### Experience Your America Yosemite National Park


#### Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stop #</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Valley Visitor Center</td>
<td>Yosemite Lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yosemite Village</td>
<td>Sentinel Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Ahwahnee</td>
<td>LeConte / Housekeeping Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Beginner's Dell</td>
<td>Recreation Rentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Curry Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>Curry Village Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Yosemite Lodge</td>
<td>Upper Pines Campground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Happy Isles</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Trailhead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Yosemite Village</td>
<td>Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Yosemite Lodge</td>
<td>Pines Campgrounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Yosemite Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7 am to 10 pm and serves stops in numerical order. Shuttles run daily every 20 to 30 minutes, depending on time of day. In the event of snow and ice, buses may suspend service to shuttle stops #15 - #19.

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**Yosemite Valley Visitor Shuttle System**

- **Campground:** Pines Campgrounds
- **Parking:** Valley Visitor Center
- **Restrooms:** Yosemite Lodge
- **Walk-in Campground:** Sentinel Bridge

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**Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System**

- **Campground:** Upper Pines Campground
- **Parking:** Curry Village Parking
- **Restrooms:** Recreation Rentals
- **Walk-in Campground:** Stable

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**US Department of the Interior**

**National Park Service**

PO Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

**Postage and Fee Paid**

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**Experience Your America Yosemite National Park**

**Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park**

**February 10, 2016 - February 29, 2016**

**Carl Casey, Big tree hunter and Volunteer-in-Parks for Yosemite, stands at the base of the National Co-Champion Sugar Pine he discovered in Yosemite.**

*Photo by Rick Messier*
C

ebrating 100 Years of Service
The National Park Service turns 100-years-old on August 25, 2016! The Centennial will kick off a second century of stewardship of America’s national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs. Join the celebration to explore, learn, discover, be inspired, or simply have fun in over 400 national parks.

Celebrate the National Park Service Centennial at Yosemite!
Yosemite National Park is gearing up for a NPS Centennial celebration that you’re invited to. Visit www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary or www.FindYourPark.com to find more information about events happening in Yosemite throughout the year.

NPS Centennial at Yosemite Calendar
April 16-24, 2016
National Park Week
Free admission to all National Parks. National Park Week is America’s largest celebration of national heritage. It’s about making great connections, exploring amazing places, discovering open spaces, enjoying affordable vacations and enhancing America’s best idea—the national parks!

April 23, 2016
Yosemite Earth Day and Junior Ranger Day celebration
Enjoy games, interactive activities, volunteer opportunities and demonstrations that allow you to experience how the park and its partners practice sustainability in Yosemite.

May 29, 2016
90th Anniversary of the Yosemite Museum
June 4, 2016
National Trails Day
Join in on the country’s largest celebration of trails. More details to come.

August 25, 2016
NPS 100th Anniversary Celebration
Celebrate with us. More details to come.

August 25-28, 2016
NPS Birthday Weekend
Free admission to all National Parks in honor of the NPS Centennial.

September 21-25, 2016
Yosemite Climbing Association for Yosemite Facelift
September 24-25, 2016
NPS Birthday Weekend
Free admission to all National Parks.

November 11, 2016
Veterans Day
Free admission to all National Parks.

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 launched to help the next generation of park visitors and supporters 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 the 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.

Visit the Ice Rink at Curry Village
Visit Curry Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. See page 6 for daily, weekend and holiday hours.

Enjoy Winter Fun at Badger Pass
Badger Pass Ski Area is a perfect place for visitors to play in the snow, take a guided snowshoe hike or embark on a cross-country skiing adventure. Badger Pass is open daily, weather and conditions permitting. See page 6 for service hours and free shuttle schedule.

Reserve Ostrander Ski Hut For an Epic Winter Adventure!
Ostrander Ski Hut, managed by Yosemite Conservancy, is accepting reservations for the 2015-2016 season. The hut operates from early December through March and is located 10 miles from the Badger Pass Ski Area. Trips to Ostrander require advanced snowshoe or cross country skiing experience. Reservations can be booked by calling 209-379-5161. Information, equipment lists and more can be found at www.yosemiteconservancy.org/ostrander.

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)

Lose Something in Yosemite?
File a lost report by email at yose_lostandfound@nps.gov. To inquire about items lost or found in other areas of the park, email yose_lostandfound@nps.gov.
Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 West from Manteca, and via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, its plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and its attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow recharge it, a moderate hike will take you to Vernal and Nevada Falls. Yosemite’s meadows are great places to see wildlife and to photograph 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 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. Glacier Point Road closes beyond the Badger Pass Ski area after the first significant snow fall. 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.

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. This was once a painting studio for the 19th-century artist Thomas Hill.

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

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

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area’s low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles (1 hour 15 minutes) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 8am to 7pm through October 31, then 8am to 5pm through March 31. 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:

Champion trees are the largest of their species. Champion status is based on a point system equation of: girth in inches + feet in height + ¼ the average canopy width in feet = total points. Yosemite presently has four National Champion trees and a fifth, a western white pine, is in the nomination process.

1) Sugar pine (Pinus lambertiana) “Yosemite Monarch” 28 feet 1 inch (8.6 m) girth, 205 feet (62.5 m) tall, 65 foot (19.8 m) canopy = 558 total points.
2) Red fir (Abies magnifica) “Leaning Tower” 30 feet 5 inches (9.3 m) girth, 172 feet (52.4 m) tall, 41 foot (12.5 m) canopy = 547 points.
3) White fir (Abies concolor) “Merced Lake Giant” 23 feet 0 inches (7.0 m) girth, 217 feet (66.1 m) tall, 39 foot (11.9 m) canopy = 503 points.
4) Jeffrey pine (Pinus jeffreyi) “Smoky Jack” 23 feet 5 inches (7.1 m) girth, 186 feet (56.7 m) tall, 66 foot (20.1 m) canopy = 485 points.

Think you might have found a champion? See the American Forests National Big Tree Register (http://www.americanforests.org/bigtrees) or the California Big Trees Registry (http://californiabigtrees.calpoly.edu) for tree nomination information!

Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove Roads are closed each year from after the first significant snowfall to late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storms. Motorists are advised to always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel. Icy and wet roadways can exist throughout the park! To check road conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit www.dot.ca.gov for highways connecting to Yosemite, outside the park.

Chain Control Information:

You must have tire chains or cables in your possession when entering a designated chain control area, even if you’re driving a four-wheel drive or rental vehicle. Assume you are driving a car, pickup truck, or S/UV weighing less than 6,000 pounds AND your auto or pickup has mud/snow tires installed. (look for “M+S” on the wall of the tire)

R1 - Chains Required, unless you are driving a car, pickup truck, or S/UV weighing less than 6,000 pounds AND your auto or pickup has mud/snow tires installed. (look for “M+S” on the wall of the tire)
R2 - Chains Required, unless you are driving a car, pickup truck, or S/UV weighing less than 6,500 pounds AND your car has snow tires installed on all four wheels AND has four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive engaged.
R3 - Chains Required, on ALL vehicles (chains on 2 wheels of a 4-wheel drive).
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 #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
The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and the main post office, near shuttle stops #4 and #9.

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.

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.

WILDERNESS PERMITS
Wilderness permits are required year-round. Permits and bear canisters are available at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center daily from 9am to 5pm. For more information on wilderness travel and safety please see page 8.

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

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

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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 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.

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.

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**Events and Programs**

**Where to go and what to do**

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Adventure Snowshoe Hike - Dewey Point</td>
<td>7 hrs. Tickets/info at any tour desk. Badger Pass Cross Country Center. (DN) $</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops $5/$9. (NPS)</td>
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<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass Ranger Station A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk – Bears 1.5 hrs. Shuttle stop #6. (NPS)</td>
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**Saturday**

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<td>Using Your Digital Camera 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)</td>
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<td>Ranger Walk – Trees 1.5 hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3. (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Film – Ansel Adams 1 hr. Check local listing for venue. (TAAG)</td>
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<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Tuolumne Sequoia Grove Adventure Hike 5-7 hrs. (including transportation). Tickets/info at any tour desk. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls front desk. (DN)</td>
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<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk – Ahwahneechee Stories and Games 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stops $5/$9. (NPS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Saturday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops $5/$9. (NPS)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass Ranger Station A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Ranger Program – Yosemite Inside 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. Yosemite Valley Auditorium, behind Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. (NPS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Access for People with Disabilities**

Accessible parking, lodging, tours, and activities are available throughout the park. For a complete list of accessible services, recreational opportunities, and exhibits, 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/txt). Two weeks advance notice is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request, inquire at a visitor center.

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

**NPS** National Park Service

**DN** Delaware North

**TAAG** The Ansel Adams Gallery

**YC** Yosemite Conservancy

**S** Programs offered for a fee
Yosemite in Winter

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

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.

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 in 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. Please stay on footpaths 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 at the Falls, 7:30 am to 5pm.

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

Find detailed information and register for your adventure at yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures or call 209/372-2131 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
Open daily from 9am to 4pm, weather and conditions permitting. Live information on winter sports is available by calling 209/372-8430, or recorded information conditions permitting, Live information is available at 209/372-1000.

Lift Operation - 9am to 4pm
Lift Tickets - 8:30am to 4pm
Ski School Desk - 8:30am to 4pm
Rental Shop - 8:30am to 4pm
Tubing - 11:30am and 2pm
Skiers Grill - 8am to 4pm
Sport Shop - 9am to 4pm

BADGER PASS A-FRAME
Open 9am to 4pm, seven days a week when Badger Pass Ski Area is open. Ostrander Hut check-in and cross-country ski trail information available, as well as wilderness permits for Badger Pass area trails, which are only obtainable here.

BADGER PASS SHUTTLE (FREE)
Take the free shuttle service to and from Badger Pass, weather and conditions permitting. (Approximate arrival and departure times are subject to traffic and weather conditions.)

Yosemite Valley to Badger Pass:
Curry Village - 8am and 10:30am
Yosemite Village - 8:10am and 10:40am
Ahwahnee Hotel - 8:15am and 10:45am
Yosemite Lodge - 8:30am and 11am

Badger Pass to Yosemite Valley:
2pm and 4:30pm

ICE RINK AT CURRY VILLAGE
Take the shuttle to Curry Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. Closed for the season March 1.

Weekends and holidays:
8:30am to 11am, noon to 2:30pm, 3:30pm to 6pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm.

Monday through Friday:
3:30pm to 6pm and 7pm to 9:30pm.

YOSEMITE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL
Provides outdoor adventures for people of all experience levels. Give us a call to 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@dncinc.com.
The Mariposa Grove is closed for restoration, see details below. The Tuolumne and Merced Groves remain open and are park highlights. NPS Photo.

### 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.

**Pioneer Yosemite History Center**

Go back 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 the information station. Please come prepared with your own bear canister. The center is located just inside the park entrance on Hwy 120W. 

**Merced Grove**

Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of approximately 20 big trees accessible only on foot. It’s a three-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe into the grove. The trail drops down 1.5 miles, making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located ¾ miles north of Crane Flat and ¾ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10.

Tuolumne Grove

The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 sequoias is near the intersection of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga roads at Crane Flat. The moderately strenuous trail leads downhill from the parking area into the grove and drops 900 feet (150 meters) in one mile. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you.

### Gas Stations

- **Gas outside Yosemite Valley**
  - El Portal: Diesel available. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card
  - Wawona: 8am to 6pm. Diesel & propane. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card
  - Crane Flat: Diesel available. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card
  - Tuolumne: Diesel available. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

### Medical Clinic

- **Yosemite Village**
  - 8am to 5pm, towing 24 hours. Prepare available until 4:30pm. 209/972-1160

### Visitor Services

- **Visitor Services Beyond Yosemite Valley**
  - Yosemite Village
    - Gift/Grocery: 8am to 7pm
  - Curry Village
    - Gift/Grocery: 8am to 5pm
  - Yosemite Lodge
    - Food Court: 8am to 5pm
    - Village Store: 8am to 5pm
  - The Ahwahnee
    - Coffee Corner: 11am to 9pm
    - Pizza Deck: 5pm to 9pm
    - Mountain Room lounge: 11:30am to 2pm
    - Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm
    - Nativity: 12 noon to 9 pm
    - Saturday, noon to 9pm
    - Friday, 5pm to 9pm
  - Yosemite Village Garage
    - Gas outside Yosemite Valley: Diesel available. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card
    - Wawona: 8am to 6pm. Diesel & propane. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card
  - **Visitor Services**
    - 209/372-1489.
  - **Safari Club**
    - Weekly services: 9am to 1pm
    - Thursday, 11am to 1pm
  - **Visitor Center, shuttle stops #5/#9.**
  - **Yosemite Community Church**
    - Pastor Brent Moore - Resident Minister
    - 209/372-4831 • www.YosemiteValleyChapel.org
    - Wedding information on website
  - **SUNDAY SERVICES IN YOSEMITE CHAPEL**
    - Sunday, 10am, Theater behind Yosemite Valley
    - Monday, 12 noon, The Ahwahnee
    - Tuesday, 12 noon, El Portal Chapel
    - Wednesday, 12 noon, The Ahwahnee
    - Thursday, 12 noon, The Ahwahnee
    - Friday, 12 noon, The Ahwahnee
    - Saturday, 12 noon, The Ahwahnee
    - Sunday, 12 noon, The Ahwahnee
    - Monday, 12 noon, The Ahwahnee
    - Tuesday, 12 noon, The Ahwahnee
    - Wednesday, 12 noon, The Ahwahnee
    - Thursday, 12 noon, The Ahwahnee
    - Friday, 12 noon, The Ahwahnee
    - Saturday, 12 noon, The Ahwahnee
  - **ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS**
    - OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS
    - Sunday, 10am, Theater behind Yosemite Valley
    - Visitor Center, shuttle stops #5/#9.
    - Refectory Phone: 209/372-4729
  - **SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**
    - **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**
      - 7:30am - Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday
      - 209/372-1464
  - **LIONS CLUB**
    - Meet 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. 209/372-1464.
KEEP YOURSELF SAFE WHILE EXPLORING YOUR PARK.

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

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 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 rewarding.

WEATHER


NIGHTWEAR: Base Layer – synthetics, wool, or silk. Never cotton. This layer is meant to pull moisture away from your skin to keep you feeling dry.

Mid Layer – insulation to keep you warm. Many outdoor enthusiasts prefer fleece or wool.

Outer Layer – protects you from rain and snow. Newer materials are designed to “breath” to reduce sweat while keeping water out.

HAT – A good knit hat can make a big difference and should keep your head warm and dry and long enough to cover your ears. Some people also find that warm scarves and neck gaiters promote warmth.

SHOES – wear sturdy boots that protect your feet from rain, snow, and slush. Your boots should never be tight or you will lose circulation which will make your feet cold. Thick wool or synthetic socks help keep your feet warm and dry. Carry extra socks.

GLOVES – have an extra pair in case your first pair gets wet.

WEARING WILDERNESS PERMITS

Wildfire 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 two days in advance of the start of your trip. A processing fee of $5 per permit plus $5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. Go to www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits for trailhead availability and more information on how to make a reservation. Reservations can be made by fax, 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/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm

Leaves No Trace: www.lnt.org

Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue: www.friendsofyosar.org

HALF DOME PERMIT INFORMATION

The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be put back up May 27, 2016. 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 877/444-4777. More information about the Half Dome permit process is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/halfdomepermits.htm

PLOWING

Plowing 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 plowing, 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.

Early symptoms of plowing may include high fever, chills, nausea, weakness, painful swelling at the site of an insect bite or leech node, and other flu-like symptoms. If you develop any of these symptoms within 6 days of visiting an area at risk for plugging in the park, see your doctor and inform them you may have been exposed. Plowing is treatable with antibiotics if given in time.

AVOID CONTACT WITH WILDLIFE AND KEEP FOOD AND TRASH STORED PROPERLY.

Wild animals in Yosemite can transmit numerous diseases, including plague, rabies, and hantavirus. Keep 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 plowing.

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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 &amp; 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, 3-6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,800 foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point (Closed in winter)</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 5-6 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous 3,200 foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
One could say that the inspiration for the idea of national parks sprang as much from Yosemite’s grand trees as from its dramatic landscapes. In 1864, the Yosemite Grant provided for setting aside both Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias for “preservation, improvement, and protection”. Thus was implemented an innovative concept for the time: protection, for public enjoyment, of natural landscapes and trees. One of the many fruits of this endeavor was the creation of the National Park Service in 1916. As we celebrate 100 years of the National Park Service, the sequoias of the Mariposa Grove grow ever grander. What also catch one’s eye are the other tree species that reach gigantic size in Yosemite: red fir, white fir, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, and western white pine. In fact, the largest known specimens of each occur in Yosemite National Park (See Did You Know on page 3).

Why do these groves grow so big here? 

The montane west slope of the Sierra Nevada has ideal conditions for giant conifer growth: mild winter and summer temperatures, ample winter snowpack, low wind velocity, and deep, nourishing soils. The fortunate mix of these elements enhances both a tree’s chances of living a long time and of growing to a large size. All 75 natural populations of giant sequoia occur in this region, from Calaveras Big Trees State Park south to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. Each park and national forest in this region also contains champion size trees of other species. History has also played a role in the prominence of big trees on this landscape—there remains an unusual abundance of old growth forests in this region, most notably in Yosemite, as these lands were set aside for protection before these relatively inaccessible forests were harvested.

“I never saw a Big Tree that died a natural death, barring accidents they seem to be immortal, being exempt from all the diseases that affect and kill other trees. Unless destroyed by man, they live on indefinitely until burned, smashed by lightning, or cast down by storms, or by the giving way of the ground on which they stand.” - John Muir

Oak and conifer trees are not alone in being impressive. In the temperate zone, the western white pine is also impressive. In fact, the largest of known specimens are found in Yosemite. Western U.S. The brush piles observable along park roads are part of a park-wide effort to reduce large fuel loads and reduce the risk of hot or uncontrollable fires. The Rim Fire of 2013 threatened two of Yosemite’s giant sequoia groves and much surrounding old growth forest. It exemplifies the new reality of massive wildfires that threaten to decimate ancient forests. Yosemite’s three giant sequoia groves are well documented and have had recent fires that threaten to decimate ancient forests. Yosemite’s three giant sequoia groves are well documented and have had recent fires that threaten to decimate ancient forests.

In addition to their visual splendor, giant trees provide environmental services. For example, Sierra great gray owls only use the broken tops of dead giants for their nests. Big trees also sequester large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. Finally, old trees play an important role in maintaining the genetic reservoir of their species, contributing gene arrangements optimized under climate conditions that prevailed hundreds or thousands of years ago and which will occur again.

Big trees are a phenomenon of favorable climate conditions and benevolent history. According to forest demographers, they are rare and becoming rarer as the western US climate gets drier and experiences more extreme weather. In Yosemite, big trees are all around you, so enjoy them while you, and they, are here.

The project’s first task is compiling existing data held by NPS and by big tree hunters. The next task is to use the data to map large trees and old growth groves, measure them and assess their health and the level of surrounding fuels, the kinds of information that will improve protection capability during prescribed burns and wildfire emergencies. The partnership has already made new finds. Using remote-sensing imagery obtained after recent fires, park GIS specialist Steven Dell’Favero identified the park’s tallest groves of trees. Ground-truthing confirmed the height of some new giants, including a 274-foot tall sugar pine (photo, lower left), and some known giants were confirmed to have grown while others lost tops.

Why fuss over big trees? Big trees and the old growth groves they inhabit not only inspire awe and reverence in humans, they provide unique ecological services. For example, Sierra great gray owls only use the broken tops of dead giants for their nests. Big trees also sequester large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. Finally, old trees play an important role in maintaining the genetic reservoir of their species, contributing gene arrangements optimized under climate conditions that prevailed hundreds or thousands of years ago and which will occur again.

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Supporting Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s Future

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

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

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 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.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 lifelong 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. Work funded by the Conservancy is visible throughout the park, in trail rehabilitation, wildlife protection and habitat restoration. The Conservancy is also dedicated to enhancing the visitor experience and providing a deeper connection to the park through outdoor programs, volunteering, wilderness services and its bookstores.

Thanks to dedicated supporters, the Conservancy has provided more than $100 million in grants to Yosemite National Park. Learn more at www.yosemiteconservancy.org or call 415/434-1782.

Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

Over 10,400 volunteers donated more than 163,000 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.

Contact Us

Yosemite National Park
PO Box 577
9399 Village Drive
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-0200
http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm

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PO Box 455
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Yosemite Conservancy
101 Montgomery Street,
Suite 1700
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