Mirror Lake Loop is currently closed due to rockfall.

The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7 am to 10 pm and serves stops in numerical order. Shuttles run daily every 10 to 20 minutes, depending on time of day. The El Capitan Shuttle operates from 9 am to 6 pm. Shuttles run daily during summer every 20 minutes. The Express Shuttle operates from 9 am to 6 pm. Shuttles run daily during summer every 20 minutes.

Year-round Route:
- Valley Visitor Center
- Visitor Parking
- Yosemite Village
- Lower Yosemite Fall
- Camp 4
- Yosemite Lodge
- Sentinel Bridge
- LeConte / Housekeeping Camp
- Downtown Yosemite
- Curry Village
- Upper Pines Campground
- Yosemite Village
- Yosemite Center
- Happy Isles
- Mirror Lake Trailhead
- Stable
- Pines Campgrounds
- El Capitan Picnic Area
- El Capitan Bridge
- Four Mile Trailhead

Summer-only Route:
- Yosemite Village
- Lower Yosemite Fall
- Camp 4
- Yosemite Lodge
- Sentinel Bridge
- LeConte / Housekeeping Camp
- Downtown Yosemite
- Curry Village
- Upper Pines Campground
- Yosemite Village
- Yosemite Center
- Happy Isles
- Mirror Lake Trailhead
- Stable
- Pines Campgrounds
- El Capitan Picnic Area
- El Capitan Bridge
- Four Mile Trailhead

El Capitan Picnic Area
- El Capitan Bridge
- Four Mile Trailhead

Tuolumne River, Photo by Randy Fong
Seasonal Highlights

Keep this Guide with you to get the most out of your trip to Yosemite National Park

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? In the height of summer, the possibilities are endless. Whether you want to get your heart rate up with a strenuous hike, read a book in a quiet spot, have a picnic, or just hang out, the river is a great place to start.

Learn More about the Tuolumne River
Love the river? Now is a great time to get involved in the future management of this special place. Check out our website for information on the Tuolumne River Plan: www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/trp.htm.

Walk to a Waterfall
Yosemite Valley is famous for its awe-inspiring waterfalls; each as distinct as the granite cliffs they dive over. Enjoy the water from a distance! Swiftly moving water, especially above Yosemite’s famous waterfalls, is dangerous.

Visit the other valley, Hetch Hetchy—“Almost an exact counterpart of the Yosemite … a reprint to its counterpart may be recommended, if it be to see how curiously nature has repeated herself.” Josiah D. Whitney
Hetch Hetchy provides spectacular vistas, waterfalls, and early season hiking. (See page 2 for a park map and area information.)

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.)

Get outside and enjoy your park!
Summer offers easy access to the spectacular Sierra Nevada High Country and the Tuolumne River. Enjoy a hike or a quiet moment in some of the park’s most spectacular wilderness.

Travel Back in Time
Visit Wawona’s Pioneer Yosemite History Center and join “Backshot” 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. 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 tour desk locations.)

Go to the Theater
Yosemite Theatre L.I.V.E 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.)

Get Immersed!
Immersive Excursions are two-hour, open-air tram tours that focus on one subject. (See p. 6) These special tours depart Yosemite Lodge at 10:15, Monday-Thursday. Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or more information.
Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

**Entrance Fees**

Visitors are not required to enter Yosemite. The park is open year-round, 24 hours/day.

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

**Reservations**

- **Campground Reservations** 877/444-6777
  - www.recreation.gov
- **Lodging Reservations** 801/559-5000
  - www.yosemitepark.com

**Regional Info**

- **Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)**
  - www.yarts.com
- **Highway 120 West**
  - Yosemite Chamber of Commerce 800/444-9120 or 209/962-0429
  - Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau 800/446-1333
    - www.tcvb.com
- **Highway 120 East**
  - Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce 800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429
  - Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau 800/446-1333
    - www.tcvb.com

**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 Chiquapin, then turn onto Glacier Point Road. 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. 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 Lulens 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 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 RV’s and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

Did you know?

• Olmsted Point, with its jaw-dropping views of Cloud’s Rest and Half Dome, was named after Frederick Law Olmsted, who helped design New York’s Central Park. Olmsted and his son, Frederick Jr., were avid supporters of the National Park idea, and both served as advisors to early park management.

• Much of the extensive trail system around Tuolumne Meadows originated as trade and travel routes used by American Indians. Archeological evidence shows that the Tuolumne Meadows area has been inhabited for at least 6,000 years.

• Tuolumne Meadows is one of the largest sub-alpine meadow ecosystems in the Sierra Nevada. This fragile complex is damaged easily by foot traffic and vehicles. Staying on trails and parking in paved areas helps protect the delicate meadow vegetation.

• The High Sierra is just that: HIGH! Trails in the area begin above 8,000 feet in elevation and often travel to more than 10,000 feet. Be careful for the signs of altitude sickness including dizziness, headache, and nausea. Staying hydrated, acclimating slowly, and getting plenty of rest can help you avoid the effects of altitude sickness.
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 walks, talks, and evening programs.

Walking and Hiking

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

Bicycling

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

Rafting

Rafts are available for rent at Curry Village from 10am to 4pm, river and weather conditions permitting. The last raft rental goes out at 4pm. Call 209/372-8348 for more information.

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

Rides begin at the stable near North Pines Campground. Stable hours are 7:00 am to 5 pm daily. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information or reservations, call 209/372-8348.

Sightseeing

Some of Yosemite’s most iconic features are in Yosemite Valley.

• A wet winter and cool spring have kept Yosemite Falls running late into this summer. You can walk to the 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.

• 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.
Exhibited. Oral histories, digital slide historic artifacts from that era will be photographs, paintings, ephemera, and an era of great change for the park. This summer the museum gallery visitor experience from 1900 to 1946, exhibit focuses on the Yosemite visitor center opens on 9 am to noon to 1 pm to 4 pm.

**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.

August 3rd – August 31st Exhibit: “Within the Stone” by Bill Atkinson. The show will consist of polished rock photos including newest work, plus a few of the existing favorites.

September 1st - October 26th Local Artist Penny Orwell. Artist’s Reception October 5th 3-5pm.

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.

**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**

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

**INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT**

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

**Yosemite 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 gallery exhibit focuses 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 9am to 5pm, October 1st to 31st, daily from 10am to noon and 1pm to 4pm.

**Nature Center at Happy Isles**

Open 10am to 4pm (may close for lunch) through September. 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 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.

**Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore**

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 7:30pm. 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 Village**

**Post Offices**

**Yosemite Village**

Main Office Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm Saturday: 10am to noon Yosemite Village Post Office Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:40pm

**Exhibits and Information**

**Yosemite Village**

The Ansel Adams Gallery 9am to 6pm LeConte Memorial Lodge 11am to 4pm Nature Center at Happy Isles 10am to 4pm Wilderness Center 7:30am to 5pm Yosemite Art & Education Center 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4:30pm Yosemite Museum, Indian Cultural Exhibit 9am to 5pm Yosemite Valley Visitor Center 9am to 7:30pm

**Groceries and Tour Desks**

**Yosemite Village**

Gift/Grocery 8am to 10pm Tour Desk 7:30am to 7pm Curry Village Gift/Grocery 8am to 10pm Tour Desk 7:30am to 3pm Housekeeping Camp Gift/Grocery 8am to 8pm

**Showers and Laundry**

**Houskeeping Camp Laundry**

8am to 10pm **Shower House**

7am to 10pm
**SCHEDULED EVENTS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY**

**August 3, 2011 - September 6, 2011**

**YOSEMITE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**

The non-profit Yosemite Conservancy sponsors this year-round series of fun, educational field programs; they’re a great way to deepen your connection to our park.

- **August 4-7** Vogelsang Backpack—With author Suzanne Swados in the high country off Dome the Easy Way—An easier pace with two nights in Little Yosemite Valley
- **August 11-14** Tuolumne Meadows on Plein Air—Chuck Waldman, a mountain master
- **August 20** Tuolumne Birds—Life aloft— with naturalist Michael Ross

Find all the details at www.yosemiteconservancy.org, or call 209/379-2464. Park entry and camping are included, hotel rooms have already been set aside for these courses. The Conservancy also arranges Custom Adventures for individuals, families and groups: adventures@yosemiteconservancy.org.

**You are Yosemite (YaY)**

Thursdays, 9 am to noon, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Join Yosemite Facility Management staff to help keep Yosemite clean! Participants of all ages will pick up litter and debris throughout the Valley, protecting wildlife and keeping our park beautiful. Volunteers must wear long pants and closed toe shoes. Bring water and snacks. Tools will be provided, and volunteers may choose to participate one, two, or three hours. For more information, call 209/379-1850.

**Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY)**

Habitat protectors of Yosemite (HaPY). Wednesdays, 9 am, up to 3 hrs. Vegetation restoration field work for volunteers. Meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center. Wear closed toe shoes and long pants. For more information, call 209/379-1308.

**Yosemite Art and Education Center Classes (YAEAC)**

The Yosemite Art & Education Center is open daily 9am-4:30pm (closed for lunch from 12-1pm). Workshops are offered from 10am to 2pm 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. Information on classes is also available on line at http://www.yosemiteart.blogspot.com.

- **August 2-6** Marko Loftin, Watercolor/Color of Yosemite
- **August 9-13** David Deyell, Watercolor
- **August 16-20** Carol Earle, Pastel
- **August 23-27** Kirth VanBakel, Dynamic Acrylic
- **August 30- Sept 3** Osamu Saito, Experience Yosemite with Watercolor
- **September 6-10** Douglas Cartwright—Watercolor

**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.

LeConte Memorial Lodge (SC)

LeConte Memorial Lodge is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm, with evening programs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, and some Thursday evenings. Evening programs begin at 8pm and are free. The Lodge has a library, children’s corner, and a climate change exhibit. The Lodge is located at a shuttle stop #12.

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

**YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Yosemite Chapel, Sunday 9am, 11am. 6:30pm, Thursday 7pm, ACNMP Campground Services 9am Lowser Pines, Bible Study throughout week. For wedding & general information: Pastor Brent Moore, www.yosemitecommunitychapel.org, 209/972-4831

**ROMAN CATHOLIC**

Mass: Saturday, 6pm at Lower Pines Amphitheater; Sunday, 10am at Valley Visitor Center Wednesday & Friday, 6:30pm; 9006 Cascade Ctr. in Yosemite Village, (209)482-4729.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

El Portal Chapel/Worship: Sunday 11am Info: 209/379-2100

**SEVEN-DAY ADVENTIST**

Lover Rock Amphitheater: Saturday 9:45am Music/Sabbath School, 11am Worship, 12:30pm pulpit: 209-586-4325 or 209-743-5522

**LAITER-DAY SAINTS**

Sacramento meetings, Sunday 7pm. Memorial Day–Labor Day, Yosemite Chapel.

**A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IN THE NATIONAL PARKS**

9am Sunday at Lower Pines, Yosemite, and Tuolumne Meadows campgrounds.

**SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

7:30pm Sunday, Tuesday, & Thursday DYC General Office Bldg. Yosemite Village.

**LIONS CLUB**

First and Third Thursday of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4471.

**ROTA® INTERNATIONAL**

Thursday at noon at The Ahwahnee. Reservations/ information: 209/372-8459.

**NP$ National Park Service**

**DNC DNP Parks & Resorts**

All Yosemite facilities are accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Short, steep inclines may be encountered.

**TAGA The Ansel Adams Gallery**

**AAC American Alpine Club**

**SC Sierra Club**

**YC Yosemite Conservancy**

**YMS Yosemite Mountaineering School**

**S Programs offered for a fee**

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

A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Please contact the Park Accessibility Coordinator (see front page) to request an interpreter. Advance notice is requested.

Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advanced request. Inquire at a visitor center.
10:00am  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

10:00am  Ranger Walk – Geology 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

10:00am  Story Within The Stone 1½ hrs. Curry Village Amphitheater (NPS) $.

10:00am  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

10:30am  Ranger Walk – Bears 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

11:00am  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

11:30am  Ranger Walk – Wild About Wildlife 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

12:00pm  Discovery Hike – Columbia Rock 3½ hrs. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater Stage. Tickets at any tour desk. (SC) $.

12:00pm  Ranger Walk – Yosemite’s First People 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

12:30pm  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

1:00pm  Ranger Walk – Yosemite’s Legacy 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

1:30pm  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

2:00pm  Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

2:30pm  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

3:00pm  Ranger Walk – Bums & Bears 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

3:30pm  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

4:00pm  Ranger Walk – Yosemite’s First People 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

4:30pm  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

5:00pm  Ranger Walk – Yosemite’s Legacy 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

5:30pm  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

6:00pm  Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

6:30pm  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

7:00pm  Ranger Walk – Yosemite’s First People 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

7:30pm  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

8:00pm  Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

8:30pm  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

9:00pm  Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

9:30pm  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

10:00pm  Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

10:30pm  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

11:00pm  Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

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02:30am  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

03:00am  Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

03:30am  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

04:00am  Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

04:30am  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

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13:00am  Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

13:30am  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

14:00am  Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.

14:30am  Meet Your Yosemite 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NP) $.
Wawona, Mariposa Grove, and Glacier Point

Experience Your America  Yosemite National Park

Explore History  Discover Giant Trees  Find Amazing Vistas

These park areas offer endless opportunities for amazing experiences.

Wawona & Mariposa Grove

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 to get other questions answered. Every morning from 8:00 am to 8:45 am.

Evening Programs

Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 8:00 am to 8:45 am, Thomas Hill. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona Store parking area and follow the path up the hill. 209/375-9331

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 center is always open, and interpretive programs are available.

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/adult 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.

Wawona Stables

Horse or mule rides begin near the stable near the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Stable hours are 7:00 am to 5 pm daily. Information: 209/375-6502 (reservations strongly recommended).

Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area. Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area.

Getting to Mariposa Grove

Allow 1½ hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot. The access road to the grove may close intermittently due to limited parking.

Trails into the grove extend uphill from the trailhead at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the California Tree provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations are available at the trailhead in Spanish, German, French, and Japanese.

Dogs or bikes are not permitted anywhere in the grove.

Mariposa Grove Museum

Open 10 am to 4 pm. Located in the Upper Mariposa Grove, the museum offers information, displays on giant sequoias.

Walking through the Grove

Trails into the grove extend uphill from the trailhead at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the California Tree provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations are available at the trailhead in Spanish, German, French, and Japanese.

Dogs or bikes are not permitted anywhere in the grove.

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 bus service to help reduce congestion and parking delays.
### WAWONA & MARIPOSA GROVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS). €</td>
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Programs printed in **ALL CAPS AND COLOR** are especially for children and their families.
Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, and Crane Flat

**Tuolumne Meadows**

**Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center**
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.

**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.

**Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center**
Open 7:30 am to 5 pm. The wilderness center offers wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, visitor information, maps, and guidebooks. The Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center wilderness center is located just south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, at shuttle stop #3.

**Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series 2011**
All programs, unless otherwise noted, begin at 2:00 p.m. and last approximately one 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 6**
  - Oolangin Singers: A performance of nature-inspired music by young singers led by hammer dulcimer player Malcolm Dalglish, singers Naomi Dalglish, Joshua Stephen Kartes, Jeff Fellinger, and Rachel Schlafer-Parton
- **Sunday, August 7**
  - Geology Underfoot in and around Tuolumne Meadows. Slide presentation by Greg Stock, Park Geologist
- **Saturday, August 13**
  - What’s Your 12x12? Finding “Enough” in an Age of Too Much, 2-5pm. Slide presentation, reading, and discussion with William Powers, author, international conservationist, and senior fellow at the World Policy Institute
- **Sunday, August 14**

- **Living Well within the Means of the Earth: Everyday Choices that Make a Difference.** 2-5pm. Talk and discussion with Vicki Robin, coauthor of the seminal book on sustainable living, Your Money or Your Life
  - **Saturday and Sunday, August 20 and 21**
  - **15th Annual Tuolumne Meadows Poetry Festival**
    - Morning workshops and afternoon readings with music: poets Mike Burwell, Camille T. Dungy, and F. Daniel Rzicznek, with musician Shira Kammen
    - Saturday, August 20
      - 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Writing Outside the Book. Poetry workshop with Camille T. Dungy
      - 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m., featured poets and music
    - Sunday, August 21
      - 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., In Praise of the Book. Poetry workshop with Mike Burwell
      - 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m., featured poets and music

- **Merced Grove**
  - Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 big trees accessible only on foot. It’s a three-mile round-trip hike (about three hours) into the grove. The trail drops down 1.5 miles making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water at the parking area or down in the grove. Be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10.

**Tuolumne Grove**
The trail head for this grove of about 25 sequoias is near the intersection of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga roads at Crane Flat. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from the parking area into the grove. The trail drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The way down can seem much easier than the uphill 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-guided nature trail. There is no potable water at the parking area or in the grove. Be sure to bring drinking water with you.

(registrations strongly recommended).

**Big Oak Flat**
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 big trees accessible only on foot. It’s a three-mile round-trip hike (about three hours) into the grove. The trail drops down 1.5 miles making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water at the parking area or down in the grove. Be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10.

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<th>WHITE WOLF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8:00am</strong> Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. Crane Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)</td>
<td>8:00am Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. White Wolf Campfire Circle. Bring your own mug. (NPS)</td>
<td>8:00am Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. White Wolf Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am Ranger Walk—Sketching in Tuolumne 1 hr. Lambert Dome picnic area. Bring sunglasses, notebook, pens, and pencils. (NPS)</td>
<td>10:00am Ranger Walk—High Country Bugs 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservation Office (NPS)</td>
<td>10:00am Ranger Campfire Program 45 min. White Wolf Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am Ranger Walk—Lambert Dome 1 hr. Moderately strenuous 3 miles. Dog Lake parking, shuttle stop #2. Bring snacks and water. (NPS)</td>
<td>10:00am Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne 15 minutes Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (NPS). (except August 27 and September 4-9.) 1:30 hrs. See details on preceding page (NPS)</td>
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<td>12:00pm Poetry Workshop—In Praise of the Letter Poem (August 27 only) 1.5 hrs. Parsons Lodge. Bring pen and paper (NPS)</td>
<td>12:00pm Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne 15 minutes Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (NPS). (except August 27 and September 4-9.) 1:30 hrs. See details on preceding page (NPS)</td>
<td>12:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 45 min. White Wolf Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
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<td>Food &amp; BEVERAGE operation.</td>
<td>8:00am Campfire 1 hr. Crane Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</td>
<td>7:00am JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE (except Aug 22 &amp; Aug 29) 45 min. White Wolf Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
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<td>7:30am Photographing Tuolumne Meadows (August 8 only 1 hr. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (NPS).</td>
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<td>10:00am Ranger Walk—High Country Bugs 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservation Office (NPS)</td>
<td>9:00am Over the Meadow 1 hr. Dress warmly and bring something to sit on at White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)</td>
<td>7:00am JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 45 min. Hodgdon Meadows Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
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<td>9:00am Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
<td>9:00am Ranger in the Grove 2 hrs. (drop in) Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias to ask the ranger your questions. (NPS)</td>
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<td>2:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
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<td>10:00pm Ranger Hike—Hetch Hetchy 2 hrs. Hetch Hetchy. Meet at O’Shaughnessy Dam (NPS)</td>
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<td>7:30am Ranger Walk—Birds 2 1/2 hrs. Lambert Dome picnic area. Binoculars available. (NPS)</td>
<td>6:45pm Twilight Stroll (except August 3) 1 hr. White Wolf Lodge (NPS)</td>
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<td>8:00am Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)</td>
<td>9:00am Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
<td>9:00am Ranger in the Grove 2 hrs. Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias to ask the ranger your questions. (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am DISCOVERY WALK for LITTLE CUBS 50 minutes Ages 4-6. Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservation Office (NPS)</td>
<td>10:00am Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
<td>8:00pm Ranger in the Grove 2 hrs. Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias to ask the ranger your questions. (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am Ranger Walk—Geology of Tuolumne Meadows 2 hrs. Tioga Pass parking lot (NPS). Meet outside of Tioga Pass Entrance Station on north side of road. 1 1/2 hrs. Tioga Pass. Meet outside of Tioga Pass Entrance Station on north side of road. 1 1/2 hrs. Tioga Pass. Meet outside of Tioga Pass Entrance Station on north side of road. (NPS)</td>
<td>10:00am Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
<td>8:00pm Ranger in the Grove 2 hrs. Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias to ask the ranger your questions. (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm Ranger Walk—Welcome to Tuolumne 15 minutes Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (NPS). (except August 27 and September 4-9.) 1:30 hrs. See details on preceding page (NPS)</td>
<td>12:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
<td>8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
<td>5:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
<td>5:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GROCERIES**

Tuolumne Meadows Store
8 am to 9 pm
Crane Flat Store
8 am to 8 pm

**GIFTS & APPAREL**

Tuolumne Meadows Gift Shop and Sport Shop
8:30 am to 6 pm
Tuolumne Meadows Bookstore
Inside the Visitor Center
9 am to 6 pm
Tuolumne Meadows Store
8 am to 8 pm

**GAS STATIONS**

Tuolumne Meadows
Gas and propane available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

**FREE SHUTTLE BUS**

Olmsted PL / Tuolumne / Tioga Pass
See map, page 10. Free shuttle service is available along the Tioga Road from Olmsted Point to Tuolumne 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.
Experience Your America    Yosemite National Park

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 Yosemite Conservancy bookstore.

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

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.

Coyote

Black bear

Golden-mantled ground squirrel

All issue illustrations by Tom Whitworth
Bears and Wildlife

Enjoying wildlife safely and responsibly

Keep Wildlife Wild!
Black bears, coyote, deer, and grey squirrels are just a few of the many animal species in the park that are active year round. Learn how to help protect Yosemite's wildlife.

Store Your Food Properly.
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.

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.

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.

Report Bear Sightings!
To report bear sightings, improper food storage, trash problems, and other bear-related problems, leave a message for the Bear Management Team at 209/372-0322. Your call can be made anonymously. For more information regarding bears and proper food storage, visit the park's website (www.nps.gov/yose/bears).

Coyotes
Watching a coyote hunting for mice in one of Yosemite's many meadows can be an amazing wildlife experience. Coyotes are opportunistic carnivores that primarily prey on small mammals. Like bears, their diets change throughout the year with food availability.

Unfortunately, coyotes sometimes change their natural behavior to try to obtain human food. Approaching, and/or feeding coyotes can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans. Please do not stop to feed coyotes that you see along the sides of the roads. This encourages them to frequent roadsides to beg for food, endangering both coyotes and drivers.

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.

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

For your safety:
Do not leave pets or pet food outside and unattended. Pets can attract mountain lions.
Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind on the trail. Teach children what to do if they see a lion.

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

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

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

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

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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!
Experience Your America    Yosemite National Park

Keep safety in mind as you explore your 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. 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. The Half Dome Trail Stewardship Plan Environmental Assessment will be available for public review late summer 2011. The environmental assessment will detail the proposed alternative methods of managing use on the Half Dome Trail and their potential affects on the environment and visitors. To find out more about the plan visit www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/hdp.htm.

Permits are not available in the park or on a first-come, first-served basis, however, you can check for cancellations. In addition, about 50 permits may be available one day in advance at 7 am PDT via Recreation.gov. We encourage permit holders unable to use their permits to make them available for other visitors by canceling them. You may cancel a permit or check for availability online at 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. More information is available at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdppermits.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 Water
• Never swim or wade upstream from a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept out to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
• Stay away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards.
• 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.
• Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or on the Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

Water Quality
To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking. Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier. To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available, and always wash hands afterwards with soap and water. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash, camp, and bury human waste 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, River and Creek Crossings, and Rock Climbing
With the heavy winter be prepared for full or partial snow cover well into the summer. Good navigation skills are necessary. While a trail may start out snow free be prepared for patches of snow or for the snow to become continuous. 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. The large amounts of water from snow melt will keep rivers high and mosquitoes around for a much longer period time.

• 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.
• Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion, carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food.
• Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.
• Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

Wilderness Permit 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 at 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. First come first serve permits are available the day of at opening and the day before starting at 11am.
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.

Rafting

Conditions permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stoneham 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. 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.

- Trout season runs through November 15 (except Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, which opens June 15).
- Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the Foresta Bridge in El Portal. Within these reaches of the river, it is catch-and-release only for rainbow trout. Brown trout limits are five fish per day. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used.
- The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

Pets

- Keep in mind, daytime temperatures can reach above 100 °F. Be prepared to stay cool and well-hydrated.
- In Yosemite, pets 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.

Bicycling

Bike rentals at Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge are open 8:30am to 8pm. Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails. Bikes are not allowed to travel off paved trails. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite.

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 daytime temperatures at lower elevations, like Yosemite Valley and Hetch Hetchy, can soar to over 100°F.

...and Yosemite

Protecting park resources

Yosemite Guardians

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. With 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/nps.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 November 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.

#### ARIVAL DATE FIRST DAY TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR SITE

| Mar. 15 – Apr. 14 | Nov. 15 |
| Apr. 15 – May 14 | Dec. 15 |
| May 15 – Jun. 14 | Jan. 15 |
| Jun. 15 – Jul. 14 | Feb. 15 |
| Jul. 15 – Aug. 14 | Mar. 15 |
| Aug. 15 – Sep. 14 | Apr. 15 |
| Sep. 15 – Oct. 14 | May 15 |
| Oct. 15 – Nov. 14 | Jun. 15 |
| Nov. 15 – Dec. 14 | Jul. 15 |

For campground reservations, visit www.recreation.gov (recommended) or call 877/444-6777 or TDD 877/833-6777 or 518/885-3639 from outside the US and Canada.

**Hours:**

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

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

### Yosemite Valley

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

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

### Camping in Areas Surrounding Yosemite

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

### Group Campgrounds

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

### Campgrounds in Yosemite National Park*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</th>
<th>OPEN 2011 (APPROX)</th>
<th>MAX RV LENGTH</th>
<th>MAX TRAILER LENGTH</th>
<th>RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</th>
<th>DAILY FEE</th>
<th># OF SITES</th>
<th>PETS</th>
<th>WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOSMTE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pines</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>March 15-Nov 28</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>April 8-Nov 1</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Pines</td>
<td>April 15-Oct 3</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 6</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$30/pers.</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTH OF YOSMTE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>April 20 – Oct 3</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Creek</td>
<td>July – TBD</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH OF YOSMTE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodgdon Meadow</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>Apr 10 – Oct 14</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane Flat</td>
<td>July – Oct 12</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarkan Flat</td>
<td>July – Oct 15</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (cold)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>July – Sep 12</td>
<td>37 ft</td>
<td>26 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July – Sep 12</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (cold)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine Flat</td>
<td>July – Oct 15</td>
<td>24 ft (limited)</td>
<td>20 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (cold)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows</td>
<td>July – Sep 28</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Exact campground opening and closing dates are subject to conditions.
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 0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6 1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock</td>
<td>Camp 4 Visitor Center 2 miles round-trip, 2-3 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,000-foot gain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above 7.2 miles round-trip, 6-8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17 2 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16 1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16 3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,000-foot gain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>same as above 7 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,900-foot gain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>same as above 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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive 4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Extremely Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6 13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></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 3.5 miles round-trip, 1.5 hours</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swinging Bridge Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Stone / Pioneer Yosemite History Center Parking Area 4.75 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taft Point</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area 2.2 mile round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel Dome</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area 2.2 mile round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda Springs / Parsons Lodge</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area 1.5 mile round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambert Dome</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area 4 miles round-trip, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Muir Trail through Lyell Canyon</td>
<td>Dog Lake Parking Area 8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy, 200-foot gain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lake</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Group Campground 4.8 miles round trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tioga Road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lukens Lake</td>
<td>White Wolf 5.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>Porcupine Creek 7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 3,000- to 4,000-foot loss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lukens Lake Trailhead 10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake 19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers’ Bus.*
The Wild & Scenic Tuolumne

By: Kristina Rylands

"What I love about Tuolumne...is that it is a place like no other in the world, with its own character and charm, history, and a beauty and spirit evident in each curve of the Tuolumne River, each granite slab, each rocky peak. This place is eternally beautiful. From river-drenched low spots reflecting granite domes during the spring thaw, to pink shooting stars rising up out of the marshy meadow, to the great bowl of blue sky and stars stretching above, Tuolumne calls to the human spirit, regardless of who we are and where we come from." (Individual from El Portal, CA)

The Tuolumne River is a story in contrasts. Vast granite escarpments as far as the eye can see, punctuated by lush subalpine meadows; headwaters in the rocky alpine reaches, including the Lyell Glacier, to rare low elevation foothill wetlands. Since the early days of Yosemite National Park, visitors have valued the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows for their quieter, wilder setting in contrast to the Merced River and iconic Yosemite Valley. It is a landscape that is both resilient, yet fragile, drawing inspiration and building lasting traditions for thousands of years.

It is no wonder that in 1984, 81 miles of the Tuolumne River—54 miles of which are in Yosemite National Park—were added to the national wild and scenic rivers system. Wild and scenic river status means that the river will be forever protected in its free-flowing character, water quality, and unique values. To lay out the framework for protecting this national treasure, the Congressionally designated portion of river corridor is interrupted, exempt from wild and scenic river status due to the impoundment of O’Shaughnessy Dam. However, the wild and scenic river status continues below the dam and through the low elevation wetlands of Poopenaup Valley and slot canyons where few are fortunate to visit.

A Rich History

For over 6,000 years, people have returned to the Tuolumne year after year and generation after generation, drawn to the beauty, power, and inspiration of the river. These enduring relationships with the Tuolumne have been passed down through the stories, traditions, ceremonies, and songs—all important aspects of maintaining cultural and religious traditions among groups of American Indian people today.

Prehistoric and historic resources attest to the evolving importance of the river as a seasonal hunting and gathering ground, a trans-Sierra trade and travel route, a place to connect with nature in a spectacularly wild and scenic setting. Along the banks of the Tuolumne River in Tuolumne Meadows were planted the seeds of the national park ideal.

Troubled by seasonal sheep grazing in the river’s sensitive subalpine meadows, John Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson discussed a system of wildland protection that would prevent the type of destruction Muir witnessed from “hoofed locusts” and “meadow mowers.”

Remarkable Landscape

The river is home to the most extensive subalpine meadow complexes in the Sierra Nevada, which support an astonishing diversity of plants and animals. From Dana Meadows to Lyell Canyon and into Tuolumne Meadows, glaciers carved a long, low gradient where sand, silt, and organic debris could accumulate. In spring, the river overtops its banks and stretches into meadows, creating seasonal flooding that is vast and lake-like. While dramatic, this contributes to the fragility of meadows which act like a great sponge. The delicate environment—also believed to be still recovering from years of historic sheep grazing—is extremely sensitive to trampling. Today, visitors can help with the meadow’s recovery by staying on designated trails.

Refreshing to the Spirit

After the turn of the 20th century, the arduous twists and turns along the one-lane Tioga Road were rewarded with carefree recreation and riverside rejuvenation in Tuolumne Meadows. Today, the Tuolumne River provides for a variety of wilderness-oriented recreational activities in an iconic High Sierra landscape where dramatic scenery, the sounds of nature, and opportunities for relative solitude shape the experience. From a roadside turnout on Tioga Road to deep into the heart of wilderness, there is something for everyone at any age.

Play a Part in Protecting the River

Far from placing rivers behind velvet ropes, at the heart of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is the ability for people to continue forging connections to rivers. Once designated, the law calls for permanent protection and enhancement of the river’s free-flowing character, water quality, and unique values. To lay out the framework for protecting this national treasure, the National Park Service is preparing the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan for the 54 miles of river within Yosemite National Park. A draft plan will be released for public comment later this year. Watch the park’s website (see below) for release date and schedule of public meetings. Learn more at:

- Tuolumne River Plan: http://go.nps.gov/trp
- Tuolumne River Yosemite Nature Notes video: http://go.nps.gov/yyntr
- Wild and Scenic Rivers System: www.rivers.gov

"The experience is that it is a place like no other in the world, with its own character and charm, history, and a beauty and spirit evident in each curve of the Tuolumne River, each granite slab, each rocky peak. This place is eternally beautiful. From river-drenched low spots reflecting granite domes during the spring thaw, to pink shooting stars rising up out of the marshy meadow, to the great bowl of blue sky and stars stretching above, Tuolumne calls to the human spirit, regardless of who we are and where we come from." (Individual from El Portal, CA)
Yosemite Guide August 3, 2011 - September 6, 2011

Supporting Your Park

Enhance the Visitor Experience

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

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

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates art 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, sightseeing tours, recreational activities, interpretive programs, stores, shuttles and service stations in the park under contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior. DNC encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure. For more information and employment opportunities with DNC at Yosemite, visit online at: www.YosemitePark.com

Yosemite 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 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 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

Contact Us

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209/372-0200
http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm

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DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite
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800/559-5000
www.dncparks.com

Yosemite Conservancy
101 Montgomery Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: 800-469-7275, Fax: 415-434-0745
www.yosemiteconservancy.org

Yosemite Institute
P.O. Box 487
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/379-9511, 209/372-9510 fax
www.yosemiteconservancy.org

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT: SPECIAL DRIVING CONSIDERATIONS

A record number of vehicles have been welcomed into Yosemite National Park this summer. At times this causes traffic congestion from 10 am until evening, with delays ranging between one and two hours long.

TRAVEL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Bring plenty of food and water for potential delays.
- Park your vehicle for the duration of your stay. Driving from site to site increases traffic congestion.
- Avoid crowded areas of the park where traffic congestion is greatest.
- Consider arriving early and staying late, or visiting during the week.
- Consider arriving after 7:00 PM or prior to 9:00 AM.
- Enjoy the entire Yosemite region - consider visiting the surrounding communities of Mariposa, Groveland, Lee Vining and Oakhurst.
- Ride the free shuttle buses to enjoy Yosemite Valley most easily once parked.

PLEASE BE AWARE:

- Congestion is greatest in Yosemite Valley and at Glacier Point. It is especially heavy on weekends.
- Parking lots are generally full by 12:00 PM, and sometimes earlier.
- Vehicles on roadsides must use designated turnouts and pull off the road completely. Do not park on vegetation.
- After reaching the one-way road on the Yosemite Valley floor, the only route to avoid the areas of heaviest congestion is the left-hand turn labeled for Highways 140, 120 and 41.

We ask for patience and understanding as we work to help you enjoy and experience Yosemite.

Want to get involved?

Join park and partner staff to learn about projects and plans at a free monthly public Open House! An Open House will be held at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium on August 31, 2011 from 1–4pm.

Yosemite Institute

Since 1971, thousands of school-aged 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.