Yosemite Guide
Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park
October 14 - December 15, 2009

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10 Special Feature: Women & Yosemite

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park
Vol.34, Issue No.8

Yosemite Valley autumn color, photo by Christine White Loberg

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

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

Welcome, and Be Prepared

Emergency: Dial 911

Website: www.nps.gov/yose

Twitter: twitter.com/yosemiteNPS

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, lounges, shuttle buses, or tour services, call 209/372-4397. 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.

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

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Drive to Tunnel View

One of the most famous views of Yosemite Valley, Tunnel View has captivated visitors for over 75 years. Newly rehabilitated, it offers expansive views of El Capitan, Clouds Rest, Half Dome, and Bridalveil Fall. (See map, page 2.)

Stroll with a Ranger

Learn about park wonders on a ranger-guided walk. Programs are offered daily in Yosemite Valley focusing on bears, geology, trees, and other topics. (See page 5 for times and places.)

See Half Dome at Sunset

Towering more than 4,000 feet above the eastern end of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome compels eyes to gaze on it. Sunset lights up the cliff face, creating a dramatic and colorful scene. Witness the effect from Sentinel Bridge or one of the meadows near Yosemite Village or Curry Village. (See the Valley map on the back of this Guide.)

Go Bike Riding or Ice Skating

Rental facilities at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village are both open 9 am to 6 pm. Curry Village bike rentals close on Oct. 25. Yosemite Lodge bike rentals close on Nov. 15. Given safe conditions, you can always ride your own bike or paved paths in the Valley, however. Call 209/372-8319 for more information on bike rentals. Ice skating at the Curry Village Ice Rink opens on Nov. 20, weather conditions permitting.

Things to Do

How to Use Your Yosemite Guide

The list on this page offers 10 popular things to do. The table of contents (“What’s Inside...”) at lower right shows where you can turn for more information. A detailed listing of program information can be found on page 5.

Several classes are offered each week. Some have fees, some are free. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 5 and 6.)

Hike to Mirror Meadow

Situated at the base of Half Dome, the site of Mirror Lake frames reflections of Yosemite’s most iconic cliff. (The lake itself is dry until the first significant precipitation of the season, however.) The quiet trail is gentle and follows Tenaya Creek as it winds its way through the eastern Valley. The trail stars at shuttle stop #17. (See Valley map on the back of this Guide.)

Visit the Other Valley: Hetch Hetchy

Visit Hetch Hetchy Valley and its reservoir are located about 40 miles north of Yosemite Valley. The contours of Hetch Hetchy are much like its southern neighbor—with precipitous cliffs and waterfalls. Hiking opportunities abound. (See page 3 for specifics on visiting Hetch Hetchy.)

Tour The Ahwahnee

Step back to an earlier era of history as you explore the National Historic Landmark that opened in 1927. Notable for its architecture and artful decor, the hotel provides a cozy atmosphere to relax and enjoy a warm drink in. (“Food & Beverage,” page 7.)

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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. The 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 will be dry until rain and snow recharge it, a moderate hike will bring you to Vernal and Nevada Falls. You can walk to the site of Mirror Lake (also dry until rain), 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.
Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

Tioga Road and Glacier Point Road are closed each year from November to late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storm periods. Motorists should always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel. To check conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit www.dot.ca.gov for highways connecting to Yosemite.
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 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

The base of Lower Yosemite Fall is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. Impressive views of both the upper and lower falls are seen on the path to the base. This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired. Although Yosemite Falls dries up by the end of the summer, Bridalveil Fall is a year-round waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds swirling about the cliff lift and blow the falling water in a delicate free-fall.

El Capitan, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan.

Note: Please park on the paved road shoulder next to El Capitan Meadow. Delicate meadows are easily damaged by trampling, so please stay on footpaths.

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

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. Visitors with mobility impairments can obtain a placard at the Valley Visitor Center or at an entrance station that will authorize them to drive to Happy Isles or Mirror Lake.

Winter sports get underway in November and December. Badger Pass Ski Area is tentatively scheduled to open on Dec. 18. The ice rink at Curry Village is scheduled to open on Nov. 20. To learn more: 209/372-8341.

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

To experience the Valley on foot, stop by a visitor center for a trail map and the most current trail conditions.

To experience the Valley by bike, bring or rent a bike. Weather permitting, rentals at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village are both open 9 am to 6 pm. Curry Village bike rentals close on Oct. 25. Yosemite Lodge bike rentals close on Nov. 15. Call 209/372-8319 for more information on bike rentals.

Weather permitting, several motor coach sightseeing tours are available in Yosemite.

To experience the Valley with a bus and guide, take the Valley Floor Tour. This 26-mile, 2-hour tour departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. During warm fall days, an open-air tram is used. When weather turns colder, tours travel by motorcoach.

The Glacier Point Tour is a four-hour round trip from Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, which departs daily from Yosemite Lodge. The Glacier Point Tour also offers a one-way ticket for adventurers to hike back down to Yosemite Valley. The Grand Tour is an eight-hour combination of Big Trees and Glacier Point tours and departs daily from Yosemite Lodge. Both tours end when snow closes Glacier Point Road.

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

Self-Guiding Trails

A Changing Yosemite

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

Mirror Lake

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

Indian Village

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

Curry Village

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

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

Dates, times, and places

Throughout Yosemite National Park

In Fall, Yosemite begins a transition to a cooler and quieter time of year. Below you will find a list of services and facilities that are available throughout the park. Note that some tours and roads close after the first big snowfall of the season.

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 5 pm, just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The center offers information, maps, and books in the attached bookstore. Explore the new exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite’s spectacular landscape was formed, how people have interacted with it through the centuries, how wildlife adapts and survives, and how your national park continues to evolve.

FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

This inspiring visitor-orientation film is shown every 30 minutes, Monday - Saturday between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 4:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Wilderness Permits

The Valley Wilderness Center is open from 8 am to 4:30 pm through Oct. 25. After that date, permits are available at the visitor center after Oct. 25. See page 8 for other locations to obtain wilderness permits.

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. The exhibit continues through November 8.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Open 9 am to 5 pm. Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite’s Miwok and Paiute people from 1830 to the present.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

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

Village of Ahwahnee

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

Yosemite Cemetery

This historic cemetery is located just west of the Yosemite Museum, across the street. Guide to the Yosemite Cemetery is available at the Valley Visitor Center.

Ansel Adams Gallery

The gallery is located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center and is open daily. Hours are 9 am to 5 pm through Oct. 31 and 10 am to 5 pm starting Nov. 1. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. See page 5 for photo walk and other event times. For more information, call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

GALLERY EXHIBIT THROUGH NOV. 16

“Bob Kolbrener and Ansel Adams: 90 Years in the American West.” A reception is open to the public on Oct. 24 from 4 to 6 pm.

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round-trip, 6-8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 2,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>1 mile 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>Very Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Squaw Flat Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POST OFFICE

Village Post Office

Main Office

Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
Saturday: 10am to noon

Yosemite Lodge

Post Office

Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm

El Portal

Post Office

Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30

Wawona Post Office

Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to noon

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

Yosemite Village

The Ansel Adams Gallery

9am to 5pm through Oct. 31
10am to 5pm starting Nov. 1
Yosemite Bookstore

Inside Yosemite Visitor Center
9am to 5pm
Yosemite Museum Store
9am to 5pm, may close for lunch
Village Store
8am to 8pm
Habitat Yosemite

11am to 4pm Fri., Sat., Sun. only
Nature Shop
10am to 5pm
The Ahwahnee

The Ahwahnee Gift Shop
8am to 8pm
The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop
9am to 10pm
Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery
8am to 8pm through Nov. 29
8am to 7pm as of Nov. 30
Curry Village

Nature Shop
11am to 7pm

Mountain Shop
8am to 6pm, 9am to 5pm as of Nov. 2
Curtis Village Gift/Grocery
8am to 5pm through Nov. 29
9am-7pm as of Nov. 30

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 5pm

WINTER SPORTS

www.wawonamountainsports.com

Ski Shop
Scheduled to open Dec. 18, weather and conditions permitting.
MARIPOSA GROVE & WAWONA SHUTTLE
A free 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. Service stops for winter after the first significant snowfall.

BIG TREES TRAM TOUR
A 1½- hr tram tour of the grove available 9:30 am to 5 pm during weather permitting. This audio tour is available in five languages and for visually impaired. Call 209-375-1621 or stop at a tour desk for information.

Walking through the Grove
Trails into the grove extend up from the trailhead at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs along the trailhead and the California Tree provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations are available at the trailhead in Spanish, German, French and Japanese. When snow covers the ground, access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski.

DOGS OR BIKES ARE NOT PERMITTED ANYWHERE IN THE GROVE.

Outdoor Adventures
For more information on Yosemite Association’s field seminars and custom guided hikes, pick up a catalog at any park visitor center, call 209-379-3231, or visit www.yosemite.org.

Oct. 9-20
Hiking with Yosemite’s Sister National Parks in China—Pete Devine.

Nov. 5-8
The Ahwahnee Bar

Dec. 5
The Ahwahnee Bar

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

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

Tuolumne Grove
This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. Now closed to cars, this path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip (you can walk, ski, or snowshoe) is moderately strenuous uphill. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.
Protecting Yourself
Experience Yosemite — Safely

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

Around Ice and Water
- Stay off frozen lakes, ponds and streams and away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards.
- 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.

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

Water Quality
To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking.
- Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier.
- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available, and always wash hands afterwards with soap and water. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash, camp, and bury human waste (6 inches deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

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.

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 5,000 feet (Yosemite Valley’s elevation is 4,000 feet). Should altitude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

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

Wilderness Permit Details
Free wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Permits are issued at Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows (road closed after first big snow), Big Oak Flat, Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Self-service permit kiosks are open during the autumn and winter, with an additional permit point open at Badger Pass during snowy months. At Tuolumne Meadows after Oct. 15, permits are available at a self-service kiosk at the Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Station. The Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center closes for the season on Oct. 25. Call the park’s main phone line for backcountry information: 209/372-0200.

For summer trips, reservations are taken from 24 weeks to two days in advance of the start of your trip. There is a $5 per person fee. Check the park’s website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740 (starting on Jan. 5).

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

Fire Safety
Each year campfires, cigarettes, and human carelessness cause unwanted fires in Yosemite. You can help prevent these fires by following a few fire safety tips.

Campfires
- Build small campfires in established campfire rings.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- Extinguish campfires by stirring with water a half hour before leaving the site. Carefully feel charred material to make certain the fire is cold and out.

Cigarettes
- Never throw lighted cigarettes on the ground or out of a car window.
- Crush cigarettes butts dead and out before discarding them in an ashtray or trash can.
- Do not smoke while walking on trails. Stop, smoke, and properly discard the cigarette butt before resuming your walk.

Charcoal Briquettes
- Never burn charcoal briquettes in a tent or vehicle. The carbon monoxide produced by burning charcoal is deadly in a confined space.
- After use, dunk burning briquettes in water until cold. Carefully check them to make sure the fire is out.
- Never throw burning or warm briquettes into trash cans or dumpsters.

Camping Stoves and Lanterns
- Refuel stoves or lanterns only when they are cold and in a well-ventilated area.
- Never use gas-fueled lanterns and stoves in tents, vehicles, or other confined spaces. These devices produce carbon monoxide gas which can be deadly.
Sightings are quite rare, so if you spot them are calm, quiet, and elusive. Include many areas of the park. Generally, deer and raccoon populations, which are important part of the park ecosystem. Mountain lions are a normal and important part of the park ecosystem. They are attracted to areas with healthy deer and raccoon populations, which include many areas of the park. Generally, they are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are quite rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!

Protect Yosemite's Wilderness
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Use gas stoves rather than wood fires.
- Camp in an existing campsite at least 100 feet from water and trail. You must be four trail miles from any populated area and one mile from any road before camping.
- To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.
- Maximum group size is 15 people for trail travel and eight people for off-trail travel.
- Yosemite is a wildlife preserve. Pets, weapons, bicycles, strollers, and motor vehicles are never allowed on Yosemite’s wilderness trails.

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 opens on the last Saturday in April and continues through November 15 (except Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, which opens June 15).
- Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the Foresta Bridge in El Portal. Within these reaches of the river, it is catch-and-release only for rainbow trout. Brown trout limits are five fish per day. 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.

Pets
Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. Keep in mind, in Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:
- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. They are not allowed on other trails, or in wilderness areas.
- 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 left unattended.

Bicycling
Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails. They are not allowed to travel off-trail or on dirt paths or trails.

Permits and Other Rules
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 applicable federal statutes and regulations.

Reporting Violations
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 the following illegal acts:
- Actively feeding or harassing wildlife
- Collecting plants, reptiles, or insects
- Hunting or destroying animals
- Picking up archeological items such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Camping outside of 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 209/379-1992.

Off-trail or on dirt paths or trails.

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

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

2. If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.
You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away: Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance at least 50 yards, or 50 yards plus an additional length of the longest bear you have seen. If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people.

3. Drive the speed limit.
The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Please slow down!
To report bear sightings, improper food storage, trash problems, and other bear-related problems, leave a message for the Bear Management Team at 209/372-0322.

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

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. Never approach a lion, especially if it is with kittens. Most lions will avoid confrontation. Always give them a way to escape. Don’t run. Hold your ground, or back away slowly.

Face the lion and stand upright. 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!
Report lion encounters at 209/372-0322.

Protecting Yosemite's Wildlife

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

Protecting Your Park
The impact of pioneer women on the Yosemite region is richer and more enduring than is widely known by visitors.

Women have made their mark in the park.

By Ranger Pam Meierding

Women have played an important—though often hidden—part in Yosemite. In the 1800s, women were expected to play a traditional role in the private world of the family and the home. With the birth of the railroad, and as the Gold Rush drew people to California from around the country in the late 1800s, pioneering women found ways to broaden traditional roles. Clothing reforms, such as the advent of “ bloomers ,” allowed women to participate in outdoor pursuits, while women writing about their adventures in the West inspired the imagination of others. In the West, women’s domestic skills sometimes became the basis for a profitable business. Below you will meet some of these pioneering women.

The Concessioners

Bridget Degnan moved to the United States from Ireland with her husband John, settling in Yosemite Valley in 1884. They raised eight children while John worked as a laborer for the state. Bridget added to the family’s income by selling bread she baked daily for 12½¢ a loaf. Demand for her bread increased steadily as more visitors traveled to Yosemite Valley.

In 1900, the Degnans ordered a large brick oven that could hold over 100 loaves of bread. This oven is on display in the Pioneer History Center at Wawona. Their original home was in the vicinity of the present-day Yosemite Lodge, and later, at the site of old Yosemite Village.

Jennie Foster Curry moved to Yosemite in 1889 with her husband David Curry. She was a college graduate, which was unusual for a woman at the time. Her husband and she ran a tent camp at the base of Glacier Point. When David died in 1917, “Mother” Curry carried on the camp and oversaw expansions, continuing Yosemite Park and Curry Company leases from the government with the help of her children. By 1922, Camp Curry had grown to 650 tents, 60 rooms in cottages, a cafeteria, and many other amenities.

The Adventurers

Sally Dutcher became the first woman to climb Half Dome in October 1875, accompanied by George Anderson and Galen Clark. She worked as an assistant to photographer Carleton Watkins in his gallery.

Park Employees & Naturalists

Maggie Howard was a Paiute born at Mono Lake, and she spent much of her life in Yosemite Valley. She was one of the first American Indian women to do cultural demonstrations. She worked at the Yosemite Museum from 1929-1942 demonstrating acorn preparation and basket weaving, a tradition that continued with succeeding cultural demonstrators, Lucy Telles and Julia Parker.

Clare Marie Hodges was the first woman ranger in Yosemite. She began teaching in the Yosemite Valley School in 1916. During World War I, Hodges heard about the difficulty the park was having finding men to work as rangers due to the demands of the war. In the spring of 1918, she applied as rangers due to the demands of the war. In the spring of 1918, she applied

Kitty Tatch & Katherine Hazelston dance on Overhanging Rock at Glacier Point. Yosemite Research Library photo.

Artists & Writers

The work of female artists inspired other women to visit Yosemite and the West. Constance Gordon-Cummings completed 50 watercolors and drawings and staged an exhibition of her work during a three-month stay in 1878. Her book, Granite Crags of California, published in 1886, included a travel narrative about Yosemite; Mary Winslow, one of the first female traveling photographers, documented Yosemite’s landscape in 1895, and Jesse Benton Fremont wrote Far West Sketches in which she described her visits to Yosemite Valley. Fremont was the wife of John C. Fremont and daughter of Thomas Hart Benton, important figures in Western American history, yet she still distinguished herself as a notable author and political activist in her own right.

Visit www.nps.gov/yose/historyculture to learn more about history and culture in Yosemite National Park.
Enhancing the Visitor Experience
It takes a legion of people working together to protect this special park for you and future generations of visitors. You, too, can extend your connection to Yosemite well after you return home by getting involved with the organizations that partner to preserve Yosemite.

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

The 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 be 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.naturebridge.org/yosemite.

Supporting Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s Future

Contact Us...
The Ansel Adams Gallery
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Yosemite, CA 95389
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DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite
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801/559-5000
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Yosemite Association
PO Box 230
El Portal, CA 95318
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209/379-2486 fax
www.yosemite.org

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

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

Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg
Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

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

Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:06am - 10:06pm.

At shuttle stops the same route taking steps or vehicles order service may be offered by shuttle operators. Check shuttle0099 for more information.

Stop # | Location
--- | ---
1 | Yosemite Village
2 | Valley Visitor Center
3 | Lower Yosemite Fall
4 | Camp 4
5 | Valley View
6 | Upper Pines Campground
7 | Yosemite Lodge
8 | Sentinel Bridge
9 | LeConte / Housekeeping Camp
10 | Curry Village
11 | Curry Village Parking
12 | Mirror Lake Trailhead
13 | Happy Isles
14 | Pines Campgrounds
15 | Stable

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