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 feel exalted always in this presence of so grand a self. I’ll interpret nature.” 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 this edition of Yosemite Guide. The contents of this publication will give you options for the experiences you choose to have here, help you plan those experiences, provide a listing of services and programs available in each area of the park, then provide more detailed information on topics such as camping and hiking.

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

National parks were established to preserve what is truly special about America. They are places to be shared, places where everyone is welcome, places where we can re-connect with our spirit. Whether you are here for a few hours or a few days, let Muir’s words—bring you nearer to the heart of Yosemite. During your visit to Yosemite, perhaps you too will make a lasting connection with this place.
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 (¼ miles) and Nevada Fall (½ 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 9 am to 6 pm. Call 209/372-8319 for information.

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

*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. Also in Wawona, you will find walks and hikes of varying difficulty to places like Wawona Meadow and Chilnualna Falls, one of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley.

A short drive from Wawona is the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, Yosemite’s largest stand of giant sequoias (about 500 trees), and one of three groves of giant sequoias in the park (road closed to vehicles from sometime in November through May). Trail brochures are available in several languages. A one-hour tram tour of the upper and lower groves is available (normally operating between mid-May and mid-October, 9 am to 5 pm). This audio tour is available in five languages and for the visually impaired. Call 209/375-1621 for information. Note: To reduce traffic congestion and avoid parking delays, ride the free shuttle spring through fall from Wawona to the Grove. Trailers and vehicles 25 feet and longer are not allowed on the Mariposa Grove Road. Neither bikes nor dogs are allowed in the grove.

Glacier Point

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

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

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows is only 55 miles (1.5 hrs) by road from Yosemite Valley, but it’s a world apart. Due to its high elevation, however, most facilities in the Tuolumne Meadows area close by the end of September. The road itself usually stays open until November, but early snow can shut it earlier. While the road remains open, a person can take a different hike every day of the week and still not exhaust the possibilities. Some popular hikes are 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 adventures 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 through Sept. 14. Call 209/372-1240 for more information.

The 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.

Sight-Seeing By Motor Coach

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

The Glacier Point Tour is a four-hour round trip from Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, which departs daily at 8:30 am and 1:30 pm from Yosemite Lodge. The Glacier Point Tour also offers a one-way ticket for adventurers to hike back down to Yosemite Valley. The Grand Tour is an eight-hour combination of Big Trees and Glacier Point tours and departs at 8:45 am daily from Yosemite Lodge. Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at tour/transportation desks at the following locations:

Yosemite Lodge Tour Desk
7 am to 7 pm

Village Store Tour Kiosk
7:30 am to 3 pm

Curry Village Tour Kiosk
7:30 am to 3 pm

Big Trees Tour Kiosk
9 am to 5 pm

Visit a tour desk to inquire about or purchase tickets for the Valley Floor Tour - a ranger guided open air tram tour (more information on page 2).
Bears and Wildlife

Enjoying wildlife safely and responsibly

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 30 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, soaps, 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 after dark. See a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food</td>
<td>Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</td>
<td>You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided bins with windows closed.</td>
<td>Bears may enter campsites 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>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 backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking in the Wilderness</td>
<td>Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite. In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food.</td>
<td>Note: Improper food storage may result in impoundment of your food or vehicle, a fine of up to $5,000, and 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Backpackers: Save Your Food, Save A Bear
Bear resistant food canisters are 2.7-pound containers that can be used to store five or more days of backpacker food when meals are carefully planned. Canisters have an inlet lid that bears are unable to open. When used correctly, bears learn that—although they smell like food—the canisters are not worth investigating.

Bear canisters are available for $5 per trip at the Valley Wilderness Center, the Wawona Information Station at Hill’s Studio, Big Oak Flat Information Station, Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Canisters can be rented and returned at any of these locations.

Report Bear Sightings!
To report bear sightings, improper food storage, trash problems, and other bear-related problems, leave a message for the Bear Management Team at 209/372-0322. Your call can be made anonymously.
For more information regarding bears and proper food storage, visit the park’s website (www.nps.gov/yose/bears).


The Water Ways

Not long ago, many areas along the Merced River showed signs of human trampling. Now, because of the careful actions of park staff and visitors, many of these areas have been restored to more natural conditions. The plants, birds, insects, and animals that depend on living in or near the water have been able to return to these once barren areas. You can help continue this progress by entering and exiting the river at designated launch and removal points. Packing out what you pack in will also help keep the river free from trash and prevent animals from swallowing harmful plastic or aluminum.

Please observe the following safety tips to protect Yosemite’s river and lakeshore habitats and to safely enjoy water activities throughout the park.

Swimming

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

- Always supervise children closely.
- Avoid areas of whitewater, where streams ow 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 or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

River Crossings

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

- Stay away from river and creek banks during high water conditions and avoid rock hopping. Stream-polished rocks along the water’s edge are slippery when wet or dry.
- If you choose to cross a stream without a bridge, avoid places where the water is either swift or over your knees. Use a stick or pole for balance and try to cross where there is a gravel bottom. Crossing on a natural bridge of rocks or logs can be surprisingly slippery. Consider where you will land if you fall. Never cross above rapids or falls. To prevent being pulled under by the weight of your pack, 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 Wa- wona is open from 10 am to 6 pm daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other oar otation device.

- The entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all otation 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 oar otation device immediately available.
- Fallen trees and other natural debris in the river create important habitat for fish and other wildlife. Be alert—they can also create hazards for rafters.

Fishing

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

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

Water Quality

To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking.

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

Pets

Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. Kennels (open only in summer) are located at the Yosemite Valley Stable, should you need a place to board your dog (call 209/372-8348). Keep in mind, in Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. They are not allowed on other trails, in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted indicating as such.
- Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles. This protects pets and wildlife from disease.
- Pets are not allowed in any lodging facilities or other buildings within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.
- Pets may not be tied to an object and left unattended.

Bicycling

Each season, plants are crushed from any water source or trail.

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Protecting Yourself

Experience Yosemite — Safely

Keep Yourself Safe While Exploring Your Park.

There are many ways to experience the wilderness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning, you can minimize the risks associated with many activities.

Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules: Please obey posted speed limits. Yosemite’s roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park’s scenery and wildlife.

Pack Water

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

Effects of Altitude

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

Hiking, Backpacking, Rock Climbing and Scrambling

• Be honest about your abilities and plan activities with the least experienced member of your group in mind.

Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back. Carry a signal mirror and whistle. Solo activities require increased precautions.

• Carry and know how to use a map and compass.

• 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, Tuolumne Meadows, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. For general hiking information or for information on making a wilderness permit reservation, visit any park wilderness center.

Backpackers who plan to visit before the end of 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.friendofyosar.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 water with a half hour before leaving the site. Carefully feel for 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 the briquettes are cool before resuming your walk.

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 pre-schoolers. LeConte 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 guia nueva en espanol para Guardaparques Jovenes! Por favor visiten un centro de visitantes del parque para recoger su ejemplar. Una segunda gua 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!
Yosemite is home to a pair of “wild and scenic” rivers that enjoy special protection under federal law.

The park’s northern watershed feeds the Tuolumne, designated by Congress under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1984. The Merced was designated in 1987 and contains the park’s southern watershed. National Park Service planners are giving special attention to both.

Preserving the Park’s Wild Waters
By Kristina Rylands
Tuolumne Plan Project Manager

Yosemite National Park is home to two lesser-known icons that are central to the park’s identity. Before there was a Half Dome or a Cathedral Peak, when those rocks were deep underground, a pair of rivers flowed over the landscape. For millions of years, the Tuolumne and the Merced have bisected the region over 140 miles from the Sierra crest to the Sierra foothills.

In 1968, Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This October it celebrates a 40th anniversary as it keeps two Yosemite rivers and 166 others across the country clean and pristine.

The Tuolumne
As seen from Tuolumne Meadows, the Tuolumne appears to be a peaceful sleeper of a river, meandering quietly through its meadow channel or sweeping in shallows over the granite river bottom. It originates from two mighty forks—the Dana and the Lyell. The forks meet in Tuolumne Meadows for its last gentle pass before plunging and waterwheeling over a series of stair-step cascades to Glen Aulin and on to the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River and the Muir Gorge. From lush Pate Valley, the Tuolumne continues for trailless miles to the mouth of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

The Merced
Like the Tuolumne, the Merced also originates from Mount Lyell, but off of its southern shoulder. The tributaries flow through a wild and largely untraveled landscape, eventually passing through Washburn Lake, Merced Lake, and Little Yosemite Valley.

The main stem of the Merced River takes center stage in Yosemite Valley as it welcomes the waters of its more iconic feeder streams—Tenaya Creek and Mirror Lake, Yosemite Falls, Sentinel Falls, Bridalveil Fall, Ribbon Fall, and the Cascades.

What is Wild and Scenic?
In the early 1960s, it was recognized that the nation’s rivers were being dammed, dredged, and degraded at an alarming rate. In response, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was championed by Senator Frank Church and was signed into law in 1968 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. This landmark piece of legislation acknowledges that free-flowing rivers and their unique natural, cultural, and recreational values are a central part of our nation’s heritage and should be preserved for future generations. Today, 166 rivers have been designated, protecting over 11,000 miles of river from Alaska to Puerto Rico, and Maine to Oregon.

Yosemite Guide • September – October 2008

9
Yosemite is open YEAR-ROUND
24 HOURS A DAY

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.

Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429

Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791
760/647-6629
www.homeofyosemite.com

Wawona, Yosemite West, and Highway 132/49
www.yosemitethisyear.com

Planning Your Trip
What do you want your experience to be?

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 Tuolomne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolomne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grovetrailhead and walk 2 steep miles down to this small grove.

Tuolomne 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 Tuolomne Meadows. Here, the Tuolomne Wild and Scenic River meanders peacefully amidst wildflowers, domes, and views of high mountain peaks.

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.

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.

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 Tuolomne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolomne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk 2 steep miles down to this small grove.

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 through Labor Day; 8 am to 7 pm starting on Sept. 2.

Valid for 24 hours in Yosemite National Park and adjacent wilderness areas.

For permanently disabled U.S. residents 62 and over.

For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

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
For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Valid for 7 days.

Yosemite Pass $40
Valid for one year in Yosemite.

Interagency Annual Pass $80
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Interagency Senior Pass $10 (Lifetime)
For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

Interagency Access Pass Free
For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Valid for 24 hours in Yosemite National Park and adjacent wilderness areas.
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, Tuolomne Meadows, or Merced Groves.

2 Days

Consider the suggestions for one day, but perhaps choose two areas of the park to explore.

Take in the bird’s-eye view of the Valley from Glacier Point and perhaps take a hike to Sentinel Dome or Taft Point. Choose a longer hike to venture more deeply into the Yosemite Wilderness. You might enjoy the features of Yosemite while pedaling a bike or riding on horseback. Travel back in time on a horse-drawn stage ride or during a blacksmith demonstration in Wawona. Hike or take a tram tour through the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.

Travel the Tioga Road, where spectacular scenery, vast meadows, and mountain lakes await you. Choose places to stop, picnic, hike, and spend more time based on what appeals most to you. Stop at Olmsted Point for incredible views of Half Dome, Clouds Rest, and Tenaya Canyon. Climb a dome near Tuolomne Meadows.

Nightly programs are available (see pages 12-19). Night sky programs, evening talks, campfires, and theater performances are just a few options that may be available on the nights you are here.

3 Days

For a three-day trip, you could visit all areas or spend your time becoming intimate with one. If your goal is to cover as much of the park as possible, don’t miss Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point, the Tioga Road, Tuolomne 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

CHURCH OF CHRIST (Nondenominational Christian)
El Portal Chapel/Worship Service Sunday 11 am Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane

WORSHIP SERVICES/YOSEMITE VALLEY CHAPEL
Sunday 9:15 am, 11 am and 8:30 pm Thursday 7 pm
Tuesday Bible Studies Call 209/372-4383 for information

CROSSWAY TREE OF JESUS
Worship gathering Wednesday, 7 pm, Girls Club, Yosemite Valley (South of Pioneer Cemetery)
Information. 209/379-2428.

ROMAN CATHOLIC
Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater Sunday Mass 10 am

Service Organizations

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

LIONS CLUB
Meet the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4475.

ROTORY INTERNATIONAL
Meet Thursdays for lunch at noon in The Ahwahnee Dining Room. Visit Rotarian families and guests welcome. For meeting reservations or information, call 209/372-8459.

Yosemite Association

Excellence in Yosemite Park since 1918. 877/247-8459

www.yosemite.org

Yosemite National Park

www.nps.gov/yose

Hiking, cycling, even horseback riding are available at visitor center bookstores or by mail.

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.)
Yosemite Valley

Where to Go & What to Do

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore
The Visitor Center is open from 9 am to 6 pm, just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #3 and #9). The center offers information, maps, and books, in the attached bookstore. Bookstore hours are 10 am to 6 pm.

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 5:30 pm, and Sunday noon to 5:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

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.

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

Valley Wilderness Center
Open 8 am to 5 pm through Sept. 28, then 8 am to 4:30 pm through Oct. 14. 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 and minimum-impact camping are 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, 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.

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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
JERRY UELSMANN: OTHER REALITIES
Uelsmann’s career is intertwined with the history of photography in our time. By synthesizing his black and white photographs from multiple negatives starting in the late 1950s, Uelsmann broke ranks with the prevailing aesthetic of the period and pioneered a new approach. His images are wonderfully unique. The exhibit includes photographs from the Yosemite landscape.

Visitor Parking Information Station
Located in the main visitor parking area, and open 10 am to 4 pm through Sept. 30. The station offers information about the Valley and the rest of Yosemite.

LeConte Memorial Lodge
Open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm at shuttle stop #12. The Lodge closes for the season at 4 pm on Sunday, Sept 28. LeConte is operated by the Sierra Club and features a children’s corner, library, and a variety of environmental education 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 1:30 pm. Nearby are short trails through forest, river, and fen. The center is a short walk from shuttle stop #16.

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.
**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

**Yosemite Lodge**
- Cozy Corner: 8am to 9pm
- Curry Village Bar: 8am to 8pm
- Yosemite Village Bar: 8am to 9pm; Starting Oct. 3: 8 am - 8pm

**Curry Village**
- Yosemite Village Bar & Lounge: 8am to 8pm
- Yosemite Village Post Office: 9am to 6pm
- Yosemite Village Tour Kiosk: Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm
- Yosemite Village Post Office: 8am to 7pm
- Yosemite Village Dial-A-Ride: 9am to 5pm
- Yosemite Village Dial-A-Ride: 7am to 5pm
- Yosemite Village Dial-A-Ride: 11am to 5pm
- Yosemite Village Dial-A-Ride: 9am to 7pm
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Outdoor Adventures
For more details and information on Yosemite Association's field seminars, pick up a catalog at any park visitor center, call 209/379-2321, or visit www.yosemite.org.

Sept. 5 The Rim Walk – A Sentinel-Glacier Point foray with Michael Ross.
Sept. 7 Wyawance Meadow Botany Stroll – Steve Bott finds you the flowers.
Sept. 7 Autumn Birder in Wyawance – Michael Ross and the birds of autumn.
Sept. 7 Mariposa Grove Botanists Hike – Beyond sequoias with Steve Bott.
Sept. 12 Ice, Wind and Fire – Dick Ewart and the high country elements.

Discovery 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.

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite
Join NPS restoration efforts. Get your hands dirty and help preserve one of America’s natural wonders. Volunteers will work on restoration projects and learn about efforts to help restore the Valley. Wear long pants and closed-toe boots. Long sleeves, water, snacks, and sunblock are recommended. Groups larger than ten are required to pre-register. To learn more, please contact Laura Ebe at 209/379-3286 or Laura_Ebe@nps.gov.

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 Store. Please register in advance.

Sept. 4 A DNC Interpreter engages young park visitors during a Wee Wild Ones program. Photo courtesy of DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite.

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 Store. Please register in advance.

Sept. 14 p.m. Latinos in the Landscape – Betty Rivas highlights the park’s little known Hispanic heritage.
Sept. 17-21 Lyell Glacier Survey - Pete Devine and Greg Stock go for the cold.
Sept. 26-28 Milnook-Paute-Barden Badkery - Lucy Parker shares a family art.
### AFTERNOON AND EVENING ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing in Black and White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>1 hr. Happy Isles Nature Center (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Stroll - Bear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Twilight Stroll. (Sept. 8 only): 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Yosemite Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Stroll - Bears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Twilight Stroll. (Sept. 8 only): 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Using Your Digital Camera Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Stroll - Bears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Twilight Stroll. (Sept. 8 only): 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing in Black and White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>1 hr. Happy Isles Nature Center (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Stroll - Bears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Twilight Stroll. (Sept. 8 only): 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Yosemite Theatre – LIVE “Return to Balance,” high-definition rock climbing film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Ranger Evening Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Yosemite Theatre – Live: John Muir is Back—and Boy, is He Ticked Off!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Evening Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### EVENING ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Evening Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Programs in COLOR are especially for CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

**NPS National Park Service**

**DNC DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.**

**AAC The Ansel Adams Gallery**

**AAC American Alpine Club**

**SC Sierra Club**

**YAAA Yosemite Association**

**YMYS Yosemite Mountaineering School**

**YF Yosemite Fund**

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Notes:

- **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 for information.
- Assistive Listening Devices are available upon request.
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. 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 piano for dates and times.

Ranger Evening Programs
Join in a park tradition by joining a ranger for an hour of stories, legends, and fun. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (B Loop). Friday and Saturday nights only. Topics vary.

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

Live Demonstrations
See Page 17 for dates and times.

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

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

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

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

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

BIG TREES TRAM TOUR
A one-hour tram tour of the grove is available 9 am to 5 pm. This audio tour is available in five languages and for the visually impaired. Call 209/375-1621 or stop at a tour desk for more information.

Mariposa Grove Museum
Open 10 am to 4 pm through Sept. 30. Located in the Upper Mariposa Grove, the museum offers information, displays on giant sequoias, and a small bookstore.

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

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 / 438m

Programs printed in
COLOR are especially for
Children & their Families
WAWONA & MARIPOSA GROVE

8:00am Coffee with a Ranger
In Yosemite Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove
1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)

10:00am – Noon Blacksmith Demonstration
(Sept. 7 only) Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) & Center (NPS)

11:00am – 3:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides
10 minutes each. Purchase tickets from Stage Driver in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS)

2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove
1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)

8:00am Coffee with a Ranger
(Sept. 9, 16 and 23 only) ½ hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove
1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)

2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove
1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)

5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite
4 hrs. Live music with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)

8:00am Coffee with a Ranger
(except Oct. 1 and 8) ½ hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove
1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)

2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove
1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)

5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite
4 hrs. Live music with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)

8:00am Coffee with a Ranger
(except Oct. 3 and 10) ½ hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove
1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)

2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove
1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)

5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite
4 hrs. Live music with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)

8:00am Coffee with a Ranger
½ hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

9:00am – 9:30pm Yosemite Association 33rd Annual Members Fall Gathering
(Sept. 6 only) Naturalists, lunch, speakers, raffle, auction, book sales, evening barn dance. Photographer David Stark Wilson will speak and sign books. At the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Walk-in welcome. $ (YA)

10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove
1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)

10:00am – Noon Blacksmith Demonstration
(Sept. 7 only) Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) & Center (NPS)

11:00am – 3:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides
10 minutes each. Purchase tickets from Stage Driver in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS)

2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove
1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)

5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite
4 hrs. Live music with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)

7:30pm Campfire Talk with a Ranger
1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

8:00am Coffee with a Ranger
½ hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS)

9:00am – 9:30pm Yosemite Association 33rd Annual Members Fall Gathering
(Sept. 6 only) Naturalists, lunch, speakers, raffle, auction, book sales, evening barn dance. Photographer David Stark Wilson will speak and sign books. At the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Walk-in welcome. $ (YA)

10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove
1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)

10:00am – A Short Walk to a Great View of El Capitan
½ hr. Easy. Meet in front of the Glacier gift shop. (NPS)

DuSki Sunset Ranger Talk
6:30pm: Sept. 6, 19 and 23
6:15pm: Sept. 29 and Oct. 6
6:00pm: Oct. 12
1½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)

7:30pm Stars Over Yosemite
(Except Sept. 8) Glacier Point railing. Cancel if overcast. (NPS)

2:00pm Ranger Walks – Cliffs and Domes
2 hrs. Taft Point/Sentinal Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road (NPS)

DuSki Sunset Ranger Talk
6:30pm: Sept. 6, 19 and 23
6:15pm: Sept. 29 and Oct. 6
6:00pm: Oct. 12
1½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)

6:30pm Ranger Walks – Cliffs and Domes
2 hrs. Taft Point/Sentinal Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road (NPS)

DuSki Sunset Ranger Talk
6:30pm: Sept. 6, 19 and 23
6:15pm: Sept. 29 and Oct. 6
6:00pm: Oct. 12
1½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)

Yosemite Guide   September – October 2008

PLAcenta Dau. Photo courtesy: Yosemite Research Library

Glacier Point

Ranger Walks

Join a ranger for a walk to discover Yosemite's unique, tucked-away places. Stargazing programs are offered, as well.

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 moonset. 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 to hours of operation.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Wawona

Wawona Hotel Dining Room
Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
Saturday BBQ: 5-7pm, ends Sept. 6. Reservations taken for 6 or more.

Glacier Point

Snack Stand
9am to 6pm
Last day of season: Oct. 12

GROCERIES

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
9am to 7pm

GIFTS & APPAREL

Wawona

Wawona Golf Shop & Snack Stand
8:30am to 9pm
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
9am to 7pm
Wawona Information Station at Hill's Studio (Books and Info.)
8:30am to 5pm
Last day of season: Oct. 14
Gift Shop
9am to 5pm
Last day of season: Oct. 12

Mariposa Grove

Mariposa Grove Museum
10am to 4pm (Last day: Sept. 30)
Big Trees Gift Shop
9am to 5pm

POST OFFICE

Wawona Post Office
Monday – Saturday: 8am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to noon

GAS STATION

Wawona Gas Station
9am to 6pm (Closed Oct. 13 to Nov. 6 due to construction) Diesel & premium available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with hours card or debit card.

GOLF

Wawona Hotel Golf Course
9am to 5pm weather and conditions permitting. Nine-hole, par-35 course.
Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, Crane Flat, and Hetch Hetchy

Where to Go & What to Do

**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 Visitor Center**
Most facilities in Tuolumne Meadows will close before the end of September. The Visitor Center is scheduled to remain open from 9 am to 5 pm through Sept. 28. Park orientation, trail information, books, maps, and displays are available. Phone 209/372-0263.

**Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin and Soda Springs**
Two trails, both at and ¾-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge is open from 10 am to 4 pm through Sept. 20. 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 along the Tioga Road from Olmsted Point to Tioga Pass. Service ends for the season on Sept. 21. Due to limited trailhead parking, use of the free shuttle is strongly advised.

Shuttles travel between Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and Olmsted Point with stops along the Tioga Road, including Tuolumne Meadows Campground and the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. The shuttle also makes morning and afternoon runs to Tioga Pass.

Service begins at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge at 7 am. Shuttles arrive at approximately 30-minute intervals between 7 am and 7 pm. The last shuttle leaves Olmsted Point at 6 pm. Schedules are subject to change. Please check route maps at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center or shuttle stops for details.

**Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center**
Open 8 am to 5 pm through Sept. 28. Hours shorten to 8 am to 4:30 pm on Sept. 29. The center closes for the season on Oct. 15. Located just south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, at shuttle stop #3. The center offers trail information, wilderness permits, bear canister rental, maps, and guidebooks.

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

**Ranger Walks**
Join a ranger to explore new areas and learn about geology, birds, owls, history, the Tuolumne River, and more. These walks range from one to eight hours and, except for the long walks, are fairly easy.

**Evening Activities**
Come to a traditional, ranger-led campfire program for stories, songs, and insight into 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. Bring a pad to sit on and dress warmly.

**Big Oak Flat**

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

**Merced Grove**

Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees accessible only on foot. It’s a four-mile round-trip hike (about three hours) into the grove from Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). Located ¾ 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.
FOOD & BEVERAGE
Toulumne Meadows (last day: Sept. 21)
Toulumne Meadows Grill
8am to 5pm

Toulumne Meadows Lodge Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 9am
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm
Meals are served family style, and reservations are required.
Call 209-927-8416.

White Wolf Lodge
Breakfast: 7:30am to 9:30am
Take-out Lunch: noon to 2pm
Dinner: 6pm to 8pm
Reservations recommended.
Call 209-927-8416.

GROCERIES
Toulumne Meadows
Store
8am to 6pm (last day: Sept. 28)
Crane Flat
Store
8am to 6pm
White Wolf
Camp Store
8am to 8pm (last day: Sept. 21)

GIFTS & APPAREL
Toulumne Meadows
Mountaineering School and Sport Shop
9am to 5pm (last day: Sept. 21)
Toulumne Meadows Bookstore
9am to 5pm through Sept. 28
Inside the Toulumne Meadows Visitor Center
Toulumne Meadows Store
9am to 6pm (Closes Sept. 28)
Toulumne Meadows
Wilderness Center
8am to 5pm
(Starting Sept. 29: 8am to 4:30pm; last day of season is Oct. 15)

POST OFFICE
Toulumne Meadows
Post Office
Monday – Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to 1pm
(Changes between Sept. 15-28)

GAS STATIONS
Toulumne Meadows
8am to 5pm
(Will be closed Sept. 8 to Oct. 2 due to construction.
Fuel services are available 22 miles east on Hwy 120 at Lee Vining and 39 miles west on Hwy 120 at Crane Flat.)

Crane Flat
8am to 5pm
Diesel & propane available.
Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

Crane Flat
8am to 5pm
(Will be extended during periods of peak visitation. Check local postings for changes to hours of operation.)

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

8:00am Coffee with a Ranger
(Sept. 8, 15 and 22 only) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Toulumne Meadows Campground.
Bring questions and a cup (NPS)

5:00pm History and the Big Trees
(Sept. 18 and Oct. 9) 1½ hrs. Informal ranger talks in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoia (NPS)

10:00am Ranger Campfire Program
(Sept. 4 and 11 only) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

7:30pm Ranger Campfire Program
(Sept. 4 and 11 only) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

7:30pm Ranger Campfire Program
(Sept. 4 and 11 only) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

8:00am Coffee with a Ranger
(Sept. 9, 16 and 23 only) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground.
Bring a mug (NPS)

7:00pm Twilight Stroll
(Sept. 5 only) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)

9:15am Ranger Hike — North Dome
(Sept. 20, 27 and Oct. 4 only) 6½ hrs. Strenuous. 11-mile hike. Porcupine Creek Trailhead on Tioga Road, 1.2 miles east of Yosemite Flat Campground. Bring water, lunch & ranger (NPS)

7:30pm Ranger Campfire Program
(Sept. 4 and 11 only) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

7:30pm Ranger Hike – Mono Pass
(Oct. 4 and 11 only) 6½ hrs. Moderately strenuous. 8 miles. Meet at Mono Pass trailhead. Bring lunch, water & ranger (NPS)

7:00pm Ranger Campfire Program
(Sept. 6 and 13 only) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground entry (NPS)

9:00am Ranger Campfire Program
(Sept. 7 and 14 only) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

7:30pm Ranger in the Grove 2 hrs. Informal talks in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoia (NPS)

9:00am Ranger Campfire Program
(Sept. 7 and 14 only) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground entry (NPS)

6:00pm Twilight Stroll
(except Oct. 7) 1½ hrs. Meet at Hodgdon Meadow Campground entrance. Bring a mug (NPS)

10:00am Ranger in the Grove
3 hrs. Informal talks in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoia (NPS)

6:00pm Twilight Stroll
(except Sept. 8) 1½ hrs. Hodgdon Meadow Campground entrance (NPS)

9:00am Ranger Campfire Program
(Sept. 7 and 14 only) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

7:30pm Ranger Campfire Program
(Sept. 4 and 11 only) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

6:00pm Twilight Stroll
(except Oct. 7) 1½ hrs. Meet at Hodgdon Meadow Campground entrance. Bring a mug (NPS)

7:30pm Ranger Campfire Program
(Sept. 4 and 11 only) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

6:00pm Twilight Stroll
(except Oct. 7) 1½ hrs. Hodgdon Meadow Campground entrance (NPS)

10:00am Ranger in the Grove
3 hrs. Informal talks in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoia (NPS)

6:00pm Twilight Stroll
(except Sept. 8) 1½ hrs. Hodgdon Meadow Campground entrance (NPS)

7:30pm Ranger Campfire Program
(Sept. 4 and 11 only) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

6:00pm Twilight Stroll
(except Oct. 7) 1½ hrs. Meet at Hodgdon Meadow Campground entrance. Bring a mug (NPS)

10:00am Ranger in the Grove
3 hrs. Informal talks in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoia (NPS)
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 campsites 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 campsites 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 (November through February)
7 am to 9 pm Pacific time (March through October)

Reservation centers in the park are located in the visitor parking area at Curry Village (shuttle bus stop #4), the Tuolumne Meadows Campground entrance, in Wawona off Chilnualna Falls Road, and at Big Oak Flat Information Station.

Yosemite Valley

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

Camp 4 is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis; these 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.

Group Campgrounds

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

Camping in Yosemite National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPground</th>
<th>OPEN IN (APPROX)</th>
<th>MAX IN LENGTH</th>
<th>MAX TRAILER LENGTH</th>
<th>PETs</th>
<th>WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pines</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>April 11 - Nov 2</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Pines</td>
<td>Mar 15 - Oct 31</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>1st-come, first-served</td>
<td>$5/person</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wawona</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>20 ft</td>
<td>Apr 20 - Sep 27</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Creek</td>
<td>July - Sep 1</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>1st-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>110</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>Yes</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>late June - Oct 15</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>Jul - Sep 5</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July - Sep 1</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine Flat</td>
<td>July - Oct 15</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>20 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows</td>
<td>July 15 – Sep 28</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Info...

Services

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

Regulations

• Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.
• A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.
• Quiet hours are from 10 pm to 6 am.
• Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

Campfires

• In Yosemite Valley between May 1 and October 1, campfires are permitted between 5 pm and 10 pm. At other times of the year and in out-of-Valley campgrounds, fires are permitted at any time, as long as they are attended.
• Firewood collection (including pine cones and pine needles) is not permitted in Yosemite Valley; you may purchase firewood at stores near the campgrounds.

Staying Safe

• All campgrounds have wheelchair accessible facilities, including restrooms and picnic tables. Sites are available for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, and Porcupine Flat.
• Campers in Yosemite Valley are encouraged to use charcoal grills or firepits, and wood fires are not recommended for Wawona or the Tuolumne Meadows.

Contact Information

For additional information, contact the Yosemite National Park Information Station at 209/372-0200 or 877/444-6777 from outside the US. You can also visit the park’s website at www.nps.gov/yose. For additional information, contact the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 10.

Campsites in Yosemite National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPground</th>
<th>OPEN IN (APPROX)</th>
<th>MAX IN LENGTH</th>
<th>MAX TRAILER LENGTH</th>
<th>PETs</th>
<th>WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pines</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>April 11 - Nov 2</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Pines</td>
<td>Mar 15 - Oct 31</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>1st-come, first-served</td>
<td>$5/person</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>20 ft</td>
<td>Apr 20 - Sep 27</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Creek</td>
<td>July - Sep 1</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>1st-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>110</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>Yes</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>late June - Oct 15</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>Jul - Sep 5</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July - Sep 1</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine Flat</td>
<td>July - Oct 15</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>20 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows</td>
<td>July 15 – Sep 28</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yosemite Guide   September – October 2008

Hiking
On the Trails
Discover an easy stroll or a challenging hike

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

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</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 Hour 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, 1,900-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</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 1,200-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. Ch. 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 Meadows Group Campground</td>
<td>4.8 miles round-trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lohman 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 Pohono Creek</td>
<td>Pohono Creek²</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 2,100-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lohman Lake Trailhead²</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake³</td>
<td>19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Self-Guided Trails

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

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

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

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

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

¹These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers’ Bia.

Masthead: Hikers. Illustration by Lawrence W. Duke
Top Left: Hikers. Photo by Bob Roney
Top Right: Hikers. Photo by Bob Roney

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

Preparing for the next one hundred years: The Centennial Challenge
As the national park service nears its 100th anniversary in 2016, the parks are preparing for another century of environmental leadership, stewardship, recreational experience, education, and professional excellence. As a result, you will notice some positive changes. More park rangers 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.

Watch Your Footprint!
How much greenhouse gas do you generate? In other words, what’s your “carbon footprint?” To find out, visit www.doyourpartparks.org and enter information about your energy consumption. By reducing emissions, we can help protect glaciers, plants and wildlife here in Yosemite and elsewhere.

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, these 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.plan-
- Support one of Yosemite’s park partner organizations (see page 23). 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!
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 park’s 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 lifelong connection to the natural world—whether it is in Yosemite, on a city street or in our own backyards. YI also offers professional development for teachers, summer youth programs, backpacking adventures, community outreach programs and service learning projects. For more information, visit www.yni.org/yi.

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.