Celebrating 100 Years of Service
The National Park Service will turn 100-years old on August 25, 2016. Take part in the centennial celebration by engaging in opportunities to learn, explore, and have fun, in Yosemite or one of your other national parks. Visit www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary or www.FindYourPark.com to find more information about events happening in Yosemite throughout the year.

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

Enjoy Winter Fun at Badger Pass!
California’s original ski resort, Badger Pass Ski Area is a perfect place for visitors of all ages and skill levels to play in the snow. Learn to ski with one of our experienced ski instructors, get some practice in on 10 runs, or catch some air in one of two terrain parks. You can also set out on an easy, guided snowshoe hike or embark on a cross-country skiing adventure from the Nordic center. Badger Pass is open everyday beginning December 11, weather and conditions permitting. Downhill ski lifts operate from 9am to 4pm. Call 209/372-1000 for current snow conditions. Equipment rentals and lift tickets are available from 8:30am to 4pm. Call 209-372-1000 for current information, equipment lists and more can be found at www.yosemiteconservancy.org/strander.

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

Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite
Driving in Yosemite
The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove Roads are closed each year from after the first significant snowfall to about late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storm periods. Motorists are advised to always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel. iky and wet roadways can exist throughout the park! To check road conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7632 or visit www.dot.ca.gov for highways connecting to Yosemite, outside the park.

Every Kid In A Park
Fourth graders, grab your family and go enjoy your national parks for FREE! The Every Kid In A Park initiative was recently launched to help the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates create positive attitudes towards public lands and to give every child the chance to explore America’s great outdoors and unique history. Visit www.everykidinapark.gov for more information.

FREE Interagency 4th Grade Pass
A free, annual pass for 4th grade students and their families to have free access to any federal land or water, during your fourth graders school year from September 1 to August 30. Families must present a paper voucher at any park entrance to obtain the pass. Visit www.everykidinapark.gov for details.

What’s Inside:
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Experience Your America Yosemite National Park
Yosemite Guide December 9, 2015 - February 9, 2016

Seasonal Highlights

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 require fees. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 4 and 5)

Hike to Mirror Meadow
Situated at the base of Half Dome, Mirror Lake frames reflections of Yosemite’s most iconic cliff. (The lake is dry until the first significant precipitation of the season.) The quiet trail is gentle and follows Tenaya Creek as it winds its way through the eastern Valley. The trail starts at shuttle stop #17.

Get Outdoors with Yosemite Conservancy
Are you looking for a memorable way to experience Yosemite, tailored to your interests and ability? Our expert naturalist-guides will enhance your understanding of the park as you walk among Yosemite’s famous cliffs, trees and waterfalls. Whether you want to explore the park’s flora and fauna while taking a gentle saunter along the river or learn about Yosemite’s geology during an exhilarating hike, we’ll help you create the perfect outdoor experience. Contact us to plan a Custom Adventure for your family or group. Visit yosemitecconservancy.org/adventures or 209/379-2317 x10 to find your adventure today.

Tour The Ahwahnee...
Step back to an earlier era of history as you explore this National Historic Landmark that opened in 1927. Notable for its architecture and artful décor, the hotel provides a cozy atmosphere in which to relax and enjoy a warm drink.

... or Curl Up in Front of a Fireplace!
The Ahwahnee has three grand fireplaces that have always provided heat to offset the year’s most frigid temperatures. Bring a book and a warm drink and find a cozy niche in front of the fire, the perfect place to warm your hands and toes.

Lose something in Yosemite?
File a lost report by sending an email to yose_lostandfound@nps.gov. To inquire about items 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.

Yosemite Mountaining 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 cross country skiing and snowshoeing, as well as hiking, backpacking and rock climbing. Reservations recommended, please call 209-372-8344 or email yms@dcinc.com.

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
$30 per person (Adults)
$30 per vehicle (April through October)
$25 per vehicle (November through March)
Motorcycle - Valid for 7 days
$15 (Motorcycle beginning January 1, 2016)
Individual - Valid for 7 days
$15 (In a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse)

Yosemite Pass
$60, 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.

Interagency 4th Grade Pass (Free)
(Annual) For fourth graders and their families. Must present paper voucher.

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 209/862-0429

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
800/446-1333
www.tcvb.com/highway41

Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/831-4619
www.yosemite-sierrayarb.com

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/938-3239

Highway 140/49
Calif. Welcome Center, Merced
800/446-5353 or 209/724-8104
www.yosemite-gateway.org

Mariposa County Visitor Center
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081

Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau
209/742-4567
www.homeofyosemite.com

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

Yosemite Valley
Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 West from Manteca, and via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, its plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and its attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow recharge it, a moderate hike will take you to Vernal and Nevada Falls. Yosemite’s meadows are great places to see wildlife and to photograph the winter scenery. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, car or with a tour, the scenery will leave you in awe and eager to see what’s around the next corner.

Yosemite Valley after snowfall. Photo by Christine Loberg
Glacier Point Road

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and Yosemite’s high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. The road stays open as weather permits, however, overnight parking along it ends October 15. When the road is snow-covered and conditions permit, a system of cross-country ski tracks are maintained on it. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, when the road is open, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating view looking down 3,214 feet into Yosemite Valley. Glacier Point Road closes beyond the Badger Pass Ski area after the first significant snow fall.

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1½ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park’s south entrance station. As of July 6, 2015, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is closed for restoration, see page 7 for details. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. For more information about hiking trails in the Wawona area, visit the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio, adjacent to the historic Wawona Hotel.

Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

Crane Flat is located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. A number of hikes through pleasant meadows are available—when snow covers the ground these turn into delightful ski and snowshoe tracks. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk two steep miles down to this small grove. These groves north of Yosemite Valley are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off limits to vehicles. Remember that the walk down is easier than the walk back up.

Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

Tuolumne Meadows embodies the high-country of the Sierra Nevada. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. In winter, Tuolumne Meadows is often reached by skiers via the Snow Creek Trail from the Mirror Lake trailhead, a short distance east of Yosemite Valley.

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area’s low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles (1 hour 15 minutes) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 8am to 7pm through October 31, then 8am to 5pm through March 31. Wilderness permits and bear canisters are available while the road is open. Vehicles and/or trailers over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not permitted on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

DID YOU KNOW:

• The idea for doing guided “nature walks,” which eventually became the interpretive programs National Park Service Rangers are famous for, originally came from Switzerland. It was brought to the United States through the efforts of Stephen Mather, the first director of the National Park Service.
• About 20 percent of Yosemite’s visitors every year come from other countries – about 33 different countries in fact. Yosemite’s International Affairs program helps the park to better understand our international visitors, allows Yosemite to share its expertise, and opens the door to learning new ways to manage and protect natural and cultural resources.
• Established in 1932 as the world’s first International Peace Park, Glacier National Park in Montana and Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta, Canada became the very first sister parks in the National Park System. Yosemite’s first and second sister park agreements with China’s Huangshan and Jiazhaogou national parks were signed in 2006.
• Across the entire National Park System, 31 US National Parks have international sister park relationships in more than 50 different countries, but not yet on every continent. Yosemite hopes to add the first sister park in Australia sometime in 2016. Antarctica is the only continent with no national parks or protected areas, but is managed under an international treaty that includes protection of the environment as a goal.

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!
Experience the Incomparable Yosemite Valley

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

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

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

RANGER PROGRAM – YOSEMITE INSIDE
Join a ranger in an indoor venue for an in-depth look into a Yosemite topic. Topics will vary from Yosemite wildlife, to climbing, to Yosemite artists. See page 5 for schedule and visit the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for specific topics.

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

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

The Ansel Adams Gallery
The Ansel Adams Gallery is open daily from 9am to 5pm. Starting January 1, 2016, the hours of operation will be from 10am to 5pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other artists. See page 5 for photo walk and other event times. For more information call 209/372-4211 or visit www.anseladams.com. Closed December 25.

EXHIBIT
Sierra Impression: Works on Paper and Canvas
November 8, 2015 - January 3, 2016
With an origin story committed to the art of painting, The Ansel Adams Gallery is excited to present Sierra Impression: Works on Canvas and Paper. The exhibit is sure to entice, with pieces ranging from atmospheric, en plein air landscapes in the vein of original gallery proprietor Harry Best, to intricate watercolors and bold abstractions, as well as woodblocks that owe an aesthetic debt to traditional Japanese style. This show will encompass a diverse range of styles and viewpoints. The exhibit will open on November 8, 2015 and run through January 3, 2016. All exhibited works will be available for purchase with shipping options available. Featured artists will include, Annie Barrett Casher, Jane Culp, Tom Killion, James McGrew, Penny Otwell and Sally Owens.

NEW EXHIBIT
Wild Winter
January 4, 2016 - March 5, 2016
Of all seasons, the unpredictability and invigorating light of winter seems to inspire the artist’s mind. The iconic Ansel Adams photograph, Clearing Winter Storm, stands as precedent. From January 4, 2016 through March 5, 2016, The Ansel Adams Gallery will exhibit Wild Winter, featuring photographic works from our distinguished collective of photographers. We hope you have a chance to stop by to enjoy the show. All exhibited works will be available for purchase with shipping options available.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
This is a day to give back and be a citizen in action! On January 18 there will be a service event to help Yosemite stay beautiful and prepare for the summer season. Contact the VIP office for more information at (209) 379-1850 or yose.volunteers@nps.gov.
Events and Programs
Where to go and what to do

YOSEMITE VALLEY

Saturday

9:00am  Adventure Snowshoe Hike - Dewey Point 7 hrs. Tickets/baths at any tour desk. Badger Pass Cross Country Center. (DN) $  
10:00am  Junior Ranger Talk 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) $  
10:30am  Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (Except December 10) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing, Snowshoes provided. (NPS)  
2:00pm  Ranger Walk – Bears 1.5 hrs. Shuttle stop #46. (NPS) $  
2:00pm  History of Bracebridge Talk (December 15 and 20 Only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) $  
7:00pm  Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for topic and room, Yosemite Lodge. (DN) $  

Monday

9:00am  Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery, Yosemite National Park. (TAAG)  
10:30am  Junior Ranger Talk 3 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing, Snowshoes provided. (NPS)  
11:00am  In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class 3 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) $  
2:00pm  Ranger Walk – Geology 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) $  
9:00pm  Evening Film 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Cиф Room. (DN) $  

Wednesday

9:00am  Adventure Snowshoe Hike - Dewey Point 7 hrs. Tickets/baths at any tour desk. Badger Pass Cross Country Center. (DN) $  
10:00am  Junior Ranger Talk 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) $  
10:30am  Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (Except December 22) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing, Snowshoes provided. (NPS)  
11:00am  Ansel Adams’ Legacy and Your Digital Camera Photography Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) $  
2:00pm  Ranger Walk – Inspiring Generations 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) $  
2:00pm  History of Bracebridge Talk (December 21 and 26 Only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) $  
7:00pm  Ranger Program 1 hr. Check local listings for topic and venue, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (NPS) $  
7:00pm  Evening Film 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Cиф Room. (DN) $  

Friday

9:00am  Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (Except December 17) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing, Snowshoes provided. (NPS)  
10:30am  Ranger Program – Yosemite Inside 1 hr. Check local listings for topic, Yosemite Valley Auditorium, behind Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. (NPS)  
2:00pm  Ranger Walk – Wildlife 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) $  
2:00pm  History of Bracebridge Talk (December 18 and 25 Only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) $  
7:00pm  Evening Film 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Cиф Room. (DN) $  

Sunday

9:00am  Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery, Yosemite National Park. (TAAG)  
10:30am  Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (Except December 10) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing, Snowshoes provided. (NPS)  
11:00am  Using Your Digital Camera (Except December 24 and 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) $  
2:00pm  Ranger Walk – Trees 1.5 hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3. (NPS) $  
2:00pm  History of Bracebridge Talk (December 24 Only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) $  
7:00pm  Evening Film 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Cиф Room. (DN) $  

WAWONA

Saturday

5:30pm  Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano (December 22 and 29 Only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist Tom Bopp. Historical programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening to ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) $  

Monday

5:30pm  Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano (December 23 and 30 Only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist Tom Bopp. Historical programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening to ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) $  

Wednesday

5:30pm  Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano (December 24 and 31 Only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist Tom Bopp. Historical programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening to ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) $  

Friday

5:30pm  Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano (December 16, 23, and January 1 Only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Historical programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening to ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) $  

Sunday

5:30pm  Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano (December 19, 26 and January 7 Only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Historical programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening to ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) $  

Access for People with Disabilities

Accessible parking, lodging, tours, and activities are available throughout the park.
For a complete list of accessible services, recreational opportunities, and exhibits, pick up an updated Yosemite Accessibility Guide which is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm, or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at 209/379-1035 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 (voicemail). Two weeks advance notice is requested. Assistant Listening Devices are available upon advance request, inquire at a park Accessibility Coordinator.

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

NPS  National Park Service  
DN  Delaware North  
TAAG  The Ansel Adams Gallery  
YC  Yosemite Conservancy  
YS  Programs offered for a fee
Yosemite in Winter
An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite National Park. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery. See page 5 for more information on park programs and visitor services available.

NATURALIST PROGRAMS
Naturalists give talks and walks every day about Yosemite’s natural and cultural history. See page 5 for scheduled talks, walks, and evening programs.

WALKING AND HIKING
Yosemite Valley has a wide range of walking and hiking possibilities. Stop by a visitor center for a trail map and the most current trail conditions, or see page 9 for a list of popular Valley day hikes.

SIGHTSEEING
Some of the famous landmarks in Yosemite Valley include:

• Lower Yosemite Fall is an easy 30-minute loop trail starting from shuttle stop #6. (Both Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow return.) This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired.

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

• El Capitan is a massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan.

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

• Half Dome, Yosemite’s most distinctive monument dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this iconic feature into what we see today. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge and Glacier Point all provide stunning views of Half Dome.

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

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

TOURS
Tours listed depart from Yosemite Lodge, weather permitting. Check Tour and Activity Desk for times.

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

Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures (YC)
Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing the wonders of Yosemite through year-round Outdoor Adventures. From backpacking to botany and birding, our wide range of programs offers something for every Yosemite adventurer.

February 6, 2016
Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas Atop Dewey Point
Find detailed information and register for your adventure at yosemiteconservancy.org/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.

Winter Sports
BADGER PASS SKI AREA
Opens on December 11, weather and conditions permitting, and the ice rink at Curry Village is open through March, conditions permitting. Live information on winter sports is available by calling 209/372-8340, or recorded information is available at 209/372-1000.

BADGER PASS A-FRAME
Open 9am to 4pm, seven days a week when Badger Pass Ski Area is open. Wilderness permits, Ostrander Ski Hut check-in and cross-country ski trail information available. It’s also the starting point for ranger led snowshoe walks.

BADGER PASS SHUTTLE SCHEDULE:
Yosemite Valley to Badger Pass
Curry Village - 8am and 10:30am
Yosemite Village - 8:10am and 10:40am
Alwahnee Hotel - 8:15am and 10:45am
Yosemite Lodge - 8:30am and 11am
Badger Pass to Yosemite Valley
2pm and 4pm

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 cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, as well as hiking, backpacking and rock climbing. Reservations recommended, please call 209-372-8344 or email yms@dninc.com.

PUBLIC SCOPING FOR YOSEMITE WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PLAN OPENS
Yosemite National Park has opened public scoping for planning and environmental impact analysis for the Yosemite Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Public scoping comments will be accepted starting November 16, 2015 through January 29, 2016. Yosemite’s Wilderness is currently managed under the 1989 Wilderness Management Plan. The park needs to update this plan to incorporate current information about visitor use patterns, methods of managing visitor use, techniques for trail design and construction, and concepts for managing stock in wilderness. For more information, please visit our webpage at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yosewild.
Wawona & Mariposa Grove

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

Evening Programs
Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30pm to 9:30pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite’s past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening to ask Tom or stop by the front desk. December 18 through January 2 only.

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

Mariposa Grove
Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees.

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.

Big Oak Flat
BIG OAK FLAT INFORMATION STATION
Wilderness permits for Big Oak Flat Road trailheads are available by self-registration on the front porch of Hill’s Studio. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

GENERAL SERVICES
YOSEMITE VILLAGE GARAGE
8am to 5pm, Sizes: 24 hours, Payable using one of 4pm: 209/372-1160

MEDICAL CLINIC (Yosemite Valley)
Monday - Friday, 8am to 5pm, Closed weekends and federal holidays. For emergency care after 5pm, call 9-1-1. For more information call 209/372-4637.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES
CHURCH OF CHRIST (NON-DENOMINATIONAL)

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Foster Brent Moore - Resident Minister 209/372-4831 • www.yosemiteValleyChapel.org Wedding information on website SUNDAY SERVICES IN YOSEMITE CHAPEL: 9:15am - Sunday School Available 11am - (Memorial Day - Labor Day ONLY) 6:30pm - Evening service in chapel TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY - 7pm, Call for location THURSDAY MID-WEEK SERVICE - 7pm, chapel CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLESLIGHT SERVICE - 4pm, in Chapel NEW YEARS EVE CHAPEL SERVICE - 10pm-12am

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS
OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTS
Sunday, 10am, Theda behind Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Shuttle stops #9999. CHRISTMAS DAY MASS: 10am, Yosemite Chapel Rectory phone: 209/372-4729

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
LIONS CLUB
Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. 209/372-1464.

MERCED GROVE
Yosemite’s quaintest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of approximately 20 big trees accessible only on foot. It’s a three-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe into the grove. The trail drops down 1.5 miles, making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a posted B-10.

TUOLUMNE GROVE
The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 sequoias is near the intersection of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga roads at Crane Flat. The moderately strenuous trail leads downhill from the parking area into the grove and drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you.
Experience Your America    Yosemite National 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.

NAVIGATION

Winter; unmarked trails can quickly cause disorientation. Winter specific trails are marked with blaze. Always keep at least one marker in view. Carry a map and compass (or GPS) and know your location at all times.

SNOW PLAY

Hopefully, we’ll enjoy a good snowpack in the Sierra this winter. Snow will open up exciting winter recreational opportunities at Badger Pass and elsewhere around the Park. To keep the fun in your recreation, be realistic about your physical limits and stay within them.

ENJOYING YOSEMITE’S WINTER

Winter in Yosemite National Park is often defined by weather extremes and its contrasts to other seasons. In addition to recreational opportunities, winter is a favorite time for viewing wildlife. Photographers and other artists often discover very unique aspects of Yosemite’s beauty, calling out to be captured on film or canvas. With a little planning, preparation, and awareness, your winter visit to Yosemite National Park can be pleasantly rewarded.

WEATHER

Weather is unpredictable. Therefore, prepare for inclement weather. Avoid hypothermia, a life-threatening cooling of your body temperature, and hike in comfort and warmth for inclement weather. Avoid hypothermia, lifeproof if you find yourself with a later-than-expected return to your vehicle or shelter.

Daylight is short; carrying a headlamp or flashlight and extra batteries can be a lifesaver if you find yourself with a later-than-expected return to your vehicle or shelter.

SUNLIGHT

Daylight is short; carrying a headlamp or flashlight and extra batteries can be a lifesaver if you find yourself with a later-than-expected return to your vehicle or shelter.

For all seasons:

- Stay on established trails – do not take shortcuts.
- Rivers, streams, and lakes are hazardous your round. Crossing water should only be attempted where it is safe.
- Rock scrambling – leave this to the cairns.
- Water and food – make it a point to stay hydrated and to snack frequently; make sure you have plenty of food and water. If you are sweating, replace lost salts with salty, easy-to-digest snacks.
- “10 hiking essentials” – including sunglasses, sunscreen, and a signaling method (mirror and whistle).
- Let someone know – always leave your travel and hiking plan, including your intended route and estimated time of return, with a trusted person.

WILDERNESS PERMIT DETAILS

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Please see pages 4 and 7 of this Guide for more information about obtaining wilderness permits. For summer trips, reservations are taken from 24 weeks to 2 days in advance of the start of your trip. A processing fee of $5 per permit plus $5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. Go to wwww.nps.gov/yoos/planyourvisit/wildpermits for trailhead availability and more information on how to make a reservation. Reservations can be made by fax, phone or mail starting November 16, 2015. To make a reservation by phone, call (209) 372-0740 Mon-Fri from 8:30am to 4:30pm. More Information: www.nps.gov/yoos/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm

HALF DOME PERMIT INFORMATION

The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be back up by May 27, 2016 conditions permitting. Permits are required 7 days a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2016 permits begins March 1, 2016 and ends March 31, 2016. To apply for permits visit recreation. gov or call 877/444-6777. More information about the Half Dome permit process is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yoos/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.

HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases that are harmful to humans. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread to humans via the droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. In California, deer mice are the primary carrier of the virus that causes HPS. If you 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 and windows closed to rodents. Permits begins March 1, 2016 and ends March 31, 2016. To apply for permits visit recreation. gov or call 877/444-6777. More information about the Half Dome permit process is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yoos/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.

PLAGUE

Plague is an infectious bacterial disease that is carried by squirrels, chipmunks and other wild rodents and their fleas. When an infected rodent becomes sick and dies, its fleas can carry the infection to other warm-blooded animals including humans.

To protect yourself from plague, never feed wildlife, avoid dropping food scraps that attract rodents when eating outside, avoid pitching a tent near or disturbing rodent burrows, wear insect repellent with DEET, and tell a park ranger immediately if you see a dead animal.

More Information:

- “10 hiking essentials” – including sunglasses, sunscreen, and a signaling method (mirror and whistle).
- Let someone know – always leave your travel and hiking plan, including your intended route and estimated time of return, with a trusted person.

Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

For all seasons:

- Stay on established trails – do not take shortcuts.
- Rivers, streams, and lakes are hazardous your round. Crossing water should only be attempted where it is safe.
- Rock scrambling – leave this to the cairns.
- Water and food – make it a point to stay hydrated and to snack frequently; make sure you have plenty of food and water. If you are sweating, replace lost salts with salty, easy-to-digest snacks.
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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.

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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 are more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

Drive the speed limit.

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

Please report bear sightings by calling 209/372-0322.

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>0.3 miles 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 miles round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock</td>
<td>Camp 2 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 round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>5 miles round-trip, 3-4 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,800-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Staircase Point (Closed in winter)</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 5-4 hours one-way</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain</td>
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<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>
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Store Your Food Properly.

The typical daily diet of most bears may consist of 4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, berries, acorns, and grubs. 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.

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.

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Experience Your America  Yosemite National Park

Beyond Our Borders: Yosemite’s International Affairs Program
by Jodi Bailey & Mike Gauthier

As you enjoy the vistas and splendor of Yosemite National Park, you are likely to overhear the accents and languages of visitors from other countries: Chinese, Spanish, German, Russian, Korean, Japanese, Hindi, or Italian, to name just a few. More than 20 percent of Yosemite National Park’s visitors travel to California from outside the United States.

All over the world, Yosemite is known for its magnificent landscapes as well as the important role it played in the creation of the National Park System. Over the last decade, Yosemite has begun to highlight its status as a conservation landmark. Building on the park’s historical importance in the conservation movement, Yosemite’s International Affairs Program embraces the park’s role as a leader in park and protected area management.

The connections between Yosemite and our sister parks have come about through some combination of serendipity and the personal commitment and passion of individual staff members. Yosemite’s Traffic Program Manager, Dave Henderson, grew up in Germany and as a result, speaks German. When the call went out to nominate sister parks in Europe, Dave prepared the foundational materials to help Yosemite establish a sister park with Berchtesgaden National Park – which is noted as the location for the classic movie, The Sound of Music. Berchtesgaden and Yosemite share many physical similarities such as glacially carved landscapes and alpine meadows and lakes. What is most important, however, is that Berchtesgaden has committed to protecting, conserving, and interpreting its truly special and unique qualities as a park. These are qualities that all Yosemite sister parks have, a commitment to preserving the best of our world’s natural and cultural heritage for all generations to come.

SISTER PARKS
Yosemite’s original sister parks are Huangshan and Jiuzhaigou national parks in China, which established formal relationships with us in 2006. Torres del Paine National Park in Chile followed as our next sister in 2007. Since then, several new sister parks have been added, expanding the park’s relationships around the world. Berchtesgaden National Park in Germany’s Bavarian Alps signed a sister park arrangement in 2014. Four parks in Mongolia are Yosemite’s newest sisters: Lake Hovsgol and Tengis-Shishged national parks, and Horidal-Saridag and Ulaan Taiga strictly protected areas. They became sisters through an agreement signed in July with Mongolia’s Ministry of Environment. Sister parks in Mexico, Nepal, and Tanzania will join Yosemite’s “family” in 2016.

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TECHNICAL EXCHANGES
Technical exchanges are another way Yosemite participates in the global park management dialogue. Often short-term and focused, these assignments and trainings are designed to share first hand experience and knowledge. In early November 2015, Yosemite hosted two representatives from Kinabalu Park in Malaysia. Kinabalu Park is located on the island of Borneo and includes the island’s highest peak, Mount Kinabalu, which is over 12,000 feet tall. Mt. Kinabalu is a little like Yosemite’s Half Dome. It’s an arduous day hike, but manageable for fit, adventurous visitors – some 50,000 climbers attempt the peak every year. In early June 2015, an earthquake triggered large rock falls on Mt. Kinabalu. These rock falls killed 18 people on the mountain and stranded many others. This rock fall was the first ever recorded in Kinabalu, so no one on the park’s staff had expertise managing risk from geologic hazards. In Yosemite, with the near-vertical granite cliffs that form Yosemite Valley, rock falls are common place and the park’s staff includes not only a geologist, but with one with special expertise related to rock falls. Park staff from Kinabalu spent several days in the field with Yosemite’s geologist as well as with Search and Rescue staff who provided training as well as the kind of practical insights that only another park professionals could offer.

VISITING DELEGATIONS
Each year, representatives and delegations from other national parks and protected areas from around the globe visit Yosemite to learn more about contemporary park management.

Yosemite is one of the oldest and most complex national parks in the United States and has a lot to offer such delegations. In August, a team from Shaanxi Province in China visited Yosemite to learn about park management. They are creating a brand new national park, called Qinling National Botanical Garden. Over a jam-packed day of meetings and tours, the group from China learned about Yosemite’s restoration projects, youth education, volunteer programs, and much more.

YOSEMITE IS AN INTERNATIONAL ICON
Yosemite represents one of America’s finest gifts to future generations. It inspires the world and its magnificence will likely charm you. Make indelible memories while exploring the park, and remember that citizens from around the globe also admire the sites and experiences you are enjoying. So when you hear other accents and languages as you tour the park, know that Yosemite also embraces it’s role as an icon to conservation and protection of the world’s best natural and cultural resources.
Enhance the Visitor Experience

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

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

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1962, is a center that celebrates the arts and the natural grandeur of our environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world by offering visitors a unique variety of literature and art, as well as programs that inspire creativity. Visit online at: www.anseladams.com.

Delaware North at Yosemite

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

For more information and employment opportunities with Delaware North visit online at www.YosemitePark.com

NatureBridge

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

Yosemite Conservancy

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

Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

Over 10,400 volunteers donated more than 161,000 hours of service to Yosemite last year, restoring native habitat, working in visitor centers, serving as camp hosts, studying wildlife, cleaning up litter and more. Would you like to serve? We have group and individual volunteer opportunities, both short term and long term. Learn more at: www.nps.gov/yose/getinvolved/volunteer.htm or call the volunteer office at 209/379-1850.