Yosemite is home to three groves—each earth as you explore a sequoia grove. Meet the most massive living trees on Earth while you explore. A walk to the base of a waterfall is well worth it. Yosemite Falls is a short walk from Yosemite Lodge and Yosemite Village. You can also venture farther to the base of Nevada Falls. (See the Valley map on the back of this Guide.) Portions of trail closed due to rockfall.

Welcome, and Be Prepared
Get ready for a wild experience. Yosemite is a place of moving beauty—and unpredictable forces. Be attentive to the rules in place to protect the park and your safety.

Fire – Police – Medical 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 on-line at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessible.htm. TTYs are available inside Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee, and outside the Valley Visitor Center and Curry Village office. 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.

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 3.

Within walking distance of a road. (Map on page 2; program listings page 3.)

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 6.)

How to 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. Some have fees; some are free. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery located in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 3.)

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Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

**Entrance Fees**

Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite. The park is open year-round, 24 hours a day.

- **Vehicle**: $20 Valid for 7 days
- **Individual**: $10 In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for 7 days.
- **Yosemite Pass**: $40 Valid for one year in Yosemite.
- **Interagency Annual Pass**: $80 Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.
- **Interagency Senior Pass**: $10 Valid for citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.
- **Interagency Access Pass**: (Lifetime) Valid for permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

**Regional Info**

**Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)** www.yarts.com

- West Highway 120 Yosemite Chamber of Commerce 800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429
- Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau 800/446-1333 www.thegreatunfenced.com
- Highway 41 Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau 559/683-4636 www.yosemiteisyear.com
- Highway 132/40 Coulterville Visitor Center 209/787-3074
- Highway 140/49 Yosemite Mariposa Tourism Bureau 866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081 www.homeofyosemite.com
- Highway 120 East Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center, 760/647-6629 www.leeving.com
- California Welcome Center, Merced 800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791 www.yosemite-gateway.org

**Yosemite Valley**

1. Even if you’ve been here before, the Valley is packed with wonders to keep you exploring. The Valley is open every day and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 west from Manteca. Here you will find the park’s main visitor center—a base for further exploration. Be aware that first-come/first-served campground reservations are very limited.

2. The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1½ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park’s South Entrance station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed to cars from December to April. 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.

3. Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area, 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.

4. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120, Evergreen Road, and Hetch Hetchy Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 7 am through 8 pm through April 30. Hours extend to 7 am to 9 pm as of May 1.

**Key to Events and Programs**

- **NP** National Park Service
- **NPS** National Park Service
- **DNC** DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
- **AAAG** The Ansel Adams Gallery
- **SAAG** Yosemite Association
- **S** Programs offered for a fee

**Programs at right printed in COLOR are specially designed for CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**Facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs:**

A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Contact 209/372-4726 (TTY) or 209/372-0645 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 weeks is requested.

**Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request.**
Yosemite Valley
An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 3, 6, and 7 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

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

Bridalveil Fall is another waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley.

El Capitan, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit at the west end of the Valley.

Half Dome, Yosemite’s most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. Cross the footbridge to the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite’s geologic story. It’s easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. You can also park at Curry Village and walk. It takes about 15 minutes to get there.

For a strenuous day hike, you can use this trailhead to reach Vernal Fall footbridge (½ miles) and Nevada Fall (2.7 miles) via the Mist Trail. This portion of the trail is closed when ice or high water makes the route hazardous. Please observe warning signs along the trail, and always pack your trash out.

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

A Valley sightseeing tour is offered in Yosemite throughout the year. The Valley Floor Tour is a 19-mile, two-hour tour that departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. Tours travel by open-air tram. An experienced guide narrates the tour. An enclosed motorcoach is used in poor weather.

A variety of other bus and open-top tram tours are offered each week. Call 209/372-1240 for reservations. You can also inquire at the tour and transportation desks at Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee (open 7:30-7pm), or Curry Village and the Village Store parking lot which open May 7.

You can experience the Valley by bike by bringing your own, or by renting at Curry Village or Yosemite Lodge. Rental offices are open 10 am to 5:30 pm; closed 1:30 to 2 pm for lunch.

Yosemite Mountaineering School (located in the Mountain Shop at Curry Village) offers group hikes, backpacking excursions, climbing instruction, and guided climbing. Call 209/372-8344 for more information.
Wawona
Located six miles from the park’s South Entrance or a one-hour drive from the Valley, the Wawona area tells the story of Yosemite’s human history and pioneer past. The charming 19th-century Wawona Hotel and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center are a history buff’s delight. The center is a collection of historic buildings associated with the people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour. Also in Wawona, you will find hikes of varying difficulty to places like Wawona Meadow and Chilnualna Falls, one of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley.

Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is Yosemite’s largest stand of giant sequoias (about 500 trees). You can park near the grove and walk in or take an open-air tram tour. There is a free shuttle to the grove on weekends, beginning April 24; daily operations begin on May 7 (weather permitting).

Hetch Hetchy
Hetch Hetchy Valley is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road, Evergreen Road, and Hetch Hetchy Road; it is 40 miles from Yosemite Valley. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 7 am to 8 pm through April 30. The road is open until 9 pm starting May 1. Call 209/372-0200 for the most up-to-date information. Vehicles over 25 ft. are prohibited on the narrow Hetch Hetchy Road. Once considered a twin to Yosemite Valley, this valley was described by John Muir as “a grand landscape garden.” Hetch Hetchy is located along the Tuolumne River. Its relatively low elevation gives the area one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite National Park.

Glacier Point
The Glacier Point Road is anticipated to open for visitor traffic sometime in May. You can get the latest road-closure info at the Valley Visitor Center or by calling 209/372-0200. At Glacier Point, you can go to the railing’s edge and catch your breath at an exhilarating view, looking down 3,214 feet to the Valley floor.

Tuolumne Meadows
Tioga Road, which links east and west segments of California Hwy 120, will likely open in late June. Although Tuolumne Meadows is only a 1.5 hour drive (55 miles) from Yosemite Valley, it is a world apart. Moving through elevations 6,200 to almost 10,000 feet at Tioga Pass, the road gives access to high country hiking and climbing. As the snow melts, hiking options increase. Campgrounds are expected to open in June. Wilderness permits will be available at the Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center once the road opens.

April 24: National Junior Ranger Day
Join rangers and DNC staff for guided and drop-in activities. Meet at the Nature Center at Happy Isles. Adult accompaniment REQUIRED for all events.

11:00am-Junior Ranger Walk 1 hr. All ages welcome!
12:00pm-Exploration Fair 4 hrs. Drop-in activities.
1:00pm-Kids Photography Walk 1 hr.
2:00pm-Learn and Serve 2 hrs. Recommended for ages 7-13. Resource Stewardship project.
Closed-toe shoes required.
7:30pm-International Astronomy Day Activities See page 3 for information.
8:30pm-National Parks in the Sky Ranger Slide presentation at Yosemite Lodge.

Earth Day Events
April 16-22
Earth Day is Thursday, April 22. But the park celebration will spread across the week.

Earth Day Family Night
7pm on Friday, April 16. Song, dance, & entertainment. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater.

Village Celebration
10:30am on Saturday, April 17. Displays and activities on the Village Mall, in front of the Valley Visitor Center.

Earth Day Stewardship Project
9am on Thursday, April 22. Meet on the lawn behind The Ahwahnee.

Earth Day Day Stewardship Project
9am on Thursday, April 22. Join park staff for a Earth Day work party! Closed-toe shoes required.

Pedal, Play, and Protect
2pm on Thursday, April 22. Tickets for educational bike ride can be purchased at tour desks.
Yosemite Valley

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 5 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 book-store. Bear canisters and permits will be available here until the Wilderness Center opens May 1.

Explore the exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite's spectacular landscape formed and how people interact with it.

FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

This inspiring visitor-orientation film provides a stunning overview of Yosemite's splendor. It is shown every 30 minutes, Monday through Saturday between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 4:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Internet Access

Fee-based terminals are open at the Yosemite Village. WIFI access is available at the Yosemite Lodge on a pay-per-use basis. Go to the front desk for information. Access at the Ahwahnee is reserved for guest use only.

Yurt Info Station

Starting May 1, Yosemite Association volunteers will staff an information station at Visitor Parking (see map on back of this Guide). Yurt Information Station hours are 10 am to 4 pm daily.

Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

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

YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE ART SHOW

Yosemite Renaissance is an exhibit of contemporary art at the Yosemite Museum. The exhibit ends May 2.

Free Art Classes

The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers free art classes. Please register in advance at the center, located south of the Village Store. $5 suggested donation per day. For times, see page 3.

April 20-24 Steve Curl, watercolor
April 27-May 1 Annie Lawrence, block printing
May 4-4 Carolyn Fitz, Sumi-e Ink Painting
May 10-15 Feiling Lin, watercolor
May 18-22 Sonya Hamilton, watercolor
May 25-29 Linda Nadel, watercolor

Wilderness Center

The Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village and opens May 1. Hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm. Wilderness permits, info, and bear canister rentals are available. Phone: 209/372-0745.

Ansel Adams Gallery

In Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm through May 3. After May 3 it’s open from 9 am to 6 pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, other photographers and artists, camera walks, workshops, and classes. Activities are listed on the front porch. Call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

At the Gallery

April 14 - May 25 New work from celebrated local Yosemite artist, Penny Otwell. A reception will be held for the artist on April 15 from 4-6 pm.

LeConte Memorial Lodge

The Lodge is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm, with free evening programs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings. Programs are scheduled for 8 pm. The Lodge is located at shuttle stop #12.

BooKs, Gifs, & Apparel

Yosemite Village

The Ansel Adams Gallery
9am to 5pm (to 6pm as of May 9)
Yosemite Art & Education Center
Opening April 4, 9:00am to 12 pm and 1 to 5 pm.
Art classes offered Tuesday-Saturday 10am to 2pm.
Yosemite Bookstore
Inside Yosemite Visitor Center
9am to 5pm
Yosemite Museum Store
9am to 5pm (May close for lunch)
Village Store
8am to 9pm
Habitat Yosemite/Green Store
11am to 4pm
Saturday: 9am to noon
Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm
Post Office
Monday-Friday: 9:30am to 12:30pm
Saturday: 9am to 12:30 pm
Yosemite Village/Post Office
Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm
Sunday: noon to 4:30 pm

Mountain Shop
10am to 7pm
The Ahwahnee
Mountain Shop
10am to 7pm
Habitat Yosemite/Green Store
11am to 4pm
Thursday-Sunday only
Sport Shop
10am to 5pm
The Ahwahnee Gift Shop
9am to 5pm
The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop
7am to 10pm

Habitat Yosemite/Green Store
Habitat Yosemite/Green Store
8am to 9pm
11am to 4pm

Library
8am to 6pm

Tours

Tours described here are offered by the NPS. To make reservations or request information on guided tours, call 209/372-0811.

Note that some tours and roads familiar to summer visitors do not reopen until May or June.
Visitor Services

Locations and hours across the park

Wawona
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 explains how Yosemite inspired national parks across America and around the world. The center is open throughout the year.

Evening Programs
Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite’s past.

Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio
Come visit the newly renovated lobby and exhibit hall, featuring full-scale reproductions of Thomas Hill’s paintings. The exhibit tells the story of the artist, and the impact of landscape painting on the park preservation movement.

Open 8:30 am to 5 pm beginning May 7. Offers wilderness permits, trail information, books, and an exhibit on Thomas Hill. Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona Store and follow the path up the hill. More info: 209/375-9351.

Mariposa Grove
Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. The road to the Grove is expected open by May.

Getting to Mariposa Grove
Allow an hour’s driving time to reach the Grove’s access road from the Valley. Dogs and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.

Crane Flat & Hetch Hetchy
Big Oak Flat and North Entrance
The route enters the park on California Hwy 120. Yosemite’s north region is often uncrowded, and offers lesser-known gems including the giant sequoia groves near Crane Flat, and the trails and waterfalls of Hetch Hetchy. The Big Oak Flat information station opens May 14, 8 am – 4:30 pm. The facility offers information, wilderness permits, bear canisters, books, and maps. Wilderness permits are available by self-registration until May 13.

Merced Grove
Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees. It’s a four-mile round-trip hike from Big Oak Flat Road.

Tuolumne Grove
This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat. The path drops 300 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip is moderately strenuous.

Tuolumne Meadows
Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Opening date pending
When open, hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCarley Cabin, and Soda Springs Two trails, 3.4 miles and 3 miles, lead to this historic area.

Tuolumne Meadows
Wilderness Center
The center is scheduled to open along with Tioga Road. Hours will be 8 am to 4:30 pm, with a daily closure for lunch. Wilderness permits, bear canisters, information, books, and maps are available. The center is located just as you turn onto the Tuolumne Lodge Road.

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

April 27
Moonbow Photography, a camera quest for the mythical lunar arc

May 15–16
Merced Grove Overnight, a night in a historic cabin in the sequoias.

May 20–23
Yosemite Valley Pastels, a weekend of artistic creativity in the park.

YA Custom Adventures
The Yosemite Association also offers individualized Custom Adventures for groups and families. Led by naturalists, the option lets you focus on your own area of interest.

Info: 209/379-3231, ext. 12.
Experience Yosemite—Keep yourself safe while exploring your park

Are You Hiking to Half Dome?

Hiking to the top of Half Dome is one of the most popular hikes in Yosemite National Park. The popularity of the hike has increased dramatically in the last decade, particularly on weekends and holidays. This increase has resulted in significant safety concerns.

To address safety issues, the park has instituted an interim permit program to access the Half Dome cables on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays starting in May 2010. Permits became available March 1, 2010 for May and June; April 1, for July and August; and will be available on May 1, for September and October.

You can make reservations at www.recreation.gov or by calling 1/877-444-6777. Each person climbing the Half Dome cables will be required to have their own permit. Up to four permits may be obtained under one reservation. A non-refundable service charge of $1.50 will apply for each permit obtained.

These permits are required for the use of the trail from the base of the subdome to the summit of Half Dome and include the Half Dome cable route. For detailed information visit our website at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.

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. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley’s elevation is 4,000 feet). Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out of the day.
- Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food. (See “Water Quality” at right.)
- 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.
- 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, Wawona, Tuolomne Meadows, Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station (opening times vary), and the Big Oak Flat Information Station (open May 14, 8am-4:30pm). You can reserve permits, but they must be picked up in person. Check the park’s website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740 to reserve a permit.

More Information

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

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.

Water Safety

- Stay 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.

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.
**Avoid hiking alone. Watch children**

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, and 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.

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**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/yersafety.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.

As of February 22, 2010, a federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws, to legally possess fire arms in Yosemite. It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local and federal firearms laws before entering the park. Consult the park website for more information.

**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 directly harming 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

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.

**Campgrounds**

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.

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**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.

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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.
Yosemite Wildflowers

By Elizabeth Mundling, Writer/Editor

Yosemite is a wildflower enthusiast’s paradise, where blossoms are found most of the year. The park’s 11,000-foot range in elevation—from 2,000 feet on the west to 13,000 on the east—provides a phenomenal variety of growing conditions.

The park’s location in the central Sierra Nevada makes it a crossroads for plant species that have migrated over the millennia from the Pacific coast, Great Basin, southern deserts, and northern mountains. The result of this mix of migrants is an extremely rich flora of 1,450 species, with 25 percent of California’s native plants represented in the park. Yosemite is home to flowers common in other places, such as the rosy sedum—a small succulent found across the northern parts of the world—and to uncommon flora, such as the Yosemite woolly sunflower found only in the park’s region. No matter where you go in the park, different species of lupines, paintbrushes, buckwheats, and other genera are to be found.

Spring in the Lower Elevations

In March, spring blossoms open at the west edge of the park in the Merced River canyon (especially the Hite Cove trail seven miles outside the park). Look for fields of tufted poppies, spider lupines, fiddlenecks, popcorn flowers, owl’s clover and redbuds. By mid-May, shooting stars, arrow leaf ground-sel, leopard lily, rein orchids, marsh marigold, and great red paintbrush burst into bloom in Yosemite. These first wildflowers are followed by goldenrod, Sierra lessingia, sneezeweed, and woolly mule-ears. In particular, search for pussy paws growing in sandy areas. This low growing plant raises its flower stems each morning and lowers them in the evening, but why it does this is a mystery.

Popular Trails at these lower elevations include Cook’s Meadow Loop in the Valley, Wawona Meadow Loop in Wawona, and Wapama Falls in Hetch Hetchy.

Spring in the Higher Elevations

Another set of wildflowers emerge before the snows completely melt in the higher forests and meadows along the Glacier Point Road, which climbs to more than 7,000 feet in elevation. The unusual looking snow plant pops out through thin layers of the remaining snow. The snow plant lacks any green because it doesn’t photosynthesize, instead it feeds off soil fungi. Its red color attracts hummingbirds, which feed from its bell shaped flowers.

In granitic gravels, look for mountain pride, spreading phlox, sulfur buckwheat, mouse-tail, mountain pennyroyal, sandwort, monkeyflowers (in yellow and red hues), Sierra forget-me-nots, and pretty face.

In wet meadows and along stream banks, hunt for corn lily, monkshood, shooting stars, arrow leaf ground-sel, leopard lily, rein orchids, marsh marigold, and great red paintbrush. Note that red paintbrushes also attract hummingbirds. Most of the red color is found actually on the plant’s colored bracts and sepals, not on the petals.

In forested zones, keep your eye out for groundsel, lupines, red columbine, wallflower, coralroot orchid, dogbane, mariposa lily, and wild strawberry.

Popular trails in the higher elevations include McGurk Meadow, Taft Point, and Sentinel Dome; all located along the Glacier Point Road. The first part of the McGurk meadow trail leads through forests where you’ll see a variety of woodland flowers. In less than a mile, the trail reaches the flower gardens of the meadow. Both the Taft Point and Sentinel Dome trails offer a wide array of flowers in the first half mile.

Plan to Take Your Time

In Yosemite, there are many opportunities to join other wildflower enthusiasts. Stop by the visitor center in Yosemite Valley for information on great wildflower walks. You can also register for a Yosemite Association wildflower hike, led by an expert botanist who visits the park’s best wildflower spots. When on a wildflower walk, plan to take your time because flower enthusiasts typically take it slow to examine plants. To prepare for a wildflower walk, bring along a Sierra Nevada wildflower guide and a magnifying lens. The Yosemite Association sells guides online and at the park’s visitor centers.

Join a Wildflower Walk

Spend time with Yosemite’s vegetation specialists as they lead a 45-minute wildflower walk through Cook’s Meadow, Wednesday April 28, at 2:30. Meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center.
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 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.anseladamsgallery.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 donors 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.yi.org/yi.

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The Yosemite Fund
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www.yosemitefund.org

Yosemite Institute
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209/379-9511
209/379-9510 fax
www.yni.org

The Yosemite Fund and Yosemite Association have Merged!
We are thrilled to announce a new era in support for Yosemite National Park! In December 2009, The Yosemite Fund and Yosemite Association agreed to form a unified nonprofit organization. By combining the proud histories of the two organizations, more programs and projects can be accomplished to protect Yosemite and inspire enduring connections for current and future generations. While a transition to a consolidated organization occurs, the Fund and Association will outwardly operate as they do now. More information about the merger is located on each organization’s website.
Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am - 10:00pm. All shuttles follow the same route, serving stops in numerical order. Service may be affected by construction projects. Check shuttle stops for more information.

Stop # Location
1 Visitor Parking
2 Yosemite Village
3 Lower Yosemite Fall
4 Valley Visitor Center
5 Camp 4
6 Yosemite Lodge
7 Sentinel Bridge
8 LeConte / Housekeeping Camp
9 Recreation Rentals
10 Curry Village
11 Curry Village Parking
12 Canyon Visitor Center
13 Yosemite Village
14 Yosemite Lodge
15 Sentinel Bridge
16 LeConte / Housekeeping Camp
17 Recreation Rentals
18 Curry Village
19 Curry Village Parking
20 Canyon Visitor Center

Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

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

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