Experience Your America, Volume 40, Issue 4

Yosemite National Park

Stop # Location
1 Visitor Parking
2 Lower Yosemite Fall
3 Upper Yosemite Fall
4 Yosemite Village
5 The Ahwahnee
6 Degnan’s Deli
7 Valley Visitor Center
8 Lower Yosemite Fall

El Capitan shuttle begins May 22, 2015

Valley Visitor Center
Yosemite Village
Yosemite Lodge

Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

Campground
Parking
Restrooms
Walk-in Campground

Year-round Route:
Summer-only Route:

Yosemite Lodge
The Ahwahnee
Church Bowl Picnic Area
Cathedral Beach
Cathedral Chapel
Medical Clinic
Recreation Rentals
Housekeeping Camp
The Ahwahnee
Yosemite Village

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

Summer Route:
Summer Route:
Summer Route:

Campground
Parking
Restrooms
Walk-in Campground

Yosemite Lodge
The Ahwahnee
Church Bowl Picnic Area
Cathedral Beach
Cathedral Chapel
Medical Clinic
Recreation Rentals
Housekeeping Camp
The Ahwahnee
Yosemite Village

El Capitan shuttle begins May 22, 2015

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

Campground
Parking
Restrooms
Walk-in Campground

Yosemite Lodge
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El Capitan shuttle begins May 22, 2015

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

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The Ahwahnee
Yosemite Village

El Capitan shuttle begins May 22, 2015

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

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

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

The El Capitan shuttle begins May 22, 2015.
Seasonal Highlights

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

Celebrate Yosemite’s 125th Birthday!
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 1,300 square miles of land including Tuolumne Meadows, the park’s high country, Hetch Hetchy, and lands surrounding Yosemite Valley. Check out the special pull out anniversary calendar section included in this issue, or check the Anniversary Website at www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary for information about events happening all year.

Great things are happening in the Mariposa Grove!
In July 2015, the Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project will enter a new phase that will require the temporary closure of the grove for up to 24 months. The restoration project aims to restore giant sequoia habitat and hydrology in the grove. The project will also improve restrooms, parking, and accessible trails.

Visit the Yosemite Museum
Visit the Yosemite Museum Learn about Yosemite Indians by exploring a museum collection that includes remarkable woven baskets and traditional dress. Tour the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. The Yosemite Museum is located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9.

Stroll with a Ranger
Learn about the wonders of the park on a ranger-guided stroll. Programs are offered daily throughout the park on a variety of topics including waterfalls, trees, bears, geology, Yosemite Indians and more. (See pages 6, 7, 9, and 11 for details.)

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

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.)

Go to the Theater
After a day filled with exploring, relax and enjoy a show at the Yosemite Theater. Yosemite Theater presents a variety of performances, including plays based on some of the park’s most colorful characters, inspiring films, and celebrations of Yosemite’s culture and history. (See page 6 for show descriptions and schedules.)

Yosemite Art Center Workshops
Yosemite Conservancy invites you to participate in one of our enriching and fun plein air art sessions held Monday-Saturday from 9:45am-2pm in Yosemite Valley. There is a registration fee of $80 per workshop/person. To register in advance, call 209/372-1442. Walk-ins are welcome when space is available. Workshops begin at the Yosemite Art Center located next to the Village Store. Come by and browse our selection of art supplies, gifts, and original art. Open daily 9am-4:30pm (closed at 12pm for lunch). (See page 6 for details.)

Get Outdoors with Yosemite Conservancy
Are you looking for a memorable way to explore Yosemite, tailored to your interests and ability? Our expert naturalist-guides will deeply enhance your understanding of the park as you walk among Yosemite’s famous cliffs, trees and waterfalls. Whether you’d rather explore the park’s flora and fauna during a gentle saunter along the river or learn about Yosemite’s geology while taking an exhilarating and vigorous hike, we’ll help you create the perfect outdoor 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. (See page 6 for details.)

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/lostandfound or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at 209/379-1035 for more information.

Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Village 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 209/379-1250 (v/t). 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 Village Visitor Center. Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

Emergency Information
Emergency Dial 911
Yosemite Village Garage offers 24-hour emergency roadside assistance.

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

Lost and Found
To inquire about lost or found at one of Yosemite’s restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses or tour services, call 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call yose_lostfound@nps.gov

What’s Inside:
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04 Yosemite Valley
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Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Where toGoand What toDo in Yosemite National Park
Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Entrance Fees

Non-commercial car, pickup truck, RV, or van with 15 or fewer passenger seats (Valid for 7 days)
(No per-person fee)
$30/vehicle April through October
$25/vehicle November through March

Motorcycle (Valid for 7 days) $15/motorcycle

Individual (Valid for 7 days) $15
(in a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse)

Yosemite Pass $65
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.yosemiteturpark.com

Regional Info

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

Highway 120 West
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce
820/449-9120 or 209/962-0425

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
820/446-1333 www.tcb.com/highway141

Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/683-4636 www.yosemitethisyear.com

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/742-4567

Highway 140/49
Calif. Welcome Center, Merced
820/446-5353 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, 760/947-6629 www.leeving.com

Yosemite Valley

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

Yosemite Valley Map

Yosemite Village

Security State Bank
Yosemite Village

Ahwahnee

Ahwahnee Golf Course

Ahwahnee Village

Yosemite Skiers Club

Yosemite Village

Ahwahnee Skiing Area

Yosemite Village

Mirror Lake and Mount Watkins. Photo by Christine White Loberg
Glacier Point

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

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 ¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park’s South Entrance. Starting July 6, 2015, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias will close for restoration. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Enjoy a horse-drawn stage ride, watch blacksmiths at work at the blacksmith shop, or hike one of the scenic trails. For more information, visit the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio, adjacent to the historic Wawona Hotel. This was once a painting studio for the 19th-century artist Thomas Hill.

Tioga Road and Tuolumne Grove

Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. It is usually open from late May or early June through sometime in November. The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 to nearly 10,000 feet, so it offers an opportunity to experience many of Yosemite’s habitats. The White Wolf area, midway across the park, is the starting point for day hikes to Lukens Lake and Harden Lake. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the grove. Or park at Merced Grove trailhead on Big Oak Flat Road and walk 1.5 steep miles down to the grove. These groves are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off-limits to vehicles. Remember: walking down is easier than walking back up.

Tuolumne Meadows

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

Hetch Hetchy

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

DID YOU KNOW:
The National Park Service is a leader in citizen science and offers many opportunities for park visitors to learn about and participate in scientific research. Read the Feature Story on page 18 of this Yosemite Guide to find out more about citizen science in Yosemite, and check out the websites below to find out how you can get involved at home:

- http://www.nature.nps.gov/rlc/
- http://www.nature.nps.gov/rlc/citizenscience.cfm
- For teachers: http://www.nps.gov/teachers/index.htm

Want the Guide on your Apple or Android device?
Get the App!

Search NPS-Yosemite in app stores or at nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit to download the official park app for up-to-date listings of programs, services, an interactive map, and more!

Hetch Hetchy. Photo by Clarisa Flores

Bridge over the Tuolumne River at Tuolumne Meadows. Photo by John Sun

Cathedral Peak. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Mariposa Grove Museum. Photo by Pam Meierding

View from Glacier Point. Photo by Christine White Loberg

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- http://www.nature.nps.gov/rlc/
- http://www.nature.nps.gov/rlc/citizenscience.cfm
- For teachers: http://www.nps.gov/teachers/index.htm

Want the Guide on your Apple or Android device?
Get the App!

Search NPS-Yosemite in app stores or at nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit to download the official park app for up-to-date listings of programs, services, an interactive map, and more!
Yosemite Valley
An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery. See pages 5, 6, and 7 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mule & Horseback Rides
Horse or mule rides begin at the stable near North Pines Campground. Stable hours are 7:30 am to 5 pm daily. Information: 209/372-8348 (reservations strongly recommended).

Sightseeing
Some of the famous landmarks in Yosemite Valley include:

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

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.
Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore
The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore are open from 9am to 5pm. The visitor center is west of the main post office (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 Museum
Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

Indian Cultural Exhibit
Open 9am to 5pm. Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite's Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present.

Yosemite Museum Gallery
Yosemite Viewed: 19th and 20th Century Landscape Paintings
This exhibit features a selection of landscapes from the Yosemite Museum collection ranging from Thomas Ayres' 1855 drawing to contemporary artwork by participants of the Yosemite Artist-in-Residence program. Works by Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Moran, Chris Jorgensen, Chiura Obata, and others will be included. The Cosmopolitan Register, which includes signatures of prominent visiting artists, and the Cosmopolitan interactive, will be part of the display. Yosemite Museum Gallery, June 1 through September 30, open daily from 9am to 5pm; from October 1 through November 1, open daily from 10am to noon, and 1pm to 4pm.

Yosemite Film Series
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. Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Nature at Happy Isles
9:30am to 5pm, beginning May 23 through September. Designed for nature-exploring children and their families, the nature center offers natural-history exhibits and a bookstore. The nature center is a short walk from shuttle stop #16.

The Ansel Adams Gallery
In Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9am to 6pm. The gallery offers the works of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other artists. See page 6 for photo walk times. For more information, call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

NEW EXHIBIT: Taken With Water
Yosemite National Park would not have come to pass if not for the overwhelming tenacity and power of water. From the glaciers that carved the valley to the rivers that refined it, water has played a vital role in the geologic and ecological architectures that are touchstones of the park, and trademarks of the National Park system. To celebrate this great element of nature, The Ansel Adams Gallery will be hosting a new exhibition, “Taken With Water,” featuring a compilation of images from a variety of artists. This exhibition will open on May 18th and run through June 28th. And with water taking center stage in both state and national debates, we hope you stop by the gallery to appreciate the beauty of this precious resource.

Yosemite Mountaineering School
Yosemite Mountaineering School provides outdoor adventures for people of all experience levels. We are here to help you learn how to enjoy the woods safely and responsibly. Give us a call to join one of our group classes or schedule a custom outing designed specifically for your group. We offer professional guides from hiking, backpacking and rock climbing. Reservations required, please call 209-372-8344 or email yms@dninc.com.
SCHEDULED EVENTS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY
May 20, 2015 - June 23, 2015

Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures (YC)
Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing the wonders of Yosemite through our Outdoor Adventures. From backpacking to basket-weaving to bird-watching, our wide range of programs offers something for every Yosemite adventurer.
May 30-31: Experience Spring in Yosemite: Birds & Blooms
June 5-7: Bird Banding: Songbird Conservation in Yosemite
June 13-14: Yosemite Firs: Changing Landscapes
June 20-21: Back to Mt. Watkins: Yoga and Summer Solstice Oversight
June 20-21: Yosemite Mitake-Paufaik Baskery: Two-Day Workshop
Find detailed information about these programs and register at yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures or call 209/379-2317 x10. Camping and park entry are included; additional lodging options are 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 Theater (YC)
Yosemite Theater offers entertainment and inspiration through a variety of live performances. Revel as park ranger Shleton Johnston and other performers bring the park’s adventures to life! All shows start at 7pm. Tickets: $8 adults, $4 children, available at Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Bookstore.
Wednesdays (April 8-June 17): The Spirit of John Muir. John Muir’s most popular stories about his adventures in the western wilderness come to life in a show starring Lee Stetson.
Thursdays (April 9-June 18): Return to Balance: A Climber’s Journey. Renowned rock-climber Ron Kauk presents a stirring film about one of Yosemite’s most popular sports.

Yosemite Art Center Workshops (YC)
Yosemite Conservancy invites you to join one of our celebrated artists for a hands-on art experience in Yosemite Valley. Art workshops are held outside (weather and media permitting) Monday through Saturday, starting at 9:45am and ending at 2pm.
May 18-23: Sonja Hamilton, Watercolor Spring in Yosemite
June 1-6: Robert Dorak, Painting From the Heart: Watercolor
June 8-13: John Formia, Watercolor Yosemite. As You See It
June 15-20: Tina Glaebe, Yosemite on Silk
June 22-27: Byron Spicer, Playful Acrylic Landscape
All workshops meet at the Yosemite Art Center, located next to the Village Store in Yosemite Village. The registration fee is $10 per participant per day, and art supplies are available for purchase. Find detailed information at yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemiteart-center.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sundays:
8:15am (Sunday School available)
11am (Memorial Day-Labor Day ONLY; no Sunday School)
6:30pm Sunday Evening Service/Bible Study
Women’s and Men’s Bible Studies, Tuesday 7pm
call church for location, Thursday Midweek Service
7:00pm Various Bible Studies during the week call for meeting locations. (YN-372-4631, Pastor Brent
Moore Resident Minister
ROMAN CATHOLIC
Saturday 6pm, Lower Pines Amphitheater, Shuttle Bus
Stop #119
Sunday 10am at Valley Visitor Center Auditorium,
209/372-4729

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1 Portal Chapel Worship: Sunday 11am
Info: 209/372-2100

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
Christian Sabbath Worship at Lower River Amphitheater, Saturday May 23-Sept 5
(No Services July 18)
9:45am Music School
11:15am Worship: 12:30pm Potluck
www.facebook.com/YosemiteDDChurch

LATTER-DAY-SAYS
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Sacrament Meeting, Sundays 1PM-4:00PM
May 24 to Labor Day, Yosemite Valley Chapel

A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IN THE NATIONAL PARKS
9am Sunday at Lower Pines, Wawona, and Tuolumne Meadows campgrounds.

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
7:30pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday
1210 Third St.

LIONS CLUB
First and Third Thursday of each month at noon, The Alhambra.
Call 209/372-4475.

Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families.

MORNING

Sunday
9:00am CHILDREN’S THEATER LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! 1 hr.
Curry Village Amphitheater (DN) $.
9:30am Adventure Hike: Vernal Falls Bridge 3.5 hrs. Ticket Info at any tour desk.
Curry Village Mountaineering School (DN) $.
9:30am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 min. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/9 (NP) $.

Monday
9:00am Camera Walk - Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel 1.5 hrs. (TAAG) $.
9:00am CHILDREN’S THEATER LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! 1 hr.
Curry Village Amphitheater (DN) $.
9:00am Bike to Hike Tour 2.5hrs. Ticket Info at any tour desk. Curry Village Bike Stand (DN) $.
9:45am Art Workshop 4hrs. Yosemite Art Center. See left for details. (YC) $.

Tuesday
11:00am CHILDREN’S ART PROGRAM (begins June 6) 1 hr. Yosemite Art Center, ages 6-9. (YC) $.

Wednesday
9:00am Bike to Hike Tour 2.5 hrs. Curry Village Bike Stand. Ticket Info at any tour desk. (DN) $.
9:45am Art Workshop 4hrs. Yosemite Art Center. See left for details. (YC) $.

Friday
11:00am CHILDREN’S ART PROGRAM (begins June 6) 1 hr. Yosemite Art Center, ages 6-9. (YC) $.

Saturday
8:15am Adventure Hike - Vernal/Nevada Falls. 6 hours Curry Village Mountaineering School. Ticket Info at any tour desk. (DN) $.
9:00am Bike to Hike Tour 2.5 hrs. Curry Village Bike Stand. Ticket Info at any tour desk. (DN) $.
9:00am Camera Walk - Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery 1.5 hrs. (TAAG) $.
9:45am Art Workshop 4hrs. Yosemite Art Center. See left for details. (YC) $.
9:30am Adventure Hike - Vernal/Nevada Falls. 6 hours Curry Village Mountaineering School. Ticket Info at any tour desk. (DN) $.
9:00am Camera Walk - Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery 1.5 hrs. (TAAG) $.
9:45am Art Workshop 4hrs. Yosemite Art Center. See left for details. (YC) $.

INDICATES FACILITIES ACCESSIBLE TO

A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of- hearing visitors. Contact 209/372-4726 (TTT) or 209/379-1035 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 days is requested.
Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Yosemite Search and Rescue 1.5hrs. An important and entertaining presentation by Yosemite Search and Rescue. Purchase tickets at Valley Visitor Center Bookstore. ($Y)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
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Programs printed in all CAPS and COLOR are especially for children and their families.
**Experience Your America  Yosemite National Park**

**Wawona, Mariposa Grove, and Glacier Point**

**Explore History, Discover Giant Trees, and Find Amazing Vistas**

These park areas offer endless opportunities for amazing experiences.

**Wawona**

**Coffee with a Ranger**

Grab your mug and join a ranger in the Wawona Campground Amphitheater for coffee, tea, and hot cocoa. Use this time to plan your day or to get other questions answered. See page 9 for scheduled programs.

**Evening Programs**

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

**Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio**

The Bookstore only is open daily from 9am to 5pm. On May 22nd, Hill’s Studio will be open daily from 8:30am to 5pm. The visitor center offers information about park activities, wilderness permits, trail information, books, bear canister rentals, and maps. Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, Hill’s Studio was the gallery and art studio of famous 19th-century landscape painter, Thomas Hill. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona store parking area and follow the path up the hill.

**Pioneer Yosemite History Center**

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

**Experience Horse-Drawn Travel**

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

**Blacksmith Shop**

Smell the burning coal, hear the ring of the hammer on the anvil, and watch a demonstration of the ancient art of blacksmithing. See page 9 for dates, times, and locations.

**Mariposa Grove**

Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, 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 on this road. Starting July 6, 2015, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias will close for restoration.

**Free Mariposa Grove to Wawona Shuttle**

A shuttle stops at the Wawona Store, South Entrance, and Mariposa Grove. Visitors may park at the Wawona Store to board the bus. Shuttles operate beginning at 9am, and the last shuttle leaves the grove at 7pm. The last day of scheduled shuttle service from Wawona is July 5, 2015. Please use this free bus service to help reduce congestion and parking delays.

**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.

**Walking through the Grove**

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Glacier Point

**Evening Programs**

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

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**WAWONA & MARIPOSA GROVE**

**GLACIER POINT**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td><strong>Horse-Drawn Stage Rides</strong> (June 22 only) 10 min each Purchase tickets in Pioneer Yosemite History Center $5 adult / $4 child 3-12 (NPS) $</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<td><strong>Coffee with a Ranger</strong> (Hot Cocoa too!) (June 20 only) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Camground Amphitheater (NPS) $</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<td><strong>Nature Walk with a Ranger</strong> (June 20 only) 2 hrs. Meet at The Redwoods in Yosemite Vacation Home Rentals office on Chilnualna Falls Road. For questions please call (855) 290-3499 (NPS) $</td>
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**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

**Wawona**

**Wawona Hotel Dining Room** 7:30am to 10am Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm Lounge Service 5pm-9:30pm Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm Reservations taken for 6 or more. Saturday BBQ: 5pm-7pm, beginning June 23

**Wawona Golf Course Golf** 9am to 5pm weather and conditions permitting

**Wawona Gift Shop** 10am to 5pm, conditions permitting

**GROceries**

**Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop** 8am to 6pm, 8am to 8pm beginning May 22

**Wawona Visitor Center at HI’s Studio (Information and Books)** 9am to 5pm, 8:30am to 5pm beginning May 22

**Glacier Point**

**Gift Shop** 9am to 6pm

**Snack Stand** 10am to 5pm, conditions permitting

**POST Office**

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

**Gas Station**

**Wawona** 8am to 6pm Diesel & propane available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

**Golf**

**Wawona Hotel Golf Course** 9am to 5pm, weather and conditions permitting. Nine-hole, par-35 course.

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Hours listed are core hours of operation. Visitation may be extended during periods of peak visitation. Check local postings for changes to hours of operation.
Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, and Crane Flat

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Once open for the season, hours will be 9am to 5pm. Park orientation, trail information, books, maps, and displays available.

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs
Two trails, both flat and 3/4-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge will be open from 10am to 4pm beginning mid-June. Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs that attract birds and deer, especially at sunrise and sunset.

Just for Kids
Programs for children include Junior Rangers, a two-hour, ranger-led program for children (ages 7-12), and Campfire for Kids. Program schedule begins June 27.

Ranger Walks
Join a ranger to explore new areas and learn about geology, birds, flowers, history, the Tuolumne River, and more. These walks range from one to eight hours and, except for the long walks, are fairly easy. Program schedule begins June 27.

Evening Activities
Come to a traditional, ranger-led campfire program for stories, songs, and insight into Yosemite. Program topics vary and are posted at the campground, Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. End your day with a star program—bring a pad to sit on and dress warmly. Program schedule begins June 27.

Mule and Horseback Rides
Horse or mule rides begin at the Tuolumne Meadows stable. Stable hours are 7am to 5pm starting May 29, conditions permitting. 209/372-8427.

Wilderness Center
Open 8am to 5pm. Visit the wilderness center to learn about wilderness safety, plan trips, obtain wilderness permits and maps, and rent bear canisters. The Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center is located just south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, across from shuttle stop #3.

Big Oak Flat
Big Oak Flat Information Station
Open 8am to 5pm. The visitor center offers information about park activities, wilderness permits, trail information, books, bear canister rentals, and maps. The center is located inside the park entrance on Hwy 120W.

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. It’s a three-mile round-trip hike (about three hours) into the grove. The trail drops down 1.5 miles making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile long nature trail. There is no potable water at the parking area or in the grove. Be sure to bring drinking water with you.

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 (about three hours) into the grove. The trail drops down 1.5 miles making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water at the parking area or down in the grove. Be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10. Tuolumne Grove

Take the Hiker’s Bus to Tuolumne Meadows!
Ask about this regular service (beginning May 22) at any Tour Desk or Visitor Center.
FOOD & BEVERAGE

Tuolumne Meadows
(Open May 22, conditions permitting)
Tuolumne Meadows Grill
(Open May 22, weather and conditions permitting)
8am to 5pm
Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Dining Room
Breakfast - Reservations recommended - 7am-9am
Dinner - Reservations strongly recommended - 5:45pm - 8pm
9am-372-8413
Wrap up Closed 2015 for building renovation.

GROCERIES

Tuolumne Meadows
Store
(Open May 22, conditions permitting)
9am to 5pm
Crane Flat Store
9am - 5pm, open 9am to 7pm beginning May 22.
24 Hour Pay at the Pump available

GIFTS & APPAREL

Tuolumne Meadows
Mountaineering School and Sport Shop
(Open May 22, conditions permitting)
9am to 6pm
Tuolumne Meadows Bookstore
Inside the Visitor Center
9am to 5pm, once Visitor Center is open
Tuolumne Meadows Store
(Open May 22, conditions permitting)
9am to 5pm

POST OFFICE

Tuolumne Meadows
Post Office
Monday – Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to 1pm

GAS STATIONS

Tuolumne Meadows
(Open May 22 conditions permitting)
9am to 5pm, gas and propane available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.
Crane Flat
9am to 5pm, 9am to 7pm beginning May 22. Diesel & propane available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

FREE SHUTTLE BUS

Omsted Pkt / Tuolumne / Tioga Pass
Shuttle service scheduled to begin May 22, conditions permitting.
See map, page 10. Free shuttle service is available along the Tioga Road from Omsted Point to Tioga Pass. Service begins when conditions permit.

Shuttles travel between Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and Omsted Point with stops along the Tioga Road, including Tuolumne Meadows Campground and the visitor center. The shuttle also makes morning and afternoon runs to Tioga Pass.
Service begins at the Lodge at 7am. Shuttles arrive at approximately 30-minute intervals between 7am and 7pm. Stop times posted at bus stops.

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

Ranger Programs will be listed locally.

WHITE WOLF CRANE FLAT/ HODGDON MEADOW/ HETCH HETCH

Ranger Programs will be listed locally.

Campfire programs, Ranger in the Grove (Tuolumne and Merced Groves of Sequoias), Ranger on the Dam (at Hetch Hetchy), bird walks, bear walks, flower walks, Listening to Bats evening walk (citizen science), and many more programs will be offered throughout the area.
For more information visit one of the park’s visitor centers, check local postings or call 209/ 379-1899

Spring in the High Country

Upon your arrival in Tuolumne Meadows or the high country of the Sierra, take a moment to notice how your first breath of fresh mountain air feels. Can you sense the welcome of a place where the current season is unlike that of the lower elevations?

You have found your way to 8600 feet (2621m) above sea level, in Tuolumne Meadows, where even the seasons progress differently! Look around you as you walk the trails and see if you can find signs of the season unfolding.

What season is it? Winter is typically longer here, persisting for as long as 7 months in the recesses hidden from the sun. Plants and animals must act quickly to get their seasonal “work” done. Their distinctive adaptations make it possible for them to survive and try to reproduce through the variable and often extreme conditions of their elevation range. Some of the perennial plants take a few or many years to produce seeds! Animals have different strategies for survival and conserving energy too. Among these are being furry to keep warm; living underground on north facing slopes to keep cool in summer; being small to get development completed quickly. These are some of the ways plants and animals have adapted to the unique challenges of their high country home.

Typically during this season, you might observe birds courting or building nests or even feeding babies in late June or July! If you are lucky you might catch a glimpse of a bear or deer in search of food in this sparse habitat. You could witness tiny young squirrels in the meadows chasing each other or a chubby marmot soaking up the morning sun on a boulder.

You might find eager, green shoots of sedge or miniature wildflowers pushing up through the soft meadow soils. See if you can see a plant as small as a pin. Feel the wildness of the season here.

This year, drought will add a different set of challenges to all life in the high meadows and forests. Look around for stressed looking plants and animals and think about how they will get through this year and possibly more dry years to come. This past winter saw the lowest snowpack on record for the Tuolumne River watershed. The opening of the Tioga Road was relatively early compared to the average opening date of May 27.

While we are here as visitors to the high country, there are things we can do to help care for the vulnerable wildlife and plants by simply being aware of them and our place among them. Protect meadows, and forest floor by walking ONLY on established trails. Think about where your feet fall as you explore. Signs on ONL Y on established trails. Think about how they will get through this year and possibly more dry years to come. This past winter saw the lowest snowpack on record for the Tuolumne River watershed. The opening of the Tioga Road was relatively early compared to the average opening date of May 27.

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Yosemite National Park offers a wide variety of programs and activities for kids of all ages! To find kid-friendly programs, see pages 6, 7, 9, and 11 of the Guide for program descriptions:

**Be a naturalist.** Look for these common Yosemite wild animals. If you see one, make a note by the animal’s picture below. If you don’t see any of these wild animals during your visit, choose one you did see and draw it in the box on this page. Where did you see it? What was it doing? Also, remember never to feed or approach an animal.

Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Expanded Junior Ranger and Little Cub programs (and the chance to earn a patch) are available in the Junior Ranger or Little Cub Handbooks, which can be purchased at any Yosemite Conservancy bookstore.
Black bears, coyote, deer, and grey squirrels are just a few of the many animal species in the park that are active year round. Learn how to help protect Yosemite’s wildlife.

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

If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.
You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away. Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there is more than one person, stand together and yell loudly, look around. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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—garbage, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats. Never leave unattended food wrapped to the outside of a vehicle or in a pickup truck bed. 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>
<td></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 fits with windows closed. Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even sneek food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and locked at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin. Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
<td></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. Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
<td></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. In Yosemite and the southern Sierras, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

For your safety:
Do not leave pets or pet food outside and unattended. Pets can attract mountain lions.

Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind on the trail. Teach children what to do if they see a lion.

What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?
Never approach one, especially if it is with kittens. Most lions will avoid confrontation. Always give them a way to escape.

Don’t run. Stay calm. Hold your ground, or back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up. If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms, shout, and throw objects at it. The goal is to convince it that you may be dangerous. If attacked, fight back!

Mountain lions are magnificent creatures and native to Yosemite. Generally, they are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!
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 WATER
Every year unsuspecting people drown or are swept over waterfalls to their death. Reasons people end up in or too close to the water include:
• Wading (or swimming) in water with unseen hazards including strong hidden currents and slippery rocks.
• Refilling drinking water.
• Getting a better photograph or posing for a picture.
• The simple attraction to water.
Dry rocks near the river are highly polished causing falls into the water. Mountain water is very cold with strong currents and even expert swimmers are no match for it. Persons who have fallen victim to Yosemite’s waters all shared common mistakes:
• They got off the trail.
• They ignored hazards.
• They never thought disaster would happen to them.
The good news: water tragedies are very preventable; stay on the trail and away from water. Keep children from wandering near these natural hazards. Bring plenty of water so that you will not need to draw more water during your hike. Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

DRINKING WATER
California is in a serious drought. Natural water sources you might have used in the past may be dried up by early summer. Avoid dehydration by carrying plenty of extra water. Dehydration can be a serious condition but even in its earliest stages dehydration can reduce performance making you more vulnerable to injuries. Mild thirst and dry lips are early signs of dehydration and is a warning to start sipping water more frequently. Again, carry plenty of extra water so that rationing will not become necessary. No matter how clear mountain water appears, it can contain parasites or hidden contaminants that make you very ill. To protect yourself from disease, treat water before drinking by boiling for five minutes, using a Guardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier. To prevent the spread of water-borne disease, use restroom facilities where available, and always wash hands afterwards with soap and water. Where facilities are not available, wash, camp, and bury human waste at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail, burying human waste six inches deep, and pack out any toilet paper.

AVOID HYPOTHERMIA
Hypothermia often happens in above freezing temperatures and it can still be a threat as temperatures drop at night. Hypothermia is preventable with a little preparation:
• Wear synthetic or wool next to your skin. Cotton absorbs sweat and precipitation and should be avoided.
• Layer your clothing so that you can add or shed layers as your comfort dictates.
• Know symptoms of hypothermia and first aid to treat it.
• Bring a dry shirt to put on for the way down.
• Take high energy food.

TRAFFIC SAFETY
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 off the road to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park’s scenery and wildlife.

HIKING, BACKPACKING, BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL, AND ROCK CLIMBING
Here are a few reminders before you hit the trails.
• Tell someone your plan and when you intend to return.
• Carry a map and compass and know where you are at all times, with a planned route.
• Altitude sickness can develop at elevations as low as 8,000 feet. Descend to a lower elevation should it develop.
• Check the latest weather forecast and prepare for changes.
• Bring a headlamp or flashlight and a complete first aid kit.

HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION
Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases 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. 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. Please do not bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. If you are camping and backpacking, 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.
[Page 15]

...and Yosemite’s Wild Places

Protecting Yourself and the Park

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

Wilderness Permit Details

Wilderness permits are required year round for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Permits are issued and bear cantors are available for rent at the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center, the Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center, the Big Oak Flat Information Center, Hill’s Studio in Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station during hours of operation. Check the website at www.nps.gov/yose/yoselifepermits.htm or call the park’s main phone line at 209/372-0200, for additional information. 60% of the trailhead quota is available in advance. Reservations are taken from 26 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 trip. A processing fee of $5 per permit plus $5 per person is charged to each confirmed trip. A processing fee of $5 per permit plus $5 per person is charged to each confirmed permit in advance. A non-refundable application fee applies to all submissions and a use fee applies to winning applicants. Finally, a daily quota of 75 Half Dome permits will be available to overnight users with an appropriate wilderness permit (use fee applies). These permits may be acquired through early reservations (50 per day) or day before walk-up (25 per day). Rock climbers who reach the top of Half Dome without entering the subdome area may descend on the Half Dome Trail without a permit. More information is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/yoselifepermits.htm. For backpackers more information is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/yoselifepermits.htm.

Rafting

Conditions permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stoneon Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10 am to 6 pm daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device. The entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher. Ask at a visitor center for conditions and obey all posted signs. You must wear or have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device immediately available. Fallen trees and other natural debris in the river create important habitat for fish and other wildlife. Be alert—they can also create hazards for rafters.

Fishing

Fishing in Yosemite is regulated by state law. A valid California sport-fishing license is required for those persons age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible by attaching it to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline. Trout season runs through November 15 (except Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, which opens June 15). Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the Foresta Bridge in El Portal. Within these reaches of the river, it is catch and release only for rainbow trout. Brown trout limits are five fish per day. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used. The use of live or dead minnows, bat fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

Pets

Keep in mind, daytime temperatures can reach above 100° Fahrenheit in the summer. Make sure to keep your pet cool and well-hydrated. In Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow: Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. Pets are not allowed anywhere in the Mariposa or Merced sequoia groves. They are not allowed on trails, in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted prohibiting them. Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained. For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles. Pets are not allowed in any lodging facilities or other buildings within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds. Pets may not be tied to an object and left unattended.

Bicycling

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails. Bikes are not allowed to travel off paved trails. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite.

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
- Possessing or using marijuana, including medical marijuana
- Operating an unmanned aircraft system (“drone”)

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/yosesafety.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.
Camping

An adventurous overnight experience

Yosemite National Park contains 13 popular campgrounds. Up to seven are on a reservation system, the rest are first-come, first-served. From April through September, reservations are essential and the first-come, first-served sites often fill by noon during these months.

Camping Reservations

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

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

Hours:

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

General Info...

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

Services

• All sites include picnic tables, firepits with grills, and a food locker (33” d x 45” w x 18” h). See page 5 for food storage regulations.

• Toilets are available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat have non-flushing vault toilets only and no potable water.

• Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley.

• RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat campgrounds, and RVs are not permitted in walk-in and group campsites.

• There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows.

Regulations

• Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.

• A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.

• Quiet hours are from 10 pm to 6 am.

• Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

Campfires

• In Yosemite Valley between May 1 and September 30, campfires are permitted between 5 pm and 10 pm. At other times of the year and in out-of-Valley campgrounds, fires are permitted at any time, as long as they are attended.

• Firewood collection (including pine cones and pine needles) is not permitted in Yosemite Valley; you may purchase firewood at stores near the campgrounds.

• Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

• A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.

• Quiet hours are from 10 pm to 6 am.

• Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

Campfires

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

Camping in Areas Surrounding Yosemite

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite. For additional information, contact Groveland Ranger Station at 209/962-7825; Mariposa Ranger Station at 209/966-3638; Mono Lake Ranger Station at 760/647-3044; or Oakhurst Ranger Station at 559/683-4636. For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 10.

Group Campgrounds

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

Campgrounds in Yosemite National Park*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</th>
<th>OPEN 2014 (APPROX)</th>
<th>MAX RV LENGTH</th>
<th>MAX TRAILER LENGTH</th>
<th>RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</th>
<th>DAILY FEE</th>
<th># OF SITES</th>
<th>PETS</th>
<th>WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOSEMITE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pines</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft (24 ft)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>Mar 26 – Oct 20</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Pines</td>
<td>Apr 2 – Nov 3</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$15/person</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOUTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>25 ft (24 ft)</td>
<td>Apr 17 – Oct 7</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Creek</td>
<td>July – Sep 8</td>
<td>25 ft (24 ft)</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NORTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodgdon Meadow</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>25 ft (27 ft)</td>
<td>Apr 17 – Oct 15</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane Flat</td>
<td>Jul 11 – Oct 14</td>
<td>25 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>Jun/Jul; Oct 15</td>
<td>No RVs/Trailer</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>July Sep 15</td>
<td>27 ft (24 ft)</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July – Sep 8</td>
<td>No RVs/Trailer</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine Flat</td>
<td>July – Oct 15</td>
<td>24 ft (limited)</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows</td>
<td>Jul 11 – Sep 28</td>
<td>25 ft (25 ft)</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Exact campground opening and closing dates are subject to conditions.
Choose your adventure

With over 800 miles of hiking trails, what better way to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite than on foot? Ask a ranger at any visitor center for one of several free, day-hike handouts. Excellent maps and guidebooks are available at bookstores throughout the park.

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 North Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 2–3 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round-trip, 6–8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles, 1 hour round-trip to Mirror Lake, 3 miles, loop around lake</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 miles round-trip, 1–2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2–3 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7 miles round-trip, 5–6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,300-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>14 mi (via Mist Trail) or 16.3 mi (via John Muir Trail) round-trip, 15–12 hours</td>
<td>Extremely Strenuous, 4,800-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3–4 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain</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>

Day Hikes Outside of Yosemite Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wawona</td>
<td>Wawona Hotel</td>
<td>3.5 miles round-trip, 1.5 hours</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swinging Bridge Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Hotel / Pioneer Yosemite Hist. Ctr. Parking Area</td>
<td>4.75 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taft Point</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel Dome</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda Springs / Parsons Lodge</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>1.5 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambert Dome</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Muir Trail through L yell Canyon</td>
<td>Dog Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy, 200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lake</td>
<td>Yosemite Meadows Group Campground</td>
<td>6.4 miles round trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togna Road</td>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>5.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous 3,000 to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lulus Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous 3,000 to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake</td>
<td>10 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Featured Hike

The Mist Trail to Vernal and Nevada Falls

Vernal Fall footbridge: 1.6 miles/2.6 km round-trip; 1.5 hours with 400 ft./122 m elevation gain

Vernal Fall: 2.4 miles/3.9 km round-trip; 3 hours with 1,000 ft./366 m elevation gain (via Mist Trail)

Nevada Fall: 5.4 miles/8.7 km round-trip; 5 to 6 hours with 2,000 ft./610 m. elevation gain (via Mist Trail)

Begin at Happy Isles (shuttle stop #16)

Trail Description:

An excellent view of Vernal Fall is visible from the footbridge at 0.75 miles (1.3 km). Beyond the bridge, at 0.2 miles, the Mist Trail and the John Muir Trail diverge. To proceed directly to the top of Vernal Fall, follow the Mist Trail 0.5 mile (0.8 km) up a steep granite staircase of over 600 steps. Prepare for slippery footing and a tremendous amount of waterfall spray in spring and early summer. The top of Nevada Fall may be reached by continuing 1.3 miles (2.1 km) along the Mist Trail.

Things to know before you go:

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

1These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers' Bus.
Yosemite Citizen Scientists Look for Mercury in Dragonflies

While you enjoy your vacation in Yosemite, research scientists are hard at work studying park ecosystems. Their interests range from the effects of climate change on Sierra snowpack and wildfires to declining frog populations and beyond. Such research is often carried out by PhD students or the Park Service itself, but occasionally there are opportunities for park visitors to assist with scientific projects in the park.

In recent years a citizen science movement has gained momentum across the nation. Everyday citizens from a diversity of backgrounds participate in projects that help us all better understand the world around us. Here in Yosemite, park visitors have been engaged in a number of such projects including the annual butterfly count, auditory monitoring of bats, and dragonfly nymph (larvae) sampling.

In the summer of 2014, Yosemite joined this citizen science mercury project and dragonfly nymphs were sampled at three different high elevation lakes by park visitors working side by side with park Interpretive Rangers and Resources Management staff. Why dragonflies? The most toxic form of mercury, methylmercury, increases in concentration as you move up the food chain. Dragonfly nymphs are relatively high up in the food chain since they are predators that eat a lot of smaller insects. They also live a long time in the larval stage (up to 5 years!), eating and accumulating mercury from their prey as they grow. For those who participated, this was a fascinating opportunity to (literally) get their feet wet for science in Yosemite on a project that has implications far beyond the park’s boundaries.

Yosemite is continuing to participate in the dragonfly project this year with collection days scheduled for late July and early August. There will also be citizen science opportunities to help with auditory monitoring of bats throughout the summer. (See White Wolf program postings in the Yosemite Guide.) We hope you might be able to join us for one of these great opportunities! So take off your city shoes, roll up your sleeves and meet us out there for a fun and educational few hours delving deeper into the wonders of this amazing place. Find out how you can get involved at home!

• http://www.nps.gov/rhc/jsf/content.cfm?ID=34887
• http://www.nps.gov/rhc/mercury.cfm
• For teachers: http://www.nps.gov/teachers/index.htm

Dragonflies are Not Always What They Seem!

A flitting dragonfly may inspire us to reflect on the ephemeral beauty of the world around us while we plod along in our ever-so-human way near a lake, wetland, pond or river. Rarely do we view dragonflies as the ferocious predators they truly are: an adult dragonfly can adeptly grab and devour another flying insect very efficiently, using four independently-manipulated wings, serrated jaws and legs with which it can trap that insect as if in a cage. Life is truly fleeting and fragile!

But the dragonflies we know so well from the lovely sun-dappled environs of lakes and ponds are merely the short-lived adult forms of creatures that spend most of their lives underwater. All dragonflies spend the early part of their lives in a larval form called a nymph (up to 5 years for some species) in freshwater environments eating just about any other thing that moves nearby (including each other). At some point in the life of a bumbling dragonfly nymph it crawls out of the water and its life changes significantly. After a bit of stretching and waiting, its back splits open and an adult dragonfly awkwardly pushes its way out! The adult dragonfly pumps blood into its wings and body, thereby straightening out some intense wrinkles resulting from this new body’s development tucked away within its childhood body. If no predators take advantage of these moments of weakness, it eventually flies away as a wholly different creature than that which first emerged from the water.

We face all sorts of challenging problems in the world today. We are learning about human-caused mercury contamination in National Parks through bio-accumulation in dragonfly nymphs. But perhaps an even more valuable outcome of citizen science projects such as this one comes from the opportunity to linger a little longer in a wilder part of Yosemite, and to pay a little closer attention to what’s going on there. Maybe in this way we might start to comprehend something about Yosemite from the inside – from something approaching a dragonfly’s perspective – if only in the smallest way.

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Supporting Your Park

Enhance the Visitor Experience

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

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

The Ansel Adams Gallery

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

Delaware North at Yosemite

Delaware North at Yosemite (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. DNC encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure.

For more information and employment opportunities with DN at Yosemite, visit online at www.YosemitePark.com

NatureBridge

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

Yosemite Conservancy

Through the support of donors, Yosemite Conservancy provides grants and support to Yosemite National Park to help preserve and protect Yosemite today and for future generations. The work funded by Yosemite Conservancy is visible throughout the park, from trail rehabilitation to wildlife protection and habitat restoration. The Conservancy is dedicated to enhancing the visitor experience and providing a deeper connection to the park through outdoor programs, volunteering and wilderness services. Thanks to dedicated supporters, the Conservancy has provided more than $92 million in grants to Yosemite National Park. Learn more at yosemiteconservancy.org or call 1-800-469-7275.

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY)

Be part of the solution! Join park staff to help protect Yosemite’s habitat through ecological restoration and litter cleanup projects. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to work one to three hours. Volunteers must wear long pants, closed-toe shoes. A hat and sun protection is recommended, and we encourage volunteers to bring water and snacks. All tools will be provided. Groups larger than 10 should contact the volunteer program in advance: 209/379-1850.

Contact Us

Yosemite National Park
PO Box 577
93289 Village Drive
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-0200
http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm

The Ansel Adams Gallery

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209/372-4413
209/372-4714 fax
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NatureBridge

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