Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am - 10:00pm. All shuttles follow the same route, serving stops in numerical order. Service may be affected by construction projects. Check shuttle stops for more information.

Note: Service to stops 15, 16, 17, and 18 may stop after a major snowfall.
Welcome, and Be Prepared
Get ready for a wild experience.
Yosemite is a place of moving beauty—and unpredictable forces.
Be attentive to the rules in place to protect the park (page 9) and your safety (page 8).

Fire – Police – Medical Emergency: Dial 911
Website: www.nps.gov/yose
Road, Weather, and General Park Information: 209/372-0200

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

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Yosemite is home to three groves—each
Within walking distance of a road. Skis or snowshoes are recommended when the trail is snow covered. (See map on page 2.)

Visit the Yosemite Museum
Learn about Yosemite Indians by exploring a museum collection that includes remarkable woven baskets and traditional dress. Tour the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. The Yosemite Museum is located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 6.)

Take a Photography Class
Learn how to best capture the landscape of Yosemite by joining a photography expert from the Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Some have fees, some are free. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery located in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 3.)

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Discover Yosemite
Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Yosemite Valley
1. Even if you’ve been here before, the Valley is packed with wonders to keep you exploring. Snow occasionally blankets the 4,000-foot floor, but it is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 west from Manteca. Here you will find the park’s main visitor center—a base for further exploration.

Wawona and Mariposa Grove
2. 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 to cars 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
3. Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area, and walk, ski or snowshoe one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk (ski or snowshoe) 2 steep miles down to this small grove.

Hetch Hetchy
4. 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 8 am to 5 pm through March 31. April hours are 7 am through 8 pm.

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Entrance Fees
Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite. The park is open year-round, 24 hours a day.
Vehicle $20
  Valid for 7 days
Individual $10
  In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for 7 days.
Yosemite Pass $40
  Valid for one year in Yosemite.
Interagency Annual Pass $80
  Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.
Interagency Senior Pass $10 (Lifetime)
  For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.
Interagency Access Pass (Free) (Wilderness Permit Required)
  For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Reservations
Campground Reservations
877/444-6777
www.recreation.gov

Lodging Reservations
801/559-5000
www.yosemitepark.com

Regional Info
Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) www.yarts.com
West Highway 120
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
800/446-1333
www.thegreatunfenced.com
Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/831-4636
www.yosemitesiwyyear.com
Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/878-3074
Highway 140/49
Yosemite Mariposa Tourism Bureau
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081
www.homeofyosemite.com
Highway 120 East
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center, 760/647-6629
www.leevingin.com
California Welcome Center, Merced
800/446-5383 or 209/384-2791
www.yosemite-gateway.org

Above: Yosemite’s giant sequoia groves usually have more snow than this in winter and early spring, so travel by skis or snowshoes is recommended. Photo by Christine White Loberg
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td><strong>WEE WILD ONES</strong> (Except March 28 and April 12) 1/2 hr: Stories &amp; activities for kids</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Ranger Stroll - Yosemite's First People</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Evening Program</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td><strong>BAdgeR PASS</strong></td>
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<td>10:30am</td>
<td><strong>Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Yosemite Guide</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Ranger Stroll - Winter Twilight Stroll</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Evening Program</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td><strong>Photography Walk</strong></td>
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<td>12:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Yosemite Forum</strong></td>
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<td>1:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Using Your Digital Camera Class</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Ranger Stroll - Trees</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Evening Program</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td><strong>WEE WILD ONES</strong> (Except March 11 and April 1) 1 1/2 hr: Stories &amp; activities for kids 8 &amp; under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNIC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td><strong>Open House</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Ranger Stroll - Wild about Wildlife</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Evening Program</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td><strong>WEE WILD ONES</strong> (Except March 6) 1 1/2 hrs: Stories &amp; activities for kids 8 &amp; under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNIC)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td><strong>Open House</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Ranger Stroll - Geology</strong></td>
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<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Film - Ansel Adams</strong></td>
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<td>9:00am</td>
<td><strong>Photography Walk</strong></td>
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<td>1:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Crate Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ranger Stroll - Yosemite's Legacy</strong></td>
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<td>9:00am</td>
<td><strong>Photography Walk</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td><strong>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with Your Camera</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Ranger Stroll - Winter Ecology</strong></td>
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<td>3:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Ranger Stroll - Bears</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Evening Program</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Programs in COLOR are specially designed for CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Yosemite National Park embraces one of the world’s most outstanding concentrations of spectacular mountain-and-valley scenery. Its Sierran setting harbors a grand collection of high waterfalls and forests, including three groves of giant sequoias.

The Incomparable Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Valley
An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 3, 6, and 7 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

The base of Lower Yosemite Fall is usually an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. Be aware that snow and ice can make the walk more difficult. The hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired when the path is clear.

Bridalveil Fall is another waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley.

El Capitan, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit at the west end of the Valley.

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. Shuttles may not travel to stop #16 when the road is snow-covered or icy.

For a strenuous day hike, you can use this trailhead to reach Vernal Fall footbridge (¾ miles) and Nevada Fall (2.7 miles) via the Mist Trail. Do not attempt this route when it is snow-covered or icy.

Ice skating sessions take place daily, weather permitting, at Curry Village, through March 8:

Weekdays: 3:30 to 6 pm and 7 to 9:30 pm
Weekends & Holidays: 8:30 to 11 am, 12 to 2:30 pm, 3:30 to 6 pm, and 7 to 9:30 pm.

To learn more about ice skating: 209/372-8341 during or shortly before open hours.

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

A Valley sightseeing tour is offered in Yosemite throughout the year. The Valley Floor Tour is a 26-mile, two-hour tour that departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. Tours travel by enclosed motorcoach. An experienced guide narrates the tour. Only very poor weather cancels it. An open-top tram is used during warmer weather.

A variety of other bus and open-top tram tours are offered during the warmer months.

Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at the tour and transportation desk at Yosemite Lodge.

Exploring Yosemite
Spectacular vistas and quiet corners of the park

Self-Guiding 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 Valley Visitor Center.

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 and American Indian use. To reach the start of the trail, walk one mile from shuttle stop #17 to the disabled parking spaces near the lake. The 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.
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. Also in Wawona, you will find hikes of varying difficulty to places like Wawona Meadow and Chilnualna Falls, one of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley.

Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is Yosemite’s largest stand of giant sequoias (about 500 trees). The road is generally closed through some time in April, but you can ski or snowshoe in.

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 is open 8 am to 5 pm through March 31. April hours are 7 am to 8 pm. Call 209/372-0200 for the most up-to-date information. Vehicles over 25 ft. 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.” Hetch Hetchy is located along the Tuolumne River in the northern part of the park and now contains a large reservoir. Hetch Hetchy’s relatively low elevation gives the area one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite National Park.

Glacier Point
The Glacier Point Road is open to snowshoeing and nordic skiing during the winter months. It is closed to vehicles past Badger Pass Ski Area. The snow-covered 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. For a trip to an overhanging lookout, choose the ski trail to Dewey Point. The road usually opens to vehicle traffic sometime in May. The trailhead for snow travel is at Badger Pass Ski Area.

Tioga Road
Tioga Road is closed to vehicles during the winter months, usually until May or later. Winter brings ski and snowshoe options for experienced parties. Reaching Tuolumne Meadows via the road is a serious, multi-day undertaking. An experienced guide and avalanche beacons are among the essentials needed for the journey.

Winter Driving in Yosemite
Tioga Road, Glacier Point Road, and Mariposa Grove Road are closed each year from November to late May or early June. Other roads are plowed, but expect icy or snowy conditions. Roads may close briefly due to accidents or extreme conditions. To check conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit www.dot.ca.gov for California highways.

Badger Pass
A free shuttle serves Badger Pass Ski Area through its planned closing date of Sunday, March 29. Two buses pick up each morning. Departure times are 8 and 10:30 am at Curry Village, 8:10 and 10:40 am at Yosemite Village, 8:15 and 10:45 am at The Ahwahnee, and 8:30 and 11 am at Yosemite Lodge. The ski area is about an hour by road from Yosemite Valley and is located a short distance from Wawona Road and Chinquapin on Glacier Point Road. (Glacier Point Road is closed for winter beyond Badger Pass.)

Badger Pass Ski Area is the oldest continuously operating ski area in California. The lodge and original lift opened to the public in December 1935. Nordic ski facilities in the area include close to 25 miles of machine-groomed track (depending on conditions) and the availability (with reservations and fee) of ski huts at Glacier Point and Ostrander Lake. Nordic rentals are available.

Vehicle Chain Requirements
When you are visiting from November through March, expect chain requirements to be in effect, even if you only plan to park in the Valley and ride the shuttle. Any time chain controls are in effect, all vehicles must have chains or cable chains ready for use. Not having them could subject you to an expensive citation.

Check by Phone
Call 209/372-0200 (press 1 then 4) for updated road information inside the park. This recording is updated whenever road conditions change and is the same way in which park staff gets road information. This recording includes information about current chain requirements. Remember that conditions can change rapidly.

You can also call 800/427-7623 for road conditions throughout California (outside of Yosemite).

Online Information
A summary of chain control rules can be found on the park website at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/chains.htm
Winter and early spring is a time of special beauty and offers unique opportunities for sport and adventure in the park. Note that some tours and roads familiar to summer visitors do not reopen until May or June.

Yosemite Valley

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore
Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 5 pm, just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The center offers information, maps, and books, in the attached bookstore. Explore the exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite’s spectacular landscape formed and how people interact with it.

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 4:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 4:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Internet Access
Fee-based terminals are open at Degnan’s Deli. Free internet access is available at the Mariposa County library, south of the Yosemite Cemetery. Hours vary. Ask at the Valley Visitor Center.

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

Indian Cultural Exhibit
Explore the cultural history of Yosemite’s native Miwok and Paise people from 1850 to the present. Demonstrations of traditional skills are presented. No food or drink.

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 park. Guide to the Yosemite Cemetery is available at the Valley Visitor Center.

Ansel Adams Gallery
Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm through March 16. After that date it will open from 9 am to 5 pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. It 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

Ansel Adams Gallery Exhibits
Through Feb. 25 Yosemite in Winter Group Show. Color and black and white images of Yosemite National Park in winter by photographers the Gallery represents.

Feb. 26 - April 18 William Neill - Yosemite Classics. William Neill’s photographs, from sweeping vistas to intimate studies of natural phenomena, strongly convey Yosemite’s exceptional qualities. The collection is powerful, inspired from 18 years of Neill’s working in the park. A reception for the artist will be held on Feb. 27 from 3-5 pm.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE
Open Thurs.-Sun. 9 am to 5 pm. The store opens daily March 12. It offers traditional American Indian arts and crafts, and books on related subjects.

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

Throughout Yosemite National Park

Experience Your America  Yosemite National Park
Yosemite Guide  February 18 - April 14, 2009

Visitor Services

Locations and hours across the park

Wawona

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 open throughout the year.

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 tells stories from Yosemite’s past.

Wawona Information Station
Visitors can obtain wilderness permits at a self-service kiosk adjacent to the Wawona Hotel.

Mariposa Grove
Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. The road to the Grove closed in December and opens sometime in April. Visitors can walk, ski, or snowshoe when the road is closed to vehicles.

Getting to Mariposa Grove
Allow an hour’s driving time to reach the grove’s access road through the Valley. A locked gate prevents vehicles from entering the closure area. Limited parking is available near the gate.

Snork Travel to the Grove
Skiers and snowshoers can follow the snow-covered road into the grove. Trails within the grove are marked by yellow flags attached to trees above ground level. When snow covers the ground here, access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski.

Dogs or bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.

Distance & Elevation
Distances below do not include the 2-mile approach from the locked gate near the park’s south entrance.

GRIZZLY GIANT
Distance from trailhead: 0.56 mile / 1.2km
Elevation Gain: 400ft / 122m

BIG OAK FLAT (Hwy 120)
Big Oak Flat Information Station
The station is closed until May, but wilderness permits are available at a self-service, 24-hour kiosk throughout the winter season.

Merced Grove
Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees. It’s a four-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe (about three hours) into the grove from Big Oak Flat Road.

Tuolumne Grove
This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. The path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip is moderately strenuous.

Outdoor Adventures
For more details and information on Yosemite Association’s adventures and seminars, pick up a catalog at any park visitor center, call 209/379-2321, or visit www.yosemite.org.

Feb. 20-21
Photographing the “Fireside” Water and light with John Sersen
209/372-8459.
Feb. 28
Peregrine Snow Survey Measure the season with Ranger Mark Fetchen
March 7
Moonlight snowshoe 3. A bright night with Kendra Kurihara.
March 14
Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist 2. With Emily Jacobs.
March 21
Equinox at the Edge. Snowshoe to Dewey Point with Nicki Dunbar
A Hard Road on Gold Mountain. Chinese history with Yen Chen.
March 29
Flowers After the Fire. Spring at lower elevations with Michael Ross.
April 3-4
Leave No Trace (INT) training with Pete Davine.
April 11
Springtime Flowers. Colors and life on display with Michael Ross.

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Protecting Yourself
Experience Yosemite—safely

Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.
There are many ways to experience the wildness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning, you can minimize the risks associated with many activities.

Avoid Hypothermia
Sierra winters are comparatively mild, but temperatures can drop into dangerous territory with little warning. Winter sports require a high degree of preparation and training. Be prepared for a bivouac even when out just for the day. Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

Avoid the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Know symptoms of hypothermia. Carry emergency fire-starting materials and food. Avoid dehydration; carry and drink plenty of water and carry emergency high-energy food.

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 park wildlife. Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy park wildlife.

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, Backcountry
Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing
- There are no scheduled winter patrols, so be prepared. Be honest about your abilities and plan with the least experienced member of your group in mind.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back.
- Be prepared for icy travel before conditions arise. Bring crampons, ice axe, climbing skins, and other traction devices.
- Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
- Check weather forecasts. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult.

Water Quality
- 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.

Protect Yosemite’s Wilderness
- Free wilderness permits are required for all wilderness trips.
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Use gas stoves, not wood fires.
- Camp in an existing campsite at least 100 feet from water and trail. You must camp four trail miles from any populated area and one mile from any road.
- To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.
- Maximum group is 15 people for on-trail and eight for off-trail travel.

Wilderness Permits
Free permits are required for day trips. Permits are issued at Yosemite Valley, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Self-service permit kiosks are open during the autumn and winter, with an additional permit point open at Badger Pass. Info: 209/372-0200.

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

Sightings are quite rare, so if you spot a Mountain Lion, it is advisable to keep a safe distance away. They are attracted to areas with healthy plant life and can travel great distances in search of prey. Generally, they are quiet, alert, and elusive. Sightings are quite rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!

### Mountain Lions

Mountain Lions are a normal and important part of the park ecosystem. They are attracted to areas with healthy deer and raccoon populations, which include many areas of the park. Generally, they are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are quite rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!

- **To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, always treat water before drinking.**
- **To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking.**
- **Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the Foresta Bridge in El Portal.**
- **If you are staying in a campground or parking lot, you must store all your food in a food locker.**
- **Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths.**
- **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 left unattended.**
- **Bicycles** Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please re-spect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails. They are not allowed to travel off-trail or on dirt paths or trails.

### Fishing

Trout season in Yosemite does not open until April. 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.**
- **Artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used.**
- **The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.**

### Water Quality

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

- **Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier.**
- **To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available, and always wash hands after using restroom facilities where available.**

### Protecting Your Park

Enjoy park places, plants, and wildlife safely and responsibly.

### Keeping Bears Wild

Three Top Ways to Keep Yosemite’s Black Bears Wild and Alive. Remember that Yosemite Bears are Active All Winter Long:

1. **Store Your Food Properly.**
   - “Food” includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals. Do not store food in your car after dark, near a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats.
   - If you are staying in a campsite or tent cabin, you must store all your food in food lockers. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RV’s with windows closed. Do not leave food unattended at picnic areas and along trails. When backpacking in the wilderness, bear resistant food containers are required.

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. 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 get too close, you will be considered lucky—but keep your distance. 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. 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.
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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. Please slow down!
   - 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.
Struggles in the Snow

Feature article

By Ranger Karen Kanes

Winter can mean many things. To people living in Alaska it can mean surviving sub-zero temperatures and only a few precious hours of daylight. To people living in Arizona it can mean wearing sweaters when it is 70 degrees F. What nearly everyone has in common is that we all live indoors. Because of this, people are more detached from winter.

Look and listen

Imagine life outdoors in the winter where you can’t crank up the heater and enjoy a warm drink or turn on a light when it gets dark. What would winter mean if staying warm, fed and sheltered was a constant struggle? A visit to Yosemite in winter and early spring is protected where these battles for survival take place. Your exploration of Yosemite presents a chance to grasp the ingenuity of plants and animals surviving the stresses of winter. Although people are more detached from the outside world in winter than coyotes and mice, we can learn from the animals that stay outside. Humans have become detached from nature; for many plants and animals, it is the opposite because they now have a meal. They swoop down within seconds and use their large beaks as utensils. But the coyote is hungry too and abandons the meadow for this easier feast. Ignoring the ravens, it quickly grabs the squirrel and mice as a meal. Each hunt is not always successful and a coyote may only catch a face covered in snow. What may look like a comical winter dance is the coyote’s way of securing a bit of protein to stave off the scarcity of winter.

Cold weather opportunities

Coyotes are opportunists and mice and voles are not their only means of subsistence. A coyote may be alerted to another chance at a snack by the distinctive “crock, crock” of a pair of ravens. Sitting on a snowy branch above a road, these large black birds defend against chilly temperatures by wearing a warm jacket of feathers. Their intelligence also serves them in winter. Ravens realize that animals get killed by cars and they spend time near roads waiting for opportunities. A grey squirrel struck by a car, although upsetting to us, is the cause of the ravens’ celebration because they now have a meal. They swoop down within seconds and use their large beaks as utensils. But the coyote is hungry too and abandons the meadow for this easier feast. Ignoring the ravens, it quickly grabs the squirrel in its jaws and runs off with dinner.

Seasonal struggles

This drama may play out in only a matter of moments and is possible to see here in Yosemite because a large natural area is protected where these battles for life take place. Your exploration of Yosemite presents a chance to grasp the ingenuity of plants and animals surviving the stresses of winter. Although people are more detached from the outside world in winter than coyotes and mice, we can learn from the animals that stay outside. Humans have become so well adapted that, for most people, winter is not a life or death experience; for many plants and animals, it is. Discover the beauty and struggle in the snow and consider what winter means to you.

Learn more about Yosemite animals at www.nps.gov/yose/naturescience/animals.htm

The snow-covered landscape presents opportunities to animals that have special food-gathering strategies. Pay attention and you may see these specialists at work as you visit the park.

By Ranger Karen Kanes

Like humans, many Yosemite residents are active in winter.

By Ranger Karen Kanes

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Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite’s future

Enhancing the Visitor Experience
It takes a legion of people working together to protect this special park for you and future generations of visitors. You, too, can extend your connection to Yosemite well after you return home by getting involved with the organizations that partner to preserve Yosemite.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg