Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

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.

Stop # | Location
--- | ---
1 | Visitor Parking
2 | Yosemite Village
3 | The Ahwahnee
4 | Degrain's Deli
5 | Lower Yosemite Fall
6 | Camp 4
7 | Yosemite Lodge
8 | Sentinel Bridge
9 | LeConte / Housekeeping Camp
10 | Yosemite Village
11 | Mirror Lake Trailhead
12 | El Capitan Bridge
13a | Glacier Point
13b | Happy Isles
14 | Four Mile Trailhead
15 | Mirror Lake Loop Trailhead
16 | Mirror Lake
17 | Nature Center at Happy Isles
18 | Stable
19 | Pines Campgrounds
20 | El Capitan Picnic Area
21 | Yosemite Lodge
22 | Upper Pines Campground
23 | Yosemite Visitor Center
24 | Mirror Lake
25 | Yosemite Village

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

- Campground
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Restroom
- Walk-In Campground

US Department of the Interior
National Park Service
PO Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Yosemite Guide
Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park
September 7, 2011 - October 11, 2011

Experience Your America: Yosemite National Park
Volume 36, Issue 7
September - October, 2011

Glacier Point, NPS Photo by Adrienne Freeman
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 early fall, 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, there’s something for everyone!

Hike to a Dome
Want to take a short, moderately strenuous hike to the top of a dome with a great view? You can hike from the Sentinel Dome trailhead along the Glacier Point Road to the top of Sentinel Dome—just a mile each way.

Join the Yosemite Facelift!
The National Park Service has partnered with the Yosemite Climbing Association to clean up Yosemite at the 8th annual Yosemite Facelift September 21-25. In 2010 over 1,000 volunteers removed over 170,000 pounds of debris in this National Public Lands Day event. How much can we clean up this year? Join us to find out! You must register at the Valley Visitor Center or Lembert Dome in Tuolumne Meadows to participate. Please wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, and bring water and sun protection.

Visit Hetch Hetchy
“Almost an exact counterpart of the Yosemite… a visit to its counterpart may be recommended, if it be only to see how curiously nature has repeated herself.” -Josiah D. Whitney. Hetch Hetchy provides spectacular vistas, waterfalls, and cool 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.)

Travel Back in Time
Visit Wawona’s Pioneer Yosemite History Center and join “Backshos” 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.)

Get outside and enjoy your park!
Glacier Point offers spectacular views over the High Sierra and a bird’s eye view of the mighty Merced River as it tumbles into Yosemite Valley.

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.)

Bring your Little Ones to a Nature Program
Join a naturalist for Wee Wild Ones, a playful program for 2-6 year olds. Activities include games, songs, dances, and art while exploring topics such as geology, animal sounds, bats, and creepy crawlies. (See page 6 and 7 for program titles and 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.)

What’s Inside:
- Seasonal Highlights
- Yosemite Highlights
- Tuolumne Meadows
- Become a Junior Ranger
- Wildlife
- Camping
- Hiking
- Feature Story
- Ranger Dick Ewart
- Glacier Point- It’s All
- About the View
- Supporting Your Park

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National 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. (See page 4 for more information.)

Accessibility parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue and white signs.

A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Please contact the Park Accessibility Coordinator (listed above) to request an interpreter. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.

Audio tours are available for the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

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 209/372-4517. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/379-1001.

For more information, visit nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm, or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at 209/379-1035 for more information.

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Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Entrance Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Type</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
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<td>7 days (Valid in Yosemite)</td>
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<td>$80</td>
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<td>Interagency Senior Pass</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>62 years and over</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interagency Access Pass</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reservations

Campground Reservations
877/444-4777
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
800/444-1383
www.tcvb.com

Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/883-4636
www.yosemitehseyear.com

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/878-3974

Highway 140/49
Mariposa County Visitor Center
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081

Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau
209/742-4567
www.mercedmariposa.com

Highway 120 East
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center, 760/647-6629
www.leevining.com

Calif. Welcome Center, Merced
800/446-5353 or 209/724-8104
www.yosemite-gateway.org

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. 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 or hike one of the scenic trails. For more information, visit the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio, adjacent to the historic Wawona Hotel. This was once a painting studio for the 19th-century artist Thomas Hill. The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is a short drive or help reduce congestion by taking the free shuttle from the Wawona Store.

Tioga Road and Tuolumne Grove

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

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 8 am to 7 pm through October 31, with reduced hours during winter. Hetch Hetchy Road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is approximately a 1 ¼-hour drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

Did you know?

• The elevation of Glacier Point is 7,214 feet above sea level, about 3,200 feet (1 km) above the floor of Yosemite Valley.
• You can see almost one third of Yosemite National Park from Glacier Point, including Vernal Fall, Nevada Fall, and Yosemite Falls are all visible from Glacier Point.
• The Panorama, Pohono, and Four Mile Trails originate from Glacier Point.
• For almost a century avid spectators could watch the Yosemite Firefall, a blazing pile of burning embers that were pushed off of Glacier Point and fell, in a waterfall of fire, 3,000 vertical feet to the Valley floor below. The Firefall began in 1972 and ended in 1968.
• Glacier Point is the site where you can find Overhanging Rock, made famous by stunts like the one pictured from 1916.
• Want to learn more? Read our Feature Story on page 18.
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 walks and talks 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. Bike rentals are available from 9am to 6pm, with the last rental at 4:45pm. 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

Rides begin at the stable near North Pines Campground. Stable hours are 7 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.

- 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 an era of great change for the park. Visitor experience from 1900 to 1946, This summer the museum gallery ExPERIEnCE In THE EARLY 20TH CEnTuRY VIEWS & VISIToRS: THE YoSEMITE Indian arts, crafts, jewelry, and books. offers books and traditional American Open daily from 9 am to 5 pm. The store YoSEMITE MuSEuM SToRE from 1850 to the present. of YoSEMITE's Miwok and Paiute people lunch). Interprets the cultural history Valley Visitor Center. Located in YoSEMITE Village next 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 Center
The Yosemite Art 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 10 am to 4 pm (may close for lunch) through September 29 (exhibits only). 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 Theater 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 through September 30, Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm, with evening programs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, and some Thursday evenings. The Lodge has a library, children's corner, and a new climate change exhibit. The Lodge is located at shuttle stop #12.

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore
Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 6 pm. The visitor center is just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The facility offers information, maps, and books. Explore the exhibits and learn how Yosemite's landscape formed and how people interact with it.

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

Yosemite Museum
Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT
Open 9 am to 5 pm (may close for lunch). 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 9 am to 6 pm; October 1st to 31st, daily from 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm.

YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE EXHIBIT
The annual Yosemite Renaissance Art exhibit will open at the Yosemite Museum Gallery on February 25, 2012. Yosemite Renaissance is an all media, juried, fine art competition & exhibition on the theme of Yosemite and the environment of the Sierra Nevada. Entries to the competition are currently being accepted. For details visit: www.yosemiterenaisance.org. Entry deadline for art submission: November 10, 2011.

Yosemite Renaissance is a non-profit organization that encourages diverse interpretations of Yosemite in the visual arts.

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 walks, workshops, and classes. Activities are listed on the front porch. Call 209/372-4413, or visit anseladams.com. September 1st - October 26th, Local Artist Penny Otwell. Artist's Reception October 5th 3-5pm. Artist Penny Otwell. Artist's Reception October 26th, Local Artist Penny Otwell. Artist's Reception October 5th 3-5pm.

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Yosemite Village
Where to go and what to do

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SCHEDULED EVENTS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY
September 7 - October 11, 2021

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.

September 23-25  Mwiek-Fautical Baketry – Lucy Parker shares family art and heritage. 
October 7-9  Watercolors in the Wild – Andie Thrams and Wawona’s magical fall light.

You are Yosemite (YaY)
Thursdays, 9 am to noon, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Join Yosemite Facilities Management staff to help keep Yosemite’s Parking lots, roads, and trails clean and safe. Registration is not required. Meet at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Wear closed-toe shoes, closed-toe shoes, long pants and long sleeves. For more information, call 209/379-1850.

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY)
Habitat protectors of Yosemite’s HaPY program meet in a variety of locations from 8 am to 3 hrs. Vegetation restoration field work drop-in volunteer program. Meet a ranger in front of the visitor center. Wear closed-toe shoes and long pants. For more information, call 209/379-1308.

You are Yosemite (YaY)
First and third Thursday of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee Hotel. Advance notice is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Please contact the Park Accessibility Coordinator (see front page) to request an interpreter.

YOSEMITE ART CENTER CLASSES (YAC)
The Yosemite Art Center is open daily 9am-4:30pm (closed for lunch from 12-1pm).

September 6-10  Douglas Castelman, Watercolor
September 13-17  James Wei, Painting Yosemite in Acrylic
September 20-24  Laura Williams, plein Air Acrylic
September 27-Oct. 1  Laura Williams, plein Air Acrylic
October 7-9  Watercolors in the Wild – Andie Thrams and Wawona’s magical fall light.

YOSEMITE CHURCHES

In Yosemite Valley

CHURCH OF CHRIST
El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am Info: 209/372-4729 or olsyos@gmail.com

CHURCH OF CHRIST
El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am Info: 209/372-4729 or olsyos@gmail.com

Religious Services

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Yosemite Chapel, Sunday 8:15am, 11am, 3pm: 1006 Center Ct. in Yosemite Village, 209/372-4811

ROMAN CATHOLIC
Through September: Mass: Saturday, 6 pm at Lower Pines Amphitheater; Sunday, 10 am at Valley Visitor Center. Wednesday & Fridays: 6:30 pm; 9006 Center Ct. in Yosemite Village, 209/372-4729.

Beginning October 1: Mass: Sunday 10 am, Valley Visitor Center. More info: 209/372-4079 or stjohn.jpg@gmail.com

NPS National Park Service
DNC DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
TAAG The Ansel Adams Gallery
AAC American Alpine Club
SC Sierra Club
YC Yosemite Conservancy
YAC Yosemite Art Center
YMS Yosemite Mountainaing School
$ 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.

LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Sacrament meetings. Sunday 7pm. Memorial Day – Labor Day: Yosemite Chapel.

A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AT THE NATIONAL PARKS
9am Sunday at Lower Pines, Wawona, and Taft Point .Churches.

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
7:30pm Sunday, Tuesday, & Thursday DNC General Office Bldg. Yosemite Village.

LIONS CLUB
First and third Thursday of each month at noon at The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4475.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Biking & walking

JunIoR RAnGER WALk
(4 hrs) Yosemite Art and Education Center, details at left. $5 (YAC)

Art Workshop (4 hrs) Yosemite Art and Education Center, details at left. $5 (YAC)

ARTWORKSHOP (4 hrs) Yosemite Art and Education Center, details at left. $5 (YAC)

CHILdREn’S THEATRE LIVE: RAnGER nEd’S BIG AdVEnTuRE!
(Sept. 9 only) 1 hr. Lower River Amphitheater, shuttle stop #12, across river from Housekeeping Camp (DNC)

Yosemite Village, 209/372-4729.

TUESDAY
8:30am Camera Walk 1 hr. 9:00am Art Workshop (4 hrs) Yosemite Art and Education Center, details at left. $5 (YAC)

THURSDAY
10:00am Welcome to Yosemite with Ranger Shelton Johnson (except Sept. 21 and Sept. 28) 2hrs. Join in conversation and orientation about Yosemite. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS)

FRIDAY
8:30am Camera Walk 1 hr. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)

Saturday
9:00am HABITAT PROTECTORS OF YOSEMITE (HAPPY) 3 hrs. Meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center for a guided volunteer opportunity with a Ranger. We’ll be clearing weeds, picking up trash and litter throughout the Valley. Meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center. Wear closed-toe shoes, pants, long sleeves and long water. 209-379-1308. (NPS)

Sunday
9:30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK (except October 5) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)

9:00am Art Workshop (4 hrs) Yosemite Art and Education Center, details at left. $5 (YAC)

9:00am Welcome to Yosemite with Ranger Shelton Johnson (except Sept. 21 and Sept. 28) 2hrs. Join in conversation and orientation about Yosemite. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS)

9:00am Children’s Theatre Live: Ranger Ned’s Big Adventure! (Sept. 8 only) 1 hr. Lower River Amphitheater, shuttle stop #12, across river from Housekeeping Camp (DNC)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Thursday, September 8</strong></th>
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</table>
Wawona, Mariposa Grove, and Glacier Point

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 (Except Tuesdays and Wednesdays) from 8:00 am to 8:45 am.

Evening Programs
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 the history of Wawona with slide or music accompaniment. Check with Tom at the piano for dates and times.

Wawona Information Station at Hill's Studio
Open 8:30 am to 5 pm. The Wawona Visitor Center offers information about park activities, Wilderness permits, trail information, books, bear canister rentals, and maps. Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, Hill's Studio was the gallery and art studio of famous 19th-century landscape painter, Thomas Hill. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona Store parking area and follow the path up the hill. 209/375-9531

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 signs and brochures 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/ adults and $3/child (ages 3-12). See page 9 for stage ride schedule.

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 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. The access road to the grove may close intermittently due to limited parking.

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.

Wawona, Mariposa Grove, and Glacier Point

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. Weekends only after September 25. Please use this free bus service to help reduce congestion and parking delays.

Dogs and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove

*Budich Jr* Burnt Maier and the Wawona Stage Coach, NPS Photo
Glacier Point

Ranger Hikes

Join a ranger to explore new areas and to learn about the fascinating natural history around the Glacier Point Road. Also, read our feature story on page 18 for more on Glacier Point, and the journey (both present day and historical) to get there!

Evening Programs

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

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### WAWONA & MARIPOSA GROVE

- **Programs printed in** (NPS) are especially for children and their families.

#### Sunday

- **8:00am** Coffee with a Ranger: Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) $3
- **10:00am** Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove: 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) $3
- **10:00am** - 2:00pm: Horse-Drawn Stage Rides: 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) $3
- **2:00pm** Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove: 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) $3

#### Monday

- **8:00am** Coffee with a Ranger: Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) $3
- **10:00am** Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove: 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) $3
- **10:00am** - 2:00pm: Horse-Drawn Stage Rides: 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) $3

#### Tuesday

- **5:30pm** Vintage Music Of Yosemite: 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist/violinist Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening & ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC) $3

#### Wednesday

- **8:00am** Coffee with a Ranger: Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) $3
- **10:00am** Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove: 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) $3
- **2:00pm** Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove: 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) $3
- **5:30pm** Vintage Music Of Yosemite: 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist/violinist Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening & ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC) $3

#### Thursday

- **8:00am** Coffee with a Ranger: Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) $3
- **10:00am** Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove: 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) $3
- **10:00am** - 2:00pm: Horse-Drawn Stage Rides: 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) $3
- **2:00pm** Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove: 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) $3

#### Friday

- **8:00am** Coffee with a Ranger: Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) $3
- **10:00am** Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove: 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) $3
- **10:00am** - 2:00pm: Horse-Drawn Stage Rides: 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) $3
- **9:00am** - 11:30am: Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (Oct 1 only): 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) $3
- **10:00am** - 2:00pm: Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (Sept 10 & Oct 8 only): 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) $3
- **2:00pm** Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove (except Oct 1): 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) $3

#### Saturday

- **8:00am** Coffee with a Ranger: Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) $3
- **10:00am** Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove: 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) $3
- **11:00am** - 2:00pm: Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (Oct 1 only): 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) $3
- **2:00pm** Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove: 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) $3

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### GLACIER POINT

- **2:00pm** Sunset Ranger Talk (October 2nd & 9th only): Start Point, parking area on Glacier Point Road (NPS) $3
- **6:30pm** Sunset Ranger Talk (September 11, 17, and 23 only): Start Point, parking area on Glacier Point Road (NPS) $3
- **6:00pm** Full Moon Hike to Sentinel Dome (September 12 only): Start Point, parking area on Glacier Point Road (NPS) $3

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**Note:** Hours listed are core hours for facilities and may be extended during periods of peak visitation. Check local postings for changes to hours of operation.

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

- **Wawona**
  - Wawona Hotel Dining Room
    - Breakfast: 7:30am to 11am
    - Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm
    - Late Lunch (limited menu): 1:30pm-4:00pm
  - Lounge Service 5pm-9:30pm
  - Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
  - Golf Shop & Snack Stand
  - 8am to 6pm when golf course is open
  - Evening Deli
  - Taft Point
  - Coffee with a Ranger: ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) $3

- **Mariposa Grove**
  - Mariposa Grove Store
  - Pioneer Gift Shop
  - Taft Point
  - Mariposa Grove Museum
  - 10am to 4pm
  - Big Trees Gift Shop
  - 9am to 5pm

**GROCERIES**

- **Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop**
  - 8am to 6pm

**GIFTS & APPAREL**

- **Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop**
  - 8am to 6pm

**POST OFFICE**

- **Wawona Post Office**
  - Monday-Friday: 8am to 5pm
  - Saturday: 8am to noon

**GAS STATION**

- **Wawona Gas Station**
  - 8am to 6pm
  - Diesel & gasoline available
  - Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card

**GOLF**

- **Wawona Hotel Golf Course**
  - 9am to 5pm
  - Weather and conditions permitting
  - Nine-hole, par-35 course

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**Yosemite Guide** September 7, 2011 - October 11, 2011

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**Geology Hall:** Photo courtesy Yosemite Research Library
Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, and Crane Flat

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Open 9 am to 5 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 (except September 12) through September 16. 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 each, except for the long walks, which 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 Stable
Closes for the season on September 11. Horse or mule rides begin near the Dog Lake/Lembert Dome parking area. Stable hours are 7:00 am to 5 pm daily. Information: 209/372-8427. (Reservations 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.

Meredic 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 4¼ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along 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.
**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**

**White Wolf**
- **Tuolumne Meadows Lodge**
  - **Breakfast:** 7:30am to 9:30am (Closes after dinner Sept. 18)
  - **Lunch:** 9:30am to 3:00pm (Closes for the season after dinner Sept. 17)
  - **Dinner:** 6:00pm to 9:00pm (Closes after dinner Sept. 17)
  - **Specialty is especially for children and their families.**
- **Tuolumne Meadows Bookstore**
  - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
  - **Saturday:** 9am to 5pm
  - **Sunday:** 9am to 6pm (Closes for the season at noon September 18)
- **Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center**
  - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
- **Tuolumne Meadows Center**
  - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
  - **Saturday:** 9am to 5pm
- **Post Office**
  - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
  - **Saturday:** 9am to 5pm
- **GROCERS**
  - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
  - **Tuolumne Meadows Store**
    - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
    - **Saturday:** 9am to 6pm
  - **Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center**
    - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
    - **Saturday:** 9am to 6pm
- **Tuolumne Meadows Bookstore**
  - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
  - **Saturday:** 9am to 5pm
    - **Sunday:** 9am to 6pm (Closes after dinner Sept. 17)

**CRANE FLAT/HODG DON MEADOW/ HETCH HETCHY**

**Redwood**
- **Tuolumne Meadows Grill**
  - **Breakfast:** 7:30am to 9:30am
  - **Lunch:** 9:30am to 2:00pm
  - **Dinner:** 5:00pm to 9:00pm
- **Tuolumne Meadows Campground**
  - **Reservations recommended.**
  - **Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)**
    - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
    - **Saturday:** 9am to 6pm
    - **Sunday:** 9am to 6pm
  - **Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)**
    - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
    - **Saturday:** 9am to 6pm
    - **Sunday:** 9am to 6pm

**White Wolf**
- **Tuolumne Meadows Store**
  - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
  - **Saturday:** 9am to 6pm
  - **Sunday:** 9am to 5pm
- **Tuolumne Meadows Campground**
  - **Closes for the season Sept. 18.**
  - **Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center**
    - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
    - **Saturday:** 9am to 6pm
    - **Sunday:** 9am to 6pm
  - **Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center**
    - **Monday – Friday:** 9am to 5pm
    - **Saturday:** 9am to 6pm
    - **Sunday:** 9am to 5pm

**GAS STATIONS**
- **Tuolumne Meadows Gas**
  - **Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card. Pay at the pump after Sept. 18. (Propane not available when store closed.)**
- **Tuolumne Meadows Bookstore**
  - **Inside the Visitor Center**
    - **Monday – Friday.:** 9am to 5pm
    - **Saturday:** 9am to 6pm
    - **Sunday:** 9am to 5pm

**FREE SHUTTLE BUS**
- **Olmitz PL / Tuolumne / Tioga Pass**
  - **Service begins at 7am. Shuttle arrives at approximately 30-minute intervals between 7am and 7pm.**
  - ***Check local postings for updated hours of operation.*
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.
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 grub— 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 you'll be 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—they smell 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 209/372-3322. 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 road sides 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.

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<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.</td>
<td>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. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</td>
<td>You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided vehicles with windows closed.</td>
<td>Bear may enter campsite 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 vehicle or tent cabin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas &amp; on the Trails</td>
<td>Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm's reach. Don't turn your back to your food.</td>
<td>Bear may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking in the Wilderness</td>
<td>Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. 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>
<td>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. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!</td>
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</tbody>
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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!
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 in Fall, 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 over waterfalls 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 in 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

Rocks 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.
Preparing 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 (Stoneman 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 nonmotorized 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 amphibia, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

Pets

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

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. Pets are not allowed anywhere in the Mariposa or Merced sequoia groves. They are not allowed on trails, in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted prohibiting them.
- Pet owners 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 9 am to 6 pm. Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails. Bikes are not allowed to travel off paved trails. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite.

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.
Camping

**Camping in Yosemite.** Photo by Ray Santos

**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 at 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 campsites fill within a few minutes of the opening period.

For campground reservations, visit www.recreation.gov (recommended) or call 877/444-6777 or TDD 877/883- 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. Wawona Group Campsite remains on reservation year round.

**Camping 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>YOSEMITE VALLEY</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>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>Tap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>April 1 – Nov 15</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Tap</td>
<td></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>Tap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>No RVs/Trails</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$20/pers.</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Tap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</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>Apr 20 – Oct 3</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Tap</td>
<td></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>Tap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</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 15</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Tap</td>
<td></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>160</td>
<td>Tap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>July – Oct 1</td>
<td>No RVs/Trails</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>July – Sep 10</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>28 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July – Oct 12**</td>
<td>No RVs/Trails</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</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 (boil)</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. ** Open weekends ONLY after September 12

**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 (33” x 4’5” 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-Yosemite 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.

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

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- See page 5 for food storage regulations.
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- Firewood collection (including pine cones and pine needles) is not permitted in Yosemite Valley; you may purchase firewood at stores near the campgrounds.
Choose your adventure

With over 800 miles of hiking trails, what better way to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite than on foot? Ask a ranger at any visitor center for one of several free, day-hike handouts. Excellent maps and guidebooks are available at bookstores throughout the park.

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Fall Trail to Columbia Rock</td>
<td>Camp 4 Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 2-3 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round-trip, 6-8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 2,100-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>7 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,900-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>14 mi (via Mist Trail) or 16.3 mi (via John Muir Trail) round-trip, 10-12 hours</td>
<td>Extremely Strenuous, 4,800-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Day Hikes Outside of Yosemite Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WAWONA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>Swinging Bridge Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Story/ Pioneer Yosemite History Center Parking Area</td>
<td>4.75 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLACIER POINT ROAD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taft Point</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 mile round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel Dome</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 mile round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUOLUMNE MEADOWS AREA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda Springs/Parsenn Lodge</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>1.5 mile round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambert Dome</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Muir Trail through Lyell Canyon</td>
<td>Dog Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy, 200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lake</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Group Campground</td>
<td>4.8 miles round trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIDGIA ROAD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lukens Lake</td>
<td>White Wolf1</td>
<td>5.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>Porcupine Creek1</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 5,000- to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lukens Lake Trailhead2</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake2</td>
<td>19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HETCH HETCHY</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>

1These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers’ Bus.

Featured Trail

Dewey Point

7 miles (11.2 km) round trip / 4 hours

The trail to Dewey Point takes you through a red-fir forest, past an old cabin, and out to a great view of western Yosemite Valley, including El Capitan (photo, below).

The trail begins at the McGurk Meadow trailhead on the Glacier Point Road.

Stay off exposed cliffs and domes during thunderstorms! Thunderclouds can gather remarkably quickly in high elevation areas. Lightning strikes are a serious threat during thunderstorms, and wet granite can pose a slipping hazard. Use caution!
Glacier Point: *It’s all About the View*

By Park Ranger Dick Ewart

“...take the Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point” was the ranger's answer.

My question at the visitor center on that very first day of my very first visit to Yosemite, was, “Can you suggest a really hard hike with a great view?”

Being a physically fit twenty-three years old, I was a little insulted that the ranger thought that a four-mile hike would be really tough for me. Little did I know that the four miles were straight up, 3,200 feet, to the top of Yosemite’s vertical cliffs. Half way up, I had forgiven the ranger. Before I reached Glacier Point at 7,200 feet, I was so pleased the ranger hadn’t suggested a five-mile hike. My New England lungs had never experienced high elevations, and my legs had never experienced four miles like those four miles. However, the views along the way, including iconic features like Half Dome, El Capitan, and Yosemite Falls, were unlike any I had ever experienced before. Every step was a new and glorious vista. As I crested out and arrived at Glacier Point, exhausted, humbled, and ready for the promised view, I looked up and saw hundreds of people, a gift shop, and a ROAD!

I could have driven!!!

I’ve been a ranger in Yosemite now for 35 years and every day I thank James McCauley for building that trail back in 1872, so that I could have that all-important experience a century later. McCauley spent $5,000 building that trail, and he charged a toll of $1. Not everybody could make that trek, or was willing to work that hard, so in 1882, the Washburn brothers, who built the Wawona Hotel, had a stage road constructed to Glacier Point, at a cost of $8,000. After bouncing along a dirt road for six hours, and getting covered in dust, people could now experience the ultimate view with less physical exertion.

About the only event that could enhance this view is a sunset, or even a sunrise, thus requiring an overnight stay. And James McCauley was happy to oblige by renting out a few beds in his primitive Mountain House. After a tiring stage ride, or long hike, the Mountain House catered to weary visitors until 1917, when the Glacier Point Hotel was built by D.J. Desmond, one of the concessioners in Yosemite Valley. The Glacier Point Hotel was a beautiful, four-story, rustic wood structure, with seventy-eight rooms, half of which had a direct, unobstructed view of the symbol of Yosemite—Half Dome.

From Glacier Point, it feels like you can reach out and touch Half Dome, though it is almost three miles away. Yosemite’s total land mass is similar to the size of Rhode Island, and almost a third of Yosemite is visible from Glacier Point. If you are a hiker, you can dream about the hundreds of square miles of wilderness before you, waiting to be discovered. If you are not a hiker, you can still dream. Dreams, romance, memories... for those of you who have been visiting Yosemite for more than forty years, you know what’s next.

The Firefall

The nightly event that James McCauley unwittingly began in 1872 by pushing a campfire off of the 3,200-foot cliff, producing a waterfall effect made out of fire was the Firefall. This, unique nighttime view, by itself, attracted thousands of visitors to Yosemite Valley. Every day at Glacier Point, people still come up to me to tell me about their memories of the Firefall, and how they wish they could experience it just one more time. But it was an unnatural event in an area preserving natural processes—a national park. And the thousands of people every night in Yosemite Valley caused endless traffic jams, and trampled the meadows.

The Firefall was just too popular. By the late 1960s, philosophies were changing and the Firefall was extinguished for all time.

Then, in 1969, the Mountain House and the Glacier Point Hotel burned to the ground. Rebuild or not? There were arguments on both sides, but the decision was eventually made to not rebuild the hotel in order to preserve the view. Now in its place is a granite amphitheater for everyone’s viewing pleasure.

To more fully experience and understand the view, come on a ranger walk, sunset talk, or weekend astronomy program at Glacier Point. One hike on which I guide visitors is back down that memorable four-mile trail, which is just as impressive today as it was on my first day in Yosemite.

Whether you hike or drive, the view from Glacier Point will be with you for a lifetime, as it is with me. And, to the ranger in the visitor center that sent me up the Four Mile Trail all those many years ago: thank you!

Please see page 9 for additional information on Glacier Point activities and programs.

Dick Ewart has been a ranger in Yosemite for 35 years. He spends summers at Glacier Point leading hikes and other programs, and winter leading snowshoe walks at Badger Pass.
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 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, 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

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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.

Yosemite Conservancy
www.yosemiteconservancy.org

Yosemite Institute
Providing For Yosemite’s Future

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT: SPECIAL DRIVING CONSIDERATIONS

A record number of vehicles have been welcomed into Yosemite National Park this year. 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.
• Ride the free shuttle buses to enjoy Yosemite Valley most easily once parked.
• Consider arriving early and staying late, or visiting Yosemite during the week.
• Enjoy the entire Yosemite region—consider visiting the surrounding communities of Mariposa, Groveland, Lee Vining and Oakhurst.
• Ride a YARTS bus to enter the park on Hwy 140 from El Portal or Hwy 120 from Lee Vining.

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 12:00pm, 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 the Yosemite region.