Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

September-October 2009

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide

September 9 - October 13, 2009

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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. 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 12 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 Tuolomne 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 Yosemite Valley, exploring by bike late-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 hikers 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.)

Take a Photography Class
Learn how to best capture the landscape of Yosemite by joining a photography expert from the Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery located in Yosemite Village. (See 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/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm. Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue-and-white signs. An American Sign Language interpreter is available for deaf and hard of hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0645 (voice) or 209/372-4726 (TTY) to request an interpreter. Please call at least two weeks before the visit. Assisted listening devices are available at the Visitor Center.

Lost and Found
To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite’s restaurants, hotels, lodges, shuttle buses, or tour services, call 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/379-1001.

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

Road Information
Construction may cause short delays or detours on some park roads. Road info: 209/372-0200.

Roam the Park After Dark
Exploring Yosemite after dark is an amazing way to discover the park, but you’ll need to use all of your senses to do it. Join interpreters for 90 minutes of fun on this nocturnal nature tour almost every Friday. Contact any tour desk for more info. (See listings on page 7.)

Take in a Film
Each Thursday and Friday night, Ron Kaul introduces the climbing film Return to Balance at the Valley Visitor Center Theater. On Sept. 27 through Oct. 2, Ken Burns’ new documentary The National Parks: America’s Best Idea is shown at three Valley locations each night. (See page 7 for times and places.)

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.)

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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 dries up 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 (¾ miles) and Nevada Fall (2.7 miles) via the Mist Trail. Please observe warning signs along the trail, and always pack your trash out.

The base of Lower Yosemite Fall is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. (Both Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow return.) 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 autumn.

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 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, with the last bike out at 4:45 pm.
The end of summer and start of autumn offer special opportunities for learning and adventure. Crowds begin to thin, but a range of events and activities remain.

**Yosemite Valley**

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore
Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 6 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 day, every hour 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, Tom Kilion, Bruce Klein, Hearne Pardee, Bonnie Peterson, and Gina Werfel. The exhibit continues through November 8.

**INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT**
Opens 9 am to 5 pm. Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite’s Miwok and Paute people from 1850 to the present.

**Yosemite Art & Education Center**
The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers free art classes through Oct. 3. 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 through Sunday, Sept. 27.

**Nature Center at Happy Isles**
Open 10 am to 4 pm through Sept. 27. May close for lunch. 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.

**Yosemite Village**
Degnan’s Loft
5 pm to 9 pm daily
Degnan’s Deli
7 am to 5 pm
Village Grill
11 am to 5 pm

**The Ahwahnee**
Dining Room
Breakfast: 7 am to 10:30 am
Lunch: 11:30 am to 3 pm
Dinner: 5:30 pm to 9 pm

**Yosemite Lodge**
Food Court
Daily 6:30 am to 8:00 pm

**Curry Village**
Guest Lounge
8 am to 10 pm

**Yosemite Medical Clinic**
Emergency care: 24 hours daily.
Drop-in and urgent care: 8 am to 7 pm.
Appointments: 8 am to 5 pm.

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**Dental Services**
Next to Yosemite Medical Clinic.
209/372-4200.

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

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**Yosemite Museum**
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, photography prints, and gifts. Classes and activities are listed on the front porch. Call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

**OPENING OCTOBER 5**
“Bob Kolbrener and Ansel Adams: 90 Years in the American West.” A traveling exhibition features select vintage prints from the 1930s and ‘40s. Bob Kolbrener’s prints, like Adams’, are gelatin silver and are also made by the artist. A reception and book signing will be help from 3:30 to 5:30 pm on Friday, Aug. 28.

**FILM: THE HEART OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**
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**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.
Outdoor Adventures and Custom Adventures

For more on Yosemite Association’s field seminars, pick up a catalog at any park visitor center, call 209/379-2321, or visit www.yosemite.org. The Yosemite Association also offers individualized Custom Adventures for groups and families. Call ahead at least two weeks to arrange your own naturalist guide who will meet your interests and schedule.

Sept. 18-20
Hidden Lakes Revealed: A ranger’s favorite alpine treasures
Oct. 2
A Walk on the Rim: An autumn delight for naturalists
Sept. 16-20
Jell Glacier Survey: Fit field assistants needed on the ice
Sept. 25-27
Miwok-Piute Acorn Basketry: the Parker family’s tricks of the trade
Oct. 2
Latinos in the Landscape: Betty Rivera and a hidden heritage

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite

Yosemite Mountaineering School

Free Art Classes

The Yosemite Art & Education Center's season runs through Oct. 3. Until then, the 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.

September 9-12
Nask Alexander: Glowing Landscape in Acrylic
September 16-19
Chris Van Winkle: Watercolor Painting on Location
September 23-26
Douglas Casteline: Outdoor Watercolor
Sept. 30-Oct. 3
Kiril Van Sickle: Yosemite Diamond in Acrylic

Info: 209/379-2100

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Valley Chapel, Pastor Brent Moore
www.yosemitevalleychapel.org
Wedding info on web site: Services: Sunday 9:15am & 6:30pm
Thursday 7pm; Tuesday Bible studies information: 209/372-4831

ROMAN CATHOLIC
Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater
Mass: 7:00am Saturdays, 10am Sundays

COURCH OF CHRIST
11 Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am
Info: 209/379-2100

SCHEDULED EVENTS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY
September 9 - October 13, 2009

Saturday
8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 13) 1 hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #15 (NPS)
8:30am Photography Walk 1 hr. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
9:00am CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER MED’S BIG ADVENTURE (Sept. 13 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater, free (DNC)
10:00am Ranger Stroll—Merced Meanders 1 hr. Lower Yosemite Fall, shuttle stop #6 (NPS)
10:30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK—FISHES (September only) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)

Sunday
8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 13) 1 hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #15 (NPS)
8:30am Photography Walk 1 hr. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
10:00am Ranger Stroll—Frogs 1 hr. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3. (NPS)
10:30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK—SMALL WONDERS (September only) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)

Monday
8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 13) 1 hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #15 (NPS)
8:30am Photography Walk 1 hr. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
10:00am Ranger Stroll—Yosemite’s First People 1 hr. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS)
10:30am KIDS’ PHOTOGRAPHY WALK 1 hr. For kids and their parents. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG)

Tuesday
8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 13) 1 hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #15 (NPS)
8:30am Photography Walk 1 hr. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
10:00am Ranger Stroll—Geology (September only) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)
11:00am KIDS’ PHOTOGRAPHY WALK 1 hr. For kids and their parents. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG)

Wednesday
8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 13) 1 hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #15 (NPS)
8:30am Photography Walk 1 hr. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
10:00am Ranger Stroll—Trees 1 hr. Front of Yosemite Village Visitor Center (NPS)
10:30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK—Yosemite Village (YV) (September only) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)

Thursday
8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 13) 1 hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #15 (NPS)
8:30am Photography Walk 1 hr. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
9:00am HABITAT PROTECTORS OF YOSEMITE (HAPY) (Sept. 5, 16, & 30 only) 3 hrs. Volunteer to help protect and restore native plant life. Meet at Valley Visitor Center. (NPS)
10:00am Ranger Stroll—Wild About Wildlife 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS)
11:00am FREE ART CLASS (through Oct. 13) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art & Education Center at Yosemite Village (YV)
10:30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK—SMALL WONDERS (September only) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)

Friday
8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 13) 1 hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #15 (NPS)
8:30am Photography Walk 1 hr. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
9:00am CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER MED’S BIG ADVENTURE (Sept. 12 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater, free (DNC)
10:00am Ranger Stroll—Trees 1 hr. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (TO)
11:00am FREE ART CLASS (through Oct. 3) 6 hrs. Yosemite Art & Education Center at Yosemite Village (YV)
10:30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK—WILDLIFE (September only) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)

Saturday
8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 13) 1 hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #15 (NPS)
8:30am Photography Walk 1 hr. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
9:00am CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER MED’S BIG ADVENTURE (Sept. 12 only) 1 1/2 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, shuttle stop #3 (TO)
10:00am Ranger Stroll—Yosemite’s First People 1 hr. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS)
11:00am KIDS’ PHOTOGRAPHY WALK 1 hr. For kids and their parents. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG)

For more information or to make reservations, phone 209/379-2100 or visit www.yosemite.org.

- Programs printed in ALL CAPS & COLOR are especially for CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES
- Indicator facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Short, steep inclines may be encountered.

- An American Sign Language interpreter is available for Dias and deaf of hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0645 (Voice) or 209/372-4726 (TTY) to request an interpreter. Please allow at least two weeks to schedule an interpreter.

For more information or to make reservations, phone 209/379-2100 or visit www.yosemite.org.

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Free Ken Burns Screenings

The National Parks: America’s Best Idea starts at 7:30 pm on Sept. 27, 28, 29, 30, and Oct. 1 and 2 at Curry Village Amphitheater, Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater, and Lower Pines Amphitheater.

Visiting Yosemite is no reason to miss the PBS-TV series on its debut week. At the end of September, the National Park Service will unveil six-episode film Ken Burns that celebrates America’s national parks.

The run time for each episode is 2 hours.
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.

**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.

**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.

**Ranger Evening Programs**

Join a ranger around a campfire for an hour of nature, history, and insight into Yosemite. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (B Loop). Monday and Saturday nights only. Topics vary.

**FREE MARIPOSA GROVE & WAWONA SHUTTLE**

A shuttle stop at the Wawona Store, South Entrance, and Mariposa Grove. Visitors may park at the Wawona Store and 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.

**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).

Mariposa Grove Museum

Open 10 am to 4 pm daily until late September or later—depending on weather. Located in the Upper Mariposa Grove, the museum offers information, displays on giant sequoias, and a bookstore.

**Walking through the Grove**

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

**Dogs or bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Mariposa Grove.**
Glacier Point

Evening Programs
Meet a ranger to enjoy the lengthening evening programs.

Campfire Talk with a Ranger  
1 hr. Meet at Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

Ranger Walk—Cliffs and Domes 2 hrs. Meet at Taft Point/Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road (NPS)

Vintage Music  
4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC)

Sunset Ranger Talk  
2 hrs. Meet in front of the Glacier Point Gift Shop (NPS)

Mariposa Grove Museum  
¼ hr. Meet at Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road (NPS) $.

Campsites at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) $.

Horse-drawn Stage Rides
(Oct. 12 only) 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) $.

Capitan After Dark  
1 hr. Glacier Point parking, overlooking the Valley (NPS).

PORT OFFICE
Wawona Post Office  
Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm, Saturday 8am to noon

GAS STATION
Wawona Gas Station  
8am to 6pm. Diesel & propane available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

GOLF
Wawona Hotel Golf Course  
8am to 6pm. Weather and conditions permitting. Nine-hole, par 35 course.
Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center

Open through Sunday, Sept. 27. Hours are 9 am to 5 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 ¾-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge is open from 10 am to 4 pm through Saturday, Sept. 19. Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs.

Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center

Hours are 8 am to 5 pm through Sept. 30. Hours move to 8 am to 4:30 pm starting Oct. 1. 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, permits, and bear canister rentals.

Just for Kids

Junior Rangers, a two-hour, ranger-led program for children ages 7-12, is offered Saturday mornings. See listings at locations or check route maps. Junior Rangers earns a Junior Ranger badge and a certificate at the event. Bring a pad to sit on and dress warmly.

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.

Evening Activities

Come to a traditional, ranger-led campfire program for stories, songs, and insight into Yosemite. Program topics vary, and are posted at the campground, Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. End your day with a star program. Bring a pad to sit on and dress warmly.

Horse or Mule Rides

Horse or mule rides begin at the Tuolumne Meadows stable. Stable hours are 7 am to 5 pm through Sept. 13. Hours move to 8 am to 4:30 pm starting Sept. 14. Hours are 7 am to 5 pm through Sept. 27. The station offers general park information, books, maps, and displays available. Phone 209/372-0263.

Service is available along the Tioga Road from Olmsted Point to Tioga Pass. Due to limited trailhead parking, use of the shuttle is encouraged.

Shuttles travel between Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and Olmsted Point with stops along the Tioga Road, including Tuolumne Meadows Campground and the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. They make morning and afternoon runs to Tioga Pass. Service begins at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge at 7 am. Shuttles arrive at approximately 30-minute intervals between 7 am and 7 pm. The last shuttle leaves Olmsted Point at 6 pm. Schedules are subject to change. Please check route maps at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center or shuttle stops for details.

Free Shuttle Bus

Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, Crane Flat
**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**

- **CRANE FLAT**
  - Tuolumne Meadows Grill
  - 8am to 5pm thru Sept. 27
  - Tuolumne Meadows Lodge
  - Dining Room
  - Breakfast: 7am to 9am thru Sept. 20
  - Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm thru Sept. 19

**WHITE WOLF**

- White Wolf – open thru Sept. 13

**GAS STATIONS**

- Tuolumne Meadows
- Crane Flat
- Diesel & propane available.
- Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.
- Fuel availability may be temporarily interrupted by construction through March 2010.

**POST OFFICE**

- Tuolumne Meadows (except Sept. 26 & 27 only) 1 ½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)

**GROCERIES & SPORTS**

- Tuolumne Meadows Store
- 9am to 5pm thru Sunday, Sept. 27

**EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Tuolumne Meadows</th>
<th>WHITE WOLF</th>
<th>CRANE FLAT / HODGDON MEADOW / HETCH HETCHY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Hike—Lembert Dome (except Oct. 4 &amp; 11) 3 hrs. Moderately strenuous. 3 miles. Door to parking. Shuttle stop 40. Bring snacks &amp; water (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Winter’s A-Comin’! (except Oct. 4 &amp; 11) 2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Campfire (except Oct. 4 &amp; 11) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Domes and Meadows (except Sept. 28 &amp; Oct. 5 &amp; 12) 2 hrs. Pithole Dome shuttle stop 48, road marker 5-248 (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Bear &amp; Other Wildlife (except Sept. 28 &amp; Oct. 5 &amp; 12) 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservation Office (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Campfire (except Sept. 28 &amp; Oct. 5 &amp; 12) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Along the River (except Sept. 29 &amp; Oct. 6 &amp; 13) 2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Campfire (except Sept. 29 &amp; Oct. 6 &amp; 13) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Stars (except Sept. 23 &amp; 30 &amp; Oct. 7) 1 hr. Lembert Dome picnic area. Bring pad to sit on and dress warmly (NPS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Geology (except Sept. 23 &amp; 30 &amp; Oct. 7) 2 hrs. Pithole Dome, shuttle stop 48, road marker 5-249 (NPS)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Campfire (except Sept. 23 &amp; 30 &amp; Oct. 7) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Rocks &amp; Meadows (except Sept. 23 &amp; 30 &amp; Oct. 7) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Bears (except Sept. 15 only) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk—Alpine Study (except Sept. 15 only) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Twilight Stroll (except Sept. 15 only) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Starry, Starry Night (except Sept. 15 only) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Hike—Wilderness &amp; Water (except Sept. 15, 22 &amp; 29 only) 1½ hrs. Crone Flat campground (NPS)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROGRAMS**

- Programs printed in ALL CAPS and COLOR are for CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES

- **TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**
  - Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 2 & 9) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup (NPS)
  -9:00am
  -10:00am
  -11:00am
  -12:00pm

- **WHITE WOLF**
  - Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 1 & 8) 2½ hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area. Bring questions and a cup (NPS)
  -9:00am
  -10:00am
  -11:00am
  -12:00pm

- **CRANE FLAT / HODGDON MEADOW / HETCH HETCHY**
  - Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 3 & 10) 1 hr. White Wolf campfire circle (NPS)
  -9:00am
  -10:00am
  -11:00am
  -12:00pm
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
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 vehicle (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark; use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats.</td>
<td>Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</td>
<td>You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed.</td>
<td>Bears may enter campers when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and latched at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas &amp; on the Trail</td>
<td>Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm’s reach. Don’t turn your back to your food.</td>
<td>Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking in the Wilderness</td>
<td>Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite.</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, when all the regulations and guidelines are followed.

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.

Do not run. Stay calm. Hold your ground, or back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up.

If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms, shout, and throw objects at it. The goal is to convince it that you may be dangerous. If attacked, fight back!

Mountain Lions are magnificent creatures and native to Yosemite. Generally, they are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!
Traffic Safety
Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules:
Please obey posted speed limits. Yosemite’s roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park’s scenery and wildlife.

Pack Water
Hydration is life. Avoid dehydration and heat exhaustion by carrying plenty of water. Filters or other treatment methods are essential. (See “Water Quality” at right.)

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

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

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

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

Wilderness Permits
Free permits are required for overnight trips. Permits are issued at Yosemite Valley, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, Tuolomne 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.lyn.org
Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue: www.friendsofyosar.org
Water Safety
Protecting park resources, cycling, and pets in the park

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

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

Swimming
Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions.
- Always supervise children closely.
- Avoid areas of whitewater, where flooding from snowmelt are dangerous.
- 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 the snowmelt are dangerous.
- 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 kneecaps. 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, un buckle the waist strap so you can shed it if you fall in. Do not tie yourself into safety ropes—they can drown you.

Rafting
Water is low in the Merced River in late summer and early autumn. Conditions permitting, however, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stoneman 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. At low water, however, any rafting will likely be restricted to the deeper pools in this area.

Raft Rentals
Rafter rentals are closed for the season.
- 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 aged 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.

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 209/375-1992.

Bicycling
Bike rentals at Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge are open 9 am to 6 pm. The last bike goes out at 4:45 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...

FOR MORE INFORMATION
To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit www.nps.gov/yose/plan yourvisit/your-safety.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 September 9 – October 13, 2009
Camping in Yosemite National Park
Planning your camping experience

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 877/885-3639 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 the 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 559/683-4616. For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 10.

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

Campgrounds in Yosemite National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</th>
<th>OPEN 2009</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>YOSEMITE VALLEY</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pines</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>March 15 - Nov 30</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>April 4 – Nov 2</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Pines</td>
<td>April 1 – Oct 13</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 6</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$35/person</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>June 20 – Sep 28</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Creek</td>
<td>July 1 – Sep 8</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodgdon Meadow</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane Flat</td>
<td>June 14 – Oct 13</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>June 23 – Oct 15</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>Late June – Sep 15</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July 1 – Sep 8</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine Flat</td>
<td>July – Oct 15</td>
<td>24 ft (limited)</td>
<td>20 ft</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows</td>
<td>Late June – Sep 28</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Top</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Choose your adventure

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

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING-POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock</td>
<td>Camp 4 Near Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 2-3 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 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 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of 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, 4,800-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>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, 5-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Day Hikes Outside of Yosemite Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING-POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wawona Meadow Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Hotel</td>
<td>3.5 miles round-trip, 1.5 hours</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilnualna Falls Trail</td>
<td>Parking 2 mi. up Chilnualna Falls Rd.</td>
<td>8.2 mile 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>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>Tenaya 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 Porticnpe Creek</td>
<td>Porticnpe Creek</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lembert Lake</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>19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Self-Guided Trails

A Changing Yosemite

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

Giant Sequoias

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

Mirror Lake

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

Indian Village

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

Curry Village

The Legacy of Curry Village is an easy stroll commemorating the early days of Camp Curry. Pick up a map and guide at the Curry Village front desk or tour desk.
To understand wilderness you have to be in it, and it has to be in you. At least, that’s what I used to think before I became associated with a man named Ken Burns."

By Ranger Shelton Johnson

There are millions of kids in America who have never visited a national park, never seen a black bear digging up roots in a meadow, or felt the thunder of a waterfall. They’re growing up in cities far from the migrations of caribou, the stillness of old-growth forests, and when they come of age what will they know about that America?

They will be conversant in the culture of shopping malls and commerce, fluent with Twitter and Facebook, their fingers will flash intuitively across the keyboard of some electronic device, but will they understand mountains or listen knowingly to the wind?

Right now in national parks all across America, there are children playing amid some of the most inspiring landscapes on the face of the earth. Do they know they are in a classroom, that they are joyfully learning an ancient language built out of the earth itself? By the time they come of age what will they know about their own country in a new light.

This doesn’t just happen once or twice, but over and over, and in episode after episode, until by the time the credits roll at the end, the experience of watching the film has actually begun to mirror the experience of being in a national park.

It takes time to really be where you are. Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan know this, so nothing is rushed, which is just the way it should be when you’re walking along a trail and a story is being told and continues to be told around each new bend.

Sure, there are many experiences in the national parks that are an easy sell to the soul, but there are many other experiences that need time to grow and the nurturing of dreams before you really begin to feel them. I’ve met people who’ve told me that they feel that Great Basin National Park is one of the most beautiful places in America, and I’ve met others who just couldn’t understand why that place was a national park. The folks who saw the beauty had stayed for days or even a week, but the people who left, did so after only minutes or an hour.

The night sky in Yosemite is full of stars, and because cities are farther away, you see more stars, stars that are too faint to be seen in Los Angeles or San Francisco. In Great Basin National Park, the sky is so dark you see stars that are too faint to be seen in Yosemite. Over time your eyes slowly adjust, they open up and you begin to see something that was there all along, right there in front of you, yet invisible. Because you invested the time and just sat there, looking, finally you’re rewarded by being able to see a light, a brilliance, that just a few minutes earlier had been undetectable.

That is the experience of watching Ken Burns’ newest documentary film. The light that builds is the cumulative impact of the stories of people and their passion for a place, for an idea, and for 12 hours that brilliance is allowed to grow, like stars in a desert sky, so by the time it’s all done, there’s little need for that weekend backpacking trip to the mountains.

On Sept. 27, The National Parks: America’s Best Idea will light up your living room for six nights like a returning comet, and it really will be the next best thing to being there.

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

Filmmakers Dayton Duncan (left) and Ken Burns visit young people in Yosemite. Photo: Al Golub / Golub Photography
Supporting Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s future

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

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

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

DCN Parks & Resorts at Yosemite
DCN Parks & Resorts at Yosemite (DCN) 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. DCN encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure. For more information and employment opportunities with DCN at Yosemite, visit online at www.yosemitepark.com.

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

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

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

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

Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg