Yosemite Falls. No single feature has contributed more to the wide acclaim of Yosemite National Park. The beauty and power of this waterfall—the world’s fifth tallest—are unrivaled in the United States, and its allure spans the globe. No matter what the season, Yosemite Falls inspires all who view it.

Continued on page 1
In winter, a completely different phenomenon occurs at Yosemite Falls. “Every clear, frosty morning loud sounds are heard booming and reverberating from side to side of the Valley,” wrote Yosemite’s famous naturalist, John Muir. “The strange thunder is made by the fall of sections of ice formed of spray that is frozen on the face of the cliff along the sides of the Upper Yosemite Fall . . . This frozen spray gives rise to one of the most interesting winter features of the Valley—a cone of ice at the foot of the fall, from four or five hundred feet high.”

Throughout most of the year, the beauty of Yosemite Falls is no less breathtaking. But the influence of this waterfall stretches well beyond its immediate impact on viewers. The grandeur of Yosemite Falls played a primary role in motivating key individuals to call for the preservation of natural wonders, rather than exploitation of them. It was this call that led President Abraham Lincoln to set aside Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees in 1864 for permanent protection and the enjoyment of the public. The establishment of national parks was not far behind.

The beauty and influence of Yosemite Falls cannot be overestimated. From American Indians and pioneers, to scientists and artists, to millions of annual visitors, Yosemite Falls has inspired all who make the pilgrimage to see this icon of America. Karen Sarenson is the publications manager for The Yosemite Fund. Her article first appeared in The Yosemite Fund’s periodic magazine, Approach.

IMPROVEMENTS IN PROGRESS

Today, the National Park Service and The Yosemite Fund are currently working in partnership to rehabilitate the degraded area at the base of Lower Yosemite Fall. The overarching goal of this project is to provide Yosemite visitors with a deeper and more personal experience of the outstanding natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Yosemite Falls area.

To learn more about these improvements, see the display at the project site or visit online www.nps.gov/yose/planning. This major effort requires an unprecedented amount of resources. The public is encouraged to contribute donations. To help, contact The Yosemite Fund at 415/434-1782 or visit www.yosemitefund.org.
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. 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 their use is not mandatory in the area. 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. However “snow tubing” rental and a maintained trail are now available at the Badger Pass Lodge.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT...**
- Food storage guidelines, see this page.
- Camping and campfires, see page 3.
- Bicycle rules, see page 5.
- Yosemite Valley day hikes, see page 6.
- Wilderness regulations, see page 6.

**WINTER/Spring Trip Planning**

**Bears in Winter and Spring**

Did you know that black bears do not hibernate in winter in the same way other hibernating mammals do? 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 you might not think of as food. So, always store 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 clothing and bedding 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 or scented items in your vehicle after dark.

In campgrounds and tent-cabin areas you must store food and scented items in food storage lockers, day and night.

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

In picnic areas and on the trail, be sure to stay with food and scented items 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 or 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 the item. 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 imprisonment of property.

**Drive Safely**
California law requires that all vehicle occupants wear seat belts, and children under six years of age (or under 60 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. Treatment 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.
Camping Reservations

Reservations are required year-round for Yosemite National Park. All campers must reserve at least five months in advance. Farm groups, tour groups, as well as high school and college groups are encouraged to call NPS as early as possible, starting May 15th.

From May through September, campers are in heavy demand and prospective campers are encouraged to call NPRS as early as possible in the period. Reservations can be made by phone, mail, or online. All requests are processed at the same time, beginning on the 15th of each month. Written requests should include desired location, type of group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets and generators are not permitted in group sites.

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) 209/566-3636; Highway 120 East, Mono Lake Ranger Station (Inyo NF) 760/647-3844; Highway 41, Oakhurst Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 559/681-4636. For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 4.

Group Campgrounds

There are group campgrounds 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 available in group sites.

Camping Regulations

Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.
A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed 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.
Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

Campsites

In order to improve air quality in Yosemite Valley during peak visitation months, campsites are only permitted May 1 through October 15 between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. There are no restrictions in effect in Yosemite Valley during the remainder of the period.
Firewood collection is prohibited in Yosemite Valley. This includes “dead and down" firewood.
Please start campers with newspaper. Do not burn pine needles or cones, as they create unnecessary smoke.

Yosemite Campgrounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground</th>
<th>Fees</th>
<th>Sites</th>
<th>Reservations</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH PINES</strong></td>
<td>$18/s</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Open April-September</td>
<td>Reservations required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UPPER PINES</strong></td>
<td>$18/s</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>Open All Year</td>
<td>Reservations required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LOWER PINES</strong></td>
<td>$18/s</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Open March-October</td>
<td>Reservations required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAMP 4 WALK IN</strong></td>
<td>$15/p</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Open All Year/Walk-In</td>
<td>First-come, first-served, Limited parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WAWONA</strong></td>
<td>$12/s</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Open All Year</td>
<td>Reservations required May-Sept. ($18); First-come, first-served Oct.-April ($12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BRIDALVEIL CREEK</strong></td>
<td>$12/s</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Open July-early September</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HODGDON MEADOW</strong></td>
<td>$12/s</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Open All Year</td>
<td>Reservations required May-Sept. ($18); First-come, first-served Oct.-April ($12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CRANE FLAT</strong></td>
<td>$8/s</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>Open June-September</td>
<td>Reservations required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TAMARACK FLAT</strong></td>
<td>$8/s</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Open June-early September</td>
<td>Three-mile access road not suitable for large RVs or buses. First-come, first-served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHITE WOLF</strong></td>
<td>$12/s</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Open July-early September</td>
<td>First-come, first-served. Not suitable for RVs over 24’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOSEMITE CREEK</strong></td>
<td>$12/s</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Open July-early September</td>
<td>First-come, first-served. Not suitable for RVs over 24’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PORCUPINE FLAT</strong></td>
<td>$8/s</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Open July-September</td>
<td>RV access front section only. First-come, first-served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOLUOLUMNE MEADOWS</strong></td>
<td>$18/s</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>Open July-September</td>
<td>3 advanced reservations, 3 same-day reservations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dates approximate**

National Park Reservation System

Reservations may be made: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time. Toll-Free Reservations: 800/436-7275

Online Reservations: reservations.nps.gov

You may reserve only one campsite at a time.

International Callers: 801/722-1257

TDD (Toll-Free): 888/280-7796

Mail-In Reservations: NPRS

P.O. Box 1660
Cumberland, MD 21502

Up to two campgrounds may be reserved at a time by mail or phone with Manteoord, Mantis, or personal check, or money order. For more information, call the park campground office at 209/372-4802 or visit online (www.nps.gov/yose/camping.htm).
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 nearby 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.yarts.com or call toll free 877/989-2787 or 209/388-9589.

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 Tuolumne to Tenaya Lake. Hikers’ buses run daily to Glacier Point late spring through autumn and between Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley late June through Labor Day. Call 209/372-1240 for hikers’ bus fee, schedule, and reservations, or stop by any tour desk.

Park Lodging (Available Year-Round)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOSEMITE VALLEY</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>PRICE NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lodge at Ahwahnee</td>
<td>Yosemite Lodge</td>
<td>Year-Round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Ahwahnee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curry Village (cabins &amp; tent cabins)</td>
<td>Year-Round (weekends only) in winter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Housekeeping Camp</td>
<td>Spring-Fall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reservations for all overnight lodging in Yosemite can be made by calling 559/252-4848, by writing to Central Reservations, Yosemite concession Services, 3410 East Home, Fresno, CA 93727, or by visiting www.yosemitepark.com. Lodging in Yosemite Valley includes the following:

- Tent cabins at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge
- White Wolf Lodge

Rates range from $54 per night for a basic tent cabin with nearby bathroom, to $366 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 in advance and one day in advance.

Information Outside the Park

Highway 120 West
Highway 120 Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 1200
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
PO Box 4020
Sonora, CA 95370
800/446-5353 or 209/533-4420
www.tuolumne.us

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

Highway 132/49
Costilla Village Center
PO Box 133
Costilla, CA 93511
800/242-3074
mariposa.yosemite.net/vistor

Highway 140
Mariposa Visitors Bureau (also info for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Buck Meadows)
PO Box 967
5336 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
800/206-2443 or 209/796-2456
www.homeyosemite.com

Yosemite Valley is found 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 Madera, Highway 120 West from Manteca, and in late spring through autumn 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.

Mariposa Grove and Wawona
The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 hour) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), 2 miles from the park’s South Entrance Station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed in winter. Activities include hiking, ranger-led walks, and 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. In reducing traffic congestion and avoiding parking delays, ride the free shuttle bus (opening through fall) from Wawona to the Grove. Trailers are not allowed on the Mariposa Grove Road, and vehicles 23 feet and longer are restricted from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

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

Yosemite Today
Yosemite Today offers park visitors an alternative view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Sierra Nevada, is located 30 miles (1-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. The view from Glacier Point provides an opportunity to see the Valley from its rim. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41) 14 miles to the Wawona road 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 closed only as far as the Badger Pass Ski Area, and then Glacier Point can be reached via skis or snowshoes only. See Yosemite Today for schedule of activities.

What is the best way to visit Yosemite?

Your experience in Yosemite depends on the time you have available and your interests. Many fine maps and books are sold in visitor centers and park stores to help plan your visit. Publications such as Yosemite’s Official Park Handbook, published by the National Park Service, or The Yosemite Road Guide are available at visitor centers, gift shops, or by mail from the Yosemite Association Bookstore, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, 209/379-2648, fax 209/379-2486, or www.yosemite.org.

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

Entrance Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>PRICE NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle</td>
<td>$20 Valid for seven days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$10 In a van, on foot, on bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for seven days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Pass</td>
<td>$40 Valid for one year in Yosemite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Parks Pass</td>
<td>$50 Valid for 1 year in all national park areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Eagle</td>
<td>$15 Covers entrance fees at other federal sites when purchased with the National Parks Pass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Age Pass (Lifetime)</td>
<td>$10 For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Access Pass (Lifetime)</td>
<td>Free For blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“What Happens To My Entrance Fee Dollars?”

Thanks to the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, a temporary program approved by Congress in 1995, 80% of your $20 entrance fee remains in Yosemite to help fund projects that improve the park and your visit. Projects Complete Include:

- A significantly upgraded visitor orientation theater in Yosemite Valley
- Repaired sections of the sewer line that services Yosemite Valley
- Replacement of picnic tables, fire rings, and signs in out-of-valley campgrounds

Current and Future Projects Include:

- Stabilizing historic backcountry cabins
- Rebuilding roads, trails, and utilities throughout the park

Big Oak Flat Information Station
Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall.

Wawona Information Station at Hotel Charlotte
Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall.

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Closed in winter and spring; generally open summer through fall.
YOUR VISIT

VISITOR ACTIVITIES

www.nps.gov/yose/trip/activities

Yosemite is a place for a relaxing and informative experience, be it 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 (summer), and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias (spring through fall). Two-hour moonlight tours show Yosemite Valley in a different light during summer months (on nights around a full moon). In winter, tours are conducted on eated and enclosed motor coaches; stops are made at the best-known scenic locations in Yosemite Valley. There is a fee for all sightseeing tours. For reservations and more information, call 209/372-1240 or stop by any hotel tour desk. Information is also available online at www.yosemiteparktours.com.

Skiiing and Snowshoeing

In winter, Yosemite offers downhill skiing and snowboarding at Badger Pass in addition to three main areas for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing: Badger Pass, Crane Flat, and the Mariposa Grove. These areas all have marked winter trails. Badger Pass offers approximately 10 miles (16 km) of groomed track at no charge. Maps of marked ski and snowshoe trails are available at park visitor centers or through the Yosemite Association (209/372-2648 or www.yosemite.org). For cross-country and downhill ski school information and winter conditions, call 209/372-1000. For Outrander Ski Hut reservations call 209/372-0740 on or after December 2, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ICE SKATING

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

BICYCLING

More than 12 miles of paved bikeways wind through the eastern end of Yosemite Valley. Weather permitting, rental bikes, baby jogging strollers, and bike child trailers are available at Yosemite Lodge Center (spring through late fall, weather permitting) and Curry Village (summer through late fall). 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 roads used by automobiles.

TRAIL RIDES

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. Call 209/372-8344 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/wilderness. 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.

I N F O R M A T I O N

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

Western U.S. National Parks 415/556-0560

Yosemite Concession Services www.yosemitepark.com

Camping Reservations reservations.nps.gov

Regional Information www.yosemite.com

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) www.yarts.com

Yosemite Association yosemite.org

Yosemite Fund www.yosemitefund.org

Yosemite Institute www.yosemite.org/yi

Yosemite Institute www.yosemite.org/yi

The Ansel Adams Gallery www.anseladams.com

RESERVATIONS

Lodging Reservations 559/252-4468

TDD 559/255-8345

Campground Reservations (callers from U.S. and Canada) 800/444-7275

TDD 888/530-5796

National Park Passes (International callers only) 301/722-1257

AROMATIC PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURES IN YOSEMITE VALLEY (4,000 ft/1,220 m)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>TOTAL PRECIPITATION (inches/cm)</th>
<th>MAXIMUM (°F/C°)</th>
<th>MINIMUM (°F/C°)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>6.2/15.7</td>
<td>49/9</td>
<td>265/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>6.1/15.5</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>331/0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>4.0/7.6</td>
<td>65/18</td>
<td>35/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1.3/3.3</td>
<td>73/23</td>
<td>42.5/5.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>0.7/1.8</td>
<td>82/28</td>
<td>48.9/9.3</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>0.5/0.8</td>
<td>90/32</td>
<td>53/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>0.2/0.3</td>
<td>87/30.5</td>
<td>47.8/8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>2.1/5.3</td>
<td>74/23</td>
<td>39.4/3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>5.5/14</td>
<td>58/14</td>
<td>321/8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>5.6/14.2</td>
<td>48/9</td>
<td>265/9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For temperatures at 8,000 feet (2,440 m), subtract 10-20 degrees.

Upper Yosemite Fall by artist Chris Jordgen, who painted in Yosemite from 1889-1916. In the foreground are “chukars,” game birds used by the Ahwahneechee to store acorns.
Experience the Wilderness in the Winter & Spring . . . Safely

Packing all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.

Yosemite is a natural preserve. Pets, weapons, bicycles, strollers, and motor vehicles are never allowed on Yosemite's wilderness trails.

Use gas stoves for cooking rather than wood fires.

Camp in an existing campsite or on a durable surface, such as snow or decomposed granite at least 100 feet from water and trail. You must be 4 miles from developed areas of the park and at least 1 mile from any open 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.

See page 2 for food storage regulations and for water quality information.

A trip to Yosemite's wilderness during the winter or spring can be extremely rewarding. But there are challenges and risks to experiencing these areas of the park when the forces of nature are at their most extreme. Sudden changes in weather, low temperatures, high winds, and dangerous travel conditions can occur without warning. With proper planning and good judgment, the risks can be minimized, allowing you to see remote portions of the park in ways that few people do.

Planning and Safety

If you plan to visit the Yosemite Wilderness, you should be competent in winter wilderness travel including use of skis or snowshoes, route finding, map and compass, and winter survival skills. Also, follow these general precautions:

Be honest about your abilities. Make plans that accommodate the weakest member of your group. Be flexible; change your plans as conditions warrant. Avoid traveling alone.

Check the weather before you come and then be prepared for sudden and unexpected changes.

Leave a detailed itinerary with a trusted friend or family member. Include your planned start and end dates and locations as well as any known hazards. Be clear as to where you will be at what point a search should be initiated.

Carry emergency equipment: First aid kit, fire starter, water, extra food, a signal mirror and whistle, emergency shelter, and warm clothing.

Traveling in low temperatures and at higher altitudes can drain energy quickly. Being cold, wet, and tired can result in hypothermia, a potentially fatal condition.

Be cautious traveling along or crossing streams and rivers. Be aware of fluctuating water levels resulting in collapsing snow bridges and weak ice.

Scout out river crossing locations. Never cross right above waterfalls or rapids. Consider what you will do if you fail. Release your wrist strap so you can shed your pack quickly.

When hiking up the Valley walls, stay on existing trails. Avoid scrambling off trail along the steep faces. Falls are common on the slippery rocks and there is an increased hazard of being hit by falling rock and ice.

If it looks scary or dangerous it probably is.

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 and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Stations, or by self-registration at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Big Oak Flat Entrance Station, Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Station, and the Wawona Information Station at Hill's Studio. For wilderness trip planning information and trail conditions, stop by the Valley Visitor Center, call 209/372-0200 for recorded information, or visit online at www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness. To make reservations for summer wilderness permits, call 209/372-0740 no sooner than 24 weeks before your planned date of departure.

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

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

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<th>Difficulty / Elevation Gain</th>
<th>Approximate Hiking Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>1/2 mile round trip (0.8 km)</td>
<td>Easy</td>
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<td>Paved trail; last 500 ft may be steep for visitors with mobility impairments</td>
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<td>Mirror Lake</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
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<td>Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Camp 4 near Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round trip (3.2 km)</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
<td>2 to 3 hours round trip</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Mist Trail or John Muir Trail</td>
<td>Happy Isles/Shuttle Stop #16</td>
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<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>3 miles round trip (4.8 km)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one way (7.6 km)</td>
<td>Very strenuous</td>
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<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>
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Self-Guiding Trails in Yosemite Valley

The Miwok in Yosemite is a short loop that winds through the Indian Village of Ahwahnee, a reconstructed Miwok-Paute village. A booklet is available at the trailhead and in the Visitor Center. The trail begins behind the Yosemite Museum.

A Changing Yosemite is a 1-mile trail that begins in front of the Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5. It winds through Cook's Meadow and explores the changes that have led to the Yosemite we experience today.

Mirror Lake Interpretive Trail is a short loop adjacent to Mirror Lake, a seasonal lake on Tenaya Creek. Exhibits focus on the rich natural history of the area, American Indian use, and history of this popular destination. To reach the start of the trail, walk 1 mile from shuttle stop #17 to the disabled parking spaces near the lake. The self-guiding trail begins here.

The Legacy of Curry Village is an easy stroll commemorating the early days of Camp Curry. Pick up a map and guide at the Curry Village front desk or tour desk.

Self-Guiding Trails in Yosemite Valley

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**LOST AND FOUND**

To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite's restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses, or tour services, call Yosemite Concession Services at 209/372-4357, or write YCS Lost & Found, P.O. Box 578, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389. You can also inquire online at www.yosemitepark.com/help/lostfound.htm

For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call the National Park Service at 209/379-1001, or write to NPS Warehouse, 5083 Foresta Road, B-759, El Portal, CA 95318. You can also inquire by email to YOU.WEB_Manager@nps.gov.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Bear Canister Rental**

Available year-round for $5 per trip at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Yosemite Valley Sport Shop, Curry Village Mountain Shop, Crane Flat Store, and Wawona Store; available seasonally at the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center, Big Oak Flat Information Station, Wawona Information Station, Tuolumne Meadows Mountainairing School and Sport Shop, Tuolumne Meadows Store, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. See Yosemite Today for hours of operation. Canisters can be rented or returned at any rental location in the park.

**Babysitting**

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

**Fishing**

Fishing season along the Madera River is from the last Saturday in April through November 13. Special regulations apply in Yosemite National Park. Visit the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose/fishing.htm or ask at any visitor center. State regulations can be found online at www.dfg.ca.gov.

**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.

**Yosemite National Park**

For online vacancy information: www.nps.gov/yose/jobs

Employment hotline: 209/372-0200-5-1-1 (for permanent positions) 209/372-0200-5-1-2 (for seasonal or temporary 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. www.nps.gov/yose/support/volunteer.htm

**Yosemite Concession Services**

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

**Yosemite Association**

Nonprofit organization offers fun, educational outdoor courses in photography, writing, arts, natural history, hiking, and backpacking. P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-5211 www.yosemite.org/education

**Yosemite Institute**

Nonprofit 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.yosemite.org/education

**NPS Education Branch**

Wawona Ranger Station, P.O. Box 2027, Wawona, CA 95389. 209/375-9505. For entrance waivers for educational groups, call 209/372-0206 www.nps.gov/yose/learn

**ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION**

An accessibility brochure is available at park entrance stations and visitor centers. Information will also be available online by mid-December at www.nps.gov/yose. Wheelchair rental is available at the Yosemite Medical Clinic, 209/372-4637, and the Yosemite Lodge bike rental stand, 209/372-1208. See Yosemite Today for hours of operation.

The Golden Access Passport waives entrance fees for blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Inquire at entrance stations or visitor centers in the park.

A temporary access placard is available at park visitor centers. Displayed on the windshield, it allows driving on paved roads normally closed to vehicle traffic.

Designated parking spaces are marked throughout the park with the international access symbol. Those closest to the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center are located on Village Drive, between the Yosemite Pioneer Cemetery and the Yosemite Museum.

Assisted listening devices and closed captioning are available for the film, Spirit of Yosemite, shown daily in The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center’s West Auditorium Theater. Assisted listening devices may also be available for some National Park Service interpretive programs. Check at the Valley Visitor Center.

TDD phones are available for visitor use at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and for guests at Curry Village, Yosemite Lodge, and The Ahwahnee. TDD pay phones are also available outside the Curry Village registration area, inside the Yosemite Lodge lobby, and at The Ahwahnee in the mezzanine area.

**HELP YOUR PARK**

**YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 230
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. Since 1923, 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, lodging discounts, a quarterly journal, and much more. To join, inquire at park visitor centers or contact the Yosemite Association (see above).

**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 $19 million for more than 150 projects that would otherwise not be possible. The Yosemite Fund has helped rehabilitate meadows, 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 discount on Yosemite accommodations, access to a special park accommodation reservations hotline, the Fund’s full-color biannual magazine, and acknowledgement at the Friends of Yosemite Honor Wall at the Valley Visitor Center.

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Continued on page 1

Yosemite Falls with ice cone

Yosemite Parks with ice cone

Yosemite Falls in Four Seasons

By Karen Sorensen

The Falls in Four Seasons

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