FRIDAY, April 20th

2-5pm Earth Day Family Bike Ride
Roll along and discover why the Park’s environment is vital in protecting our planet's health. This is a fun, free and family-friendly event. Contact the Visitor Center for details.

Spend an hour with our Ansel Adams gallery curator viewing some of the Ansel Adams original photographs in our inventory. In the spirit of Earth Day, curator Evan Russel will discuss Ansel’s early approach to photography and how it evolved into a conservation tool and an expression of Mr. Adams’ love of nature. History of both The Ansel Adams Gallery and photography in the park will also be discussed, with time to answer questions throughout. Extremely limited space.

2-6pm National Junior Ranger Day Project
The park is the perfect place to celebrate Earth Day. Join the Junior Rangers on horseback, wilderness rangers, and a few national park rangers for a celebration of Earth Day in Yosemite! It’s not easy being green! Join us for a celebration of the 4th annual International Save The Frogs Day with frog walks and talks, a frog poster contest, free frog pins, bracelets and other stuff, a showing of the PBS film, Frogs: The Thin Green Line, and special appearances by Ranger Rick. The National Park Service has teamed up with Save The Frogs to bring you a new story about the world’s rarest amphibians. As always, admission is free to the public.

TUESDAY, April 24th

8-9:30pm Go With the Flow: Tracing the Merced River
The Merced River has drawn people to Yosemite for hundreds of years. Water flowing through it comes from the high mountain peaks, tumbles off waterfalls, flows through Yosemite Valley, and then to...where? Come meet a NatureBridge instructor who has walked with the Merced from beginning to end, and experience the Merced’s journey. (Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater)

SATURDAY, April 28th

Valley Visitor Center, 10am to 4pm
It’s not easy being green! Join us for a celebration of the 4th annual International Save The Frogs Day with frog walks and talks, a frog poster contest, free frog pins, bracelets and other stuff, a showing of the PBS film, Frogs: The Thin Green Line, and special appearances by Ranger Rick. The National Park Service has teamed up with Save The Frogs to bring you this special event. See page 3 of the Guide for more details and to learn more about Save the Frogs.

9-10:30pm Photo Walk: Ansel Adams and the Yosemite Landscape
Learn about Ansel’s contributions to the environmental movement. All ages. Contact the Visitor Center, meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.

9am Stewardship Project (1-3 hours)
Meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center. Join us to become a Junior Ranger! Through the Wilderness ceremony, you will learn about the value of the natural areas that cover the park. Participants must wear long sleeves, long pants, and sturdy shoes or boots. Gloves and tools will be provided.

11am-noon National Junior Ranger Day Walks (One in English and one in Spanish) Join a naturalist to explore the outdoor world of Yosemite and become a Jr. Ranger! Explore some of the habitats in Yosemite Valley, learn about some of the things that live here, and discover how to protect them. In front of the Indian Cultural Museum.

11am-12pm Camino de Guadarramas Jornadas, Donde: Reunirse al frente del Museo Cultural (Indian Cultural Museum)

3:30-4:30pm National Junior Ranger Day Walk, all ages welcome
11:30am-1:30pm Sustainable Salad Bar
Tasting Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNC) has a company-wide initiative to incorporate sustainable practices into all business decisions. Come by the tables in front of the Indian Cultural Museum to sample some of the organic and sustainable foods used in DNC’s kitchens.

12-4pm Universal Waste Collection Stop by to the Village Recycling Center to drop off that old TV set, computer or spent fluorescent lamps. In addition, learn a bit more about our national parks and the Park’s environmental ethic in practice $5/person, which includes bike rental (free if you bring your own bike). Advance tickets required. Info/tickets at any tour desk.

7-8:30pm Earth Day Family Night
Family friendly event of song, entertainment, and theater, including a dramatization of The Lorax and yoga, versus, Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (Cliff Room in inclement weather).

There’s a lot going on! Celebrate National Park Week, National Junior Ranger Day, Earth Week, Save The Frogs Day, and National Volunteer Day in Yosemite. Here is a list of all the free and family-friendly activities for this special week. Have a great Earth Day!

FRIDAY, April 20th

11am-12pm Universal Waste Collection
11:30am-12pm Sustainable Salad Bar
1-2pm National Volunteer Day Trash Pick-Up

SUNDAY, April 22nd, Earth Day 2012!
9-10:30am Photo Walk: Ansel Adams and the Yosemite Landscape
Join The Ansel Adams Gallery for an interpretive walk to learn more about Ansel’s contributions to the environmental movement. Open to all levels, bring your camera! Meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.

2-6pm Photography Class: In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams
Photographer Ansel Adams immortalized Yosemite National Park through his classic black & white images that pushed the popularity of landscape photography while helping to motivate the American environmental movement. Through the course of the class, you will visit a number of locations from where Ansel composed some of his most famous images. You will receive insight into Ansel’s life, photography and philosophies as well as basic lessons in photographic technique. Sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery.

1:30pm Earth Day Volunteer Project
Project will take roughly 1.5 hours. Meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center. Bring water and dress appropriately for a 2 hour walk/project. Celebrate Earth Day by taking care of our most precious places. We will be walking to different areas and collecting trash. Be ready to get some exercise, see some amazing views, and feel good about yourself.

3-4pm Fine Print Tour Spend an hour with our gallery curator viewing some of the Ansel Adams original photographs in our inventory. In the spirit of Earth Day, curator Evan Russel will discuss Ansel’s early approach to photography and how it evolved into a conservation tool and an expression of Mr. Adams’ love of nature. History of both The Ansel Adams Gallery and photography in the park will also be discussed, with time to answer questions throughout. Extremely limited space.

3:30-4:30pm National Junior Ranger Day Walk (in English)
Join a naturalist to explore the outdoor world of Yosemite and become a Jr. Ranger! Explore some of the habitats in Yosemite Valley, learn about some of the things that live here, and discover how to protect them. In front of the Indian Cultural Museum.

5:30-6:45pm Spring Twilight Stroll: Poetry and Parks, A Walk and Reading Ranger Margaret Easter will take visitors on an easy stroll. Meet on the lawn behind The Ahwahnee.

8:00-9:00pm Please see page 5 of the Yosemite Guide for regularly scheduled programs
Experience Your America    Yosemite National Park

Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Entrance Fees
Reservations 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
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
800/446-1333 or 209/966-7081

Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/683-4636 or 209/966-7081
www.yosemiteinyear.com

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/783-3074

Highway 140
Mariposa County Visitor Center
888/425-3366 or 209/966-7081

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

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

Highway 120 West
Calif. Welcome Center, Merced
559/444-5353 or 209/724-8104
www.yosemite-gateway.org

Yosemite Valley
Iconic Yosemite Valley is known around the world for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and can be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, and Highway 120 west from Manteca. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, and its plunging waterfalls including Yosemite Falls, the tallest waterfall in North America. Take an easy stroll to the base of Lower Yosemite Fall or, if you’re looking for a bigger challenge, hike to Vernal and/or Nevada Falls. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, bike, car, or with a tour, the scenery will leave you breathless and eager to see what’s around the next corner.
Glacier Point Road

Towering 3,214 feet above the Valley floor, Glacier Point offers spectacular views of the Merced River Canyon, including icons like Vernal and Nevada Falls and Half Dome. The Glacier Point Road, and campgrounds along the road, will open as conditions permit. You can get the latest road opening info at the Valley Visitor Center or by calling 209/372-0200.

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 1/2 hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park’s South Entrance station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed from sometime in December to April. 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.

Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

Crane Flat is located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. A number of hikes through pleasant meadows are available—when snow covers the ground these turn into delightful ski and snowshoe tracks. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk two steep miles down to this small grove. These groves north of Yosemite Valley are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off-limits to vehicles. Remember that the walk down is easier than the walk back up.

Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

Closed to vehicles in the winter, the Tioga Road offers winter adventurers a 39-mile scenic ski or snowshoe past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. In winter, Tuolumne Meadows is often reached by skiers from either Yosemite Valley Trailheads or the east entrance of the park by ways of Lee Vining Canyon.

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area’s low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. Hetch Hetchy Road is open from from 8am to 7pm through April 30, then 7am to 9pm through Labor Day. The road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is a 1 hour and 15 minute 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 Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog lacks the vocal sacs that many other frogs use to produce calls, but are able to make a relatively loud call nonetheless. The call is rarely heard by humans because it is produced under water.
- The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog was once one of the most abundant vertebrates in the Sierra Nevada.
- Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog's tadpoles take up to four years to develop into juvenile frogs.
- Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs play a pivotal role in high-elevation food webs; they are a top aquatic predator and important prey for predators like the western terrestrial garter snake.

Want to know more? Read our Feature Story on page 11 of the Yosemite Guide.

April 28, 2012 is the 4th annual international Save The Frogs Day! This day is dedicated to educating people about the plight of frogs around the world. Join us for a Frog Fair from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.
Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 5-6 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

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 Day Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock</td>
<td>Camp 4 Near 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, 6-9 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous 2,750-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (A seasonal lake) back of loop closed temporarily due to rockfall</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall footbridge, winter route</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, winter route</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, winter route</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>5 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,900-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point (Closed in winter past Union Point)</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 3,210-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #5</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 8-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How about a trail ride? Horse or mule rides begin at the stable near North Pines Campground. Opening April 20, conditions permitting. Stable hours are 8am to 5pm, with 2 hour rides at 9:00 am, noon, and 3:00pm. Information: 209/372-8348 (reservations strongly recommended).

Camping in Yosemite

Reservations are required March 15 through November for Yosemite Valley’s car campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flats, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. Campground reservations are available in blocks of one month at a time, up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month at 7 am Pacific time. Be aware that nearly all reservations for the months of May through September and for some other weekends are filled the first day they become available, usually within seconds or minutes after 7 am! To make reservations, visit www.recreation.gov (recommended) or call 877/444-6777.

Some first-come, first served camping is available in Yosemite Valley at Camp 4, and outside the Valley, conditions permitting.
Yosemite Valley

Thursday, April 12, 2012

5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs, Live music and historical interpretive programs with pianist/songer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30p.m, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details, Yosemite Hotel Lounge (DNC). $5

8:30pm NIGHT PROWL (except April 28) 1 hr Check local listings for venues and dates. (DNC/NPS)

Saturday, April 14, 2012

8:00pm Springtime Bird Walk 2 hours Yosemite Art Center (YC) $ 5:00pm WEE WILD ONES (except May 1) 1.5 hrs. Stories and activities for kids 6 & under, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater. (DNC) $ 9:00am Yosemite Art Center (YC) $ 4 Hrs at the Yosemite Art Center  $ (YC) For more information see Page 6

Wawona

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs, Live music and historical interpretive programs with pianist/songer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30p.m, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details, Yosemite Hotel Lounge (DNC). $5

8:30pm NIGHT PROWL (except April 28) 1 hr Check local listings for venues and dates. (DNC/NPS)

Sunday, April 15, 2012

5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs, Live music and historical interpretive programs with pianist/songer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30p.m, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details, Yosemite Hotel Lounge (DNC). $5

8:30pm NIGHT PROWL (except April 28) 1 hr Check local listings for venues and dates. (DNC/NPS)
Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore
Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 5 pm, just west of the main post office (shuttle stops 45 and 49). The center offers information, maps, and books in the attached bookstore. Explore the exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite’s spectacular landscape was formed, how people have interacted with it through the centuries, how wildlife adapts and survives, and how your national park continues to evolve.

FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE
This inspiring visitor-orientation film is shown every 30 minutes, Monday – Saturday between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 4:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Wilderness Permits
The Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center will open May 4th and the hours will be 8 am to 5 pm. Wilderness permits, bear canisters, and a variety of maps and books are available. Until May 4th, wilderness permits and bear canisters can be obtained at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center seven days a week from 9 am to 5 pm.

Yosemite Museum
Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center. Open 9 am to 5 pm, may close for lunch.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT
Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite’s Miwuk and Paiute people from 1850 to the present.

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

YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE XXVII EXHIBITION
The Yosemite Renaissance XXVII exhibition is open at the Yosemite Museum Gallery through May 6. Yosemite Renaissance is an annual exhibit, now in its twenty-seventh year, that encourages diverse interpretations of Yosemite and the environment of the Sierra Nevada. Its goals are to bring together the works of serious contemporary artists that do not simply duplicate traditional representations; to establish a continuum with past generations of Yosemite artists; and to help re-establish visual art as a major interpretive medium of the landscape and a stimulus to the protection of the environment.

Ansel Adams Gallery
In Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9 am to 5 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 www.anseladams.com.

April 1st-May 10th: “Unlabeled” Photographs by Jeff Grandy. Reception April 21st 3-5 pm.

May 12, 5-7 pm Silent Auction
On May 12th the Ansel Adams Gallery will host a silent art auction to benefit the Yosemite Climbing Association. The Yosemite Climbing Association is a non-profit that gathers Yosemite climbing history and sponsors the Yosemite Facelift which is the biggest volunteer cleanup event in the Park. The artwork will be up for three days and the auction will start at 5:00 pm and bidding will end promptly at 7:00 pm on May 12th. Wine and hors D’oeuvres will be served. This is Yosemite Climbing Association’s biggest fundraiser.

May 19, 11am-2pm, Book Signing
Join us on the front porch of The Ansel Adams Gallery for a book signing with Mike Graf, author of “Harrowing Ascent of Half Dome”, and check out the other books in the series “Adventures with the Parkers”.

May 14- July 1st, “Photo-Graphic Thinking” Photographs by Workshop Instructors and Assistant. Reception May 19, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Yosemite Art Center
The Yosemite Art Center is open every day from 9 am-4:30 pm (closed for lunch). Art workshops are held Tuesday through Saturday. There is a requested donation, supplies are available for purchase. The Yosemite Art Center offers original art, cards or gifts as well as art supplies.

Yosemite Art Center is located in Yosemite Village next to the Village Store. 209/372-1442.

April 10th-14th, Steve Carl
Catching the Light in Watercolor
April 17th-21st, Natalie Chan
Charcoal/ graphite Drawing
April 24th-28th, Bob Magneson
Drawing What You See
May 1st-5th, Heather Burton
Painting Plein Air Acrylic
May 8th-12th, Carolyn Fitz
Sumi E Ink Painting
May 15th-19th, Feiling Lin
Watercolor Fresh and Loose

May 22nd-26th, Sonja Hamilton
Watercolor; Waterfalls and Dogwoods

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.

April 21: A Saunter with John Muir Stroll Muir’s neighborhood with a descendant
May 5: Photographing the “Moonbow”
May 17-20 Spring Light Photography

Find all the details at www.yosemiteconservancy.org, or call 209/379-2317, ext. 10. Park entry and camping are included, motel rooms have already been set aside for these programs. The Conservancy also arranges Custom Adventures for individuals, families and groups: adventures@yosemiteconservancy.org.

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY)
Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY), Sundays starting May 6, 9am, up to 3 hrs.
Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Join Yosemite Facilities 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 participate for one to three hours. For more information, call 209/379-1850.

Happy Isles Nature Center
(Shuttle stop #16) Happy Isles Bookstore/Exhibits will be open Sunday-Saturday April 21/22 & 28-29, from 9:30am to 5pm. Starting May 2nd, the exhibits will be open Monday – Friday, from 10am to 4pm (may close for lunch), and the bookstore and exhibits will be open Saturday-Sunday from 9:30am to 5pm.

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

POST OFFICE
Yosemite Village
Main Office
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
Saturday: 10am to noon
Yosemite Lodge
Post & Pioneer Gift Shop
Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm
El Portal
Post Office
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30
Wawona Post Office
Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to noon

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL
Yosemite Village
The Ansel Adams Gallery
9am - 5pm
Yosemite Bookstore
Inside Yosemite Visitor Center
9am to 5pm
Yosemite Museum Store
9am to 5pm
Village Store
8am to 9pm
Habitat Yosemite
11am to 4pm Thurs.-Sun. only
Sport Shop
10am to 5pm

The Ahwahnee
The Ahwahnee Gift Shop
8am to 9pm
The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop
7am to 10pm
Yosemite Lodge
Gift/Grocery
8am to 8pm
Nature Shop
10am to 7pm

Give Village
Mountain Shop
8am to 6pm
Curry Village Gift/Grocery
8am-8pm

Housekeeping Camp Grocery
Open 12-6 April 19, weather permitting, then 8am to 6pm.

Wawona and the Mariposa Grove Store
Gift/Grocery
8am to 6pm

Big Trees Gift Shop
Open April 13, conditions permitting, open 9am to 5pm

Habitat Yosemite
11am to 4pm Thurs.-Sun. only
**Visitor Services**

**Beyond Yosemite Valley**

*Wawona*

The Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio opens Friday, May 11, 2012 and will be open daily from 8:30am to 5pm, offering visitor information, wilderness permits, bear canisters rentals, and a variety of books and maps. Until May 11th, wilderness permits can be obtained by self registration on the porch of Hill’s Studio and bear canisters are available for rent at the Wawona Store.

*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 explains how Yosemite inspired national parks across America and around the world. The center is open throughout the year.

*Mariposa Grove*

Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. The road to the Grove will open when weather permits.

**Getting to the Mariposa Grove**

Allow an hour’s driving time to reach the Grove’s access road from Yosemite Valley. A free shuttle is available from the Wawona Store to the Mariposa Grove on weekends beginning April 21, daily beginning May 4, weather permitting.

**Dogs and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.**

**Craneflat & Hetch Hetchy**

*Big Oak Flat and North Entrance*

The route enters the park on California Hwy 120. Yosemite’s north region is often uncrowded, and offers lesser-known gems including the giant sequoia groves near Crane Flat, and the trails and waterfalls of Hetch Hetchy.

The Information Station opens Friday, May 11, 2012 and will be open daily from 8am to 5pm, offering visitor information, wilderness permits, bear canisters rentals, and a variety of books and maps. Until May 11th, wilderness permits can be obtained by self registration on the porch of the Big Oak Flat Information Station. Please come prepared with your own allowed bear canister.

**Merced Grove**

Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees. It’s a four-mile round-trip hike from the Big Oak Flat Road.

**Tuolumne Grove**

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat. The path drops 300 feet (350 meters) in one mile. The trip is moderately strenuous.

**Tuolumne Meadows**

**Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center**

Opening date pending. When open, hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

**Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs**

Two trails, both flat and 3/4 mi. long, lead to this historic area.

**Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center**

The center is scheduled to open along with the Tioga Road. Please check the website for hours of operation. Wilderness permits, bear canisters, information, books, and maps are available. The center is located just as you turn onto the Tuolumne Lodge Road.
Experience Your America  Yosemite National Park

Protecting yourself...

Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

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

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

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

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

Water Quality
To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking. Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier. To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities 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, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing
While a trail may start out snow free be prepared for patches of snow or for the snow to become continuous. Summer trails are not marked for winter use. Hikers may lose the trail when crossing a stretch of snow and subsequently become disoriented while searching for the trail. Stay oriented by using landmarks and a map.
• Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back.
• Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
• Check weather forecasts. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult.
• Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food.
• Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.
• Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.
• Thoroughly check snow bridges for integrity before crossing streams.
• During spring months rising air temperatures can quickly melt snow creating fast flowing creeks that become a barrier to the entry or exit of certain areas.

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 in Yosemite Valley (see page 6) and at the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station during hours of operation. Wilderness permits are also available at the Hill’s Studio in Wawona and at the Big Oak Flat Information Station (see page 7).

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. For summer trips, reservations are taken from 24 weeks to two days in advance of the start of your trip. A processing fee of $5 per permit plus $5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. Check the park’s website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740.

Half Dome Permit Information
Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are required seven days per week when the Cables are up for 2012, May 25 to October 8, conditions permitting. This interim measure increases safety along the cables while the park develops a long-term plan to manage use on the Half Dome Trail. In addition to the 300 permits per day released during the preseason lottery, approximately 50 permits will be available each day by lottery during the hiking season. These permits will be available based on the estimated rate of use and cancellations of permits (the exact number may change through the summer). The daily lotteries will have an application period two days prior to the hiking date with a notification late that night. To apply for a permit, visit Recreation.gov or call 877/444-6777. An application fee applies to all and a use fee applies to winning applicants. Backpackers with an appropriate wilderness permit can receive a Half Dome permit when they pick up their wilderness permit (use fee applies). Rock climbers who reach the top of Half Dome without entering the subdome area can descend on the Half Dome Trail without a permit.

More information is available at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.
Keep 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 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, go 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 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. Bears that become accustomed to human food 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.

If you see a coyote during your visit to Yosemite, consider yourself lucky. Spend some time watching its natural behavior from a distance (at least 30 yards).

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/food). Coyotes
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.

If you see a coyote during your visit to Yosemite, consider yourself lucky. Spend some time watching its natural behavior from a distance (at least 30 yards).

Weather in Yosemite
Dressing in layers and bringing plenty of water (even during cooler months) will 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 in 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. Temperatures in winter can range well below freezing up into the 60s during the day. Shady spots on trails and roads can remain icy even during the warmth of the day.

...and Yosemite
Saving The Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog

By Heather McKenny, Aquatic Ecologist

The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog was once the most abundant vertebrate found in Yosemite’s high country.

In Grinnell and Storer’s 1924 book Animal Life in the Yosemite, they described the frog as “...the commonest frog in most parts of the Yosemite section.”

Visitors to mountain lakes used to find hundreds of frogs sitting quietly on rocks basking in the sun or hunting for insects in the grass. People walking along shorelines would have their progress announced by a series of plops as the frogs leapt back into the water. In 1959, David Wake reported finding so many Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs along the shoreline of an alpine lake that “it was difficult to walk without stepping on them”, by the late-1980s the frogs were completely gone from this site.

Today the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is one of the world’s most critically endangered amphibians; over 93% of their populations have disappeared and we continue to lose populations at an alarming rate. Because of their dramatic decline, the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is a Candidate Species for listing under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and it is a Threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act.

Why is this?

Highly aquatic amphibian species, such as the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, are particularly vulnerable to predation by non-native trout. Trout prey on all of the frog’s life stages and they compete with the frogs for food. As early as the 1920s, scientist noted that the introduction of fish caused the frog’s populations to plummet and, often, disappear. Interestingly, most fish found in Yosemite are not native to the area; they descended from the over 33 million non-native trout released in Yosemite between 1877 and 1990. Native fish were only found in the lower elevations of the Merced River into Yosemite Valley; waterfalls prevented further colonization upstream after the last glaciers retreated. As a result, the majority of Yosemite’s lakes, ponds, and rivers are naturally fishless, and the aquatic wildlife, including the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, that colonized these water bodies evolved over thousands of years without predatory fish.

Other issues affecting the frogs include disease, loss of habitat, pesticide use, air pollution, and climate change.

What can I do to Save the Frogs?

Get educated! Visit the Yosemite National Park website and learn more about ways the park works to protect this vulnerable species. And remember that the choices you make at home ultimately affect the animals and plants living both near you and here in the park. Protecting our natural resources makes a healthier future for us and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs.

Celebrate Save the Frogs Day! April 28, 2012

Frogs are fascinating creatures that have lived for over 200 million years. But it’s not easy being green (or brown, or yellow, or blue, or even purple). Did you know that frog populations have been declining worldwide at unprecedented rates, and nearly one-third of the world’s amphibian species are threatened with extinction? Here in Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada, the mountain yellow-legged frog is on the verge of disappearing forever.

Discover more about these remarkable animals—and learn how you can help protect them as well—during Yosemite’s celebration of the 4th annual international Save the Frogs Day. Come browse the “frog fair” from 10 am to 4:00 pm with displays on frog research and education in the park, participate in the fun frog-focused walks and talks, and watch a screening of the PBS documentary, Frogs: The Thin Green Line. Kids of all ages can participate in a Save the Frogs poster contest. Enjoy the free pins, bracelets, and postcards (while supplies last) and see Belle the Balloon Girl make some incredible balloon frogs. Ranger Rick will also be making special appearances throughout the day.

The National Park Service has teamed up with Save The Frogs, the National Wildlife Federation, and Delaware North Parks and Resorts to bring you this special event. Enjoy the free pins, bracelets, and postcards (while supplies last) and see Belle the Balloon Girl make some incredible balloon frogs. Ranger Rick will also be making special appearances throughout the day.

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Valley Visitor Center, 10 am to 4 pm.
Supporting Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s Future

Enhance the Visitor’s Experience
It takes a legion of people working together to protect this special park for you and future generations of visitors. You, too, can extend your connection to Yosemite well after you return home by getting involved with the organizations that partner to preserve Yosemite.
This publication was made possible by the Yosemite Park Partners listed on this page. Read more below or visit www.yosemitepartners.org to learn more about helping these organizations provide for the future of Yosemite National Park.

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

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite
DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite (DNC) operates hotels, restaurants, 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

NatureBridge
NatureBridge provides residential field science programs for youth in the world’s most spectacular classroom - Yosemite National Park. Through active student engagement, our faculty teaches science, history, and the arts and gives these subjects context through personal experience. A NatureBridge learning adventure strives to foster a lifelong connection to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it. Find out more about our year-round programs for schools and summer programs for individual teens at www.naturebridge.org/yosemite

NatureBridge

Want to Get Involved?
Merced River Plan Alternative Concepts Workshops
Please join us for our spring 2012 Merced River Plan alternative concepts workshops. We invite you to attend one of the remaining public meetings or an online webinar that will detail a number of alternative ways to responsibly manage the Merced Wild and Scenic River Corridor. The Merced River Plan will guide future management of the corridor’s restoration, user capacity, and land use for the next 20 years. Public meetings include optional site visits to tour pertinent locations addressed in the alternative concepts.

April 11 Online: 6:30-8:30 p.m. by registering at yose.webex.com.
April 12 El Portal: 2-4 p.m. site visit and 5:30-8 p.m. workshop. Meet at the El Portal Community Hall.
April 13 Wawona: 10 a.m.-Noon site visit and 1-3:30 p.m. workshop. Meet at the Wawona Community Hall.
Access the spring 2012 Alternative Concepts Workbook online at www.nps.gov/vose/parkmgmt/mrpf.htm. Workbook copies will be distributed at the public meetings. The MRP comment period is open through April 20 on PEPC at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/MRPMedia. Call 209/379-1110 with questions.