Experience Your America Yosemite National Park
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Jun-Jul 2008

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide

Jun 11 – July 22
Welcome to Yosemite

Keep this Guide with you to Get the Most Out of Your Trip to Yosemite National Park

The Yosemite Experience

John Muir once wrote, “As long as I live, I’ll hear waterfalls and birds and winds sing. I’ll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm and the avalanche. I’ll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can.” Yosemite provides nearly 1,200 square miles of forests, meadows, granitite cliffs, lakes and ponds, trails, roads, and pristine wilderness to do just that.

As Muir understood, there are as many ways to experience this amazing place as there are granite rocks in the Sierra Nevada landscape. To make the most of your time here, read through and enjoy this newly designed edition of Yosemite Guide. The contents of this publication will first give you options for what experiences you choose to have here, help you plan those experiences, provide a listing of services and programs available in each area of the park, then provide more detailed information on topics such as camping and hiking.

Keep this guide with you as you make your way through the park. Pass it along to friends and family when you get home. Save it as a memento of your trip. This guide represents the collaborative energy of the National Park Service, The Yosemite Fund, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Yosemite Association, The Ansel Adams Gallery, and Yosemite Institute—organizations dedicated to Yosemite and to making your visit enjoyable and inspiring (see page 23).

National parks were established to preserve what is truly special about America. They are places to be shared, places where everyone is welcome, places where we can re-connect with our spirit. Whether you are here for a few hours or a few days, let Muir’s words—and this guide—bring you nearer to the heart of Yosemite. During your visit to Yosemite, perhaps you too will make a lasting connection with this place.

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park


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Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park
Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 12-15 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

The base of Lower Yosemite Fall is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. Impressive views of both the upper and lower falls are seen on the path to the base. This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired. Although Yosemite Falls will dry up by the end of the summer, Bridalveil Fall is a year-round waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds swirling about the cliff lift and blow the falling water in a delicate free-fall.

El Capitan, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan. Note: Please park on the paved road shoulder next to El Capitan Meadow. Delicate meadows are easily damaged by trampling, so please stay on footpaths.

Half Dome, Yosemite’s most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cooks Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmstead Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite’s geologic story. The Nature Center at Happy Isles has interactive exhibits and is a great place to take kids. For a strenuous day hike, you can use this trailhead to reach Vernal Fall footbridge (¼ miles) and Nevada Fall (3½ miles). Visitors with mobility impairments can obtain a placard at the Valley Visitor Center or an entrance station that will authorize them to drive to the Nature Center at Happy Isles or Mirror Lake.

The walk to Mirror Lake/Mirror Meadow is a moderately easy, one-mile walk from shuttle stop #17. During spring, you will see mirror reflections of Half Dome. The lake is naturally evolving into a meadow and dries up by summer’s end.

Tunnel View, along Wawona Road ( Hwy 41) provides a classic view of Yosemite Valley, including El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridalveil Fall. It is particularly spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.

To experience the Valley on foot, see page 21 for a listing of popular day hikes and stop by a visitor center for a trail map.

To experience the Valley by bike, bring or rent a bike. Rentals are available daily, weather permitting. Baby-joggers, wheelchairs, and six-speed bikes with trailers can be rented as well. Rentals at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village are both open 8:30 am to 8:30 pm. Call 209/372-8319 for information.

To experience the Valley on an open-air tram tour, take the Valley Floor Tour. This 26-mile, 2-hour tour departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. Moonlight Tram Tours also available the days just prior to and after the full moon.

Experience the Valley by raft along the Merced River. Raft rentals are available daily, weather and river conditions permitting. Rentals at Curry Village are open 10 am to 4 pm. Call 209/372-8319 for information.

To experience the Valley on mule or horseback, 2-hour rides depart daily. Call 209/372-8348. The stables are located at shuttle stop #18 and are open 7 am to 5 pm.

The Incomparable Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park embraces one of the world’s most outstanding concentrations of spectacular mountain-and-valley scenery. Its Sierran setting harbors a grand collection of high waterfalls and forests, including three groves of giant sequoias. During your visit, experience as much of this glorious place as you desire. These three pages will touch on some ways to experience Yosemite Valley as well as explore the park’s other areas and quiet corners.

Top Left: Biking through the Valley. Photo by P. Meierding
Top Right: Valley Visitor Center Desk. NPS Photo
Bottom Right: Lower Yosemite Fall. Photo by Ray Santos
Located six miles from the park’s South Entrance or a one-hour drive from the Valley, the Wawona area tells the story of Yosemite’s human history and pioneer past. The charming 19th-century Wawona Hotel and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center are a history buff’s delight. The center is a collection of historic buildings associated with the people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour. In summer, take a journey through time on a horse-drawn stage ride. Hill’s Studio, a painting studio from the 1880s, now operates as a visitor information station. To experience Wawona on mule or horseback, the Wawona Stable is open 7 am to 5 pm. Call 209/375-6502. Also in Wawona, you will find walks and hikes of varying difficulty to places like Wawona Meadow and Chilnualna Falls, one of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley.

A short drive from Wawona is the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, Yosemite’s largest stand of giant sequoias (about 500 trees), and one of three groves of giant sequoias in the park (road closed to vehicles from sometime in November through May). Trail brochures are available in several languages. A one-hour tram tour of the upper and lower groves is available (normally operating between mid-May and mid-October, 9 am to 5 pm). This audio tour is available in five languages and for the visually impaired. Call 209/375-1621 for information.

Note: To reduce traffic congestion and avoid parking delays, ride the free shuttle spring through fall from Wawona to the Grove. Trailers and vehicles 25 feet and longer are not allowed on the Mariposa Grove Road. Neither bikes nor dogs are allowed in the grove.

Glacier Point
The Glacier Point Road is open late May through sometime in November; Glacier Point is approximately a one-hour drive from either Yosemite Valley or Wawona. The Glacier Point Road takes you right to the brink of Yosemite Valley. Go to the railing’s edge and catch your breath at an exhilarating view, looking down 3,214 feet to the Valley floor. The paved trail to Glacier Point is wheelchair-accessible. For a 360-degree panoramic view of Yosemite’s unbelievable landscape, take the 1.1-mile hike from the Sentinel/Taft Trailhead to the top of Sentinel Dome. For a hike to deep fissures and an overhanging lookout point, choose the trail to Taft Point.
A wonderful place to learn about nature, history, and yourself

Tuolumne Meadows is a stunningly picturesque region at 8,600 feet up in the dramatic sky of Yosemite’s high country. Contained in a basin about 2.5 miles long, this meadow system is one of the largest in the Sierra Nevada at the subalpine level.

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows is only 55 miles (1.5 hrs) 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 thundershowers). A person could take a different hike every day of the week and still not exhaust the possibilities. Some popular hikes are those to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Lembert Dome, Dog Lake, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon. Stop at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center for hiking information. For the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Information Center, call 209/372-1240 for reservations, or inquire at tour/desks at the following locations:

- Yosemite Valley Tour Kiosk
- Village Stores Tour Kiosk
- Curry Village Tour Kiosk

Tuolumne Meadows is a gateway to another world. It allows you to experience the high Sierra at a more relaxed pace. Here Euro-Americans arrived. Tenaya Lake is approximately eight miles west of Tuolumne Meadows, or 30 miles east of Crane Flat. This is one of the best places to have a picnic along the Tioga Road. The inviting sandy beach on the eastern shore is a wonderful spot, but if you decide to swim, be prepared for some cold water.

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Valley is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads; it is 40 miles from Yosemite Valley. The Hetch Hetchy Trail is restricted. Call 209/372-0200 for the most up-to-date information. Vehicles over 25 feet are prohibited on the narrow Hetch Hetchy Road. Once considered a twin to Yosemite Valley, this valley was described by John Muir as a “grand landscape garden, one of Nature’s rarest and most precious mountain temples.”

Sight-Seeing By Motor Coach

Several motor coach sightseeing tours are available to destinations within Yosemite.

- The Glacier Point Tour is a four-hour round trip from Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, which departs daily at 8:30 and 10 am, and 1:30 pm from Yosemite Lodge. The Glacier Point Tour also offers a one-way ticket for adventurers to hike back down to Yosemite Valley. The Grand Tour is an eight-hour combination of Big Trees and Glacier Point tours and departs at 8:45 am daily from Yosemite Lodge. Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at tour/transportation desks at the following locations:
  - Yosemite Lodge Tour Desk
  - Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
  - Village Store Tour Kiosk
  - Curry Village Tour Kiosk
  - Big Trees Tour Kiosk
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, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals.

How to Store Food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FOOD STORAGE</th>
<th>WHY</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your Vehicle</td>
<td>You may store food in your car (with windows closed) 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, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats. Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment. They can easily break into all kinds of vehicles!</td>
<td>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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</td>
<td>You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed. Bears may enter campers when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and latched at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin. Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
<td>Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas &amp; on the Trails</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>Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking in the Wilderness</td>
<td>Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite. In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food. 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 break into all kinds of vehicles!</td>
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Note: 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. Following these regulations and precautions decreases the chance of personal injury or property damage. However, bear damage and confrontations are still possible, even when all the regulations and guidelines are followed.

Mountain Lions

Mountain lions are a normal and important part of the park ecosystem. They are attracted to areas with healthy deer and raccoon populations, which include many areas of the park. Although lion attacks on humans are extremely rare, they are possible, just as is injury from any wild animal.

For your safety:
Do not leave pets or pet food outside and unattended. Pets can attract mountain lions.
Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind on the trail. Teach children what to do if they see a lion.

What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?
Never approach one, especially if it is with kittens. Mountain lions will avoid confrontation. Always give them a way to escape.
Don’t run. Stay calm. Hold your ground, or back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up.
If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms, shout, and throw objects at it. The goal is to convince it that you may be dangerous. If attacked, fight back!
Generally, mountain lions are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!
Protecting Your Park
Special Protection for Special Places

The Water Ways

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. 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

Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions.

• Always supervise children closely.
• 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.
• Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir, May Lake or Emerald Pool.

River Crossings

In summer, rivers and creeks swollen by runoff from snowmelt are dangerous.

• Stay away from river and creek banks during high water conditions and avoid rock hopping. Stream-polished rocks along the water’s edge are 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 rapids or falls. To prevent being pulled under by the weight of your pack, unbutton 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 (Stoneman Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10 am to 6 pm 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 also 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).
• Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the 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 water-borne disease organisms, use restroom 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 inches deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

Our Guardians...

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 unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

• Feeding or approaching wildlife
• Collecting plants
• Shooting animals
• Collecting reptiles and butterflies
• Picking up archeological items such as arrowheads
• Using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
• Driving vehicles into 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 the park dispatch office at 209/379-1952.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm and find a copy of the Superintendent’s Compendium. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7 and 34), and other applicable federal statutes and regulations.

Pets

Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. Kennels open only in summer are located at the Yosemite Valley Stable, should you need a place to board your dog (call 209/372-8348). Keep in mind, pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. They are not allowed on other trails, in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted indicating as such.

• Pets may not be tied to an object and left unattended.
• Pets may not be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.
• For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles. This protects pets and wildlife from disease.
• Pets are not allowed in any accommodations within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.
• Pets may not be tied to an object and left unattended.

Bicycling

Each season, plants are crushed from 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.

Red Bear, Dead Bear

Spreading cars hit dozens of black bears, hundreds of deer, and countless other animals on park roads every year. The Red Bear, Dead Bear signs along park roads mark a place where a bear was recently hit. Driving the speed limit can help save wild animals.

Upper Yosemite Falls, NPS Photo
Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

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 activities.

Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules: Please obey posted speed limits. Yosemite’s roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. 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.

Pack Water

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

Effects of Altitude

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley’s elevation is 4,000 feet). The risk of occurrence increases with age and with diseases of the heart and lungs. Symptoms include headache, nausea, insomnia, irritability, shortness of breath, general malaise and fatigue.

The best way to avoid it is to slowly acclimatize yourself to higher elevations, over the span of two to three days by gradually gaining elevation until you reach 10,000 feet (Tioga Pass). Avoid alcohol, sugar and high-fat meals. Should altitude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

Hiking, Backpacking, Rock Climbing and Scrambling

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

Stay on designated trails or routes. 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 food.

Be prepared to set up emergency shelter 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 treatments for hypothermia. Carry fire 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 four miles from any populated area and one mile from any road before camping.

To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.

Maximum group size is 15 people for trail travel and eight 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.

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 a cross-country trail. 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 during the busy months of June, July, and August must plan ahead and make reservations. Reservations are issued on a first-come, first-served basis the day of or one day in advance of departure. There is a $5 person reservation fee. To make a permit reservation, check the park’s website for trailhead availability, plan an itinerary, and then call 209/372-0740.

More Information

www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm
Leave No Trace www.lnt.org
Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue www.friendsyosar.org

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 charred 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 cold. 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.

www.friendofyosar.org

Protecting Yourself

Experience Yosemite — Safely
Kids Corner

Featuring Children and Family Programming

Junior Rangers and Little Cubs Wanted!

Kids ages 3-13 are invited to become a Little Cub or Junior Ranger. If you are 7-13, you can become a Yosemite Junior Ranger by purchasing a self-guided booklet published by the Yosemite Association. In order to earn a Junior Ranger patch and badge, the booklet must be completed, a bag of trash collected, and any guided program attended. See pages 14-19 for a complete schedule activities, including ranger-led Junior Ranger programs.

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 at park visitor center bookstores.

FIND THE ANIMALS OF YOSEMITE

Find the underlined names of the animals of Yosemite in the word search.

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Discover Yosemite Books.

Learn about the park with Two Bear Cubs, an American Indian legend about El Capitan or The World of Small, which comes with a magnifying glass. To order these and other titles, call the Yosemite Association at 209/379-2648 or visit www.YosemiteStore.com.

For additional selections, shop Yosemite online at www.YosemiteGifts.com.

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Word search excerpted from Junior Ranger Handbook © Yosemite Association
Have you ever wondered about a ranger’s favorite Yosemite spot?

Deep in the heart of Yosemite Valley lies an expansive meadow with perfect views of Yosemite Falls, Half Dome, and Cathedral Rocks—a place where one can see immense granite cliffs and delicate wildflowers. This place, called Cook’s Meadow, is one of my favorite spots.

I could visit Yosemite and spend only a few minutes at one place, I might spend it away from Yosemite’s most famous scenery. I might sit at Happy Isles. This obscure spot on the map inspired W. E. Dennison, one of Yosemite’s first guardians, to write:

“There are three islets just above the bridge which have never been given a place in Yosemite geography, so far as I am able to learn, and, commemorative of the emotions which I enjoyed when exploring them, I have named them the Happy Isles, for no one can visit them without for the while forgetting the grinding strife of his world and being happy.”

Perhaps it was at Happy Isles that I learned about rest. There, I could hear nothing but the roar of water and the chirping of birds. There, I could gaze up at a dark, yet brilliant, night sky. I could spend hours there; indeed, I have.

Another favorite: Illilouette Fall. At 370 feet tall, this striking waterfall stands testament to the power of glaciers. An example of a hanging valley, a small glacier carved Illilouette Canyon while a larger, more effective, glacier flowed through the Merced River Canyon. The larger glacier out-carved the smaller one, leaving Illilouette Canyon at a higher elevation. This fortunate inequality left its legacy in the form of Illilouette Fall. It is visible from the trail from Happy Isles to Vernal Fall; however, it is best seen from a few miles below Glacier Point from along Panorama Trail.

Also not far from Glacier Point lies Dewey Point. Aside from the undeniably stunning view from the point, the hike there conveys the nature of Wilderness. Once while hiking along the trail, I heard branches crashing. Startled, I saw a large bear who was equally surprised, if not more so, running away as quickly as physically possible. Black bears not accustomed to humans react this way. Yosemite may be known for bears that frequent campgrounds and parking lots in search of easily obtainable food, yet most bears, like this one, would consider such close proximity to people their worst fear. Such is the nature of wilderness—the non-reliance upon, and unfamiliarity with, humans. Nearly all of Yosemite is wild—and legally required to be kept that way by the Wilderness Act.

John Muir once wrote, “thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity...” You don’t need to travel far to find special places, to find wilderness, or to forget the distractions of everyday life. Every place I mentioned is within a few hours’—if not a few minutes’—walk and in or near Yosemite Valley, just one small part of the park. The other 90 percent of Yosemite is also waiting for your discovery. You don’t need to seek these experiences; you just need an open mind. And then, you will discover your own Yosemite secrets.

Yosemite Secrets
by Ranger Jeffrey Trust

Visitors often ask where rangers’ favorite haunts are, believing they are precious secrets. However, the truth is that many “secret” spots are simply hidden in plain view.

Consider Cook’s Meadow. Many people make pilgrimages to Lower Yosemite Fall—just across the street—yet surprisingly few take the quick stroll around this beautiful meadow. Meadows are home to so much life. In fact, nowhere in Yosemite will you find greater diversity of plants and animals. Deer, bears, numerous birds, and an unbelievable number of smaller creatures all depend upon the amazing variety of plants found there.

Upriver you can find another, and perhaps my original, favorite place. It has no waterfall, no grand vista. Yet, if
**Entrance Fees**

Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite National Park.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Validity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>Valid for 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for 7 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Pass</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>Valid for one year in Yosemite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interagency Annual Pass</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interagency Senior Pass</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>(Lifetime) For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interagency Access Pass Free</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Lifetime) For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INFORMATION OUTSIDE THE PARK**

**Highway 120**
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce
800/446-9120 or 209/962-0429
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
800/446-1333
www.visitorcenter.com

**Highway 41**
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/683-4656
www.yosemite41year.com

**Highway 132/49**
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/783-1374

**Highway 140/49**
Yosemite Mariposa Tourism Bureau (also info for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Buck Meadows)
209/425-3566 or 209/384-7081
www.visitorcenter.com

**Highway 120 East**
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake
Visitor Center
760/947-6629
lee@vining.com

**Highway 41**
California Welcome Center, Merced
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791
www.yosemite-gateway.org

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**Yosemite Valley**

**1. Yosemite Valley**
Yosemite Valley is world famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 west from Manteo, and in late spring through late fall via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining.

**2. Wawona and Mariposa Grove**
The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1½ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park’s South Entrance station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed from sometime in December to April. The nearby 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.

**3. Glacier Point**
Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Sierra Nevada, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road. Glacier Point Road is open from late May or early June through sometime in November. Mid-December through March, the road is plowed only as far as Badger Pass Ski Area.

**4. Crane Flat**
Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk 2 steep miles down to this small grove.

**5. Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road**
The Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. It is generally open from late May or early June through sometime in November. The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. Along this corridor lies Tuolumne Meadows. Here, the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River meanders peacefully amid wildflowers, domes, and views of high mountain peaks.

**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 wilderness trails. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 7 am to 9 pm.
Your Visit to Yosemite National Park

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 the *Guidebook to Yosemite*, published by Yosemite Association, are available at visitor center bookstores or by mail.

(Yosemite Association Bookstore, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, 209/379-2648, fax 209/379-2486, or www.yosemitestore.com.)

If you have...

1 Day

Park your car in Yosemite Village and ride the free shuttle bus around Yosemite Valley to popular destinations. Be sure to stop at the Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Museum to learn more about Yosemite’s story and view the park’s award-winning, 23-minute film *Spirit of Yosemite*. Attend a special event, ranger program, or guided tour (see pages 12-19). The popular Valley Floor Tour is a two-hour open-air tram tour that takes you past many of the Valley’s unique features.

A great way to see any area of the park is to meander along a trail, bike path, or meadow boardwalk. Pick up self-guiding trail brochure, *A Changing Yosemite*, in front of the Valley Visitor Center and follow the trail posts along Cook’s Meadow. The short walk to the base of Lower Yosemite Fall is well worth it, especially during the spring season, when the waterfall thunders down the Valley wall. See page 21 for some other trail options, including other self-guiding trails. Before leaving the park, visit giant sequoias in the Mariposa, Tuolumne, or Merced Groves.

2 Days

Consider the suggestions for one day, but perhaps choose two areas of the park to explore. Take in the bird’s-eye view of the Valley from Glacier Point and perhaps take a hike to Sentinel Dome or Taft Point. Choose a longer hike to venture more deeply into the Yosemite Wilderness. You might enjoy the features of Yosemite while pedaling a bike, floating on a leisurely raft trip, or riding on horseback. Travel back in time on a horse-drawn stage ride or during a blacksmith demonstration in Wawona. Hike or take a tram tour through the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.

Travel the Tioga Road, where spectacular scenery, vast meadows, and mountain lakes await you. Choose places to stop, picnic, hike, and spend more time based on what appeals most to you. Stop at Olmsted Point for incredible views of Half Dome, Clouds Rest, and Tenaya Canyon. Climb a dome near Tuolomne Meadows. Nightly programs are available (see pages 12-19). Night sky programs, evening talks, campfires, and theater performances are just a few options that may be available on the nights you are here.

3 Days

For a three-day trip, you could visit all areas or spend your time becoming intimate with one. If your goal is to cover as much of the park as possible, don’t miss Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point, the Tioga Road, Tuolumne Meadows, and a giant sequoia grove. You might take advantage of an art class at Yosemite Art and Education Center or participate in a Yosemite Association Outdoor Adventures. To improve outdoor skills, Yosemite Mountaineering School offers programs, guide services, and classes.

or if you are...

Returning

Visit a new area of the park—or focus just in one favorite location. For unique scenery as well as access to the northern Yosemite Wilderness, perhaps travel to Hetch Hetchy. No matter where you are exploring, attend a program or event to learn something new. To increase your involvement, take part in a volunteer clean-up or resource protection project. Attend a park open house to learn about future projects and how to help shape Yosemite’s future (see page 22). Explore the potential for becoming a Yosemite Association volunteer to spend a month living and volunteering in Yosemite.

Additional Information

**Religious Services**

- **YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH** (Non-denominational Christian)
  - Wedding information at www.yosemitekeychapel.org
- **WORSHIP SERVICES: YOSEMITE VALLEY CHAPEL**
  - Sunday 9:15 am, 11 am and 6:30 pm
    - Thursday 7 pm
  - Tuesday Women’s Bible Study 6:30 pm
    - Held at Pastor Brent’s home, call 209/372-4831
  - Tuesday Men’s Bible Study 7 pm
- **Campground Worship Services in Lower Pines (Yosemite Valley), Wawona, and Tuolumne Meadows** at 9 am Sunday
- **ROMAN CATHOLIC**
  - Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater
    - Saturday Mass 7:30 pm
    - Sunday Mass 10 am

**CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)**

- El Portal Chapel/Worship Service
  - Sunday 11 am
- **CROSSWAY TRIBE OF JESUS CHRISTIAN PROTESTANT**
  - Worship Gathering Wednesday 7:30 pm
  - Yosemite Valley Chapel
- **THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**
  - Sacramento Meeting at Yosemite Valley Chapel
  - Sunday 1 pm

**SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST**

- Yosemite Valley at Lower River Amphitheater, across bridge from Housekeeping Camp or left at gate, approx. 1/2 mile north of Stoneman Bridge. Saturday Service (no services July 19)
  - Music: 9:45 am/Sabbath School 10 am
  - Worship Service 11 am/Polk Luck Picnic 12:30 pm
  - Coordinators: Ray & Edie DeFeo 209/588-4325

**Service Organizations**

- **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**
  - 7:30 pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday
- **LIONS CLUB**
  - Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4475.
- **ROARY INTERNATIONAL**
  - Meets Thursdays for lunch at noon in The Ahwahnee Mural Room. Visiting Rotarian families and guests welcome. For meeting reservations or information, call 209/372-8459.

**More Information**

- **BY PHONE & WEB**
  - Recorded General Park Information including:
    - Road & Weather Conditions, Trip Planning Information, etc. 209/372-0200
  - Western U.S. National Parks 415/556-5560
- **ON THE WEB**
  - **Yosemite National Park** www.nps.gov/yose
  - The Ansel Adams Gallery www.anseladam.com
  - **Camping Reservations** www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/camping.htm
  - **DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite** www.yosemitetpark.com
  - **Regional Information** www.yosemite.com
  - **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)** www.yarts.com
  - **Yosemite Association** www.yosemite.org
  - **Yosemite Fund** www.yosemitefund.org
  - **Yosemite Institute** www.yi.org
- **RESERVATIONS**
  - Campground Reservations (callers from U.S. and Canada) 877/444-6777
  - TTY (toll-free) 877/883-6777
  - Campground Reservations (international callers only) 510/885-3639
  - **Lodging Reservations** 801/355-5000
  - **Yosemite National Park**
  - **VISITOR CENTERS**
    - Excellent resources for park information, wilderness permits, and park-related publications and handouts.
- **Yosemite Valley Visitor Center**
  - Open daily all year. Current hours: 9 am to 7 pm
- **Big Oak Flat Information Station**
  - Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall. Current hours: 9 am to 7 pm
  - **Wawona Information Station** at Hill’s Studio (next to Wawona Hotel) Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall. Current hours: 8:30 am to 5 pm (weekends until 6 pm)
  - **Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center**
    - Closed in winter and spring; generally open June through September. Current hours: 9 am to 6 pm
Yosemite Valley

Where to Go & What to Do

Experience Yosemite Valley
A great variety of programs, services, and events are available in Yosemite Valley. The following four pages describe these offerings and hours of operation to help you guide your adventure.

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore
Open 9 am to 7 pm and located in Yosemite Village just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #3 and #9), the visitor center offers information, maps, and books.

Explore the new exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite’s spectacular landscape was formed, how people have interacted with it through the centuries, how wildlife adapts and survives, and how your national park continues to evolve.

FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE
This inspiring visitor-orientation film provides a stunning overview of Yosemite’s splendor. It is shown every 30 minutes, Monday through Saturday between 9:30 am and 6:30 pm, and Sunday noon to 6:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

MUSEUM GALLERY
Open 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm.

GRANITE FRONTIERS: A CENTURY OF YOSEMITE CLIMBING
Through October 27
The Yosemite Museum hosts an exhibit on the park’s climbing history, featuring artifacts, movies, and stories covering the development of rock climbing. The exhibit is sponsored by The Yosemite Fund and was produced by the Yosemite Climbing Association.

The Indian Village of Ahwahnee
Located behind the Yosemite Museum and open daily, the village offers a self-guiding trail brochure and exhibits on Ahwahneechee life.

Yosemite Cemetery
This historic cemetery is located just west of the Yosemite Museum, across the street. People buried here include American Indians and others who played an important role in the development of what is now Yosemite National Park. Guide to the Yosemite Cemetery is available at the Valley Visitor Center.

Valley Wilderness Center
Open 7:30 am to 5 pm and located in Yosemite Village next to The Ansel Adams Gallery, the center offers wilderness permits, bear canisters, maps, and guidebooks. Information on pre-trip planning, minimum-impact camping, and Yosemite Wilderness is also available.

Yosemite Theatre-LIVE
Join us for Yosemite Theatre! Shows presented live in the Valley Visitor Center Theater. Heart tales of John Muir, Buffalo Soldier Elizy Boman, or see renowned climber Ron Kauk, as filmed by Sterling Johnson. Tickets cost $8 adults and $4 children 12 and under, and are sold in advance at any tour desk, or at the door (if available). See page 15 for dates and times.

The Ansel Adams Gallery
Located in Yosemite Village next to The Ansel Adams Gallery, the center offers information about Yosemite. Open 7:30 am to 5 pm and located in Yosemite Village next to The Ansel Adams Gallery, the center offers information, call 209/372-4542.

nioK ConTrAST
Beginning July 16. Owens is best known for her detailed portrayals of natural objects, such as leaves and feathers, in watercolor. Otwell, working primarily in acrylic, employs brush and palette knife to create vivid landscapes. Artist’s reception at the gallery July 18, 4 to 6 pm.

Day-Use Parking Information Station
Located in the main visitor parking area, and open 10 am to 4 pm, the station offers information about Yosemite.

LeConte Memorial Lodge
Open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm, and located at shuttle stop #12, LeConte Memorial Lodge, Yosemite’s first public visitor center, is operated by the Sierra Club and features a children’s corner, library, and a variety of environmental education and evening programs. For more information, call 209/372-4542.

Nature Center at Happy Isles
Open 9:30 am to 5 pm. Designed for nature-exploring families, this center offers natural history exhibits, interactive displays, field guides, and maps. Nearby are short trails through forest, river, and fen. The center is a short walk from shuttle stop #16.

SALLY O WENs & PENNY OTWELL: INTERPLAY: YOSEMITE PAINTING
Beginning July 16, Owens is best known for her detailed portrayals of natural objects, such as leaves and feathers, in watercolor. Otwell, working primarily in acrylic, employs brush and palette knife to create vivid landscapes. Artist’s reception at the gallery July 18, 4 to 6 pm.

Above Left: Ranger Stroll. Photo by Bob Arvey
Above Middle: Half Dome. NPS Photo
Above Right: Upper Yosemite Fall. Photo by Victoria Mates
SCHEDULED EVENTS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY
June 11 – July 22, 2008

Outdoor Adventures
Join Yosemite Association for these experiences. Call 209/372-3231 or visit www.yosemite.org for more program information and cost.

June 14, Breeding Yosemite Valley
June 15, Forester Birds
June 16-18, North Dome Moonrise
June 21, Get Lost with a Ranger
June 28, Glacier Point Birding
July 10-13, Glen Ahlun and 

Adventure Hikes
Join the Yosemite Mounta in eering School for extended hikes to popular Valley destinations like Vernal and Nevada Falls. See program dates and times to the right. Call 209/372-8344.

Wednesday Night Art in the Village
Explore Yosemite through the eyes of an artist at the Yosemite Art and Education Center and The Ansel Adams Gallery. Every Thursday evening from 5 pm to 6:30 pm, come join us for refreshments and celebrate and enjoy art in Yosemite.

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite
Fridays, 9 am to 1 pm, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
Join NPS restoration efforts. Get your hands dirty and help preserve one of America’s natural wonders. Volunteers will work on restoration projects and learn about efforts to help restore the Valley. Wear long pants and closed-toe boots. Long sleeves, water, snacks, and sunblock are recommended. Groups larger than ten are required to register. For more info, please contact Manuela Debeau at 209/379-1304 or Manuela.debeau@nsi.gov

Free Art Classes
The Yosemite Art and Education Center offers free classes Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Be prepared for a short walk and bring something to sit on. Bring your own supplies, or buy them at the center, located near the Village Store. Please register in advance.

June 16 – 21, Tom Fong Watercolor – Bold & Free
June 23 – 28, Don Fay Watercolor for Landscape
July 30 – July 5, Pastel Painting Workshop
July 7 – 12, Patricia Devitt: Painting Yosemite in Acrylic

A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of- hearing visitors. Contact 209/372-4736 (TTY) or 209/372-0296 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 days is requested.

Assistant Listening Devices are available upon advanced request. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advanced request. Notice of 2 days is requested. Interpretation services are especially for CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Programs printed in COLOR are especially for CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

NPS National Park Service
DNC DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
AAAG The Ansel Adams Gallery
AAC American Alpine Club
SC Sierra Club
YA Yosemite Association
YMYS Yosemite Mounta in eering School
YF Yosemite Fund
$ Programs offered for a fee

Indicates facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Short, steep inclines may be encountered.

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park
Wawona, Mariposa Grove and Glacier Point

Where to Go & What to Do

Explore History
Discover Giant Trees Find Amazing Vistas
These park areas offer endless opportunities for amazing experiences.

Wawona & Mariposa Grove

Evening Programs
Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite’s past. Once or twice a week, he will present an hour-long interpretive program on the vintage songs of Yosemite or the history of Wawona with slide or music accompaniment. Check with Tom at the piano for dates and times.

Ranger Evening Programs
Join in a park tradition by joining a ranger for an hour of stories, legends, and fun. Topics vary each night. See Page 17 for dates and times.

Wawona Information Station at Hill’s Studio
Open 8:30 am to 6 pm (Fridays and Saturdays to 6 pm), the station offers information, trail information, books, bear canister rentals, and maps. Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, Hill’s Studio was the gallery and art studio of famous 19th-century landscape painter, Thomas Hill. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona Store parking area and follow the path up the hill. For more information call 209/375-9531.

Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explores Yosemite’s history and explains how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and around the world. The center is always open, and interpretive signs and brochures are available.

LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS
See Page 17 for dates and times.

EXPERIENCE HORSE-DRAWN TRAVEL
Travel into history by taking a 10-minute horse-drawn stage ride. Tickets may be purchased at the Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. $3/adults and $2/child (ages 3-12).

BLACKSMITH SHOP
Smell the burning coal, hear the ring of the hammer on the anvil, and watch a demonstration of the ancient art of blacksmithing.

Mariposa Grove
Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area. Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area.

Getting to Mariposa Grove
Allow 1½ hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot. The access road to the grove may close intermittently due to limited parking. Trailers are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road. Private vehicles longer than 25 feet are not permitted on this road.

FREE MARIPOSA GROVE & WAWONA SHUTTLE
A shuttle stops at the Wawona Store, South Entrance, and Mariposa Grove. Visitors may park at the Wawona Store to board the bus. Shuttles operate beginning at 9 am, and the last shuttle leaves the grove at 6 pm, or after the last tour. Please use this free bus service to help reduce congestion and parking delays.

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE BETWEEN WAWOINA AND YOSEMITE VALLEY
Bus departs daily from the Wawona Hotel at 8:30 am and from the Wawona Store at 8:35 am. Return trip departs from Yosemite Lodge at 3:30 pm.

Mariposa Grove Museum
Open 10 am to 4 pm. Located in the Upper Mariposa Grove, the museum offers information, displays on giant sequoias, and a small bookstore.

Walking through the Grove
Trails into the grove extend uphill from the trailhead at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the California Tree provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations are available at the trailhead in Spanish, German, French, and Japanese.

Distance & Elevation
Grizzly Giant
Distance from trailhead: 0.8 mile / 1.3km
Elevation Gain: 400ft / 122m

Grove Museum
Distance from trailhead: 2.1 miles / 3.3km
Elevation Gain: 800ft / 292m

Fallen Tunnel Tree
Distance from trailhead: 2.5 miles / 4.0km
Elevation Gain: 1,000ft / 305m

Wawona Point
Distance from trailhead: 3.0 miles / 4.8km
Elevation Gain: 1,200ft / 488m

Programs printed in
COLOR
are especially for
Children & their Families
Ranger Walks
Join a ranger for a walk to discover Yosemite’s unique, tucked-away places. See a pioneer cabin near a beautiful meadow, explore the red fir forest, or hike to a seldom-seen waterfall.

Evening Programs
Meet a ranger to enjoy the lengthening days in Yosemite Valley and the alpenglow on the Sierra high country, or come for the sunset and stay for the moonrise. Stargazing programs are offered, as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger in Wawona Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Junior Rangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove, 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Jblacksmith Demonstration Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Horse-Drawn Stage Rides 10 min. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>A Glimpse of the Wawona Miwok Indians (2020 only) 1 hr. George Anderson’s cabin, Pioneer Yosemite Hist. Ctr. (NPS)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Evening Stroll with a Ranger 1 hr. Wawona Hotel fountain (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Campfire Talk with a Ranger (Beginning June 21) 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)</td>
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17
Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, Crane Flat, and Hetch Hetchy

Where to Go & What to Do

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Open 9 am to 5 pm (6 pm beginning June 21). Park orientation, trail information, books, maps, and displays. Phone 209/372-0263.

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin and Soda Springs
Two trails, both flat and ¾-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge is open beginning late June from 10 am to 4 pm. Soda Springs are small naturally carbonated springs that attract birds and butterflies. Free shuttle service is available during the summer along the Tioga Road from Olmsted Point to Tioga Pass. Due to limited trailhead parking, use of the free shuttle is strongly advised. Shuttles travel between Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and Olmsted Point with stops along the Tioga Road, including Tuolumne Meadows Campground and the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. The shuttle also makes morning and afternoon runs to Tioga Pass. Service begins at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge at 7 am. Shuttles arrive at approximately 30-minute intervals between 7 am and 7 pm. The last shuttle leaves Olmsted Point at 6 pm. Schedules are subject to change. Please check route maps at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center or shuttle stops for details.

Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series
These inspiring programs begin at 2 pm and last approximately one hour, unless noted otherwise. Allow 30 minutes walking time to Parsons Memorial Lodge from either Lembert Dome or the Parsons Meadows Visitors Center. Admission is free.

Saturday, July 19
Lightning: What Strikes Our Fancy Slide presentation by Dr. Jan van Wagendorp, Research Scientist, USGS Field Station.

Sunday, July 20
Bats, Birds, and Butterflies: Illuminating the High Sierra through Stories Performance by Anne Carla Rovetta, naturalist, illustrator, and storyteller.

Free Olmsted Point/Tuolumne Meadows/Tioga Pass Shuttle
Free shuttle service is available during the summer along the Tioga Road from Olmsted Point to Tioga Pass. Due to limited trailhead parking, use of the free shuttle is strongly advised. Shuttles travel between Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and Olmsted Point with stops along the Tioga Road, including Tuolumne Meadows Campground and the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. The shuttle also makes morning and afternoon runs to Tioga Pass. Service begins at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge at 7 am. Shuttles arrive at approximately 30-minute intervals between 7 am and 7 pm. The last shuttle leaves Olmsted Point at 6 pm. Schedules are subject to change. Please check route maps at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center or shuttle stops for details.

Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center
Open 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. Located just south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadow Lodge, at shuttle stop #3. The center offers trail information, Wilderness permits, bear canister rental, maps, and guidebooks.

Just for Kids
Programs for children include Junior Rangers, a two-hour, ranger-led program for children (ages 7–12), and Campfire for Kids.

Ranger Walks
Join a ranger to explore new areas and learn about geology, birds, flowers, history, the Tuolumne River, and more. These walks range from one to eight hours and, except for the longer walks, are fairly easy. On Fridays end your day with a Music Walk. This easy stroll will inspire and delight.

Evening Activities
Join a ranger for campfire, songs, storytelling, and answers to some of your questions about Yosemite. Program topics vary, and are posted at the campground, Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. End your day with a Star Program or Night Prowl. Bring a pad to sit on for the Star Program and dress warmly. Sign up in advance for the Night Prowl at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center.

High Sierra Peaks and Quiet Corners of the Park
These areas of the park offer amazing vistas and opportunities for solitude. Hiking, backpacking, and ranger-led programs are popular activities here.

Tuolumne Meadows

Big Oak Flat

Big Oak Flat Information Station
Open 8 am to 4:30 pm. The station offers general park information, books, and maps. It also provides wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, and backpacking information.

Merced Grove
Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees accessible only on foot. It’s a four-mile round-trip hike (about three hours) into the grove from Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). Located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance, the trailhead is marked by a road sign and post labeled B-10.

Tuolumne Grove
This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. Now closed to cars, this path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip is moderately strenuous on the uphill return. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.
## Hetch Hetchy

**Tuolumne Meadows**

**Tuolumne Meadows Grill**
- Sunday – Thursday: 8am to 8pm
- Friday – Saturday: 8am to 8pm

**Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Dining Room**
- Breakfast: 7am to 9am
- Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm

Meals are served family style, and reservations are required.
- Call 209/372-8416

**White Wolf Lodge**
- Opens June 13
- Breakfast: 7:30am to 9:30am
- Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm

**Camp Store**
- 8am to 8pm

**Tuolumne Meadows Camp Store**
- 9am to 6pm

**Visitor Center**
- 8am to 6pm

**Visitor Center Programs**
- Printed in July

**Programs**

**Photographing Tuolummes** (Beginning June 21) 1 hr. Campfire

**Ranger Hike – Dome** (Beginning June 22) 8 hrs. Domes Picnic Area (NPS)

**Birding with a Ranger** (Beginning June 26) 2½ hrs. Pothole Dome shuttle stop #8, Road marker T-29 (NPS)

**Ranger Hike – O'Shaughnessy Dam** (Beginning June 27) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)

**Junior Ranger Program**
- Ranger Hike – Bikes (Beginning June 28) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)

**Programs**

**Activities**

**Coffee with a Ranger** (Beginning June 22 if campground open)
- Bring questions and a cup (NPS)
- 1 hr. Crane Flat Campground Amphitheater
- Bring a mug (NPS)

**Ranger Hike – Bikes** (Beginning June 25) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)

**Campfire** (Beginning June 25) 1 hr. Crane Flat Campground Amphitheater

**Ranger Hike – Hetch Hetchy** (except June 24) 1 hr. Crane Flat campfire circle (NPS)

**Ranger Hike – Bears** (except June 24 & 27) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)

**Ranger Stroll – Wildflowers** (except July 5) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)

**Ranger Talk – Bears** (Beginning June 28) 1 hr. Lembert Dome Picnic Area (NPS)

**Ranger Talk – Botany** (Beginning June 22) 1½ hrs. Crane Flat Campfire circle (NPS)

**Coffee with a Ranger** (Beginning June 22 if campground open)
- Bring questions and a cup (NPS)
- 1 hr. Crane Flat Campground Amphitheater

**Ranger Hike – Bikes** (Beginning June 25) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)

**Coffee with a Ranger** (Beginning June 22 if campground open)
- Bring questions and a cup (NPS)
- 1 hr. Crane Flat Campground Amphitheater

**Ranger Hike – North Dome** (except June 15 & 22)
- 7 hrs. Struensea 11-mile hike. Purchase Creek trail head on Tioga Road, 1.2 miles east of Pothole Flat Campground. Bring water, lunch, & renter (NPS)

**Ranger Campfire Program**
- 2 hrs. End of Tuolumne Lake shuttle stop 49 (NPS)

**Ranger Hike – Bears** (except June 15 & 22) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)

**Ranger Campfire Program**
- 2 hrs. End of Tuolumne Lake shuttle stop 49 (NPS)

**Ranger Talk – Bears** (Beginning June 28) 1 hr. Lembert Dome Picnic Area (NPS)

**Ranger Talk – Botany** (Beginning June 22) 1½ hrs. Crane Flat Campfire circle (NPS)

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**Ranger Hike – Dome** (Beginning June 22) 8 hrs. Domes Picnic Area (NPS)

**Birding with a Ranger** (Beginning June 26) 2½ hrs. Pothole Dome shuttle stop #8, Road marker T-29 (NPS)

**Senior Ranger** (Beginning June 24)
- 2 hrs. Lembert Dome Picnic Area (NPS)

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A primitive overnight experience

Yosemite National Park contains 13 popular campgrounds. Up to seven are on a reservation system, the rest are first-come, first-served. From April through September, reservations are essential and the first-come, first-served sites often fill by noon during these months.

For campground reservations, visit www.recreation.gov (recommended) or call 877/444-6777 or TDD 877/833-6777 or 518/885-3639 from outside the US and Canada.

**Camping Reservations**

Reservations are required year-round for campers in Yosemite Valley’s car campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served. Campground reservations are available up to five months in advance, in the 15th of each month at 7 am Pacific time. Log onto the website or call as soon as possible as some campgrounds fill within several minutes of the opening period.

**Hours**

7 am to 7 pm Pacific time (November through February)
7 am to 9 pm Pacific time (March through October)

**Reservation centers in the park**

Located in the visitor parking area at Curry Village (shuttle bus stop #14), the Tuolumne Meadows Campground entrance, in Wawona off Chilnualna Falls Road, and at Big Oak Flat Information Station.

**Yosemite Valley**

There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in a calendar year; however, May 1 to September 15, the camping limit is 14 days and only seven of those days can be in Yosemite Valley or Wawona.

Camp 4 is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis; these campers are not wheelchair accessible. Sites are available on a per-person basis, and six people will be placed in each campsite, regardless of number of people in your party. Camp 4 often fills before 9 am each day, May through September.

**Camping in Areas Surrounding Yosemite**

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite. For additional information, contact Groveland Ranger Station at 209/962-7825; Mariposa Ranger Station at 209/966-3638; Mono Lake Ranger Station at 760/647-3044; or Oakhurst Ranger Station at 559/683-4636. For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 10.

**Group Campgrounds**

There are group campsites at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds. Reservations can be made the same way as individual site reservations; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campground. Tent camping only. Pets, RVs, and generators are not permitted in group sites.

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**General Info...**

- **Services**
  - All sites include picnic tables, firepits or grills, tent space, parking, and a food locker (33"d x 45"w x 18"h). See page 5 for food storage regulations.
  - Shower and laundry facilities are available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat contain non-flushing vault toilets only and no potable water.
  - Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley.
  - RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat campgrounds, and RVs are not permitted in walk-in and group campsites. There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows.

- **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 pm to 6 am.
  - Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

- **Firepits and Generators**
  - Firewood collection (including pine cones and pine needles) is not permitted in Yosemite Valley, you may purchase firewood at stores near the campgrounds.

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**Campgrounds in Yosemite National Park**

- **Yosemite Valley**
  - **Upper Pines**
    - All year
    - 35 ft
    - 24 ft
    - First-come, first-served
    - $20
    - Pets: Yes
    - Water: Tap
  - **Lower Pines**
    - April 11 – Nov 3
    - 40 ft
    - 35 ft
    - First-come, first-served
    - $20
    - Pets: Yes
    - Water: Tap
  - **North Pines**
    - Mar 21 – Oct 13
    - 40 ft
    - 35 ft
    - First-come, first-served
    - $20
    - Pets: Yes
    - Water: Tap
  - **Camp 4**
    - All year
    - No RVs/trailers
    - First-come, first-served
    - $3/person
    - Pets: Yes
    - Water: Tap

- **South of Yosemite Valley**
  - **Wawona**
    - All year
    - 35 ft
    - 35 ft
    - Apr 20 – Sep 27
    - $20
    - Pets: Yes
    - Water: Tap
  - **Bridalveil Creek**
    - July – Sep 1
    - 35 ft
    - 24 ft
    - First-come, first-served
    - $14
    - Pets: Yes
    - Water: Tap

- **North of Yosemite Valley**
  - **Hodgdon Meadow**
    - All year
    - 35 ft
    - 27 ft
    - Apr 20 – Oct 9
    - $20
    - Pets: Yes
    - Water: Tap
  - **Crane Flat**
    - Jun 20 – Oct 13
    - 35 ft
    - 27 ft
    - First-come, first-served
    - $20
    - Pets: Yes
    - Water: Tap
  - **Tamarack Flat**
    - July 14 – Oct 15
    - 24 ft
    - 20 ft
    - First-come, first-served
    - $10
    - Pets: Yes
    - Water: Tap
  - **White Wolf**
    - July – Sep 15
    - 27 ft
    - 24 ft
    - First-come, first-served
    - $14
    - Pets: Yes
    - Water: Tap
  - **Tuolumne Meadows**
    - July 15 – Sep 28
    - 35 ft
    - 35 ft
    - First-come, first-served
    - $20
    - Pets: Yes
    - Water: Tap
Hiking
On the Trails
Discover an easy stroll or a challenging hike

Choose your adventure
With over 800 miles of hiking trails, what better way to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite than on foot? Ask a ranger at any visitor center for one of several free, day-hike handouts. Excellent maps and guidebooks are available at bookstores throughout the park.

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock</td>
<td>Camp 4 Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 2-3 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round-trip, 6-8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 2,700-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #10</td>
<td>1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #10</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>7 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,900-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>14 mi (via Mist Trail) or 16.3 mi (via John Muir Trail) round-trip, 10-12 hours</td>
<td>Extremely Strenuous, 4,800-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 3-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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Day Hikes Outside of Yosemite Valley

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<tr>
<td>Wawona Meadow Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Hotel</td>
<td>3.5 miles round-trip, 1.5 hours</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swinging Bridge Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Store / Pioneer Yosemite Hist. Ctr. Parking Area</td>
<td>4.75 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taft Point</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel Dome</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda Springs / Parsons Lodge</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>1.5 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambert Dome</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Muir Trail through Lysil Canyon</td>
<td>Dog Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy, 200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lake</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Group Campground</td>
<td>4.8 miles round-trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenaya Lake</td>
<td>White Wolf(^1)</td>
<td>5.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Pouropine Creek</td>
<td>Pouropine Creek(^1)</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 3,000- to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lukens Lake Trailhead(^2)</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake(^2)</td>
<td>19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers’ Bus.

Self-Guided Trails

A Changing Yosemite
This one-mile-long walk through Cook’s Meadow explores both natural and cultural stories of Yosemite. Brochure available at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

Giant Sequoias
Two self-guiding trails in the Mariposa Grove, and one in the Tuolumne Grove, interpret the natural history and ecological dynamics of the giant sequoia community.

Mirror Lake
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 one mile from shuttle stop #17 to the disabled parking spaces near the lake. The self-guiding trail begins here.

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

Curry Village
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 Villagefront desk or tour desk.

Masthead: Hikers. Illustration by Lawrence W. Duke
Top Left: Hikers. Photo by Bob Roney
Top Right: Hikers. Photo by Bob Roney
What’s Happening
Improvement Efforts in Yosemite

During your visit
This year, visitors to Yosemite may notice a flurry of 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.

Preparing for the next one hundred years: The Centennial Challenge
As the national park service nears its 100th anniversary in 2016, the parks are preparing for another century of environmental leadership, stewardship, recreational experience, education, and professional excellence. As a result, you will notice some positive changes. More park rangers will be available this summer to interact with you during your visit. More underserved students will be able to attend Yosemite Institute’s field science program. The Happy Isles Nature Center will become the hub of extended hours and a greater variety of program options for youth visiting the park.

Part of the Centennial Challenge is a landmark public-private partnership program. As part of this, The Yosemite Fund and Yosemite National Park have joined efforts to make improvements to the Tunnel View scenic overlook. To enhance visitor experience, protection of resources, and safety, members of The Yosemite Fund are contributing $2 million, while $1 million is coming from a special match from the National Park Service.

On-going Projects
Yosemite National Park is a complex place to manage. The National Park Service strives to protect park resources while providing an excellent experience for park visitors. In order to fulfill this important mission, a number of park improvement projects are currently underway, including:

• Management plans for the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers and their environs.
• Development of a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan to guide education and interpretation programming.
• Accessibility improvements for people with disabilities.
• Ecological restoration efforts that will improve meadow and river areas.

Entrance Fees
To help the National Park Service, Congress authorized the Recreation Fee Program. In addition to providing admission into Yosemite, your fees support projects in the park as well as other sites in the National Park System. When you visit a Fee site, you help the Nation’s heritage for future generations.

To Learn more about Park Improvement Efforts, visit online at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning
Enhance the Visitor’s Experience
It takes a legion of people working together to protect this special park for you and future generations of visitors. You, too, can extend your connection to Yosemite well after you return home by getting involved with the organizations that partner to preserve Yosemite.

This publication was made possible by the Yosemite Park Partners listed on this page. Read more below or visit www.yosemitepartners.org to learn more about helping these organizations provide for the future of Yosemite National Park.

The Ansel Adams Gallery
The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates the arts and the natural grandeur of our environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world by offering visitors a unique variety of literature and art, as well as programs that inspire creativity. Visit online at www.anseladams.com

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite
DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite (DNC) operates hotels, restaurants, sightseeing tours, recreational activities, interpretive programs, stores, shuttles and service stations in the park under contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior. DNC encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure. For more information and employment opportunities with DNC at Yosemite, visit online at www.YosemitePark.com

Yosemite Association
The Yosemite Association (Association) is a nonprofit membership organization that provides opportunities for people to learn about, enjoy, and experience Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada. We celebrate the majesty and grandeur of this region through our visitor services, publications, outdoor classroom, and membership activities, which give people of all ages the chance to forge an enduring and inspirational connection to Yosemite. This, in turn, builds a commitment to the long-term preservation and vitality of Yosemite and our National Parks. Since 1923, the Association has provided important services and financial support to the National Park Service. Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to become more closely involved and affiliated with the park will enjoy membership in the Association. For more information, visit www.yosemite.org.

Yosemite Institute
Since 1971, thousands of school-age children have benefited from learning in “nature’s classroom” through the residential field-science programs offered by Yosemite Institute (YI). A YI experience strives to foster a life-long connection to the natural world—whether it is in Yosemite, on a city street or in our own backyards. YI also offers professional development for teachers, summer youth programs, backpacking adventures, community outreach programs and service learning projects. For more information, visit www.yni.org/yi.

The Yosemite Fund
The Fund provides broad-based private funding from 27,000 members for projects that preserve, protect, or enhance Yosemite Park. Fund operations result in material improvement in the stewardship and quality of Yosemite’s natural, cultural or historical resources or the visitor experience. Fund grants repair trails, restore habitat, conduct scientific research, enhance visitor education, preserve park history, and protect wildlife. Since 1988 the Fund has provided over $50 million to complete more than 200 projects. Visit online at www.yosemitefund.org.

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Supporting
Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s Future

Above right: El Capitan. NPS Photo