Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Vol. 34, Issue No.5

July-August 2009

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide

July 1 - August 4, 2009

*Note: Service to stops 15, 16, 17, and 18 may stop after a major snowfall.

A portion of the trail past Mirror Lake is closed due to rockfall. Please observe posted signs.

Wildfire light at Glacier Point. Photo by Christine White Loberg
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. While Yosemite Falls may be dry by August, Bridalveil, Vernal, and Nevada Falls flow all year. Vernal Fall and Nevada Fall will give you more of a workout to reach them. (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 the sun sets on 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.)

Drive to Olmsted Point
Take in the spectacular panoramic view from this scenic turnout on the Tioga Road: Tenaya Canyon, granite peaks and domes, and Tenaya Lake with Mt. Conness in the background. Bring your binoculars to see bikers ascend the Half Dome cables! (See page 2 for a park map and area info.)

Travel Back in Time
Visit Wawona’s Pioneer Yosemite History Center and join “Buckshot” for a horse-drawn stage ride! These 10-minute rides introduce you to an early chapter in Yosemite’s history. Fun for the whole family. (See pages 8 and 9 for history center and other program info.)

Stroll with a Ranger
Learn about the wonders of the park on a ranger-guided stroll. Programs are offered daily throughout the park on a variety of topics including waterfalls, trees, bears, geology, Yosemite Indians and more. (See regional program grids on pages 6, 7, 9, and 11.)

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.

Welcome, and Be Prepared
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 online at www.nps.gov/yose/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 209/372-0645 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 209/372-4957. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/372-1001.

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.

Discover the Night Sky
Attend the “Starry Skies Over Yosemite Valley” for a wild ride through the universe to learn about stars, constellations, planets, meteors, 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 page 5 for museum hours and a list of gallery events and features.)

Wawona Programs 10 Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, Hetch Hetchy
Tuolumne Programs 12 Jr. Ranger Activities
All About Bears 14 Camping
Hiking 17
Feature Article: Ken Burns 18

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

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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 attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls slows to a trickle by August, a moderate hike will bring you to impressive Vernal and Nevada Falls. 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. A portion of the Wawona Road is subject to 30-minute delays Monday through Friday.

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 the Tuolumne Meadows Tour and Hikers’ Bus 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. (The fall slows to a trickle by August, however.) 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 (¼ 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 (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.

Daily sightseeing tours are 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 facilities are open 9 am to 6 pm.

Yosemite Valley Services

Post Offices

Yosemite Village Main Office Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
Saturday: 10am to noon
Yosemite Lodge Post Office Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm

Grocery, Books, & Gifts

Yosemite Village The Ansel Adams Gallery 9am to 6pm
Yosemite Art & Education Center 9:30am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm, Wednesday through Saturday
Yosemite Bookstore - Visitor Center 9am to 7:30pm
Yosemite Museum Store 9am to 3pm (May close for lunch)
Village Store Gift/Grocery 8am to 6pm
Habitat Yosemite 11am to 5pm
Sport Shop 9am to 6pm
Tour Desk - Village Store 7:30am to 1pm
The Ahwahnee The Ahwahnee Gift Shop 8am to 10pm
The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop 7am to 10pm
Yosemite Lodge Gift/Grocery 8am to 10pm
Nature Shop 10am to 8pm
Tour Desk 7:30am to 7pm
Curry Village Mountain Shop 8am to 8pm
Gift/Grocery 8am to 10pm
Tour Desk 7:30am to 3pm
Housekeeping Camp Gift/Grocery 8am to 8pm
The Heart of Yosemite National Park
The height of summer offers special opportunities for learning and adventure. Services are open longer and additional lectures, classes, and 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 is ongoing at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. Participants include John Barnett, Jane Culp, Bonnie Peterson, and Gina Werfel. The exhibit continues through November 8.

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, crafts, jewelry, and books.

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 talks, workshops, and classes. Activities are listed on the front porch. Call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

At the Gallery Through August

Wednesday Night Art in the Village
Each Wednesday, 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. Come join us for refreshments and celebrate and enjoy art in Yosemite.

Wilderness Center
The Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village adjacent to the post office. Hours are 7:30 am to 5 pm. Visit the center to learn about wilderness safety, plan trips, obtain wilderness permits and maps, and rent bear canisters.

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.

Parking 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 children and their families, the center offers natural-history exhibits and a bookstore. The center is a short walk from shuttle stop # 16.

Internet Access
Fee-based terminals are at Degnan’s Deli. Wireless access is offered at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village. Free access is available at the Mariposa County library, south of the Yosemite Cemetery at Yosemite Village (hours vary).

Horse or Mule Rides
Horse or mule rides begin at the stable near North Pines Campground. Stable hours are 7:30 am to 5 pm daily. Information: 209/372-8348.

Top right: Rangers with visitors. NPS photo by Erik Skindrud
Top center: Pine Flower
Top left: Summer fun along the Merced. Photos by Anthony Godwin

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Yosemite Village
Degnan’s Loft
Daily 5pm to 9pm
Degnan’s Delicatessen
7am to 5pm
Degnan’s Cafe
11am to 6pm
Village Grill
11am to 5pm
The Ahwahnee
Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am
Lunch: 11:30am to 3pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm
Reservations recommended for all meals, required for dinner. 209/372-1489
The Ahwahnee Bar
11am to 11pm
Yosemite Lodge
Coffee Corner
6:30am to 8:30pm
Food Court
Daily 6:30am to 8:30pm
Mountain Room Lounge
4:30pm to 11pm M-F
Room to 11pm Sat-Sun.
Mountain Room Restaurant
5:30pm to 9:30pm Reservations for 8 or more. 209/372-1281
Cone Stand at the Pool
Open daily.
Curry Village
Cafe Corral
8am to 9pm
Guest Lounge
8am to 10pm
Coffee Corner
6am to 10pm
Curry Village Bar
Room to 11pm
Pavilion Buffet
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm
Pizza Deck
Room to 11pm
Taqueria
11am to 5pm
Happy Isles Snack Stand
11am to 5pm

Yosemite Medical Clinic
Emergency care: 24 hours daily.
Drop-in and urgent care: 8am to 7pm. Appointments: 8am to 5pm, M-F (Except Mountain Crisis Services for victims of domestic violence.) Located on Ahwahnee Drive. Call 209/372-4637

Dental Services
Need for Yosemite Medical Clinic
Call 209/372-4200
or 209/372-4637.
Outdoor Adventures and Custom Adventures
For more on Yosemite Association’s field seminars, pick up a catalog at any park visitor center, call 209/372-2372, 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 you and schedule your interest.

July 3 – North Dome Moonrise Photographer’s Backpack with Jim Seren
July 24-26 – Intro to Sierra Natural History with Michael Ross and Pete Devine.
July 24-25 – Stars Over the High Country with astronomer Rich Comb
July 11 – Bird Banding Studies with ornithologist Sarah Stock. Ann Landauer
July 16-19 – Pastel Painting in Tuolumne Meadows with Moira Danahue
July 17-19 – Half Dome Overnight with YS.

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite
Fridays, 9 am to noon, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
Join Kens 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, phone 209/379-1850, email: YESL_volunteer@nps.gov, or visit http://www.nps.gov/yoel/planyourvisit/hasp.htm.

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

Free Art Classes
The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers free classes Wednesday through Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. Classes under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Be prepared for a short walk and bring something to sit on. Please register in advance.
July 1-4 – Ray Ernest Gould. Valley Landscapes in Pastel
July 8-11 – Laura Williams. Yosemite Plein Air with Laura Williams
July 15-18 – Anna Tsianak & Enri Perkel. Mirage Pastel
July 22-25 – Linda Mitchell. Watercolor for Fun
July 29-Aug. 1 – Young Lakes Backpack with Pete Devine.

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 in 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>FAMILY SCAVENGER HUNT</td>
<td>at any tour desk (YMS) $</td>
<td>2 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) $</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Climbs and Cliffs—Hike for Nonclimbers</td>
<td>at any tour desk (YMS) $</td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) $</td>
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<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 h. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>2 ½ hrs. Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) $</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 h. Nature Center at Happy Isles campfire ring, near shuttle stop #16</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
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**EVENING**

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<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>STARRY SKIES OVER YOSEMITE VALLEY 1 ½ hrs. Tickets/info at any tour desk (DNC) $</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**PROGRAMS PRINTED IN ALL CAPS & COLOR ARE ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles campfire ring, near shuttle stop #16</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19</td>
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<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
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<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ½ hrs.</td>
<td>Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
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**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

<table>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19</td>
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Wawona, Mariposa Grove and Glacier Point

Where to Go & What to Do

Explore History
Discover Giant Trees
Find Amazing Vistas

These park areas offer unique opportunities to visit historic and natural landmarks.

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 a ranger around a campfire for an hour of nature, history, and insight into 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.

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 FOURTH OF JULY!
You are cordially invited to join the staff of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center for an old-fashioned celebration of the 4th of July! Activities will include a parade, speeches, and games, such as Gunny Sack Races, Three-Legged Races, Egg Toss, and Tag-of-War. A fun time will be enjoyed by people of all ages. This celebration takes place at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center on July 4th between 2 and 4 pm.

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 parking area. Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area.

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

BIG TREES TRAM TOUR
A 1 ¼ 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 & Trails
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. Interpretive signs provide a self-guiding tour. Translations are available in Spanish, German, French and Japanese. No dogs or bikes.

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 8:35 am. The return trip departs from Yosemite Lodge at 3:30 pm.
Wawona Stable / Horse or Mule Rides

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. Details at right.

Wawona / Mariposa Grove

Conditions are for children and their families. Programs in caps & color are for children and their families.
Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, Crane Flat

Where to Go & What to Do

Parsons Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs
Two trails, both flat and ¾-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge is open from 10 am to 4 pm. Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs.

Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series (Free)
Programs begin at 2 pm and last approximately one hour, unless otherwise noted. Allow 30 minutes walking time to Parsons Memorial Lodge from either Lembert Dome parking area or the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center.

Saturday, July 11
Tenting Tonight: Stories and Songs for Families Far from Home
Storyteller and musician Angela Lloyd enchants listeners of all ages.

Sunday, July 12
Leaving Home to Find Home
A performance by Angela Lloyd, master storyteller and musician.

Sunday, July 18
From the Sierra to the Sea: Extending the National Park Idea to Oceans
Slide presentation and discussion by Michael Sutton, Center for the Future of the Oceans, Monterey Bay Aquarium

Sunday, July 25
Shaping the Sierra: Nature, Culture, and Conflict in the Changing West
Talk and discussion with Tom Duane, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz

Sunday, July 26
Past Tents: The Way We Camped
Slide presentation by Susan Snyder, Head, Public Services, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

Saturday, August 1
Ooolation! Singers
A performance of nature-inspired music by young singers led by hammer dulcimer player Malcolm Dalgliesh, singers Naomi Dalgliesh, Joshua Karts, and body percussionists Keith Terry and Evie Ladin

Sunday, August 2
What’s Up (or Down) with Yosemite Birds?
Slide presentation by Sarah Stock, Wildlife Biologist, National Park Service

Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center
Hours are 9 am to 6 pm. The center offers maps, wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, and guidebooks.

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

Ranger Walks
Join a ranger to explore new areas and history, the Tuolumne River, and more. These walks range from one to eight hours and, except for the long walks, are fairly easy. On Friday you can end your day with a Music Walk. This easy stroll will inspire and delight.

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 fire. 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.

Horse or Mule Rides
Horse or mule rides begin at the Tuolumne Meadows stable. Stable hours are 7 am to 5 pm. Information: 209/372-8427.

Big Oak Flat
Big Oak Flat Information Station
Open 8 am to 5 pm. The station offers general park information, books, and maps. It also provides wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, and back-packing 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 trail is marked by a 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. The path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The way down can seem much easier than the return to the parking lot. The trip is moderately strenuous on the uphill portion. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.
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: ______________________

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.

- Marmot
- Coyote
- Clark’s nutcracker
- Black bear
- Golden-mantled ground squirrel
- Mule deer

Illustrations by Tom Whitworth
Bears and Wildlife

Enjoying wildlife safely and responsibly

Keeping Bears Wild

(While protecting yourself and your property)

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

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

2. If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.
   You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away. Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear.

3. Drive the speed limit.
   The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Slow down! Driving too fast is almost always the cause of these accidental deaths.

Red Bear, Dead Bear

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

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

How to Store Food

“Food” includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for food when meals are carefully planned. For more information regarding bears and proper food storage, visit the park’s website (www.nps.gov/yose/beverages).

Bear Resistant Food Containers

Bear resistant food canisters are 2.7-pound containers that can be used to store five or more days of backpacker food when meals are carefully planned. Canisters can be rented and returned at any of these locations.

Report Bear Sightings!

To report bear sightings, improper food storage, trash problems, and other bear-related problems, leave a message for the Bear Management Team at 209/372-0322. Your call can be returned at any of these locations.

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 lions attacks on humans are extremely rare, they are possible, just as injury from any wild animal.

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

What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?

Never approach one, especially if it is with kittens. Most 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!

<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 clean your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats. Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</td>
<td>You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed. Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and locked at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin. Bears may investigate picnics areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas &amp; on the Trails</td>
<td>Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm’s reach. Don’t turn your back to your food. Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry 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>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.
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.

Protecting Yosemite’s Wilderness
- Free wilderness permits are required for all wilderness trips.
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/ sanitary products.
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- 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.friendofyosar.org

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.

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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 runoff from snowmelt are dangerous.

- Stay away from river and creek banks during high water conditions and avoid rock hopping. Stream-polished rocks along the water’s edge are slippery when wet or dry.
- If you choose to cross a stream without a bridge, avoid places where the water is either swift or over your knees. Use a stick or pole for balance and try to cross where there is a gravel bottom. Crossing on a natural bridge of rocks or logs can be surprisingly slippery. Consider where you will land if you fall. Never cross above rapids or falls. To prevent being pulled under by the weight of your pack, unblock the waist strap so you can shed it if you fall in. Do not tie yourself into safety ropes—they can drown you.

Rafting
Condition permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stone man Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10 am to 6 pm daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device.

Raft Rentals
Raft rentals are available from 10 am to 4 pm 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 Foresta Bridge in El Portal. Within these reaches of the river, it is catch-and-release only for rainbow trout.
- Brown trout limits are five fish per day. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used.
- The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

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

- Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier.
- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available, and 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 are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles.

- Pets are not allowed in any lodging facilities or other buildings within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.
- Pets may not be tied to an object and left unattended.
- Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet faces in trash receptacles.

Bicycling
Bike rentals at Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge are open 9 am to 6 pm.

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.

Bikes are not allowed to travel off-trail. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite.

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/yoursafety.htm and find a copy of the Superintendent’s Compendium. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7 and 34), and other applicable federal statutes and regulations.

Yosemite Guide July 1 - August 4, 2009

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 runoff from snowmelt are dangerous.

- Stay away from river and creek banks during high water conditions and avoid rock hopping. Stream-polished rocks along the water’s edge are slippery when wet or dry.
- If you choose to cross a stream without a bridge, avoid places where the water is either swift or over your knees. Use a stick or pole for balance and try to cross where there is a gravel bottom. Crossing on a natural bridge of rocks or logs can be surprisingly slippery. Consider where you will land if you fall. Never cross above rapids or falls. To prevent being pulled under by the weight of your pack, unblock the waist strap so you can shed it if you fall in. Do not tie yourself into safety ropes—they can drown you.

Rafting
Condition permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stone man Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10 am to 6 pm daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device.

Raft Rentals
Raft rentals are available from 10 am to 4 pm 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.

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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. Dogs or other pets are not al lowed anywhere in the Mariposa, Tuolumne, or Merced sequoia groves. They are not allowed on trails in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted.

- Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles.
- Pets are not allowed in any lodging facilities or other buildings within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.
- Pets may not be tied to an object and left unattended.

Bicycling
Bike rentals at Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge are open 9 am to 6 pm.

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.

Bikes 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 877/887-6777 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 campgrounds 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.

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

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

Campfires:
- In Yosemite Valley between May 1 and September 30, campfires are permitted between 5 pm and 10 pm. At other times of the year and in out-of-valley campgrounds, fires are permitted at any time, as long as they are attended.
- Firewood collection (including pine cones and pine needles) is not permitted in Yosemite Valley; you may purchase firewood at stores near the campgrounds.

Camping in Yosemite National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</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</th>
<th>WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOSEMITE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pines</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>March 15 - Nov 30</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>April 4 – Nov 2</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Pines</td>
<td>April 1 – Oct 13</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$5/pers.</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>No</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>June 20 – Sep 28</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Creek</td>
<td>July 1 – Sep 8</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Yes</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>22 ft</td>
<td>Apr 10 – Oct 13</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane Flat</td>
<td>June 18 – Oct 15</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>June 23 – Oct 15</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>Late June – Sep 28</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July – Sep 8</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows</td>
<td>Late June – Sep 28</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Available at Trinity County, Lake County, Plumas County, Lassen National Forest, and surrounding Yosemite areas.

A complete list of campgrounds is available at www.recreation.gov.
**Hiking On the Trails**

Discover an easy stroll or a challenging hike

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**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.

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**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</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 miles round-trip, 6-8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 2,100-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 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>5 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-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 one-way</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 6-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**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>Chilnualna Falls Trail</td>
<td>Parking 2 mi. up Chilnualna Falls Rd</td>
<td>8.2 miles round-trip, 5 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 2,400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel Dome</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda Springs / Parsons Lodge</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>1.5 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambert Dome</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Muir Trail through Lyell Canyon</td>
<td>Dog Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy, 200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lake</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Group Campground</td>
<td>4.8 miles round-trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lukens Lake</td>
<td>White Wolf*</td>
<td>5.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 6 to 8 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lukens Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake*</td>
<td>13 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wapama Falls</td>
<td>O’Shaughnessy Dam</td>
<td>5 miles round-trip, 3 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers’ Bus. Additionally, the Tuolumne Meadows free shuttle serves all Tuolumne Meadows hikes listed above.

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**Self-Guided Trails**

**A Changing Yosemite**

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

**Giant Sequoias**

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

**Mirror Lake**

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

**Indian Village**

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

**Curry Village**

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

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This is a story about people—people and their love for the land—and the preservation of America’s most spectacular places: our national parks.

Communicating the values and vision of the national parks.

By Public Affairs Officer Scott Gediman

The National Park Service Public Affairs Officer at Yosemite works with a wide variety of journalists, celebrities, and government officials. Few of these encounters resonate as deeply as a recent one with documentary filmmakers Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan.

In 2003, Ken Burns’ co-producer Dayton Duncan came to Yosemite to discuss plans to create their latest documentary. The film was slated to be an all-encompassing look at America’s national parks. It traces the parks’ evolution from President Lincoln’s unprecedented setting aside of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias in 1864, as the first act of preservation that would eventually lead to the creation of Yellowstone in 1872, and concludes more than one hundred years later with the acquisition of park lands in Alaska.

This is a story about people—people and their love for the land—and the preservation of America’s most spectacular places: our national parks.

The production
Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan are among the most famous documentary filmmakers in America. They are known for their long-format productions, such as The Civil War, Jazz, Baseball, and The War. These are some of the most watched documentaries in the history of the Public Broadcasting Service. In this new production they were focusing their talents on the national parks.

The team began at Lower Yosemite Fall and then spent several days traveling and filming throughout Yosemite Valley. Then they began their trek across America. Over the next few years, crews from Ken’s company would return to Yosemite during several seasons to compile footage for the film. They filmed at Glacier Point, Mariposa Grove, and other Yosemite icons to ensure that the park was captured in all its glory.

Fast forward six years and over 50 national parks to the completion of the film that has become The National Parks: America’s Best Idea, a six-part, 12-hour documentary. It was now time for Ken and Dayton to travel the country to preview their film in parks and other venues that have a connection to national parks.

The film preview in Yosemite was slated for late April 2009—and a large part of the public affairs job is preparing for special events such as these. The staff spent several weeks planning all of the events that would be included in this very special occasion—screenings for park employees, interpretive walks, and receptions. It also provided an opportunity for Ken and Dayton to renew their connection with Yosemite. Ken had often stated that Yosemite was his favorite national park. Ken and Dayton had also recently been named Honorary Park Rangers by Acting National Park Service Director Dan Wenk.

Full circle
When Ken and Dayton arrived at the park, the first planned activity was a walk to Lower Yosemite Fall. At the point where filming had begun back in 2003, Dayton paused and announced that it was here that the first footage for the film was shot. And, the image of Yosemite Falls would also be the opening sequence of the film. It was a great honor to be there, and, in a sense, the experience had now come full circle.

As I look back on this experience, it stands out as one of the highlights of my National Park Service career. It is a privilege each day to live and work in Yosemite National Park, a place that means so much to me, and to my friends and family. To be able to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime project such as this makes it all the more meaningful.

Other films have been made about the national parks. However, this film is more than a story of place—it is also a story of a unique idea. It is a story of people—people who grasped this idea and devoted their lives and passion to the preservation of America’s grandest landscapes.

The National Parks: America’s Best Idea debuts on PBS affiliates across the country in September. Learn more about the film at www.pbs.org/nationalparks/
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. For more information, visit www.yosemite.org.

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

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

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.

Supporting Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s future

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.yni.org

To Learn more about Park Planning and Improvement Efforts visit online at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning
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Note: Service to stops 15, 16, 17, and 18 may stop after a major snowfall.

A portion of the trail past Mirror Lake is closed due to rockfall. Please observe posted signs.

Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

Campground
Parking
Picnic Area
Restrooms
Walk-In Campground

A shuttle can be expected to run 10-15 minutes, depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am – 11:00pm. The Lower Yosemite Tuolumne and Pines Shuttles operate from 8:00am – 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.