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 1,500 square miles of land including Tuolomne Meadows, the park's high country, Hetch Hetchy, and lands surrounding Yosemite Valley. Check out the Anniversary Website at www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary for information about events happening all year.

Great Things Are Happening in the Mariposa Grove!
The Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project is now underway! On July 6, 2015, a temporary closure of the road completely. Seating is first come/first serve and subject to availability. (See page 10 for more information.)

Take the FREE Shuttle from Yosemite Valley to Tuolumne Meadows!
Daily shuttle service is now available between Yosemite Valley and the Tuolumne Visitor Center. Along with scheduled stops, the bus will stop at various trailheads along the way, when there are requests, as long as there is a safe place for the bus to pull off the road completely. Seating is first come/first serve and subject to availability. (See page 10 for more information.)

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.

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.

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 an evening at the Yosemite Theater. Yosemite Theater presents a variety of performances, including inspiring films, plays based on some of the park’s most colorful characters, 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 workshops in Yosemite Valley, held Monday through Saturday from 9:45am to 2pm. There is a registration fee of $30 per workshop/person. To register in advance, call 209/372-1442. Walk-ins are welcome when space is available. Workshops meet at the Yosemite Art Center, located next to the Village Store. Come by and browse our selection of art supplies, gifts, and original artwork! Open daily from 9am to 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 own 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 like to 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 209/379-3317 x10 to find your adventure today. (See page 6 for details.)

Adventure Out with the 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 for hiking, backpacking and rock climbing. Reservations required. Call 209/372-8344 or email yms@dncinc.com

Access for People with Disabilities

For a complete list of accessible services, recreational opportunities, and exhibits, pick up an updated Yosemite Accessibility Guide which is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm, or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at 209/379-1035 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 (v/tty). 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. 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 (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
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, email yose_lostandfound@nps.gov

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Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park
Experience Your America  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
Motorcycle Valid for 7 days $15
Individual Valid for 7 days $15
(On a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse)

Yosemite Pass $30
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)
(U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
(Annual) For active duty U.S. military and dependents.

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

Lodging Reservations
801/559-5000
www.yosemitepark.com

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

Highway 120 West
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce 800/448-9120 or 209/962-0429
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau 800/446-1333 www.tcb.com/highway-41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau 559/831-4619 www.yosemiteisveryear.com

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center 209/756-3323

Highway 140/49
Calif. Welcome Center, Merced 800/446-5353 or 209/724-8104 www.yosemite-gateway.org
Mariposa County Visitor Center 866/425-3368 or 209/966-7081
Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau 209/742-4567 www.mariposacounty.com

Highway 120 East
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center, 760/647-6629 www.leevining.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, thunderous waterfalls, including the tallest in North America, and attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls slows to trickle by August, a half-day 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.
Glacier Point

Glacier Point provides a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and Yosemite’s high country. It is located 30 miles (one-hour drive) from both, Yosemite Valley and Wawona, taking the Wawona Road (Highway 41), to Chinquapin, then turning onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating view, as you stand 3,214 feet above Yosemite Valley. * Starting July 6, a free shuttle service will run from Badger Pass to Glacier Point. The shuttle will be required when the Glacier Point parking lot is full; however, visitors with accessibility placards, valid wilderness permits for trailheads along Glacier Point Road, or camping at Bridalveil Creek Campground will be allowed to continue. The Glacier Point shuttle will begin running at 10am. The last shuttle from Glacier Point leaves at 5:30pm, and from Badger Pass at 4:30pm. 

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

Tuolumne Meadows provides a glimpse of the High Sierra. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by high 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 1¼-hour drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not permitted on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Troopers from the Ninth Cavalry built the first museum (arboretum) in what would become the National Park System here in Wawona in 1904?
- Entrance stations were primarily created by U.S. Army troops in Yellowstone, Sequoia, and Yosemite to check for firearms and prevent poaching?
- The first National Park Ranger uniforms in 1916 were nearly identical to the U.S. Army uniforms of the day?
- Buffalo Soldiers built the first usable wagon road into Sequoia’s Giant Forest, and the first trail to the top of Mt. Whitney in 1903?

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

The Incomparable Yosemite Valley

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

Yosemite Valley

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

Naturalist Programs

Naturalists give walks and talks about Yosemite’s natural and cultural history every day. 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 permitted on paved bicycle paths.

Tours

Tours listed in the next column depart from Yosemite Lodge. Tours may be weather dependent.

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 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. Be sure to ask about Twilight and Moonlight tram tours, too.

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

Two and four-hour horse or mule rides begin at the stable near North Pines Campground. Stable hours are 7am to 5pm daily. For more information call 209/372-8348. Reservations are strongly recommended.

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

Dine: Yosemite Financial Center

Deyo’s Left

Deyo’s Delicatessen

Deyo’s Cafe

Village Grill

Serving hours

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

Seasonal Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

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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 #4 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 Mountain School
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Yosemite Valley
Where to go and what to do

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. Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Yosemite Museum of Spirit
Located in Yosemite Village collection ranging from Thomas Ayres’ 1855 drawing to contemporary artwork by participants of the Yosemite Art-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.

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 Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village between the post office and the Ansel Adams Gallery.

LeConte Memorial Lodge
LeConte Memorial Lodge is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm, with evening programs Friday and Saturday evenings. Free evening programs are scheduled for 8pm and are limited to 50 guests. The Lodge has a library, a children’s corner, and a new climate change exhibit. The Lodge is located at shuttle stop #12.

Nature Center at Happy Isles
Open daily from 9:30am to 5pm. 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
Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9am to 5pm. 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.

EXHIBITS:
“Set in Stone”
Between June 29 and August 9, The Ansel Adams Gallery will host an exhibition titled “Set in Stone,” celebrating the perennial grandeur of our solid earth. Imagery will showcase scenery from Yosemite and beyond, with work by Ted Orland, Charles Cramer, Vaughn Hutchins, Tom Mallowe, Bill Atkinson and Jeff Conley.

“In Our Time”
From causal sightseers to stargazer pilgrims, Yosemite National Park lures people of all backgrounds to its hallowed valley and sculpted mountain tops. Artists have been among the most prominent groups persuaded to make this journey, dating all the way back to the late 1850’s when photographer Charles Weed trekked into the valley for the first time. Other photographers, painters and writers were to follow, and the tradition continues to this day. Starting on August 10 and running through September 13, 2015, The Ansel Adams Gallery is proud to present the exhibit “In Our Time,” featuring imagery from the community artists currently living and working in the national park. This exhibit is a diverse selection of photography and paintings that showcase a great array of talent and backgrounds, that have arrived at this current place in time, drawn together by the allure of Yosemite.

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Visitor Center
Open daily from 9am to 5pm; from October 1 through September 30, open daily from 10am to 5pm. Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite’s Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present.

Gallery
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Located west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The facility offers nature center information, maps, and books. Explore the exhibits and learn how Yosemite’s landscape formed and how people interact with it.

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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 for hiking, backpacking and rock climbing. Reservations required, please call 209/372-8344 or email yms@dninc.com.
Meet Your Yosemite 4:30pm (August 9 Only) 1 hr. Currie Village

GREAT YOSEMITE FAMILY ADVENTURE 2.5 hrs. Family guided treasure hunt with GPS units. Tickets and information available at any tour desk. (DN)

Junior Ranger Talk 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #18. (NPS)

Register with Naturalistsr at the Curry Village Amphitheater. (DN)

Ask A Climber 4 hrs. A ranger at the El Capitan Bridge for this informal program. Use telescopes to observe climbers on El Capitan and learn about climbing in Yosemite. (YP) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic: The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DN)

Yosemite Theater - Return to Balance: A Climber’s Journey 1 hr. Film and presentation by rock climber Ron Kauk. Purchase tickets at Valley Visitor Center Box Office. (DN)

Ask A Climber 4 hrs. A ranger at the El Capitan Bridge for this informal program. Use telescopes to observe climbers on El Capitan and learn about climbing in Yosemite. (YP)

Climbers' Theater Live: Ranger Ned's Big Adventure! 1 hr. Currie Village Amphitheater. (DN)

Discovery Hike - Less Traveled Lower Valley Loop 1 hr. Explore Yosemite at night! Tickets and information available at any desk. (DN)

Junior Ranger Walk 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. (NPS)

January Program - Wild About Bears 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater. (DN)

Junior Ranger Walk 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. (NPS)

Junior Ranger Talk 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #18. (NPS)

Ask A Climber 4 hrs. A ranger at the El Capitan Bridge for this informal program. Use telescopes to observe climbers on El Capitan and learn about climbing in Yosemite. (YP)

Children's Theater Live: Ranger Ned's Big Adventure! 1 hr. Currie Village Amphitheater. (DN)

Junior Ranger Walk 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. (NPS)

Junior Ranger Talk 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #18. (NPS)

Junior Ranger Walk 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. (NPS)

Ask A Climber 4 hrs. A ranger at the El Capitan Bridge for this informal program. Use telescopes to observe climbers on El Capitan and learn about climbing in Yosemite. (YP)

Ranger Evenign Program - Wild About Bears 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #20. (NPS)

Ask A Climber 4 hrs. A ranger at the El Capitan Bridge for this informal program. Use telescopes to observe climbers on El Capitan and learn about climbing in Yosemite. (YP)

GREAT YOSEMITE FAMILY ADVENTURE 2 hrs. Film and presentation by Burleigh Lockwood, Wildlife Biologist, Fresno Chaffee Zoo, Bio-Mimicry. How Humans Can Learn from Nature. (DN)

In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Photography Class 1.5 hrs. Join a ranger at the El Capitan Bridge for this informal program. Use telescopes to observe climbers on El Capitan and learn about climbing in Yosemite. (YP)

GREAT YOSEMITE FAMILY ADVENTURE 2 hrs. Film and presentation by Burleigh Lockwood, Wildlife Biologist, Fresno Chaffee Zoo, Bio-Mimicry. How Humans Can Learn from Nature. (DN)

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Naturalist Stroll 1 hr. Check local listings for topic: The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DN)

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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 times and location.

Evening Programs
Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30pm to 9:30pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and 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.

Ranger Evening Programs
Join a ranger for an hour of nature, history, and insight into Yosemite. Topics vary nightly. See page 9 for times and location.

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

Mule and Horseback Rides
Horse or mule rides begin at the Wawona stable. Stable hours are 7am to 5pm, conditions permitting. Two-hour rides are offered at 9am, 12pm and 3pm. It is required to arrive an hour early before ride. Reservations are highly recommended and can be made by calling 209/372-6502.

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
Great Things Are Happening In The Mariposa Grove!
The Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project is now underway! On July 6, 2015, a temporary closure of the grove for up to 24 months began. The restoration project will improve the habitat and restore the hydrology of the Mariposa Grove and improve visitors’ experience and enjoyment of the grove. Trails will be improved providing universal access along with improved restrooms. The Mariposa Grove Road is closed to all public access, including bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Hiking trails within the grove are also closed.

Glacier Point
Free Shuttle Service Between Badger Pass and Glacier Point
Between 10am and 4:30pm, visitors will be directed to the Badger Pass parking area. The 30-minute shuttle route includes stops at Sentinel Dome/Taft Point Trailhead and Washburn Point with additional stops upon request at McGurk Meadow, Ostrander Lake, and Mono Meadow trailheads. Visitors with accessibility placards,valid wilderness permits for trailheads along Glacier Point Road, or camping at Bridalveil Creek Campground will be allowed to continue to their destinations. The last shuttle will depart Glacier Point at 5:30 pm.

Wawona, Mariposa Grove, and Glacier Point
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.

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**
- **WAWONA**
  - **Wawona Hotel Dining Room**
    - Breakfast: 7am to 10am
    - Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm
    - Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
  - **Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop**
    - **Food & Beverage**
      - Hours listed are core hours for facilities and may be extended during periods of peak visitation. Check local postings for changes to hours of operation.

**GROCERIES**
- **Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop**
  - 8am to 8pm

**GIFTS & APPAREL**
- **Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop**
  - 8am to 8pm

**POST OFFICE**
- **Wawona Post Office**
  - Monday-Friday: 8am to 5pm
  - Saturday: 9am to noon

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

**GOLF**
- **Horse-Drawn Stage Rides**
  - 8am to 6pm, weather and conditions permitting. Nine-hole, par-35 course.

**GROUSE COUNTRY**
- **Step Into Yosemite's Past**
  - 4.5 hrs. Tickets and information available at any tour desk. (DN)
  - 7:00pm

**GLACIER POINT**
- **Step Into Yosemite’s Past - Walk to McKeever Meadow 2 hrs.**
  - Meet at phone booth in Badger Pass Campground. (NPS)
  - 7:00pm

**RANGER GUIDE**
- **Blacksmithing Demonstration**
  - 10:00am – 2:00pm (Except August 12) 1 hr. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) $5 adult / $4 child 3-12. (NPS)

**RANGER WALKS**
- **Ranger Walk - Short Walk to a Great View of El Capitan 1.5 hrs.**
  - Meet at Glacier Point Gift Shop. (NPS)
  - 7:00pm

**SCENIC TOURS**
- **Sunset Ranger Talk**
  - 7:00pm
  - 4.5 hrs. Tickets and information available at any tour desk. (DN)

**STARGAZING**
- **Sunset Ranger Talk**
  - 7:00pm
  - 4.5 hrs. Tickets and information available at any tour desk. (DN)

**WAWONA**
- **If Open**
  - 8am to 6pm (when Golf Course is open)

**WAWONA STORE**
- **Gift Shop**
  - 9am to 6pm

**Yosemite History Center, $5 adult / $4 child 3-12. (NPS)**
- **Blacksmithing Demonstration**
  - 10:00am – 2:00pm (Except August 12) 1 hr. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) $5 adult / $4 child 3-12. (NPS)

- **Sunset Ranger Talk**
  - 7:00pm
  - 4.5 hrs. Tickets and information available at any tour desk. (DN)

- **Step Into Yosemite’s Past - Walk to McKeever Meadow 2 hrs.**
  - Meet at phone booth in Badger Pass Campground. (NPS)
  - 7:00pm
Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, and Crane Flat

Tuolumne Meadows
- Please walk on official trails to protect fragile meadow ecosystems.
- Dogs, bicycles, and strollers are only allowed on roads open to vehicles.
- Day-hikers and backpackers must go to the bathroom at least 100 feet away from water, trail, and camp areas; bury human waste six inches deep, pack out toilet paper and all other trash.

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Open 9am to 6pm. Park orientation, trail information, books, maps, and displays

FREE Hikers Bus from Yosemite Valley to Tuolumne Meadows
The free shuttle departs from Yosemite Valley three times a day, starting from Curry Village at 7:45am, 8:45am and 1:30pm, and from Tuolumne Meadow Visitor Center at 10:15am, 1:15pm and 7pm. Visit a Tours and Activity desk for exact schedule.

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 is open 10am to 4pm. 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 programs for stories, songs, and insight into Yosemite. Program topics vary and are posted at the campground, Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. End your day with a star program—bring a pad to sit on and dress warmly.

Mule and Horseback Rides
Two-hour horse or mule rides begin at the Tuolumne Meadows stable. Stable hours are 10am to 4pm, conditions permitting. Reservations are highly recommended and can be made by calling 209/372-8427.

Mule and Horseback Rides
Open 9am 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.

Parsons Memorial Summer Series
Allow 30 minutes walking time to Parsons Memorial Lodge from either Lembert Dome parking area or the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. Admission is free.

Saturday, August 1
Ovation! Singers
2:00pm to 3:00pm

Sunday, August 2
A Centennial Celebration - Out of the Landscape: Parsons Memorial Lodge
2:00pm to 3:00pm
Illustrated talk and discussion with Gabrielle Harlan, Ph.D., architectural historian

Saturday, August 8
Climate Change in a Land of Extremes: Drought and Flood in California’s Past, Present, and Future
2:00pm to 3:00pm
Illustrated talk and discussion with Daniel Swain, Ph.D. student, Earth System Science, Stanford University

Sunday, August 9
Mountain Inspiration
10:00am to Noon
Writing and yoga en plein air with Heather Sullivan, Balanced Rock co-founder and program director, bring a yoga mat or blanket, pen and paper, water, and appropriate layers of clothing.

The Shape of Things Gone Missing, The Shape of Things to Come
2:00pm to 3:30pm
Western landscapes in story and song by singer/songwriter Martha Scanlan and guest Jon Neufeld

19th Annual Tuolumne Meadows Poetry Festival
Saturday & Sunday, August 15 & 16
Morning workshops and afternoon readings with music featuring poets Camille Dungy, Leslie Harrison, Jay Leeming, and musician Shira Kammen

Saturday, August 15
Bringing the Outside In
10:00am to 11:30am
Poetry workshop with Camille Dungy
2:00pm to 3:30pm
Featured poets and music
7:00pm to 10:00
Open reading and music

Sunday, August 16
The Silence in the Song
10:00am to 11:30am
Poetry workshop with Leslie Harrison
2:00pm to 3:30pm
Featured poets and music

This event is supported by Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from The James Irvine Foundation.

Big Oak Flat

Big Oak Flat Information Station
Open 9am to 5pm. The visitor center offers information about park activities, wilderness permits, trail information, books, bear canister rentals, and maps. The center is located just 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. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from the parking area into the grove. The trail drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The way down can seem much easier than the uphill return to the parking lot. The trip is moderately strenuous on the uphill portion. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water at the parking area or in the grove. Be sure to bring drinking water with you.

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.
Yosemite Guide  July 29, 2015 - September 1, 2015

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

9:00am  Tuolumne Meadows - Birds (Except August 12) (2 hrs. Tuolumne Dome picnic area. Bring book and binoculars required).

11:00am  Discovery Walk for Little Cubs Tuolumne Meadows Campground - Bring a Backpack (except August 12) (7 hrs. Tuolumne Dome picnic area. Bring a backpack and water).


2:00pm  Ranger Walk - Sunset Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)

7:00pm  Campfire Program Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)

Thursday, July 30, 2015

8:00am  Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. Tuolumne Dome picnic area. Binoculars available. (NPS)

8:30am  Yosemite Day Hike: Tuolumne Ridge from Olmsted Point to Dogwood Flat East and Tuolumne Valley (8 hrs. Meet at the White Wolf Campground. Sign up in advance at the Big Oak Flat Information Station or call 209/379-1899.)

10:00am  Ranger Walk - Tenaya Lake to Olmsted Point Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (except August 12) (10 hrs. Tuolumne Dome picnic area. Bring a backpack and water).

11:00am  Ranger Walk - The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River (except August 12) (2 hrs. Tuolumne Valley Visitor Center parking lot (except August 12) (2 hrs. Tuolumne Dome picnic area. Bring a backpack and water).


2:00pm  Ranger Walk - Tuolumne Meadows 15 mins. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot. (except August 12) (2 hrs. Tuolumne Dome picnic area. Bring a backpack and water).

3:00pm  Ranger Walk - Sunset 15 mins. Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)

4:00pm  Campfire Program Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)

Friday, July 31, 2015

8:00am  Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. Tuolumne Dome picnic area. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)

8:30am  Yosemite Day Hike: The John Muir Trail with a Sierra Nevada Expert (August 7-10) (6 hrs. Make advanced reservations; phone call 209/379-3177 (YC) ($).

10:00am  Ranger Walk - A Place Long Traveled: History of Tuolumne Meadows 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center shuttle stop #8. (NPS)

10:30am  Ranger Walk - Welcome to Tuolumne 15 mins. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (NPS)

11:00am  Ranger Walk - High Country Hawk Watch 3 hrs. Tuolumne Valley Visitor Center parking lot (except August 12) (1.5 hrs. Tuolumne Dome picnic area. Bring a backpack and water).

11:30am  Ranger Walk - Sunset 45 mins. Lembert Dome picnic area. (NPS)

12:00pm  Ranger Campfire Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)

Saturday, August 1, 2015

8:00am  Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. Tuolumne Dome picnic area. Bring book and binoculars required. (NPS)

8:30am  Yosemite Day Hike: Bennettville with a Sierra Nevada Expert (August 9) (6 hrs. Bennettville Visitor Center parking lot. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)

9:00am  Ranger Walk - Sketching in Tuolumne (except August 10) Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)

10:00am  Ranger Walk - Tuolumne Dome (except August 10) (2 hrs. Tuolumne Dome picnic area. Bring sunglasses, sketchbook/journal, pen, and pencil with an eraser. (NPS)

10:30am  Parsons Summer Series Program (except August 9 2:00pm. See details on preceding page)

11:00am  Poetry Workshop - The Silence in the Song (August 16 Only) (1.5 hrs. Parsons Lodge, Bring pen and paper. (NPS)

1:30pm  Ranger Talk - Welcome to Tuolumne 15 mins. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot. (NPS)

7:00pm  Ranger Walk - Twilight Stroll 1 hr. Meet at the White Wolf Campfire Circle. (NPS)

Sunday, August 2, 2015

8:00am  Ranger Walk - Coyote Licks 2 hrs. Meet at the White Wolf Campfire Circle. (NPS)

8:30am  Birds & Burning 1.5 hrs. Meet at the Merced Grove parking lot. (NPS)

9:00am  Ranger Walk - Tuolumne Dome 15 mins. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot. (NPS)

9:30am  Ranger Gardener - Tuolumne Meadows (except August 2 10:30am. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot. (NPS)

10:00am  Ranger Walk - Moons and Meadows 2 hrs. Meet at the White Wolf Campfire Circle. (NPS)

11:30am  Ranger Walk - The Silence in the Song (August 16 Only) (1.5 hrs. Parsons Lodge, Bring pen and paper. (NPS)

7:00pm  Ranger Walk - Stars over White Wolf 1 hr. Meet at the White Wolf Campfire Circle. (NPS)
Become a Junior Ranger

Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge.*

Yosemite National Park offers a wide variety of 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:

Programs printed in ALL CAPS & COLOR are especially for Children and their Families

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Enjoying wildlife safely and responsibly

Keep Wildlife Wild!

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 to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear.

If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at about the distance made by one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear). Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

Drive the speed limit.

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

Red Bear, Dead Bear

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

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

Backpackers:

Save Your Food, Save A Bear

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

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.

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.

Do not 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 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.

Emergency services operations at Yosemite National Park, which include search and rescue (SAR), ambulance, and firefighting, enjoy national recognition and are a great source of pride here at the Park. Yosemite has one of the busiest emergency services operations in the National Park system and our pride is based on the professionalism and personal and team dedication exhibited by all of our emergency services branches. However, our active emergency operations tempo, which is very high throughout the summer, drives home an unfortunate point: all of our responses occur after something went wrong for someone(s). In most cases, the event triggering the emergency response was preventable.

To promote the well-being of all of our visitors, we offer a few tips to help you enjoy Yosemite National Park to the fullest:

AROUND WATER

There is no way to soften this one up. The swift moving and aerated water at Yosemite is a silent killer. Most drowning victims were not trying to swim but slipped from the river bank into the current or were merely wading in shallow water when the powerful current combined with a slick river bottom to sweep the person into the current and down the rapids or over a waterfall. Our rivers may be dangerous but they are beautiful and the following tips will let you safely enjoy our water:

• Stay back from any moving water. Even dry rocks can be slick.
• Emerald Pool and Hetch Hetchy Reservoir are off limits
• Carry enough water that you won’t be tempted to approach a stream to refill your canteen
• Do not allow photography to entice you into entering a hazardous area for a better shot or to pose a person in a dangerous place
• Never cross a fence or railing
• Always stay on the trail

HIKING: STAY ON THE TRAIL

Many hiking mishaps occur because someone left the trail. Scrambling on boulders or traveling beyond railings or other barriers may put you one slip away from a fatal accident. Avoid shortcuts. Visitors sometimes get “ledged out” after cutting across trails.

HEALTHY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AT YOSEMITE

The dog days of summer are upon us and while this can be a wonderful time to experience Yosemite, hot weather can present challenges. For your safety and enjoyment:

• Start pre-hydrating the night before and continue post-hydration the night of your physical activity
• Drink one quart (liter) of water for every two hours of activity
• Due to the California drought, be aware that some of your past water sources might not be reliable this summer.
• Watch for early signs of dehydration including dry lips, light thirst, and infrequent urination or brownish urine
• Frequently snack on salty easy-to-digest foods to replace salts lost from sweating

AVOID HYPOThERMIA

Did you know that freezing temperatures can occur in Yosemite’s high country any month of the year? In short, if you plan to head for higher elevations, avoid making assumptions based on low elevation weather. Be prepared to layer, with synthetic or wool clothing as a base layer, and keep your nutrition up with high-energy foods.

Yosemite’s Roads

What does Yosemite National Park have in common with the area where you live? Motor vehicle crashes are one of our most dangerous activities wherever there is vehicle traffic. Two common contributors to serious crashes at Yosemite: speeding and distracted driving. The beautiful scenery and abundant wildlife present quite a challenge for drivers to focus 100% on their task at hand but falling prey to any distractions can have deadly consequences.

Motor vehicles are also one of the leading causes of death for Yosemite’s precious wildlife. To safely enjoy our scenery and wildlife, find a safe place to pull entirely off the travel portion of the roadway. Bottom line: please slow down and give 100% attention to your driving.

OUTDOOR TRAVEL

Here are a few other reminders before you hit the trail:

• Tell someone your plan and when you intend to return
• Carry a map and compass and know where you are at all times
• 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 warm clothing layers in case you need to stay on the trail longer than expected.
• If you are on any medications, carry them on your hike
• Admire wildlife from a distance to prevent injury to you or animals

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. 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 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/youresafety.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, or a bird, it will be 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. and their fleas, which may carry plague.

On behalf of all of Yosemite’s emergency services personnel, we wish you a safe and enjoyable visit and it is our sincerest wish that we only meet you when we are not acting in our professional capacity.
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 canisters are available for rent at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, the Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center, the Big Oak Flat Information Center, Hill’s Studio in Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station during hours of operation. Check the website at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm or call the park’s main phone line at 209/372-0200, for additional information. 60% of the trailhead quota is available in advance. Reservations are taken from 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 reservation. Check the park’s website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740. 40% of the trailhead quota is available for first come first serve. First come first serve permits are available the day of opening and the day before starting at 11am.

Permit Required to Hike Half Dome
Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are required seven days a week when the cables are up for 2015, May 22 through October 12, conditions permitting. A daily total of 225 preseason lottery permits have already been issued for 2015. In addition, approximately 50 permits will be released by daily lottery throughout the season based on estimated under-use and cancellation rates (exact number may change throughout the summer). Applications for daily lottery permits will be accepted 2 days prior to the desired hiking date between midnight and 1 pm. To apply, visit Recreation.gov or call 877/444-6777. A non-refundable application fee applies to all submissions and a use fee applies to winning applicants. Finally, a daily quota of 75 Half Dome permits will be available to overnight users with an appropriate wilderness permit (use fee applies). These permits may be acquired through early reservations (50 per day) or day before walk-up (25 per day). Rock climbers who reach the top of Half Dome without entering the subdome area may descend on the Half Dome Trail without a permit.


Rafting
Conditions permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stoney 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 Prog 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 per day. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used.

The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

Pets
Keep in mind, daytime temperatures can reach above 100 °Farenheit 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/yoursafety.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.
Experience Your America    Yosemite National Park

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 415/444-6777 or TDD 415/831-6777 or 518/885-3639 from outside the US and Canada.

Yosemite Valley
There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in a calendar year; however, May 1 to September 15, the camping limit is 14 days and only seven of those days can be in Yosemite Valley or Wawona.

Camp 4 is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis; these campites are not wheelchair accessible. Sites are available on a per-person basis, and six people will be placed in each campsite, regardless of number of people in your party. Camp 4 often fills before 9 am each day, May through September.

Camping in Areas Surrounding Yosemite
The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite. For additional information, contact Groveland Ranger Station at 209/962-7825; Mariposa Ranger Station at 209/966-3638; Mono Lake Ranger Station at 760/647-3044; 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 campsites at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds. Reservations can be made the same way as individual site reservations; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets, RVs, and generators are not permitted in group sites.

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

Services
• All sites include picnic tables, firepits with grills, and a food locker (33” x 45” x 18”). 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.

Camping in Yosemite National Park*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</th>
<th>OPEN 2015 (APPROX)</th>
<th>MAX RV LENGTH</th>
<th>MAX TRAILER LENGTH</th>
<th>RESERVATIONS REQUIRED</th>
<th>DAILY FEE</th>
<th># OF SITES</th>
<th>PETS</th>
<th>WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOSEMITE VALLEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pines</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Mar 23 - Nov 30</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>Apr 6 - Nov 2</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Pines</td>
<td>Mar 30 - Nov 2</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>No RV/trailers</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$6/person</td>
<td>35</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>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Apr 13 - Oct 13</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil</td>
<td>Jun 12 - Sep 21</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>28 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</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>Apr 13 - Oct 13</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Apr 13 - Oct 13</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane Flat</td>
<td>May 22 - Oct 13</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>30 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>May 20 - Oct 15</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>30 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>Jun 12 - Sep 15</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Jun 5 - Sep 8</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine Flat</td>
<td>Jun 5 – Oct 15</td>
<td>24 ft (limited)</td>
<td>20 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows</td>
<td>May 30 - Sep 27</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Exact campground opening and closing dates are subject to conditions.
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 Near Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 2-3 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round-trip, 6-8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 2,700-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles, 1 hour round-trip to Mirror Lake, 5 miles, loop around lake</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2-3 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, 1,900-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>16 mi (via Mist Trail) or 18.5 mi (via John Muir Trail) round-trip, 10-12 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, 1,200-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 Meadow Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Hotel</td>
<td>3.5 miles round-trip, 1.5 hours</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swinging Bridge Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Store / Pioneer Yosemite Hist. Ctr. Parking Area</td>
<td>6.75 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 / Parson’s 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 Lyell Canyon</td>
<td>Dog Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy, 200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lake</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Group Campground</td>
<td>6.8 miles round trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toulumne Meadows</td>
<td>White Wolf2</td>
<td>4.4 miles round-trip, 2 to 3 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>Porcupine Creek2</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderately, 3,500 to 4,000-foot rise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lukens Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake2</td>
<td>10 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wapama Falls

| O’Shaughnessy Dam | 5 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours | Easy to Moderate |

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 (1.2 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 stairway 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 obstacles.
- 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.
Families from around the world, and all walks of life, visit America’s first protected natural area. It’s common to hear many languages spoken in Yosemite, but among the Big Trees, the owestruck speak the same tongue. Gaups, snigs, whispers, and cries fill the air, reflecting a specific dialect spoken throughout the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoia.

In June of 1899, Gabriel Souvelewski was asked to escort an important family on their first visit to the Mariposa Grove. Because of Mr. Souvelewski’s knowledge of the park gained from his service in the Army, as well as his subsequent duties as Park Supervisor, Mr. Souvelewski was an excellent ambassador for Yosemite.

He was accompanied on this assignment by an African American Twenty-Fourth Infantryman who would be responsible for taking care of the horses so that this family would be free to devote all of their attention on the marvels that they would soon encounter. That buffalo soldier’s name has been lost to history, but he was a “park ranger” before the term had been coined. Mr. Souvelewski, an immigrant from Poland, is remembered today for his development of Yosemite’s trails.

Neither Souvelewski, nor the soldier, expected to be introduced to the Rockefellers, one of the wealthiest families in the United States. John D. Rockefeller and his party journeyed into the West during the spring and summer of 1899. Like many of today’s visitors, they had an itinerary for their excursion, but unlike the majority of today’s travelers, the Rockefellers travelled by train.

It took them nearly a week to travel by rail in the private cars “Convoy” and “Magenta” from New York City to Yosemite National Park. There were stops along the way in Cleveland, Chicago, Colorado Springs, Salt Lake City, Ogden, and finally Raymond, CA, just south of the park, was reached just after 9 a.m. on June 2, 1899.

When Mr. Souvelewski, and the soldier who would serve as an orderly for the excursion to the Big Trees, were introduced to John D. Rockefeller, they also became acquainted with the other “members of the party,” including Alta Rockefeller, the wife of John D., Mrs. William Rockefeller, Ethel and Miss Tracy, Mrs. Baird, and her daughter Marian, Elizabeth Swift, Mr. Ballard, and Mr. Richardson.

This was the family bound for a picnic in the Mariposa Grove on June 7, 1899. It was a warm spring day. Snow had melted off the foothills, but the peaks were still white, and the nights were cold. It was quiet. Only 4,500 people visited Yosemite in 1899, so park roads and trails were empty compared to today.

Given that Souvelewski was “the guide,” and the soldier was the fellow “taking care of the horses,” both men rode ahead, not wishing to force themselves on the family. It’s unclear who was more astonished when Mr. John D. Rockefeller caught up with them and expressed the desire to ride with them into the Mariposa Grove as one party.

From that point on, the Rockefeller Party included a former Polish immigrant who had become an administrator in Yosemite National Park, and a “colored” soldier who had served in the Spanish-American War.

They entered the grove. It was as it is today, a hidden sun, a place of diffuse radiance and shade, but much more still, much more silent. In those days, you could really feel the weight of the giant sequoia all around you, and you felt utterly alone. Certainly there was bird song, chattering squirrels, the surprise of deer, but the general atmosphere was a profound solitude. You felt adrift, yet bound to something greater.

Gabriel Souvelewski was probably regretting that in his haste to meet the family, he had neglected to make a lunch for himself, but he bore that inconvenience in silence. He had no idea if he would be offered lunch by the family that was in his care, and knew instinctively that his well being was probably not an immediate concern for Mr. John D. Rockefeller.

So, he was genuinely surprised when after the customary shock of seeing the Big Trees for the first time had passed, Alta Rockefeller came over to him where he and the buffalo soldier sat together, and invited both of them to lunch.

Curious about the soldier, Mrs. Rockefeller began to question him about his experiences, and from that point on the soldier regaled the group with his exploits during the Spanish American War, “and a good time was had by all!” Whatever social barrier that had stood between them beyond the borders of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoia had become in a few brief moments as insubstantial as a cloud between themselves and Creation. They had been distilled, boiled down, refined, and reduced by forest shade into something that was all the more human because of that silent reduction. Now there was a common humanity that was more apparent than the sun, a common state of being, and a common spirit.

In the Mariposa Grove, we’re all just folk, just people.

On June 7, 1899, a member of one of the most prominent families in America invited their guide, and a buffalo soldier, to dine with them. Would this have occurred in any restaurant in New York City, or San Francisco at that time? Probably not, but it happened here in the Mariposa Grove, in the shadows of giants.

Epilogue

In June of 1999 I was asked to present my Buffalo Soldier Living History program to the National Park Foundation, and other distinguished guests, here in Yosemite Valley 100 years earlier. I met the group, gave my presentation, and when the program concluded, former Deputy Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi introduced me to Diane Rockefeller who was also attending the event with her husband David.

I briefly spoke to her about this historic picnic in the Mariposa Grove, and intrigued she invited me to have lunch with her, her husband, and other guests. I had not been previously invited to this luncheon, but nevertheless found myself seated at their table where I spoke to David Rockefeller, Jr. about his family’s trip to Yosemite 100 years earlier.

History had repeated itself! I was wearing a Ninth Cavalry uniform, and once again a Buffalo Soldier was invited to dine with the Rockefeller family in Yosemite National Park.

Library and Archives

- Story by Shelton Johnson
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. DN 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.

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Contact Us

Yosemite National Park
PO Box 577
9039 Village Drive
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-0200
http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm

The Ansel Adams Gallery
PO Box 455
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-4413
209/372-4714 fax
www.anseladams.com

Delaware North
PO Box 578
Yosemite, CA 95389
801/559-5000
www.yosemitepark.com

Yosemite Conservancy
101 Montgomery Street,
Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
800/469-7275
415/434-0745 fax
www.yosemiteconservancy.org

NatureBridge
PO Box 487
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/379-2511
209/379-9510 fax
www.yni.org