Seasonal Highlights

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

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours. Here are some popular activities for a day in Yosemite National Park.

Take the Bus!
Free shuttles, including some environmentally-friendly electric/diesel hybrids, are available in Yosemite Valley year-round. Park your car and let an expert driver do most of the work. You'll also have both hands free for that perfect shot of Half Dome.

Explore a Sequoia Grove
Meet the most massive living trees on earth as you explore a sequoia grove. Yosemite is home to three groves—each with its own walking distance from a road. Skis or snowshoes are recommended if the trail is snow covered. (See map on page 2 and info on page 7.)

Halloween Cemetery Tour
October 27th and 31st only. Join us for a walking tour of the Yosemite Cemetery, which is in front of the Valley Visitor Center with a flashlight at 7:30pm.

Enjoy the Fall Colors
Yosemite Valley is a great place to see spectacular fall colors. While each year is different, the end of October through mid-November are often good times to watch the seasons change around you. Trees like dogwood, maple, oak, and alder and plants like Indian hemp and goldenrod help give the Valley a golden glow during the fall. Ask at a Visitor Center to find out where the best seasonal show is happening during your visit.

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 6.)

Stroll with a Ranger
Learn about park wonders on a ranger-guided walk. Programs are offered daily in Yosemite Valley focusing on bears, geology, trees, and other topics. (See page 5 for times and places.)

Winter Weather

Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite
The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove roads are closed each year from after the first significant snowfall to about late May or early June. Other roads are generally snowed in and maintained, but can close or reopen during storm periods. Motorists are advised to always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel. Highways can be closed due to snowfall and snow chains are required during storms. For the most current road conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park, or 800/447-7623 or visit us at www.dot.ca.gov for highways connecting to Yosemite.

Tour The Ahwahnee...
Step back to an earlier era of history as you explore the National Historic Landmark that opened in 1927. Notable for its architecture and artful decor, the hotel provides a cozy atmosphere to relax and enjoy a warm drink in. (Food & Beverage, page 7)

... or Curl Up in Front of a Fireplace!
The Ahwahnee has three over-sized fireplaces that match the proportion of the structure and that have always provided heat during the winter's cooler months. Bring a book, a warm drink, or at least a pair of fuzzy socks for a good warm-up in front of the flames.

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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.

Interagency Military Pass (Free)
(Lifetime) For active duty U.S. military and dependents

Reservations
Campground Reservations 877/444-6777
www.recreation.gov

Lodging Reservations
801/559-5600
www.yosemitetopark.com

Regional Info
Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)
www.yarts.com

Highway 120 West
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce
800/349-9129 or 209/962-0429
Tulolumne County Visitors Bureau
800/446-1333
www.tcb.com

Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
555/83-4636
www.yosemitehhiyear.com

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/876-3074

Highway 140
Mariposa County Visitors Bureau
866/342-3366 or 209/966-7081

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

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

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

Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 west from Manteca, and via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, its plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and its attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow recharge it, a moderate hike will take you to Vernal and Nevada Falls. Yosemite’s meadows are great places to see wildlife and to photograph fall colors. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from 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.

Grass, the Merced River, trees, and meadows compose the Valley's unique blend. Photo by Christine White Laboratory
Glacier Point Road

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. The road stays open as weather permits, although overnight parking along it ends on Oct. 15. When snow covers the road and conditions permit, a system of cross-country ski tracks is maintained on it. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left 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.

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 station. When weather permits, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is a short drive from Wawona. Help reduce congestion by taking the free shuttle from the Wawona Store, available weekends from 9am to 6pm as weather permits. The road to the grove is closed to vehicles after the first big snowstorm, making it a peaceful hike or snowshoe for winter adventurers. See page 7 for Mariposa Grove hiking details. 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

The Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road closes after the first big snowfall, and overnight parking ends on October 15. The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. Tuolumne Meadows embodies the high-country of the Sierra Nevada. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. In winter, Tuolumne Meadows is often reached by skiers via the Snow Creek Trail from the Mirror Lake trailhead, a short distance east of Yosemite Valley.

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 limited hours: 8 am to 7 pm through Oct. 31, then 8 am to 5 pm through March 31. 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.
Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas in the heart of the park

The Incomparable Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley embraces one of the world’s most outstanding concentrations of waterfalls, granite walls, meadows, wildflowers, and trees. The Valley also harbors a rich collection of human stories, from American Indian lore to the birth of the National Park movement.

Yosemite Valley

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

The base of Lower Yosemite Fall is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. (Both Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow return.) This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired. Although Yosemite Falls dries up by the end of the summer, Bridalveil Fall is a year-round waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds swirling about the cliff lift and blow the falling water in a delicate free-fall.

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.

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, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite’s geologic story.

Shuttle buses may not travel to stop #16 when the road is snow-covered or icy.

Winter sports get underway in November and December. Badger Pass Ski Area is tentatively scheduled to open on December 14. The ice rink at Curry Village is scheduled to open on November 4.

To experience the Valley on foot, stop by a visitor center for a trail map and the most current trail conditions, or see page 9 for a list of popular Valley day hikes.

To experience the Valley by bike, bring or rent a bike. Curry Village Bike Rental stand is open from 9:00am - 5:00pm. Yosemite Lodge Bike Stand is open from 10:00am - 4:00pm.

Weather permitting, several motor coach sightseeing tours are available in Yosemite. To experience the Valley with a guide, take the Valley Floor Tour. This 2-hour tour departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge.

The Glacier Point Tour is a four-hour round trip from Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, which departs daily from Yosemite Lodge. The Glacier Point Tour also offers a one-way ticket for adventurers to hike back down to Yosemite Valley.

The Grand Tour is an eight-hour combination of Big Trees and Glacier Point tours and departs daily from Yosemite Lodge.

Both tours end when snow closes Glacier Point Road.

Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at tour/transportation desks at the Yosemite Lodge, open 7:30am to 5pm.
Events and Programs
Where to go and what to do

YOSEMITE VALLEY AND BADGER PASS

Sunday
10:00am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS).
2:00pm Ranger Walk - Bears 1 1/2 hrs., shuttle stop #6 (NPS).
7:30pm Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC).

Monday
9:00am Camera Walk 1 1/2 hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel (TAAG).
12:30pm "Using your Digital Camera" Class 1 hr. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery $ (TAAG).
1:30pm BEGINNER’S ART (October 15, 22, 29 only) 2hrs (min age 8) Yosemite Art Center (YC).
2:00pm Ranger Walk - Yosemite’s First People 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS).
7:30pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic (NPS).
8:30pm NIGHT PROWL (October only) 1 1/2 hrs. Yosemite at night! Tickets/Info at any tour desk (DNC).

Tuesday
9:00am Camera Walk 1 1/2 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG).
10:00am Art Workshop (October 16, 23, 30; Nov. 6 only) 4hrs, Yosemite Art Center. For more information see page 6 (YC).
12:30pm Yosemite Forum (October 17 only) 1 hr. "Smoke and Health". Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS).
12:00pm Yosemite Forum (November 13 only) 1 hr. “American Indians of the Yosemite Region” Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS).
12:30pm "In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams" Class 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery $ (TAAG).
2:00pm Ranger Walk - Geology 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS).
7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: "Search & Rescue in Yosemite" with veteran ranger John Dill. 1 1/2 hrs. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) (Final show October 31).
7:30pm Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC).

Wednesday
10:00am Art Workshop (October 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7 only) 4hrs, Yosemite Art Center. For more information see page 6 (YC).
2:00pm Ranger Walk - Yosemite's Legacy 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS).
3:00pm FIRST HOURS STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES (Nov 21 only) 1 hr. The Mountain Room Lounge Bar (DNC).
4:00pm Naturalist Stroll (November and December only) 1 hr. See local listings for title, The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC).
5:00pm Naturalist Stroll (October only) 1 hr. See local listings for title, The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC).
7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: "The Spirit of John Muir" performed by Lee Stetson. 1 1/2 hrs. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) (October 10 only).
7:30pm Halloween Cemetery Tour (Oct 31 only) 1 1/2 hrs. Walking tour of the Yosemite Cemetery, meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center with a flashlight (DNC).
7:30pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic (NPS).

Thursday
9:00am Camera Walk 1 1/2 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG).
10:00am Art Workshop (October 18, 25, Nov 1, 8 only) 4hrs, Yosemite Art Center. For more information see page 6 (YC).
12:30pm "Using your Digital Camera" Class 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery $ (TAAG).
1:30pm Ranger Walk - "Wild Life" The Ahwahnee area (NPS).
7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: "Conversation with a Tramp: an Evening with John Muir" performed by Lee Stetson. 1 1/2 hrs. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) (October 10 only).
7:30pm Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC).
8:00pm FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES (through Nov. 8) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC).

Friday
10:00am Art Workshop (October 19, Nov. 2, 9, 2 only) 4hrs, Yosemite Art Center. For more information see page 6 (YC).
2:00pm Ranger Walk - Wild About Wildlife 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS).
7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: Return to Balance: A Climber’s Journey followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk; featured in the film. 1 1/2 hrs. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) (Final show November 2).
7:30pm Film: Ansel Adams’ Thrs. Check local listings for venue (TAAG).

Saturday
9:00am Camera Walk 1 1/2 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG).
9:00am WEE WILD ONES (except Oct 27 & Nov 17) 45 min. Stories and activities for ages 3-6, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC).
10:00am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS).
10:00am Art Workshop 4hrs (October 20, 27, Nov 3, 10 only) Yosemite Art Center. For more information see page 6 (YC).
12:30pm "In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams" Class 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery $ (TAAG).
2:00pm Ranger Walk - Merced Meanders 1 1/2 hrs. shuttle stop #6 (NPS).
3:00pm Fine Print Tour 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.
7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: Return to Balance: A Climber’s Journey followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk; featured in the film. 1 1/2 hrs. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) (Final show November 3).
7:30pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic (NPS).
7:30pm Halloween Cemetery Tour (Oct 27 only) 1 1/2 hrs. Walking tour of the Yosemite Cemetery, meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center with a flashlight (DNC).

Access for People with Disabilities:
Accessible parking, lodging, tours, and activities are available throughout the park.

For a complete list of accessible services, recreational opportunities, and exhibits, pick up an updated Yosemite Accessibility Guide which is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm. or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at 209/375-1010 for more information.

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

Sign Language interpreting is available upon request. Contact Daf Series at 209/375-5250 (voice) Two weeks advance notice is requested.

Accessibility 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.

NPS National Park Service
DNC DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
TAAG The Ansel Adams Gallery
YC Yosemite Conservancy
$ Programs offered for a fee
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 #5 and #9). 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
Spirit of Yosemite shows every 30 minutes, Monday through Saturday between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm, Sunday between noon and 4:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Wilderness Permits
The Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village adjacent to the post office. Hours are 8 am to 5 pm. Visit the wilderness center to learn about wilderness safety, plan trips, obtain permits and maps, and rent canisters. The wilderness center will close for the season on October 21st. After October 21st, wilderness permits and bear canisters can be obtained at the Yosemite Village Visitor Center daily 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
Interpret cultural history of Yosemite’s Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present.

Yosemite Art Center
Yosemite Conservancy invites you to participate in one of our art workshops held Tuesday through Saturday through Nov 19. There is a $10 donation for each session; supplies can be purchased at registration. Located in Yosemite Village next to the Village Store. Open daily 9am-4:30pm (closed for lunch). To register in advance call 209-372-1442 or register in person. (For the season Dec 1st)

SPECIAL EXHIBITS: From Our Point of View. Artwork by residents and employees of Yosemite National Park will be shown. Nov 5-30.

Oct. 9-13 Henrietta Sparksman Monotype Expressions Printmaking
Oct. 16-20 John Hewitt Plein Air Watercolor
Oct. 21-27 Jennifer Starr Block, Box and Book Block printing
Nov. 3-Nov. 9 Pam Pederson Pen and Ink Sketching with Watercolor

Shasta Potecky Creating Your Own Journal

Yosemite Outdoor Adventures
Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing the wonder of Yosemite. Join one of our year-round programs and explore Yosemite with us. The Department of Natural Resources offers a variety of outdoor activities for all ages. Please call 209-372-1442 for more information or visit www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures.

Camping and park entry is included, additional lodging options available. Private and custom tours can also be arranged for individuals, families and groups. Contact us at adventures@yosemiteconservancy.org or call 209-379-2317 Ext. 10.
Wawona

Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio
Bookstore (open) only through November 4th; 9-5 daily, may close for lunch; November 9th - 23rd; open 9-5, Fri-Sun, may close for lunch; closed after November 25th.

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 open throughout the year.

Evening Programs
Join pianist/singer Tom Borpo in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite's past.

Wilderness Permits
Wilderness permits can be obtained by self-registration on the front porch of Hill's Studio and bear canisters are available for rent at the Wawona Store.

Mariposa Grove
Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area. Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area. The road to the Grove typically closes in November or December. Visitors can walk, ski, or snowshoe when the road is closed to vehicles.

GETTING TO MARIPOSA GROVE
Allow 1½ hours driving time to reach the Grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot. Trailers are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road. Private vehicles longer than 25 feet are not permitted.

MARIPOSA GROVE & WAWONA SHUTTLE
A free shuttle stops at the Wawona Store, South Entrance, and Mariposa Grove. Visitors may park at the Wawona Store to board the bus. Operates 9am - 6pm weekends only. Closes October 30th or after the first snowfall.

BIG TREES TRAM TOUR
A 1½ hr. tour of the grove is available if weather permits through Oct. 30 or after the first snowfall. The audio tour is available in five languages and for the visually impaired. Call 209-375-1621.

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. When snow covers the ground, access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski. Dogs and pets are not permitted anywhere in the Mariposa Grove.

Big Oak Flat

Big Oak Flat Information Station
Open 8am to 5pm. The information station offers general park information, wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, books and maps. From October 15th through November 8th, the Bookstore only will be open daily from 9am to 5pm. From November 9th through November 25th, the Bookstore will be open Friday through Sunday from 9am to 5pm. Starting October 15th, the Big Oak Flat Road from Crane Flat to Tuolomne Pass, including all parking lots, is closed to any overnight parking and wilderness permits can be obtained by self-registration at the Tuolomne Meadows Ranger Station.

Visitor Services

Beyond Yosemite Valley

GROCERIES
Yosemite Village Gift/Grocery
8am to 7pm
Yosemite Village Village Store
8am to 8pm
Curry Village Gift/Grocery
8am to 7pm
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 6pm
Crane Flat Store
10am-4pm

GAS STATIONS
Gas outside Yosemite Valley
El Portal
Diesel available
Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card
Wasco Gas Station
9am to 6pm
Crane Flat
9am to 6pm

SHOWER AND LAUNDRY
Curry Village Showers
Open 24 hours
Housekeeping Camp: Leasiformat
8am to 7pm

GENERAL SERVICES
Village Garage
Open 5:30 am to 6:30 pm
Village Post Office
Open 7:30 am to 5:30 pm

Dental Services
Adjacent to Yosemite Medical Clinic For hours, call 209-372-4200. If no answer, call 209-372-4687

Yosemite Medical Clinic
The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am and 5:00pm and is closed on Saturday and Sunday. 24 hour emergency ambulance service continues to be available. Emergency care: 24 hours daily, 209-372-4687

RELIGIOUS SERVICES
YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH (Yosemite Chapel/Pastor Brent Moore-Resident Minister, 209-372-4831)
www.YosemiteValleyChapel.org, Wedding information on our website.

SUNDAY SERVICES
9:15AM (Sunday School available) 6:30 PM Sunday Evening Service

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES
Women’s Bible (7:00 PM call church for location) Men’s Bible (7:00 PM call church for location)

THURSDAY MIDWEEK SERVICE
Thursday Evening Service

ROMAN CATHOLIC
SUNDAY MASS CELEBRATIONS
Sunday, 10:00 am in Yosemite Chapel, Trailer Store # 5 or 9

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
MAYMASS CELEBRATIONS Call for times, 209-372-4729

CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)
El Portal Chapel/Worship, Saturday 11 am

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
7:30 pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday

CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKERS UNION
(employees Training Center) Yosemite Village
Saturday night at 5 pm

LION’S CLUB
Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Alcove, Call (209) 372-4775.

ROCKSTAR INTERNATIONAL
Meets the second Tuesday of each month at noon in The Ahwahnee Main Room. Virtual Rotarian families and guests welcome. For meeting reservations or information, call 209-372-0282.

Yosemite Guide October 10, 2012 - December 11, 2012
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.

### Avoid Hypothermia

Sierra winters are comparatively mild, but temperatures can drop into dangerous territory with little warning. Winter sports 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, wash, camp, and bury human waste (6 inches deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

### 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:

- 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.

### 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. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

### Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

- 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.

### Wilderness Permit Details

Free wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Please see Wilderness Permit Information on pages 6 and 7 of this Guide for more information about obtaining Wilderness Permits.

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.

For more information, visit:
- www.nps.gov/yose/permit.html
- www.lnt.org
- Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue www.friendofyosar.org

### HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases that are harmful to humans.

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread in the droppings and saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. You can be in close proximity to park rodents, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS.

Tell housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your tent or cabin and do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors shut and do not eat or bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. Do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or dropings. HPS begins with aches, fever, and chills 1-8 weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and difficulty breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms.

For more information, visit:
- www.cdc.gov/hantavirus
- www.nps.gov/yose
Keeping Bears Wild

Keep Yosemite’s Black Bears Wild and Alive, while protecting yourself and your property.

Store Your Food Properly.

4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, berries, acorns, and grubs—that’s the typical daily diet of most bears. It’s a lot easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling at grasses. Their incredible sense of smell allows them to detect things we can’t, which helps them find food—a black bear can smell a dead deer three miles away. To top it off, bears have excellent vision and can see in color, so they recognize ice chests, garbage bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.

If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.

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

Drive the speed limit.

The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Slow down! Driving too fast is almost always the cause of these accidental deaths. Please report bear sightings by calling 209/372-0322.

How to Store Food

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FOOD STORAGE</th>
<th>WHY?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your Vehicle</td>
<td>You 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>Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break (with 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 boxes with windows closed.</td>
<td>Bears may enter campgrounds when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and latched at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas &amp; on the Trails</td>
<td>Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm’s reach. Don’t turn your back to your food.</td>
<td>Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking in the Wilderness</td>
<td>Bear-resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hunting food is prohibited in Yosemite.</td>
<td>In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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>Strassen 1,800-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 Strassen 2,700-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (A seasonal lake due to lake closed temporarily due to reservoir)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Trail to Sentinel Bridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 460-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>Strassen 1,600-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>5 miles round-trip, 4-6 hours</td>
<td>Strassen 1,900-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point (Closed in winter)</td>
<td>Southside Overlook</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Very Strassen, 3,290-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.3 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yosemite Guardians

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. With nearly 4 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be! During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items, such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Biking off of paved roads
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons inside federal facilities

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and call the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety/arm and find a copy of the Superintendent’s Compendium. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulation (Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7 and 34), and other applicable federal statutes and regulations.
Conservationist John Muir lived in Yosemite Valley for a few years, when he was in his 30’s. Muir grew up in Scotland and Wisconsin, and had set off traveling to study the botany of the Amazon, when he contracted malaria in the American South. He sought somewhere with a modest climate where he could rest up and get healthy; he’d heard of Yosemite and the giant sequoias, so thought he’d come recuperate here for a year or so.

He came to California by ship from the east coast, via train across Panama, landed in San Francisco and walked up to Yosemite. His initial time in Yosemite was a couple weeks as a tourist, visiting Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove, then he found ranch work in the lowest Sierra foothills for a year. His employer sent him back up to Yosemite with a herd of sheep for his first summer in the park. After a bit more ranch work he returned to Yosemite Valley and worked for hotelier James Hutchings for two years, running a sawmill, building more hotel units for Hutchings and starting to guide some tourists.

Still grow. Muir next built himself a small shack suspended from the eaves of Hutchings sawmill. A trace of the ditch that brought Yosemite Creek water to turn a wheel that powered the saw blade can still be seen along the walkway to Yosemite Falls.

Muir also worked as a winter caretaker for a hotel near where the Four Mile Trail is. He lived in a third location, on Tenaya Creek where North Pines Campground is today. During these few years in Yosemite, Muir met Ralph Waldo Emerson and botanist Asa Gray, experienced one of Yosemite’s big floods, engaged in a significant scientific argument with the state geologist, rode out a tremendous earthquake, identified the park’s first known glaciers, and explored miles of Yosemite’s backcountry.

He was great at keeping journals, with numerous sketches, of his natural history observations, explorations and discoveries. When he took park visitors on excursions, people were amazed to find such an intelligent, literate and passionate individual living in such an isolated place. Well-off Bay Area visitors referred their friends to him and he built useful contacts in academia, publishing, and a slowly emerging conservation movement. They urged him to write about his perceptions of the natural world, and to give public lectures about Sierra peaks, wildlife, flowers and geologic history. His field notebooks were to prove very useful when he did end up publishing numerous articles and books about the beauty to be found in the mountains.

Muir eventually relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area, exploring there and writing articles. He made several trips to study glaciation in coastal Alaska. He met a young lady in the Bay Area, courted her on a four day camping trip when he was 42 years old. He and Louie had two daughters and the family lived at his father-in-law’s ranch where Muir made a good living growing fruit. Their house in Martinez has been preserved by the National Park Service and you can go visit John Muir’s home today.

Muir’s renown grew with his popular writings and his influential friends. Eventually he helped found and lead the Sierra Club to protect mountain lands for all of us. Muir’s work on behalf of wild public lands never stopped. He had an influence on the protection of Yosemite National Park, Muir Woods, Mt. Rainier, Grand Canyon, Crater Lake, New Hampshire’s White Mountains, Sequoia NP, and Petrified Forest. Muir got to know three US Presidents and took one of them, Teddy Roosevelt, on a four day camping trip in Yosemite to enjoy the outdoors and discuss conservation. Muir was awarded 4 honorary degrees. There are dozens of public places (libraries, schools, etc.) named for him. The California Historical Society voted him the most important Californian. He’s been on two postage stamps and his image was placed on the US currency on the 2005 California quarter.

One of the most important things to know about John Muir is that you share some similarities with him. Something called you both to come see Yosemite National Park. Like Muir, you’re probably a little overwhelmed by the grand landscape. Both of you would probably a little overwhelmed by the grand landscape. Both of you would appreciate the silence of the autumn landscape or would enjoy watching the snow fall in the forests and on the cliffs. You’re probably both glad that Americans have protected Yosemite for all time and that everyone is invited to enjoy this treasure.

Muir would no doubt be pleased that you’ve come to see Yosemite for yourself.
Supporting Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s Future

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 and maintain 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

Contact Us
Yosemite National Park
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Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-4200
http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm

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209/372-4413
209/372-4714 fax
www.anseladams.com

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www.yosemitepark.com

Yosemite Conservancy
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San Francisco, CA 94104
800/469-7275
415/434-0745 fax
www.yosemitconservancy.org

NatureBridge
PD Box 487
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/379-9511
209/379-9510 fax
www.nbi.org

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 life-long 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

Yosemite Conservancy
Yosemite Conservancy is the only philanthropic organization that is dedicated exclusively to the protection and preservation of Yosemite National Park and enhancement of the visitor experience. In recent years we have provided over $70 million in grants to Yosemite from the generous support from donors, volunteers and foundations. The Conservancy works to restore trails, protect wildlife through scientific research and habitat restoration, and offers outdoor programs that provide visitors with unique ways to connect with the park. It has funded projects in areas including trail and habitat restoration, wildlife protection, education, volunteering, and the production of award-winning books and DVDs. Learn more at www.yosemiteconservancy.org

Park Planning and Updates
Providing Access and Protecting Resources: The Draft Tuolumne and Merced River Plans
Yosemite National Park is putting the final touches on river plans that will guide long-term resource protection, visitor use and facilities management in the Merced and Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridors. Visit Yosemite's planning webpage to find out more about the plans, proposed release dates, and opportunities for public input.

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

Monthly Public Open House
Join park and partner staff to learn about projects and plans at a free monthly public Open House. Open Houses will be held on October 31 and November 28, from 1–4 pm in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium.

Park entrance fees will be waived for those attending the Open House!

Yosemite Renaissance XXVII
Yosemite Renaissance is an all media, juried, fine art competition & exhibition on the theme of Yosemite and the environment of the Sierra Nevada. It is open to all living artists. $4,000 in awards. Entry is by digital files. $15 per entry (maximum of 8 entries per artist). The exhibit begins at the Yosemite Museum Gallery, February 22, 2013. For a prospectus and entry form visit http://www.yosemiterenaisance.org. Deadline: November 10, 2012. Yosemite Renaissance is a non-profit organization which encourages diverse interpretations of Yosemite in the visual arts.

Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Chetone White (lodge)