Seasonal Highlights

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

Winter in Yosemite National Park can be a magical time! The heat and noise of summer fade into the past, and well-prepared travelers are treated to a whole new set of discoveries!

Enjoy Winter Fun at Badger Pass!
California’s original ski resort, Badger Pass Ski Area is a perfect place for visitors of all ages and skill levels to play in the snow. Learn to ski with one of our lessons, get some practice in on 10 runs, or catch some air in one of two terrain parks. You can also set-out on an easy, guided snowshoe hike or embark on a cross-country skiing adventure from the Nordic center. Badger Pass is open everyday beginning December 12, conditions permitting. Downhill ski lifts operate from 9am to 4pm. Call 209/372-1800 for current snow conditions. Equipment rentals and lift tickets are available from 8:30am to 4pm.

Visit the Ice Rink at Curry Village
Take the shuttle to Curry Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. Four sessions are available on weekends and holidays: 8:30am to 11:00am, noon to 2:30 pm, 3:30pm to 6:00pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm. Monday through Friday, two sessions are available from 3:30pm to 6:00pm and 7:00pm to 9:30pm.

Take the Bus
Free shuttles, which are environment-friendly, electric/diesel hybrids, are available in Yosemite Valley year-round. Park your car and let an expert drive you to some of the most scenic and historic points in the park. Not only will you be doing your part to cut down on traffic congestion and vehicle pollutants, you’ll also have your hands free and able to capture that perfect photo of Half Dome.

Reserve Ostrander Ski Hut For an Epic Winter Adventure!
Ostrander Ski Hut, managed by Yosemite Conservancy, is accepting reservations for the 2014 season. The hut operates from early December through March and is located 10 miles from the Badger Pass Ski Area. Trips to Ostrander require advanced snowshoe or cross country skiing experience. Reservations can be booked by calling 209-379-5161. Information, equipment lists and more can be found at www.yosemiteconservancy.org/ostrander.

Get Outdoors with Yosemite Conservancy
Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing Yosemite’s wonders. Spend a weekend observing the lives of birds or summit Half Dome with an expert leading you every step of the way. Looking for a custom Yosemite experience? Contact us to plan a Custom Adventure for your family or group. Visit yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures or 209/372-4357 ext. 10 to find your adventure today.

Enjoy Winter on Snowshoes
Join a naturalist for a guided hike or rent or bring your own equipment for a fantastic winter experience. Be sure to check weather and snow conditions before you go. Snowshoe rentals are available at Badger Pass Ski Area. The Rental Shop is open from 8:30am to 4pm. For weather conditions, please call 209/372-0200 or check at any visitor center. (See page 5 for guided hike schedule.)

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 plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storm periods. Motorists are advised to always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel. Icy and wet roadways can exist throughout the park! To check road conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit www.dot.ca.gov for highways connecting to Yosemite, outside the park.

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Discover Yosemite
Let your curiosity guide you to new places

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 in awe 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. Please note: Fees in Yosemite NP are currently being reevaluated. Please check nps.gov/yose for potential changes in fees.

- 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.yosemitelodge.com

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

Highway 120 West
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce 800/446-9120 or 209/962-0429
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau 800/446-1333
www.tcvb.com/highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau 559/683-4636
www.yosemitehighway.com

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center 209/878-3074

Highway 140/49
Call: Welcome Center, Merced 800/446-5353 or 209/724-8104
www.yosemite-gateway.org
Mariposa County Visitor Center 866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081
Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau 209/742-4567
www.homeofyosemite.com

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

Yosemite Pass
Valid for 7 days
- Individual
- Vehicle

Interagency Annual Pass
Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.
- Individual
- Vehicle

Interagency Senior Pass
Valid for one year in Yosemite.
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The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove Roads close to vehicles use after the first significant snowfall. Overnight parking on these roads is not permitted. For current road and weather information, please call 209/372-0200.
Glacier Point Road

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and Yosemite’s high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. The road stays open as weather permits, however, overnight parking along it ends October 15. When the road is snow-covered and conditions permit, a system of cross-country ski tracks are 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 view looking down 3,214 feet into 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. Parking is also available at the Wawona Store and a free shuttle bus, which runs daily through October 26, from 9am to 6pm, then weekends only until November 16, as weather permits, accesses the grove. The grove road 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 (see page 7 for parking lot closure dates) area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one mile west down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. To park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk two 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. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles (1 hour 15 minutes) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 8am to 7pm through October 31, then 8am to 5pm through March 31. Vehicles and/or trailers over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not permitted on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

DID YOU KNOW:

• The Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep is the only species in Yosemite National Park that has been declared endangered by both the federal and state governments
• Because of hunting and diseases, Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep were extirpated from Yosemite National Park in 1914
• Approximately 40 bighorn sheep currently inhabit the eastern margins of Yosemite National Park
• Bighorn sheep (Ovis Canadensis) are one of two species of mountain sheep in North America. The other species is the Dall sheep (Ovis dalli), which is native to Canada and Alaska.
• There are three genetically distinct subspecies of bighorn sheep: Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and desert bighorn sheep
• John Muir devoted an entire chapter to bighorn sheep in his influential book, “The Mountains of California”, which was published in 1894
Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and bookstore are open from 9am to 5pm. They are located west of the main post office, near shuttle stops #5 and #9. The facility offers information, maps, and books. Explore the exhibits and learn how Yosemite’s landscape formed and how people interact with it.

YOSEMITE FILMS

Two films are shown daily, every half hour beginning at 9:30am (except on Sundays, when the first showing is at noon). The last film is at 4:30pm. “Ken Burns’ Yosemite - A Gathering of Spirit” plays on the hour and “The Spirit of Yosemite” plays on the half hour, in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits are required year-round. Permits and bear canisters are available at the Valley Visitor Center daily from 9am to 5pm.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center. The museum is open daily from 9am to 5pm (may close for lunch).

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite’s Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. The Indian Cultural Museum is open from 9am to 5pm (may close for lunch).

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

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

YOSEMITE MUSEUM GALLERY EXHIBIT

Rooms with a View: Three Decades of Yosemite Artists-in-Residence Exhibition

October 31, 2014 - January 19, 2015

This exhibit includes 50 paintings, photographs, sculptures and kinetic art pieces by artists from throughout the country. The works were all produced by artists who were selected for the Yosemite Artists-in-Residence Program (initially sponsored by the National Park Service and later by Yosemite Renaissance) The Program provided up to a month of lodging in or near Yosemite for artists to work.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

During the rehabilitation of the Gallery building, The Ansel Adams Gallery services will be temporarily offered from the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center in Yosemite Village. It is open daily from 10am to 5pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other artists. See page 5 for photo walk and other event times. Closed December 25.

For more information call 209/372-4211 or visit www.anseladams.com.

POST OFFICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Village Main Office</td>
<td>Inside Yosemite Visitor Center Main Office</td>
<td>Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yosemite Lodge Post Office</td>
<td>Monday - Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Portal Post Office</td>
<td>Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm, closed by 12:30pm to 1:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wawona Post Office</td>
<td>Monday - Friday: 9am to 5pm, Saturday: 9am to noon</td>
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BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

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<tr>
<td>Yosemite Village The Ansel Adams Sweet Shop</td>
<td>7am to 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yosemite Village Gift/Grocery</td>
<td>8am to 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yosemite Village Nature Shop</td>
<td>11am to 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curry Meadow Mountain Shop</td>
<td>8am to 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curry Village Gift/Grocery</td>
<td>8am to 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wawona Area Yosemite Store and Pioneer Gift Shop</td>
<td>8am to 5pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**SUNDAY**

7:00pm  Ranger Evening Program  
1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS)

4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) $.

**MONDAY**

2:00pm  Ranger Walk-Ahwahneechee Stories and Games  
3 hours, Badger Pass Nordic Center, Tickets/info at any tour and activity desk (YMS) $.

**TUESDAY**

2:00pm  Discovery Snowshoe Hike  
3 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)

6:30pm  History of Bracebridge Talk  
Dec 14 only 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN)

**WEDNESDAY**

2:00pm  Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)

7:00pm  Ranger Evening Program  
1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop 019. (NPS)

**THURSDAY**

2:00pm  History of Bracebridge Talk  
Dec 22 only 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN)

**FRIDAY**

2:00pm  Junior Ranger Talk  
1.5 hrs. Bring along the family to explore nature together! Ahwahnee back lawn. (DN)

6:30pm  Full Moon Snowshoe Walk  
Jan & Feb only 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) $.

8:00pm  Evening Program  
1 hr. Check local listings for topic & venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (DN) $.

**SATURDAY**

8:30am  Junior Ranger Talk  
Snowshoe Yosemite: Magic in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias  
(Jan 10 & Feb 7 only) 7 hrs. See giant sequoias in a way that
tours at any tour desk. (DN) $.

5 hrs. Meet at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room. (DN) $.

**(Except Feb 2 & 8) 1 hr. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) **

6:00am  Beginner Backcountry Lesson-Ski to Tempo Dome  
5 hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, tickets/info at any tour and activity desk. (DN) $.

**YOSEMITE VALLEY**

9:00am  Camera Walk  
1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel (TAAG).

10:30am  Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)

2:00pm  Ranger Walk-Geology  
1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5. (NPS)

2:00pm  History of Bracebridge Talk  
Dec 16 only 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN)

**WAWONA**

2:00pm  WEED WILDS WORKSHOPS  
Except Dec 18 & 23-31 hrs. Stories and activities for kids 6 & under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge. (DN)

8:30pm  Full Moon Snowshoe Walk  
Feb 3 only 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) $.

**STARRY SKIES OVER YOSEMITE**

Ranger Evening Program  
1 hr. Check local listings for topic & venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (DN) $.

7:00pm  Evening Program  
1 hr. Check local listings for topic & venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (DN) $.

8:30pm  Full Moon Snowshoe Walk  
Jan & Feb only 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) $.

10:30pm  Full Moon Snowshoe Walk  
Jan & Feb only 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) $.

**FAMILY WALK**

5:30pm  Vintage Music of Yosemite  
Dec 25 & Jan 1 only

4 hrs. Use music and historical programs with pianist Jim Bopp. Specific programs are available upon request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom or stop by the front desk. 

**WAWONA**

5:30pm  Vintage Music of Yosemite  
Dec 26 & 31 only

4 hrs. Use music and historical programs with pianist Jim Bopp. Specific programs are available upon request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom or stop by the front desk.

5:30pm  Vintage Music of Yosemite  
Dec 15 & 26 only

4 hrs. Use music and historical programs with pianist Jim Bopp. Specific programs are available upon request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom or stop by the front desk.

4:00pm  Starsky over Yosemite  
(Jan 3, 9, & 23) 1 hr. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) $.

**SANFRANCISCO**

8:30am  Yosemite Conservancy Programs offered for a fee.

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 209/379-1034 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 Northside Drive, and follow the blue and white signs.

Sign Language interpreting is available upon request. Contact Deaf Services at 209/379-5250 (v/txt). Two weeks advance notice is requested. Assistance Listening Devices are available upon request, inquire at a park information center.
Yosemite in Winter

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite National Park. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery. See page 6 for more information on park programs 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

Yosemite Valley has a wide range of walking and hiking possibilities. 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.

Sightseeing

Some of the famous landmarks in Yosemite Valley include:

- **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy 30-minute loop trail starting 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.

- **Bridalveil Fall** is a year-round waterfall that can be visited on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds swirling about the cliff blow the wispy water into a delicate free-fall.

- **El Capitan** is a massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit.

From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan.

**Note:** Please stay on foot paths to avoid damaging delicate meadows.

**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 iconic feature into what we see today. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge and Glacier Point all provide stunning views of Half Dome.

- **Happy Isles** is easily reached by the free shuttle bus at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite’s geologic story. Shuttle buses may not go to stop #16 when road is snow-covered or icy.

- **Tunnel View,** along the Wawona Road (Hwy 41), provides a view that showcases Yosemite Valley. Capture breathtaking views of El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall and Half Dome. It is particularly spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.

**Tours**

Tours listed depart from Yosemite Lodge, weather permitting. Check Tour and Activity Desk for times. The Valley Floor Tour is a 26-mile, two-hour, guided tour of Yosemite Valley. It departs several times daily. Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at the Tour and Activity Desk in the Yosemite Lodge, 7:30am to 7pm.

Yosemite 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.

**January 7-13**

Yosemite Photography: Winter Wonderland Workshop with James Corwin Johnson

**January 10**

Snowshoe Yosemite: Magic in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Trip 1 with Dick Ewart

**February 7**

Snowshoe Yosemite: Magic in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Trip 2 with Shirley Spencer

Find more information about these programs at www.yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures or call 209/379-2317, ext. 10. Camping (if needed) and park entry are included, additional lodging options available. Custom adventures can also be arranged for individuals, families and groups. Proceeds support Yosemite Conservancy’s work in the park; preserving and protecting Yosemite for generations to come.

Winter Sports

Badger Pass Ski Area opens on December 12, conditions permitting, and the ice rink at Curry Village is open through March, conditions permitting. Live information on winter sports is available by calling 209/372-8340, or recorded information is available at 209/372-1000.

**Badger Pass A-Frame**

Open 9:00am to 4:00pm 7 days a week when Badger Ski Area is open. Wilderness permits, Ostrander Ski Hut check-in and cross-country ski trail information available. Starting point for ranger led snowshoe walks.
Wawona & Mariposa Grove Visitor Center
Open Friday to Sunday from 9am to 4pm. Closed for the season starting December 28.

Wilderness Permits
Wilderness permits are available by self-registration on the front porch of Hill’s Studio. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

Evening Programs
Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30pm to 8:00pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite’s past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30pm to 9:30pm.

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.

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. 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.

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 the ground is snow-covered, access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski.

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

Merced Grove
Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of approximately 20 big trees accessible only on foot. It’s a three-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe 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 in the area so 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 (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10.

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 moderately strenuous trail leads downhill from the parking area into the grove and drops 900 feet (150 meters) in one mile. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you.
Experience Your America  
Yosemite National Park 

Protecting yourself...

Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

There are many ways to experience the wilderness 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 swift waters. Keep children from wandering near these natural hazards. 
Never swim or wade upstream from a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas. 
Mountain water is very cold, no matter what time of year it is. Yosemite’s rivers are fed by melted snow, and even expert swimmers can quickly lose their strength in the icy water. Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

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 set up emergency shelter 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 a map and compass and know where you are at all times, with a planned route.
• Altitude sickness can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet. Descend to a lower altitude as soon as possible.

Traffic Safety
Roads leading to the park are two-lane, arrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by obeying 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.

Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry

Avoid contact with wildlife and/ or rodent exposures to your physician.
For more information on hantavirus and other environmental-safety hazards visit: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm

Avoid contact with wildlife and keep food and trash stored properly.
Wild animals in Yosemite can transmit numerous diseases, including plague, rabies, and hantavirus. Keeping your distance and your food from wildlife not only protects them, it also protects you from injury and exposure to diseases.
If you encounter a mammal, particularly a raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, or bat, that is behaving erratically, don’t touch the animal. Instead, report the sick animal to a park employee. In addition to keeping bears away, storing your food properly also reduces your exposure to rodents and their fleas, which may carry plague.

Winter landscape, Photo by Michael Freeman
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 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 may store food in your car (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark. Use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats.</td>
<td>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 into all kinds of vehicles!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</td>
<td>You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RV’s with windows closed.</td>
<td>Bears may enter campites 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. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite.</td>
<td>In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear carionets 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 Columbus Rock</td>
<td>Camp 4 Near Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 2-3 hours</td>
<td>Strumex 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 Strumex 2,700-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours</td>
<td>Strumex 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>5 miles round-trip, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Strumex 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Staircase Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Very Strumex, 3,200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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/ yoursafty.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.
Returning Bighorn Sheep to Yosemite’s Wilderness

Story by Sarah Stock

Rocks tumble, hooves clatter, and massive horns emerge from a swirl of dust. The golden-brown figure of a Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep is suddenly prominent at the top of the ridge. This animal belongs here in Yosemite National Park, as integral to the alpine landscape as the sheer precipices, the rocky talus fields, and the wind-scoured ridge tops. For thousands of years, bighorn sheep have inhabited Yosemite’s rugged alpine environment, enduring severe winter storms, snow avalanches, and lengthy droughts. It’s no wonder John Muir wrote about bighorn sheep with such admiration.

“The wild sheep ranks highest amongst the animal mountaineers of the Sierra. Possessed of keen sight and scent, and strong limbs, he dwells secure amidst the loftiest summits, leaping unscathed from crag to crag, up and down the fronts of giddy precipices, crossing foaming torrents and slopes of frozen snow, exposed to the wildest storms, yet maintaining a brave, warm life, and developing from generation to generation in perfect strength and beauty.”

—John Muir, 1894

In spite of the bighorns’ heartiness and endurance, these vigorous animals were no match for early settlers with their guns and disease-carrying domestic sheep. Beginning with the gold rush in 1849 and continuing well into the twentieth century, unregulated hunting and fatal livestock diseases eliminated entire herds from across the bighorns’ range in the Sierra, including all remaining bighorn sheep in Yosemite. For nearly a century, bighorn were absent from the Yosemite landscape.

Bighorn were first reintroduced along the margins of the park in 1986. These small herds still persist, and can sometimes be seen summering along the Sierra crest, on such peaks as Mount Dana and Mount Gibbs. However, the areas inhabited today represent only a fraction of the bighorn sheep’s former range, and until a more robust population is established, one of Yosemite’s greatest wilderness emblems will remain at risk.

Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep are well known for their large size, strength, and ability to negotiate precipitous terrain. Adult males, called rams, stand over three feet tall at the shoulder and weigh up to 220 pounds; females, called ewes, weigh up to 155 pounds. Both rams and ewes have permanent horns; rams’ horns are massive and coiled, whereas ewes’ horns are shorter with less curvature. Bighorn sheep display a range of body coloration, from dark brown to almost white, and have a large white rump patch and a short, dark tail. Rams live to be 10 to 12 years old, and ewes live to be 12 to 17 years old. Prior to breeding (during the rut), bighorn rams compete for their right to mate with ewes. Dominance behavior includes kicking, butting, neck wrestling, and dramatic horn clashes that sound like thunder. Breeding generally takes place in November. Starting at two years old, ewes give birth to one lamb by five months of age. The lambs become independent of their mothers when they are about one year old.

The Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep is the only federally endangered mammal in Yosemite. The listing occurred in 2000 after the range-wide population plunged to a low of about 125 individuals. The population has since increased to over 500, which marks an important milestone toward recovery. Prior to unregulated hunting and diseases, bighorn sheep probably numbered in the thousands. To help restore the population, the National Park Service, along with many partners and with funding from Yosemite Conservancy, plans to reintroduce a new herd into their native habitat in the Cathedral Range. Yosemite’s Cathedral Range has numerous historical detections of bighorn sheep. One such detection occurred in 1933 when park naturalists discovered a mummified ram melting out of the Lyell Glacier. Park naturalist, Bert Harwell, theorized at the time that the ram had been feeding on plants growing on Mount Lyell, and had accidentally fallen into a crevasse near the top of the glacier. Harwell suspected that the ram had been preserved in the ice and snow for a long time, perhaps centuries.

Such historical accounts set the stage for envisioning the bighorn sheep’s return. The Cathedral Range offers bighorn sheep superb habitat with steep cliffs and rocky outcrops for evading predators and lush vegetation for remaining healthy and strong. It also has the advantage of providing geographic separation from disease-carrying domestic sheep, and potential connectivity with existing herds. The return of this long-absent wilderness icon to the heart of Yosemite will restore the alpine ecosystem and provide more opportunities for backcountry hikers to view bighorn sheep in their native habitat.

Sarah Stock is a Wildlife Biologist at Yosemite National Park. She has been overseeing the park’s Terrestrial Biodiversity Program since 2006.
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 1962, 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.anseladams.com.

Delaware North

Delaware North (DN) 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. DN encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure.

For more information and employment opportunities with Delaware North 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 $81 million in grants to Yosemite National Park. Donate now or learn more at www.yosemiteconservancy.org or call 800/469-7275.

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209/379-9510 fax
www.nyi.org

Volunteer For Your Park!

Over 10,100 volunteers donated more than 170,000 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.

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