What a joy it was to have as my Yosemite climbing companion the enthusiastic, young Ryan Frost! It was June 1997. We were a third of the way up the Nose of El Capitan when I shared with Ryan my sudden realization. “This is the first time I’ve been up on El Cap without Royal.” What a comfort it brought, now with my 1960s climbing partner and mentor Royal Robbins not present, that his shoes could be filled by a new light and companion—my son, Ryan Frost.

Continued on page 1

The historic Nose route on El Capitan, first climbed in 1958 by Warren Harding, follows the south buttress between the sunlit and shadowed faces.
A climber on the historic Headwall pitch on El Capitan. The stage was set for the climbing of Chuck Pratt, and Yvon Chouinard. Royal Robbins, and crucible, but Camp 4 (the famed climber’s walk-in campground) is home. With no small amount of nervousness, we took a place in Site 23 near our heroes had gone before. Coming home to the Valley is sacred standing, there is one thing that has not changed: El Cap is just as big and scary as it ever was! The climbs are exposed and require as much hard climbing as did their first ascents.

View of the Valley from El Capitan.

"In the 1960s, Tom Frost climbed actively in Yosemite and the Himalayas and built climbing hardware with renowned pioneers, Yvon Chouinard. At 65, he owns and operates FROSTWORKS, a manufacturer of climbing hardware, and is Chief Engineer and Chairman of the Board of Chimera Photographic Lighting. Tom is planning a second comeback to climb El Capitan.

A Climber Returns to El Capitan

Continued from front cover

I never thought I would climb El Capitan again. Thirty-seven years had passed since this same route with Robbins, Chuck Pratt, and Joe Fritschel had transformed my life. Now suddenly, as great as the adventure of 1960 had been, this new one moved once again up into the unknown of my life. It almost seemed as though nothing had changed. My first attempt to climb has always been the companionship. We climb to be inspired. I enjoy climbing only with companions that help me point me toward God. Ryan and Royal did that well, it didn’t hurt that they also knew climbing.

The very first Yosemite climber, and also the most influential, was the naturalist John Muir. Muir’s respect for the creation, including Yosemite’s great rocks, and his leave-no-trace philosophy of resource stewardship established the foundation upon which every succeeding generation of Yosemite climber built. Then in the late 1940s, John Salathé’s bold 5-day ascents of the Lost Arrow Chimney and the North Face of Sentinel Rock set the climbing standard for courage, commitment, and traveling light. Salathé hand-forged stronger pitons to avoid the placing of many bolts, and raised himself to be the measure of his own climbs.

Ten years after Salathé, Royal Robbins became the visionary and leading figure of the Golden Age of Yosemite big wall climbing. Even considering the size and massiveness of El Cap, he believed, “It isn’t getting to the top that counts, it’s the way you do it.” Robbins shunned fixed ropes and executive bolting of the wall.

In 1998, Camp 4’s eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places acknowledged Yosemite’s place in the development of rock climbing history. In this Valley are found the finest quality, accessible, large granite monoliths in the world. Out of this Valley, a style and method of climbing was exported that influenced rock climbers everywhere. Now the world of climbers comes to Yosemite to climb the classic routes and to rub shoulders with the spirit of Muir, Salathé, and Robbins. These climbers are the newest and current generation of Camp 4 pioneers.

Why Climbing?

So you might ask, “Why? Why climb anyway?” Especially walls as intimidating as El Capitan!” I still go up for the same reasons I did 40 years ago. It is not due to a lack of fear, but more because of it. Whereas the non-climber—for good reasons—stands in El Capitan Meadow and decides not to go up, I find it scarier looking up at El Cap from the Meadow than down on the Meadow from high on El Cap. And so I go—and find out what is to be learned. After all these years, I still find that I am in love with the rock and the Valley. I still love to go up. I am inspired by the mystery and majesty of El Capitan and want to be a part of it. To feel the joy of movement on sunlit granite, the wind in my face, the teamwork, the shared high adventure.

A lot has changed since the days of the early ascents of El Capitan. There are many more climbers now, and they climb at a lot higher standard. But, notwithstanding, there is one thing that has not changed: El Cap is just as big and scary as


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, gift shop, a listing of classes, and 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.yosemitespirit.org) describes its residential, in-park field-sciences program for elementary, middle, and high school students, and post-visit challenge units for educators.
- 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.

**From the Superintendent**

Dear Yosemite Friends,

Welcome to Yosemite! Tom Frost’s article on the cover of this issue of the Yosemite Guide reminds us of the deep connections that visitors can make to this very special park. Everyday, I receive letters from visitors who share their memories, their impressions, and the lessons they have taken home with them. Many letters tell of those connections made by generations of families who have returned to Yosemite year after year. These connections help us better protect Yosemite, but also better understand our natural world.

I invite you to discover all that Yosemite has to offer. Use the Yosemite Guide to enjoy and explore this spectacular place. Now this season is a section entitled “Explore Yosemite” with which you may discover some easy-to-reach vistas and some of the quieter corners of the park. We are also launching a brand new companion to the Guide, entitled Yosemite Today. Along with a suite of maps, Yosemite Today includes a calendar of all of the latest park happenings and special events geared to help you make the most of your time here in Yosemite.

Another way to begin making your own Yosemite connections is to view the spectacular new film, Spirit of Yosemite, currently showing every hour (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the Valley Visitor Center’s brand new west auditorium theater. (Read more about this amazing production below.) National parks were set aside to preserve our nation’s natural and cultural heritage. When you visit a park like Yosemite, you not only create memories for yourself, you make lasting connections that make the National Park Service mission meaningful to you. In so doing you help to protect for the future, as well as enjoy, our nation’s heritage.

Sincerely,

David A. Mihalic

**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 to discover the many tiny miracles around you. Packs are available for checkout and are free. A $50 deposit (cash or credit card) is required and will be refunded when the pack is returned.

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 between communities with Mariposa, Merced, and Mono Counties and Yosemite National Park.

**Year-round:**
- From Merced east along Highway 140 to Yosemite Valley.
- From Coulterville along Highway 132 to Highway 120 West into the park via the Big Oak Flat Entrance (weekends only to mid-September).

**Summer only:**
- From Mammoth Lakes and Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley on Highway 395 and 120 East via the June Lake Loop (week-ends June through September; daily service in July and August).

Fares for riding YARTS vary, but generally range between $7 and $20 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.yosmite.com/yarts or call toll free 877/98-YARTS (877/989-2878). For information on the Highway 120 East service (Mammoth Lakes to Yosemite Valley) please call 800/626-6684.

**Enjoy the Journey with YARTS**

*Photo by Tom Frost*
This 1992 prescribed fire in Cook’s Meadow helped restore vital nutrients to the soil.

The Narrows.

Whereas El Capitan is a focal point for alpinists who come to Yosemite from around the world, Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley offer some of the finest rock for climbers of all abilities and ages. The thousands of routes on Yosemite’s granite vary from short to long, and easy to difficult. Climbing is a joyous sport that can be enjoyed by everyone with desire.

As illustrated in Tom Frost’s cover article, climbing can be a lifelong hobby and a family activity.

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As illustrated in Tom Frost’s cover article, climbing can be a lifelong hobby and a family activity.

Traditionally, big walls are climbed using direct aid techniques where a lead climber, belayed from below, places spring-loaded gear called “cams” or “nuts” in a crack, then stands in aid slings to place the next piece. The second person below removes the hardware as they ascend while the load of food, water, and bivy (sleeping) gear is hauled up by the leader in a large bag. Traditional ascents of El Capitan take 3 to 7 days. At night, wall climbers bivouac (spend the night) on natural rock ledges or on “porta-ledges” they have brought with them.

Nowadays, there are “speed climbers” capable of climbing El Capitan in a day. Free climbers—who use natural foot- and hand-holds in the rock along with rope and protection hardware just for safety—can climb some of El Cap’s routes without resorting to any direct aid. Thus, the tradition of challenging climbing standards continues in Yosemite!
Success! Five years ago, many areas along the Merced River showed signs of human trampling. The soil was bare and heavily eroded. Now, because of the careful actions of park staff and visitors, many of these areas have been restored to more natural conditions. The plants, birds, insects, and animals that depend on living in or near the water have been able to return to these once barren areas.

You can help continue this progress by entering and exiting the river at designated launch and removal points, and by taking breaks on rocky, sandy beaches or “point bars.” Packing out what you pack in will also help keep the river free from trash and prevent animals from swallowing harmful plastic or aluminum.

Please observe the following safety tips to protect Yosemite’s river and lakeshore habitats and to safely enjoy water activities throughout the park.

SWIMMING

- Always supervise children closely.
- Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions. Avoid areas of “whitewater” where streams flow over rocky obstructions.
- Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.

RAFTING

- The entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite is closed to all floatation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher.
- The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphilians, non-preserved fish eggs or flies is prohibited.

For More Information About... 

- Fire safety tips, 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.

Traffic Safety

Traveling through Yosemite by car, bus, or bicycle provides a wonderful opportunity to slow down and enjoy the park’s incredible scenery. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules:

- Yosemite’s roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Please obey posted speed limits.
- Wear seatbelts and use child safety seats required for children under four years of age or under 40 pounds in weight. All motorcyclists must wear helmets.
- Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park’s scenery and wildlife.
- Stay alive, don’t drink and drive. For your safety, park rangers enforce laws against alcohol and drug related driving offenses.
BEARS

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 the bears are not to blame.

Driven by their powerful sense of smell and voracious appetite, 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 often have to be killed. In 2000, there were 654 incidents involving bears, resulting in over $120,000 in damage; 5 bears had to be killed. The only way to stop this devastating cycle is to make sure that all food and trash are stored properly.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A BEAR

Never approach a bear, regardless of its size. If you encounter a bear in a developed area of the park (e.g., campground, parking lot, etc.) or on a hiking trail, act immediately:

1. Stay calm and back away slowly. Do not run. A bear may misinterpret your actions and chase you.
2. Speak in a strong voice to deter the bear from approaching you.
3. Make yourself appear larger by spreading your arms and standing on your toes.
4. Use loud, clear commands such as “Get away!”
5. Use objects like sticks or rocks to scare the bear away.
6. If the bear attacks, roll into a ball to protect your head and vital organs.

NOTE: These regulations and precautions help decrease the chance of personal injury or property damage. However, bear damage and confrontations are still possible, even when all the guidelines are followed. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in a citation and/or impoundment of property.

HOW TO STORE FOOD

“Food” includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This includes items that are not food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soaps, cosmetics, toiletries, perfumes, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals. Follow regulations in the table below to help save Yosemite’s bears.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FOOD STORAGE</th>
<th>WHY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARKING AREAS</td>
<td>Food must not be stored in vehicles after dark. Don’t forget to clear vehicles of food wrappers, crumbs in baby seats, and baby wipes. Food may be stored in vehicles during daylight hours only. Use a bear box where available.</td>
<td>Bears can smell food, even if it’s in a glove compartment or trunk, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles! The less cluttered your vehicle, the less likely a bear will break into it to investigate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAMPGROUNDS</td>
<td>All food must be stored in food storage lockers without exception, day and night. Each campsite contains a food storage locker (“bear box”), measuring 33”x45”x19”.</td>
<td>Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check bear boxes to see if they’re secured. Keep bear boxes closed and locked with their clips at all times.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TENT CABINS</td>
<td>All food must be stored in food storage lockers, day and night. In Curry Village, coin-operated lockers are available for small items (do not leave items in an unlocked coin locker—items may be confiscated). Never leave items with an odor in your tent cabin!</td>
<td>Bears may break into tent cabins, even if they only smell cosmetics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HOTEL ROOMS &amp; CABINS</td>
<td>All food must be kept inside your room; if you are not in the room, the windows and doors must be closed.</td>
<td>Bears can break into hand-sided cabins through an open door or open window.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PICNIC AREAS &amp; ON THE TRAIL</td>
<td>Do not leave food unattended. Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
<td>Bears can smell food, even if it’s in a glove compartment or trunk, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles! The less cluttered your vehicle, the less likely a bear will break into it to investigate.</td>
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BACKPACKING IN THE WILDERNESS

Bear resistant food canisters are strongly recommended and are required above 9,600 feet. Hanging food is nothing more than a delaying tactic for bears. In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food.

The lack of trees suitable for hanging food above 9,600 feet necessitates use of bear canisters.

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 209/372-0473. Your call can be made anonymously.

SUPPORT THE YOSEMITE WILD BEAR PROJECT

Help keep Yosemite’s bears wild! Purchase items from park bookstores bearing the "Keep Bears Wild" logo. Proceeds from the sale of these products directly benefit the Yosemite Wild Bear Project. You can also make a donation to the Yosemite Association to support distribution and purchase of bear-resistant food storage canisters described above. Call 209/379-2646 for more information.

For more information regarding bears and proper food storage, visit the park’s web site (www.nps.gov/yose).

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:

❖ 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!
Camping Reservations

Reservations are required year-round for Yosemite Valley's auto campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served. Camping 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). For current reservation information, call NPRS at 888/327-2872 or visit www.recreation.gov/camping.

Yosemite Valley

There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in any calendar year; however, May 1-September 15, the camping limit in Yosemite Valley and Wawona is 7 days inclusive, and 14 days outside the Valley. Campers may request a specific campsite number, and assignments are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Campsites are not wheelchair accessible. Sites are rented on a per-person basis, and six people will be placed in each campsite, regardless of the number of people in your party. Camp 4 often fills before 9:00 a.m. each day May through September.

Camping in Areas Surrounding Yosemite

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite. For additional information, contact the local USFS district offices: Highway 120 West, Groveland Ranger Station (Stanislaus NF) 209/962-7825; Highway 140, Mariposa Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 209/966-3638; Highway 120 East, Mono Lake Ranger Station (Inyo NF) 760/934-5141; Hwy. 41, Oakhurst Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 539/833-4634. For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 8.

Group Campgrounds

There are group campsites at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek. Campgrounds 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.

Services

All sites include picnic tables, firepits or grills, tent space, parking, and a food storage locker (45” x 19” x 33”). See Bears Are Not To Blame on page 5 for food storage regulations.

Toilet facilities are available in campgrounds, however Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley's auto campgrounds, and Portcurno Flat contain vault toilets only.

Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley; showers are also available at Tuolumne Meadows. See Yosemite Today for locations and hours of service.

RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Valley, and Portcurno Flat campgrounds, and RVs are not permitted in walk-in sites. 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.

Yosemite Campgrounds

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Reservations may be made from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time.

Toll-Free Reservations: 888/327-2872

Online Reservations: reservations.nps.gov

You may reserve only one campsite at a time.

International Callers: 301/722-1257

TDD (Toll-Free): 888/887-7796

Mail-in Reservations: NPRS

P.O. Box 1600
Cumbertland, MD 21102

Up to two campers may be reserved at a time by mail or phone with Mastercard, Visa, Discover, personal check, or money order. For more information, call the park campgrounds office at 209/372-8842 or visit online (www.nps.gov/yose/camping).

Regulations

- Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.
- Maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles per campsite.
- Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Generators may be used sparingly between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Campsites

In order to improve air quality in Yosemite Valley May 1 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.

Please start campfires with newspaper. Do not burn pine needles or cones, as they create unnecessary smoke.

Royal Robbins and TM Herbert in Camp 4, sorting hardware for an El Cap climb in 1964.
Experience Yosemite's Wilderness... Safely

Yosemite National Park is a place of steep canyons, waterfalls, craggy mountain peaks, and gently rounded domes. It is a place where rain, wind, fire, and flood are a part of its inherent beauty, where the landscape is shaped by falling rock and toppling trees. It is a place where animals and plants prevail.

There are many ways to experience the wilderness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning you can minimize the human risks associated with many of these activities.

**Hiking, Backpacking, Rock Climbing and Scrambling**

- Be honest about your abilities and plan activities toward the least experienced member of your group.
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you are due back. Carry a signal mirror and whistle. Solo activities require increased precautions.

**Stay on designated trails or routes.** If hiking, carry and know how to use a map and compass.

**Avoid scrambling in steep terrain or off-trail.** If new to climbing, take a class to learn important safety techniques before venturing out alone.

**Check weather forecasts prior to your trip.** Sudden extreme changes in weather can occur even in summer.

**Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry plenty of water and food.**

**Be prepared for an emergency bivouac even when out just for the day.** Know how to use your gear and carry minimum repair materials.

**Avoid the combination of wetness, wind and cold.** Know symptoms and treatment methods for hypothermia. Carry emergency fire starting materials.

**Protect Yosemite’s Wilderness**

- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Use gas stoves rather than wood fires.
- Camp in an existing, well-used campsite at least 100 feet from water and trail. You must be 4 miles from any populated area and 1 mile from any road before camping.
- To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.
- Maximum group size is 15 people for trail travel and 8 people for off-trail travel.
- Yosemite is a wildlife preserve. Pets, weapons, bicycles, strollers, and motor vehicles are never allowed on Yosemite’s wilderness trails.
- See page 5 for food storage regulations; see page 4 for water quality and water safety information.

**Wilderness Permits**

Free wilderness permits are required year-round for all overnight trips into Yosemite’s wilderness. They are not required for day hikes. Permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis the day of, or one day prior to, the beginning of your trip. Permits are issued at Wilderness Centers located in Yosemite Valley, Taft Pine Meadows, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Call 209/372-0200 or go to the wilderness web site for information on making advance reservations, and Wilderness Center locations and hours.

Wilderness users who plan to enjoy Yosemite’s beautiful high country during the peak season (May through September) are encouraged to make permit reservations. Reservations are taken from 24 weeks to 2 days in advance of the trip start date. For permit reservations and general wilderness information, call 209/372-0740.

**YOSEMITE VALLEY DAY HIKES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESTINATION / TRAIL</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY/ELEVATION GAIN</th>
<th>PERSONALIZED HIKING TIME</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>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 #17</td>
<td>3.2 km</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>1 hour round trip</td>
<td>Vehicle access available with placed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Yosemite Falls Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>0.8 km</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>20 minutes round trip</td>
<td>with assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Camp 4 (Sunrise Campground) near Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>3.2 km</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
<td>2 to 3 hours round trip</td>
<td>Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>11.6 km</td>
<td>Very Strenuous</td>
<td>6 to 8 hours round trip</td>
<td>Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MIST TRAIL OR JOHN MUIR TRAIL**

| Vernal Fall Footbridge | Happy Isles/Shuttle Stop #16 | 2.0 km | Moderate | 1 to 2 hours round trip | Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available |
| Top of Vernal Fall | Same as above | 4.8 km | Strenuous | 2 to 4 hours round trip | Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available |
| Top of Nevada Fall | Same as above | 11.1 km | Strenuous | 5 to 6 hours round trip | Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available |
| Top of Half Dome | Same as above | 27.4 km | Extremely Strenuous | 10 to 12 hours round trip | Cables up from June to mid-October, otherwise cable route is inaccessible |

**GLEN Aulin Peak Four Mile Trail**

| Southside Drive | 4.8 miles one way | Very Strenuous | 3 to 4 hours one way | Check conditions at Visitor Center Closed in winter |

**Valley Floor Loop**

| Yosemite Falls Shuttle Stop #6 | 20.8 km | Moderate | 5 to 7 hours full loop | Get full description from Visitor Center |

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

The wind blew up the river, fresh and mysterious, against my face...Far, far away, beyond the river, beyond the canyons...rose a snow-covered divide that seemed to bound the universe. Between me and this dimmest outpost of the senses was not the faintest trace of the disturbances of man; nothing, in fact, except nature, immensity, and peace.

Robert Marshall (1901-1939)
Founder of the Wilderness Society
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 service to Yosemite from the adjoining communities. Expanded summer service is offered mid-May to mid-September. Daily service from Mammoth Lakes runs in July and August. For schedule and service information visit the YARTS web site at www.yosemite.com/yarts or call toll free 887/98/2787.

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-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.

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. Bikers’ 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 bikers’ bus fee, schedule, and reservations, or stop by any tour desk.

LODGING

Reservations for all overnight lodging in Yosemite can be made by calling 559/232-4848 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 Ahwahnee. Lodging outside Yosemite Valley includes the Wawona Hotel, and in summer, White Wolf Lodge and Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. Rates range from $48.00 per night for a basic tent cabin with nearby bathroom, to $138.75 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.

INFORMATION OUTSIDE THE PARK

West Highway 120

Highway 120 Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1263
Groveland, CA 95321
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429
www.ci.groveland.ca.us

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 4020
542 Stockton Road
Sonora, CA 95370
800/446-1313 or 209/533-4420
www.donnerfestival.com

Highway 41

Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
40637 Highway 41
Oakhurst, CA 93644
559/683-4636
www.sierunited.net/ysvb

Highway 132/49

Coasterville Visitor Center
P.O. Box 333
5007 Main Street
Coasterville, CA 95311
209/478-3074
mariposa.yosemite.com/visitor

Mariposa County Visitor Bureau
(also info. for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Buck Meadows)
P.O. Box 967
5158 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
800/208-2434 or 209/666-2456
www.mariposacounty.com

East Highway 120

Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center
P.O. Box 130
Highway 93 and 3rd Street
Lee Vining, CA 93531
760/647-4629
www.levining.com

Yosemite Store and Visitor Center
3027 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
209/966-3888
www.ysvb.com

California Welcome Center, Merced
770 W. 15th Street
Merced, CA 95340
209/373-2309 or 209/384-2791
www.welcome.yosemite.org

PLANNING

AREAS TO VISIT IN YOSEMITE

1. Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley is world famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year-round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 from Mammoth Lakes, and in late spring through late fall via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. Many activities and services are available in Yosemite Valley. Detailed information is available at the Valley Visitor Center in Yosemite Village. See the shuttle bus map and scheduled Valley activities in Yosemite Today.

2. Mariposa Grove and Wawona

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1½ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), 2 miles from the park’s South Entrance Station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is 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, French, 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 Yosemite Village 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 Yosemite Today for activities and additional information about Wawona and the Mariposa Grove. The covered bridge is closed for emergency repairs.

3. 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 as far as the Badger Pass Ski Area, and then Glacier Point can be reached via ski or snowshoes only. See Yosemite Today for schedule of activities.

“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 help fund projects that improve the park and your visit.

PROJECTS COMPLETED INCLUDE:
- Significantly upgraded the visitor orientation theatre in Yosemite Valley
- Repaired sections of the sewer line that services Yosemite Valley

PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY INCLUDE:
- Stabilizing historic backcountry cabins
- Replacing picnic tables, fire rings, and signs in out-of-valley campgrounds

FUTURE PROJECTS INCLUDE:
- Refurbishing roads, trails, and utilities throughout the park
- Improving the shuttle bus and service in Yosemite Valley

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)

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<td>In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for seven days.</td>
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<td>Yosemite Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Parks Pass</td>
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<td>Valid for 1 year in all national park areas.</td>
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<td>Golden Eagle / Hologram for National Parks Pass</td>
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<td>Covers entrance fees at other federal sites.</td>
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<td>Golden Age Pass (Lifetime)</td>
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West Highway 120 Highway 120 Chamber of Commerce
PO. Box 1263 Hotel Charlotte, Suite B Groveland, CA 95321
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau P.O. Box 4020 542 Stockton Road Sonora, CA 95370 800/446-1313 or 209/533-4420 www.donnerfestival.com

Highway 41 Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau 40637 Highway 41 Oakland, CA 94644 559/683-4636 www.sierrunited.net/ysvb

Highway 132/49 Coulterville Visitor Center P.O. Box 333 5007 Main Street Coulterville, CA 95311 209/478-3074 mariposa.yosemite.com/visitor

Mariposa County Visitors Bureau (also info. for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Buck Meadows) P.O. Box 967 5158 Highway 140 Mariposa, CA 95338 800/208-2434 or 209/666-2456 www.mariposacounty.com

East Highway 120 Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center P.O. Box 130 Highway 93 and 3rd Street Lee Vining, CA 93531 760/647-4629 www.levining.com

Yosemite Store and Visitor Center 3027 Highway 140 Mariposa, CA 95338 209/966-3888 www.ysvb.com

California Welcome Center, Merced 770 W. 15th Street Merced, CA 95340 209/373-2309 or 209/384-2791 www.welcome.yosemite.org

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he four visitor centers in Yosemite National Park offer valuable resources for park information, wilderness permits, and park-related publications and programs. For more information, please visit:

**Yosemite Valley Visitor Center**
- Open daily 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- At Crane Flat, 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 Yosemite Today.
- Take a 4-mile round-trip hike or ski into the Yosemite Grove of Giant Sequoias, located 3.5 miles north of Crane Flat or 4.5 miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trailhead is marked by a post labeled R-10 and a road sign.

**Tioga Road and Tuolumne Meadows**
- The Tioga Road is open from late May through late October or early November and offers a 39-mile scenic drive through forests and past meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 feet at Crane Flat to 9,900 feet at 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. For activities, see Yosemite Today.

**Hetch Hetchy**
- Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power 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.

**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, and historical walks in Yosemite Valley are offered every day. Beginning May 16, 2004, a new resource center, the Ansel Adams Exhibit in Yosemite Valley. Other exhibits are in the Wilderness Center, the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, and the Yosemite Institute.

**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 Valley in a different light during summer months. In winter, tours are offered on heated and enclosed motor coaches; stops are made at the best-known scenic locations in Yosemite Valley. There is a fee for all sight-seeing tours. For reservations and more information, call 209/372-1240 or stop by any hotel tour desk. Information is also available online at www.yosemitepark.com.

**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.

**Hiking & Backpacking** Yosemite offers over 800 miles of hiking trails parkwide. For updated trail information, visit the Wilderness Center in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows (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 7.

**Rock Climbing Classes** The Yosemite Mountaineering School and Guide Service offer beginner through advanced classes in Yosemite Valley spring through fall, and in Tuolumne Meadows (summer) online at www.nps.gov/yose/rock-climbing. For reservations is 559/255-8345; for camping reservations, call 209/372-8344 for information.

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Yosemite National Park embraces one of the world’s most outstanding concentrations of spectacular mountain-and-valley scenery. Its Sierran setting harbors a grand collection of high waterfalls and forests, including groves of giant sequoias. Within its 1,200 square miles—a landscape roughly the size of the state of Rhode Island—there is much to see and do. During your visit, we invite you to experience as much of this glorious place as possible. No doubt, you will most likely spend part of your visit in the incomparable Yosemite Valley. These pages will briefly touch upon some of the park’s other special corners.

Along the Tioga Road

Originally a wagon road across the Tioga Pass built by the Great Consolidated Silver Company in 1883, the Tioga Road literally splits Yosemite National Park in two. Improved to its present condition and realignment in 1961, the road opened up some of Yosemite’s most stunning country and allowed access to previously remote high-country destinations. This road is closed for winter some time in November and reopens for the season in late May.

White Wolf

You could easily spend an entire afternoon exploring the lush meadows and forests of this Tioga Road retreat. Take a day hike to peaceful glacial lakes, such as Lukens Lake (mostly uphill, but less than a mile, great for families) or Harden Lake (a relatively flat 6-mile round trip). Each hike is relatively easy with trailheads located near the campground in the heart of White Wolf.

With its covered porch and its low-key yet intimate dining room, the White Wolf Lodge, a white-washed wooden structure, is an enjoyable spot to eat. Breakfast and dinner are served inside (grab a table on the porch if they’re serving outside), and sandwiches and other items can be purchased from the adjacent store for lunch outside.

Tenaya Lake

A few minutes east of Olmsted Point is Tenaya Lake, named for the leader of Yosemite Valley’s native people before the arrival of Euro-Americans. Tenaya Lake is one of the best places to have a swim along the Tioga Road. One of the park’s larger lakes, Tenaya Lake is approximately 8 miles west of Tuolumne Meadows, or 30 miles east of Crane Flat. The inviting sandy beach on the eastern shore is a good bet, but be prepared for some cold water.

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows is a stunningly picturesque region that sits 8,600 feet up in the transparent sky of Yosemite’s high country. Contained in a basin about 2.5 miles long, the meadow system may be the largest in the Sierra Nevada at the subalpine level. Tuolumne Meadows is only 55 miles by road from Yosemite Valley, but it’s a world apart. The hiking around Tuolumne Meadows is first-rate. The trails are varied, the scenery is exceptional, and the weather usually cooperative (but plan for afternoon thunderstorms, particularly in August). A person staying at Tuolumne Meadows could take a different hike every day of a week and still not exhaust the possibilities. Some of the recommended hikes are those to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Lembert Dome, Dog Lake, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon.

Wander the Wawona Area

Wawona Point (in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias)

For great views high above Wawona, this short, half-mile walk is not to be missed. From Wawona Point you’ll be able to see the Wawona Meadow and golf course, with views to the east of Wawona Dome. This excellent
lookout on the entire Wawona basin is a short walk from the top of the Mariposa Grove. Get off the tram at the Wawona Tunnel Tree and walk back to the north to the Galen Clark Tree where the old road to Wawona Point branches off. Ask your tram driver for directions if you need them. The round trip walk should take you less than an hour. To take in a sunset view, bring a flashlight and be prepared to walk over an hour back to the parking area (trams stop operating at 7:30 p.m.).

Chilnualna Fall

One of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley, the Chilnualna Fall cascades down two chutes. The fall, instead of leaping and free falling from some precipice, drops through a narrow chasm in a furious rush. The trail to this delightful cascade is fairly strenuous, gaining almost 2,500 feet in approximately 4 miles. The route is an enjoyable one through manzanita, deer brush, and bear clover and finally meets with Chilnualna Creek. Start from the trailhead, which is located 1.7 miles east of the main road on Chilnualna Falls Road. If the road turns to dirt, you've gone too far. Allow 6 to 8 hours for this 8 mile round trip. Carry lots of water in the summer when temperatures can be extreme.

The Meadow Loop

This easy, leisurely, and picturesque walk begins directly across the Wawona Road from the entry to the Wawona Hotel. Its almost entirely flat route skirts the edges of the Wawona Meadow, then circles back, crosses the Wawona Road, and finishes up behind the Wawona Hotel. This stroll amounts to about 3 miles total and may take less than an hour. To take in a sunset view, bring a flashlight and be prepared to walk over an hour back to the parking area (trams stop operating at 7:30 p.m.).

**THREE GREAT HIKES FROM THE GLACIER POINT ROAD**

**Sentinel Dome Trail**

Ansel Adams made the top of this dome famous with his unforgettable shot of the wind-swept Jeffrey pine. The 1.1 mile hike to the top is a small price to pay for the 360 degree panorama of Yosemite's unbelievable landscape. See Yosemite Falls in its entirety—from upper fall, middle cascades, to lower fall. You'll be at 8,122 feet (more than 4,000 feet above the Yosemite Valley floor). It's a good idea to have a park map for landmark identification, although a landmark compass is inset in a granite boulder, marking most of the major peaks in the 360 degree view. Try this easy hike at sunrise or sunset or on the night of a full moon (bring a flashlight). The round trip requires about two hours. The trailheads for this hike and the one to Taft Point are the same. Park at the Sentinel Dome parking area (it's about at the spot where you first eye Sentinel Dome). There is no water available, however a vault toilet is located at the parking area.

**Taft Point Trail**

Unusual rock formations and an overhanging lookout point reward hikers on this short route. Start at the Sentinel Dome parking lot. The trail is mostly flat and slightly downhill to the fissures. Some of the cracks are 40 feet long and 20 feet wide at the top and 1,000 feet deep. The wall of Yosemite actually overhangs the narrow ravine at Taft Point where you'll be standing on the only solid object between you and the Valley floor, thousands of feet below you. It's just over two miles round trip, give yourself two hours.

**Dewey Point**

One of the most interesting perspectives on Bridalveil Fall and El Capitan is afforded by this commanding viewpoint (7,385 feet). The trail starts two-tenths of a mile west of (before you get to) Bridalveil Campground on the Glacier Point Road. You can begin at the McGurk Meadow trailhead, then head north. The route meanders through forest and meadows, intersects with the Pohono Trail (go left), then extends to the Valley rim. While there's not much elevation gain or loss, the round trip is approximately 7 miles. Allow 4 to 6 hours for the out and back hike.

Much of the text for “Explore Yosemite” comes from The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park by Steven P. Medley. This everything-you-need-to-know book, published by the Yosemite Association, is available at visitor centers and stores throughout the park.

**View from the top of Sentinel Dome**

**McGurk Meadow, on the trail to Dewey Point**

**Chilnualna Fall**

**Sentinel Dome Trail**

**Taft Point Trail**

**Dewey Point**

**The Meadow Loop**

**Sentinel Dome**

**Taft Point**

**Chilnualna Fall**

**View from the top of Sentinel Dome**
American black bears are large, mostly harmless bears that usually live in forests, but also in swamps and desert scrub. These solitary mammals are found across North America.

**Anatomy**

American black bears are up to 6 feet (1.8 m) long and weigh up to 300 pounds (135 kg). Their long, thick fur ranges in color from black to brown. Like all bears, they are plantigrade (flat-footed). The front claws are longer than the rear claws.

**Behavior**

Black bears are good swimmers and can also climb trees. They have a good sense of smell but have poor eyesight.

**Cubs**

Usually two cubs are born during the winter while the mother is in deep winter sleep. Cubs stay with the mother for about one year.

**Diet**

American black bears are omnivores who eat plants, leaves, fruits, berries, nuts, roots, honey, insects, and other small mammals.

**Classification**

Class Mammalia, Order Carnivora, Family Ursidae (bears), Genus Ursus, species americanus.

How was El Capitan Formed?

While two bear cubs sleep, the rock on which they are lying grows and grows and grows. How will the other animals rescue the little bears from their perch high in the clouds? Two Bear Cubs is the lively retelling of an authentic Miwok legend set in incomparable Yosemite Valley. It is told and illustrated by the award-winning brother-collaborators Robert D. and Daniel San Souci, and published by the Yosemite Association. Available at the Valley Visitor Center. Your whole family will be amazed to see who eventually comes to the rescue and becomes an unlikely hero!

Become a Junior Ranger

Kids ages 7-10: 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 plus tax 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. See Yosemite Today for a schedule of ranger-led Junior Ranger programs in Tuolumne Meadows.

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 plus tax in the Nature Center at Happy Isles, Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Centers, and Wawona and Big Oak Flat Information Stations.
ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Two historic landmarks in Yosemite Valley—the Nature Center at Happy Isles and LeConte Memorial Lodge—can help families with children explore and understand Yosemite’s natural world. The Nature Center at Happy Isles, open daily 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (closes for the season late September), offers state-of-the-art exhibits, hands-on activities, and a small bookstore (near shuttle bus stop #16). LeConte Memorial Lodge (shuttle bus stop #12), open Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., features a children’s corner and offers children’s and family programs.

Enjoy the morning or afternoon with a professional naturalist and a small group of families to explore the wonders of Yosemite’s natural world and cultural history. Working in partnership with Yosemite Concession Services (YCS), Yosemite Institute’s “Discover Yosemite” program offers a hands-on exploratory adventure for families with children ages 6-14 beginning mid-July. Registration and information can be obtained at the front desk of any YCS lodging or at any tour desk. Children are $10 and parents are free. Each child must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. All sessions depart from the Curry Village Amphitheater. Check the activity schedules in Yosemite Today for information on specific children’s program schedules and locations throughout the park. You’ll find children’s and family programs printed in color on these pages.

**Many animals live in Yosemite even though sometimes it’s hard to find them. If you’re patient and pay attention, you’ll probably see some of the animals whose names are hidden in the block above. They can be found going up, down, across, or diagonally. Circle the words when you find them. Answers on page 15.**

**Gopher**
**Gar* er Snake**
**Pi***
**Chickadee**
**Tou**
**Lady* Bug**
**Jay**

**Tree Frog**
**Deer**
**Grosbeak**
**Marten**
**Falcon**
**Squirrel**

**Coyote**
**Mosquito**
**Marmot**
**Eagle**
**Porcupine**
**Grasshopper**

Yosemite’s Critters is based on the Yosemite Fun Book by Michael Elsohn Ross, available at stores throughout the park.

**STELLA & ROY GO CAMPING**
by Ashley Wolff

The engaging sister-and-brother duo from the highly acclaimed Stella & Roy series are on the trail of something exciting! Roy really hopes to see a bear. But along the way, they discover more than just animal tracks. While the story is not set in Yosemite, you will recognize some familiar park landmarks in Wolff’s distinctive hand-tinted linocuts (see if you can find Half Dome). Readers learn about animal tracks and food storage in the wilderness. Plus, the family gets a surprise visitor in the night! Available at the Valley Visitor Center. Ages 4-8.

For activities especially for children, look for programs listed in color in Yosemite Today.
HELP YOUR PARK

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 $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 Theatre, Art Activity Center, and other valuable programs

Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to become more closely involved and affiliated with the park is encouraged to become a member of the Yosemite Association. Sign up for a membership through this Yosemite Guide and receive 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 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 and human history of the park
- Have the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting significant projects in Yosemite National Park

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 (please print) ________________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State ______ Zip ______
Daytime Phone Number __________________________
Enclosed is my check or money order, or charge to my VISA/MasterCard/AmEx

Name __________________________
Card # __________________________ Exp. date ______

Friends of Yosemite receive the full-color Yosemite Postcard Book (with a $25 gift), beautiful Yosemite note cards ($50), and 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.
More detailed trail maps are available for purchase at visitor centers and stores throughout the park. See page 7 of Yosemite Guide for Valley day hike descriptions.