advance Meet on Ahwahnee Gallery porch. limited to 15, weather permitting (AAG)
10:00 a.m. Ranger Walk—Yosemite’s Legacy, 1 to 1 1/2 hours, front of Visitor Center B$ 1:00 p.m. History Walk (begins June 6), 1 hour, LeConte Memorial Lodge Shuttle bus stop #10 (Sierra Vista)
2:00 p.m. How do you catch a fish in Yosemite? (begins April 14; 1 hour), Front of the Village Sport Shop, near shuttle bus stop #42 (TCS) B$ 7:30 p.m. Old-fashioned Campfire & Sing-along with Yosemites (begins May 26; except June 11, 1 hour, location near Curry Village Village Store. Supplies are available in the Visitor Center.

Thursday
8:00 p.m. Evening Program (begins May 26; 1 hour), location near Curry Village Village Store. Supplies are available in the Visitor Center.

Free Art Classes
Free, informal outdoor classes in various art mediums are available for adults through the Art Activity Center, located at the end of Yosemite Village next to the Village Store. Supplies are available for purchase at the Center, which is open 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue until 2:00 p.m.
April 16 – 22 Jim Kingwell Watercolor
April 23 – 29 Suanne Jines Watercolor
April 30 – May 6 Robert Chapla Acrylic
May 7 – 13 Linda Patterson Watercolor
May 14 – 20 Sonja Hamilton Watercolor
May 21 – 27 Jane Coyer Watercolor
May 28 – June 3 June 4 – 10 Richard Keyes Acrylic
June 11 – 17 Penny Orwel Water Media
June 18 – 24 Tom Fong Watercolor

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For the week of June 3-9, see local bulletin boards for posted activities.

Monday
8:30 a.m. Camera Walk, 2 hours, sign up/meet at Ahwahnee front desk (TCS) B$ 10:00 a.m. Ranger Walk—Upland Stories, 1 to 1 1/2 hours Front of Ahwahnee Center
1:00 p.m. Ranger Walk—Bean. Vogel and other Boo Boo Bear, 1 1/2 hour Curry Village Amphitheater B$ 4.30 p.m. History Tour (begins April 16; except June 11 & 18), 1 hour Sign up at the Ahwahnee concierge desk (TCS) B$ 7:30 p.m. Old-fashioned Campfire and Sing-along with the Recycled String Band (begins June 6), 1 hour, location near Curry Village Village Store. Supplies are available in the Visitor Center.

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**ACTIVITIES**

**Yosemite Valley**

**THURSDAY**

10:00 a.m.  Ranger Walk—River of Memory (except April 19), 1 to 1½ hours  Shuttle bus stop #45

3:30 p.m.  Historic Ahwahnee Tour (ends April 8), 1 hour  Sign up at the Ahwahnee concierge desk (YCS)  A

7:30 p.m.  Evening Program (begins May 6), 1 hour  LeConte Memorial Lodge  Shuttle bus stop #41 (Sierra Chair)

**FRIDAY**

9:00 a.m.  Photo Walk, 2 hours, sign up in advance  Meet at the Ahwahnee lobby, limited to 15, weather permitting (AIR)

10:00 a.m.  Ranger Walk/Talk—Yosemite Inspirations, 1 to 1½ hours  South Tunnel View parking lot (off the Wawona Road/Hwy 41)  B

2:30 p.m.  Ranger Walk—Industries of the Ahwahneechee, 1 to 1½ hours  Behind Visitor Center A

4:30 p.m.  Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (April 6 only), 2 hours  LeConte Meadow Information Station  Shuttle bus stop #15

5:00 p.m.  Photo Walk—Behind Yosemite Falls (begins April 7 only), 1 hour  Behind Visitor Center A

6:00 p.m.  LeConte Times (May 26 only), 1 hour  Curly Village Amphitheater (YCS)  A

7:00 p.m.  Evening Program (begins May 17), 1 hour  Curry Village Amphitheater (YCS)  A

**SATURDAY**

9:00 a.m.  Photo Walk, 2 hours, sign up in advance, meet at Ahwahnee Lobby, limited to 15, weather permitting (AIR)  Shuttle bus stop #45

10:00 a.m.  Ranger Walk—Spring in Yosemite (except April 21), 1 to 1½ hours  Shuttle bus stop #45

1:00 p.m.  Ranger Walk/Talk—Everything You Wanted to Know About Bears But Were Afraid to Ask Them, 1 to 1½ hours  Curry Village Amphitheater  B

2:00 p.m.  Ranger Walk—Ahwahneechee Stories and Games, 1 to 1½ hours  Behind Visitor Center A

3:00 p.m.  Fine Print Viewing at The Ansel Adams Gallery  (begins May 18)  A

5:00 p.m.  Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (April 7 only), 2 hours  LeConte Meadow Information Station  No experience necessary (YCS)  A

7:30 p.m.  Evening Program (begins May 6), 1 hour, LeConte Memorial Lodge  Shuttle bus stop #41 (Sierra Chair)

8:00 p.m.  Evening Program (begins May 6), 1 hour, LeConte Memorial Lodge  Shuttle bus stop #41 (Sierra Chair)

8:30 p.m.  Meet at Yosemite Valley (doors 1 & 4 only), 1 hour  Meet at Yosemite Lodge, sign up details at any lodge tour desk (YCS)  A

**SUNDAY**

10:00 a.m.  Ranger Walk—Snowflakes to Waterfalls, 1 to 1½ hours  Shuttle bus stop #45  A

1:00 p.m.  Ranger Walk/Talk—Scats and Tracks: Yosemite’s Wildlife (begins May 26), 1½ hours  Location is near Curry Village  A

3:00 p.m.  Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (April 8 only), 2 hours  LeConte Meadow Information Station  At Yosemite Lodge tour desk  No experience necessary (YCS)  A

6:30 p.m.  Evening Program (begins May 6), 1 hour  LeConte Memorial Lodge  Shuttle bus stop #41 (Sierra Chair)

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**JUST FOR KIDS**

**BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER**

Kids ages 8-10: You can become a Yosemite Junior Ranger by purchasing a self-guided booklet published by the Yosemite Association. This booklet is sold for $3.50 at the Nature Center at Happy Isles, Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Centers, and Wawona and Big Oak Flat Information Stations. 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 3 and 6? 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 published by the Yosemite Association is sold for $3 in the Nature Center at Happy Isles, Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Centers, and Wawona and Big Oak Flat Information Stations.

**THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Yosemite National Park is a testament to its diverse employment and volunteer opportunities. To continue the National Park Service’s goals of preserving park resources and serving visitors, Yosemite needs employees and volunteers from all walks of life, from all ethnic backgrounds, with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to turn these goals into reality.

To protect park resources and to serve the public, Yosemite employs a permanent and a seasonal workforce of over 700 individuals every year. The variety of paid positions available may surprise you: biologists, criminal investigators, human resource managers, accountants, electricians, historians, and even traditional park rangers. Whatever the job, a rewarding experience with Yosemite National Park and the National Park Service is guaranteed.

Yosemite National Park also has active Volunteers in Parks, Youth Conservation Corps, and Student Conservation Association programs. Participants of these splendid programs come from every state and nearly every country in the world to help preserve and protect America’s natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. Young and old alike give of their time and expertise to assist our paid staff in achieving our national mission.

For specific employment information, or to find out what positions are currently available and how to apply, contact the Human Resources Office in person or phone 209/375-1905. You may also access either the Yosemite National Park web site at www.nps.gov/yose or USAJobs at www.usajobs.opm.gov for a listing of employment opportunities as they occur.

Selection for employment will be made without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, physical handicap, age, membership or non-membership in an employee organization, personal favoritism, or other non-merit factors.

**FUTURE**

Become a PART of the FUTURE

There are hundreds of different kinds of wildflowers in Yosemite. Some look like rocks. Some have faces or paws. How many can you find? Keep a list on this paper or in a journal. Please don’t pick them—leave flowers for others to enjoy.

**THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

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**ACTIVITIES**

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**TUOLUMNE GROVE**

The Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West) and the Tuolumne Road. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the Tuolumne Grove of Big Trees, a cluster of about 32 sequoias now closed to cars; this 2-mile (1.2 km) round-trip 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.

**MERCED 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 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).

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**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).

**TO GET TO THE GROVE**

Cars are prohibited beyond the parking area in the Grove, but several giant sequoias can be seen from there. Allow 1½ hours driving time to the Mariposa Grove from Yosemite Valley. Information about handicapped accessibility is available at the trailhead. The access road to the Grove may close intermittently due to limited parking and/or snow. Please use the free shuttle service between Wawona and the Mariposa Grove. Trailers and motor homes are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road.

**TRAM SCHEDULE FOR THE MARIPOSA GROVE**

When the Mariposa Grove Road opens, trams run every day (weather permitting) in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias for a 1-hour tour through the lower and upper groves. The first tram is at 9:00 a.m. and the last tram is at 5:30 p.m., running every 15 to 20 minutes from the boarding area. $8.00/ adults, $7.75/ seniors (62 or older), $4.50/children (5-12), $25 maximum for families (parents and their children under 16). Children under 5 ride free.

**FREE MARIPOSA GROVE/WAWONA SHUTTLE BUS**

Beginning weekends only on April 21, the free shuttle bus stops at the Wawona Store, South Entrance, and Mariposa Grove from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. (weather permitting). Daily service is scheduled to begin May 5. Due to narrow roads and very limited parking, visitors are strongly encouraged to use this free shuttle bus service to help alleviate congestion and lengthy parking delays. Visitors may park at the Wawona Store to board the shuttle bus.

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**WAWONA INFORMATION STATION AT HILL’S STUDIO**

Open for the season May 12, daily 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Offers information about park activities, wilderness permits, trail information, books, and maps. 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 parking area and follow the path up the hill. Phone 209/379-1899.

**EVENING PROGRAM**

**PIONEER YOSEMITE HISTORY CENTER**

Take this 30-minute self-guiding tour and learn about the people, events, and issues of Yosemite's early years. From April 26 through May 24, Monday through Thursday, come see school groups participating in an environmental living program, bringing the past to life. You are welcome to ask questions of these costumed participants. Watch the days—coach, walk across a covered bridge, and visit historic buildings out of Yosemite’s past. The Center is always open, and explanatory signs and brochures are available.

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JOIN THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

The Yosemite Association is a nonprofit 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 $100,000 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.

As a member, you will:
- Enjoy a 15% discount at Yosemite Association shops on all books, maps, and publications, as well as qualify for a discount on most field seminars
- Receive a 10% discount on purchases at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Valley
- Have an opportunity to volunteer in Yosemite and attend special members’ events
- Receive the quarterly journal, Yosemite, which features informative articles on both the natural history and human history of the park
- Have the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting significant projects in Yosemite National Park

PROVIDING FOR YOSEMITE’S FUTURE

Just how vast and extraordinary is Yosemite? Many visitors leave before getting a chance to find out. Now you can obtain a sense of the whole Yosemite—from the upper reaches of a giant sequoia tree to the beautiful backcountry to dramatic aerial views of the park—through a new visitor orientation film, Spirit of Yosemite. This stunning 35mm Surround Sound film was directed by Oscar-nominated David Vassar, a former Yosemite ranger. The film replaces an outdated slide show and includes magnificent scenery, outstanding sound, and information about Yosemite’s formation and natural/cultural history. Visit the newly remodeled Valley Visitor Center theatre this spring to experience Spirit of Yosemite.

The new visitor film and much of the remodeled theatre are just two 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 13th year, the Fund has distributed over $13 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, we hope to support many more projects, including wilderness restoration, additional trail reconstruction, and educating school children about Yosemite and natural resource protection.

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 biannual full-color journal, Approach, featuring articles 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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YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF YOSEMITE WHO PROVIDE FOR YOSEMITE’S FUTURE!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift:
- $25
- $100
- $1,000
- $50
- $500
- $____ (Other)

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ____________________________ State _______ Zip _______
Daytime Phone Number _______
Enclosed is my check or money order for $____ or charge to:
Credit card # _______________ Expiration Date _______
E-mail address ____________________________

Friends of Yosemite receive the full-color Yosemite Postcard Book (with a $25 gift), beautiful Yosemite note cards ($50), or the photo book, Cycle of the Seasons ($100+).

John Muir Heritage Society members, giving $1,000 or more, receive invitations to events at Yosemite, a park entrance pass, and other Society benefits.
Yosemite Christian Ministries**
Pastor Steve Hughes 209/379-2428
For information on weddings, call number above.

Worship Service (begins May 30)
Sunday 7:00 p.m., Yosemite Chapel

Worship Walk (begins May 30)
Sunday 9:00 a.m., Happy Isles, starts at shuttle bus #41

Solid Rock/Climbers for Christ
Call Pastor for location, times, and additional information.

El Portal Community Church**
Pastor Dan March 209/372-6253
Assoc. 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 Bible studies, weddings, children's and youth activities, call number above or email kmurphy@outlook.com

Wawona Christian Fellowship
Pastor David Adamson 209/379-2059

Wawona Community Center
Worship Service: Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study: Wednesday 1:00 p.m.

** Associated with the California Southern Baptist Convention

ALANON
YOSEMITE VALLEY: Wednesday 7:00 p.m., YCS General Office Building, Employee Training Center

YOSEMITE VALLEY: Thursday, and Tuesday 7:30 p.m., YCS General Office Building, Employee Training Center, Yosemite Village

Alcohols Anonymous
YOSEMITE VALLEY: Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday 7:30 p.m., YCS General Office Building, Employee Training Center, Yosemite Village

Alonzo
YOSEMITE VALLEY: Thursday 7:00 p.m., YCS General Office Building, Employee Training Center

Lions Club
Meets first and third Thursday of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee.
Call 209/372-4475 for information.

Rotary International
Meets Thursdays for lunch at noon in the Ahwahnee Muir Room. Visiting Rotarian families and guests are welcome. For reservations or information, call 209/372-1016.

Services for Disabled
An accessibility brochure is available at park entrance stations and visitor centers.
Wheelchair rental available at Yosemite Medical Clinic, 209/372-4572.
Yosemite Lodge bike stand, 209/372-1208.

Showers & Laundromat
CURLY VILLAGE
24 hours

HOMESTEAD CAMPGROUND (opens April 13)
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LAUNDROMAT
HOMESTEAD CAMPGROUND
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
RIDING HALLUCINATIONS