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What to Do and Where to Go in Yosemite National Park

June 30 - August 3, 2010

Things to Do

Mounts Lyell and Maclure, in the Yosemite Wilderness.

Photo by Ken Watson

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

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

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

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours, but to give you some ideas, here are 12 popular activities for a day in Yosemite National Park.

Walk to a Waterfall
Yosemite Valley is famous for its awe-inspiring waterfalls; each as distinct as the granite cliffs they dive over. While Yosemite Falls may be dry by August, Bridalveil, Vernal, and Nevada Falls flow all year. (See page 17 for hiking information.)

Explore a Sequoia Grove
Meet the most massive trees 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 Half Dome, towering more than 3,000 feet above Yosemite Valley. Witness the sunset, as it lights up the cliff face, from Glacier Point (or from other points in Yosemite Valley). Listen in on a sunset talk with a ranger at Glacier Point.

Visit the other valley, Hetch Hetchy
“Almost an exact counterpart of the Yosemite…a visit to its counterpart should be recommended, if it be only to see how curiously nature has repeated herself.” -Josiah D. Whitney.

Hetch Hetchy provides spectacular vistas, waterfalls, and early season hiking. (See page 2 for a park map and area information.)

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. (See page 2 for a park map and area information.)

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

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 area 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 at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 6 and 7 for times and meeting places.)

Discover the Night Sky
Attend the “Starry Skies Over Yosemite Valley” for a wild ride through the universe to learn about stars, constellations, planets, meteors, and other night sky features, all from the comfort of Yosemite Valley. Sign up at any tour desk (see page 4 for locations).

Bring Your Yosemite Guide With You!
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 area) are on pages 6, 7, 9, and 11.

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.)

Access for People With Disabilities
The Yosemite Accessibility Guide is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at www.nps.gov/yose/plainview/disability.htm. Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue-and-white signs.

A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0296 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of at least 2 days is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.

Emergency: Dial 911
Road, Weather, and Park Information: www.nps.gov/yose or 209/372-0200

Sudden changes in weather are common in the Sierra Nevada. Call the number above or check www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm. Accessible parking spaces are 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.

A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0296 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of at least 2 days is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.

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

What’s Inside:

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3 Exploring the Park
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5 Valley Store, Restaurant, Medical, and Service Info
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Feature Article: Wilderness
Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley, open all year, is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. You can get there via Highway 41/Wawona Road from Fresno, Highway 140/El Portal Road from Merced, Highway 120 west/Big Oak Flat Road from Manteca, and (during summer) via the Tioga Road/Highway 120 east from Lee Vining. Yosemite Valley is home to massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls slows to a trickle by August, a moderate hike will bring you to impressive Vernal and Nevada Falls. Walk to Mirror Lake, where you will see reflections of Half Dome. Gaze up at El Capitan, a massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the valley by foot, bike, car, on horseback, raft, or tour, you will behold scenery that will leave you breathless and eager to see what’s around the next corner.
Glacier Point

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Yosemite’s high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley or Wawona. To get there from either of these places, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), to Chinquapin, then turn onto Glacier Point Road. Glacier Point Road is usually open from late May through sometime in November. Be prepared for 30-minute construction delays (60 minutes at night) on the Wawona Road Sunday evening through Friday evening. 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. Be prepared for 30-minute construction delays (60 minutes at night) on the Wawona Road Sunday evening through Friday evening. 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, watch blacksmiths at work at the blacksmith shop, or hike one of the scenic trails. For more information, visit the 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.

Tioga Road and Tuolumne Grove

Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. It is usually open from late May or early June through sometime in November. The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 to nearly 10,000 feet, so it offers an opportunity to experience many of Yosemite’s habitats. The White Wolf area, midway across the park, is the starting point for day hikes to Lukens Lake and Harden Lake. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the grove. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead on Big Oak Flat Road and walk 1.5 steep miles down to the grove. (Remember: walking down is easier than walking back up.) These groves are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off-limits to vehicles.

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows provides a glimpse of the High Sierra and the Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River, which winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by even higher granite domes and peaks. It is the starting point for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. Stop at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center for information about hiking to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Dog Lake, Lembert Dome, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon. Take advantage of the free shuttle service in Tuolumne Meadows or the Tuolumne Meadows Tour and Hikers’ Bus from Yosemite Valley.

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the city of San Francisco, is also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. Due to its importance as a municipal water supply, no fishing or swimming is permitted. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 7 am to 9 pm May 1 through Labor Day, with reduced hours during the rest of the year. Hetch Hetchy Road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is approximately a 1 ¼-hour 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

The Yosemite Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude in a beautiful setting. In order to avoid overcrowding and reduce impacts, a trailhead quota system limits the number of backpackers entering each trailhead each day. Of the 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.
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. See pages 5, 6, and 7 for more information on program topics and visitor services.

Ranger Programs

Rangers give walks and talks every day about Yosemite's natural and cultural history. See pages 6 and 7 for scheduled strolls, talks, and evening programs.

Walking and Hiking

From easy walks to Lower Yosemite Fall, Cook's Meadow, and Mirror Lake, to strenuous hikes to the top of Yosemite Falls or Nevada Fall, Yosemite Valley has a wide range of walking and hiking possibilities. See page 17 for a list of hikes.

Bicycling

Several miles of bicycle paths wind through Yosemite Valley. You can use your own bicycle or rent one from Yosemite Lodge or Curry Village. Bikes are only allowed on paved bicycle paths.

Tours

(Tours listed below depart from Yosemite Lodge.)

- The Valley Floor Tour is a 26-mile, two-hour open-air tram tour narrated by a park ranger (weather permitting). The tour departs Yosemite Lodge several times daily. Or, get an in-depth view of Yosemite Valley from an expert on a three-hour Specialty Valley Floor Tour. Topics vary from day to day.
  - The Glacier Point Tour leaves Yosemite Lodge at 8:30 am, 10 am, and 1:30 pm daily when the Glacier Point Road is open. One-way tickets are available for those who want to hike down from Glacier Point.
  - The Grand Tour includes the Valley, Glacier Point, and the Mariposa Grove. An experienced guide narrates each tour. The tour departs Yosemite Lodge at 8:45 am daily.
  - Call 209/372-4386 for reservations or inquire at the tour desks at Yosemite Lodge, Yosemite Village, Curry Village, and The Ahwahnee.

Mule & Horseback 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 (reservations strongly recommended).

Sightseeing

Some of the famous landmarks in Yosemite Valley include:

- Yosemite Falls gives the Valley an extra touch of life when it's flowing with spring runoff. You can walk to its base or take the strenuous trail to its top (see page 17).
- 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, and Glacier Point, are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.
- 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.
- Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16 or by walking from Curry Village. Cross the footbridges onto the isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story.
- 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.
The Heart of Yosemite National Park
The height of summer offers special opportunities for learning and adventure. Services are open longer and additional programs are available.

Yosemite Valley

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore
Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 7:30 pm. The visitor center is just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The facility offers information, maps, and books. Explore the exhibits and learn how Yosemite’s landscape formed and how people interact with it.

FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE
This inspiring visitor-orientation film provides a stunning overview of Yosemite’s splendor. It is shown every 30 minutes, Monday through Saturday between 9:30 am and 5:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 5:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Yosemite Museum
Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center. VIEWS & VISITORS: THE YOSEMITE EXPERIENCE IN THE 19TH CENTURY
This exhibit features paintings, prints, artifacts, and ephemera from Yosemite’s early years. Historic hotel registers and the Grand Register of the Cosmopolitan are also on view. The exhibit includes an interactive kiosk related to the Grand Register and a digital slide show of historic visitors and hotels, and is open daily from June 16 through October 31. Hours through September 30 are 10 am to 4 pm, and in October from 10 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm. The exhibit is made possible by a grant from the Yosemite Conservancy.

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

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

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

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

Yosemite Art & Education Center
The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers a selection of original art and art supplies, as well as four-hour art workshops Tuesday through Saturday (see page 6). Located south of the Village Store, the Center is open 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 4:30 pm daily.

Visitor Parking Information Station
Located in a yurt at the Yosemite Village Visitor Parking (see map on back of this Guide), this information station is open 10 am to 4 pm daily.

Nature Center at Happy Isles
Open 9:30 am to 5 pm daily. Designed for nature-exploring children and their families, the nature center offers natural-history exhibits and a bookstore. The nature center is a short walk from shuttle stop # 16.

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

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FOOD & BEVERAGE
Yosemite Village
Degnans Loft
Noon to 9pm
Degnans Delicatessen
7am to 5pm
Degnans Cafe
11am to 6pm
Village Grill
11am to 5pm

The Ahwahnee
Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am
Lunch: 11:30am to 3pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm
Reservations recommended for all meals. Required for dinner.
209/372-1489

The Ahwahnee Bar
11am to 11pm

Yosemite Lodge
Food Court
Daily 6:30am to 8:30pm
Mountain Room Lounge
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Lunch: 11am to 2pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

Mountain Room Restaurant
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Lunch: 11am to 2pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

Curry Village
Guest Lounge
8am to 11pm

Coffee Corner
8am to 10pm

Curry Village Bar
Noon to 11pm

Mountain Room Restaurant
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Lunch: 11am to 2pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

Taqueria
11am to 8pm

Happy Isles Snack Stand
11am to 7pm

MEDITATIONAL
Yosemite Medical Clinic
Emergency care, 24-hours daily.
Drop-in and urgent care: 8am to 7pm.
Appointments: 8am to 5pm.
209/372-4657

Dental Services
Located next to the Medical Clinic.
209/372-4050 or 209/372-4673.
Outdoor Adventures and Custom Adventures

For more on Yosemite Conservancy’s field seminars, pick up a catalog at any park visitor center, call 209/372-2321, or visit www.yosemite.org. The Conservancy 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.

July 4-8 North Rim Backcountry
July 10 Cran Flat Riding – Michael Ross.
July 10 Latitudes in the Landscape
July 11 A Look at the Little Life of Yosemite – Insects, etc. that make Yosemite work.
July 11-14 Young Lakes Backcountry
July 15-18 Tuolumne Meadows Pastels- Moira Donohoe and Yosemite art.
July 16-18 Tuolumne Meadows Wildflowers –
July 16-18 Half Dome Overnight
July 17-20 Family Camping Jamboree – Bring the tent and kids; we do the cooking.
July 22-25 mile camping Jamboree 2 – We do the activities for families in nature.
July 23-25 The Nature of Writing for Children – Author Michael Ross inspires.
July 23-25 Sierra Nevada Natural History – Da vid Lukas literally wrote the book.
July 29-August 1 Half Dome Made Easy – Two nights up allows a mellower pace.
July 30-August 1 Tuolumne Alpine Studies – Michael Ross and a changing landscape.

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite

Wednesdays, 9 am to noon, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

Join Yosemite Resources Management & Science staff for a stewardship project. Help preserve and protect native habitat in Yosemite Valley and learn about the park’s resources management program. Help keep Yosemite’s ecosystem healthy and enjoy the excitement of future generations! Volunteers must wear long-sleeves, long pants, and sturdy shoes or boots. Gloves and tools will be provided. Meet in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center at 9 am.

Yosemite Mountaineering School

YMS, operated by DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, offers rock climbing classes, guided climbs, and a new climate change program. Help keep Yosemite’s ecosystem healthy and intact for the enjoyment of future generations! Volunteers must wear long-sleeves, long pants, and sturdy shoes or boots. Gloves and tools will be provided. Meet in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center at 9 am.

Art Workshops

The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers art workshops from 10 am to 2 pm Thursday through Saturday. Register for classes in advance: 209/372-1442 (suggested donation of $5; supplies extra). Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Be prepared to work outdoors.

June 29 - July 3 Chris Van Winkle, Watercolor on Location
July 6 - July 10 Lilda Shadlow, Mixed Media Play - Out of the Box
July 13 - July 17 Linda Mitchell, Fun With Watercolor
July 20 - July 24 Laura Williams, Yosemite Plain Air
July 27 - July 31 Jim Kingwell, Painting From the Hip

LeConte Memorial Lodge

LeConte Memorial Lodge is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm, with evening programs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, and some Thursday evenings. Evening programs are scheduled for 8 pm and are free. The Lodge has a library, children’s corner, and a new climate change program.

8:30am Photo Walk
9:00am FAMILY ART PROGRAM
11:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK

9:30am Photo Walk
9:00am Bike to Hike Tour
2½ hrs. Tickets needed, at any tour desk. Curry Village bike stand (YM)

10:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK
1 ¼ hrs. Meet in front of the Yosemite Museum (YM)
Wawona, Mariposa Grove, and Glacier Point

Explore History
Discover Giant Trees
Find Amazing Vistas
These park areas offer unique opportunities to visit historic and natural landmarks.

Wawona & the Mariposa Grove
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. 209/375-9531.

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.

Ranger Evening Programs
Join a ranger around a campfire for an hour-long interpretive program on the vintage songs of Yosemite, or on the history of Wawona, with slide or music accompaniment.

Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explores Yosemite’s history and explains how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and around the world. The history center is always open, and interpretive signs and brochures are available.

Live Demonstrations
See page 9, at right, for dates and times.

EXPERIENCE HORSE-DRAWN TRAVEL
Travel into history by taking a 10-minute horse-drawn stage ride. Tickets may be purchased at the Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. $4/ adults and $3/child (ages 3-12).

BLACKSMITH SHOP
Smell the burning coal, hear the ring of the hammer on the anvil, and watch a demonstration of the ancient art of blacksmithing.

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

Mariposa Grove
Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 large mature sequoias. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area. Information about access for people with disabilities 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. Trailers are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road. Private vehicles longer than 25 feet are not permitted on this road.

FREE MARIPOSA GROVE & WAWONA SHUTTLE
A shuttle stops at the Wawona Store, South Entrance, and Mariposa Grove. Visitors may park at the Wawona Store to board the bus. Shuttles operate beginning at 9 am, and the last shuttle leaves the grove at 6 pm, or after the last tour.

Please use this free shuttle service to help reduce congestion and parking delays.

Mariposa Grove Ranger Walks
Rangers lead walks among the giant sequoias, explaining their natural history and historical importance. (See page 9 for schedule.)

Big Trees Tram Tour
A 1 ¼ hr. tram tour of the grove is available 9 am to 5 pm. This audio tour is available in five languages and for the visually impaired. Call 209/375-1621 or stop at a tour desk for more information.

Mariposa Grove Museum & Trails
Open 10 am to 4 pm daily. Located in the Upper Mariposa Grove, the museum offers information, displays on giant sequoias, and a small bookstore.

The trail to the Grizzly giant has new interpretive signs that provide a self-guiding tour. Translations are available in Spanish, German, French and Japanese.

Dogs and bikes are not allowed on trails and roads in the Mariposa Grove.

Shuttle Service to Yosemite Valley
FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE BETWEEN WAWONA AND YOSEMITE VALLEY
The bus departs daily from the Wawona Hotel at 8:30 am and from the Wawona Store at 8:35 am. The return trip departs from Yosemite Lodge at 3:30 pm.
Mule & Horseback Rides
Mule or horse rides begin at the Wawona Stable (see map to left). Open 7:30 am to 5 pm daily. 209/375-6502.

Evening Programs
Meet a ranger to enjoy the lengthening shadows in Yosemite Valley and the alpenglow (or moonrise) on the Sierra high country. Stargazing programs are offered, as well. Details at right.

GROCERIES
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 8pm

FOOD & BEVERAGE
Wawona Food & Beverage
9am to 5pm
Wawona Hotel Dining Room
9am to 5pm
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm
Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am
Wawona Hotel Dining Room
8:30am to 1:30pm

GIFTS & APPAREL
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 8pm

GRoCERIeS
Wawona Food & Beverage
9am to 5pm
Wawona Hotel Dining Room
9am to 5pm
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm
Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am
Wawona Hotel Dining Room
8:30am to 1:30pm
Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, and Crane Flat

High Sierra Peaks and Quiet Corners of the Park

These areas offer amazing vistas and opportunities for solitude. Hiking, backpacking, and ranger-led programs are popular activities.

Tuolumne Meadows

Opening date depends on conditions. Open 9 am to 6 pm. Park orientation, trail information, books, maps, and displays available. 209/372-0263.

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs

Two trails, both flat and ¼-mile long, lead to this historic area, which is accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge may be open from 10 am to 4 pm beginning in early July. Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs that attract birds and deer, especially at sunrise and sunset.

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center

Open 7:30 am to 5 pm. The wilderness center offers maps, displays available. 209/375-6502.

Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series

All programs, unless otherwise noted, begin at 2 pm and last about an hour. Allow 30 minutes walking time to Parsons Memorial Lodge from either Lembert Dome parking area or the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. Admission is free.

Ranger Walks

Join a ranger to explore new areas and learn about geology, birds, flowers, history, the Tuolumne River, and more. These walks range from one to eight hours and, except for the long walks, are fairly easy. On Friday, end your day with a Music Walk. This easy stroll will inspire and delight. Check local postings for program schedule possibly beginning July 3.

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). Check local postings for program schedule possibly beginning July 3.

Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series

Walk the Sky: Following the John Muir Trail

Slide presentation by John Dittli, photographer, and Mark Schlenz, writer, with musicians Jane Freeburg, Annie Cashner, and Dave Herbst begin at 2 pm and last about an hour. Allow 30 minutes walking time to Parsons Memorial Lodge from either Lembert Dome parking area or the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. Admission is free.

Saturday, July 17

Walk the Sky: Following the John Muir Trail

A performance of nature-inspired music by young singers led by hammer dulcimer player Malcolm Dalglish, singers Naomi Dalglish, Joshua Kartes, Jeff Fellinger, and Rachel Becker.

Sunday, August 1, 2 pm – 5 pm

Sounds Amid Stillness

Slideshow presentation, auditor tour, and discussion with Kurt Fristrup, NPS Resident Naturalist, Yosemite Conservancy.

Mule & Horseback Rides

Mule or horse rides begin at the Tuolumne Meadows Stable (see map above). Open 7:30 am to 5 pm daily beginning June 25, conditions permitting. 209/375-6502.

Big Oak Flat

Big Oak Flat Information Station

Open 8 am to 5 pm. The information station offers general park information, books, and maps. It also provides wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, and backpacking information.

Merced Grove

Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees accessible only on foot. It’s a three-mile round-trip hike (about three hours) into the grove from Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). Located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and ¼ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance, the trail is marked by a sign and post labeled B-10.

Tuolumne Grove

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. The path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The way down can seem much easier than the return to the parking lot. The trip is moderately strenuous on the uphill portion. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.
**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**

**ALL PROGRAMS TENTATIVELY BEGIN JULY 2, 2010.**

* Programs happen only when Tuolumne Meadows Campground is open.

**WHITE WOLF**

* Programs happen only when White Wolf Campground is open.

**CRANE FLAT HODGDON MEADOW HETCH HETCHY**

* Programs happen only when Crane Flat Campground is open.

---

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows Grill

Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:00 to 9:00
Dinner: 5:00 to 8:00

Meadows Store

Inside the Visitor Center

Tuolumne Meadows Bookstore

and Sport Shop

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center porch

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**GROCERIES**

**Food & Beverage**

operation.

Check local postings for changes to hours of

---

**POST OFFICE**

Tuolumne Meadows

Post Office

Post Office

Monday – Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to 1pm

---

**GAS STATIONS**

Tuolumne Meadows

9am to 5pm

Gas and propane available.

Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

---

**FREE SHUTTLE BUS**

Created by: Tuolumne / Hetch Hetchy

Free shuttle service is available along the Tioga Road from Olmsted Point to Crane Flat. Service begins at approximately 30-minute intervals between 7 am and 9 pm. The last shuttle leaves Olmsted Point at 6 pm. Schedules are subject to change. Please check route map in Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center or shuttle stops for details.

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**FRIDAY**

Coffee with a Ranger* (except June 30) 1 hr. Bring questions and a cup.

Birding with a Ranger (except June 30) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground

Photographing Tuolumne Meadows (except July 5) 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Grill

Walking with a Ranger* (except June 30) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (except July 5) 2 hrs. White Wolf Campground

CAMPFIRE FOR KIDS* (except June 30) 1 hr. Conness Circle, Loop C in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)

CAMPFIRE* (except June 30) 1 hr. Campsite 1 in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)

Meet Your Ranger – White Wolf Campground


Meet Your Ranger – Stars (except July 1) 2 hrs. White Wolf Campground

Junior Ranger Walk – Bears and Other Wildlife (except June 30) 2 hrs. Pothole Dome shuttle stop #8, road marker T-29 (NPS)

CAMPFIRE FOR KIDS* (except June 30) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground (NPS)

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**Saturday**

Coffee with a Ranger* (except July 21) 1 hr. Bring questions and a cup.

Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (except July 5) 2 hrs. White Wolf Campground

Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservation Office (NPS)

Ranger Walk – Geology of Tuolumne Meadows (except June 30) 1 hr. Pothole Dome shuttle stop #4, road marker T-29 (NPS)

CAMPFIRE FOR KIDS* (except June 30) 1 hr. Conness Circle, Loop C in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)

CAMPFIRE* (except June 30) 1 hr. Campsite 1 in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)

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**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**
Become a Junior Ranger

Ages 3 and up can earn a badge by exploring the park

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: ______________________

   Draw a picture of something you saw along the trail.

   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
Bears and Wildlife

Enjoying wildlife safely and responsibly

How to Store Food

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FOOD STORAGE</th>
<th>WHY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your Vehicle</td>
<td>You may store food inside your car (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark: use a food locker. Remember to clean your car if food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs are left behind.</td>
<td>Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize food and non-food items. 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 must be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed.</td>
<td>Bears may enter campgrounds when people are present, and some may even check food lockers to see if they’re secure. 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 Trails</td>
<td>Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm’s reach. Don’t turn your back to your food.</td>
<td>Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be aware.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking in the Wilderness</td>
<td>Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hiking 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 impairment of your food or vehicle, a fine of up to $5,000, and/or revocation of camping permit. Following these regulations and precautions decreases the chance of personal injury or property damage. However, bear damage and confrontations are still possible, even when all the regulations and guidelines are followed.

Mountain Lions

Mountain lions are a normal and important part of the park ecosystem. They are attracted to areas with healthy deer and raccoon populations, which include many areas of the park. Although lion attacks on humans are extremely rare, they are possible, just as is injury from any wild animal.

For your safety:
Do not leave pets or pet food outside and unattended. Pets can attract mountain lions.

Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind on the trail. Teach children what to do if they see a lion.

What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?
Never approach one, especially if it is with kittens. Most lions will avoid confrontation. Always give them a way to escape.

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

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

Mountain lions are magnificent creatures and native to Yosemite. Generally, they are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are rare, so if you see one, consider yourself privileged.

Keep Wildlife Wild
Respect animals at a distance
Never feed or approach them.
Experience Your America  Yosemite National Park

Protect Yourself and Yosemite

Keep safety in mind as you explore the park.

Permit Required to Hike Half Dome

To address safety concerns related to increased crowding on the Half Dome cables, the National Park Service has instituted an interim permit system for 2010 and 2011. The system limits the number of people using the cables to about 400 people per day and is in effect on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays when the cables are up (until October 11 in 2010). A permit is not required to day-hike to Half Dome on other days.

Backpackers with an appropriate wilderness permit can receive a Half Dome permit when they pick up their wilderness permit. Rock climbers who reach the top of Half Dome without entering the subdome area can descend on the Half Dome Trail without a permit.

No more permits are available for July or August 2010. Permits are also not available in the park or on a first-come, first-served basis.

You can find more information at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.

Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

There are many ways to experience the wildness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning, you can minimize the risks associated with many activities.

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 traffic lanes, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park’s scenery and wildlife.

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

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.
• To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.
• Maximum group is 15 people for on-trail and eight for off-trail travel.

Wilderness Permits
Free permits are required for overnight trips. Permits are issued at Yosemite Valley, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station (opening times vary). You can reserve permits, but they must be picked up in person. Check the park’s website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740 to reserve a permit.

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

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.

Top left: Half Dome cables. NPS Photo by Mark Fischer.
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.

Pets

Kennel (open 8 am to 4 pm daily) is located at the Yosemite Valley Stable, should you need a place to board your dog (call 209/372-8348).

Keep in mind, in Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:

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

Water Safety

Fishing

Fishing in Yosemite is regulated by state law. A valid California sport-fishing license is required for those persons age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible by attaching it to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline.

- Trout season runs through November 15 (except Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, which opens June 15).
- Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the Forseta 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 three 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.

Bicycling

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

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails. Bikes are not allowed to travel off paved trails. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite.

Help Guard Park Resources...

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. With nearly 4 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
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons inside federal facilities

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/0ursafety.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 34), and other applicable federal statutes and regulations.
Camping

Planning your camping experience

A primitive overnight experience

Yosemite National Park contains 13 popular campgrounds. Up to seven are on a reservation system, the rest are first-come, first-served. From April through September, reservations are essential and the first-come, first-served sites often fill by noon during these months.

Camping Reservations

Reservations are required March through October 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 a few minutes of the opening period.

For campground reservations, visit www.recreation.gov (recommended) or call 877/444-6777 or TDD 877/888-6777 or 518/885-3639 from outside the US and Canada.

Hours:
7 am to 7 pm Pacific time (November through February)
7 am to 9 pm Pacific time (March through October)

Reservation offices in the park are located in the visitor parking area at Curry Village (shuttle bus stop #14), the Tuolumne Meadows Campground entrance, in Wawona off Chilnualna Falls Road, and at Big Oak Flat Information Station.

Yosemite Valley

There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in a calendar year; however, May 1 to September 15, the camping limit is 14 days and only seven of those days can be in Yosemite Valley or Wawona.

Camp 4 is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis; these campsites are not wheelchair accessible. Sites are available on a per-person basis, and six people will be placed in each campsite, regardless of number of people in your party. Camp 4 often fills before 9 am each day, May through September.

Camping in Areas Surrounding Yosemite

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite. For additional information, contact Groveland Ranger Station at 209/962-7825; Mariposa Ranger Station at 209/966-3638; Mono Lake Ranger Station at 760/647-3044; or Oakhurst Ranger Station at 559/683-4636. For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 10.

Group Campgrounds

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

Campsites in Yosemite National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPground</th>
<th>OPEN in (2010)</th>
<th>MAX RV LENGTH</th>
<th>MAX TRAILER LENGTH</th>
<th>RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</th>
<th>DAILY FEE # OF SITES PETS WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YOSEMITE VALLEY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pines</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>March 15 - Nov 30</td>
<td>$20 288 Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>March 24 - Nov 2</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20 60 Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Pines</td>
<td>March 26 - Oct 12</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20 81 Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>No RV/trailers</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$50/person 35 No Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>June 20 - Sep 28</td>
<td>$20 93 Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Creek</td>
<td>July 1 - TBD</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14 110 Yes Tap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodgdon Meadow</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>Apr 10 - Oct 13</td>
<td>$20 105 Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane Flat</td>
<td>July 1 - Oct 12</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$20 35 Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>July 7 - Oct 15</td>
<td>No RV/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10 52 No Creek (boil)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>July 7 - Sep 13</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14 74 Yes Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July 7 - TBD</td>
<td>No RV/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10 40 No Creek (boil)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine Flat</td>
<td>July 1 - Oct 15</td>
<td>24 ft (limited)</td>
<td>20 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10 52 No Creek (boil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows</td>
<td>July 1 - Sep 27</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$20 160 Yes Tap</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 Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 2-3 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round-trip, 6-8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 2,700-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 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, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>14 mi (via Mist Trail) or 16.3 mi (via John Muir Trail) round-trip, 10-12 hours</td>
<td>Extremely Strenuous, 4,800-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours one-way</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 9-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Day Hikes Outside of Yosemite Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wawona Meadow Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Hotel</td>
<td>3.5 miles round-trip, 1.5 hours</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilnualna Falls Trail</td>
<td>Parking 2 mi. up Chilnualna Falls Rd.</td>
<td>8.2 miles round-trip, 5 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 2,400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel Dome</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lembert Dome</td>
<td>Lembert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda Springs / Parsons Lodge</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>1.5 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambert Dome</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Muir Trail through Lyell Canyon</td>
<td>Dog Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy, 200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lake</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Group Campground</td>
<td>4.8 miles round trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenaya Lake</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake</td>
<td>19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenaya Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake</td>
<td>19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hiking

Discover an easy stroll or a challenging hike

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 Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

Giant Sequoias
Two self-guiding trails in the Mariposa Grove, and one in the Tuolomne 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.
Experience Your America  Yosemite National Park

Wilderness

Feature article

By Park Ranger Ken Watson

The line wraps out from the porch and onto the sidewalk. Dozens of hopeful hikers wait, conversing quietly, as daybreak pours over the valley’s southern rim. Some hikers have been waiting for hours while others, not realizing the depths of passion and desire held by a few of their comrades, are just arriving. A quick survey of those in line reveals many hope for permits to spend the night in Little Yosemite Valley and then continue on to the summit of Half Dome, while others look to go deeper into the wilderness. The wilderness center will not open for another hour and half, so the next logical question is “Why are you all here so early?” —but I do not really need to ask, because my passion for the places hidden in the wilds away from civilization runs just as deep as theirs. Fortunately for all of us Wilderness lovers, an earlier group’s passion ran even deeper.

In 1935, a small group of concerned professionals and scientists founded the Wilderness Society. Bob Marshall, Aldo Leopold, Benton MacKaye, Robert Sterling Yard, and four others formed this early wilderness advocacy organization. They recognized even then how fast our nation was developing and chose to take action to protect some of our wild heritage. Finally, in 1964, after years of struggle and revisions, “In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.” Initially, nine million acres forming 54 wilderness areas were protected under this act. The law also established the National Wilderness Preservation System, allowing Congress to protect more wild places million acres.

Wilderness management goals of retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation,” and “has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.” It is from these few simple and beautifully written phrases, along with our personal experiences, that we begin to form a land ethic—an ethic comprised of tangible and intangible values that guides us to do the right thing for the natural community while we are in the Wilderness or anywhere else. Those sentences also form the foundations of Wilderness law and policy. For example, camping away from water permits the sense of solitude and natural quiet. As Wilderness users, we must respect one another and the landscape unimpaired—not to unduly restrict our actions.

The existence of numerous regulations in the Wilderness may seem at odds with the Wilderness management goals of having unconfined recreation and freedom of choice, yet Wilderness is truly one of the most untrammeled places to be. Liberated from our busy lives and focused only on our next step—the wave of the Kuna Crest, the blue of Vogelsang Lake, or the spot where the Kuna Crest, the blue of Vogelsang Lake, or the spot we refuse to tell anyone about—the regulations fade away, morphing into our land ethic, as we become stewards of our passion.
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 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.anseladams.org.

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.

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/yi.

Yosemite Conservancy
Yosemite Conservancy is the new nonprofit formed by a merger of the Yosemite Association and The Yosemite Fund. The Conservancy has a long history in Yosemite with over 100 years of combined experience supporting the park. Yosemite Conservancy can make the difference you see around you because we are the only philanthropic organization that is dedicated exclusively to Yosemite.

Our mission remains the same: Providing for Yosemite’s future is our passion. We inspire people to support projects and programs that preserve and protect Yosemite National Park’s resources and enrich the visitor experience.

The Yosemite Conservancy has funded over 300 projects through $55 million in grants to help preserve and protect the park. The work of the Conservancy can be found in every aspect of the visitor experience from trail restoration, bear-proof lockers and canisters, habitat restoration, outdoor education and so much more. Annually the Yosemite Conservancy recruits over 400 volunteers to work in the park to repair trails, remove invasive species, and provide visitor information.

For more information, visit park bookstores or online at www.yosemiteconservancy.org.

To Learn about park Planning and Improvement Efforts visit www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm

Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg