Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide

July 23 - September 2

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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, granite 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 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 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—bring you nearer to the heart of Yosemite. During your visit to Yosemite, perhaps you too will make a lasting connection with this place.

An Internationally Recognized Park

Designated a World Heritage Site in 1984, Yosemite is internationally recognized for its spectacular granite cliffs, waterfalls, clear streams, giant sequoia groves, and biological diversity.

Entering a National Park

Prepare yourself for a wild experience. Yosemite is a place where natural forces—such as rockfall, fire, and flood—are constantly at work. Here, wildlife freely roams. This is a place where wilderness prevails. The National Park Service recognizes the importance of Yosemite’s natural processes and is bound by its mission to protect them for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. While you are enjoying your visit, be attentive to the special regulations in place to protect park resources (page 6) and those designed for your safety (page 7).

Fire - Police - Medical Emergency: Dial 911

Road, Weather, and General Park Information: 209/372-0200

Yosemite Wilderness

Congress has designated nearly 95 percent of Yosemite National Park as Yosemite Wilderness. Wilderness is meant to protect the land’s natural conditions, scientific, educational, ecological, and historic values; and provide opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. To learn more about how to plan your trip and reduce your impact on the Wilderness during your visit, see pages 6 and 7.

Park Access & Parking

The Yosemite Accessibility Guide is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm.TTYs are available inside Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee, and outside the Valley Visitor Center and Curry Village office. Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue-and-white accessibility signs.

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

Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.

Weather

Sudden changes in weather are common in the Sierra Nevada. Check at a park visitor center for the most up-to-date weather forecast. The National Weather Service broadcasts weather information for Yosemite National Park 24 hours a day on NOAA Weather Radio station KAD-94, on a frequency of 162.450 MHz. Please note that reception may not be available in remote areas.

Road Information

Construction may cause short delays or detours on some park roads. Call 209/372-0200 for recorded road 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 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/379-1001.

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Exploring Yosemite

Spectacular Vistas and Quiet Corners of the Park

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.

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. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted 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 (¾ 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. (7 pm starting August 18) 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, rides depart daily. Call 209/372-8348. The stables are located at shuttle stop #18 and are open 7 am to 5 pm.
Wawona

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/Taff Trailhead to the top of Sentinel Dome. For a hike to deep fissures and an overhanging lookout point, choose the trail to Taff 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 hiking departures departing from Tuolumne Meadows and arriving in Yosemite Valley, take advantage of the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers’ Bus, which departs from Yosemite Lodge at 8:20 am daily. Call 209/372-1240 for information.

To experience the Tuolumne Meadows area on mule or horseback, visit the Tuolumne Meadows Stable. Open 7 am to 5 pm. Call 209/372-8427.

Tioga Road

Originally a wagon road built by the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Company in 1883, the Tioga Road 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 easier access to previously remote high-country destinations. This road is generally closed from November to late May or early June. There are several stops along the road that are worth a visit.

At 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 a peaceful lake, such as Harden Lake (a mostly flat six-mile round trip). You will find the trailhead located near the campground in the heart of White Wolf.

Olmsted Point is located about midway between White Wolf and Tuolumne Meadows. This overlook offers one of the most spectacular vistas anywhere in the park. Here, the sheer granite walls of Tenaya Canyon and Clouds Rest frame a magnificent view of Half Dome.

A few minutes east of Olmsted Point is Tenaya Lake, named for the leader of Yosemite Valley’s native people when 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 Road has restricted hours. 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.”

Hetch Hetchy is located along the Tuolumne River in the northern part of the park and now contains a reservoir created by the O’Shaughnessy Dam. This dam was built to provide water for the city of San Francisco, and the dam was completed in 1923 and raised to its present height in 1938. Hetch Hetchy’s towering cliffs and plunging waterfalls make this a popular hiking area from spring to fall. Hetch Hetchy’s relatively low elevation gives the area one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite. Lake Eleanor is also nestled in the northwestern edge of Yosemite. Fishing, camping, swimming and motorless boating are permitted on this reservoir. The lake can be accessed from Highway 120.
Keeping Bears Wild (while protecting yourself and your property)

Top Three Ways to Keep Yosemite’s Black Bears Wild and Alive:

1. Store Your Food Properly. 
(see table below for details) 4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, berries, acorns, and grubs—that’s the typical diet of most bears. It’s a lot easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling at grasses. Their incredible sense of smell allows them to detect things we can’t, which helps them find food—a black bear can smell a dead deer three miles away. To top it off, bears have excellent vision and can see in color, so they recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.

2. If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.
You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away: Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there is more than one person, stand together 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 shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around 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.

3. 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.

Red Bear, Dead Bear
Did you notice the red bear markers as you drove through the park? Each of them mark a place where a bear was recently hit. Every year, bears, hundreds of deer, and countless other animals are killed while trying to cross park roads. Many of these deaths could have been avoided if drivers observed posted speed limits.

Please remember that Yosemite National Park is a wildlife preserve: by driving the speed limit, you are helping to protect the park and its wildlife.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FOOD STORAGE</th>
<th>WHY?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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 at night. Save a food locker! Remember to eat your car of food before going to bed. 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>Bears may enter campgrounds 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</td>
<td>You must store all your food in food containers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and at your campsite or tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided bins with windows closed. Bears may enter campgrounds 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.</td>
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</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.</td>
<td>Bears may investigate picnic areas or campgrounds 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.</td>
<td>Bears may investigate picnic areas or campgrounds for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.
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. Paking out what you pack in will also help keep the river free from trash and prevent animals from swallowing harmful plastic or aluminum. 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 the Emerald Pool.

River Crossings
In summer, rivers and creeks swollen by snow may be challenging to cross. Follow these tips to help ensure your safety.
• 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, 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 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.

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.

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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 bicycle 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.
Protecting Yourself

Experience Yosemite — Safely

Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

There are many ways to experience the wildness 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. You should acclimatize to the higher elevations by gradually gaining elevation until you reach 10,000 feet (Tioga Pass). Avoid alcohol, sugar and high-fat meals.

If altitude sickness develops, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite descends 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.
- 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 trail 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. 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, Tuolomne 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 from May through September are encouraged to make a permit reservation. Reservations are taken from 24 weeks to two 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 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.friendsofyosar.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.
Kids Corner

Yosemite offers a variety of walks, presentations, and storytimes in the park.

Join a National Park Ranger for a Junior Ranger Hike or Campfire program. These hands-on programs explore Yosemite’s natural world.

Spend an evening lying in a meadow looking up at a brilliant sky at the Starry Skies over Yosemite program. This program is offered for a fee in Wawona and Yosemite Valley.

Wee Wild Ones is a 45-minute program packed with stories, games, and fun surprises specifically for preschoolers. Le Conte Memorial Lodge offers family programs and walks geared for kids. Children’s Storytime includes a 30-minute tale for children 7 and under.

Children’s Theatre offers a fun way for kids to connect through live performances. Here are just a few examples of the possibilities.

Visit the Nature Center at Happy Isles. See wildlife exhibits and a display of Yosemite at night or play in the children’s corner. Open daily from late spring to September.

Take the shuttle to stop # 16. Go into the Field! Join the Yosemite Institute on their fun and challenging residential field science program, a five-day introduction to Yosemite’s outdoor classroom. Other custom programs for all ages are available. Contact the Yosemite Institute (for more information, see page 23).

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.

Junior Rangers Wanted!

Complete the activities below, present the completed page to a park ranger, and earn a Junior Ranger badge.

For an expanded program of fun activities and to earn an official certificate and Junior Ranger patch (ages 7-13) or Little Cub button (ages 3-6), visit a park visitor center bookstore and pick up a self-guided booklet published by the Yosemite Association.

¡PRESENTANDO una guía nueva en español para Guardaparques Jóvenes!
Por favor visiten un centro de visitantes del parque para recoger su ejemplar. Una segunda guía en español que se llaman “Guias Oseznos” para niños vienen pronto.

1. Attend a guided park program (schedule pages 14-19) or visit with an Indian Cultural Demonstrator at the Yosemite Museum. Get the autograph of the program leader or demonstrator.

   Name: ______________________________ Date: __________________

2. Describe something new that you learned from the person above.

   ___________________________________________________________________

3. Collect a full bag of garbage and dispose of it properly in a bear proof dumpster.

4. Find a special place in Yosemite. It could be a trail, forest, dome, or someplace else.

   What do you hear?: ______________________________
   What do you smell?: ______________________________
   What can you feel?: ______________________________

   Draw this place:

Take this page with you, visit a ranger at a visitor center, take your Jr. Ranger oath, and get your badge!
Rediscovering Yosemite: The Junior Rangers
by Ranger Shelton Johnson

For many school children, both here and abroad, summer means freedom, and freedom is more than a word that opens up the world. It conjures up a sense of liberty, independence, and empowerment.

Sadly, it’s easy for adults to forget that wild tension of being in class in the last minute of the last hour on the last day of school—a bold urgency like horses bunched up behind the gates to the Kentucky Derby waiting to uncoil into air.

Kids know that summer is freedom, a time to have adventures with friends and family. It’s really about being free to do as one desires, to move in a new direction, to explore.

As a boy growing up in inner-city Detroit, I recall summers in a world of asphalt and steel, a world seemingly far removed from the national park idea, but I always had this longing for mountains. You see, prior to living in Detroit, my family lived in Germany. I still remember a family trip to the Alps, can still feel the coldness, the mist, and the mountains.

Wildness has a way of grabbing hold of you and never letting go. Now, I work as a park ranger in the business of facilitating memories that last a lifetime. The park’s Junior Ranger Program is just one tool that helps build lasting connections for children and shape new park stewards.

A national movement to reconnect children to nature is gaining momentum. You can hear it clearly in Richard Louv’s, Last Child in the Woods. It resonates in a new Kids in Parks initiative, echoes in Junior Ranger programs across the nation, and, more importantly, rings true in the minds of many parents.

Here in Yosemite, families are now discovering the new Junior Ranger Center at the Happy Isles Nature Center and Junior Ranger handbooks, available in English and Spanish, with new activities for specific park areas and topics. More rangers are guiding Junior Ranger programs daily; including hikes, talks, and campfires!

Why? Because kids want to explore and every national park visit should be an adventure—an immersion into a new experience. In Yosemite, the classroom walls are granite cliffs rising into clouds, the floor is meadow, forest, or river, and the ceiling is the sky. To see the tracks of glaciers shining in rock; to feel the bark of the largest living things on earth; to breathe deep the atmosphere of a meadow; and to hear the ancient music of water falling; yes, school is in session, and the lesson is that freedom, liberty, independence, interdependence, and empowerment are only words until they’re felt in your heart.

So, should you put your kids on a Junior Ranger Program? Only if you want them to have an adventure, make new friends, and rediscover Yosemite. Only if you want to see them excited, a tension in their bodies like horses coiled behind a gate, ready to leap into air. Freedom will do that to you. The laughter of children learning and playing in Yosemite is the clear sound of memories being made, and the future of Yosemite being made secure, and isn’t that reason enough for joy?

What is the best way to spend your family vacation in Yosemite?
Whether you want to have an adventure, to get acquainted with nature, or become part of a timeless tradition, many families rediscover Yosemite through the Junior Ranger program. Fun-filled experiences await those ready to explore.
Entrance Fees
Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite National Park.
Vehicle $20
Valid for 7 days
Individual $10
In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for 7 days.
Yosemite Pass $40
Valid for one year in Yosemite.
Interagency Annual Pass $80
Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.
Interagency Senior Pass $10 (Lifetime)
For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.
Interagency Access Pass Free (Lifetime)
For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

INFORMATION OUTSIDE THE PARK
West Highway 120
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce
800/449-9129 or 209/962-0429
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
800/446-1333
www.yosemitesierrayear.com
Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/683-4636
www.yosemiteindepth.com
Highway 132/49
Cothronville Visitor Center
209/878-3074
Highway 140/49
Yosemite Mariposa Tourism Bureau (also info for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Buck Meadows)
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081
www.homeyosemite.com
Highway 120 East
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center
760/647-6629
www.leevining.com
California Welcome Center, Merced
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791
www.yosemite-gateway.org

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 Manteca, and in late spring through late fall via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining.

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.

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.

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.

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 amidst 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.

Yosemite is open YEAR-ROUND 24 HOURS a day
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 around 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 Grove of Giant Sequoias.

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 Tuolumne 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 your visit in just 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
YESEMITI COMMUNITY CHURCH (Nondenominational Christian) Visitor Center. Closed in winter.
WORSHIP SERVICE/YOSEMITE VALLEY CHAPEL Sunday 9:15 am, 11 am and 6:30 pm Thursday 7 pm
Tahoe Bible Studies Call 209/372-4831 for information
A CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES IN THE NATIONAL PARKS Campground Worship Services, Sunday, 9 am Lower Pines (Yosemite Valley) Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows
ROMAN CATHOLIC Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater Saturday Mass 7:30 pm Sunday Mass 10 am
CHURCH OF CHRIST (NODENOMINATIONAL) El Portal Chapel/Worship Service Sunday 11 am Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane
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 travel approx. 1/2 mile north of Stoneman Bridge and turn left at gate. Saturday Service Music 9:45 am/Sabbath School 10 am/Worship Service 11 am/Potluck Picnic 12:30 pm Coordinators: Ray & Edie DeFehr 209/586-4325

Service Organizations
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 7:30 pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday DNC General Office Building (Employee Training Center) Yosemite Village
AL-ANON No Al-Anon meetings are currently taking place. However, if you need to speak with someone, feel free to call Shari B. at 209/372-4812.
LIONS CLUB Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4475.
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL Meets Thursdays for lunch at noon in The Ahwahnee’s Mural Room. Visiting Rotarian families and guests welcome. For meeting reservations or information, call 209/372-8459.

Yosemite Association Volunteer to spend a month living and volunteering in Yosemite.

Get More Info...

BY PHONE & WEB Recorded General Park Information including: Road & Weather Conditions, Trip Planning Information, etc. 209/372-2020
Western U.S. National Parks 415/556-0560
ON THE WEB Yosemite National Park www.nps.gov/yose
The Ansel Adams Gallery www.anseladams.com
Camping Reservations www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/ camping.htm
DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite www.yosemitepark.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/yi
RESERVATIONS Campground Reservations (callers from U.S. and Canada) 877/444-6777
TTY (toll-free) 877/783-6777
Campground Reservations (International callers only) 518/885-3639
Lodging Reservations 801/539-5000
www.yosemitepark.com
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: 8 am to 4:30 pm (Friday and Saturday to 5 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 (Friday and Saturday until 6 pm)
Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center Closed in winter and spring; generally open June through September. Current hours: 9 am to 6 pm


11
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.

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 Museum
Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT
Open 9 am to 5 pm.
The exhibit interprets the cultural history of Yosemite’s native Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. Demonstrations of traditional skills are presented. No food or drink permitted.

Yosemite Museum Store
Open 9 am to 5 pm, the store offers traditional American Indian arts and crafts, and books on related subjects.

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.

Yosemite 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. Hear 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 Valley Visitor Center and open daily from 9 am to 6 pm, the gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. Handcrafts, books, gifts, digital services, and photography supplies are available. The Gallery also offers camera walks, photography workshops, and classes. Scheduled activities are listed on the front porch. For more information, call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

GALLERY EXHIBIT
SALLY OWENS & PENNY OTWELL: INTERPLAY: YOSEMITE PAINTING
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.

Visitor 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. Daily Junior Ranger programs are held at 9:30 am, 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Nearby are short trails through forest, river, and fen. The center is a short walk from shuttle stop #16.

Happy Isles Nature Center at

Above Left: Ranger Stroll. Photo by Bob Roney
Above Middle: Half Dome. NPS Photo
Above Right: Upper Yosemite Fall. Photo by Victoria Mates
Yosemite Renaissance Benefit Auction
July 23 – September 2, 2008

SCHEDULED EVENTS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

Yosemite Renaissance Benefit Auction
July 23 – September 2, 2008

Outdoor Adventures
For more details and information on Yosemite Association’s field seminars, pick up a catalog at any park visitor center, call 209/379-2221, or visit www.yosemite.org.

July 24-27
Family Camping Adventure 2
July 25-27
Introduction to Sierra Natural History
July 27-31
Women’s BackPack
July 28-Aug. 1
Alpine Botany Basecamp Backpack
Aug. 1-3
Days over the High Country
Aug. 1-3
Writing Your Children’s Book
Aug. 2-5
Mt. Conness Young Lakes Backpack
Aug. 3
Yosemite’s First People
Sep. 1
Tenaya Pass Climb

Adventure Hikes
Join the Yosemite Mountaineering 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.

Aug. 4-9
Frank Poulsen “Drawing with Colors”
Aug. 9-16
Thor Ericson “Dramatic Watercolors”
Aug. 16-23
Richard Tyndall “Tuolumne”
Aug. 24-30
Osamu Saito “Watercolors”

Free Art Classes
The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers free classes Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 2 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 Stores. Please register in advance.

July 21 – 26
Thor Ennion “Dramatic Watercolors”
July 28 – Aug. 2
Linda Mitchell “Watercolors”
Aug. 4 – 9
Franc Paulson “Drawing with Colors”
Aug. 11 – 16
David Deely “Furn with Watercolors”

Yosemite Renaissance Benefit Auction
Art lovers can join an auction of Yosemite art online (www.yosemiterenaissance.org) or live at the Ansel Adams Gallery on Wednesday and Thursday, August 27 and 28. A reception and final live auction take place at the gallery at 6 p.m. on Thursday Aug. 28.

Programs printed in COLOR are especially for CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

NPS
National Park Service

DNC
Dine Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.

AAAG
The Ansel Adams Gallery

AAC
American Alpine Club

SCI
Sierra Club

YA
Yosemite Association

YMS
Yosemite Mountaineering School

YF
Yosemite Fund

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

A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Contact 209/372- 4726 (TTY) or 209/372-0296 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 days is requested.

Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advanced request. Inquire at a visitor center.

WEE WILD ONES
45 min. Stories & activities for kids 2 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)

Art Class
4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YF)

WE WILD ONES
45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)

MORNING

8:00am
Coffee with a Ranger
1½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

9:30am
JUNIOR RANGER WALK – TREES
2 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)

Discovery Hike – Vernal Falls Bridge
3½ hrs. Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YM)

10:00am
Ranger Stroll – Merced Meadow
1½ hrs. Shuttle stop #11 (NPS)

Mobile Command Bus (August 3 and 10 only) 3 hrs. Outside of the Visitor Center

Learn about hiking and water safety from Yosemite’s Search and Rescue team (NPS)

8:00am
Coffee with a Ranger
1½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

9:00am
Bike to Hike Tour
2½ hrs. Curry Village bike stand. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YM)

9:30am
JUNIOR RANGER WALK – SMALL WONDERS
3 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)

10:00am
Ranger Stroll – Yosemite’s First People
1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (YM)

WEE WILD ONES
45 min. Stories & activities for kids 2 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)

Art Class
4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YF)

8:00am
Coffee with a Ranger
1½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

9:00am
Photography Walk
2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Meet up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (Conditions permitting) (AAG)

10:00am
JUNIOR RANGER WALK – GEOLOGY
1½ hrs. Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #11 (NPS)

Art Class
4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YF)

8:00am
Coffee with a Ranger
1½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

9:30am
Bike to Hike Tour
2½ hrs. Curry Village bike stand. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YM)

Ranger Stroll – Vernal Fall
3 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)

Adventure Hike – Vernal/Nevada Falls
3½ hrs. Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YM)

10:00am
Ranger Stroll – Trees
1½ hrs. Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #11 (NPS)

Art Class
4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YF)

8:00am
Coffee with a Ranger
1½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

Photography Walk
2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Meet up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (Conditions permitting) (AAG)

10:00am
JUNIOR RANGER WALK – WILDLIFE
1½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)

Discovery Hike – Vernal Falls Bridge
3½ hrs. Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YM)

10:00am
Eight Women Who Changed Yosemite (except July 24)
1½ hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (YM)

Art Class
4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YF)

WE WILD ONES
45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)

8:00am
Coffee with a Ranger (except August 8)
1½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

Habitat Restoration Volunteer Program
4 hrs. Valley Visitor Center. See details at left (NPS)

JUNIOR RANGER WALK – ARMAINCHINECS (except August 8)
2 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)

Adventure Hike – Secrets of the Valley
6 hrs. Ahwahnee Ticket/info at any tour desk (YM)

10:00am
Ranger Stroll – Wild About Wildlife (except August 8)
1½ hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (YM)

Art Class
4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YF)

10:00am
LeConte Memorial Lodge KIDS STORYTELLING: JOIN THE STORY OF LITTLE TYCONEY & THE BIG YOSEMITE RACE (July 25 only)
1½ hrs. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC)

8:00am
Coffee with a Ranger
1½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

Bike to Hike Tour
2½ hrs. Curry Village bike stand. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YM)

Photography Walk
2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (Conditions permitting) (AAG)

10:00am
JUNIOR RANGER WALK – BEARS
2 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)

Adventure Hike – Ahwahnee Chalet Stories and Games
1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (YM)

Art Class
4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YF)

WEE WILD ONES
45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)

10:30 am
LeConte Memorial Lodge KIDS STORYTELLING: JOIN THE STORY OF LITTLE TYCONEY & THE BIG YOSEMITE RACE (July 25 only)
1½ hrs. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC)

8:00am
Coffee with a Ranger
1½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

Bike to Hike Tour
2½ hrs. Curry Village bike stand. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YM)

Photography Walk
2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (Conditions permitting) (AAG)

10:00am
JUNIOR RANGER WALK – BEARS
2 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)

Adventure Hike – Ahwahnee Chalet Stories and Games
1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (YM)

Art Class
4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YF)

WEE WILD ONES
45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)

10:30 am
LeConte Memorial Lodge KIDS STORYTELLING: JOIN THE STORY OF LITTLE TYCONEY & THE BIG YOSEMITE RACE (July 25 only)
1½ hrs. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC)

14
### Afternoon and Early Evening

**Wednesday, August 9:**
- 10:00am: In the footsteps of Ansel Adams/Seeing in Black & White (AAG $)
- 1:30pm: Junior Ranger Walk
  - 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
- 2:00pm: Curry Village History Walk
  - 1 hr. Meet at Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)
- 3:00pm: Ranger Stroll - Bears
  - 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS)
- 6:00pm: Twilight Stroll
  - 1 hr. (Except August 9) Meets on The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC)
- 6:45pm: Wild Ones
  - 45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC)
- 7:00pm: LeConte Memorial Lodge – Open House (August 3 and 10 only) 3 hrs. Outside of the Visitor Center.
- 8:00pm: Yosemite Theatre Live: John Muir Is Back—and Boy, is He Ticked Off! (August 23 only) 1 hr. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets at any tour desk or door $ (DNC)

**Thursday, August 10:**
- 1:30pm: Junior Ranger Walk
  - 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
- 2:00pm: Curry Village History Walk
  - 1 hr. Meet at Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)
- 3:00pm: Ranger Stroll - Bears
  - 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS)
- 6:00pm: Twilight Stroll
  - 1 hr. Meets on The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC)
- 6:45pm: Wild Ones
  - 45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC)
- 7:00pm: Junior Ranger Campfire
  - 1 hr. Sign up in advance at the Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
- 8:00pm: Yosemite Theatre Live: Return to Balance, (high-definition rock climbing film) (August 4 only) 1 ½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets at any tour desk or door $ (DNC)

**Friday, August 11:**
- 1:30pm: Junior Ranger Walk
  - 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
- 2:00pm: Development Site: Sentinel Dome & Taft Point
  - 4 hrs. Curry Village Mountain School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) $ (August 23 only)
- 3:00pm: Ranger Stroll - Bears
  - 1½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS)
- 6:00pm: Twilight Stroll
  - 1 hr. Meets on The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC)
- 6:45pm: Wild Ones
  - 45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC)
- 1:00pm: Yosemite Forum: Evolutionary History, Distributional Patterns, and Conservation of the Sierra Nevada Alpine Insects
  - 4 hrs. Reservations required. Sign up at Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) $ (August 23 only)
- 1:30pm: Junior Ranger Walk
  - 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
- 2:00pm: Development Site: Sentinel Dome & Taft Point
  - 4 hrs. Curry Village Mountain School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) $ (August 23 only)
- 3:00pm: Ranger Stroll - Bears
  - 1½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS)
- 5:00pm: Twilight Stroll
  - 1 hr. Meets on The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC)
- 6:00pm: Family Stroll
  - 1 hr. Housekeeping Camp. Meet at front desk (DNC)
- 6:45pm: Wild Ones
  - 45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)

**Saturday, August 12:**
- 1:00pm: In the footsteps of Ansel Adams/Seeing in Black & White (AAG $)
- 1:30pm: Junior Ranger Walk
  - 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
- 2:00pm: Development Site: Vernal Fall Bridge
  - 3 hrs. Curry Village Mountain School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) $ (August 23 only)
- 3:00pm: Ranger Stroll - Bears
  - 1½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS)
- 5:00pm: Twilight Stroll
  - 1 hr. Meets on The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC)
- 6:00pm: Family Stroll
  - 1 hr. Housekeeping Camp. Meet at front desk (DNC)
- 6:45pm: Wild Ones
  - 45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)

### Evening

**Wednesday, August 9:**
- 7:00pm: LeConte Memorial Lodge – Open House (August 3 and 10 only) 3 hrs. Shuttle Stop #12 (DNC)
- 8:00pm: Junior Ranger Campfire
  - 1 hr. Sign up in advance at the Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
- 9:00pm: Yosemite Theatre Live: Return to Balance, (high-definition rock climbing film) 1 ½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets at any tour desk or door $ (DNC)
- 9:15pm: Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater. Check local postings for topic (DNC)

**Thursday, August 10:**
- 7:00pm: Junior Ranger Campfire
  - 1 hr. Sign up in advance at the Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
- 8:00pm: Yosemite Theatre Live: John Muir is Back—and Boy, is He Ticked Off! (August 23 only) 1 ½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets at any tour desk or door $ (DNC)
- 9:00pm: Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater. Check local postings for topic (DNC)

**Friday, August 11:**
- 7:00pm: Junior Ranger Campfire
  - 1 hr. Sign up in advance at the Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
- 8:00pm: Yosemite Theatre Live: Return to Balance, (high-definition rock climbing film) 1 ½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets at any tour desk or door $ (DNC)
- 9:00pm: Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater. Check local postings for topic (DNC)

**Saturday, August 12:**
- 7:00pm: Junior Ranger Campfire
  - 1 hr. Sign up in advance at the Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
- 8:00pm: Yosemite Theatre Live: Return to Balance, (high-definition rock climbing film) 1 ½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets at any tour desk or door $ (DNC)
- 9:00pm: Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater. Check local postings for topic (DNC)
- 10:00pm: Yosemite Theatre Live: Yosemite Nature Festival 1 ½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets at any tour desk or door $ (DNC)

### Special Events
- **Wednesday, August 9:**
  - Starry Skies Over Yosemite Valley (August 18th only) 60-90 minutes. Tickets/info at any tour desk $ (DNC)
- **Thursday, August 10:**
  - Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater. Check local postings for topic (DNC)
- **Friday, August 11:**
  - Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater. Check local postings for topic (DNC)
- **Saturday, August 12:**
  - Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater. Check local postings for topic (DNC)

**Yosemite Guide July – September 2008**
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

Wawona Information Station at Hill’s Studio
Open 8:30 am to 5 pm (Fridays and Saturdays to 6 pm), the station offers park information, wilderness permits, books, maps, and bear canister rentals. 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 and follow the path up the hill. For more information call 209/375-9531.

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. Check with Tom at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center for more information.

Ranger Evening Programs
Join in a park tradition by joining a ranger for an hour of stories, legends, music, or a live demonstration. Rangers rotate each evening. Some programs are especially for children and their families. For more information, contact the Visitor Information Center or check with the ranger at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. All programs are free and begin at 9 pm. Contact 209/375-9531.

Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, 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.

OLD-FASHIONED “WET-PLATE” PHOTOGRAPHY DEMONSTRATION
See the equipment and chat with a photographer about this 150-year-old method.

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. Interpretive signs between the trailhead at the far end of the park and the California Tree provide walking through the grove.

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.

Dogs or bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.

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 / 366m

Programs printed in COLOR are especially for Children & their Families
### Yosemite Guide July - September 2008

#### WAWONA & MARIPOSA GROVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>JUNIORS RANGERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Campfire Talk with a Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Campfire Talk with a Ranger</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### GLACIER POINT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Explore History – Yellowstone National Park (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Ranger Walk – Cliffs and Domes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Sunset Ranger Talk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Glacier Point

#### Walker Rangers

Join a ranger 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 shadows 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.

#### Hours listed are core hours for facilities and may be extended during periods of peak visitation. Check local postings for changes in hours of operation.

#### Food & Beverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wawona Hotel Dining Room</td>
<td>7:30am to 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>5:30pm to 9pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona Hotel Gift Shop</td>
<td>9am to 6pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Gifts & Apparel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wawona Golf Shop &amp; Snack Stand</td>
<td>8:30am to 8pm (fridays and saturdays to 6pm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Post Office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wawona Post Office</td>
<td>Mon-Fri, 8am to 5pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Gas Station

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wawona &amp; Mariposa Grove Gas Station</td>
<td>8am to 6pm (delivery &amp; pay pump available at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Golf

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wawona Golf Course</td>
<td>18 holes conditional, nine-hole, par 35 course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Note:** All activities are subject to change due to weather conditions and availability. Check local postings for changes in hours of operation.
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 6 pm. 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 ½-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge is open from 10 am to 4 pm through Sept. Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs that attract birds and deer, especially at sunrise and sunset.

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.

Big Oak Flat

Big Oak Flat Information Station
Open 8 am to 4:30 pm (Fridays and Saturdays until 5 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.

High Sierra Peaks and Quiet Corners of the Park

These areas offer amazing vistas and opportunities for solitude. Hiking, backpacking, and ranger-led programs are popular activities.

Tuolumne Meadows

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 trial information, wilderness permits, bear canister rental, and 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 long 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.

Tuolumne Meadows Campground

Tuolumne Meadow Lodge, at shuttle stop #3. The center offers trail information, wilderness permits, bear canister rental, and 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 long 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.

Big Oak Flat

Big Oak Flat Information Station
Open 8 am to 4:30 pm (Fridays and Saturdays until 5 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.

PARSONS MEMORIAL LODGE SUMMER SERIES

These free programs run daily, Tuesday through Saturday, at approximately one hour, unless noted. Allow 30 minutes to walk to Parsons Memorial Lodge from the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. Admission is free.

Saturday, July 26
Kaya of the Underworld: The Natural History of Aquatic Insects Video and talk by Ralph and Lisa Cutter, National Geographic explorers and award-winning photographers.
Saturday, July 26
Reading the Land: A History of Geologic Research in Yosemite Slide presentation by Greg Stock, Park Geologist
Saturday, July 26
DuoViolet Singers A performance of nature-inspired music by young singers led by Malcolm Caine.
Saturday, July 26
2-3:30pm Open Practice and Process Prints and Writings in the Mountain Open reading and music by Bent Aldrich and Beth Kennedy.
Saturday, July 26
Celebrating Yosemite’s Rivers and 40 Years of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Slide presentation by Kristina Hylton, NFIS Tuscarora Spring Project Manager
Sunday, August 10
Kick Drum on Metaphor during Dancing Chrome Pian, Flats, and Water Open reading and music by Bent Aldrich and Beth Kennedy.
Sunday, August 10
2-3:30pm 12th Annual Tauckroz Meadows Poetry Festival Open reading and music by Young Love, and Jay Kamen. Music by Maxi Kamen, violin and voice
Saturday, July 26
10-11:30am Poetry of Plains Open reading and music by Jay Kamen. Music by Maxi Kamen, violin and voice
Saturday, July 26
2-3:30pm Featured poets and music by Jay Kamen
Saturday, July 26
12-1:30pm The Wild Animal of Metaphor Open reading and music by Jay Kamen
Saturday, July 26
12-3:30pm Featured poets and music by Jay Kamen
Saturday, July 26
2-3:30pm A Leslie Adams in the Sierra Nevada Open reading and music by Michael Adams, M.D., son of Virginia and Abel Adams
Saturday, July 26
2-3:30pm 2014 Goldilocks Rain: Songs and Stories of Fire Campfire and writing workshop by award-winning documentary filmmaker Eric Whitley
Saturday, July 26
10-11:30am Mote’s Lake’s Tributaries: An Eventful Past, A Promising Future Slide presentation by Greg Riess, Mono Lake Committee
Saturday, July 26
10-11:30am The Paradise of Tule Elk:ISTwm Lake, Gwen S. Ford Nature Center, director Emlen Ford Historic Site, Nature Center, and Friends of Yosemite Foundation Slide presentation by Jeff Wigner, Mono Lake Committee
**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Naturalist Walk: Flower Watching (July 27 &amp; August 10 only)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Hike—Lemieux Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Ground entrance. Bring questions and a cap (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Ground entrance. Bring a mug (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7:00am</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Naturalist Walk: FAMILY NATURE ADVENTURE (July 28 &amp; August 11 only)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Hike—Beartooth and Other Wildfire</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservation Office (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Dig Into Dana Dome Picnic Area (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campground</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Twilight Stroll</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Hike—Tuolumne Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Botanical Walks with Cathy Rose (except September 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Meet just outside of Tioga Pass Entrance Station</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Hike—Geology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campground</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campground</td>
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<td>Crane Flat Campground</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Twilight Stroll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campground</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHITE WOLF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Bear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>White Wolf Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Amphitheater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campfire Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campfire Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campfire Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—North Dome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>White Wolf Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Amphitheater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campfire Circle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CRANE FLAT / HODGDON MEADOWS / HETCH HETCHY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>7:00am</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Ground entrance. Bring questions and a cap (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Crane Flat Campfire Circle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stores</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Store</td>
<td>8am to 5pm</td>
<td>Gas station, convenience store, and outdoor equipment rentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Store</td>
<td>8am to 5pm</td>
<td>Gas station, convenience store, and outdoor equipment rentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Store</td>
<td>8am to 5pm</td>
<td>Gas station, convenience store, and outdoor equipment rentals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GROCERIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stores</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Store</td>
<td>8am to 5pm</td>
<td>Gas station, convenience store, and outdoor equipment rentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Store</td>
<td>8am to 5pm</td>
<td>Gas station, convenience store, and outdoor equipment rentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Store</td>
<td>8am to 5pm</td>
<td>Gas station, convenience store, and outdoor equipment rentals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**POST OFFICE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Locations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Post Office</td>
<td>9am to 5pm</td>
<td>Post office, stamping station, and outdoor equipment rentals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GAS STATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stations</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Station</td>
<td>8am to 5pm</td>
<td>Gas station, convenience store, and outdoor equipment rentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Station</td>
<td>8am to 5pm</td>
<td>Gas station, convenience store, and outdoor equipment rentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Station</td>
<td>8am to 5pm</td>
<td>Gas station, convenience store, and outdoor equipment rentals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**PROGRAMS PRINTED IN COLOR ARE ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES**
Camping in Yosemite Park
Planning your camping experience

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.

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, on 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.

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.

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

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 campsites 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.

Campgrounds in Yosemite National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</th>
<th>OPEN 2008 (APPROX)</th>
<th>CAMPGROUND LENGTH</th>
<th>TRAILER LENGTH</th>
<th>RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</th>
<th>DAILY FEE</th>
<th># OF SITES</th>
<th>PETS</th>
<th>WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOSEMITE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pines</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>Apr – Nov</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Pines</td>
<td>Mar 21 – Oct 13</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>81</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>No RV/Trailer</td>
<td>18 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$5/person</td>
<td>35 No</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td></td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Creek</td>
<td>July – Sep 1</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodgdon Meadow</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>Apr 20 – Oct 9</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane Flat</td>
<td>Jun 20 – Oct 15</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>Jul-Dec</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>July – Sep 1</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>12 No</td>
<td>Creek (Boat)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July – Sep 1</td>
<td>No RV/Trailer</td>
<td>18 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>12 No</td>
<td>Creek (Boat)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine Flat</td>
<td>Jul-Oct</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>18 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>12 No</td>
<td>Creek (Boat)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows</td>
<td>Jul 15 – Sep 28</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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>
</thead>
<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 North 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 #16</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 #16</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>7 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,500-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.6 miles one-way, 3-4 hours full loop</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 5,200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Day Hikes Outside of Yosemite Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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 Hot. Ci. 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 Lyell 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 Meadow Group Campground</td>
<td>4.8 miles round-trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lembert Lake</td>
<td>White Wolf1</td>
<td>5.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>Porcupine Creek1</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 1,500- to 4,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lukens Lake Trailhead2</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 5,200- to 6,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake2</td>
<td>19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hiker’s 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-Paite 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 Village front desk or tour desk.
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.

Prepare 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 are available to interact with you during your visit. More underserved students are able to attend Yosemite Institute’s field science program. The Happy Isles Nature Center has become the hub of Junior Ranger Programs in the park, including 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 National Park Service preserve and protect our nation’s heritage for future generations.

Projects Completed Include:
- Increasing ranger presence and interpretive programming in park campgrounds.
- Renovation of the Valley Visitor Center Theater, Lobby, and Exhibit Hall.
- Refurbishing roads, trails, and utilities throughout the park.

40th Anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act

This year, the nation celebrates 40 years of free-flowing rivers thanks to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Yosemite is world renowned for its domes and waterfalls. But equally iconic and central to the park’s identity are its two federally designated wild and scenic rivers—the Merced and the Tuolumne. To learn more about wild and scenic rivers, visit www.rivers.gov.

Stay Connected

National parks help connect us with places that tell the stories of what is truly special about America. A visit to a national park can bring about memories that will last a lifetime. After you arrive home, there are some ways you can stay connected with your Yosemite experience:

- Learn more about the state of the park. A series of monthly open houses is conducted to inform visitors about the latest improvement projects occurring in the park.
- Sign up to be on the Yosemite mailing list. A quarterly Planning Update and a monthly e-mail newsletter are each available. To sign up for either or both of these publications, sign up at any visitor center or send your email address to yose_planning@nps.gov.
- Support one of Yosemite’s park partner organizations (see page 22). The Yosemite Association and The Yosemite Fund are both nonprofit organizations that support the National Park Service’s mission of protecting this special place for future generations.
- Volunteer your time or expertise. Individuals or groups can participate in service projects in Yosemite.
- Take part in a planning process. 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!
Supporting Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s Future

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 is a nonprofit membership organization that provides opportunities for people to learn about, enjoy, and experience Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada. The Association celebrates the majesty and grandeur of this region through its 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.

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.

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/.

Contact Us...
The Ansel Adams Gallery
PO Box 455
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-4413
209/372-4714 fax
www.anseladams.com

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite
PO Box 578
Yosemite, CA 95389
801/559-5000
www.yosemitepark.com

Yosemite Association
PO Box 230
El Portal, CA 95318
209/379-2646
209/379-2486 fax
www.yosemite.org

Yosemite Institute
PO Box 230
El Portal, CA 95318
209/379-2646
209/379-2486 fax
www.yosemitefund.org

Yosemite Fund
155 Montgomery St. #1104
San Francisco, CA 94104
800/469-7275 or 415/434-1782
www.yosemitefund.org

Yosemite Institute
PO Box 487
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/379-9511
209/379-9510 fax
www.yni.org

Above right: El Capitan. NPS Photo

Supporting Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s Future

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.