One day I wandered into Yosemite’s Research Library and was talking to the librarian when I noticed an old photograph. I took a closer look at the picture and read the caption. It was a photograph of the 24th Mounted Infantry taken somewhere in Yosemite in 1899. The 24th, along with the 25th Infantry and the 9th and 10th Cavalry, were African-American Army regiments that during the Indian War period became known as Buffalo Soldiers. In 1903, four troops of the 9th Cavalry became among the first “rangers” assigned to protect Yosemite and Sequoia & General Grant (Kings Canyon) National Parks. For me, as an African-American park ranger, seeing this photograph was like stumbling into my own family while traveling in a foreign country.

Continued on page 1
I had no idea that 100 years ago the 24th Mounted Infantry and the 9th Cavalry counterparts, they had the added burden of race on their shoulders. On the one hand, the Buffalo Soldiers were sent to protect parks, routinely telling white visitors what they could and could not do. On the other, these soldiers were a part of a larger society that had difficulty seeing them as symbols of authority. In spite of these challenges, the Buffalo Soldiers fulfilled their mission.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of their service in Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. Birthdays are important to us individually because they celebrate our arrival into a family. So too, marking the birthday of our wilderness parks. And since national parks exist “for the benefit and enjoyment of the people” both in the United States and around the world, this is also a celebration in which everyone can take pride.

Today, as a National Park Service ranger who is also African-American, I want to speak to these men, to tell them that they weren’t forgotten. The following “Letter to Dead Soldiers” is a result of that desire.
Dear Yosemite Friends,

Welcome to Yosemite! This park has long been associated with the early origins of the National Park System. Its history is filled with such champions as Galen Clark, John Muir, and Theodore Roosevelt. In fact, did you know that this year marks the 100th anniversary of Muir’s historic Yosemite meeting with Roosevelt where they discussed the idea of a system of national parks? But as Shelton Johnson captures in his article, there are histories hidden in this park that are no less important in the fabric of its compelling stories. The first rangers of Yosemite were members of the U.S. Cavalry. During the early part of the 20th century, in a segregated nation, African-American soldiers answered the call to protect three western national parks in order to assure their preservation for future generations. Thus, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Buffalo Soldiers in Yosemite, we speak the names of soldiers like Col. Charles Young, Private Guthrie Underwood, Private Alonzo Hill so that the world will never forget their important contributions to national parks. I encourage you to uncover more hidden histories here in Yosemite. Our parks are places set aside by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. In our parks we honor our past and our diversity so that future visitors—those yet to be named—can find their place here as well.

Sincerely, 
Michael J. Tollefson

Yosemite's oldest nonprofit support organization, the Yosemite Association, celebrates 80 years of service to the park on August 4, 2003. The association was organized in 1923 under the auspices of the American Museum Association to secure funds for building a new museum and to promote a better knowledge of the natural history of the region among the visiting public. Known as the Yosemite Museum Association (and later to be called the Yosemite Natural History Association), the group became the first cooperating association in the National Park System. There are now nearly 70 similar organizations, modeled on the association, in national parks throughout the country. In 1925, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Foundation made a large gift to the association, which was used with other donated funds to construct the Yosemite Museum. The two-story structure contained exhibits, a library, storage facilities, a classroom, offices, and caretaker’s quarters. Today it houses the park Research Library, the museum collection, two galleries, and park offices.

As the Yosemite Natural History Association grew, it began to publish educational materials to provide the public with information to enhance the study of natural and human history in Yosemite. Among them was Yosemite Nature Notes, a monthly publication of the naturalist staff that was printed from 1926 until 1961. In recent years, the association’s publication program has expanded, and it regularly produces high quality, award-winning books and maps. The Yosemite Association is proud of its accomplishments over the past 80 years, and looks forward to making even greater contributions to the park in the new century. To learn more about the Yosemite Association, see page 14 or visit www.yosemite.org.

Acquaint Yourself
Park your vehicle in Yosemite Village and ride the free shuttle bus around Yosemite Valley’s east end. Be sure to stop by the Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Museum. See Yosemite Today for shuttle bus schedule.

Talk to an Expert
Stop by any visitor center or information station. Rangers are a great resource for ideas on what to do with limited time. Free informational handouts are available. Just ask!

Feel the Thunder of a Waterfall
While at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, be sure to view the state-of-the-art film, Spirit of Yosemite. Prepare yourself to be inspired! This award-winning film will connect you to places throughout the park that you might not get to—until your next visit!

Take A Tour
There are several tours available in the park. Beginning this summer, Yosemite National Park rangers will guide the popular Valley Floor Tram Tour. The 2-hour open-air tram tour begins at Yosemite Lodge and takes you past many of the Valley’s significant features. Motor coach takes you past many of the Valley’s significant features. Motor coach tours are also available to Glacier Point, Tuolumne Meadows, or the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. For pricing and information on these and other tours, see Yosemite Today, stop by any tour desk, or call 209/372-1240.

Go for a Walk
From photography to American Indian traditions to stargazing, you can experience a guided program virtually anywhere in the park. See Yosemite Today for a schedule of park ranger educational programs, walks, and talks. Also consider attending an outdoor adventure through the Yosemite Association (see page 15). For self-guiding trails in Yosemite Valley, see page 12.

Marvel at the Giants
Before leaving the park, be sure to see the giant sequoias in the Mariposa Grove (Wawona Road, South Entrance), the Tuolumne Grove (Tioga Road), or the Merced Grove (Big Oak Flat Road). See Yosemite Today for more information.

Yosemite Association Celebrates 80th Anniversary

Yosemite News
The Yosemite Valley Plan outlined over 250 actions that would take place during the next 20 years. While clearly no changes can occur overnight, a great deal of preparation has gone into launching some of the initial projects. Today, much has been accomplished that will move these activities from the drawing board to the project site.

In addition to Yosemite Valley Plan projects, other work is scheduled to begin in areas around the park. From Tuolumne Meadows to Wawona, from wilderness trails to the Valley Visitor Center, taking care of Yosemite requires the hard work and hands of not only park staff, but scores of volunteers.

This year, visitors to Yosemite will notice increased activity throughout the park. Many projects may be less apparent than others, while some may cause temporary inconveniences. However, each one plays a valuable part in the bigger picture of Yosemite’s future—to improve the visitor experience while preserving the park’s treasured natural and cultural resources, both today and for future generations.

To learn more about park improvement efforts, visit online at www.nps.gov/yose/planning.

BUFFALO SOLDIER CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE SIERRA

The first marked nature trail in a national park was built in 1904 by the 9th Cavalry as part of an arboretum in the Wawona area.

The first marked nature trail in a national park was built in 1904 by the 9th Cavalry as part of an arboretum in the Wawona area. African-American soldiers built the majority of the first trail to the top of Mt. Whitney, highest mountain in the contiguous United States located in Sequoia National Park. In 1907, the 9th Cavalry was actually stopped from completing the trail due to boulders. Because they were African-American, they weren’t allowed to use any explosives. A civilian crew “finished” the job, taking credit for the trail’s accomplishment.

Col. Charles Young (pictured on page 1) is considered to be the first African-American superintendent of a national park, serving in Sequoia & General Grant (Kings Canyon) National Park in 1903.

ENTRANCE FEES: EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA WHILE HELPING NATIONAL PARKS

To help the National Park Service, Congress took a bold step in 1996 and authorized the Recreational Fee Demonstration (Fee Demo) Program. Prior to the Fee Demo Program, fees—such as entrance fees—collected at National Park Service sites were returned to the U.S. Treasury, and were not available to directly support park projects. Under the Fee Demo Program, these fees are now retained by the agency that collects them and are earmarked for backlogged infrastructure projects and improved visitor services, with 80% retained in the collecting park and 20% shared with other parks to support similar projects.

In addition to providing admission into Yosemite, your fees directly support projects in the park as well as other sites in the National Park System. When you Experience Your America by visiting a Fee Demo site, you help the National Park Service preserve and protect our nation’s heritage for future generations.

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN YOSEMITE, THANKS TO ENTRANCE FEES:  
- Renovation of the Valley Visitor Center’s West Auditorium Theater  
- Repair to sections of sewer line that serve Yosemite Valley

OTHER PROJECTS INCLUDE:  
- Stabilizing historic backcountry cabins  
- Replacing picnic tables, fire rings, and signs in out-of-Valley campgrounds  
- Improving facilities and programs for persons with disabilities

Yosemite’s planning efforts can only truly succeed with the help of public involvement. As the park moves forward with plans for various improvements, let your voice be heard. Sign up on the park’s mailing list or visit the planning web page at www.nps.gov/yose/planning.

Come back and spend some more time in this amazing park!
Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. With nearly 3.5 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be!

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either intentionally or unknowingly harm park resources. Please 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 call 911 or 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 bike paths. 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.

Bicycling

Each season, plants are crushed by bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved trails. They are not allowed to travel off-trail, on unpaved trails, or in wilderness areas. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite.

Success! Not long ago, many areas along the Merced River showed signs of human trampling. 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.

River Crossings

In summer, rivers and creeks swollen by snowmelt can be dangerous.

- Stay away from river and creek banks during high water conditions 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 places where the water is either swift or over your knees. Use a stick or pole for balance and try to cross where there is a gravel bottom. Crossing on a natural bridge of rocks or logs can be surprisingly slippery. Consider where you will land if you fall. Never cross above rapid rapids or falls. To prevent being pulled under by the weight of your pack, unbuckle the waist strap so you can shed it if you fall in. Do not tie yourself into safety ropes—they can drown you.

Rafting

- Conditions permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stone- man Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device.
- The entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher.
- You must wear or have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device immediately available.
- Fallen trees and other natural debris in the river create important habitat for fish and other wildlife. Be alert—they can create hazards for rafters.

Fishing

Fishing in Yosemite is regulated under State law. A valid California sport fishing license is required for those persons age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible by attaching it to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline.

- Trout season opens on the last Saturday in April and continues through November 15 (except Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor which opens June 15). All lakes and reservoirs are open year-round.
- Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the Polonzo Bridge, and from there downstream to Foresta Bridge in El Portal. Within these reaches of the river it is catch-and-release only for rainbow trout. Brown trout limits are five fish per day. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used.
- The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

Water Quality

- To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking. Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier.
- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other waterborne disease organisms, use rest- room facilities where available, and always wash hands afterwards with soap and water. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash, camp, and bury human waste (6" deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

For More Information About...

- Bre safety tips, see page 5.
- Food storage regulations, see page 6.
- Camping and campfires, see page 7.
- Wilderness regulations, see page 12.
- 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.
- California law requires that you wear seatbelts and use child safety seats for children under six years of age or under 60 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.

To ensure the park remains healthy and the wildlife thriving, please simply enjoy the park. Yosemite is a wonderful opportunity to slow down and enjoy the park’s incredible scenery.
Theodore Roosevelt's historic—and unorthodox—visit to Yosemite National Park in 1903, he requested privacy. Roosevelt wanted nothing more than to shed his entourage and “outskirt and keep away from civilization.” The president had prearranged to camp there, and with John Muir, a renowned naturalist sent a clear message to the country—it was time to think about conserving our natural resources for future generations.

Fire Safety

Each year campfires, cigarettes, and human carelessness cause unwanted fires in Yosemite. You can help prevent these fires by following a few fire safety tips.

- Campfires
  - Build small campfires in established campfire rings.
  - Never leave a campfire unattended.
  - Extinguish campfires by stirring with water a half hour before leaving the site. Carefully feel charted material to make certain the fire is cold and out.

- Cigarettes
  - Never throw lighted cigarettes on the ground or out of a car window.
  - Crush cigarettes butts dead and out before discarding them in an ashtray or trash can.
  - Do not smoke while walking on trails. Stop, smoke, and properly discard the cigarette butt before resuming your walk.

- Charcoal Briquettes
  - Never burn charcoal briquettes in a tent or vehicle. The carbon monoxide produced by burning charcoal is deadly in a confined space.
  - After use, dunk burning briquettes in water until cool. Carefully check them to make sure the fire is out.
  - Never throw burning or warm briquettes into trashcans or dumpsters.

- Camping Stoves and Lanterns
  - Refuel stoves or lanterns only when they are cold and in a well-ventilated area.
  - Never use gas-fueled lanterns and stoves in tents, vehicles, or other confined spaces. These devices produce carbon monoxide gas which can be deadly.

Fire as a Tool

Prescribed fires are ignited by qualified park fire staff under certain pre-determined conditions. These fires are carefully managed to achieve such goals as public safety by protecting developed areas, and ecosystem restoration by clearing unsafe accumulation of dead and down wood. Mechanical thinning requires the use of chainsaws to cut smaller trees and brush, as well as chippers if needed onsite. You may see piles of cut material. There may also be park vehicles and trucks near the site to haul away any excess material.

Wildland fires caused by lightning may be allowed to burn in certain park wilderness areas under specific conditions, and with close surveillance by park fire staff. These fires may be managed and allowed to burn to fulfill their natural role as an agent for the ecosystem. Where it is not prudent to allow fires to burn, park fire staff will suppress them.

During the 2003 fire season, Yosemite Fire Management staff plans 7,519 acres of prescribed burns and 988 acres of mechanical thinning. During your visit, you may notice signs along roadways indicating that a managed fire is in progress. Fires in Yosemite National Park—natural or prescribed—may result in smoky conditions and reduced visibility. Please observe all warning signs posted in fire areas. Visitors with respiratory problems may need to use caution when exerting themselves in smoky areas.

Fire managers use three tools to restore the benefits of this natural process: prescribed fire, mechanical thinning, and wildland fire. While visiting Yosemite, you may see evidence of any of these practices.

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 Features 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.

Centennial of Roosevelt’s Historic Yosemite Visit

This year marks the 100th anniversary of President Theodore Roosevelt’s historic—and unorthodox—visit to Yosemite National Park.

Despite the official welcome and fanfare planned to celebrate the arrival of President Roosevelt to Yosemite National Park, he requested privacy. President Roosevelt knew nothing more than to shed his entourage and “outskirt and keep away from civilization.” The president had prearranged to go to Yosemite, and with John Muir, a renowned naturalist sent a clear message to the country—it was time to think about conserving our natural resources for future generations.

Blues for the 24th Infantry

Horse beneath me, Rollin’ like the sea.
Horse beneath me, Rollin’ like the sea.
A soldier’s life is ruin’ far, But never being free.
People gaze upon us,
Along the dusty road.
Strangers gaze upon us,
Along the dusty road.
Ne’er seen a horse, I guess, Carryin’ such a load.

Joined the 24th Infantry,
To get away from pain.
Joined the Infantry, I guess,
To get away from pain.
Though hurt ain’t somethin’ you can leave,
The motion keeps you sane.
Horse beneath me, Rollin’ like the sea.
Horse beneath me, Rollin’ like the sea.
This soldier’s life is ruin’ far, But never being free.

-SHELTON JOHNSON
Mountain Lions

Mountain lions are a normal and very important part of the park ecosystem and help 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 on humans are extremely rare, they are possible, just as is injury from any wild animal. We offer the following recommendations for your safety:

- Do not leave pets or pet food outside and unattended, especially at dawn and dusk. Pets can attract mountain lions into developed areas.
- Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind on the trail. Talk to children about lions, and teach them what to do if they meet one.
- What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?
  - Never approach one, especially if it is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Always give them a way to escape.
  - Don’t run. Stay calm. Hold your ground, or back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright. Do all you can to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four parked shuttle buses). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to seeing people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.
  - Drive the speed limit. The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Slow down. Driving too fast is almost always the cause of these accidental deaths.

Backpackers: Save Your Food, Save a Bear

Bear resistant food containers are 2.7 pound containers that can be used to store 5 or more days of backpacker food when meals are carefully planned. Canisters have an inset lid that bears are unable to open. When used correctly, bears quickly learn that—although they smell like food—the canisters are not worth investigating. See page 15 or Yosemite Today for canister rental locations throughout the park.

How to Store Food

“Food” includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, perfume, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FOOD STORAGE</th>
<th>WHY?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YOUR VEHICLE</td>
<td>You may store food in your car only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, crumbs in baby seats, and baby wipes. Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUR CAMPSITE OR TENT CABIN</td>
<td>You must store all your food in food lockers. Each campsite contains a food locker measuring 33&quot;x45&quot;x18&quot;. Tent-cabin areas have smaller lockers. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RV’s with windows closed. Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check bear boxes to see if they’re secured. Keep food locker closed and latched at all times, even when you are in your campsite.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PICNIC AREAS &amp; ON THE TRAIL</td>
<td>Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm’s reach. Don’t turn your back to your food. Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILDERNESS</td>
<td>Bear resistant food containers are required in some areas and are strongly recommended everywhere else. Hanging food is only a delaying tactic for bears, as bears can easily climb trees. In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food. See page 15 for canister rental locations.</td>
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NOTE: Following these regulations and precautions helps decrease the chance of personal injury or property damage. However, bear damage and confrontations are still possible, even when all the guidelines are followed. Improper food storage may result in impoundment of your food or vehicle, a fine of up to $5,000, and/or revocation of camping permit.
Camp 4 is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis. These 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 Reservations

Reservations are required year-round for Yosemite Valley’s auto campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Watlson, and near Yosemite Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served.

Camping reservations are available up to five months in advance, beginning on the 15th of each month.

From May through September, campers are in heavy demand and prospective campers are encouraged to call National Park Reservation Service as early as possible in the period.

Reservations can be made by phone, mail, or online. All requests are processed at the same time, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time, beginning on the 15th of each month. Written requests should include desired location, type of equipment you will be camping in (e.g., tent, RV, etc.), number of people, and method of payment. Written requests will be accepted 2 weeks prior to—but not before—the 15th.

All requests are processed at the same time. Written requests are processed only) during limited hours. See Yosemite Today for locations and hours of service.

There are group campsites at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bidwellw Creek Campgrounds. Reservations can be made through National Park Reservation Service; 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, fire rings, grills, tent space, parking, and a food storage locker.
- See page 6 for food storage regulations.
- Toilet facilities are available in campgrounds, however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat contain non-flushing vault toilets only.
- Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley; showers are also available at Tuolumne Meadows (summer only) during limited hours. See Yosemite Today for locations and hours of service.
- RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat.

Campsites

In order to improve air quality in Yosemite Valley during peak visitation months, campfires are only permitted May 1 through October 31 between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. There are no restrictions in effect in Yosemite Valley during the remainder of the year.

Firewood collection is prohibited in Yosemite Valley. This includes “dead and down” wood.

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.

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 USFS district offices:

- Highway 120 West, Groveland Ranger Station (Stanislaus NF) 209/602-7825, Highway 140, Mariposa Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 209/966-3638, Highway 120 East, Mono Lake Ranger Station (Mono NF) 760/947-3044, Highway 41, Oakhurst Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 559/563-4616, as well as the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 8.

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- 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, campfires are only permitted May 1 through October 31 between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. There are no restrictions in effect in Yosemite Valley during the remainder of the year.

Firewood collection is prohibited in Yosemite Valley. This includes “dead and down” wood.

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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 95326.

Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite National Park. Private vehicles may park in designated spaces throughout Yosemite.

The park can be accessed along four State Highways:

- From the West (Year-Round)
  - Highway 120 W to Big Oak Flat Entrance
  - Highway 140 to Arch Rock Entrance
- From the South (Year-Round)
  - Highway 120 W to Big Oak Flat Entrance
- From the East (Summer-Fall only)
  - Highway 120 E from Lee Vining to the Tioga Entrance

Transportation

To and from Yosemite

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) offers park visitors a voluntary alternative to driving their car into Yosemite by providing bus service throughout the region.

Round-trip transit service is available from the Yosemite Association gift shops, or by park shuttle service at visitor centers. Daily service from Mammoth Lakes begins July 1 and continues through September. For schedule and service information visit the YARTS web site at www.yarts.com or call toll free 877/98-YARTS (877/989-2787) or 209/395-5800.

Within Yosemite

Free shuttle bus service is provided through-out the eastern portion of Yosemite Valley year-round. All Valley shuttles are lift equipped for wheelchairs. In summer, free shuttle buses run from Wawona to the Mariposa Grove, and from Tioga Pass to Tenaya Lake. Hikers’ buses run daily to Glacier Point late spring through autumn and between Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley late June through Labor Day. Call 209/372-1240 for inkliners’ bus service. For reservations, call 209/372-1240 or 209/372-1241 for shuttle service. For additional information, call 209/372-1200.

Park Lodging

(available Year-Round)

Reservations for all overnight lodging in Yosemite may be made by calling 559/252-4848, 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 the following:

- Yosemite Lodge
  - Ahwahnee
  - Curry Village
  - Housekeeping Camp

Outside Yankee Valley

- Tuolumne
  - Wawona Hotel
  - Tent cabins
  - Housekeeping Camp

- Mariposa Grove
  - White Wolf Lodge
  - Housekeeping Camp

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 1/2 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. Trailers are not allowed on the Mariposa Grove Road, and vehicles over 23 feet and longer are restricted from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

The Tuolumne Meadows 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.

Information outside the Park

Highway 140/49

Mariposa County Visitor Bureau (also info for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Park Meadow) P.O. Box 967
5318 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
800/521-7442 or 209/966-2456
www.homeyosemite.com

East Highway 120

Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center P.O. Box 180
Highway 395 and 3rd Street
Lee Vining, CA 93541
760/947-6629
www.leevining.com

California Welcome Center, Merced
710 W. 16th Street
Merced, CA 95340
800/464-3553 or 209/384-2791
www.yosemite-gateway.org

PLANNING
CRANE FLAT
Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat Road and the Tioga Road. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East), and walk one mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. In winter, snowshoes or cross-country skis may be needed. For activities and area information, see 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 B-10 and a road sign.

5 TIOGA ROAD AND TUOLUMNE MEADOWS
The Tioga Road is generally open from late May through late October or early November and offers 39-mile scenic drive through forests and past meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road's elevation ranges from 6,600 feet at Crane Flat to 9,500 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 ski or snowshoes. For activities, see Yosemite Today.

6 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 80 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.

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 pedes-

Hiking & Backpacking
Yosemite offers over 600 miles of hiking trails park-wide. 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 use. For wilderness permit infor-

HIKING & BACKPACKING

Warm weather and trail condi-

Pool and Landmarks

Gas Station

www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness

TRIPS

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 in late spring through fall, in and Tuolumne Meadows in late spring through summer. 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 Sierra 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**

(Opens late May)

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.

Olmsted Point

Located about midway between White Wolf and Tuolumne Meadows, Olmsted Point offers one of the hands-down most spectacular vistas anywhere in the park. Here the enormous walls of the Tenaya Canyon are exposed and an endless view stretches all the way to Yosemite Valley where Clouds Rest and the back side of Half Dome are visible.

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 thundershow-

**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 Falls
One of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley, Chilnualna Falls cascades down two chutes. The falls, instead of leaping and free falling from some precipice, drop 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 an hour or so.

THREE GREAT HIKES
FROM THE GLACIER POINT ROAD
(Opens late May)

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. 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 view point (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.

Check out the 360 degree High Sierra view from the top of Sentinel Dome.
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 topping trees. It is a place where animals are wild 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 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 and you are due back. Carry a signal mirror and whistle. Solo activities require increased precautions.
- 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. Sudden extreme changes in weather can occur even in summer.
- Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy emergency food.
- Be prepared for an emergency bivouac even when out just for the day. Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.
- Avoid the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Know symptoms and treatment methods for hypothermia. Carry emergency starting materials and food.

**Protect Yosemite’s Wilderness**
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Use gas stoves rather than wood fires.
- Camp in an existing 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.
- 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 9 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 6 for food storage regulations; see page 4 for water quality and water safety information.

**Wilderness Permits**
Free wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. A limited number of overnight users are permitted to enter the wilderness for each day on each trail. Sixty percent of each daily trailhead quota is available by reservation, and 40% of trailhead quotas are available on a first-come, first-served basis the day of or one day in advance of departure. Maximum group size is 15 people, 8 for cross-country travel. Trailhead quotas for popular trails often fill, but there is always space available at trailheads elsewhere in the park. No permit is required for day hiking. Permits are issued at wilderness centers located in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. For general hiking information or for information on making a wilderness permit reservation, visit any park wilderness center.

Backpackers who plan to visit Yosemite’s beautiful wilderness during the peak season (May through September) are encouraged to make a permit reservation. Reservations are taken from 24 weeks to 2 days in advance of the start of your trip. There is a $5 per person reservation fee. To make a permit reservation, check the park’s web site for trailhead availability, plan an itinerary, and then call 209/372-0740.

**Self-Guiding Trails in Yosemite Valley**

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<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>Paved trail, last 50 yards steep for vision impaired users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles round trip (1.2 km)</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>1 hour round trip</td>
<td>Vehicle access available via road with plowed access.</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>Paved trail, last 50 yards steep for vision impaired users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail</td>
<td>Camp 4 near Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round trip (1.2 km)</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,900’ (580 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 on 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>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>3 miles round trip (4.8 km)</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,900’ (580 m) elevation gain</td>
<td>2 to 4 hours round trip</td>
<td>Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall Trail</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7 miles round trip (11.3 km)</td>
<td>Extremely Strenuous 1,900’ (580 m) elevation gain</td>
<td>5 to 6 hours round trip</td>
<td>Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter.</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 is inaccessible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glacier Point Four Mile Trail</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 #8</td>
<td>1.3 miles full loop (2.0 km)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>5 to 7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Get full description from Visitor Center.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yosemite Today

Nature Center at Happy Isles, open through mid-September (see children explore and understand Yosemite’s natural world. The Happy Isles and LeConte Memorial Lodge—can help families with children’s corner and offers children’s and family programs.

Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., features a children’s corner and offers children’s and family programs.

Yosemite Today

Must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Check adventure for families with children ages 12 and under. Each child must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Check Yosemite Today for program times and locations.

Yosemite Theater Live Presents

Yosemite Tales—Animal and Earth Stories
(Saturdays, June 21 to August 23)

New for the 2003 season, this 1-hour evening program is especially for children or the kid in all of us! Join the Story Quilters as they weave stories and songs of the land and its critters that will make you laugh and smile and use your imagination. Located at the Valley Visitor Center East Auditorium. Check Yosemite Today for schedule.

Explore Yosemite Family Program
(July through August)

Enjoy the morning or afternoon in Yosemite Valley with a professional naturalist and a small group of families to explore the wonders of Yosemite’s natural world and cultural history. The “Explore Yosemite Family Program” offers a hands-on exploratory adventure for families with children ages 12 and under. Each child must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Check Yosemite Today for schedule and details.

Fun Family Exhibits

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 through mid-September (see

Yosemite Today for hours), 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 through mid-September, Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., features a children’s corner and offers children’s and family programs.

Wild Valley Programs

Wee Wild Ones
Bring your wee wild one for a fun-filled program featuring nature-related stories, activities, songs and more! This 45-minute program is geared for children 6 and under, though older children are welcome. Each child must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Check Yosemite Today for program times and locations.

Yosemite Theater Live Presents

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See schedule and details.

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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.

Become a Junior Ranger

Kids ages 7-13: You can become a Yosemite Junior Ranger by purchasing a self-guided booklet published by the Yosemite Association. This booklet is sold for $4.95 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. Also visit WebRangers, the National Park Service’s online junior ranger program at www.nps.gov/yois/nature/wlf_bears.htm

Bears break into cars and enter campsites to get food because there isn’t enough natural food for them. False. There is plenty of natural food for the bears, but they are opportunistic, seeking out what’s easiest. If they smell some food nearby, like a bag of potato chips in your car, they may attempt to get it.

Bears in Yosemite Valley are active both day and night. True. Researchers have determined that bears are active both day and night. Bears that visit public places like campgrounds may come out at night in order to avoid people.

Bears can smell canned beans, soda, or a jar of peanut butter. False. There is no animal that has a better sense of smell than a bear. On top of that, they can unscrew jar lids!

To learn more about black bears in Yosemite National Park, visit www.nps.gov/yois/nature/wlf_bears.htm

Color Your Own American Black Bear

Ursus americanus

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.

DiET

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

CLASSIFICATION

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

For more activities especially for children, look for programs listed in color in Yosemite Today.

Yosemite Today

WILD VALLEY PROGRAMS

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

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Yosemite Association

BECOME PART OF A TRADITION OF SERVICE

Yosemite's oldest nonprofit support organization, the Yosemite Association, is proud to celebrate 80 years of service to the park this year! Join YA today, and help them continue to provide a wide array of educational products and services that promote stewardship of this amazing park.

In cooperation with the National Park Service and with authority from Congress, the Yosemite Association:

- Provides funding annually to the National Park Service for visitor information, educational, and interpretive programs.
- Publishes award-winning books on Yosemite and operates bookstores in the park.
- Provides member volunteers to work on restoration projects and to act as docents at many park facilities.
- Protects Yosemite’s bear through education and bear canister rental programs.
- Offers scores of outdoor classes on topics such as natural history, photography, American Indians, backpacking, and art.

If you love Yosemite and wish to become more closely involved with the park, become a member of the Yosemite Association. Sign up for membership through Congress, the Yosemite Association:

- Membership dues start at $30 per year and entitle you to many valuable benefits, including:
  - Yosemite, the quarterly journal
  - A 15% discount on all books, merchandise, and Outdoor Adventures offered by the Yosemite Association
  - A 10% discount at selected lodging facilities both in and near the park
  - The opportunity to attend special events for members and to participate in volunteer programs in the park

Complete the form below to join the Yosemite Association today!

YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION AND HELP CONTINUE ITS TRADITION OF SERVICE!

- Individual $30
- Joint/Family $35
- Supporting $50
- Contributing $100
- Yes, please send The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park

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

Name
Address
City _______ State _____ Zip _______
Daytime Phone Number
Enclosed is my check or money order for $_______ or charge to Credit card # _____ _______ Exp. date _____
Email address

PROVIDING FOR YOSEMITE’S FUTURE

Yosemite Falls, the highest waterfall in North America, is a key destination for more than 2 million Yosemite visitors each year. Yet the approach to this stunning natural icon is in need of repairs: landscape has been trampled, access for wheelchair users is limited, and educational exhibits are minimal.

The Campaign for Yosemite Falls, a partnership between The Yosemite Fund and the National Park Service, is providing funding to restore natural habitat and improve the visitor experience in this 56-acre area. The Kresge Foundation has made a $600,000 challenge grant to help raise the remaining $1.8 million required to complete the project. Please consider becoming a part of this historic effort by making a donation to help meet this important challenge grant.

The restoration at Lower Yosemite Fall is just one of many projects supported by The Yosemite Fund, a nonprofit organization that raises money from Yosemite enthusiasts to protect and restore the park and enhance the visitor’s experience. Now in its 15th year, the Fund has distributed over $20 million for more than 150 projects.

Thanks to gifts from dedicated “Friends of Yosemite,” the Fund has helped:

- Install 2,000 bear-proof food lockers throughout Yosemite
- Create Spirit of Yosemite, a captivating, award-winning visitor orientation film
- Rebuild numerous sections of Yosemite’s 800+ miles of trails
- This year, the Fund hopes to sponsor many more projects including new educational wayside exhibits, wilderness restoration, and reclamation of an acre of wetland at Happy Isles.

You can help by becoming a Friend of Yosemite through a donation to the Fund. All donors of $25 or more receive:

- Access to a special telephone number to make lodging reservations in the park
- 10% off park lodging, including The Ahwahnee and Wawona Hotel
- Free subscription to the Fund’s biannual full-color magazine, Approach
- Listing at the Friends of Yosemite Honor Wall at the Valley Visitor Center

Please fill out the coupon below and become a Friend of Yosemite today!

YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF YOSEMITE WHO PROVIDE FOR YOSEMITE’S FUTURE!

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

Name
Address
City _______ State _____ Zip _______
Enclosed is my check or money order, or charge to my VISA/MasterCard/AmEx Card # _____ _______ Exp. date _____

* When you make a gift of $100 or more, you’ll receive a set of beautiful Yosemite note cards.
** John Muir Heritage Society members, giving $1,000 or more, receive invitations to events in Yosemite, name listing on the Honor Wall in Yosemite Valley, and other Society benefits.

Yosemite Association
P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318
209/379-2646
www.yosemite.org

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- $1,000**
- $50
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Name
Address
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Yosemite Association
P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318
209/379-2646
www.yosemite.org
GENERAL INFORMATION

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 379, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

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, 5683 Fostera Road, B-739, El Portal, CA 95318.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bear Canister Rental
$8 rental fee with $75 deposit (credit card or cash). Available at the Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows Wildermeer Centers, the Big Oak Flat Information Station, the Wawona Information Station at Hill’s Studio, the Hatch Hetchy Entrance Station, and the Crane Flat and Wawona Stores. Canisters can be returned to any of these locations. Drop bins are available for after-hours returns. Drop bins are also available in the Yosemite Valley Trailhead Parking area, near Happy Isles. Cannisters are required in some areas of Yosemite’s Wilderness and are highly recommended everywhere else. See page 6 for more information about proper food storage.

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

Kennel
Located inside the Yosemite Valley. Dogs must be gentle, weigh over 10 pounds, with proof of shots and license required. 209/372-8148

Employment Opportunities
Would you like to be part of Yosemite’s future? Employment opportunities exist at Yosemite National Park with the National Park Service, Yosemite Concession Services Corporation, and Volunteers in Parks.

Yosemite National Park
For job information on the web, visit www.usajobs.opm.gov
Employment hotline: 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.

Yosemite Concession Services
Contact Yosemite Concession Services Corporation at the General Offices in Yosemite Valley or call 209/372-1236.

Volunteers in Parks
Individuals and groups interested in community service projects in Yosemite can call the Volunteer Program Manager at 209/372-1805. Free camping is provided and entrance fees are waived during your work project.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Yosemite Association
Outdoor courses in the park in natural history, art, backpacking, photography, and more. P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-2321 www.yosemite.org

Yosemite Institute
Non-profit environmental education organization. Week-long, field-based sessions for Yosemite Institute, outdoor courses in the park in natural history, art, backpacking, photography, and more.

Yosemite Outdoor Adventures invites you to explore Yosemite through a series of fun, educational courses. You can learn about photography amongst one of the world's most spectacular landscapes, study the wildflowers as you backpack through the meadows, and ride the free shuttle bus. All shuttles in Yosemite Valley are lift equipped.

With advance notice, Nanette Oswald, Yosemite’s Deaf Services Program Coordinator, interprets ranger-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 (TTY) or 209/372-0642 (voice). For a listing of accessible interpretive programs, look for the international symbol in Yosemite Today.

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

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

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 within Mariposa, Mtsred, and Mono Counties and Yosemite National Park.

Year-round:
From Merced east along Highway 140 to Yosemite Valley.

Summer only:
From Mammoth Lakes and Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley on Highway 395 and 120 via the June Lake Loop (weekends only through June, and from September 6-28; daily service July 1 through September 1).

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 more information, call 209/372-4726 (TTY) or 209/372-0642 (voice). For a listing of accessible interpretive programs, look for the international symbol in Yosemite Today.
Detailed trail maps are available for purchase at visitor centers and stores throughout the park. See page 12 for Valley day hike descriptions.