Every year, visitors and friends ask the same question: When is the best time to visit Yosemite? For me, that’s easy—winter or spring. Just when the crowds of summer and fall become a memory, just when the Merced River slows to a crawl, just when I think I’ve forgotten what rain sounds like, winter happens. Then spring. And if you are fortunate enough to visit Yosemite during these times of the year, it’s when magic happens as well!

Continued on page 1
Continued from front cover

If it were to narrow it down even further, I would have to say that some of my favorite seasons occur on the cusp—as fall fades to winter or winter explodes into spring. These cusp seasons are where things can change literally overnight. On a November afternoon, you might see a pencil of water trickle down the face of Yosemite Falls, then wake the next morning after a rain to see it gushing! Picture yourself at that same spot in March: You might wake in the morning to see Upper Yosemite Fall flanked over in walls of ice that come crashing down as the day warms up.

Here are some of my favorite outdoor things to do and see during what I laughingly refer to as the “off season.”

**WINTER: WILDLIFE WATCHING**

You may think that all of Yosemite’s creatures are safely tucked away in hibernation during the winter. On the contrary, this is a great time to find a quiet place to stop and observe wildlife. Early mornings and evenings provide the best viewing. Coyotes can often be seen trotting through white meadows, sometimes stopping to pause on prey still active under the blankets of snow. Deer sometimes browse in the snow looking for leftover shoots or acorns.

**THUNDER & SNOW CONE**

Have you noticed a snow cone at the base of Upper Yosemite Fall this winter? This distinctive feature forms from the frozen spray as it blows down the winter fall. The pile also rises higher as frozen spray accumulates into ice sheets on the walls of the adjacent cliffs. When the ice sheets shed, they pile up at the top of the snow cone. This mound of ice and snow can sometimes reach heights of more than 100 feet, about as tall as a 25-story building!

**FRAZIL ICE & STREAMS OF SLUSH**

Waterfalls in the park occasionally produce a late winter and early spring phenomenon called frazil ice at the base of the fall. Small ice crystals develop in turbulent super-cooled stream water when the air temperature suddenly drops below freezing. These ice crystals become pressed together as more crystals form, transforming creeks into streams of slush. Frazil ice sometimes reaches a depth of more than 20 feet along Yosemite Creek at the Lower Yosemite Fall. In 1997, it was above the railings of the Lower Yosemite Fall Bridge, almost completely burying it.

**GIANT SEQUOIA GROVES**

Spring is a great time to take in the big trees. There may still be some snow on the ground as late as April, but with some sturdy hiking shoes, you can head off into some of the quietest places on earth. See pages 4 or 5 or refer to Yosemite Today for grove locations and details.

Kristina Rylands contributed to this article. She serves as editor-in-chief for Yosemite National Park and has lived in the area for 9 years.

Welcome to Yosemite. The tragic events of September 11 have caused us all to look at what it means to be an American. Our national parks tell the story of America's struggles and successes. The US Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor tells the story of how America united and responded when attacked during World War II. Manzanar National Historic Site, a lonely internment camp in Nevada, tells the story of where American citizens of Japanese ancestry were sent as a reaction to this attack. The National Park Service is beginning to tell the story of America's response to terrorism in its management of the site of the Oklahoma City Bombing. And in the future, we will tell the story of September 11 and America's response.

National Park Service sites—such as the Statue of Liberty, the light of America's promise; Fort McHenry, inspiration for our National Anthem; and Yosemite, scenic wonder of America's greatness—symbolize the very freedoms attacked on September 11. From parks we can learn about important moments in our history. We can learn how we’ve treated each other in the past. We can learn about what we value as Americans.

While you are here, I hope you will see Yosemite National Park for more than just spectacular scenery and waterfalls and granite domes. Yosemite's story truly unfolds when we look up and beyond the Valley walls. Whether you take to the slopes of Badger Pass, enjoy a walk to Mirror Lake, or simply appreciate that this amazing place has been set aside for future generations, I encourage you to make your own Yosemite connections. Enjoy your visit.

David A. Mihalic
Superintendent

TO LEARN MORE...

- See Yosemite Today for winter and spring activities throughout the park.
- Check out the Yosemite Field Seminar catalog which offers outdoor classes throughout the winter and spring. Call the Yosemite Association at 209/379-2221 or visit their web site at www.yosemite.org.
Yosemite, pets have a few rules to pets along on their vacations. In


If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

- feeding wildlife
- collecting plants
- hunting animals
- collecting reptiles and butterflies
- picking up archeological items such as arrowheads
- using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- driving vehicles into sensitive meadows
- camping outside of designated campgrounds
- possession of weapons

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and contact the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

**Pets**

Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. In Yosemite, pets have a few rules to follow:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas, on roads, and paved trails. They are not allowed on other trails or in wilderness areas.
- Pets must be on a leash or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of other visitors, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles. This protects pets and wildlife from disease.

When planning a trip to Yosemite, keep in mind the changing seasons. The timing of your visit will determine the amount of clothing to bring, the availability of different campgrounds and parking lots, and the need for tire chains. Call road and weather information (209/372-0200) before you leave home. Here are some general guidelines:

**ROADS**

The Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) and Glacier Point Road beyond Badger Pass Ski Area are closed each year from late fall through spring. These roads generally close for the season with the first major snowstorm after November 1 and re-open by late May or early June, conditions permitting.

**Winter/Spring Trip Planning**

The road to the Mariposa Grove is also closed in winter.

**Will I Need Tire Chains?**

It is recommended that you carry tire chains in your vehicle (including rental and 4-wheel-drive vehicles) between November and April, as a sudden storm could make them mandatory at any time. Under state regulations, any vehicle entering a signed chain control area must carry chains, even if there use is not mandatory at the time. Chains should be obtained in advance; several towns on highways leading into Yosemite rent them. Vehicles over 6,000 lbs. are required to use link-type chains; on sets of dual tires, only one tire needs chains. Once in the park, tire chains are available at retail outlets for purchase, but not for rent.

**Temperature**

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

**Snow Play Safety**

Each year sleds, toboggans, inner-tubes, saucers, and other sliding devices cause more injuries, on the average, than any other winter activity. Please slide safely. Sledging is not allowed in the Badger Pass area.

**Bears in Winter and Spring**

Did you know that black bears do not truly hibernate in winter? Rather, they descend into a deep sleep, frequently awakening and occasionally wandering around. Because of this, it’s not only important— but also required by federal regulation—that you keep your food stored properly, even during winter.

**Keep Bears Wild and Your Property Safe**

Bears are attracted to many things we might not think of as food. So, consider “food” to be any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This includes canned foods, sealed bottles, drinks, soaps, cosmetics, toiletries, perfumes, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals. Each campsite in the park has food storage lockers measuring approximately 33” x 45” x 18.”

Never leave your “food” in your vehicle after dark.

In campgrounds and tent-cabin areas you must store your “food” in food storage lockers, day and night.

In hotel rooms and hard-sided cabins, you may store “food” inside rooms (be sure to keep the windows closed if you leave).

In picnic areas and on the trail, be sure to stay with your “food” at all times.

If you are backpacking, it is strongly recommended that you use a bear canister (they are required in some areas). Inquire about food storage requirements when you get your wilderness permit.

**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 or on a hiking trail, act immediately: yell, clap hands, and bang pots together. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear (allow the bear a way to run away). If this is unsuccessful, throw small stones or sticks toward the bear from a safe distance (the intent is to scare the bear, not to injure it). Use caution if you see cubs, as a mother may act aggressively to defend them. Never try to retrieve anything once a bear has it. When done immediately, these actions have been successful in scaring bears away.

Report all bear incidents and sightings to a park ranger. You can also call the Save-a-Bear hotline to report bear sightings and incidents, as well as trash and food storage problems: 209/372-0322.

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

**Drive Safely**

California law requires that all vehicle occupants wear seat belts, and children under four years of age (or under 40 lbs.) be restrained in an approved child safety seat.

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

Water from melted roadside snow often freezes on road surfaces, creating treacherous “black ice.” This can occur even when the weather appears dry and fair. Anticipate snowplows as they may be working just around the next curve. Wait for a signal from the plow driver before passing. Don’t drink and drive. It’s a fatal combination.

**Keep Yosemite’s Water Clean**

- To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking. Drinking methods include boiling for 5 minutes, use of a Giardia rated water filter, or iodine based purifier.
- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash dishes, bathe, camp, and bury human waste (6” deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT...**

- Food storage guidelines, see this page.
- Camping and campfires, see page 3.
- Yosemite Valley day hikes, see page 6.
- Wilderness regulations, see page 6.
- Cycling rules, see page 5.
Reservations are required year round for Yosemite Valley’s auto campgrounds and campsites. There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in any calendar year; however, May 1-September 15, the camping season in Yosemite Valley and Wawona is 7 days inclusive, and 14 days outside the Valley. Campers may request a specific campsite number through NPRS; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets and generators are not permitted in group sites.

GROUP CAMPGROUNDS

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

SERVICES

- All sites include picnic tables, firepits or grills, tent space, parking, and a food storage locker (45”w x 18”h x 33”d). See note below for high elevations.
- All sites have restrooms with running water (hot or cold) or vault toilets. See note below for high elevations.
- Separate group campfire and trash facilities are available 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.

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.

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.

**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) 760/647-5511; Highway 120 West, Oadburger Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 539/683-4655. For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 4.

There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, and RVs are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat campgrounds, and RV’s are not permitted in walk-in and group campgrounds. 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.

CAMPFIRES

- In order to improve air quality in Yosemite Valley, campfires are only permitted May 1 through October 15 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.

**CAMPFIRES**

- In order to improve air quality in Yosemite Valley, campfires are only permitted May 1 through October 15 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.

Yes. People do camp in winter!
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 transportation to Yosemite from the outlying communities. Expanded summer service is offered mid-May to mid-September Daily service from Mammoth Lakes runs in July and August. For schedule and more information visit the YARTS web site at www.yosemite.com/yarts or call toll free 877/96-VARTS (877/96-8278).

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. 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 Waunona to the Mariposa Grove, and from Tioga Pass to Tenaya Lake. Hikers’ buses run daily to Glacier Point late spring through autumn and between Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley late June through Labor Day. Call 209/373-1240 for hikers’ bus service, schedule, or reservations, or stop by any tour desk.

lodging
Reservations for all overnight lodging in Yosemite can be made by calling 519/522-4448, by writing to Central Reservations, Yosemite Concession Services, 5410 East Home, Fresno, CA 93727, or by visiting www.yosemitepark.com. Lodging in Yosemite Valley includes Curry Village, Housekeeping Camp, Yosemite Lodge, and The Ahwahnee. Lodging outside Yosemite Valley includes the Waunona Hotel, and in summer, White Wolf Lodge and Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. Rates range from $48.00 per night for a basic tent site with nearby bathroom, to $318.75 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
Highway 120 West
Highway 120 Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1263
Goldfield, CA 95313
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429

“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 $120 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
- Replaced picnic tables, fire rings, and signs in out-of-valley campgrounds

CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS INCLUDE:
- Stabilizing historic backcountry cabins
- Refurbishing roads, trails, and utilities throughout the park
CRANE FLAT

Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat Road and the Tioga Road. To reach 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 Merced 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 generally 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.

Skiing and Snowshoeing

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. The Curry Village Ice Skating Rink is open from mid-November through early March, conditions permitting. Rental skates are available. For more information, call 209/372-8341.

Hiking and Backpacking

Yosemite offers 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-road or on pedestrian and hiking trails.

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

Horseback Riding

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

Hiking & Backpacking

Yosemite offers over 800 miles of hiking trails 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/wildl. For some ideas on Valley day hiking, as well as information about wilderness travel, see page 6.

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 late spring through summer. Call 209/372-8344 for information.

AVERAGE PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURES IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

Programs and Exhibits

Naturalist-guided walks and programs as well as self-guided walks are available. Cultural history demonstrations of basket-weaving, rockwork, or traditional games are offered at the Indian Cultural Exhibit in Yosemite Valley. Other exhibits are in the Valley Visitor Center, Yosemite Museum, Nature Center at Happy Isles (summer), c. Crane Memorial Lodge (summer), Wilderness Center, The Ansel Adams Gallery, Parsons Lodge in Tuolumne Meadows (summer), and Glacier Point (summer). Check park visitor centers and bulletin boards for additional information, and see activities listed in Yosemite Today.

Get More Info...

- Recorded General Park Information including: Road & Weather Conditions, Trip Planning Information, etc. 209/372-8000
- Western U.S. National Parks 415/366-5650
- On the Web
  - Yosemite National Park www.nps.gov/yose
  - Yosemite Concession Services www.yosemitedining.com
  - Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) www.yosemite.com/yarts
  - Yosemite Association yosemite.org
  - Yosemite Fund www.yosemitefund.org
  - Yosemite Institute www.yosemite.org
  - The Ansel Adams Gallery www.anseladamswild.com
  - VIA/Gray Line www.via-adventures.com

Yosemite National Park

(4,000 ft/1,220 m)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>PRECIPITATION (inches/cm)</th>
<th>MAXIMUM (°F/C°)</th>
<th>MINIMUM (°F/C°)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>6.2/15.7</td>
<td>49/9</td>
<td>26/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>6.3/16.5</td>
<td>55/13</td>
<td>28/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>5.2/13.2</td>
<td>59/15</td>
<td>31/0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>3.0/7.6</td>
<td>65/18</td>
<td>52/1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>3.1/13.3</td>
<td>73/23</td>
<td>42/5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>0.7/1.8</td>
<td>82/28</td>
<td>48/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>0.4/1.0</td>
<td>90/32</td>
<td>54/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>0.3/0.8</td>
<td>90/32</td>
<td>53/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>0.9/2.3</td>
<td>87/30</td>
<td>47/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>2.1/5.3</td>
<td>74/23</td>
<td>39/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>5.5/14</td>
<td>58/14</td>
<td>31/0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>3.6/14.2</td>
<td>48/9</td>
<td>26/3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For temperatures at 8:00 a.m. (4:00 p.m. for summer and fall)
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:

**Planning and Safety**

- Visitors to Yosemite's wilderness should be familiar with the use of snowshoes or skis in order to navigate deep snow conditions. Those who choose to explore Yosemite’s more remote wilderness areas should be competent in winter wilderness travel, route finding, winter camping, and survival skills.

- 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 signaling mirror and whistle. Solo activities require increased precautions.

- Cold and altitude can sap energy. Allow plenty of time for rest, campsite selection, and proper food storage.

- Stay on designated trails or routes. 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. Plan for sudden extreme changes in weather.

- Carry plenty of water and food. You will need to eat and drink more in cold weather.

- 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.

- Stay away from river and creek banks during high water conditions in spring and avoid “rock hopping.” Stream-polished rocks along the water’s edge may be slippery when wet or dry.

- If you choose to cross a stream without a bridge, avoid deep and/or swift water. If crossing on a natural bridge of rocks or logs, consider where you will land if you fall. Never cross above rapids or falls. To prevent being pulled under by its weight, un buckle your pack’s waist strap so you can shed it if you fall in. Do not tie your self into safety ropes—they can drown you.

**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. In winter, permits are issued at Badger Pass (for trips originating there); or self-register at Big Oak Flat Entrance Station, Wawona Information Station, or Hetch Hetchy Entrance Stations, or at the Valley Visitor Center. 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 after 8:00 a.m. To December 3, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

---

**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 (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles round trip (3.2 km)</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>1 hour round trip</td>
<td>Vehicle access available with placard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall 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 (Sunnyvale 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 #16</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</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>5 to 6 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’ (1,463 m) elevation gain</td>
<td>10 to 12 hours round trip</td>
<td>Cables up from June to early October, otherwise cable route travel restricted</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 and early spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>13 miles full loop (20.8 km)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>5 to 7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Get full description from Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

In winter, the Valley’s south rim is accessible on cross-country skis or snowshoes by way of the Glacier Point Road.
LoST AND FOUNd

To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite's restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle busses, or tour services, call Yosemite Concession Services at 209/372-4557, or write YCS Lost & Found, P.O. Box 578, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call the National Park Service at 209/375-0001, or write to NPS Warehouse, 5083 Foresta Road, 8-509, El Portal, CA 95318.

MICeLLAneouS

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

Babysitting
Limited babysitting available for registered guests at Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee. Call front desk or concierge for additional information.

Fishing
Fishing season along the Merced River is from the last Saturday in April through November. Special regulations apply within Yosemite National Park. Visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/trip/fishing.htm or ask at any visitor center.

KenoML
Located at the stable in Yosemite Valley. Dogs must be gentle, over 10 pounds, with proof of shots and license required. 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 209/372-8348

EmploymenT OPPorTuniTieS
Would you like to be part of Yosemite’s future? Employment opportunities exist at Yosemite National Park with the National Park Service, Volunteers in Parks, and Yosemite Concession Services Corporation. www.nps.gov/yose/jobs

YoSEMite NaTionaL PaRk
For vacancy information on the web: www.usajobs.opm.gov
Employment hotlines:
209/372-0200-6-1-1 (for permanent positions)
209/372-0200-6-1-2 (for seasonal positions)
To contact the Yosemite National Park Human Resource Office, call 209/379-1805 or write Yosemite National Park, Human Resource Office, P.O. Box 700, El Portal, CA 95318

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

YoSEMite COnceSSionSeRvices
Contact Yosemite Concession Services Corporation at the General Offices in Yosemite Village or call 209/372-1236. www.yosemitepark.com/jobs.html

EnviRonmenTal EducaTion
YoSEMite Association
Outdoor seminars, some for college credit. P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-2321 www.yosemite.org/seminars

YoSEMite Institute
Non-profit environmental education organization. Week-long, field-based sessions for school groups, teachers, and other groups. P.O. Box 487, Yosemite, CA 95389 209/379-9511 www.yoi.org

NPS EducaTion Branch
Wawona Ranger Station, P.O. Box 2027, Wawona, CA 93689 209/372-9505. For entrance waivers for educational groups, call 209/372-0206 www.nps.gov/yose/laow

SERViCES FOR DiSBaDeD
An accessibility brochure is available at park entrance stations and visitor centers.

Wheelchair rental available at Yosemite Medical Clinic, 209/372-4637, and the Yosemite Lodge bike stand, 209/372-1208.

Nanette Oswald, Yosemite’s Deaf Services Coordinator, interprets range-led activities and provides park information for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors in spring through fall. For more information about the Deaf Services Program, come to the Valley Visitor Center information desk, or call 209/372-4726 (TDD) or 209/372-0642 (voice). The TDD number for lodging reservations is 559/285-8345; for camping reservations, call 888/330-9796.

HeLP YOuR PaRK
YoSEMite ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 231
El Portal, CA 95318
209/379-2646
www.yosemite.org

Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to become more closely involved with the park is encouraged to become a member of 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.

Memberships of $30 or more entitle you to receive a free “thank you” gift along with other benefits, including discounts on Yosemite Association and The Ansel Adams Gallery merchandise, a quarterly journal, and opportunities to volunteer in the park and attend member activities.

YoSEMITE FUND
P.O. Box 637
Yosemite, CA 95389
415/434-1782
www.yosemitefund.org

The Yosemite Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving Yosemite—one of the most cherished parks in the world. Thanks to gifts from dedicated “Friends of Yosemite,” the Fund has distributed over $13 million for more than 150 projects that would otherwise not be possible. The Yosemite Fund has helped rehabilitate meadow, rebuild trails, and has installed over 2,000 bear-proof food storage lockers throughout the park.

You can help by becoming a Friend of Yosemite through a donation to the Fund. All donors of $25 or more receive a “thank you” gift, the Fund’s full-color biannual magazine, and acknowledgement at the Friends of Yosemite Honor Wall at the Valley Visitor Center.

Become a PART of the FUTURE
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 those 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 Volunteer 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

The National Park Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer

7
More detailed trail maps are available for purchase at visitor centers and stores throughout the park. See Yosemite Today for schedule.

Facilities and services in Curry Village will be closed from November 26 thru December 21, 2001.

Shuttle bus service to Happy Isles Loop Road closed in winter. See Yosemite Today for schedule.

Map not to scale