Things to Do

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours, but to give you some ideas, here are some 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 Tuolumne and Merced Groves, which each hold dozens. (See page 2 for a map of the park.)

See Sunset from Glacier Point
Glacier Point provides a superb view of 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 may be recommended; if it be only to see how curiously nature has repeated herself.” -Josiah D. Whitney.

Hetch Hetchy provides spectacular vistas, waterfalls, and hiking trails. (See page 2 for a park map and page 3 for area information.)

See Sunset from 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.)

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

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

Stroll with a Ranger
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 pages 5 for museum hours and a list of gallery events and features.)

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9 Wawona Programs
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Tours and Activities are available throughout the park.

For a complete list of accessible services, recreational opportunities, and exhibits, pick up an updated Yosemite Accessibility Guide which is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at www.nps.gov/yose/accessibility.html.

Bike rentals are available at the Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village Rent one today or bring your own! See the bottom of page 4 for bicycle rental information - NPS photo by Erik Siskind

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).

Go to the Theatre
Yosemite Theatre LIVE offers entertainment and inspiration through a variety of live theater performances that bring Yosemite’s history to life. Discover the world of John Muir and other characters from the park’s rich history. (See page 7 for shows and starting times.)

Have Fun with the Family
Learn about Yosemite, meet a park ranger, and have a blast by becoming a Yosemite Junior Ranger or Yosemite Little Cub. Check in with any visitor center to find out how. Stop by the Nature Center at Happy Isles for another great place to explore with the family. (See page 12 for the Jr. Ranger Page.)

Visit the Yosemite Museum
Learn about Yosemite Indians by exploring a museum collection that includes remarkable woven baskets and traditional dress. Tour the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. The Yosemite Museum is located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 5 for museum hours and a list of gallery events and features.)

From the 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.)

Emergency: Dial 911
Road (including construction information), 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 at a visitor center for the most recent weather forecast.

Access for People With Disabilities

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 209/372-0286 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, shuttle buses, or tour services, call 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/379-1001.

Visit the Yosemite Museum
Learn about Yosemite Indians by exploring a museum collection that includes remarkable woven baskets and traditional dress. Tour the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. The Yosemite Museum is located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 5 for museum hours and a list of gallery events and features.)

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Cover Photo: Kolana Rock, Hetch Hetchy Area
By Clarissa Flores
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 Mancos, 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 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 sequoas, 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. These groves are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off-limits to vehicles. Remember: walking down is easier than walking back up.

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 jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. Stop at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center for information about hiking to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Dog Lake, Lembert Dome, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon. Take advantage of the free shuttle service in Tuolumne Meadows or the Tuolumne Meadows Tour and Hikers’ Bus from Yosemite Valley.

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the city of San Francisco, is also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. Due to its importance as a municipal water supply, no swimming is permitted, however. 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 ½-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.

Did you know?

As early as 1882, leaders in San Francisco recognized that the mighty Sierra Nevada mountains were ideal for providing the power and water necessary to turn the city into an economic and cultural center. Hetch Hetchy valley’s pure water and narrow outlet made it perfect for a dam site. In 1906, the great San Francisco earthquake and fire devastated the city, adding urgency and public sympathy to the quest for an adequate water supply. Preservationists wanted the valley to remain untouched for its’ wilderness character. John Muir first visited the site in 1871 and considered Hetch Hetchy valley to be “one of Nature’s rarest and most precious mountain temples.” He and his followers launched a national campaign to preserve the valley. This moment in history is considered the first grassroots environmental campaign. In 1913, Congress passed the Raker Act, a law that allowed San Francisco to begin construction of a dam on the Tuolumne River to supply the city with drinking water and electricity. While the City won the battle, the debate served to awaken the nation to the conflict inherent in balancing wilderness and development, a controversy that continues today.
Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

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 paved bicycle paths wind through Yosemite Valley. Bring your own or rent bikes at Yosemite Lodge or Curry Village. Rental stands are open from 9am to 6pm during summer months. Bikes are only allowed on paved bicycle paths.

Rafting

Raft rentals are available from 10am to 4pm at the Curry Village Recreation Center. Rafting is permitted on the Merced River (Stoneman Bridge to Sentinel beach) from 11am to 6pm daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device, when conditions permit. See page 15 for guidelines and important rafting safety information.

Tours

(Tours listed below depart from Yosemite Lodge.)

- The Valley Floor Tour is a 19-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 and indoor 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 to 4, and in October from 10-12 and 1-4. 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 pg. 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).

FOOD & BEVERAGE
Yosemite Village
Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am
Lunch: 11:30am to 3pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9:30pm
Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm
Reservations recommended for all meals. For dinner: 209/372-1489
The Ahwahnee Bar
11:30am to 1pm
Patio dining: 11:30am to 9pm
Yosemite Lodge
Food Court
Breakfast: 6:30am-11am
Lunch: 11:30am-2:30pm
Dinner: 5:00pm to 8:30pm
(Cold selection available between meal times)
Mountain Room Lounge
Open 4:30pm to 11pm Mon.-Fri., Noon to 11pm Sat.-Sun.
Mountain Room Restaurant
Open 4:30pm to 9:30pm daily
Reservations for 8 or more: 209/372-1281
Curry Village
Guest Lounge
8am to 10pm
Coffee Corner
6am to 10pm
Curry Village Bar
Noon to 10pm
Pavilion Buffet
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm
Pizza Deck
Noon to 10pm
Taqueria
11am to 6pm
Happy Isles Snack Stand
11am to 7pm

MEDICAL & DENTAL
Yosemite Medical Clinic
Emergency care: 24 hours daily. Drop-in and urgent care: 8am to 7pm. Appointments: 8am to 5pm. M-F. (Also: Mountain Crisis Services for victims of domestic violence, located on Ahwahnee Drive: 209/372-4637.)

Dental Services
Located next to the Medical Clinic: 209/372-4200 or 209/372-4637.
Outdoor Adventures and Custom Adventures

August 4-8 Alpine Botany Backpack
An in-depth look at the region's plant life. 
8:30am-4pm
Lyon Canyon Trailhead, 2 miles from the park boundary. 

August 5-8 Vogelsang Backpack Trek
In partnership with Spanish courtyard.
8:30am-4pm
Vogelsang Chalet, near shaded sitting area. 

August 6-8 High Country Photography
Join Yosemite's ensemble healthy and intact for the enjoyment of future generations! Volunteers must wear long-sleeves, long pants, and sturdy shoes or boots. Viewing hat, sunscreen & sunglasses and bringing water to drink is also highly suggested. Gloves and tools will be provided. 209-378-1450. 

August 13-15 Tuolumne Meadows on Plain Air
Chuck Waldman painting alfresco 
8:30am-5:30pm
Tuolumne Meadows, near shaded sitting area. 

August 15-21 Advanced Backpack: The Clark Range
August 24-28 shuttle stop #12.
Ranger Dick Ewart goes wild 
8:30am-5:30pm
LeConte Memorial Lodge

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite

HABITAT PROTECTORS OF YOSEMITE (HaPY)
Join Yosemite Resources Management and Science staff for a hands-on experience in our native habitats. Be prepared to work outdoors.

Yosemite Mountain Institute

The Yosemite Mountain Institute (YMI) offers rock climbing classes, guided climbs, custom backcountry trips, and daily hikes. Experience the park with a professional guide. 209-372-8244.

Art Workshops

The Yosemite Art & Education Center (YAEC) offers art workshops from 10 am to 2 pm Tuesday 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.

August 3-7 John McElroy
Discovery Yosemite with Pen and Watercolor 
10:00am-2:00pm
The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG)

August 10-14 David Dayell
Playing with Watercolor 
10:00am-2:00pm
Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)

August 17-21 Bob Magness
Drawing What You See
10:00am-2:00pm
Ahwahnee Hotel Lobby

August 24-28 Alan Dawson 
Capturing Your Yosemite Experience 
10:00am-2:00pm
Ahwahnee Hotel Lobby

August 31-September 4 Oumar Saito 
Yosemite Experience with Pen and Watercolor 
10:00am-2:00pm
Ahwahnee Hotel Lobby

September 7-September 11 Doug Cattellman
Outdoors with Watercolor 
10:00am-2:00pm
Ahwahnee Hotel Lobby

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 8:00 pm and are free. The Lodge has a library, children’s corner, and a new climate exhibit. The Lodge is located at shuttle stop #12.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Valley Chapel, Sunday 9:15am; 11am, & 6:30pm; Thursday 5pm, ACRNP Campground Services. 
9:30 AM, Lower Pines Campground, Vernal Falls Hike: RA.

ROMAN CATHOLIC
Mass: Saturday, 6 pm at Lower Pines Amphitheater; Sunday, 11am at Valley Visitor Center Wednesday, 8:30 pm, 4016 Cedar Ct. in Yosemite Village. 209-372-4272.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
Lower River Amphitheater, Saturday 9:45 am; Mussel Shoals School. 11am, Worship. 12:30 pm post-service, 209-586-4375.

LATTER DAY-SAINTS

Wednesday & Friday, 6:30 pm, 4016 Cedar Ct. in Yosemite Village. 209-372-6729.

A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

Memorial Day – Labor Day. Yosemite Chapel.

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
9-10pm Sunday, Tuesday, & Thursday. DNC General Office Bldg. Yosemite Village.

LIONS CLUB
First and third Thursday of each month at noon. The Ahwahnee. Call 209-372-4479.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

SPECIAL SERVICES

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES are available upon advanced request. Inquire at a visitor center.

NPS
National Park Service

DNC
DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.

AAG
The Ansel Adams Gallery

AAC
American Alpine Club

APN
American Park Network

SC
Sierra Club

YAE
Yosemite Art Education Center

YC
Yosemite Conservancy

YM
Yosemite Mountain Institute

S
Programs offered for a fee

Wi-Fi
Indicates facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Short, steep inclines may be encountered.

WALK-IN INTERPRETATION

A DNC Interpreter engages young park visitors during a Wee Wild Ones program. Photo courtesy of DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite.
Yosemite. Topics vary nightly. See page 9, hour of nature, history, and insight into Yosemite’s past. Once or twice a week, join a ranger around a campfire for an evening Programs at Wawona’s past. Once or twice a week, as he performs songs and stories from the hotel or park at the Wawona Road (Hwy. 41). Please see pg. 3 or call 209/372-0200 for important road construction information. Trailers are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot. The trail to the Grizzly Giant has new interpretive signs that provide a self-guiding tour. Information is available in Spanish, German, French and Japanese. Dogs or bikes are not allowed on trails and roads in the Mariposa Grove. Shuttle Service to Yosemite Valley Mariposa Grove Ranger Walks Rangers lead walks among the giant sequoias, explaining their natural history and historical importance. (See page 9 for schedule.)

Wawona, Mariposa Grove, and Glacier Point

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. 209/375-9311.

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 of nature, history, and insight into Yosemite. Topics vary nightly. See page 9, at right, for dates, times, and locations.

Evening Programs at the Wawona Hotel

Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite’s past. Once or twice a week, he will present an hour-long interpretive program on the vintage songs of Yosemite, or on the history of Wawona, with slide or music accompaniment.

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 blacksmitting. Blacksmithing demonstrations can be seen at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00am - 1:00pm and 2:00pm - 5:00pm.

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.

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.

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. Information is available in Spanish, German, French and Japanese.

Wawona Stable (see map above). Open 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 above). Open 7:30 am to 5 pm daily. 209/375-6502. Wawona Stable will be closing for the season on September 6, 2010.
Stargazing programs are offered as well.

Meet the Sierra Frosties, guided night hikes and planetarium shows are available. Pay at the pump 24 hours a day. Saturday: 9am to noon

**GROceries**

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 8pm

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

Wawona Grocery 10am to 6pm when golf course is open

**Golf**
Wawona Hotel Golf Course
8am-6pm Weather and conditions permitting. Nine-hole, par-3 course.

**GifTS & Apparel**
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 8pm
Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio (Information and Books)
8:30am to 5pm

**Post Office**
Wawona Post Office
Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to noon

**Gas Station**
Wawona Gas Station
8am to 6pm Diesel & propane available. Pay at the pump. 24 hours with credit or debit card.
High Sierra Peaks and Quiet Corners of the Park
These areas offer amazing vistas and opportunities for solitude.

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Open 9 am to 6 pm. Park orientation, trail information, books, maps, and displays

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs
Two trails, both flat and 3/4-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge is open from 10 am to 4 pm. Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs that attract birds and deer, especially at sunrise and sunset.

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

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

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

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.

Saturday, August 7
Frogs: The Thin Green Line 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Documentary film followed by an update and discussion with Roland Knapp, Research Biologist, Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab

Sunday, August 8
Between Earth and Sky: Our Intimate Connections to Trees 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Slide presentation and discussion with Nalini Nadkarni, Forest Ecologist, The Evergreen State College

Saturday, August 14
Crow and Weasel 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Play adapted by Jim Leonard, Jr. from a story by Barry Lopez
Directed by Audrey Davis and performed by Yosemite community members

Sunday, August 15
A Wild Ride: Planning for the Tuolumne River 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Slide presentation and discussion with Kristina Rylands, NPS Wild and Scenic River Planner, Yosemite National Park

Saturday and Sunday, August 21 and 22
14th Annual Tuolumne Meadows Poetry Festival Morning workshops and afternoon readings with music.
Poets Bob Hicok, Lisa Starr, and Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon
Musician Shira Kammen, violin and vielle

Saturday, August 21
Poetry of Place Poetry workshop with Lisa Starr 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Featuring poets and music 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Open reading and music

Sunday, August 22
Adventures in the Poetic Wilderness Poetry workshop with Lyrae Van Clief-Stefanon 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Featuring poets and music
This event is supported by Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from The James Irvine Foundation.

Mule & Horseback Rides
Mule or horse rides begin at the Tuolumne Meadows Stable (see map above). Open 7:30 am to 5 pm daily 209/372-8427.

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 4½ 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 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.
**TUOLMUNE MEADOWS**

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

Tuolumne Meadows
Tuolumne Meadows Grill 8am to 8pm
Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 9:30am  Take-out Lunch: noon to 2pm  Dinner: 6pm to 8pm

Tuolumne Meadows Gas and propane available.
9am to 5pm

Tuolumne Meadows White Wolf
Pay at the pump 24 hours with
8am to 8pm

White Wolf Post Office
8am to 4:30pm daily

**GROceries**

Tuolumne Meadows Store
8am to 8pm
Crane Flat Store
8am to 8pm

**POST Office**

Tuolumne Meadows Post Office
Monday – Friday: 9am to 5pm  Saturday: 9am to 1pm

**GAS STATIONS**

Tuolumne Meadows
9am to 5pm

**FREE SHUTTLE BUS**

Olmsted Pt. / Tuolumne / Tioga Pass
Free shuttle service is available along the Tioga Road from Olmsted Point to Tioga Pass.

Shuttles travel between Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and Olmsted Point with stops along the Tioga Road, including Tuolumne Meadows Campground and the visitor center. The shuttle also makes morning and afternoon rides to Tioga Pass.

Service begins at the Lodge at 7 am. Shuttles arrive at approximately 30-minute intervals between 7 am and 7 pm. The last shuttle leaves Olmsted Point at 6 pm. Schedules are subject to change. Please check route maps at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center or shuttle stops for details.

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**TUOLMUNE MEADOWS**

**WOLF WHITE**

Check local postings

**CRANE FLAT**

**HOOGDON MEADOW HITCHET**

Check local postings
Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge*.
With an adult, pick a trail to walk. See page 17 of this Guide or stop by a visitor center to choose your trail. As you go, walk quietly, watch, listen, and think.

1. Write the name of the trail you walked. ________________________________

2. Explore with your senses! Record the following.

   I see: ______________________
   I hear: ______________________
   I smell: ____________________
   I touch: _____________________

3. Learn to “leave no trace.” If you see trash or rubbish, 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*.

*Junior Ranger Booklets can be purchased at any park bookstore. Please inquire at a visitor center for additional copies of this page.
Bears and Wildlife

Enjoying wildlife safely and responsibly

Keeping Bears Wild
(While protecting yourself and your property)

Keep Yosemite’s Black Bears Wild and Alive:
1. Store Your Food Properly. (See table below for details.)
   - 4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, berries, acorns, and grubs—that’s the typical daily diet of most bears. It’s a lot easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling at grasses. Their incredible sense of smell allows them to detect things we can’t, which helps them find food—a black bear can smell a dead deer three miles away. To top it off, bears have excellent vision and can see in color, so they recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.

2. If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.
   - You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away: Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

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

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

Please remember that Yosemite National Park is a wildlife preserve: by driving the speed limit you are helping to protect the park and its wildlife.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FOOD STORAGE</th>
<th>WHY?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your Vehicle</td>
<td>You may store food inside your car (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark: use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats.</td>
<td>Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</td>
<td>You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed.</td>
<td>Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and latched at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas &amp; on the 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 alert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking in the Wilderness</td>
<td>Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Haning food is prohibited in Yosemite. In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
- Do not run. Stay calm. Hold your ground, or back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up.
- If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms, shout, and throw objects at it. The goal is to convince it that you may be dangerous. If attacked, fight back!

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

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Protect Yourself...

Permit Required to Hike Half Dome

To address safety concerns related to increased crowding on the Half Dome cable trails, 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 August or September 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.
• Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food.
• Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.
• Don’t depend on cell phone or GPS reception for your safety.

Protect Yosemite’s Wilderness

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% can be reserved ahead of time, while 40% is available on a first-come, first-served basis one day prior to, or the same day as, the beginning of the hike.

• Free wilderness permits are required for all wilderness trips.
• Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
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• 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.

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

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

Swimming
Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions.

• Always supervise children closely.
• Avoid areas of whitewater, where streams flow over rocky obstructions.
• Never swim or wade upstream from a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
• Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

River Crossings
In summer, rivers and creeks swollen by
River Crossings

• Never
• Always activities throughout the park. Please observe the following safety tips
November
runs
You can help continue this progress by entering and exiting the river at designated launch
or
leash
must
Pets
feet
a
less)
Pets
ocated at the Yosemite Valley Stable, (open 8 am to 4 pm daily) is

• If you choose to cross a stream without a bridge, avoid places where the water is either swift or over your knees. Use a stick or pole for balance and try to cross where there is a gravel bottom. Crossing on a natural bridge of rocks or logs can be surprisingly slippery. Consider where you will land if you fall. Never cross above rapids or falls. To prevent being pulled under by the weight or your pack, un buckle the waist strap so you can shed it if you fall in. Do not tie yourself into safety ropes—they can drown you.

Rafting
Conditions permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stone man Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10 am to 6 pm daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device.

• The length entire of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher. Ask at a visitor center for conditions and obey all posted signs.
• You must wear or have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device immediately available.
• Fallen trees and other natural debris in the river create important habitat for fish and other wildlife. Be alert—they can also create hazards for rafters.

Fishing
Fishing in Yosemite is regulated 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.

Weather in Yosemite
Dressing in layers and bringing plenty of water can help you stay safe through Yosemite’s changing weather conditions. As is true of all mountainous regions, weather in the Sierra Nevada can change rapidly any season of the year. Elevation plays a major role in temperature and precipitation variability, and Yosemite ranges in elevation from 2,000 feet to more than 13,000 feet above sea level. It is not uncommon for clouds to build up suddenly, bringing rain and/or thunderstorms to an otherwise sunny day. Even in summer, temperatures in Tuolumne Meadows can dip into the 30s (Farenheit) at night, while daytime temperatures in lower elevations, like Yosemite Valley and Hetch Hetchy, can soar to over 100° F. during the day.

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

Keep in mind, daytime temperatures can reach above 100° Farenheit in the summer. Make sure to keep your pet cool and well-hydrated. In Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:

• Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. Pets are not allowed anywhere in the Mariposa or Merced sequoia groves. They are not allowed on trails, in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted prohibiting them.

• 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.

Yosemite Guardians
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
• Biking off of paved roads
• 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/yoursafety.htm and find a copy of the Superintendent’s Compendium. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7 and 34), and other applicable federal statutes and regulations.
A primitive overnight experience

There are 13 popular campgrounds in Yosemite National Park. 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, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows and Crane Flat. 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 877/885-3639 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)

Reservations 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 camp sites 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 559/683-4616. 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.
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>Bridal Veil Fall</td>
<td>Bridal Veil Parking Area</td>
<td>0.3 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>Steepness, 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 Steepness, 2,100-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours</td>
<td>Steepness, 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>Steepness, 1,900-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome Path required to hike to the top of Half Dome Friday-Sundays and holidays</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>14 miles (via Mist Trail) or 16.3 mi (via John Muir Trail) round-trip, 10-12 hours</td>
<td>Extremely Steepness, 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 Steepness, 3,200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Day Hikes Outside of Yosemite Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING-POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wawona Meadow Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Hotel</td>
<td>3.5 miles round-trip, 1.5 hours</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilnualna Falls Trail</td>
<td>Parking 2 mi. up Chilnualna Falls Rd.</td>
<td>8.2 miles round-trip, 5 hours</td>
<td>Steepness, 2,400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glacier Point Road</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>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Area</td>
<td>Soda Springs / Parsons Lodge</td>
<td>Lembert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>1.5 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lembert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Steepness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></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></td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Group Campground</td>
<td>4.8 miles round-trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>5.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lukens Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake</td>
<td>19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Tuolumne Grove, interpret the natural history and ecological dynamics of the giant sequoia community.

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

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

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

*These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers’ Bus. Additionally, the Tuolumne Meadows free shuttle serves all Tuolumne Meadows hikes listed above.*
By Meghan Hicks, Interpreter, DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park, established in 1890, has a fascinating visitor services history that pre-dates its national park status. The first confirmed tourist party, guided by local businessman James Hutchings, entered by horseback into Yosemite Valley during the summer of 1855. Hutchings brought camping and eating provisions so that the party could camp for several days near the base of Lower Yosemite Fall.

Word traveled swiftly that Yosemite Valley harbored tremendous scenery and exploration opportunities. To meet these growing interests, the Lower Hotel, Yosemite Valley’s first permanent structure for visitor sleeping accommodations and food, was hastily erected in 1856 at the base of Sentinel Rock. The same year, local miner and explorer Galen Clark constructed a cabin in the Wawona area. Clark’s cabin, intended to be his home, became instead an unintentional overnight stop for visitors traveling to and from Yosemite Valley. A few years later, it garnered an official name, Clark’s Station, and began in earnest the business of serving visitors. 1873 was a landmark year for visitor services history that pre-dates Yosemite’s, saying:

“Scenery is a hollow enjoyment to the tourist who sets out in the morning after an indigestible breakfast and a fitful night’s sleep on an impossible bed.”

The Ahwahnee

Following the creation of the National Park Service in 1916, National Park Service Director Stephen Mather embarked on an aggressive campaign to increase support and funding for the national parks. He sought to upgrade visitor services in national parks, including Yosemite’s, saying:

The Ahwahnee stands today because of this campaign, as Mather directed the construction of a first-class Yosemite National Park hotel that would attract influential visitors. He endeavored to create a comfortable space that would allow these visitors to fall in love with and, thus, provide support for Yosemite. Mather’s dream was realized on July 14, 1927 with The Ahwahnee’s opening.

Modern visitor services

Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts at Yosemite is Yosemite National Park’s chief concessioner, and has been since 1993. This concessioner currently provides most of the park’s lodging, dining, and retail facilities as well as some of the park’s recreation and educational opportunities.

Some visitors arrive in Yosemite with a car stuffed full of vacation provisions, while others choose to bring simply the bare necessities to enhance their Yosemite experience. Either way, for the past 150 years, park visitors have been able to rely on the services offered by the park’s concessioners for everything from a quick bite to eat to a planned multiple day trip.

The register from the Cosmopolitan Hotel and other historic items are currently on display at the Yosemite Museum. See page 5 for details.

Curry Village

In 1899, under the shadow of Glacier Point in Yosemite Valley’s east end, David and Jenny Curry opened an opportunity for “a good bed and clean napkin with every meal,” as well as nightly entertainment and family hospitality. Camp Curry was their family-run camp, and Yosemite visitors loved it! It grew in both popularity and size from its original seven-tent camp, with each year yielding improvements that included more tents, offices, a post office, cabins, a dance pavilion, a soda fountain, and a gas station. On hot summer days, the most popular Camp Curry feature was the swim tank! Today, the name is slightly different, but Curry Village still offers many of the camp’s original family traditions.

150 Years of Visitor Services in Yosemite National Park

The Curry pastry shop - David and Jenny Curry made certain that early Camp Curry visitors never went hungry! Unique menus, including pastries made on site in this pastry shop, were created each day.

The naturally occurring cavity in the Wawona Tree was enlarged in 1881 to help entice tourists to visit the area and was billed as the most photographed tree in the world. The tree fell in the storms of 1968-69.

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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 the Ansel Adams Gallery online at www.anseladmsgallery.com.

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

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.

Want to get involved?
Yosemite National Park is busy planning for the future. Sign up for our mailing list and receive emails about current and upcoming plans and projects on our website:

http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm

Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg