Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:30am - 10pm and serves stops in numerical order.

The El Capitan and Express shuttles operate from 9 am to 6 pm. Service may be affected by construction projects. Check shuttle stops for more information.

Upper Yosemite Fall, NPS Photo

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

Upper Yosemite Fall Trail

Shuttle service to stops 15, 16, 17, and 18 may stop after a major snowfall.
Seasonal Highlights

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

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? While higher elevations may still show remnants of winter, Yosemite Valley and other middle and low elevation areas are generally clear of snow and perfect for hiking and biking. Keep in mind, while warming days can make the river tempting, fast currents and cold water can be dangerous. Use the information in this Guide to help you stay out of harm’s way and learn more about Yosemite’s busy search and rescue team.

Stay Safe!
Read the feature story on page 18, and

Go to a hike? Ask a ranger at the

Yosemite Falls may be dry by August,
the granite cliffs they dive over. While

Stay outside and enjoy your park!

Yosemite’s Search and Rescue Team.

Explore a Sequoia Grove
Meet the most massive trees on

Access for People with Disabilities

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Monarch, Red Wolf, Crane

Inside the Guide

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.

Lost Yosemite Fall, NPS Photo

Baseball parking, lodging, 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/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm, or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at 209/379-1035 or 209/372-0645 for more information.

Access to all Yosemite parking spaces is 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; request an interpreter. Advance notice is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.

Emergency Information

Emergency Dial 911
Medical Clinic (in Yosemite Valley) Open 7 days per week, from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM for primary and urgent care needs. Phone: 209/372-4637
Dental Clinic (in Yosemite Valley) 209/372-4200
For up-to-date road, weather, and park information: 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 conditions.

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.

The Tioga and Glacier Point roads will open when conditions permit. For current road and weather information, please call 209/372-0200 or look for opening dates on the web at www.nps.gov/yose

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Near Yosemite Village, on the way to Wawona, is the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

Yosemite’s bookstores are full of

Ours hces as distinct as

Yosemite’s Search and Rescue Team.

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 conditions.

Free admission days 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. 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

curiously nature has repeated herself.”
-Joshua D. Whitney.
Hetch Hetchy provides spectacular vistas, waterfalls, and early season hiking. (See page 2 for a park map and area information.)

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

Go to the Theater
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.)

Yosemite's Search and Rescue Team.

Yosemite's Search and Rescue Team.

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Yosemite's Search and Rescue Team.

Yosemite's Search and Rescue Team.
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 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 will open when conditions permit. 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) on the Wawona Road. 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 Lembert 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. 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. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by even higher granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. Stop at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center for information about hiking to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Dog Lake, Lembert Dome, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon. Take advantage of the free shuttle service in Tuolumne Meadows or the Tuolumne Meadows Tour and Hikers’ Bus from Yosemite Valley.

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the city of San Francisco, is 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, 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?

Each year, approximately 250 visitors are lost, injured, or die in the rugged environment of Yosemite National Park. Yosemite Search and Rescue (YOSAR) was established in the 1960s to respond to these emergencies with a cadre of trained professionals. Today the YOSAR team is comprised of park rangers, SAR volunteers, SAR interns and other community members. In any given week, team members may be crossing a swollen stream toward a stranded boater, rappelling from a helicopter to a severely ill or injured hiker, or extracting an unconscious person from a wrecked vehicle. The majority of the YOSAR missions (roughly 60%) involve hikers, either ones who have become lost in the wilderness or injured on the trails. Approximately ten percent of YOSAR missions involve climbing accidents. Often, these rescues attract the most attention because they are coupled with risky exposure and technical challenges. The remaining SAR incidents are as varied as the activities in Yosemite.

Want to learn more? Visit FriendsofYOSAR.org
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 available.

Ranger Programs
Rangers give talks and walks every day about Yosemite's natural and cultural history. See pages 6 and 7 for scheduled talks, walks, 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. Tours may be weather dependent.

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.

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 209/372-1240 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.
**Yosemite Valley**

**Where to Go and What to Do**

**The Heart of Yosemite National Park**

Summer offers special opportunities for learning and adventure. Services are open longer and additional lectures, classes, and programs are available.

**Ansel Adams Gallery**

Ansel Adams Gallery is located in Yosemite Village adjacent to the post office. The gallery is open daily from 9 am to 8 pm. The gallery 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.

**Wilderness Center**

The Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village adjacent to the post office. Hours are 8 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 and 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.

**Nature Center at Happy Isles**

Open 9:30 am to 4 pm, exhibits only, through September 29th. 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.

**Yosemite Theater LIVE**

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.

**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 change exhibit. The Lodge is located at shuttle stop #12.

**Yosemite Village**

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.

**INdIAN CuLTuRAL EXHIBIT**

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

**YoSEMITE MUSEUM STORE**

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

**VIEWS & VISITORS: THE YoSEMITE EXPERIENCE IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY**

This summer the museum staff will focus on the Yosemite visitor experience from 1900 to 1946, an era of great change for the park. Photographs, paintings, ephemera and historic artifacts from that era will be exhibited. Oral histories, digital slide shows and film footage will supplement the artifacts on exhibit. The exhibit will be open from June 8 to September 30, daily from 9 to 5; October 1 to 31, daily from 10 to 12 and 1 to 4. The public is invited to the opening reception on June 7 from 5 to 7 pm at the museum.
SCHEDULED EVENTS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

Yosemite Outdoor Adventures and Custom Adventures
The non-profit Yosemite Conservancy sponsors this year-round series of fun, educational field seminars; they’re a great way to deepen your connection to our parks.
June 3-5: Hawks and Owls - Learn in the field with two expert raptor biologists.
Find all the details at www.yosemiteconservancy.org, or call 209/372-2664, ext. 10. Park entry and camping are included; motel rooms have already been set aside for these courses. The Conservancy also arranges Custom Adventures for individuals, families and groups.

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite
Wednesdays starting in June, 9 am to noon, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
Join Yosemite Resource 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 intact for the enjoyment of future generations! Volunteers must wear long-sleeves, long pants, and closed toe shoes. Bring water and snacks. Gloves and tools will be provided. For more information, call 209-379-1012.

Yosemite Mountaineering School (YMS)
YMS offers rock climbing classes, guided climbs, custom backcountry trips, and daily hikes. Experience the park with a professional guide: 209/372-8344.

Art Workshops
The Yosemite Art and Education Center is open daily 9AM-4:30 PM (closed for lunch). Workshops are offered from 10am to 2pm Tuesday through Saturday. Register for classes in advance: 209/372-0296. For more information see Page 6. $ (YAEC)

LeConte Memorial Lodge
LeConte Memorial Lodge is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm, with evening programs Friday, Saturday, and some Thursday evenings. Evening programs are especially for generations! Volunteers must wear long-sleeves, long pants, and closed toe shoes. Bring water and snacks. Gloves and tools will be provided. For more information, call 209-379-1012.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES
YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Valley Chapel, Sunday 9:15am, 11am, 6:30pm; ACMNP Campground Services 8am Lower Pines; Vacation Bible School June 22-24 9am, Bible Study throughout week. For wedding & general information: Pastor Brent Moore, www.yosemitevalleychapel.org, 209/372-4831
ROMAN CATHOLIC
Mass: Saturday 6 pm at Lower Pines Amphitheater; Sunday, 10am at Valley Visitor Center Wednesday & Friday, 6:30 pm, 9:00; Cedar Ct. in Yosemite Village, 209/372-4729.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
Lower Pines Amphitheater Saturday

MORNING

SUNDAY

0.30am Camera Walk 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery. Meet at Yosemite Village.
0.30am Bike to Hike Tour (except May 26 2½ hrs. Curry Village Bike Stand. Tickets on-site at any tour desk. $ (DNC)
0.30am CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)
0.30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)

THURSDAY

0.30am Camera Walk 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)
0.30am Bike to Hike Tour (except May 26 2½ hrs. Curry Village Bike Stand. Tickets on-site at any tour desk. $ (DNC)
0.30am CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)
0.30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
10.00am Art Workshop 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center.

FRIDAY

0.30am Camera Walk 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)
0.30am Bike to Hike Tour (except May 26 2½ hrs. Curry Village Bike Stand. Tickets on-site at any tour desk. $ (DNC)
0.30am CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)
0.30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
10.00am Art Workshop 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center.

SATURDAY

0.30am Camera Walk 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)
0.30am Bike to Hike Tour (except May 26 2½ hrs. Curry Village Bike Stand. Tickets on-site at any tour desk. $ (DNC)
0.30am CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)
10.00am Art Workshop 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center.

From more information see Page 6. $ (NPS)

Programs printed in ALL CAPS & COLOR are especially for CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

NPS: Yosemite National Park Service
SC: Sierra Club
TAAG: The Ansel Adams Gallery
YA: Yosemite Association
YAECC: Yosemite Art and Education Center
YMS: Yosemite Mountaineering School

Tickets/offered for a fee

Programs/refund: 209/372-4726 (ITV) or 209/379-1035 or 209/ 372-0286 to request an interpreter. Advance notice is required.

Fridays, Saturdays and Sunday evenings 6pm-9pm, followed by an after-dance at Yosemite Village. All programs in this section are for adults.

SUNDAY

0.00am Outdoor Adventure in Yosemite Valley. Meet at Yosemite Village.
0.00am Lessons in Nature Management and Science.
0.00am Lower Pines Amphitheater.
0.00am Obsidian Falls Bridge. Meet at Yosemite Village.

FRIDAY

0.00am Discovery Hike – Vernal & Nevada Falls. Meet at Yosemite Village.
0.00am Lower Pines Amphitheater.
0.00am Obsidian Falls Bridge. Meet at Yosemite Village.

SATURDAY

0.00am Discovery Hike – Vernal & Nevada Falls. Meet at Yosemite Village.
0.00am Lower Pines Amphitheater.
0.00am Obsidian Falls Bridge. Meet at Yosemite Village.

Information on this page is subject to change. For more information, call 209-372-0296.
12:00pm Yosemite Forum Lecture: The Ahwahnee Point Fall and Sunset Monitoring in Yosemite National Park. (June 14 only) Valerie Zimmer, graduate student at UC Berkeley. ($)

1:00pm Meet Your Yosemite. 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)

1:30pm "In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams" Class. 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery ($).

2:00pm "The Ahwahnee" Stories and Games. 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum ($).

3:00pm JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)

5:00pm Meet Your Yosemite. 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
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, wildlife 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 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 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.

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 ½ 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.

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 interpretive signs that provide a self-guiding tour. Translations are available in Spanish, German, French and Japanese.

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 above). Open 7 am to 5 pm daily beginning June 11, conditions permitting. 209/375-6502.
Glacier Point

Meeting a ranger to enjoy the lengthening evening programs

Saturday

8:00 am Coffee with a Ranger (June 16, 21 & 26 only) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)
10:00 am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove (June 16, 21 & 26 only) ½ hr. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)
10:00 am - 1:00 pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (June 16, 21 & 26 only) 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS)
10:00 am - 2:00 pm Blacksmithing Demonstration (June 16, 19 & 26 only) Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS)
3:00 pm Vintage Music Of Yosemite ½ hr. Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 3:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening & ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)
8:00 pm Campfire Talk with a Ranger (June 16, 19 & 26 only) 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater
Topics very nicely (NPS)

11:00 am Hike to the Hidden Pictouille Fall (NPS).
7:00 pm GLACIER POINT STARGAZING TOUR (starts June 14) 4 hrs, tickets/info at any tour desk (DNC) $10
7:45 pm Sunset Ranger Talk ½ hr. Glacier Point parking, overlooking the Valley (NPS)

8:00 pm Coffee with a Ranger (June 16, 21 & 26 only) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)
10:00 am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove (June 16, 21 & 26 only) ½ hr. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)
10:00 am - 2:00 pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (May 29, June 19 & 26 only) 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS)
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Topics very nicely (NPS)
Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, and Crane Flat

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center

Opening date dependent on conditions.

Once open for the season, hours are 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 ¾-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge may be open from 10 am to 4 pm beginning in late June. Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs that attract birds and deer, especially at sunrise and sunset.

Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center

Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center will open once the Tioga Road opens for the season. For updated opening information and hours, please visit the park website at http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm.

The wilderness center offers maps, wilderness permits, bear canister rental, and guidebooks.

Just for Kids

Programs for children include Junior Rangers, a two-hour, ranger-led program for children (ages 7–12), and Campfire for Kids. Check local postings for program schedule possibly beginning late June.

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, you can end your day with a Music Walk. This easy stroll will inspire and delight. Check local postings for program schedule possibly beginning late June.

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 late June.

Mule and Horseback Rides

Horse or mule rides begin at the Tuolumne Meadows stable. Stable hours are 7 am to 5 pm once open for the season. Information: 209/372-8427.

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 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**

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**WHITE WOLF**

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**CRANE FLAT/ HODGDON MEADOW/HETCH HETCHY**

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<tr>
<td>2:00pm Giant Sequoias 2 hrs. Meet a ranger in the Tuolumne Grove for answers to your questions (NPS)</td>
<td>8:30pm Ranger Campfire Program (Except May 29) 1 hr. Hodgdon Meadow Campground</td>
<td>9:30am Ranger Hike – Hetch Hetchy (except June 27) 2 hrs. Bring water. O’Shaughnessy Dam (NPS)</td>
<td>8:30pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Hodgdon Meadow Campground (check at kiosk for location) (NPS)</td>
<td>7:00pm Twilight Stroll 1.5hrs. Hodgdon Meadow Group Campground (NPS)</td>
<td>9:00pm Starry, Starry Night (except June 7) 1.5 hrs. Crane Flat area Limited to 30 people Sign-up required. Call 209/379-1899 (NPS)</td>
<td>1:30pm Meet Your Yosemite (except June 19) 15 min. Short talk on a park topic Big Oak Flat Information Station (NPS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

- **Tuolumne Meadows**
  - **Tuolumne Meadows Grill**
    - 9am to 5pm*
  - **Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Dining Room**
    - Breakfast: 7am to 9am*
    - Dinner: 5:45pm to 8pm*
    - Reservations recommended. Call 209/373-8413
  - **Tuolumne Meadows Store**
    - 8am to 7pm*
    - 9am to 5pm, 9am to 7pm beg. 5/27

**GROCERIES**

- **Tuolumne Meadows**
  - **Store**
    - 8am to 5pm*
    - Open 12-2
    - 9am to 5pm, 9am to 7pm beg. 5/27

**GIFTS & APPAREL**

- **Tuolumne Meadows**
  - **Mountaineering School and Sport Shop**
    - 9am to 4pm*
  - **Tuolumne Meadows Bookstore**
    - Inside the Visitor Center
    - 9am to 6pm
  - **Tuolumne Meadows Store**
    - 8am to 5pm*
  - **Wilderness Center**
    - 8am to 4:30pm daily, closed for lunch*

**POST OFFICE**

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

**GAS STATIONS**

- **Tuolumne Meadows**
  - Gas and propane available.
  - Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.
  - Check local postings for program schedule.

**FREE SHUTTLE BUS**

- **Shuttle service** is available along the Tioga Road from Olmsted Point to Tioga Pass. Service begins when conditions permit.
- Shuttle 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 runs to Tioga Pass.
- Service begins at the Lodge at 7 am. Shuttles arrive at approximately 30-minute intervals between 7 am and 7 pm.

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*Facilities in and around Tuolumne Meadows are tentatively scheduled to open by June. Openings will occur as conditions permit.

Check local postings for changes to hours of operation.

**Yosemite Guide**


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**ALL CAPS AND COLOR**

- Programs designed especially for CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES
Experience Your America    Yosemite National Park

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

Yosemite National Park offers a wide variety of programs and activities for kids of all ages! To find kid-friendly programs, see pages 6, 7, 9, and 11 of the Guide for program descriptions:

Programs printed in **ALL CAPS & COLOR** are especially for **CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

*Expanded Junior Ranger and Little Cub programs (and the chance to earn a patch) are available in the Junior Ranger or Little Cub Handbooks, which can be purchased at any park bookstore.

**Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge.***

1. **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.

   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. **Leave no Trace!** If you see trash or rubbish, pick it up. Junior Rangers learn to be good park stewards by bringing in a bag of trash. 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.

   *Expanded Junior Ranger and Little Cub programs (and the chance to earn a patch) are available in the Junior Ranger or Little Cub Handbooks, which can be purchased at any park bookstore.

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**Be a naturalist.** Look for these common Yosemite wild animals. If you see one, make a note by the animal’s picture below. If you don’t see any of these wild animals during your visit, choose one you did see and 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.

**Illustrations by Tom Whitworth**

1. Coyote
2. Black bear
3. Golden-mantled ground squirrel
Follow these steps to earn your Junior ranger badge.

Being around people can be dangerous for bears. If you get too close, you will scare them away, but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance of the average person). If you see a bear anywhere else, consider grouping together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If there is more than one person, stand near each other and yell as loud as possible. If a bear can smell food, even if it's sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources.

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.

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.

Backpackers: Save Your Food, Save A Bear Bear resistant food canisters are 2.7-pound containers that can be used to store five or more days of backpacker food when meals are carefully planned. Canisters have an inset lid that bears are unable to open. When used correctly, bears learn that—although they smell like food—the canisters are not worth investigating.

How to Store Food

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FOOD STORAGE</th>
<th>WHY?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your Vehicle</td>
<td>You may store food in 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. 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>
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<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 ovens with windows closed. 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 locked at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin. 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 locked at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin.</td>
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<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. Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
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<td>Backpacking in the Wilderness</td>
<td>Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging 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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Experience Your America  Yosemite National Park

Protect Yourself...
Keep safety in mind as you explore the park

Permit Required to Hike Half Dome

Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are now required seven days per week when the cables are up. Due to the heavy snowpack, the cables will not go up on May 27th. The exact date in June will be determined by the conditions. The cables will remain in place until Oct. 10th conditions permitting. This is an interim measure to increase safety along the cables while the park develops a long-term plan to manage use on the Half Dome Trail. Permits for May and June will become available on March 1; July, on April 1; August, on May 1, September, on June 1; and October on July 1. Permits are not available in the park or on a first-come, first-served basis. You may obtain a permit to hike Half Dome by visiting www.recreation.gov or by calling 877/444-6777. Up to four permits will be available per web session or phone call. Each permit has a service fee of $1.50.

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.

More information is available 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.

Around Ice and Water

• Stay off of frozen lakes, rivers and streams and away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards.
• Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
• Swimming is prohibited in Emerald Pool (above Vernal Fall) and in the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

Avoid Hypothermia

Spring temperatures can drop into dangerous territory with little warning, and require a high degree of preparation and training. Be prepared to shelter overnight even when out just for the day. Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

Avoid the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Know symptoms of hypothermia. Carry emergency fire-starting materials and food. Avoid dehydration, carry and drink plenty of water and carry emergency high-energy food.

Water Quality

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

Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules: Please obey posted speed limits. Yosemite's roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park's scenery and wildlife.

Effects of Altitude

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley’s elevation is 4,000 feet). Should altitude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation.

Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

While a trail may start out snow free be prepared for patches of snow or for the snow to become continuous. Summer trails are not marked for winter use. Hikers may lose the trail when crossing a stretch of snow and subsequently become disoriented while searching for the trail. Stay oriented by using landmarks and a map.

• Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back.
• Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
• Check weather forecasts. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult.
• Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food.
• Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.
• Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.
• With the heavy winter, be prepared for full or partial snow cover late into the spring. Good navigation skills are necessary.
• During spring runoff and high water any unbridged river or creek crossing can be hazardous. Always take extra time and use good judgment when crossing rivers and creeks.

Wilderness Permit Information

Wilderness permits are required year round for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Permits are issued and bear canisters are available for rent at the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center, the Big Oak Flat Information Center, Hill’s Studio in Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station during hours of operation. Self registration permits are available at the Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Station until the Tioga Road opens for the season. Call the park’s main phone line at 209/372-0200, or check the web at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm, for additional information. 60% of the trailhead quota is available in advance. Reservations are taken from 24 weeks to two days in advance of the start of your trip. A processing fee of $5 per permit plus $5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. Check the park’s website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740. 40% of the trailhead quota is available for first come first serve permits. First come first serve permits are available the day of opening and the day before starting at 11am.

Top left: Half Dome cables. NPS Photo by Mark Fischer
Protecting Yourself and the Park
Prepare yourself for a wild experience. Yosemite is a place where natural forces—such as rockfall, fire, and flood—are constantly at work. Here, wildlife freely roams. This is a place where wilderness prevails. The National Park Service recognizes the importance of Yosemite’s natural processes and is bound by its mission to protect them for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. While you are enjoying your visit, be attentive to the special regulations in place to protect park resources and those designed for your safety.

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.

Rafting
Conditions permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stonean 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 entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher.
- 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.
-_avoid_areas_of_whitewater_where_streams_flow_over_rocky_obstructions_.

Pets
Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. Pets are not allowed anywhere in the park or 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 convenience 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.

Bicycling
Bike rentals at Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge are open 9 am to 6 pm (8:30 am to 8 pm beginning June 18). Each season, plants are crushed by 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.

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. In September and October, temperatures in Tuolumne Meadows can dip well below freezing, while day time temperatures at lower elevations, like Yosemite Valley and Hetch Hetchy, can soar to over 100° F.

... and Yosemite
Protecting park resources, bicycling, and pets in the park

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

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 877/885-3639 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 559/683-4616. 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.

Camping in Yosemite National Park

General Info...

To check same-day camping availability, call 209/372-0266

Services
- All sites include picnic tables, firepits with grills, and a food locker (32”d x 45”w x 18”h). See page 5 for food storage regulations.
- Toilets are available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat have non-flushing vault toilets only and no potable water.
- Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley.
- RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat campgrounds, and RVs are not permitted in walk-in and group camp sites. There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows.

Regulations
- Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.
- A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.
- Quiet hours are from 10 pm to 6 am.
- Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

Campfires
- In Yosemite Valley between May 1 and September 30, campfires are permitted between 5 pm and 10 pm. At other times of the year and in out-of-valley campgrounds, fires are permitted at any time, as long as they are attended.
- Firewood collection (including pine cones and pine needles) is not permitted in Yosemite Valley, you may purchase firewood at stores near the campgrounds.

Camping in Yosemite National Park

Planning your camping experience

Camping

[Photo by Ray Santos]

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park
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 #0</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 Hear Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 2-3 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round-trip, 6-8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 2,100-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake Mirror Meadow (a seasonal lake) Loop Trail past Mirror Lake (closed due to rockfall)</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 mile round-trip, 1-2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>5 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,900-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome Point required to hike to the top of Half Dome</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>14 mi (via Mist Trail) or 16.3 mi (via John Muir Trail) round-trip, 10-12 hours</td>
<td>Extremely Strenuous, 4,800-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain</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>Glacier Point Road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></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>Tuolumne Meadows Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></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 Lysil 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>Tioga Road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lulus Lake</td>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>5.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Portcuple Creek</td>
<td>Portcuple Creek</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 3,500- to 4,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lulus Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 3,500- to 4,000-foot gain</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>
<tr>
<td>Metcalf Bottom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wapama Falls</td>
<td>O’Shaughnessy Dam</td>
<td>5 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</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.*
Meet Yosemite Falls during its peak season in late spring: 2,400 gallons of water hurtling over a cliff every single second. Now meet your everyday showerhead: 2.5 gallons per minute (maybe even less). It is a comparison of the spectacularly unique and the everyday commonality. The power and immensity of waterfalls along with the wild rivers in Yosemite pull people to visit the park, particularly in the spring and early summer season. The raging waterfalls, the clarity of the water, the comforting gurgle of the smaller creeks and streams all draw visitors to trails, as well as beaches close to these sights and sounds. We long to be close to the water, hiking, picnicking, wading, rafting, and simply sitting close to its presence. Just like Yosemite Falls is not something you would find in a bathroom at home, water encounters in Yosemite are very different from a leisurely stroll next to a pond in a city park or a swimming pool in a friend’s backyard. Swift and hugely powerful currents lie beneath the surface of Yosemite rivers. Even the lightest layer of water from river spray or rain can turn river rocks into surprisingly slippery stones, making moving off trail near waterfalls and rivers treacherous. The majority of water accidents occur as people are drawn closer to the water for photo opportunities, to play around on rocks, to boulder hop, or even just to dip hands and toes in the water. Adventurously Yosemite’s water and landscape, and keep a few details in mind to keep yourself and group safe along the way. Staying on designated trails can help keep you safe while exploring Yosemite’s water as well as other parts of the park. These trails serve as both guide and protector, keeping you clear of known hazards while bringing you to scenic points, and protecting the landscape you are here to enjoy. Even on designated trails and seemingly away from water, staying alert and aware of your surroundings is key for an enjoyable Yosemite experience. With an April 1st snow survey showing 178% of average snow pack, water will be making itself known even far from main rivers in the form of late lingering snow and fast moving seasonal creeks. While hiking on higher elevation designated trails, good map reading and compass skills may be even more important than usual with late snow obscuring the obvious way to travel. The same power and wildness that draws us close to waterfalls and rivers, to the top of mountain peaks, and along meandering trails, is the same power and wildness that can be a threat. This is not a walk in your backyard, and that’s the very reason you are here. Explore the Yosemite Valley created by water. Stand with water at the Lower Yosemite Fall footbridge, and walk with water on the trail at Happy Isles. Explore the trails leading far from the cars and roads in the park. But explore, stand, and walk with respect, alertness, and awareness of the power behind water and the wilderness.
Supporting Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s future

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

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

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

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

Yosemite Conservancy
Yosemite Conservancy is the non-profit 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 help people to support projects and programs that preserve and protect Yosemite National Park’s resources and enrich the visitor experience.

Yosemite Conservancy has funded over 300 projects through $60 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, wilderness permits, wildlife preservation, 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 go online at: www.yosemiteconservancy.org

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

Contact Us
Yosemite National Park
PO Box 577
9039 Village Drive
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-0200
http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm

The Ansel Adams Gallery
PO Box 455
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-4714 fax
www.anseladams.com

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite
PO Box 578
Yosemite, CA 95389
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Yosemite Conservancy
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800/489-7275
415/434-0745 fax
www.yosemiteconservancy.org

Yosemite Institute
PO Box 487
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-9511
209/372-9510 fax
www.yni.org

For more information on planning a trip or to request a copy of the Yosemite Guide, please email: yose_information@nps.gov.

Send email comments and questions about the Yosemite Guide to YOSEGuide@nps.gov

Want to get involved?
Join park and partner staff to learn about projects and plans at a free monthly public Open House! Open Houses will be held at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium on:
May 25, 1-4 pm, MRP Recreation Workshop, Valley Auditorium
June 29, 1-4 pm, Open House, Valley Auditorium

The workshop and scheduled presentations at the open house will also be available via webinar at yose.webex.com: Park fees are waived for those attending.
For more information, visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/yose.

Take the bus! Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS), recently added additional runs between El Portal and Yosemite Valley for the upcoming visitor season. YARTS provides bus service along the Highway 140 corridor from Merced to Yosemite Valley carrying park visitors and park employees. The service is designed to reduce private vehicles entering and exiting the park on a daily basis. The added runs, originating from Cedar Lodge in El Portal, begin daily at 8:00 a.m. This extended YARTS schedule will stop at all normally scheduled shuttle stops along Highway 140 between Cedar Lodge and Yosemite Valley and will run through September 5, 2011.

Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg