May - June 2009

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide

Reflections on Tuolumne Meadows. Photo by Christine White Loberg
Things to Do

Keep this Guide with you to get the most out of your visit

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours. But to give you some ideas, park rangers made a list of possibilities for adventure. In no particular order, here are 12 popular activities for a day in Yosemite National Park.

Walk to a Waterfall
Yosemite Valley is famous for its awe-inspiring waterfalls; each as distinct as the granite cliffs they dive over; and each booming with spring runoff. Explore Bridalveil Fall or Lower Yosemite Fall for an easy stroll. Upper Yosemite Fall, Vernal Fall, or Nevada Fall will give you a more strenuous hike. (See page 17 for hiking information.)

Explore a Sequoia Grove
Meet the most massive living things on earth as you explore a giant sequoia grove. Yosemite is home to three groves—the Mariposa Grove, which contains hundreds of sequoias, and the Tuolumne and Merced Groves, which each hold dozens. (See page 2 for a map of the park.)

See Sunset from Glacier Point
Glacier Point provides a superb view of Half Dome, towering more than 3,000 feet above Yosemite Valley. Witness the sunset, as it lights up the cliff face, from Glacier Point or other points in Yosemite Valley. Listen in on a sunset talk with a ranger at Glacier Point. Expect a half-hour delay on the Glacier Point Road Monday through Friday. (See page 2 for a park map and road delay info.)

Visit the other valley, Hetch Hetchy
“Almost an exact counterpart of the Yosemite...a visit to its counterpart may be recommended, if it be only to see how curiously nature has repeated herself.” -Josiah D. Whitney. Hetch Hetchy provides spectacular vistas, waterfalls and early season hiking. (See page 2 for a park map and area info.)

How to Use Your Yosemite Guide
The list on this page offers 12 popular things to do. The table of contents (“What’s inside...”) at lower right shows where you can turn for more information. Program listings (by park district) are on pages 6, 7, 9, and 11.

Discover the Night Sky
Attend the “Starry Skies Over Yosemite Valley” for a wild ride through the universe to learn about stars, constellations, planets, meteoroids, and other night sky features, all from the comfort of Yosemite Valley. Sign up at any tour desk. (See page 4 for Tour Desk locations.)

Go to the Theater
Yosemite Theatre LIVE offers entertainment and inspiration through a variety of live theater performances that bring Yosemite’s history to life. Discover the world of John Muir and other characters from the park’s rich history. (See page 7 for shows and starting times.)

Have Fun with the Family
Learn about Yosemite, meet a park ranger, and have a blast by becoming a Yosemite Junior Ranger or Yosemite Little Cub. Check in with any visitor center to find out how. Stop by the Nature Center at Happy Isles for another great place to explore with the family. (See page 12 for the Jr. Ranger Page.)

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 pages 6 and 7 for times and meeting places.)

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Welcome, and Be Prepared
Emergency: Dial 911

Website: www.nps.gov/yose
Access for People With Disabilities
The Yosemite Accessibility Guide is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm. Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue-and-white signs. A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0200 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 weeks is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.

Lost and Found
To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite’s restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses, or tour services, call 209/372-4937. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/379-1001.

Weather
Sudden changes in weather are common in the Sierra Nevada. Check at a park visitor center for the most up-to-date weather forecast.

Road Information
Construction may cause short delays or detours on some park roads. Call 209/372-0200 for road information.

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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 via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. Yosemite Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, its plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and its lush meadows. Cool off in the mist from one of the waterfalls while they are at their peak flow in the spring and early summer. Walk to Mirror Lake, where you will see reflections of Half Dome. Gaze up at El Capitan, a massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit.

Whether you explore the valley by foot, bike, car, on horseback, raft or tour, you will behold scenery that will leave you breathless and eager to see what’s around the next corner.
Glacier Point

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Yosemite’s high country, 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 through sometime in November. Motorists should be prepared for 30-minute construction delays during the work week, however. At Glacier Point, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating, some might say unnerving, view 3,214 feet down to Yosemite Valley below.

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 ¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park’s South Entrance station. 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. Enjoy a horse-drawn stage ride, learn an old trade at the blacksmith shop, or hike one of the scenic trails. For more information, visit the newly-designed Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio, adjacent to the historic Wawona Hotel. This was once a painting studio for the 19th-century artist Thomas Hill. The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is a short drive or help reduce congestion by taking the free shuttle from the Wawona Store. This grove is Yosemite’s largest, containing over 500 large mature sequoias.

Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

Crane Flat is a forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. A number of hikes through pleasant meadows are available. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk two steep miles down to this small grove. These groves north of Yosemite Valley are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off-limits to vehicles. Remember that the walk down is easier than the walk back up.

Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

The Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. It is generally open from late May or early June through sometime in November. The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. Tuolumne Meadows embodies the high-country of the Sierra Nevada. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by even higher granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. Stop at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center for information about hiking to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Dog Lake, Lembert Dome, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon. Take advantage of the free shuttle service in Tuolumne Meadows or Tuolumne Meadows Hiker’s Bus Tour from Yosemite Valley.

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. Due to its importance as a municipal water supply, no fishing or swimming is permitted, however. 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 May 1 through Labor Day, with reduced hours during the rest of the year. Hetch Hetchy Road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is approximately a 1 hour and 15 minute drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

Wilderness Travel Basics

Yosemite’s Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude in a beautiful setting. In order to avoid overcrowding and reduce impacts, the park has a trailhead quota system limiting the number of backpackers entering a trailhead on a given day. Of each daily quota for a trailhead, 60 percent can be reserved ahead of time, while the remaining 40 percent is available on a first-come, first-served basis one day prior to, or the same day as, the beginning of your hike. See page 14 for more information about wilderness permits and wilderness permit reservations.
Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas and the heart of the park

The Incomparable Yosemite Valley
Yosemite Valley embraces one of the world’s most outstanding concentrations of waterfalls, granite walls, meadows, wildflowers, and trees. The Valley also harbors a rich collection of human stories, from American Indian lore to the birth of the National Park movement.

Yosemite Valley
An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 5, 6, and 7 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

The base of Lower Yosemite Fall is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. Bicycle paths offer an alternate way to access the trailhead. The hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired when the path is clear. More adventurous hikers can spend several hours switchbacking to an area near the top of Upper Yosemite Fall.

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. You can park at Curry Village and walk too. It takes about 15 minutes to get there.

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. Please observe warning signs along the trail, and always pack your trash out.

Tunnel View, along Wawona Road (High 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. Summer coach tours are also offered daily to Glacier Point, with a daily Grand Tour covering the Valley, Glacier Point, and the Mariposa Grove. An experienced guide narrates each tour. The Valley tour uses an open-top tram, except during poor weather.

Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at the tour and transportation or info desks at Yosemite Lodge, Yosemite Village, Curry Village, and The Ahwahnee.

You can experience the Valley by bike by bringing your own, or by renting at Curry Village or Yosemite Lodge. Rental shops are open 9 am to 6 pm; from 8:30 am to 8 pm starting on June 13.
The Heart of Yosemite National Park

Late spring and early summer are times of dramatic growth and offer special opportunities for adventure. Services are open longer and additional programs are available.

Yosemite Valley

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 7:30 pm. The center is just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The facility offers information, maps, and books, in the attached bookstore. Explore the exhibits and learn how Yosemite’s 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 5:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 5:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE EXHIBIT

An exhibition of selected artists-in-residence who have worked in Yosemite over the last 20 years opens on Saturday, June 20 at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. The exhibit continues through November 1. The opening will be preceded by a reception from 5:30 to 7:30 PM on Friday, June 19th at the Gallery. The public is cordially invited to attend the reception.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Open 9 am to 5 pm. Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite’s Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

Open daily from 9 am to 5 pm. The store offers books and traditional American Indian arts and crafts.

Ansel Adams Gallery

In Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9 am to 6 pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, other photographers and artists, camera walks, workshops, and classes. Activities are listed on the front porch. Call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

At the Gallery Through July

May 28 - July 8: “Within The Stone,” strikingly beautiful, color photographs of polished rock specimens by Bill Atkinson. Reception and book signing with the artist on Wednesday June 3, from 4 to 6 pm.

Wednesday Art Nights

Art nights begin May 27, hosted by The Ansel Adams Gallery and the Yosemite Association Art & Education Center. Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm at The Ansel Adams Gallery, each event features a different artist and their work.

Wilderness Center

The Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village. Hours are 8 am to 5 pm through June 12, when hours extend to 7:30 am to 5 pm. Permits and bear canister rentals. Info: 209/372-0745.

Community Safety Day

Join medical and emergency staff from 10 am to 3 pm on Friday, June 5 to learn about safety in the park. Free children’s activity book—and info for all ages. At the Valley Visitor Center.

Yosemite Art & Education Center

The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers free art classes. The center’s hours are 9:30 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm Wednesday through Saturday. Please register for classes in advance at the center, located south of the Village Store. For artist seminars, see pages 6 and 7.

Packing Info Station

Yosemite Association volunteers staff an information station at Visitor Parking (see map on back of this Guide). Yurt station hours are 10 am to 4 pm daily.

Nature Center at Happy Isles

Open 9:30 am to 5 pm daily. Designed for nature-exploring families, the center offers natural-history exhibits and a bookstore. The center is a short walk from shuttle stop #6.

Internet Access

Fee-based terminals are at Degnan’s Deli. Wireless access is offered at The Ahwahnee and Yosemite Lodge. Free access is available at the Mariposa County library, south of the Yosemite Cemetery. Hours vary.

Horse or Mule Rides

Fee-based horse or mule rides begin at the stable near North Pines campground. Other services are available too. Stable hours are 7:30 am to 5 pm daily. Information: 209/372-8348.

Yosemite Medical Clinic

Emergency care: 24 hours daily. Drop-in and urgent care: 8 am to 7 pm. Appointments: 8 am to 5 pm. M-F. Located on Ahwahnee Drive. Call 209/372-4637.

Dental Services

Next to Yosemite Medical Clinic. Call 209/372-4637 or 209/372-4637.

Yosemite Guide   May 27 - June 30, 2009

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Yosemite Village

Degnan’s Loft

5:00 pm to 9:15 pm M-F

Dinner: 5:00 pm to 9:15 pm Sat.

Degnan’s Delicatessen

7:30 am to 5:30 pm

Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:30 am to 11:00 am

Lunch: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Dinner: 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Mountain Room Restaurant

5:30 pm to 9:30 pm (reservations recommended for 8 or more) 209/372-1281

Cone Stand at the Pool

11:00 am to 8:30 pm

Happy Isles Snack Stand

10:00 am to 7:30 pm

Curry Village

Ahwahnee and Yosemite Lodge

7:30 am to 7:30 pm

Happy Isles Snack Stand

7:30 am to 7:30 pm

Mountain Room Restaurant

5:30 pm to 9:30 pm (reservations recommended for 8 or more) 209/372-1281

Cone Stand at the Pool

11:00 am to 8:30 pm

1. The public is cordially invited to attend the reception.
2. The Curry Village Deli.
3. The Ahwahnee Bar.
4. The Yosemite Art & Education Center.
5. The Yosemite Museum.
Outdoor Adventures and Custom Adventures

For more on Yosemite Association's field seminars, pick up a catalog at any park visitor center, call 209/372-3321, or visit www.yosemite.org. The Yosemite Association also offers individualized Custom Adventures for groups and families. Call ahead at least two weeks to arrange your own naturalist guide who will meet your interests and schedule.

Yosemite Mountain School

YMS offers rock climbing classes, guided climbs, custom backcountry trips, and daily hikes. YMS is celebrating our 40th Anniversary. Experience the park with a professional guide: 209/372-8344.

Yosemite Mountaineering School

YMS offers rock climbing classes, guided climbs, custom backcountry trips, and daily hikes. YMS is celebrating our 40th Anniversary. Experience the park with a professional guide: 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 the volunteer office at 209/379-1850 or YOSE_volunteers@nps.gov.

Free Art Classes

The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers free classes Wednesday through Saturday from 10 am to 12 pm. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Be prepared for a short walk and bring plenty of water and snacks.

LeConte Memorial Lodge

The Lodge is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm, with evening programs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, and some Thursday evenings during July and August. Evening programs are scheduled for 8:00. Programs are free. Open House hours begin at 7:30 pm when scheduled. The Lodge is located at bus stop #12. The season ends September 13.

NPS National Park Service
DNC DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
AAG The Ansel Adams Gallery
AAC American Alpine Club
SC Sierra Club
YA Yosemite Association
YMS Yosemite Mountain School
YF Yosemite Fund
S Programs offered for a Fee

Indicates facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Short, steep inclines may be encountered. A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Contact 209/372-4726 (TTY) or 209/372-0296 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 weeks is requested.

Religious Services

Yosemite Community Church (Indendependental)

Weekly Worship / Valley Chapel
Sunday 9:15am, 11:00am, 1:00pm
Thurs. 7:00pm, Tuesday Bible Studies
Sunday June 7: Chapel 130th Anniversary Call 209/372-4831 for information

Roman Catholic
Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater
Sunday Mass: 10:00am

Church of Christ
Inconvenient Church
El Portal Chapel / Worship Sunday 11am
Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane
Info: 209/372-2100

Seventh-Day Adventist
Saturdays, Lower River Amphitheater
9:45am / Music / Sabbath School
11am - Worship / 10:30am Potluck
Info: 209/586-4325

Latter Day Saints
Sacrament meetings: Sundays, 1pm. June through Labor Day. Yosemite Chapel

A Christian Ministry in the National Parks (AC.M.P.N.)
Campground ministries, 8am Sundays
At Lower Pines, Wawona, and Tuolumne Meadows campgrounds

Service Organizations

Alchohols Anonymous
7:30pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday
DNC General Office Building
(Employee Training Center)
Yosemite Village

Al-Anon
No Al-Anon meetings are currently taking place. However, if you need to speak with someone, feel free to call Dave M. at 209/755-1266.

Lions Club
Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon. The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4475.

Rotary International
Meets Thursdays for lunch at noon in the Ahwahnee Dining Room. Visit Rotarian families and guests welcome. For meeting reservations or information, call 209/372-8459.
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<td>YOSEMITE THEATRE LIVE: Lee Stetson presents The Spirit of John Muir (June Tuesdays only) 1 ½ hrs. Valley Visitor Center Theater, tickets at any tour desk or at the Valley Visitor Center bookstore (YA)</td>
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Programs printed in **COLOR** are especially for CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.
Wawona, Mariposa Grove and Glacier Point

Where to Go & What to Do

Wawona & the Mariposa Grove

Coffee with a Ranger
Grab your mug and join a ranger in the Wawona Campground Amphitheater for coffee, tea, and hot cocoa. Use this time to plan your day or get other questions answered. See page 9, at right, for dates and times.

Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio
Open 8:30 am to 5 pm, the visitor center offers information about park activities, wilderness permits, trail information, books, bear canister rentals, and maps. Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, Hill’s Studio was the gallery and art studio of famous 19th-century landscape painter, Thomas Hill. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona Store parking area and follow the path up the hill. For more information call 209/375-9531.

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

Ranger Evening Programs
Join in a park tradition by joining a ranger for an hour of stories, legends, and fun. Topics vary each night. See page 9, at right, for dates, times, and locations.

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 9, at right, for dates and times.

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

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

OLD-FASHIONED "WET-PLATE" PHOTOGRAPHY DEMONSTRATION
See the equipment and chat with a photographer about this 150-year-old method (June 17 – 21 only).

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

Getting to Mariposa Grove
Allow 1 ¼ hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot. The road may close due to limited parking, so use the free shuttle. Tram tickets 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.

Shuttle Service to Yosemite Valley
FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE BETWEEN WAWONA AND YOSEMITE VALLEY
The bus departs daily from the Wawona Hotel at 8:30 am and from the Wawona Store at 8:15 am. The return trip departs from Yosemite Lodge at 3:30 pm.

Please use this free bus service to help reduce congestion and parking delays.

BIG TREES TRAM TOUR
A 1 ¾-hr. 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 daily. 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.

FREE MARIPSA 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.

Explore History
Discover Giant Trees
Find Amazing Vistas
These park areas offer unique opportunities to visit historic and natural landmarks.
**Glacier Point**

### Evening Programs
Meet a ranger to enjoy the lengthening shadows in Yosemite Valley and the alpenglow (or moonrise) on the Sierra high country. Stargazing programs are offered, as well as details at right.

**Wawona Stable / Horse or Mule Rides**

Fee-based horse or mule rides begin at the Wawona stable (see map at left). Hours are 7 am to 5 pm daily. Information: 209/375-6502.
Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, Crane Flat

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

Opening date pending. Hours are 9 am to 5 pm through June 19. Hours are 9 am to 6 pm starting June 20. 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 flat and ½-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge is open from 10 am to 4 pm beginning in late June. 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 starts for the season on June 12. Due to limited trailhead parking, use of the free shuttle is encouraged.

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 4:30 pm through Friday, June 5. Hours are 8 am to 9 pm starting June 6. The wilderness center is 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), and Campfire for Kids. Starts June 20.

Ranger Walks

Join a ranger to explore new areas and learn about geology, birds, flowers, history, the Tuolumne River, and more. These walks range from one to eight hours and, except for the long walks, are fairly easy. On Fridays you can end your days with a Music Walk. This easy stroll will inspire and delight. Programs begin on June 20.

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 or Night Prowl. Bring a pad to sit on for the Star Program and dress warmly. Sign up in advance for the Night Prowl at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. Look for posted schedules by June 20.

Horse or Mule Rides

Fee-based horse or mule rides begin at the Tuolumne Meadows stable. Stable hours are 7 am to 5 pm starting on June 13. Information: 209/372-8427.

Big Oak Flat

Big Oak Flat Information Station

Open 8 am to 5 pm, beginning May 27. The station offers general park information, books, and maps. It also provides wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, and backpacking information.

Merced Grove

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

Tuolumne Grove

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger (June 21 &amp; 26 only if campground is open)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cap (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Hike—Lombard Dome (June 27 and 28 only)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 hrs. Moderately strenuous, 3 miles. Dog Lake Parking shuttle stop #2. Bring snacks and water (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Indians in the High Country (June 21 and 28 only)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 hrs. Lombard Dome Picnic Area (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Campfire (June 22 and 29 only if campground is open)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Bears and Other Wildlife (June 22 and 29 only)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Bears (June 22 &amp; 29 only)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 hr. White Wolf campground entrance (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGERS</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(except June 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 hr. Tuolumne Meadows campground kiosk (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger (June 23 &amp; 30 only)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 hr. White Wolf campground entrance (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:45pm</td>
<td>Starry, Starry Night (June 23 &amp; 30 only)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 hr. White Wolf campground entrance (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Hike—Hoover June 24 only if campground is open</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 hrs. Lombard Dome Picnic Area. Bring lunch, water &amp; rain gear (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Along the River (June 24 only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 hrs. Lombard Dome Picnic Area. Bring lunch, water &amp; rain gear (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>CAMPFIRE FOR KIDS (June 24 only if campground is open)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1 hr. reservoir Circle, Loop C in Tuolumne Meadows Campground</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Campfire (June 26 only if campground is open)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Tulamead June 25 only if campground is open</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 hrs. O'Shaughnessy Dam. Bring lunch, water &amp; rain gear (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire Program* (June 25 only)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 hr. White Wolf camping fire circle (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(June 21 &amp; 26 only if campground is open)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Bears (June 23 &amp; 28 only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 hr. Crane Flat camping circle (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger in the Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 hrs. Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoia for a series of short talks (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger in the Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 hrs. Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoia for a series of short talks (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Campfire programs begin June 20 only if campground is open.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Campfire programs begin June 20 only if campground is open.*

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**GROCERIES**

- Tuolumne Meadows Store 8am to 5pm
- White Wolf Store 8am to 8pm

**POST OFFICE**

- Tuolumne Meadows Post Office Monday through Saturday: 9am to 5pm
- White Wolf Post Office Hours: Monday through Thursday: 9am to 5pm

**GAS STATIONS**

- Tuolumne Meadows Gas stations
- White Wolf (Active opening June 19)

**GIFTS & APPAREL**

- Tuolumne Meadows Mountaineering (July 20 & 27 only)
- White Wolf (June 20 & 27 only)
- Animal Arts (June 20 & 27 only)

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**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**

*Programs printed in **COLOR** are especially for Children & their Families*
Become a Junior Ranger

Ages 3 and up can earn a badge by exploring the park

Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge. With an adult, pick a trail to walk. See page 17 of this Guide or stop by a visitor center to choose your trail. As you go, walk quietly, watch, listen, and think.

1. Write the name of the trail you walked. ___________________________________

2. Explore with your senses! Record the following.

   I see: ______________________   I hear: ______________________

   I smell: ____________________   I touch: _____________________

   Draw a picture of something you saw along the trail.

3. Learn to “leave no trace.” If you see trash or rubbish, please pick it up. Be sure to recycle any recyclable materials you pick up or bring along.

4. Learn more. Go to a ranger-led program or visit with an Indian Cultural Demonstrator. Have the ranger or demonstrator sign below.

   Signed by: ___________________________________________________

5. Write down something you learned from a ranger or Indian Cultural Demonstrator.

6. Think about this. Why do people work to protect national parks?

7. When you complete this page, take it to a visitor center. There you will take your oath and receive your Junior Ranger badge.

Be a naturalist. Look for these common Yosemite animals. If you see one, make a note by the animal’s picture below. If you don’t see the animal below, try to draw it in the box on this page. Where did you see it? What was it doing? Also, remember never to feed or approach an animal.

Illustrations by Tom Whitworth
Bears and Wildlife

Enjoying wildlife safely and responsibly

How to Store Food

“Food” includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for all the regulations and guidelines are followed. Note: Improper food storage may result in impoundment of your food or vehicle, a fine of up to $5,000, and/or revocation of camping permit. Following these regulations and precautions decreases the chance of personal injury or property damage. However, bear damage and confrontations are still possible, even when all the regulations and guidelines are followed.

<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 inside your car (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark; use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats.</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>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</td>
<td>You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed.</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>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>
</tbody>
</table>

Mountain Lions

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

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

What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?
- Never approach, especially if it is with kittens. Lions will avoid confrontation. Always give them a way to escape.
- Don’t run. Stay calm. Hold your ground, or back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright.
- Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up.
- If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms, shout, and throw objects at it. The goal is to convince it that you may be dangerous. If attacked, fight back!

Mountain Lions are magnificent creatures and native to Yosemite. Generally, they are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!
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
Hydration is life. Avoid dehydration and heat exhaustion by carrying plenty of water. Filters or other treatment methods are essential. (See “Water Quality” at right.)

Effects of Altitude
Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley’s elevation is 4,000 feet). The risk of occurrence increases with age and with diseases of the heart and lungs.

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

Hiking, Backpacking, Rock Climbing and Scrambling
• Be honest about your abilities and plan with the least experienced member of your group in mind. Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back. Carry a signal mirror and whistle. Solo activities require increased precautions.
• Stay on designated trails and routes. Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
• Avoid scrambling in steep terrain or off-trail. If new to climbing, take a class to learn critical safety and protection techniques. Never climb alone.
• Check weather forecasts. Storms can occur with little warning. Snow is possible year-round at higher elevations, and can make route finding difficult.
• Temperature shifts are common.
• 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.
• Don’t depend on cell phone or GPS reception for your safety.

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 overnight trips. Permits are issued at Yosemite Valley, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station (opening times vary). You can reserve permits, but they must be picked up in person. Check the park’s website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740 to reserve a permit.

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

Protecting park resources, cycling, and pets in the park

The Water Ways

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

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

Swimming

Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions.
- Always supervise children closely.
- Avoid areas of whitewater, where streams flow over rocky obstructions.
- Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
- Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

River Crossings

In summer, rivers and creeks swollen by snowmelt provide cooling relief. Use caution, however, as these waters can be dangerous.
- Stay away from river and creek banks during high water conditions and avoid rock hopping. Stream-polished rocks along the water’s edge 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 or 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 Washington Grove is open from 10 am to 6 pm daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device.

Raft Rentals

Raft rentals are available from 10 am to 4 pm as of May 29 at Curry Village Recreation Center.
- The entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher.
- You must wear or have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device immediately available.
- Fallen trees and other natural debris in the river create important habitat for fish and other wildlife. Be alert—they can also create hazards for rafters.

Fishing

Fishing in Yosemite is regulated under state law. A valid California sport-fishing license is required for those persons age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible by attaching it to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline.
- Trout season runs 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 Forstera Bridge in El Portal. Within these reaches of the river, it is catch-and-release only for rainbow trout. Brown trout limits are five fish per day. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used.
- The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

Water Quality

To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking.
- Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier.
- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available, and wash hands with soap and water. Follow wilderness procedures in the backcountry.

Pets

Kennels (open 8 am to 4 pm daily) 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 may not be tied to an object and left unattended.

Help Guard Park Resources...

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

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:
- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and call the park dispatch office at 209/378-1992.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Bicycling

Bike rentals at Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge are open 9 am to 6 pm through June 12. Hours are 8:30 am to 8 pm starting June 13.

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails. They are not allowed to travel off-trail. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite.
Camping in Yosemite National 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 campgrounds fill within several minutes of the opening period.

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

Hours:
7 am to 7 pm Pacific time (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 #14), the Tuolumne Meadows Campground entrance, in Wawona off Chilnualna Falls Road, and at Big Oak Flat Information Station.

Yosemite Valley
There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in a calendar year; however, May 1 to September 15, the camping limit is 14 days and only seven of those days can be in Yosemite Valley or Wawona.
Camp 4 is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis; these 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 campsites at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds. Reservations can be made the same way as individual site reservations; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets, RVs, and generators are not permitted in group sites.

Campgrounds in Yosemite National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</th>
<th>OPEN 2008 (APPROX)</th>
<th>MAX RV LENGTH</th>
<th>MAX TRAILER LENGTH</th>
<th>RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</th>
<th>DAILY FEE</th>
<th># OF SITES</th>
<th>PETS WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yosemite Valley</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pines</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>April 11 – Nov 15</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Pines</td>
<td>Mar 21 – Oct 15</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>$5/pers</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>No Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>South of Yosemite Valley</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Apr 20 – Sep 27</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Creek</td>
<td>July – Sep 1</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>North of Yosemite Valley</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodgdon Meadow</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>Apr 20 – Oct 8</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane Flat</td>
<td>Jun 20 – Oct 15</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>Late June – Oct 15</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>No Creek (boil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>July – Sep 15</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July – Sep 1</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Yes Creek (boil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine Flat</td>
<td>July – Oct 15</td>
<td>24 ft (limited)</td>
<td>20 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>No Creek (boil)</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>
<td>304</td>
<td>Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Choose your adventure
With over 800 miles of hiking trails, what better way to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite than on foot? Ask a ranger at any visitor center for one of several free, day-hike handouts. Excellent maps and guidebooks are available at bookstores throughout the park.

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock</td>
<td>Camp 4 Near 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 mile 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 #18</td>
<td>1.4 mile 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 Nevada Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,900-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>14 mi (via Mist Trail) or 16.3 mi (via John Muir Trail) round-trip, 10-12 hours</td>
<td>Extremely Strenuous, 4,800-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 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, 9-7 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>Chiluahna Falls Trail</td>
<td>Parking 2 mi, up Chiluahna Falls Rd.</td>
<td>8.2 miles round-trip, 5 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 2,400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLACIER POINT ROAD</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taft Point</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>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>TUOLUMNE MEADOWS AREA</td>
<td>Soda Springs / Panorama Lodge</td>
<td>Lembert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>1.5 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lembert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Muir Trail through Lyell Canyon</td>
<td>Dog Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Lake</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Group Campground</td>
<td>4.8 miles round-trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAIL KAYAK</td>
<td>Luukens Lake</td>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>5.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Luukens Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake</td>
<td>19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HETCH-HETCHY</td>
<td>Wapama Falls</td>
<td>O’Shaughnessy Dam</td>
<td>5 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hiker's Bus.

Self-Guided Trails

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

Giant Sequoias
Two self-guiding trails in the Mariposa Grove, and one in near 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.
Several recent rockfalls caused a stir Dr. Greg Stock says.that cause no damage, park geologist each year—with most in remote zones events occur around Yosemite Valley and that they can occur at any time. As you visit the park, you may hear rockfall boulders do not roll very far out created by their fall through space, most bottom of cliff faces. Despite the energy in debris piles called “talus cones” at the experts know that rockfalls accumulate process that shapes the Yosemite landscape. By Ranger Erik Skindrud A rumble woke me at the Valley’s Upper Pines Campground this past March. I could tell that boulders made the sound—bouncing down the Valley’s cliffs. But where were the boulders? For a moment, I wanted to bolt from my sleeping bag and hide behind a tree. Experts know that rockfalls accumulate in debris piles called “talus cones” at the bottom of cliff faces. Despite the energy created by their fall through space, most rockfall boulders do not roll very far out onto the Valley floor. So I went back to sleep. As you visit the park, you may hear rockfalls too. About 30-40 significant events occur around Yosemite Valley each year—with most in remote zones that cause no damage, park geologist Dr. Greg Stock says. Several recent rockfalls caused a stir in the park, however. One in October 2008 damaged several cabins at Curry Village and slightly injured three visitors. Given Curry Village’s proximity to the granite cliffs that make up Glacier Point, and the history of rockfall in the area, park officials closed more than 200 cabins as a precaution. Cause for concern? More recently in March, a much bigger rockfall spilled down from Ahwiyah Point near Half Dome and covered hundreds of feet of trail along the Mirror Lake Loop Trail. Because it took place early in the morning in Tenaya Canyon, the event did not harm people. (A related one the next night woke me at Upper Pines Campground.) However, the segment of trail beneath this rockfall remains closed, and visitors should observe posted signs in the area. Geologists are starting to unravel the mystery of rockfall. The goal is to make predictions that will allow officials to issue warnings to protect lives and property. As with earthquakes, rockfall prediction remains an elusive goal. Stock and others have completed detailed surveys using high-resolution photography and LIDAR (laser mapping) to detect potential trouble spots. They are also “listening” to the cliffs with seismic and acoustic sensors to see if the cliffs emit any warning signs of imminent failure. Experts know that many rockfalls occur in winter and early spring, when water and ice exert pressures that can push rocks off cliffs. However, rockfalls also occur in summer and fall, and roughly half of all rockfalls don’t have a recognizable trigger. This makes prediction more difficult. "We are still a long way from being able to predict rockfalls with certainty,” Stock says. “So for now the message is that rockfalls are common in Yosemite Valley, and that they can occur at any time.” Scientists understand the basic forces that cause Yosemite granite to loosen from the cliffs and fall to the Valley floor. One important process is known as exfoliation. It takes place along networks of fractures called “joints” that run through the rocks of Yosemite. Failures commonly occur along these exfoliation joints. This process helped shape Half Dome, Royal Arches, El Capitan, and other famous Yosemite rock formations. Reading the record Geologists have a simple but ingenious way to estimate long-term rates of rockfall in Yosemite Valley. The last glaciers swept the Valley floor free of loose rock and debris about 17,000 years ago. Rockfalls since then have built up talus cones beneath the cliffs. By measuring the cones’ volume, geologists can understand long-term patterns of rockfall and see how rockfall activity varies from place to place in the Valley. By mapping the locations that rockfall boulders have come to rest, scientists can also identify areas where it would be too dangerous to erect buildings or pitch tents. This was part of the assessment that led to the closing and relocation of cabins at Curry Village. The bottom line is that scientists are still working towards a better understanding of rockfall hazards. No place in Yosemite Valley is 100 percent safe, but scientists and park officials are taking steps to limit the risk to visitors. •Learn more about Yosemite rockfall at http://www.nps.gov/yose/naturescience/rockfall.htm

Rockfall: Geology You Can Hear

As you visit the park, you may hear or even see a rockfall. To minimize risk, please observe posted signage that marks zones of recent activity.

Minimize Hazards, Learn, and Communicate

• Understand this dynamic natural process. Rockfall is the most powerful geologic agent acting today in Yosemite. The dramatic cliffs of Yosemite are constantly being shaped by this potent natural force.

• Be aware of your surroundings. Remember that Yosemite is a wild place. Rockfall hazard zones occur throughout the park near any cliff faces. Be aware that rockfalls are difficult to predict and may happen at any time. Pay attention to warning signs, stay off of closed trails, and, if unsure, keep away from the cliffs.

• Inform park staff if you witness a rockfall. If you witness or hear a rockfall of any size, please report it by calling 209/379-1420. This information is useful for assessing rockfall hazards and adds to the growing knowledge base of rockfall activity in the park.
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 Yosemite Association
The Yosemite Association is a nonprofit membership organization that provides opportunities for people to learn about, enjoy, and experience Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada. The Association celebrates the majesty and grandeur of this region through its visitor services, publications, outdoor classroom, and membership activities, which give people of all ages the chance to forge an enduring and inspirational connection to Yosemite. This, in turn, builds a commitment to the long-term preservation and vitality of Yosemite and our National Parks. Since 1923, the Association has provided important services and financial support to the National Park Service. Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to become more closely involved and affiliated with the park will enjoy membership in the Association. For more information, visit www.yosemite.org.

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

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

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
209/379-9510 fax
www.yni.org

Contact Us...

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

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite
PO Box 578
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www.yosemitepark.com

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www.yni.org

Supporting Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s future
A portion of the trail past Mirror Lake is closed due to rockfall. Please observe posted signs.

Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am - 10:00pm. The El Capitan and Express Shuttles operate from 9:00am - 6:00pm. All shuttles follow the same route, serving stops in numerical order. Service may be affected by construction projects. Check shuttle stops for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stop #</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Visitor Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yosemite Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Ahwahnee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dagnan’s Delli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Valley Visitor Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Camp 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Yosemite Lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sentinel Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>LeConte / Housekeeping Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Recreation Rentals</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Curry Village</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Curry Village Parking</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Upper Pines Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Happy Isles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Trailhead</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Stable</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Pines Campgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>El Capitan Picnic Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>El Capitan Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Four Mile Trailhead</td>
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