Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Vol. 34, Issue No.6

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Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide

August 5 – September 8, 2009

Penstemon blooms over the Valley. 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.

**Bike Yosemite Valley**
With over twelve miles of bike trails in Yosemite Valley, exploring by bike provides opportunities for awesome views of the granite cliffs that surround the Valley. Bikes are available for rent at the Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village recreation center. Please help us protect fragile plant communities by biking only on paved surfaces and have a blast!

**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 the granite cliffs that surround the Valley. Bikes are available for rent at the Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village recreation center. Please help us protect fragile plant communities by biking only on paved surfaces and have a blast!

**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 hikers ascend the Half Dome cables! (See page 2 for a park map and area 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.” -Joshual D. Whitney. Hetch Hetchy provides spectacular vistas, waterfalls and early season hiking. (See page 2 for a park map and area info.)

**Discover the Night Sky**
Attend “Stars Over Yosemite Valley,” “Starry Skies Over Wawona,” “Starry, Starry Night” (White Wolf and Crane Flat), or “Stars Over Yosemite” (Glacier Point) to learn about the constellations, planets, and meteors in the sky over the park. (See pages 7, 9, and 11.)

**Go to the Theater**
Yosemite Theatre L'IVE 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.)

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/visit/visitaccessibility.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. An American Sign Language interpreter is available for Dial and hard of hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0296 (TTY) or 209/372-4726 (TTY) to request an interpreter. Assisted listening devices are available upon request. Inquire at 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 209/372-4357. For items lost 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. For more information, call 209/372-0296 for road information.

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NPS photo by Erik Skindrud

Western tanager. By Lauren Hamilton
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 trickle by August, a moderate hike will bring you to impressive Vernal and Nevada Falls. While it is dry this time of year, walk to the site of Mirror Lake, where you can gaze straight up at Half Dome. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, bike, car, on horseback, 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 home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area has high summer temperatures, and visitors should travel with sufficient water. Due to its use as a municipal water supply, no fishing or swimming is permitted. 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. The road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is 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.

El Capitan, the massive granite monolith and rock climbers' challenge, 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.

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 switchback up to 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. This fall flows more consistently into the autumn season.

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 8:30 am to 8 pm.

Top: Tunnel View is a top spot for Valley photos. Photo by Dustin Nelson
Above: Valley Floor Tour. Photo by Pam Meierding

VALLEY SERVICES
POST OFFICES
Yosemite Village
Main Office
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
Saturday: 11am to noon
Yosemite Lodge
Post Office
Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm

GROCERY, BOOKS, & GIFTS
Yosemite Village
The Ansel Adams Gallery
9am to 5pm
Yosemite Art & Education Center
9:30am to 11pm and 1am to 6am, Wednesday through Saturday
Yosemite Bookstore - Visitor Center
9am to 7:30pm
Yosemite Museum Store
9am to 5pm (May close for lunch)
Village Store Gift/Grocery
8am to 10pm
Habitat Yosemite
11am to 5pm
Sport Shop
10am to 6pm
Tour Desk - Village Store
7:30am to 9pm
The Ahwahnee
This Ahwahnee Gift Shop
8am to 10pm
The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop
7am to 10pm
Yosemite Lodge
Gift/Grocery
8am to 10pm; Barn-8pm as of Sept. 8
Nature Shop
10am to 8pm, 10am-6pm as of Sept. 8
Tour Desk
7:30am to 4pm

Curry Village
Mountain Shop
8am to 3pm
Gift/Grocery
8am to 10pm; Barn-8pm as of Sept. 8
Tour Desk
7:30am to 3pm

Housekeeping Camp
Gift/Grocery
8am to 8pm; 8am-5pm as of Sept. 8
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.

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

**At the Gallery Through August 19**


**Starting August 20**

“Color and Light: Photography by Michael Frye.” Frye is author of Photographer’s Guide to Yosemite. A reception and booksigning will be from 3:30 to 5:30 pm on Friday, Aug. 28.

**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 gallery. Art nights end Sept. 2.

**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.

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

Yosemite Village

- Degnan’s Loft: M-F 5pm to 9pm / S-S Noon-9pm
- Degnan’s Delicatessen: 7am to 5pm
- Degnan’s Cafe: 11am to 6pm; closes Sept. 8
- Village Grill: 11am to 9pm
- The Ahwahnee Bar: 11am-11pm

**Yosemite Lodge**

- Food Court: Daily 6:30pm to 8:30pm
- Mountain Room Lounge: 4:30pm to 11pm M-F; Noon 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 through Sept. 7

**Curry Village**

- Guest Lounge: 8am to 10pm
- Coffee Corner: 6am to 10pm
- Curry Village Bar: Noon to 9pm
- Pavilion Buffet: Breakfast: 7am to 10am
- Mountain Room Lounge: Noon to 10pm
- Curry Village Bar: Noon to 10pm
- Tuqueria: 11am to 5pm
- Happy Isles Snack Stand: 11am to 7pm

**MEDICAL & DENTAL**

Yosemite Medical Clinic

- Emergency care: 24 hours daily. Drop-in and urgent care: 8am to 7pm. Appointments: 9am to 5pm.
- Mountain Crisis Services: 7pm. Appointments: 8am to 5pm, M-F. (Also: Mountain Crisis Services for victims of domestic violence.) Located on Ahwahnee Drive. Call 209/372-4037.

Yosemite Dental Services

- Next to Yosemite Medical Clinic. Call 209/372-4030 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 209/372-3939 or visit www.yosemite.org. The Yosemite Association also offers, Wiildened, 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.

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite

Fridays, 9 am to noon, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

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 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 YOSE_volunteers@nps.gov, or visit http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hapy.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. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Be prepared for a short walk and bring something to sit on. Please register in advance.

August 5-8
David Dewey: Have Fun With Watercolor
August 12-15
Midge Hyke: Water and Acrylic Painting, Mixed Media
August 19-22
Carol Earle: Landscapes, 1½ Easy Way
August 26-29
Jan Schaffr: Impressions of Yosemite in Watercolor
September 2-5
Guam Saito: The Fun of Watercolor

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.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Yosemite Valley Chapel, Sunday 9:15am., 11am. & 6:30pm. Thursday, 11am. Wednesday Bible study. Vacation Bible School: Aug. 17-21

Info 209/372-4201

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater Mass: 7:30pm Sundays, 10am Sundays

CHAIR OF CHURCH

El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am
Info 209/379-2700

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday 9:45am masses, 11am worship. Lower River Amphitheater. Info 209/366-4325

LATTER-DAY SAINTS


A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

7:30pm Sunday, Tuesday, & Thursday

DNC General Office Bldg. Yosemite Valley.

AL-ANON

Al-Anon meetings are not currently taking place. Please call: Dave M., 209/375-1166.

LIONS CLUB

First and third Thursday of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4475.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL


NPS National Park Service

DNC DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.

AAC American Alpine Club

SC Sierra Club

YA Yosemite Association

YMS Yosemite Mountaineering School

YF Yosemite Fund

$ Programs offered for a fee
Yosemite Guide  August 5 - September 8, 2009

Afternoon and Early Evening

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Stroll—Bears 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #18 (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>Ranger Stroll—Bears 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #18 (NPS)</td>
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Evening

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Yosemite Theatre Live: Lee Stetson presents Conversations With a Tramp: An Evening With John Muir 1 hr. Valley Visitor Center Theater, tickets at any tour desk or at the Valley Visitor Center bookstore (YA) $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles campfire ring, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>LeConte Memorial Lodge Movie: &quot;Around the World in 80 Days.&quot; 8:00pm-10:00pm. (Aug. 10 only) 3 hrs. LeConte Memorial Lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Yosemite Theatre Live: World-renowned climber Ron Kauk presents &quot;Return To Balance&quot; (high-definition climbing film) 1 hr. Valley Visitor Center Theater. Tickets at any tour desk or at the Valley Visitor Center bookstore (YA) $</td>
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Student Research Symposium: all day on Friday, Aug. 14. Yosemite summer interns share their research projects. From Ban to 5pm at Valley Visitor Center Auditorium. Program info: ebethlow@ucmerced.edu
Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

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, 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.

Also, you can join a Ranger in the cooling evening for an hour to explore the magic and wonders of Yosemite. Topics vary nightly. See page 9, at right, for dates, times, and locations.

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.

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.

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.

Tales are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road. Private vehicles longer than 25 feet are not permitted on this road.

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

BIG TREES TRAM TOUR
A 1 ½ 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 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.

Aug. 19 Free Event
Patrick Cress weaves field recordings from alpine meadows, toads, and humans with saxophone and clarinet for a show at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, Aug. 19 at Wawona’s Grey Barn. Includes a performance by Dandelion Dance-theater, supported by UC Merced’s Sierra Nevada Research Institute and funded by the Japan Foundation.
**Glacier Point**

**Evening Programs**
Meet a ranger to enjoy the lengthening shadows in Yosemite Valley and the alpenglow (or moonrise) on the Sierra.

**Wawona Stable / Horse or Mule Rides**
Horse or mule rides begin at the alpenglow (or moonrise) on the Sierra Glacier Point Geology Hut.

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**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

**Wawona**

Wawona Hotel Dining Room
Breakfast: 7:00am to 10am
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
Saturday BBQ: 5-7pm

Golf Shop & Snack Stand
8am to 6pm
when golf course is open

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**GROCERIES**

Wawona Store & Pioneer Shop
8am to 8pm; 8am-7pm as of Sept. 8

Mariposa Grove
10am to 4pm

Big Trees Gift Shop
9am to 6pm

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**POST OFFICE**

Wawona Post Office
Monday-Friday: 8am to 5pm
Saturday: 8am to noon

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**GAS STATION**

Wawona Gas Station
9am to 6pm

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**GOLF**

Wawona Hotel Golf Course
Weather and field conditions permitting. Nine-hole, par-35 course.
Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, Crane Flat

Where to Go & What to Do

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Hours are 9 am to 6 pm. Park orientation, trail information, books, maps, and displays available. Phone 209/372-0263.

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs
Two trails, both flat and ¼-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)
Most 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, August 8
A Conservationist Manifesto
3 hrs. A talk and discussion with Scott Russell Sanders, Distinguished Professor of English at Indiana University-Bloomington.

Sunday, August 9
Living on the Edge: Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep
3 hrs. View documentary Counting Sheep followed by an update and discussion with John Wehausen, Associate Research Scientist at the University of California’s White Mountain Research Station.

Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16
13th Annual Tuolumne Meadows Poetry Festival
Poets Jane Hirshfield, Kay Ryan, Joseph Stroud, and musician Shira Kammen.

Saturday, August 15
10-11:30 am
Meadow, River, Stone: Poetry Workshop with Carol Blarney
2-2:30 pm
Featured poets and music
7:30-10 pm
Open reading and music

Sunday, August 16
10-11:30 am
Writing by the River: Poetry Workshop with Margaret Eisler
2-3:30 pm
Featured poets and music
This event is supported by Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from The James Irvine Foundation.

Saturday, August 22
A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir
3 hrs. A slide presentation and discussion with the author of the 2008 biography of John Muir. Donald Worster, Hall Distinguished Professor of American History, University of Kansas, is joined by Michael Cohen, author of The Pathless Way: John Muir and American Wilderness, and Jeff Pappas, a NPS ranger.

Saturday, August 20
First Light: Five Photographers Explore Yosemite’s Backcountry
A slide presentation by Karl Kroebber and other featured photographers.

Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center
Hours are 7:30 am to 5 pm. The wilderness center is located just south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, at shuttle stop #3. The center offers maps, wilderness permits, bear canister rental, and guidebooks.

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

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

Horseride
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 posted 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.
## Tuolumne Meadows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Photographing Tuolumne Meadows (Aug. 10 only) 2 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tuolumne Visitor Center pony pen</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Bears and Other Wildlife</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservation Office (NPS)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Campground Picnic area (NPS)</td>
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<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Indians in the High Country (except Sept. 9 &amp; 10) 2 hrs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meet at Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Tuolumne Fall (except Sept. 1) 7-8 hrs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meet at Lembert Dome picnic area. Bring lunch, water &amp; raingear (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Botanical Walks with Cathy Rose 2 hrs. (NPS)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meet at Tonopah Pass Entrance Station on north side of road</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGERS—NATURE EXPLORATION</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Summit of Tuolumne Dome picnic area (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:30pm</td>
<td>Campfire (except Sept. 8) 1 hr. Tuolumne Lodge.</td>
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<td>Take path between cabins 28 and 29 (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:15pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Stars Over Mono (except Sept. 8) 2 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Meet at South Tuft in Mono Basin. Bring pad to sit on and dress warmly (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Birds (except Aug. 26) 2½ hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lembert Dome picnic area.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.</td>
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<td>Bring questions and a cup of coffee (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—The Secret Life of Plants</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Pothole Dome shuttle stop #8, road marker 7-29 (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>CAMPFIRE FOR KIDS (Aug. 15 &amp; 19 only) 1 hr. White Wolf campfire circle (NPS)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:15pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Stars Over Mono. (Aug. 15 &amp; 19 only) 3 hrs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meet at Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center 209/727-0283 (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Ranger Hike—Mono Pass 6-8 hrs. Moderately strenuous.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8 miles. Meet at Mono Pass trailhead. Bring lunch, water &amp; raingear (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—History &amp; the Big Trees 2 hrs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Meet just outside of Tioga Pass Entrance Station on north side of road</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGERS—WILDLIFE IN THE HIGH COUNTRY 2 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire—Flowers &amp; Trees 1 ½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Night Prowl (Aug. 27 &amp; Sept. 3 only) 1 ½ hrs.</td>
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<td>Sign up at Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center 209/727-0283 (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:15pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Night Prowl (except Aug. 28) 1 ½ hrs.</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Bristlecone Pine Circle (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bring questions and a cup of coffee (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Ranger Hike—Hummingbird Hill Club for kids: Lembert Dome and Dog Lake 5 hrs. (Aug. 5 &amp; 12)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ages 8-12. Moderate strenuous. 5 miles. Meet at Lembert Dome trailhead, shuttle stop #7. Bring lunch, water &amp; raingear (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—History &amp; the Big Trees 2 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Tuolumne Meadows Campground Picnic area (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Poetry Program—The Secret Life of Plants 2 hrs. (Aug. 15 only) 1 ½ hrs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Music and Mountains (except Aug. 28) 1 ½ hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Birds 7-8 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lembert Dome picnic area.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bring questions and a cup of coffee (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Ranger Hike—Cathedral Lakes (except Aug. 22) 6-8 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderately strenuous. 7 miles. Meet at Cathedral Lakes trailhead, shuttle stop #7. Bring lunch, water, &amp; raingear (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Campground Picnic area (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Poetry Program—The Secret Life of Plants 2 hrs. (Aug. 15 only) 1 ½ hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire—Flowers &amp; Trees 1 ½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire—Flowers &amp; Trees 1 ½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. White Wolf Campfire circle (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoia for answers to your questions (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGERS—WILDLIFE &amp; WATERS 2 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoia for answers to your questions (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Wildflower &amp; Trees 2 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Bristlecone Pine Circle (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire—Flowers &amp; Trees 1 ½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire—Flowers &amp; Trees 1 ½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Twilight Stroll 1 ½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Stars Over Mono. (Aug. 9 &amp; 16 only) 1 ½ hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Bristlecone Pine Circle (NPS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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.) Store 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.

If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

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

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

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

How to Store Food

“Food” includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FOOD STORAGE</th>
<th>WHY?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your Vehicle</td>
<td>You may store food 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 sources, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats.</td>
<td>Bears can smell food, and it's sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</td>
<td>You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. If a food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin.</td>
<td>Bears may enter campsite when people are present, and some will even chew 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.</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; be alert!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking in the Wilderness</td>
<td>Bear resistant food containers are repaired throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite.</td>
<td>In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food.</td>
</tr>
</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.

**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 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!
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 dehdyration 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.friendofyosar.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 white water, 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 melting snow 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 of your pack, unbuckle the waist strap so you can shed it if you fall in. Do not tie yourself into safety ropes—they can drown you.

Rafting
Conditions permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stone Man Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10 am to 6 pm daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other Rotation 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 Rotation 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 Rotation 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. Tips for safe water use:

- 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. Dogs or other pets are not allowed 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 8:30 am to 8 pm. The last bike goes out at 6:45 pm and all bikes must be in by 7:45 pm.

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please 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 National Park.

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/planyourvisit/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.
The overnight-outdoor 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 559/683-4634. 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.

Camping in Yosemite National Park

Planning your camping experience
Hiking
On the Trails
Discover an easy stroll or a challenging hike

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

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock</td>
<td>Camp 4 New Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 2-3 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round-trip, 6-8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 2,700-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 mile round-trip, 1-2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</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, 1,900-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, 4,850-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, 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>Chiluamna Falls Trail</td>
<td>Parking 2 mi. up Chiluamna Falls Rd.</td>
<td>8.2 miles round-trip, 5 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 2,450-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taft Point</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel Dome</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda Springs / Pasmine 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>Osg Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours one-way</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>Tuolumne Meadows Area</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hetch Hetchy Area</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wapama Falls</td>
<td>O’Shaughnessy Dam</td>
<td>5 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hiker’s Bus. Additionally, the Tuolumne Meadows free shuttle serves all Tuolumne Meadows hikes listed above.

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 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.
National Parks are an American contribution to world culture as unique as baseball or jazz... something made in the U.S.A., and then copied throughout the world.

By Ranger Shelton Johnson

This year I’ve been privileged to participate in screening events across the country for The National Parks, America’s Best Idea, an upcoming six-part documentary film by Ken Burns which will be broadcast nationwide on PBS beginning Sept. 27th. This is the first film that tells the history of the national park idea, rather than focusing on any single national park. How did that idea come into being? What were the forces at work that led to that idea bearing fruit first in the United States? This idea has become so powerful that today practically every nation that, were it not for their efforts, would most likely have been despoiled. However, if you desire to understand how this American invention came into being and evolved, well you definitely have something to be disappointed. However, if you desire to have the story of Americans who created the national parks, you are mostly forgotten.

National Parks are an American contribution to world culture as unique as baseball or jazz, but they’ve become so much a part of who we are as Americans that it’s easy not to recognize that uniqueness. We imagine that there has always been a Yosemite or a Yellowstone or a Grand Canyon. We tend not to think of national parks as an invention, something made in the U.S.A., and then copied throughout the world.

What is the story of that invention and how did it evolve through time? What forces were at work that led to a foundation being built upon by which we would “construct” the world’s first national park? Was it Yellowstone or Yosemite? When was this idea born? What was its childhood like? Has it matured or is it still becoming? For the answers to these questions you’ll have to wait until Sept. 27th because the film is a fascinating exploration of the idea of national parks, and like any exploration, part of the wonder is experiencing it first hand.

I’ve worked as a park ranger for the National Park Service for over 22 years and began my career in Yellowstone National Park in 1987. I’ve been a Yosemite ranger since the winter of 1994. The roots of the park idea are deep, but in very few other places are they as deep as they are in the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada. Every national park has a story full of interesting characters, intriguing plots, and great drama. We have the luxury of knowing how it all turns out. Or we think we do, but those stories never truly end. They’re being written right now and everyone who’s reading this article here in Yosemite is becoming part of the Yosemite story, which is a chapter in the history of the national park idea.

I have travelled across the country attending Ken Burns’ events in Washington, D.C., the Santa Monica Mountains, San Francisco, Yosemite Valley, Miami, Atlanta, Baltimore, and Telluride, Colo. At each event I observed that people want to know how their local national park figures into the main film, even though they know the film isn’t about that park but about the idea of national parks. Consequently, if you watch this film hoping for an in-depth depiction of your favorite national park, you will be disappointed. However, if you desire to have the story of Americans who created the national parks and consequently not appreciated, by those stories never truly end. They’re being written right now and everyone who’s reading this article here in Yosemite is becoming part of the Yosemite story, which is a chapter in the history of the national park idea.

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The National Parks: America’s Best Idea is the biography of a now globally celebrated idea. Hereetofore, the details of that idea had only been known to researchers, historians, and park employees. Why is that? Growing up in the ’60s and ’70s, I rarely heard in school about national parks or their significance. Sometimes, that which is most revolutionary is least perceptible, and consequently not appreciated, by the people of that time.

When the Yellowstone Act was signed on March 1, 1872, there was neither pomp nor circumstance. It had been just another bill before Congress, but what they started is still in motion. It moves us, and we move within it, whenever we walk in Yosemite Valley. This place, set aside by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, is the perfect setting to reflect on America’s Best Idea, but this fall there will be another. How about your living room?

The great achievement of the upcoming documentary is that watching this film is a national park experience. We see, hear, and feel the story of Americans who created the national parks for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. And, in the telling of that story, what has been captured on film for all time, is not just what the national parks meant to them, or even to us, but hopefully what they will still mean to generations not yet born.

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/
Enhancing the Visitor Experience

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

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

The Ansel Adams Gallery

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

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

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

Yosemite Association

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

To Learn more about Park Planning and Improvement Efforts, visit online at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning