**Yosemite Valley Shuttle System**

**Stop #**

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<th>#</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Visitor Parking</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yosemite Village</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yosemite Lodge</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>The Ahwahnee</td>
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<td>Sentin Bridge</td>
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<td>Degner's Deli</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
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<td>LeConte / Housekeeping Camp</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Valley Visitor Center</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Recreation Rentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Visitor Parking</td>
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<td>Valley Visitor Center</td>
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<td>Curry Village</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Yosemite Lodge</td>
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<td>Curry Village Parking</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>13a</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Upper Pines Campground</td>
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<td>Yosemite Village</td>
<td>13b</td>
<td>Camp 4</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Visitor Parking</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Yosemite Village</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Trailhead</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Valley Visitor Center</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Yosemite Village</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Stable</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>The Ahwahnee</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>El Capitan Picnic Area</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pines Campgrounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>El Capitan Picnic Area</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>El Capitan Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Valley Visitor Center</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Four Mile Trailhead</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The El Capitan Shuttle operates from 9 am to 6 pm. Shuttles run daily during summer every 30 minutes.

The Express Shuttle operates from 9 am to 6 pm. Shuttles run daily during summer every 20 minutes.

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*US Department of the Interior
National Park Service
USDA Forest Service*

*US Fish and Wildlife Service*

*US Department of the Interior*
Seasonal Highlights

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

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? Whether you want to get your heart rate up with a strenuous hike, read a book in a quiet spot, or just hang out in a picnic area or campground with friends, in summer and fall, the days are long and the possibilities abound!

Walk to a Waterfall
Yosemite Valley is famous for its awe-inspiring waterfalls, each as distinct as the granite cliffs they dive over. While Yosemite Falls may be dry by August, Bridalveil, Vernal, and Nevada Falls flow all year. Be safe! Water ways, including rivers, streams, and lakes, can be dangerous.

Visit the other valley, Hetch Hetchy
Hetch Hetchy provides spectacular vistas, waterfalls, and miles of hiking opportunities. You can help protect this important watershed during your visit. Day-hikers and backpackers are required to go to the bathroom at least 100 feet away from water, trails, and camp areas. Bury human waste six inches deep and pack out toilet paper and all other trash.

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

Take a Photography Class
Learn how to best capture the landscape of Yosemite by joining a photography expert from The Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Learn more and sign up at The Ansel Adams Gallery located next to Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 6 and 7 for times and meeting places.)

Get outside and enjoy your park!
Summer offers spectacular views of waterfalls, great hiking, and endless other opportunities for recreation.

Stroll with a Ranger
Learn about the wonders of the park on a ranger-guided stroll. Programs are offered daily throughout the park on a variety of topics including waterfalls, trees, bears, geology, wildlife, Yosemite’s first people, and more. (See area program grids on pages 6, 7, 9, and 11.)

Yosemite Art Center Workshops
Yosemite Conservancy invites you to participate in one of our enriching and fun art workshops held Monday–Saturday in Yosemite Valley. There is a registration fee of $10 per visitor. Register in advance by calling 209/372-1442. Workshops take place at the Yosemite Art Center located next to the Village Store. Art supplies, gifts and original art are available for purchase. Open daily 9am–4:30pm (closed at 12pm for lunch). See page 6 for details.

Have Fun with the Family
Learn about Yosemite, meet a park ranger, and have a blast by becoming a Yosemite Junior Ranger or Yosemite Little Cub. Check in with any visitor center to find out how. Stop by the Nature Center at Happy Isles for another great place to explore with the family. (See page 12 for more!) Go to the Theater

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

Emergency Information
Yosemite Village Garage offers 24-hour emergency roadside assistance.

What’s Inside:
01 Seasonal Highlights
04 Yosemite Valley
06 Wawona
08 Tuolumne Meadows
10 become a Junior Ranger
12 Wildlife
16 Camping
17 Hiking
18 Feature Story
19 Supporting Your Park

For up-to-date road, weather, and park information:
209/372-0200
Medical Clinic (In Yosemite Valley) Open 7 days per week from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM for primary and urgent care needs.
209/372-4637
Dental Clinic (In Yosemite Valley) 209/372-4200

Lost and Found
To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite’s restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses or tour services, call 209/372-4057. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/379-1001.

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park


Get Outdoors With Yosemite Conservancy
Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing Yosemite’s wonders. Create your own Miwok-Paiute basket with Yosemite legend Julia Parker or hone your photography skills with a professional Yosemite photographer. Looking for a custom Yosemite experience? Contact us to plan a custom adventure for your family or group. Visit www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures or 209/379-2317 ext. 10 to find your adventure today. See page 6 for details.

Volunteer in Yosemite
Over 9,500 volunteers donated more than 187,000 hours of service to Yosemite last year, restoring native habitat, working in visitor centers, serving as camp hosts, studying wildlife, cleaning up litter and more. Would you like to serve? We have group and individual volunteer opportunities, both short term and long term. Learn more at: www.nps.gov/yose/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm or call the volunteer office at 209/379-1850.
Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley, open all year, is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. You can get there via State Route 41/Wawona Road from Fresno, State Route 140/El Portal Road from Merced, State Route 120 west/Big Oak Flat Road from Manteca, and (during summer) via the Tioga Road/State Route 120 east from Lee Vining. Yosemite Valley is home to massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls slows to a trickle by August, a moderate hike will bring you to the impressive Vernal and Nevada Falls. Walk to Mirror Lake, where you will see reflections of Half Dome. Gaze up at El Capitan, a massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the valley by foot, bike, car, on horseback, raft, or tour, you will behold scenery that will leave you breathless and eager to see what’s around the next corner.

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)
  (Annual) For active duty U.S. military and dependents.

Reservations

- Campground Reservations 877/444-6777
  www.recreation.gov
- Lodging Reservations 801/559-5000
  www.yosemitetripark.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 209/365-4636
  www.tcvb.com
- Highway 41
  Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau 559/683-4636
  www.yosemitehistravels.com
- Highway 132/49
  Coulterville Visitor Center 209/878-3074
- Highway 140/49
  Mariposa County Visitors Bureau 866/245-3366 or 209/966-7081
- Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau 209/742-4567
  www.yosemitexperience.com/
- Highway 120 East
  Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center, 760/847-6629
  www.leevining.com
  Calif. Welcome Center, Merced 800/446-3353 or 209/724-8104
  www.yosemite-gateway.org
Glacier Point

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Yosemite’s high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley or Wawona. To get there from either of these places, take the Wawona Road (State Route 41), to Chinquapin, then turn onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating—some might say unnerving—view 3,214 feet down to Yosemite Valley below.

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 ¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (State Route 41), two miles from the park’s South Entrance. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Enjoy a horse-drawn stage ride, watch blacksmiths at work at the blacksmith shop, or hike one of the scenic trails. For more information, visit the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio, adjacent to the historic Wawona Hotel. This was once a painting studio for the 19th-century artist Thomas Hill. The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is a short drive south of Wawona or help reduce congestion by taking the free Mariposa Grove shuttle from the Wawona Store.

Tioga Road and Tuolumne Grove

Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. It is usually open from late May or early June through sometime in November. The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 to nearly 10,000 feet, so it offers an opportunity to experience many of Yosemite’s habitats. The White Wolf area, midway across the park, is the starting point for day hikes to Lukens Lake and Harden Lake. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the grove. Or park at the Merced Grove trailhead on Big Oak Flat Road and walk 1 ½ steep miles down to the grove. These groves are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off-limits to vehicles. Remember: walking down is easier than walking back up.

Tuolumne Meadows

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

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the city of San Francisco, is also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. Due to its importance as a municipal water supply, no swimming is permitted, however. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 7 am to 9 pm May 1 through Labor Day, with reduced hours during the rest of the year. Hetch Hetchy Road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is approximately a 1 ¼-hour drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.
Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas and the heart of the park

The Incomparable Yosemite Valley

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

Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery. See pages 5, 6, and 7 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

Naturalist Programs

Naturalists give walks and talks every day about Yosemite’s natural and cultural history. See pages 6 and 7 for scheduled walks, talks, and evening programs.

Walking and Hiking

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

Bicycling

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

Tours

Tours listed below depart from Yosemite Lodge. Tours may be weather dependent.

The Valley Floor Tour is a 26-mile, two-hour open-air tram tour narrated by a park ranger (weather permitting). The tour departs Yosemite Lodge several times daily.

The Glacier Point Tour leaves Yosemite Lodge at 8:30 am, 10 am, and 1:30 pm daily when the Glacier Point Road is open. One-way tickets are available for those who want to hike down from Glacier Point.

The Grand Tour includes the Valley, Glacier Point, and the Mariposa Grove. An experienced guide narrates each tour. The tour departs Yosemite Lodge at 8:45 am daily.

Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at the tour desks at Yosemite Lodge, Yosemite Village, Curry Village, and The Ahwahnee.

Mule & Horseback Rides

Horse or mule rides begin at the stable near North Pines Campground. Stable hours are 7 am to 5 pm daily.

Information: 209/372-8348 (reservations strongly recommended).

Sightseeing

Some of the famous landmarks in Yosemite Valley include:

- Yosemite Falls gives the Valley an extra touch of life when it’s flowing with spring runoff. You can walk to its base or take the strenuous trail to its top (see page 17).
- Half Dome, Yosemite’s most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, and Glacier Point, are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.
- El Capitan, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan.
- Happy Isles is a place to see happy natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16 or by walking from Curry Village. Cross the footbridges onto the isles or wander through outdoor and indoor exhibits detailing Yosemite’s geologic story.
- Tunnel View, along Wawona Road (SR 41) provides a classic view of Yosemite Valley, El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridalveil Fall. It is spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.

Food & Beverage

Dine in at Yosemite or spoil yourself at The Ahwahnee. Enjoy fresh fare during your stay.

Yosemite Lodge

Breakfast: 7am to 10am Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

The Ahwahnee

Breakfast: 7am to 10am Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

Ahwahnee Breakfast Bar

7am to 10:30am

Mountain Room Lounge

Monday – Friday 4:30pm to 11pm Saturday – Sunday Noon to 11pm

Mountain Room Restaurant

5:30pm to 8:30pm

Reservations taken for 8 or more. 209/372-1281

Coffee Corner/ Ice Cream

6am to 10pm (Closes at 11pm on weekends)

Curry Village Bar

11am to 10pm (Closes daily at 10pm)

Mountain Room Lounge

Monday – Saturday 7am to 9pm, Sunday 7am to 7pm

Mountain Room Restaurant

5:30pm to 8:30pm

Lake Village

10am to 5:30pm

Tours

Yosemite and Mariposa County Visitors Center

9am to 5pm

Yosemite Village

8am to 5pm

Ahwahnee Lodge

9am to 5pm

Happy Isles Snack Stand

11am to 5pm

TOURS AND GUIDED ACTIVITIES

Tours

Yosemite’s geologic story.

For those who want to hike down from Glacier Point, are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

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Yosemite Village

8am to 5pm

Ahwahnee Lodge

9am to 5pm

Happy Isles Snack Stand

11am to 5pm
Yosemite Valley
Where to go and what to do

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore
The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center is open from 10am to 6pm, and bookstore hours are 9am to 7pm. The visitor center is just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The facility offers information, maps, and books. Explore the exhibits to learn how Yosemite’s landscape formed and how people interact with it.

Indian Cultural Exhibit
Call for Entries. 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.

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

Yosemite Art Center
The Yosemite Art Center offers a selection of original art and art supplies, as well as four-hour art workshops daily (see pg. 6). Located near the Village Store, the center is open 9am to noon and 1pm to 4:30pm daily.

Yosemite Theater LIVE!
Yosemite Theater LIVE! offers entertainment and inspiration through a variety of live theater performances. Revel as park ranger Shelton Johnson and other performers bring the park’s adventures to life! Tickets $8 adults, $4 children.

The Ansel Adams Gallery
In Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9am to 6pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, other photographers and artists, camera walks, workshops, and classes. Activities are listed on the front porch.

Exhibits
July 28 - September 14, 2013
Along Those Lines: The Paintings of Penny Otwell
September 15 - November 6, 2013
Long-time contemporary Yosemite painter, Penny Otwell, has been working in oil on canvas for her new show at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. This local artist is known for her colorful, expressive work of both Yosemite’s icons and more intimate scenes.

Le Conte Memorial Lodge
Le Conte Memorial Lodge is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am until 4 pm. Free evening programs are scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00. The Lodge has a natural history library, children’s corner and library, historical exhibits, and an exhibit on climate change. LeConte Memorial Lodge is located at shuttle stop #12 and closes for the season on September 30.

10th Annual Yosemite Facelift
September 25-29, 2013
Each fall the Yosemite Climbing Association sponsors a park-wide cleanup in conjunction with National Public Lands Day. The “Yosemite Facelift” attracts over 1,000 volunteers for five days to pick up trash, remove large debris, and perform ecological restoration.

To participate, you must register as a volunteer at either the Valley Visitor Center (Wed-Sun, 8-4pm) or Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center (Fri-Sun, 8am to 3pm). All volunteers should wear long pants and closed-toed shoes, and should be prepared with water and clothes appropriate for the weather. All tools and safety equipment will be provided.

To learn more, visit the YCA website at www.yosemiteclimbing.org or call the Yosemite volunteer office at 209-373-1850.
Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing the wonders of Yosemite through our Outdoor Adventure programs. Join one of the many year-round programs available and explore everything Yosemite has to offer.

- Sept 7-8: High Country Photography Workshop Focus on dramatic formations- Oct 4-6: Mariposa Grove Photography Capture the season’s stunning display of light- Oct 6: Glacier Point Natural History Experience new wonders in a treasured locale

Find detailed information about these programs at www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures or call 209/379-2317, ext. 10. Camping and park entry are included, additional lodging options available. 

Yosemite Art Center (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy invites you to enjoy a hands-on art experience in Yosemite Valley. Celebrated artists lead workshops from 10am - 2pm Monday through Thursday. There is a registration fee of $10 per visitor (art supplies, gfs, and original art are available for purchase. Yosemite Valley workshops take place at the Yosemite Art Center located next to the Village Store. Open daily 9am-4:30pm (closed at 12pm for lunch)


Yosemite Theater LIVE! (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy presents unforgettable live performances of historic heroes, daring rescues, and thrilling adventures every night at the valley visitor center theater.


Yosemite Mountaineering School (YMS)

YMS offers rock climbing classes, guided climbs, custom backcountry trips, and daily hikes. Experience the sport of climbing. Suitable for all ages. At the El Capitan Bridge near El Capitan shuttle stop #16. (NPS)

- 10:00am - 2:00pm Ask-A-Climber (drop-in) Experts share their knowledge and passion for climbing in Yosemite. Use telescopes to view climbers in action, while learning about the sport of climbing. Suitable for all ages. At the El Capitan Bridge near El Capitan shuttle stop #16. (NPS)

Please check the Yosemite Conservancy’s website for more information and to purchase tickets.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Time</strong></th>
<th><strong>Event</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>WEE WILD ONES</strong> 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 6 &amp; under. In Yosemite at the Falls Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Yosemite Theater LIVE!</strong> The Forgotten Yosemite: A Buffalo Soldier Remembers. Featuring park ranger Sherman Johnson as Captain Sargent Slimman. (SC) 2:30 1.5 hrs. Advance tickets at Yosemite Conservancy bookstores &amp; DNC Tour Decks. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30pm</td>
<td>Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30pm</td>
<td><strong>NIGHT PROWL</strong> (Sept 6 only) 1.5 hrs. Explore Yosemite at night! Tickets and information available at any tour &amp; activity desk. (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30pm</td>
<td><strong>MICHAEL BRYANT ANd ROBIN PLISKIN: CONCERT AND SING-ALONG WITH THE NIGHTMARES</strong> 1.5 hrs. Check local listings for venue. (TAAG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Yosemite Theater LIVE!</strong> Filmmaking on the Edge (Sept 9 only) 1.5 hrs. (TAAG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Evening Program</strong> 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Evening Program</strong> 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00pm</td>
<td><strong>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</strong> (Sept 20 only) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles campfire ring, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Historic Ahwahnee tour</strong> 1 hr. Sign-up required at The Ahwahnee Concierge Desk (DNC). (except Sept 11 and 25) 1 hr. Sign-up required at The Ahwahnee Concierge Desk. (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Naturalist Stroll</strong> (Sept 7 only) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Naturalist Stroll</strong> (except Sept 26) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Yosemite Theater LIVE!</strong> John Muir Among the Animals, performed by Lee Station. 1.5 hrs. Check local listings for venue. (TAAG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Ranger Program-Bears</strong> (Sept only) 1 hr. Yosemite Art Center amphitheater, near shuttle stop #16. (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30pm</td>
<td>Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>WEE WILD ONES</strong> 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 6 &amp; under. In Yosemite at the Falls Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Yosemite Theater LIVE!</strong> Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey, followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk, featured in the film. 1.5 hrs. Advance tickets at Yosemite Conservancy bookstores &amp; DNC Tour Decks. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) $</td>
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<td>8:00pm</td>
<td><strong>FRIDAY NIGHT WILD ONES</strong> 1.5 hrs. Check local listings for venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00pm</td>
<td><strong>BEN CUNNINGHAM-SMUMFRED, CA TRIBAL MEMBER: AMERICAN INDIAN FLUTE AND STORYTELLING</strong> (Sept 6 only) 1 hr. LeConte Memorial Lodge. Shuttle stop #12. (SC)</td>
</tr>
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<td>8:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Ranger Program-Bears</strong> (Sept only) 1 hr. Yosemite Art Center amphitheater, near shuttle stop #16. (NPS)</td>
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<td><strong>Historic Ahwahnee Tour</strong> 1 hr. Sign-up required at The Ahwahnee Concierge Desk. (DNC)</td>
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<td>Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
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<td><strong>Yosemite Theater LIVE!</strong> Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey, followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk, featured in the film. 1.5 hrs. Advance tickets at Yosemite Conservancy bookstores &amp; DNC Tour Decks. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) $</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Yosemite Theater LIVE!</strong> The Forgotten Yosemite: A Buffalo Soldier Remembers. Featuring park ranger Sherman Johnson as Captain Sargent Slimman. (SC) 2:30 1.5 hrs. Advance tickets at Yosemite Conservancy bookstores &amp; DNC Tour Decks. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) $</td>
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<td>8:30pm</td>
<td>Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater (DNC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30pm</td>
<td><strong>NIGHT PROWL</strong> (Sept 6 only) 1.5 hrs. Explore Yosemite at night! Tickets and information available at any tour &amp; activity desk. (DNC)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families.
Explore History, Discover Giant Trees, and Find Amazing Vistas

These park areas offer endless opportunities for amazing experiences.

### Wawona

**Evening Programs**
Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30pm to 9:30pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite's past. Once or twice a week, he will present an hour-long interpretive program on the vintage songs of Yosemite or the history of Wawona with slide or music accompaniment. Check with Tom at the piano for dates and times.

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

**Pioneer Yosemite History Center**
Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explores Yosemite's history and explains how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and around the world. The center is always open, and interpretive signs and brochures are available.

### Experience Horse-Drawn Travel

Travel into history by taking a 10-minute horse-drawn stage ride. Tickets may be purchased at the Grey Barn in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. See page 9 for dates, times, and locations. $5/adults and $4/child (ages 3-12)

### Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 mature, adult 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. Mariposa Grove area maps may be found adjacent to the parking lot. Dogs/bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.

### Getting to Mariposa Grove

Allow 1 1/2 hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot. The access road to the grove may close intermittently due to limited parking. *Trailers are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road. Private vehicles longer than 25 feet are not permitted on this road.*

### Mariposa Grove Museum

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

### Walking through the Grove

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

### FREE BIG TREES SHUTTLE

A shuttle stops at the Wawona Store, South Entrance, and Mariposa Grove. Visitors may park at the Wawona Store to board the bus.
## Evening Programs

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

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am - 2:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Horse-Drawn Stage Rides</strong> 10 mins. each. Tickets may be purchased at the Grey Barn near the Covered Bridge in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. $5 adult / $4 child 3-12. <strong>(NPS)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td><strong>Glacier Point Natural History</strong> (Oct 6 only) 8 hrs. Get an insider's perspective of one of Yosemite's most famous viewpoints. Camping included. Requires advanced reservation; please call 209/379-2317 ext. 10. <strong>(NPS)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15pm</td>
<td><strong>Sunset Ranger Talk</strong> (Sept 29 and Oct 26 only) 30 mins. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. <strong>(NPS)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Sunset Ranger Talk</strong> (Sept 15 only) 30 mins. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. <strong>(NPS)</strong></td>
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**WAWONA & MARIPOSA GROVE**

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<tr>
<td>8:00am</td>
<td><strong>Mariposa Grove Photography</strong> (Oct 4 only) 8 hrs. Autumn in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is an excellent time to capture the season's stunning display of light and colors with your camera. Photographers of all levels are invited. <strong>(YC)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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**GLACIER POINT**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td><strong>Ranger Walk - Cliffs and Domes</strong> (except Sept 19) 2 hrs. Meet at Taft Point/Sentinel Dome parking are on Glacier Point Road. <strong>(NPS)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Glacier Point

**Geology Hut.** (Photo courtesy Yosemite Research Library)

### Hours Listed

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

### Food and Beverage

- **Wawona Hotel Dining Room**
  - Breakfast: 7am to 10am
  - Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm
  - Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
- **Satellite Shop & Snack Stand**
  - 9am to 5pm when the golf course is open.

### Grocery

- **Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop**
  - 8am to 6pm
- **Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio (Information and Books)**
  - 8:30am to 5pm

### Post Office

- **Wawona Post Office**
  - Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm
  - Saturday: 9am to noon

### Gas Station

- **Wawona Hotel Golf Course**
  - 8am to 5pm, weather and conditions permitting. Nine-hole, par-35 course.

### Golf

- **GoLF**
  - 9am to 5pm, weather and conditions permitting. Nine-hole, par-35 course.

### Ranger Walk - Cliffs and Domes

- **Ranger Walk - Cliffs and Domes** (except Sept 19) 2 hrs. Meet at Taft Point/Sentinel Dome parking are on Glacier Point Road. **(NPS)**
Tuolumne Meadows

Please walk on official trails to protect fragile meadow ecosystems.

Pets, bicycles, and strollers are only allowed on roads open to vehicles.

Day-hikers and backpackers must go to the bathroom at least 100 feet away from water, trail, and camp areas; bury human waste six inches deep; pack out toilet paper and all other trash.

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Visitor Center hours are 9am to 5pm through September 25. Park orientation, visitor information, books, maps, and displays are strongly recommended 209/372-8427.

Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center

Open 8am to 5pm. The wilderness center offers wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, visitor information, maps, and general park information. The Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center is located just south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, across from shuttle stop #3. It's a three-mile round-trip hike (about three hours) into the grove. The trail drops down 1.5 miles making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water at the parking area or down in the grove. Be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (State Route 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10 Merced Grove.

Tuolumne Grove

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

Evening Activities

Come to a traditional, ranger-led campfire program for stories, songs, and insight into Yosemite. Program topics vary and are posted at the campground, Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. End your day with a star program—bring a pad to sit on and dress warmly.

Mule and Horseback Rides

Horse or mule rides begin at the Tuolumne Meadows stable. Stable hours are 7am to 5pm. The stable closes for the season on September 8. Information: 209/372-8427.

Big Oak Flat

Big Oak Flat Information Station

Open 8am to 5pm. The information station offers general park information, books and maps. It also provides wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, trail, and backpacking information. The information station is located just inside the park entrance on State Route 120 West.

Merced Grove

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of approximately 20 big trees accessible only on foot.
### Yosemite Guide September 4, 2013 - October 8, 2013

#### FOOD & BEVERAGE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUOLUMNE MEADOWS</th>
<th>WHITE WOLF</th>
<th>CRANE FLAT/ HEDGE FARM MEADOWS/HETCH HETCHY</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30am Coffee with a Ranger (except Sept 29 and Oct 6) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)</td>
<td>10:00am Ranger Hike—Mountaineering: History of Tuolumne Meadows (except Sept 27 and Oct 4) 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center shuttle stop #8. (NPS)</td>
<td>8:00am Ranger Hike—Birds (except Sept 4 and 11 only) 2.5 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area. Binoculars available. (NPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Sept 18 and Oct 21) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)</td>
<td>10:00am Geology of Tuolumne Meadows (except Sept 18 and Oct 2) 2 hrs. Pothole Dome shuttle stop #8. (NPS)</td>
<td>8:30am Coffee with a Ranger (except Sept 18 and Oct 21) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)</td>
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<td>10:00am Ranger Hike—Mountaineering: History of Tuolumne Meadows (except Sept 27 and Oct 4) 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center shuttle stop #8. (NPS)</td>
<td>12:00pm Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne! (except Sept 29 and Oct 7) 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot. (NPS)</td>
<td>10:00am Ranger Hike—Dog Lake (except Sept 12 and 19 only) 4 hrs. Moderate. 7 miles. Meet at Lembert Dome picnic area. Bring lunch, water, and raingear. (NPS)</td>
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<td>10:00am Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne! (except Sept 29 and Oct 7) 15 mins. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot. (NPS)</td>
<td>2:00pm Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne! (except Sept 29 and Oct 7) 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservations Office. (NPS)</td>
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<td>3:00pm Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne! (except Sept 29 and Oct 7) 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot. (NPS)</td>
<td>7:30pm Campfire (except Sept 29 and Oct 6) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. (NPS)</td>
<td>9:30pm Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne! (except Sept 29 and Oct 6) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. (NPS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### GIFTS & APPAREL

- **White Wolf Lodge**
  - 7:30am to 9:30pm: Tuolumne Meadows Gift and Sport Shop
  - 9am to 5pm: Tuolumne Meadows Campground

#### SHUTTLE SERVICES

**Tuolumne Meadows**
- Shuttle services run from the Visitor Center to various locations.
- Arrive at least 15 minutes before scheduled pickup.
- For more information, check the current programs.

#### POST OFFICE

- **Tuolumne Meadows Post Office**
  - Open daily: 9am - 5pm

#### GAS STATIONS

- **Tuolumne Meadows**
  - 9am to 5pm: Gas and propane available.
  - Visit the Visitor Center or contact the Post Office for more information.

#### FREE SHUTTLE BUS

- **Shuttle Service**
  - Operates from the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge to the Visitor Center.
  - Schedule varies depending on the location.
  - Check the current programs for more information.

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**Yosemite National Park**

- **Group Reservations**
  - Call 559-565-3877 for information.

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**Yosemite National Park**

- **Group Reservations**
  - Call 559-565-3877 for information.

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**Yosemite National Park**

- **Group Reservations**
  - Call 559-565-3877 for information.
Yosemite National Park offers a wide variety of programs and activities for kids of all ages! To find kid-friendly programs, see pages 6, 7, 9, and 11 of the Guide for program descriptions.

Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge.*

1. With an adult, pick a trail to walk. See page 17 of this Guide or stop by a visitor center to choose your trail. As you go, walk quietly, watch, listen, and think.
   Write the name of the trail you walked. ___________________________________

2. Explore with your senses! Record the following.
   I see: ______________________   I hear: ______________________
   I smell: ____________________   I touch: ______________________

3. Leave no Trace! If you see trash or rubbish, pick it up. Junior Rangers learn to be good park stewards by bringing in a bag of trash. Recycle any recyclable materials you pick up or bring along.

4. Ask a Ranger! What President signed the Yosemite Grant Act on June 30, 1864, setting aside Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove for special protection?
   ____________________________________________________

5. Learn more. Go to a ranger-led program or visit with an Indian Cultural Demonstrator. What program did you attend? Have the ranger or demonstrator sign below.
   Signed by: ____________________________________________

6. Write down something you learned from a ranger or Indian Cultural Demonstrator.
   ______________________________________________________

7. Think about this. Why do people work to protect national parks?
   ______________________________________________________

8. When you complete this page, take it to a visitor center.
   There you will take your oath and receive your Junior Ranger badge.

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

**Enjoying wildlife safely and responsibly**

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### Keep Wildife Wild!

Black bears, coyotes, deer, and grey squirrels are just a few of the many animal species in the park that are active year round. Learn how to enjoy these creatures and native to Yosemite.

#### Store Your Food Properly.

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

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

#### Drive the speed limit.

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

#### Red Bear, Dead Bear

Did you notice the red bear markers as you drove through the park? Each of them mark a place where a bear was recently hit. Every year bears, hundreds of deer, and countless other animals are killed while trying to cross park roads. Many of these deaths could have been avoided if drivers observed posted speed limits.

Please remember that Yosemite National Park is a wildlife preserve: by driving the speed limit you are helping to protect the park and its wildlife.

#### Backpackers: Save Your Food, Save A Bear

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

#### Report Bear Sightings!

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

#### Coyotes

Watching a coyote hunting for mice in one of Yosemite’s many meadows can be an amazing wildlife experience. Coyotes are opportunistic carnivores that primarily prey on small mammals. Like bears, their diets change throughout the year with food availability. Unfortunately, coyotes sometimes change their natural behavior to try to obtain human food. Approaching, and/or feeding coyotes can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans. Please do not stop to feed coyotes that you see along the sides of roads. This encourages them to frequent roadsides to beg for food, endangering both coyotes and drivers.

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### How to Store Food

**Foods** 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, soaps, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Rules</th>
<th>Why It Works</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your Vehicle</td>
<td>You may store food in your car (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark: use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food odors or open windows.</td>
<td>Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize loose and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</td>
<td>You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored inside the tent or a campsite's food locker.</td>
<td>Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and locked at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin.</td>
</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 food. Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food.</td>
<td>Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize loose and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking in the Wilderness</td>
<td>Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite.</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>

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### Mountain Lions

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

**For your safety:**

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

**What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?**

Never approach one, especially if it is with kittens. Most lions will avoid confrontation. Always give them a way to escape.

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

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

Mountain lions are magnificent creatures and native to Yosemite. Generally, they are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!
Experience Your America    Yosemite National Park

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

Permit Required to Hike Half Dome

Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are required seven days a week when the cables are up for 2013, May 24 through October 14, conditions permitting. A daily total of 225 pre-season lottery permits have already been issued for 2013. In addition, approximately 50 permits will be released by daily lottery throughout the season based on estimated under-use and cancellation rates (exact number may change throughout the summer). Applications for daily lottery permits will be accepted 2 days prior to the desired hiking date between midnight and 1 pm. To apply, visit Recreation.gov or call 877/444-6777. A non-refundable application fee applies to all submissions and a use fee applies to winning applicants. Finally, a daily quota of 75 Half Dome permits will be available to overnight users with an appropriate wilderness permit (use fee applies). These permits may be acquired through early reservations (50 per day) or day before walk-up (25 per day). Rock climbers who reach the top of Half Dome without entering the subdome area may descend on the Half Dome Trail without a permit. More information is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm For backpackers more information is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdwildpermits.htm

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

Around Water
• Stay away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards. Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions.
• Always supervise children closely.
• Avoid areas of whitewater, where streams flow over rocky obstructions.
• Never swim or wade upstream from of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
• Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

Water Quality
To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking. Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Guardian-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier. To prevent the spread of Guardia 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.

Hiking, Backpacking, River and Creek Crossings, and Rock Climbing
• Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back.
• Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
• Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.
• Check weather forecasts.
• Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion;
carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food.
• Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.
• Summer trails are not marked for winter use. When trails have full or partial snow coverage, good navigation skills are necessary.
• During spring runoff and high water any unbridged river or creek crossing can be hazardous. Always take extra time and use good judgment when crossing rivers and creeks.

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 droppings. 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 on rodent-borne diseases and other environmental safety hazards visit: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm

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.

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.

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

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

Rafting

Conditions permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stoneman Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10am to 6pm daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device.

- The entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher. Ask at a visitor center for conditions and obey all posted signs.
- You must wear or have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device immediately available.
- Fallen trees and other natural debris in the river create important habitat for fish and other wildlife. Be alert—they can also create hazards for rafters.

Pets

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

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. Pets are not allowed anywhere in the Mariposa or Merced sequoia groves. They are not allowed on trails, in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted prohibiting them.
- Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and disposing pet feces in trash receptacles.
- Pets are not allowed in any lodging facilities or other buildings within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.
- Pets may not be tied to an object and left unattended.

Fishing

Fishing in Yosemite is regulated by state law. A valid California sport-fishing license is required for those persons age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible by attaching it to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline.

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

Bicycling

Bike rentals at Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge are open from 8:30am to 8pm, with the last rental going out at 6:45pm. Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails. Bikes are not allowed to travel off paved trails. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite.

Weather in Yosemite

Dressing in layers and bringing plenty of water can help you stay safe through Yosemite’s changing weather conditions. As is true of all mountainous regions, weather in the Sierra Nevada can change rapidly any season of the year. Elevation plays a major role in temperature and precipitation variability, and Yosemite ranges in elevation from 2,000 feet to more than 13,000 feet above sea level. It is not uncommon for clouds to build up suddenly, bringing rain and/or thunderstorms to an otherwise sunny day. In September and October, temperatures in Tuolumne Meadows can dip well below freezing, while day time temperatures at lower elevations, like Yosemite Valley and Hetch Hetchy, can soar to over 100 °F.

Yosemite Guardians

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. With 4 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be!

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

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

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, record 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/yoursafetym.htm and find a copy of the Superintendent’s Compendium. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7 and 34), and other applicable federal statutes and regulations.

Protecting park resources
**Camping**

**General Info...**

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

Services
- All sites include picnic tables, firepits with grills, and a food locker (33”x 45”w x 18”h). See page 5 for food storage regulations.
- Toilets are available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat have non-flushing vault toilets only and no potable water.
- Showers and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley.
- RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat as these campgrounds are not permitted in walk-in and group campsites. There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows (as long as water supplies last).

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

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

**Camping Reservations**

Reservations are required March through November for campsites in Yosemite Valley’s car campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served. Campground reservations are available up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month at 7am Pacific time. Log onto the website or call as soon as possible to make a reservation fill within a few minutes of the opening period.

**Camping in Yosemite National Park**

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

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

Reservation offices in the park are located in the visitor parking area at Curry Village (shuttle stop #44), the Tuolumne Meadows Campground entrance, in Wawona off Chilnualna Falls Road, and at Big Oak Flat Information Station.

**Campsite Regulations**

- Group campsites at Tuolumne Meadows Campground entrance, in Wawona off Chilnualna Falls Road, and at Big Oak Flat Information Station.
- There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in a calendar year; however, May 1 to September 15, the camping limit is 14 days and only seven of those days can be in Yosemite Valley or Wawona.
- Camp 4 is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis; these campsites are not wheelchair accessible. Sites are available on a per-person basis, and six people will be placed in each campsite, regardless of number of people in your party. You must be physically present to acquire a campsite in Camp 4. Camp 4 often fills before 9am each day, May through September.

**Camping in Areas Surrounding Yosemite**

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite. For additional information, contact Groveland Ranger Station at 209/962-7825; Mariposa Ranger Station at 209/966-3638; Mono Lake Ranger Station at 760/947-3044; or Oakhurst Ranger Station at 559/683-4636. For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 2.

**Group Campgrounds**

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

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**Camping Reservations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARRIVAL DATE</th>
<th>FIRST DAY TO MAKE RESERVATIONS (APPROX)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 15 – Jan. 14</td>
<td>Aug. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 15 – Feb. 14</td>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 15 – Mar. 14</td>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 15 – Apr. 14</td>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
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<td>Apr. 15 – May 14</td>
<td>Dec. 15</td>
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<td>May 15 – Jun. 14</td>
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<td>Jun. 15 – Jul. 14</td>
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<td>Jul. 15 – Aug. 14</td>
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<td>Aug. 15 – Sep. 14</td>
<td>Apr. 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 15 – Oct. 14</td>
<td>May 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 15 – Nov. 14</td>
<td>Jun. 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 15 – Dec. 14</td>
<td>Jul. 15</td>
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</table>

**Camping in Yosemite National Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</th>
<th>OPEN 2012 (APPROX)</th>
<th>MAX RV LENGTH</th>
<th>MAX TRAILER LENGTH</th>
<th>RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</th>
<th>DAILY FEE</th>
<th># OF SITES</th>
<th>PETS</th>
<th>WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOSEMITE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pines</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>March 15–Dec 2</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>March 27–Oct 12</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>25 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Pines</td>
<td>April 3–Nov 4</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>25 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>RVs/trailers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$5/person, 35</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Tap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>25 ft</td>
<td>April 17–Oct 7</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Creek</td>
<td>July 12–Sept 9</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>25 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>110</td>
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<td><strong>NORTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodgdon Meadow</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>25 ft</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>Apr 17–Oct 15</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane Flat</td>
<td>July 12 – Oct 9</td>
<td>25 ft</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>July – Oct 15</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (dr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>July – Sep 16</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July – Sep 9</td>
<td>No RVs/trailers</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (dr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine Flat</td>
<td>July – Oct 15</td>
<td>24 ft (limited)</td>
<td>25 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (dr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows</td>
<td>July 12 – Sep 26</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Exact campground opening and closing dates are subject to conditions.
Hiking

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, 6-8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles, 1 hour round-trip to Mirror Lake, 5 miles, loop around lake</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>7 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous 1,900-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>14 mi [via Mist Trail] or 16.3 mi [via John Muir Trail] round-trip, 10-12 hour</td>
<td>Extremely Strenuous, 4,800-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain one-way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Bicycles are not allowed where indicated or on any unpaved trails.

Day Hikes Outside of Yosemite Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wawona Meadow Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Hotel</td>
<td>3.5 miles round-trip, 1.5 hours</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swinging Bridge Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Store / Pioneer Yosemite Hist. Dr. Parking Area</td>
<td>4.75 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taft Point</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel Dome</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda Springs / Parsons Lodge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Muir Trail through Lycell Canyon</td>
<td>Dog Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy, 200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lake</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Group Campground</td>
<td>4.8 miles round trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lembert Dome</td>
<td>Lembert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Muir Fall</td>
<td>Dog Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy, 200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona Falls</td>
<td>O'Shaughnessy Dam</td>
<td>5 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trail Etiquette

Respect Yosemite's resources and fellow hikers by considering the following as you enjoy your time on the trail:

- Dispose of waste properly. Carry out all trash (litter, toilet paper, hygiene products) and leftover food. Deposit solid human waste in a six-inch deep hole, at least 100 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the hole when finished. Do not burn toilet paper.
- Leave what you find. Collecting plants, cones, reptiles and butterflies, picking up archeological items (such as arrowheads) and using metal detectors are all prohibited in the park.
- Avoid the construction of rock cairns by utilizing a map and compass for navigation.
- Seek the advice and expertise of rangers in Visitor Centers and Wilderness Centers for planning a hike or wilderness trip.
- Yield to hikers travelling uphill.
- Cutting shortcuts causes erosion. Stay on designated trails.
- Store your food properly during day hike and backpacking trips. During the day, keep all food within arm’s reach. Store all food within bear canisters or bear lockers during backpacking trips. Not only is human food unhealthy for wildlife, but animals who obtain it can become aggressive, and sometimes have to be killed as a result.
- Respect wildlife by observing them from a distance. If an animal changes its behavior when it sees you, you are too close. Report wildlife sightings to rangers in the Visitor and Wilderness Centers.
- Yield to pack animals. Share the trail and allow them plenty of space on narrow trails.
- Think before you swim. Waterways can be dangerous. Swimming is prohibited both in Hetch Hetchy reservoir and Emerald Pool (above Nevada Fall).
The Ever-Changing Celebration
by Margaret Eissler

The year has always seemed to me a circle—a ring with a jewel at the top. The jewel is summer in Tuolumne Meadows, a gleaming, magical celebration of time and place.

Tuolumne Meadows stands at 8,600 feet above sea level. The designated Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River meanders through broad subalpine meadows surrounded by peaks and domes. In the high mountains, winter lasts most of the year. The jewel, then, is not simply “summer” but rather three seasons—spring, summer, and fall—compressed into the calendar months typically called “summer.”

Everything has to happen quickly in this short time. It’s a wild dance, a flurry of activity. The early blooming of shooting stars and buttercups begins a rapid succession of flowering events across eight to ten weeks, an intense period of buds unfolding to bloom, then seed, then plants stocking up energy in their roots in preparation for next spring. Mosquitoes and dragonflies emerge from the lakes and ponds. Frog eggs hatch into tadpoles. Lodgepole pines release their pollen. Deer give birth to fawns. Baby Belding’s ground squirrels and yellow-bellied marmots appear. Birds mate, nest, lay eggs, and feed nestlings that quickly fledge.

There is no time to lose. It’s all about reproductive survival. It is simultaneously serious business and a vibrant celebration of life.

If you took the same walk everyday, you would notice something different each time: a new flower in bloom, another gone to seed; a robin’s nest brimming with demanding, hungry mouths; then an empty nest; a hawk, dive-bombed by jays and robins, sitting on a branch, eating one of these fledglings; the hermit thrush singing its flute-like song and then, suddenly, mid-season, silent.

Summer soon overlaps the end of spring. The higher sections of the meadows dry and turn golden brown. The river, once loud and raging, dwindles, becomes quiet and easy to cross. The white gentians (Gentiana newberryi) show up with frilly petals. Pale green dots inside lure pollinators to nectar deep within their bell-shaped flowers. This and two other gentian species are the last to bloom in these high meadows.

They signal the coming of fall and the approach of winter.

Although every year is different, I’ve noticed autumn arriving around the third weekend of August. You can hear the seasonal change. Wind blows through the tops of the lodgepole pines. The kingfishers arrive and make their rattling calls as they fly the river course. The Townsend’s solitaire, a robin-like bird, sings endless warbling songs from the tops of trees, seemingly without taking a breath. The chickaree, also known as the Douglas tree squirrel, becomes more active and noisy as it makes last preparations for winter. The bilberry, a meadow ground cover, turns fiery orange and red. The days are noticeably shorter. Freezing nights frost the meadow grasses and sedges. There’s an excitement in the air, a sense of urgency and anticipation. The bears are extra hungry. It could snow any time.

A raven clicks and croaks in the tree just beyond my cabin door. Brewer’s blackbirds flock together, “whirl in the autumn winds” as the poet says, and leave their many tracks in the snow. It’s the end of September, time to pack up and move to lower elevations before the big snowstorms come. Some animals stay, but most leave for the long winter.

All of us join this wild celebration when we visit the high mountains. Clearly we are just one small part of everything that is going on. We become aware that plants and animals have no time to recover if something goes wrong—like the damage caused by a few people walking on these fragile meadows. This awareness inspires respect, a thoughtfulness about how to be in this place: where we put our feet, where we picnic, how fast we drive. Everything is alive, vibrant, yet delicately balanced within this short span of time.

The year has always seemed to me a circle—a ring with a jewel at the top. I wear it always and try to live up to what it stands for: a marriage of sorts, a commitment to place, an awareness of relationship with everything else. Maybe we all wear place rings. We all live within the circle of the year and a cycle of seasons. Which ring do you wear? Where is your place?
Supporting Your Park

Enhance the Visitor Experience

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

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

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates 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

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 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

Through the support of donors, Yosemite Conservancy provides grants and support to Yosemite National Park to help preserve and protect Yosemite today and for future generations. The work funded by Yosemite Conservancy is visible throughout the park, from trail rehabilitation to wildlife protection and habitat restoration. The Conservancy is dedicated to enhancing the visitor experience and providing a deeper connection to the park through outdoor programs, volunteering and wilderness services. Thanks to dedicated supporters, the Conservancy has provided more than $75 million in grants to Yosemite National Park. Donate now or learn more at: www.yosemiteconservancy.org or call 1-800-469-7275.

Yosemite Anniversaries

Did you know that the Yosemite Grant Act, signed by Abraham Lincoln on June 30, 1864, was the first land grant to protect wild lands for the enjoyment of people? With the help of many partners and friends, we are hosting a nation-wide commemorative effort to honor the 150th anniversary of this significant event that spurred the national park idea. In addition, this fall, the Yosemite Conservancy will release a new Dayton Duncan book, Seed of the Future, a collection of 150 published visitor stories, and a special Ken Burns’ documentary to honor this milestone.

INSPIRING GENERATIONS

Visit www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary to learn more and to see the latest calendar of over 100 anniversary activities that are happening from the fall of 2013 through the summer of 2014. You can participate in many of these activities while you are staying in or passing through one of our neighboring communities.

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