Seasonal Highlights

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

What can you do with your time in Yosemite during late winter and early spring? Check out the following seasonal highlights for a great list of ideas.

Ski Badger Pass
Conditions Permitting
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 scheduled to close on March 29, conditions permitting. Downhill ski lifts operate from 9am to 4pm. Call 209/372-1000 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 11am, noon to 2:30 pm, 3:30pm to 6pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm. Monday through Friday, two sessions are available from 3:30pm to 6:00pm and 7:00pm to 9:30pm. Closes for the season on March 1, conditions permitting.

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.

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. Some have fees, some are free. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 5 and 6.)

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 209/379-2317 x10 to find your adventure today.

Yosemite Art Center Workshops
Yosemite Conservancy invites you to participate in one of our enriching and fun art workshops. The Art Center will open for the season Sunday, March 29. There is a registration fee of $10 per visitor. For more information about out programs call 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 9am to 4:30pm (closed at 12pm for lunch). See page 6 for details.

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.)

Late winter and early spring are great times to visit. Yosemite’s waterfalls boom in early spring, and lower elevation wildflowers are a riot of color.

Tour The Ahwahnee...
Step back to an earlier era of history as you explore this National Historic Landmark that opened in 1927. Notable for its architecture and artful décor, the hotel provides a cozy atmosphere to relax and enjoy a warm drink in.
... or Curl Up in Front of a Fireplace!
The Ahwahnee has three grand fireplaces that have always provided heat to offset the year’s most frigid temperatures. Bring a book and a warm drink and find a cozy niche in front of the fire, the perfect place to warm your hands and toes.

Fee Changes
As of March 1, 2015, a new fee structure will be implemented for Yosemite National Park. Entrance fees will be as follows:

**Entrance Fee (Passes good for 7 days)**
- Vehicle: $25
- Motorcycle (as of March 1) = $15
  Covers one or two people on a single motorcycle; valid for seven days
- Individual (as of March 1) = $15
  In a bus, on a bicycle, horse, on foot

**Campground Fees**: (As of March 1)
- 6 person site (fully staffed, water, flush toilets) $20 fees all change to $26
- 6 person site (non-staffed, water, flush toilets) $14 increase to $18
- 6 person site (non-staffed primitive, no water, vault toilets) $10 increase to $12
- Group Sites $40 fees all increase to $50
- Horse Sites $25 fees all increase to $30
- Camp 4 and Backpackers Camps $53/person increase to $65/person

For more information on fee changes, please visit our website at nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/fees. html

Want the Guide on your Apple or Android device?
Search NPS-Yosemite in app stores or at npshome.nps.gov/yose for your visit to download the official park app for up-to-date listings of programs, services, an interactive map, and more!

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park
Entrance Fees*
*Effective March 1, 2015, entrance fees will change in Yosemite National Park. Please visit our website at nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/fees.htm for more information.

- Vehicle Valid for 7 days
  - Through February 28, 2015: $20
  - March 1-31, 2015: $25
  - April-October 2015: $30

- Motorcycle Valid for 7 days
  - Through February 28: $10/person
  - After March 1, 2015: $15/motorcycle

- Individual Valid for 7 days
  - Through February 28: $10
  - After March 1, 2015: $15

Yosemite Pass
- Valid in Yosemite for one year
- Interagency Annual Pass: $80
- Interagency Senior Pass: $10 ( Lifetime )
- Interagency Access Pass (Free) (Lifetime)
- Interagency Military Pass (Free) (Annual)

Interagency Annual Pass
- Valid for one year in Yosemite.
- Interagency Senior Pass: $10 (Lifetime)
- Interagency Access Pass: $10 (Lifetime)
- Interagency Military Pass: $10 (Annual)

Yosemite Pass
- Valid for one year
- Interagency Annual Pass: $80
- Interagency Senior Pass: $10 (Lifetime)
- Interagency Access Pass: $10 (Lifetime)
- Interagency Military Pass: $10 (Annual)

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

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, or with a tour, the scenery will leave you in awe and eager to see what’s around the next corner.

Granite, the Merced River, trees, and meadows compose the Valley’s unique blend. Photo by Christine White Loberg
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. The grove road is closed to vehicles after the first big snowstorm, making it a peaceful hike or snowshoe for winter adventurers. 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 steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk two steep miles down to this small grove. These groves north of Yosemite Valley are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off limits to vehicles. Remember that the walk down is easier than the walk back up.

Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

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

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area’s low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. 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?

Yosemite National Park features an amazing array of youth and education programs designed to meet the learning objectives of educators, inspire participants, and create meaningful connections to national parks and all public lands while supporting the development of a life-long stewardship ethic. Yosemite features programs for youth beginning at age 4 and continuing up to young adults, age 25.

For more information on youth and education programs offered within Yosemite National Park, as well as other inspiring ways for youth to connect to the park, please contact the Education Branch at 209/375-9503 or email yose_education@nps.gov.

Parks in Focus® is a program of the Udall Foundation that connects youth to nature through photography. For more information, visit http://pif.udall.gov.
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.

For more information on wilderness travel and safety please see page 8 of this Guide.

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 VALLEY

Experience 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 Museum Gallery Exhibit

Yosemite Renaissance XXX

Art Exhibition

Yosemite Renaissance XXX opens on February 28 at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. This art exhibit continues through May 10. The official opening will be preceded by a reception and awards ceremony from 5:30 to 7:30pm on Friday, Feb. 27 at the Gallery. The public is cordially invited to attend this reception. Yosemite Renaissance is an annual exhibit, now in its thirty-fieth year, which encourages diverse interpretations of Yosemite and the environment of the Sierra Nevada.

Its goals are to bring together the works of serious contemporary artists that do not simply duplicate traditional representations; to establish a continuum with past generations of Yosemite artists; and to help re-establish visual art as a major interpretive medium of the landscape and a stimulus to the protection of the environment.

For this year’s competitive exhibit there were approximately 750 entries, resulting in an exhibit of 49 paintings, graphics, photographs and 3-dimensional pieces by artists throughout the country.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery is rehabilitating our facilities this winter, and during this construction period will be operating out of the Wilderness Center next door. We will move back into our historic facility upon completion of the rehabilitation project. Check local listings for hours of operation. For more information call 209/372-4211 or visit www.anseladams.com.

Books, Gifts, & Apparel

Yosemite Village

The Ansel Adams Gallery

10am to 5pm
Yosemite Bookstore

Inside Yosemite Visitor Center

9am to 5pm
Yosemite Museum Store

9am to 5pm, may close for lunch
Village Store

8am to 8pm
Habitat Yosemite

8:30am to 4pm (Opens March 27)
Yosemite Village Sport Shop

10am to 4pm, Opens March 27

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery

8am to 7pm
Nature Shop

11am to 6pm
Mountain Shop

9am to 4pm
Curry Village Gift/Grocery

9am to 7pm
Wawona Area

Wawona Store and Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 5pm
Crane Flat Area

Crane Flat Grocery

10am to 4pm, Opens March 27
# Events and Programs

## Where to go and what to do

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter (Except April 5)</td>
<td>Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter (Except March 30 and April 7)</td>
<td>Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided (NPS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter (Except April 1)</td>
<td>Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided (NPS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter (Except March 30 and April 6)</td>
<td>Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided (NPS)</td>
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</tbody>
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## 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, check out Yosemite Accessibility Guide which is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm), or contact an Accessibility Coordinator at 209/379-1035 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 (toll free). Two weeks advance notice is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request, inquire at a visitor center.

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

An unlimited array of possibilities awaits 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 talks and walks 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 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 Adventures program. Join one of the many year-round programs available and explore everything Yosemite has to offer.

- **February 19-22**
  - **Yosemite Photography:** Horsetail Fall & Winter Landscapes
  - **March 7**
    - **Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas atop Dewey Point – Trip 1**
    - **March 21**
      - **Snowshoe Yosemite: Vistas atop Dewey Point – Trip 2**
    - **March 27**
      - **Day Hike through Spring Canyon**

**April 3**
- **Yosemite Photography:** Magic of the “Moonbow” – Trip 1

Find more information about these programs at www.yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures or call 209/379-2317 x10. 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.

Yosemite Art Center (YC)
Yosemite Conservancy invites you to enjoy a hands-on art experience in Yosemite Valley. Celebrated artists lead workshops from 10am to 2pm, starting April 6 and continuing through October. There is a registration fee of $10 per visitor, supplies are available for purchase.

- **April 6-11**
  - **Catch Yosemite’s Light in Watercolor** by Steve Curl

**Bike Rentals**
See the Valley by bike. Bring your own or rent one from the Yosemite Lodge. Bike Rental Stand. Opens March 27, conditions permitting.

**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

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.

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 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.

GETTING TO MANISHA GROVE
Allow 1 hour 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
Trials 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.

Big Oak Flat
Big Oak Flat Information Station
Wilderness permits are available by self-registration on the front porch of the information station. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

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 500 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.

Visitor Services
Beyond Yosemite Valley
Experience Your America    Yosemite National Park

Protecting yourself...

Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

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

Around Ice and Water
Stay off of frozen lakes, rivers and streams and away from 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 emergency fire-starting materials. • Avoid dehydration; carry and drink plenty of water at least three liters of water per person, and bring high-energy food.

Water Quality
To protect yourself from disease, treat any waterways where rocks have been polished. Scrambling on boulders, wading across streams or rivers, and traveling beyond railings or other barriers may put you one slip away from a fatal accident. Avoid shortcuts. Visitors commonly get “legged out” after cutting across trails.

Wilderness Permit Details
Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Please see pages 6 and 7 of this Guide for more information about obtaining wilderness permits. For summer trips, reservations are taken from 24 weeks to two days in advance of the start of your trip. A processing fee of $5 per permit plus $5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. Go to www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits for trailhead availability and more information on how to make a reservation. Reservations can be made by fax or phone starting December 1. To make a reservation by phone, call (209) 372-0740 Mon-Fri from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Information about Half Dome permits is available on our website at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits. More Information • www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm • Leave No Trace www.int.org • Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue www.friendsofyosemite.org

Half Dome Permit Information
The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be put back up May 22, 2015 conditions permitting. Permits are required 7 days a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2015 permits begins March 1, 2015 and ends March 31, 2015. To apply for permits visit recreation.gov or call 877/444-6777. More information about the Half Dome permit process is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.

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 to humans via the droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. In California, deer mice are the primary carrier of the virus that causes HPS. You may come into close proximity to rodents during your visit, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS. HPS risk is greater inside of buildings or other enclosures where deer mice are present. If staying in guest lodging, please tell the housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your accommodations. Do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors to guest lodging shut and do not bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. If you are camping and backcountry, do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings. HPS often begins with flu-like symptoms such as aches, fever, and chills one to seven weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and difficulty in breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms, and mention any potential 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.

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 Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing
It is starting to get dark early, which means temperatures will drop fast. Prepare yourself with a headlamp and extra layers, even on day hikes. Also, trails may be closed after the first winter storm, due to other ice or rockfall hazards. For your safety, please respect these closures and do not bypass them. Here are a few more reminders before you hit the trails. • Tell someone your plan and when you hope to return. • Be prepared for icy travel before conditions arise. Bring crampons, ice axe, climbing skins, and other traction devices. • 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 elevation should it develop. • Know the weather and prepare for changes. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult. • Avoid dehydration; 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. • Bring a flashlight in case you need to stay overnight. • Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day. • Bring a flashlight in case you need to stay overnight. • Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.

Eleven-year-old Lise Skye on the way to Ostrander Lake! Photo by Karen Amstutz

### Additional Information
- Experience Your America: Yosemite National Park
- Yosemite National Park: www.nps.gov/yose
- Wildpermits for trailhead availability and more information on how to make a reservation: www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits
- Leave No Trace: www.int.org
- Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue: www.friendsofyosemite.org
- Half Dome Permit Information: The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be put back up May 22, 2015 conditions permitting. Permits are required 7 days a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2015 permits begins March 1, 2015 and ends March 31, 2015. To apply for permits visit recreation.gov or call 877/444-6777. More information about the Half Dome permit process is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.
- 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 to humans via the droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. In California, deer mice are the primary carrier of the virus that causes HPS. You may come into close proximity to rodents during your visit, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS. HPS risk is greater inside of buildings or other enclosures where deer mice are present. If staying in guest lodging, please tell the housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your accommodations. Do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors to guest lodging shut and do not bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. If you are camping and backcountry, do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings. HPS often begins with flu-like symptoms such as aches, fever, and chills one to seven weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and difficulty in breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms, and mention any potential 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.
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>Vernal, 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 Steep, 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 #15</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>Steep, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Steep, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point (Closed in winter)</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>6.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours one-way</td>
<td>Very Steep, 2,200-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>

...and Yosemite

Yosemite Guardians

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. With nearly 4 million people watching over 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/yousafety.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 statues and regulations.
Yosemite changes lives. It does not take long to realize that the amazing array of youth and education programs in Yosemite National Park have great potential to change lives. In fact, there is no shortage of transformational stories when you talk to students and teachers who participate in Yosemite’s programs.

“Yosemite helped me experience a whole new world I was not aware of. Yosemite allowed me to reflect and write in a journal, and helped me experience who I really am.” Jesus Angel Dolores, a University of California Merced student and participant in the Yosemite Leadership Program Summer Internship.

The park is well known for its inspiring geology, waterfalls, and wildlife. What is less known is that Yosemite, with all of its incomparable features, also serves as the ultimate classroom to thousands of students and young adults. Nearly thirty different youth programs serve participants from age 4 to 25 through a variety of engaging opportunities from Junior Ranger programs, environmental education, and field opportunities, to college internships, professional development, and the California Conservation Corps.

Each year the park serves over 26,000 students through education programs and more than 24,000 youth in Junior Ranger and other field based programs. It is no wonder the opportunities are so diverse, since nearly every subject can be taught in Yosemite—from ecology, geology, wildlife biology, natural and cultural history to art, literacy, and leadership.

Youth and education programs connect students to the environment, stewardship and public lands in deep and profound ways that are also exciting and transformational.

From innovative programs such as Adventure Risk Challenge, a rigorous academic program that focuses on literacy and leadership, to Parks in Focus, a program that utilizes photography as a teaching tool for learning natural history, ecology, stewardship, and the legacy of public lands there are great ways to connect youth to Yosemite.

For those seeking ranger-led curriculum based programs, Parks As Classrooms, are designed for visiting youth and school groups from kindergarten through college. Topics include climate change, park management, watershed science, wildlife, Indian Cultural Programs, and much more. These programs allow students to have a hands-on learning experience right here in the park. For groups who cannot travel to the park, the Yosemite National Park education team has a solution: Parks As Classrooms programs can be delivered via Skype right into a classroom or youth program meeting.

“Students all over the country read about and study National Parks for classroom projects, and Skype gives Yosemite the chance to make student studies come alive,” shares ranger Sharon Miyako.

“Education rangers have Skyped with schools in California, and across the United States, answering questions about wildlife, land management, and careers. It’s exciting to see students making positive connections with a place they’ve never stepped foot in.”

And the opportunities do not end there! NatureBridge, one of the parks’ education partners, offers an exciting array of programs for students including 2 to 5 day residential programs and summer field courses. Students hike through the dramatic landscapes of Yosemite, explore ancient groves of giant sequoias, ski across snowy meadows, and challenge themselves to reach the tops of waterfalls. Through active student engagement, NatureBridge instructors teach science, history, and the arts that give these subjects context through personal experience. For youth interested in obtaining an internship, the Student Conservation Association program, which provides U.C. Merced students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills through on-campus and in-park programs that include outdoor education, stewardship projects, and professional development. Participants build valuable skills that serve both their academic and professional careers.

In addition, some students participate in a 12-week internship in which they live and work in Yosemite National Park.

With a wide variety of programs serving various ages and learning objectives, there is something for just about everyone and the best way to experience what Yosemite has to offer is to explore the options or get involved. Start now and explore some of the opportunities in Yosemite for the youth in your life and help them become connected to their national park—Yosemite, because when you learn in the ultimate classroom, it just might be life-changing.

For a full list of Youth In Yosemite programs and contact information, please contact the Yosemite National Park Education Office at (209) 375-9505 or via email at yose_education@nps.gov. We look forward to helping connect you to an array of inspiring programs!

The Yosemite Conservancy is a generous supporter of many Youth in Yosemite programs.
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 culminates 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 $92 million in grants to Yosemite National Park. Donate now or learn more at www.yosemiteconservancy.org or call 800/469-7275.

Yosemite Guide February 11, 2015 - April 7, 2015

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www.yni.org

Celebrating Yosemite's 125th Anniversary!
On October 1, 2015, the park will commemorate the 125th anniversary of the establishment of Yosemite National Park. President Benjamin Harrison signed the legislation, thereby creating the nation’s third National Park. The establishment of Yosemite National Park preserved over 1,500 square miles of land including Tuolumne Meadows, the park's high country, Hetch Hetchy and lands surrounding Yosemite Valley.

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