Yosemite Name Changes
Be aware that the names of the following facilities have been changed, the new names include:
• Half Dome Village (formerly Curry Village)
• Yosemite Valley Lodge (formerly Yosemite Lodge)
• The Majestic Yosemite Hotel (formerly The Ahwahnee)
• Big Trees Lodge (formerly Wawona Hotel)
• Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area (formerly Badger Pass Ski Area)
• Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge)

Beginning September 6, shuttle service and traffic circulation subject to change with parking and road construction. Expect temporary re-routes and delays.

The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7am to 10pm and serves stops in numerical order. Shuttles run daily every 15 to 20 minutes, depending on time of day.

The El Capitan Shuttle operates from 9am to 6pm. Shuttles run daily during summer every 30 minutes.

The Express Shuttle operates from 7am to 6 pm. Shuttles run daily every 20 minutes. Service ends Sept 6.
Celebrating 100 Years of Service!

The National Park Service turned 100 years-old on August 25, 2016. The Centennial kicked off a second century of stewardship of America’s national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs. Continue in the celebration to explore, learn, discover, and be inspired, in over 400 national parks. Visit www.nps.gov/yose/ for more information about celebration events happening throughout this year.

Access for People with Disabilities

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

Sign Language interpreting is available upon request. Contact Deaf Services at 209/379-5250 (v/vt) or at yose deaf_services@nps.gov. Two weeks advance notice is preferred. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request, inquire at a visitor center.

Audio tours are available for the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

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.

Get Outdoors with Yosemite Conservancy

Are you looking for a memorable way to explore Yosemite that is tailored to your own interests and abilities? Our expert naturalist-guides will help enhance your understanding of the park as you walk among Yosemite’s famous cliffs, trees and waterfalls. Whether you want to explore flora and fauna while taking a gentle saunter along the river or learn about natural history during an exhilarating hike, we’ll help you create the perfect outdoor experience. Contact us to plan a custom adventure specifically for your family or group. Visit yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures or call 209/379-2317 Ext. 10 to find your adventure today.

Go To The Theater!

After a day filled with exploring, relax and enjoy a show at the Yosemite Theater. Yosemite Conservancy’s theater program presents a variety of experiences, including plays based on some of the park’s most colorful characters, inspiring films, and celebrations of Yosemite’s culture and history. Watch history come to life when John Muir takes the stage, learn about Search and Rescue in the park, or enjoy a movie showing the beauty of Yosemite’s seasons through the eyes of a renowned rock-climber. See page 6 for details.

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, located at shuttle stops #5 and #9. See pages 6 and 7 for details.

Adventure Out with the Yosemite Mountaineering School

We provide outdoor adventures for people of all experience levels. We are here to help you learn how to enjoy Yosemite safely and responsibly. Give us a call to join one of our group climbing classes or schedule a custom outing designed specifically for your group. We offer professional guides for hiking, backpacking and rock climbing. Reservations required. Call 209/372-8344 or email yms@aramark.com.

The Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center

The Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge) is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10am until 4pm. Free evening programs are scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings at 8pm. Seating is available for 50 guests. The Center, located at shuttle stop #12, has a natural history library, a children’s corner and library, and historical exhibits. Call 209/372-4542 for program details.

Visit the Yosemite Museum

Visit the Yosemite Museum during its 90th anniversary year and see a remarkable collection of woven baskets and traditional artifacts. Tour the exhibit, Why Yosemite Collects: 90 years, 90 objects, 90 stories or stroll the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. The Yosemite Museum is located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9.

Stroll with a Ranger

Learn about the wonders of the park on a ranger-guided stroll. Programs are offered daily throughout the park on a variety of topics like bears, trees and Yosemite Indians. See pages 6, 7, 9, and 11 for details.

Access to the Accessibility Guide

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation invite you to find Your Park and discover the national parks and programs in your own backyard. Visit www.FindYourPark.com to find more information about NPS Centennial events happening in a national park near you.

Emergency Information

Emergency Dial 911

Yosemite Village Garage offers 24-hour emergency roadside assistance. For up-to-date road, weather, and park information: 209/372-0200. Medical Clinic (in Yosemite Valley) Open 7 days per week, 8am to 7pm for primary and urgent care needs. Ambulance available 24 hrs. by calling 9-1-1. Medical Clinic Phone: 209/372-4637. Lost and Found To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite’s restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses or tour services, call 209/372-4537. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, email yose lostandfound@nps.gov.

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide August 31, 2016 - October 4, 2016
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/person, $15/vehicle
Valid for 30 days: $20/vehicle

Individual: Valid for 7 days:
- $15 (in a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse)
- Yosemite Park Pass $60
- Interagency Annual Pass $80
- Interagency Senior Pass $10
- Interagency Access Pass (Free)
- Interagency Military Pass (Free)
- Interagency 4th Grade Pass (Free)
- Interagency Senior Pass $10

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

Lodging Reservations
888/413-8869
www.travelyosemite.com
888/339-3481
Group Sales Office: 888/339-3481

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

Highway 120 West
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce
820/849-9120 or 209/862-2423
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
820/846-1333
www.tcb.com

Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
555/883-4636
www.yosemite-today.com

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/876-3329

Highway 140/49
California Welcome Center, Merced
820/846-5333 or 209/724-8104
www.yosemite-gateway.org

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

Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau
209/742-5607
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, open all year, is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. You can get there via Highway 41/Wawona Road from Fresno, Highway 140/El Portal Road from Merced, Highway 120 west/Big Oak Flat Road from Manteca, and (during summer) via the Tioga Road/Highway 120 east from Lee Vining. Yosemite Valley is home to massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls slows to a trickle by August, a moderate hike will bring you to impressive Vernal and Nevada Falls. Walk the Mirror Lake trail to get an up-close glimpse of Half Dome. Gaze up at El Capitan, a massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the valley by foot, bike, car, or tour, you will behold scenery that will leave you breathless and eager to see what’s around the next corner.

El Capitan and the Cathedral Rocks from Valley View. NPS Photo
Glacier Point

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 or Wawona. To get there from either place, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), to Chinquapin, then turn onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating view, looking 3,214 feet down to Yosemite Valley below. *There is a free shuttle service that runs from Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area (YSSA) to Glacier Point. The shuttle is required when the Glacier Point parking lot is full; however, visitors with accessibility placards, valid wilderness permits for trailheads along Glacier Point Road, or camping at Bridalveil Creek Campground will be allowed to continue. The Glacier Point shuttle begins running at 10am. The last shuttle from Glacier Point leaves at 5:30pm, and from YSSA at 4:30pm. There is no free shuttle available for hikers from Glacier Point or YSSA to Yosemite Valley. Service ends for the season Sep 5.*

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 ¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park’s South Entrance. As of July 6, 2015, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is closed for restoration, see page 8 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. Enjoy a horse-drawn stage ride, watch blacksmiths at work, or hike one of the scenic trails. For more information, visit the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio, adjacent to the Big Trees Lodge. This was once a painting studio for the 19th-century artist Thomas Hill.

Tioga Road and Tuolumne Grove

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

Tuolumne Meadows

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

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. Due to its importance as a municipal water supply, no swimming is permitted. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 7am to 9pm, May 1 through Labor Day. Wilderness permits and bear canisters are available while the road is open. Hetch Hetchy Road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is approximately a 1 ½-hour drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, RVs and other vehicles over 8 ft. wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

Did You Know?

- Repeat use of informal trails through meadows causes soil compaction, trampling of vegetation and loss of plant and animal species (which contribute to biodiversity).
- American Indians in Yosemite Valley promoted meadow habitat and black oak woodlands through annual burning.
- Large wood is an important part of the riverine ecosystem. Trees and logs in the river create important habitat and influence the shape and flow of the river channel.
Yosemite Valley

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

NATURALIST PROGRAMS
Naturalists give walks and talks every day about Yosemite's natural and cultural history. See pages 6 and 7 for scheduled walks, talks, and evening programs.

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

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

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

The Valley Floor Tour is a 26-mile, two-hour open-air tram tour narrated by a park ranger (weather permitting). The tour departs Yosemite Valley Lodge several times daily. Check any Tour and Activity Desk for times. Be sure to ask about Moonlight Tours and Glacier Point Starry Nights Bus Tours as well!

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

Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at the tour desks at Yosemite Valley Lodge, Yosemite Village, Half Dome Village, and The Majestic Yosemite Hotel.

SIGHTSEEING
Some of the famous landmarks in Yosemite Valley include:

- Yosemite Falls gives the Valley an extra touch of life when it’s flowing with spring runoff. You can walk to its base or take the strenuous trail to its top (see page 17).
- Half Dome, Yosemite’s most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this feature into what we see today. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, and Glacier Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.
- El Capitan, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan.
- Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16 or by walking from Half Dome Village. Cross the footbridges onto the isle and wander through outdoor and indoor exhibits detailing Yosemite’s geologic story.
- Tunnel View, along Wawona Road (Hwy 41) provides a classic view of Yosemite Valley, El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridalveil Fall. It is spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.
VALLEY VISITOR CENTER AND BOOKSTORE
The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore are open from 9am to 5:30pm, 9am to 5pm beginning September 6. The visitor center is west of the main post office (shuttle stops #3 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. Valley Visitor Center Theater.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM
Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center. Open 9am to 5pm, may close for lunch.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT
Open 9am to 5pm. Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite's Mokwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM GALLERY
Why Yosemite Collects: 90 Years, 90 Objects, 90 Stories
This exhibit celebrates the 90th anniversary of the opening of the Yosemite Museum and features a display of the wide variety of artifacts, documents and specimens that the museum preserves. Why do parks have collections? What does the museum have to do with the beginnings of philanthropy in National Parks, the development of interpretive programs or scientific research? Stop by and see, and vote on the development of interpretive programs or the beginnings of philanthropy in National Parks.

The museum has to do with the history of Yosemite's Miwok and Paiute people for lunch.

Visitor Center. Open 9am to 5pm, located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

YOSEMITE CONSERVATION HERITAGE CENTER
The Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge) is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10am until 4pm. Free evening programs are scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings at 8pm. Seating is available for 50 guests. The Center, located at shuttle stop #12, has a natural history library, a children's corner and library, and historical exhibits. Call 209/372-4342 for program details.

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

EXHIBITS
The Great Certainty
August 5, 2016 - September 10, 2016
Today, millions of people from across the globe make their way to National Parks. It is a cultural and social tradition to become familiar with these unique and special places, to explore them, experience them, share them and photograph them. The National Park Service was created in 1916 in order to secure and ensure the survival of these lands that today we hold as necessary crossings in life. As part of the 100th Anniversary of the formation of The National Park Service, The Ansel Adams Gallery is hosting the exhibition, “The Great Certainty” in celebration of this important and long lasting instruction. Works featuring a wide variety of National Parks, Monuments and protected lands will be displayed including those made by Ansel Adams, William Neill, Keith S. Walklet, Charles Cramer and more. This exhibition will begin August 5 and run through September 10.

NEW EXHIBIT
Mountain Rhythm
September 11, 2016 - November 2, 2016
The “artistic interpretation” of Yosemite, a place steeped in visual mythology and hewing tradition, is not to be taken lightly. As a summation of this long standing relationship between park and art, local painter Penny Orwell has said: “Drawing and painting in Yosemite all these years has taught me to see with my eyes and heart. Pages upon pages of graphite, ink and gouache laced paper that turn into canvases caked with oils and acrylics have directly participated in the invention, reinvention and even rejuvenation of the ideal of the National Parks. And helping to advance this historical path is Ms. Orwell – who has been painting Yosemite since 1964. Orwell says, “The rhythm found in a “cooled granite flow” is what I’m after in my paintings. Nature’s rhythmic design offers the most interesting shapes for a painter, along with unusual negative space, color, angles, and most important, the very fine light found at higher elevations.”

The exhibition “Mountain Rhythm,” featuring new work by Penny Orwell, will be opening at The Ansel Adams Gallery on September 11 and running through November 2. This show includes plein air and studio paintings that began as field sketches which outlined the structure of geologic forms at work in Yosemite National Park.

YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE 32 - CALL FOR ENTRIES
Yosemite Renaissance is an annual juried competition/exhibition intended to encourage diverse artistic interpretations of Yosemite. Historically, the arts have played a very important role in the establishment of our State and National Parks. It is our hope that they can be just as important in future efforts to preserve and protect that heritage. Entries should be recent works of the landscape, environment, wildlife, and people of Yosemite or the Sierra Nevada. Both representational and non-representational submissions are accepted. Entries may be in any fine art medium including painting, photography, drawing, printmaking, textile and sculpture. Cash awards. Works accepted will be displayed at the Museum Gallery in Yosemite Valley during a two-month exhibition beginning the end of February 2017. For more information please visit our website, www.yosemiterenaisance.org.

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

VALLEY SERVICES
8am to 5pm / 24 hour AAA towing available
Propane service available until 4:30pm.

POST OFFICES
Main Office
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
Saturday: 10am to noon
Half Dome Village
Post Office
Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm

GROCERIES AND TOURS
Village Store Gift/Grocery
8am to 10pm
Tour Desk - Village Store
7:30am to 3:30pm
Village Lodge
Gift/Grocery
8am to 10pm
Tour Desk
7:30am to 10pm
Village Store Gift/Grocery
7:30am to 3:30pm
Bike Rentals
8am to 7pm
Half Dome Village
Gift/Grocery
8am to 10pm
Tour Desk
7:30am to 3:30pm
Bike Rentals
8am to 7pm
Half Dome Village
Gift/Grocery
8am to 8pm, Closed Oct 3

Showers, Laundry, and Internet
Village Store
Showers
7am to 10pm, for a fee
Laundry
8am to 11pm, for a fee
Half Dome Village
Showers
24 hours, for a fee
SCHEDULED EVENTS
IN YOSEMITE VALLEY
August 31, 2016 - October 4, 2016

Yosemite Art Center (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy invites you to join one of our celebrated artists for a hands-on art experience in Yosemite Valley. Art workshops are offered Monday through Saturday, starting at 9:45am and ending at 2pm.

All workshops meet at the Yosemite Art Center, located next to the Village Store in Yosemite Village.

To register for a workshop, call 209/372-4207 or visit yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-art-center.

Yosemite Theater (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy’s theater program offers entertainment and inspiration through a variety of live theater performances, educational presentations and beautiful films. Revel as actors, rock-climbers and rangers bring adventures, culture, nature and history to life! All shows start at 7pm at the Yosemite Theater, located behind the Valley Visitor Center. Tickets, $10 per adult (FREE tickets for children under age 12), are available at Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Bookstore or at the theater before show time.

Yosemite Search and Rescue (Tuesdays, Except Sep 20)

Join veteran Yosemite Search and Rescue ranger John Dil for lively stories about emergency response missions in Yosemite, and cautionary tales sprinkled with solid advice to help you be safe in the wilderness.

John Muir Series: Conversation with a Tramp (Thursdays)

Enjoy stories of John Muir’s childhood and nature discoveries, while he awaits news on the fate of Hatchet Hetchy Valley. Live stage performance starring actor Lee Stetson. NPS Centennial Celebration Show.

John Muir Series: The Spirit of John Muir (Thursdays)

Hear John Muir’s most popular stories about his adventures in the wild and the people and animals he encountered along the way. Live stage performance starring actor Lee Stetson. NPS Centennial Celebration Show.

Return to Balance: A Climber’s Journey (Fridays & Saturdays)

See the beauty of Yosemite in all four seasons with inspiring narrative in this stirring film, which is followed by a discussion with renowned rock-climber Ron Kauk.

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. Proceeds from all Yosemite Conservancy programs help preserve and protect the park.

Sep 17

An Evening with Bats: Apps and Echolocation

Oct 1-2

American Indian Food Preparation and Accords with Julia Parker

Find details at yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures or call 209/379-3217 x10. Experience packages include park entry (as needed) and camping; additional lodging options are available. Custom Adventures can also be arranged for individuals, families and groups.

Yosemite Art Center (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy invites you to join one of our celebrated artists for a hands-on art experience in Yosemite Valley. Art workshops are offered Monday through Saturday, starting at 9:45am and ending at 2pm.

All workshops meet at the Yosemite Art Center, located next to the Village Store in Yosemite Village. The registration fee is $10 per participant per day, and art supplies are available for purchase. Workshops are typically held outside (weather and media permitting). For more information, call 209/372-4207 or visit yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-art-center.

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Religious Services

Yosemite Community Church
Pastor Brent Moore - Resident Minister
209/372-4871 • www.yosemitevalleychapel.org

Sunday Services in the Yosemite Chapel:
9:00am - Sunday School available
9:15am - Sunday School available
9:45am - Music/Sabbath School
10:00am - Service/Bible Study in Chapel

Tuesday Women’s and Men’s Bible Studies:
7pm, chapel for location

Wednesday Midweek Service:
7pm, at the Chapel

Various Bible Studies in the Park:
Call for times and locations.

A Christian Ministry in the National Parks - Worship Services
9am - Sunday, at Lower Pines/Milawaka Campgrounds
10am - Sunday, at Tuolumne Campground

Latter-day Saints

Sacrament Meeting, Sundays 1pm to 1:45pm
Latter-day Saints
9:30am - Music/Sabbath School
10:00am - Service/Bible Study in Chapel

Church of Christ
Rectory Phone: 209/372-4729

Sunday, 10am at East Auditorium behind Yosemite Majestic Hotel. Call 209/372-4475.

Lions Club

Yosemite Valley Chapel
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7:30pm to 8:30pm

Church of Christ

Sunday, 10am at East Auditorium behind Yosemite Majestic Hotel. Call 209/372-4475.

Lions Club

Yosemite Valley Chapel
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7:30pm to 8:30pm

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Church of Christ

Sunday, 10am at East Auditorium behind Yosemite Majestic Hotel. Call 209/372-4475.
AFTERNOON

12:30pm Ask A Climber 4 hrs. Join a ranger at the El Capitan Bridge for this informal program. Use telescopes to observe climbers on El Cap and learn about climbing in Yosemite. (NPS)

1:00pm JUNIOR RANGER DROP-IN (Except Oct 1) 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (drop in any time, adult attendance with Jr. Ranger required), near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)

1:30pm Ranger Walk – Merced Meanders (Oct 2 Only) 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center; near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)

1:30pm Ranger Walk – Wild About Bears (Except Oct 2) 1.5 hrs. Lower Pines Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)

2:00pm Meet Your Yosemite (Except Oct 2) 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)

3:00pm In the Steepness of Ansel Adams Photography Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (NPS)

3:00pm Ranger Walk – Wild About Bears (Oct 2 Only) 1.5 hrs. Lower Pines Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)

3:30pm Meet Your Yosemite (Except Oct 2) 1.5 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)

3:45pm Ranger Program (Except Oct 2) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)

5:00pm Evening Program: A Century of Climbing in Yosemite (Sep 21 Only) 1 hr. America Alpine Club present historic insights into climbing films and discuss the importance of this special history of Yosemite with the audience before and after the presentation. Yosemite Valley Amphitheater. (AAC)

8:15pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH)

EVENING

6:15pm JUNIOR RANGER DROP-IN (Except Oct 2) 1.5 hrs. Lower Pines Amphitheater (adult attendance with Jr. Ranger required, drop in any time), near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)

6:15pm JUNIOR RANGER DROP-IN (Oct 25 Only) 1 hr. Campfire ring, near shuttle stop #16. (YH)

6:30pm WEE WILD WOULD 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under; Half Dome Village Amphitheater. (YH)

6:30pm Evening Program – Yosemite Theater – John Muir: Conversation with a Tramp 1.5 hrs. Live stage performance starring Lee Stann. Purchase tickets at Yosemite Village Center Bookstore or Yosemite Theater (YC)

7:00pm JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE (Except Sep 30) 1 hr. Campfire ring, near shuttle stop #16, look for temporary signs. (NPS)

7:00pm JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE (Except Sep 30) 1.5 hrs. Lower Pines Amphitheater (adult attendance with Jr. Ranger required, drop in any time), near shuttle stop #19. (YH)

7:15pm Using Your Digital Camera 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (YH)

7:30pm Ranger Walk – Wild About Bears 1.5 hrs. Lower Pines Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)

7:30pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)

8:00pm JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE (Except Sep 30) 1 hr. Campfire ring, near shuttle stop #16, look for temporary signs. (NPS)

8:00pm WEE WILD WOULD 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under; Half Dome Village Amphitheater. (YH)

8:00pm Evening Program – American Indian Flutes and Storytelling (Sep 3 Only) 1 hr. Ben Cunningham-Summerfield, California Tribal Member, Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge). Shuttle Stop #12. (SC)

8:00pm Evening Program – Starry Night Skies Over Yosemite 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH)

9:00pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH)

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9:00pm Rangers Program (Except Sep 30) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)

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9:30pm WEE WILD WOULD 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under; Half Dome Village Amphitheater. (YH)

9:30pm Evening Program – American Indian Flutes and Storytelling 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under; Half Dome Village Amphitheater. (YH)

9:30pm NIGHT PROWLS 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH)

9:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH)

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Wawona, Mariposa Grove, and Glacier Point

Explore History, Discover Giant Trees, and Find Amazing Vistas

These park areas offer endless opportunities for amazing experiences.

**Wawona**

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

**Evening Programs**
Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge 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 details or to request a program, drop by the piano early in the evening when Tom’s performing.

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

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

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

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

**Mariposa Grove**
Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees in the grove. Closed for restoration.

**Great Things are Happening in the Mariposa Grove!**
The Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project is now underway! On July 6, 2015, a temporary closure of the grove for up to 24 months began. The restoration project will improve the habitat and restore the hydrology of the Mariposa Grove and improve visitors’ experience and enjoyment of the grove. Trails will be improved providing universal access along with improved restrooms.

The Mariposa Grove Road is closed to all public access, including bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Hiking trails within the grove are also closed.

**Glacier Point**

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

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

These park areas offer endless opportunities for amazing experiences.
Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families.
Tuolumne Meadows

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

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Open 9am to 5pm, through Sunday, September 25. Park orientation, maps, trail information, books, and displays available.

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs
Two trails, both flat and 3/4-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge is open 11am to 4pm, through Saturday, September 17. Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs that attract birds and deer, especially at sunrise and sunset.

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

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

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

Tuolumne Wilderness Center
Open 9am to 5pm. Visit the wilderness center to learn about wilderness safety, plan trips, obtain wilderness permits and maps, and rent bear canisters. The Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center is located just south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, across from shuttle stop #3.

Big Oak Flat
BIG OAK FLAT INFORMATION STATION
Open 8am to 5pm. The visitor center offers information about park activities, wilderness permits, trail information, books, bear canister rentals, and maps.

Tuolumne Grove
The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 sequoias is near the intersection of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga roads at Crane Flat. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from the parking area into the grove. The trail drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The way down can seem much easier than the uphill return to the parking lot. The trip is moderately strenuous. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water at the parking area or in the grove. Be sure to bring drinking water with you.

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

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<td>Ranger Hike - Elizabeth Lake (Except Sep 27 and Oct 24) 3 hrs. Moderately strenuous. 5 miles. Meet at Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)</td>
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<td>1:00pm</td>
<td>Ranger Walk - High Country Hawk Watch (Except Sep 27) 3 hrs. Gayler Lakes Trailhead. Sign up at Big Oak Flat information Station or call 209/379-1899. (NPS)</td>
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<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire - Sunset (Except Sep 27 and Oct 24) 45 mins. Lambert Dome picnic area. (NPS)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Bears and Other Wildlife (Except Sep 27) 1.5 hr. Meet at the O'Shaugnessy dam. (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Bears and Other Wildlife (Except Sep 27) 1.5 hr. Meet at White Wolf Campfire Circle. (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Ranger Campfire - The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River (Except Sep 27) 1 hr. Meet in front of the White Wolf Lodge. (NPS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>The Black Bears of Yosemite 1 hr. Meet at the Crane Flat campground entrance kiosk. (NPS)</td>
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Become a Junior Ranger

Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge.*

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

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

- Coyote
- Black bear
- Golden-mantled ground squirrel

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

Black bears, coyote, deer, and grey squirrels are just a few of the many animal species in the park that are active year round. Learn how to help protect Yosemite’s wildlife.

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

If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.
You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away. Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear.

If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end).

Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

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

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

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

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

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

Coyotes
Watching a coyote hunting for mice in one of Yosemite’s many meadows can be an amazing wildlife experience. Coyotes are opportunistic carnivores that primarily prey on small mammals. Like bears, their diets change throughout the year with food availability.

Unfortunately, coyotes sometimes change their natural behavior to try to obtain human food. Approaching, and/or feeding coyotes can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans. Please do not stop to feed coyotes that you see along the sides of the roads. This encourages them to frequent roadsides to beg for food, endangering both coyotes and drivers.

How to Store Food
"Food" includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals.

| Location            | Why Bears Are Attracted | What to Do
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------
| Your Vehicle        | Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the truck or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles! | Do not store food in your vehicle. Do not store food in your car after dark. Use a food locker. Remember to clean your car of food odors—apples, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats. Never leave unattended food exposed to the outside of a vehicle or in a pickup truck bed.
| Your Campsite or Tent Cabin | Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and latched at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin. | You must store all your food in food lockers—n’t in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided fits with windows closed.
| Picnic Areas & on the Trails | Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert. | Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm’s reach. Don’t turn your back to your food.
| Backpacking In the Wilderness | Bears resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite. | Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the park. They are attracted to areas with healthy deer and raccoon populations, which include many areas of the park. Although lion attacks on humans are extremely rare, they are possible, just as is injury from any wild animal.

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

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

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

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

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

Mountain lions are magnificent creatures and native to Yosemite. Generally, they are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!
Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

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

A Safe Start to Our Second Century

Here we are, just days into our National Park Services' (NPS) second century. Our Founders' goal in creating the NPS 100 years ago: "for the enjoyment of future generations." This worthy goal endured for 100 years and it should certainly continue. Enjoying our National Parks is not just about preserving our natural, cultural, and historical resources; enjoyment also means making sure our park visit is a safe one. A century of experience has taught park rangers some valuable lessons at the unfortunate experience of too many visitors. Three themes seem to reoccur when an outdoor activity goes wrong:

- Relying on the Park Service for your safety. Ninety-five percent of Yosemite is wilderness and redesigning any portion of this for safety or convenience diminishes its natural character and is counter to its preservation efforts. Also, response to emergencies is often measured in hours. Remember, when you enter any National Park, you are responsible for your safety.
- Not planning or preparing for your outdoor activities. Preparing goes beyond setting a goal, for example, hiking to the top of Upper Yosemite Fall. You must ask yourself, how much effort will this take, and what will I need and how much time should I allow? And, what are the hazards? On any given day, park rangers encounter dozens of outdoor users who are not prepared for traversing wilderness. We do not run our cars beyond their fuel limits and we should not overextend our water and food supplies or our personal abilities.
- Yosemite's most serious injuries occur when someone leaves the trail, often by only a few yards or meters.

Weather

In addition to shorter days, we are entering a transitional season. Yosemite is still in for some hot weather but cold periods are inevitable. Snow is possible in the high country. In short, although the weather is usually pleasant, prepare for heat, cold, and precipitation.

Rivers and Streams

Yosemite's streams are usually quiet during this time of year except after rainy periods. This does not mean they are safe. Do not be deceived; Yosemite's streams still have strong and dangerous currents and are best enjoyed from the safety of the trail or other developed areas.

Yosemite's Roads

Traffic in Yosemite can be just as dangerous as it is in your home town along with additional hazards such as rock fall and abundant wildlife, including deer and bear. Moreover, there are plenty of scenic wonders that can easily distract drivers. If you cannot devote 100 percent of your attention to your driving, please pull completely off the road into designated pull-off and parking areas. Park rangers enforce California's Motor Vehicle Code on park roads. Always buckle up.

For all seasons...

- Stay on established trails or in developed areas – do not take trail shortcuts or approach the water. Almost all of Yosemite’s non-trafﬁc related serious injuries occur off trail.
- Rock scrambling – leave this to the critters.
- Water and food – Carry more water than you need; stay hydrated and 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 a flashlight or headlamp, sunglasses, sunscreen, navigation, and a signaling method (mirror and whistle).
- Let someone know – always leave a plan and let someone know about your intended route and estimated time of return, with a trusted person. If no one knows you are missing, no one is going to be looking for you. And remember this truism: you are the one responsible for your safety.

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.

HANTAVIRUS

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases harmful to humans. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread to humans via the droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US.

You may come into close proximity to rodents during your visit, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS. HPS risk is greater inside of buildings or other enclosures where deer mice are present. If staying in guest lodging, please tell the housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your accommodations. Do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors to guest lodging shut and do not bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. If you are camping and backpacking, do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings.

HPS often begins with flu-like symptoms such as aches, fever, and chills, one to seven weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and difficulty in breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms and mention any potential rodent exposures to your physician. For more information on hantavirus and other environmental safety hazards visit: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/youssafety.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.

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

Protecting Yourself and the Park

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

Wilderness Permit Information
Wilderness permits are required year round for all overnight trips into Yosemite’s Wilderness. Permits are issued and bear canisters are available for rent in Yosemite Valley (see page 5) and at the Hetch-Hetchy Entrance Station during hours of operation. Wilderness permits are also available at the Hill’s Studio in Wawona, the Big Oak Flat Information Station, and the Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center (see pages 8 & 10). Call the park’s main phone line at 209/372-0200, or check the web at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm, for additional information. 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. Check the park’s website for trailhead availability or call 209/372-0740.

Permit Required to Hike Half Dome
Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are required seven days a week when the cables are up for 2016, May 27 through October 10 (except Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, which opens June 15). In addition, approximately 50 permits will be released by daily lottery throughout the season based on estimated under-use and cancellation rates (exact number may change throughout the summer). Applications for daily lottery permits will be accepted 2 days prior to the desired hiking date between midnight and 1 pm. To apply, visit Recreation.gov or call 877/444-6777. A non-refundable application fee applies to all submissions and a use fee applies to winning applicants. Finally, a daily quota of 75 Half Dome permits will be available to overnight users with an appropriate wilderness permit (use fee applies). These permits may be acquired through early reservations (50 per day) or day before walk-up (25 per day). Rock climbers who reach the top of Half Dome without entering the subdome area may descend on the Half Dome Trail without a permit. More information is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm. For backpackers more information is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdwildpermits.htm.

Rafting
Conditions permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Clark’s Bridge to El Capitan Bridge) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10am to 6pm daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device.
- The entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6-5 feet or higher. Ask at a visitor center for conditions and obey all posted signs
- You must wear or have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device immediately available.
- Fallen trees and other natural debris in the river create important habitat for fish and other wildlife. Be alert—they can also create hazards for rafters.

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

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Pets
Keep in mind, daytime temperatures can reach above 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer. Make sure to keep your pet cool and well-hydrated. In Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:
- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. Pets are not allowed anywhere in the Mariposa or Merced sequoia groves. They are not allowed on trails, in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted prohibiting them.
- Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles.
- Pets are not allowed in any lodging facilities or other buildings within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.
- Pets may not be tied to an object and left unattended.
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Yosemite Guardians
Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. With nearly 4 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be!
During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:
- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items, such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Biking off of paved roads
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons inside federal facilities
- Possessing or using marijuana, including medical marijuana
- Operating an unmanned aircraft system (“drone”)
If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and call the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm and find a copy of the Superintendent’s Compendium. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7 and 34), and other applicable federal statutes and regulations.
An adventurous overnight experience

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

Camping Reservations

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

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

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

Reservation offices in the park are located in the visitor parking area at Half Dome Village (shuttle bus stop #134), the Tuolomne Meadows Campground entrance, in Wawona off Chilnualna Falls Road, and at Big Oak Flat Information Station.

Camping in Areas

Surrounding Yosemite

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

Group Campgrounds

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

General Info...

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

Services
- Sites include picnic tables, firepits with grills, and a food locker (33”d x 45”w x 18”h). See page 5 for food storage regulations.
- Toilets available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Portcurno Flat have non-flushing vault toilets only and no potable water.
- Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley.
- RVs over 24ft. are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Portcurno Flat campgrounds, and RVs are not permitted in walk-in and group campsites. There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolomne Meadows.

Regulations
- Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.
- A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.
- Quiet hours are from 10pm to 6am.
- Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

Campsites
- In Yosemite Valley between May 1 and September 30, campfires are permitted between 5pm and 10pm. At other times of the year and in out-of-Valley campgrounds, campfires are not permitted at any time, as long as they are attended.
- Firewood collection (including pine cones and pine needles) is not permitted in Yosemite Valley; you may purchase firewood at stores near the campgrounds.

Camping in Yosemite National Park*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</th>
<th>OPEN 2016 (APPROX)</th>
<th>MAX RV LENGTH</th>
<th>MAX TRAILER LENGTH</th>
<th>RESERVATIONS REQUIRED?</th>
<th>DAILY FEE</th>
<th># OF SITES</th>
<th>PETS</th>
<th>WATER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yosemite Valley</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Pines</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>All Year</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Pines</td>
<td>Mar 28 - Nov 1</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Pines</td>
<td>Apr 4 - Nov 7</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>25 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp 4</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>No RV/trailer</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$6/person</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>South of Yosemite Valley</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Apr 11 - Oct 10</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Creek</td>
<td>July - Sep 10</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>North of Yosemite Valley</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodgdon Meadow</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>30 ft</td>
<td>Apr 11 - Oct 10</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane Flat</td>
<td>July 10 - Oct 10</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>30 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>May 27 - Oct 15</td>
<td>No RV/trailer</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (brid)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>July 8 - Sep 26</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July 17 - Sep 5</td>
<td>No RV/trailer</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (brid)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portcurno Flat</td>
<td>July 1 - Oct 15</td>
<td>No RV/trailer</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (brid)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolomne Meadows</td>
<td>June 20 - Sep 26</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock</td>
<td>Camp 4 Near Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 2–3 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round-trip, 6–8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles, 1 hour round-trip to Mirror Lake, 5 miles, loop around lake</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 miles round-trip, 1–2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2–4 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>7 miles round-trip, 5–6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,900-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>same as above</td>
<td>14 mi (via Mist Trail) or 18.3 mi</td>
<td>Extremely Strenuous, 4,800-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3–4 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 1,200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 5–7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Day Hikes Outside of Yosemite Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WAWONA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona Meadow Loop</td>
<td>Big Trees Lodge</td>
<td>3.5 miles round-trip, 1.5 hours</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swinging Bridge Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Store / Pioneer Yosemite Hl. Ctr. Parking Area</td>
<td>4.75 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLACIER POINT ROAD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taft Point</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Easy, 200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel Dome</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUOLUMNE MEADOWS AREA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda Springs / Parsons Lodge</td>
<td>Tambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>1.5 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambert Dome</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Muir Trail through Lyell Canyon</td>
<td>Dog Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 2 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lake</td>
<td>Tushumne Meadows Campground</td>
<td>4.8 miles round-trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOSCA ROAD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lukens Lake</td>
<td>White Wolf 1</td>
<td>3.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>Porcupine Creek 1</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 4,500- to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lukens Lake Trailhead 1</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 5,500- to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake 1</td>
<td>19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HETCH HITCH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wapama Falls</td>
<td>O'Shaughnessy Dam</td>
<td>5 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are drop-off points via the Tushumne Meadows Hikers’ Bus.

FEATURED HIKE

Mirror Lake Loop

Distance: 5 miles (8 Km)
Elevation Gain: 200 feet
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: 2-3 hours
Begin at: Mirror Lake Trailhead, shuttle stop #17
Trail Description: This trail begins at shuttle stop #17. The first mile of this trail is a paved service road that leads directly to Mirror Lake. You may access the loop trail from the end of the paved path. The loop follows Tenaya Creek beyond the lake, and crosses two bridges after the Snow Creek Trail junction before returning past Mirror Lake on the south side of Tenaya Canyon.

Mirror Lake is often referred to as Mirror Meadow in late summer due to the lack of water and the influx of grasses and sandy areas, however, this hike allows for exhilarating views of Half Dome and Mt. Watkins. Exhibits along the trail tell the story of Mirror Lake’s lake-to-meadow succession, and also highlight some of the cultural history of the area.

Things to know before you go:
• Stay away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards. Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions.
• Always supervise children closely.
• Avoid areas of whitewater, where streams flow over rocky obstructions.

Hikers on the Mist Trail, Yosemite National Park. Photo by Brian Ward
Merced River Plan Implementation: Yosemite Valley Ecological Restoration

by Todd Newburger

As we celebrate the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service, we have the opportunity to reflect on our legacies from the last 100 years and look forward to what we hope to accomplish in the next 100 years. After the recent completion of the Merced River Plan in 2014, Yosemite National Park is currently implementing restoration actions to improve ecological health and function of sensitive meadows and riparian habitat in Yosemite Valley.

Over the years, many changes have been made to meadows and riparian areas in Yosemite Valley to accommodate visitors and residents. Roads were sometimes built through meadows and wetlands, riverbanks were stabilized with rock, ditches were constructed to drain meadows for agriculture, and ditches along roads diverted water away from meadows. These actions resulted in changing the natural hydrology by drying out the meadows, increasing non-native plants, and altering plant communities. Additionally, the increase of informal trails in meadows and along riverbanks has resulted in habitat fragmentation, planting of native plant communities, and increased erosion of soils. Today, park management understands the importance of natural wetlands, meadows, and riparian habitat to the ecological health of the Valley. Therefore, ecological restoration actions in the plan seek to reverse some of these impacts to improve the natural riverine processes and wetland- meadow function.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016 ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION EFFORTS

ROAD REMOVAL
While much of Ahwahnee Meadow consists of healthy wetland, riparian and upland meadow habitats, portions of the meadow have been historically altered by drainage ditches and a road built through the wettest portions. Most Sierra Nevada meadows are sustained by sheet flow (water slowly flowing over the surface) and high groundwater levels. But on the eastern edge of Ahwahnee Meadow, a roadbed traverses the meadow. This historic roadbed resulted from over 2,400 cubic yards of fill material having been deposited in former wetland. Populations of non-native plant species are associated with these areas of disturbance.

CONIFER REMOVAL
Conifers encroaching on meadows change meadow hydrology, soil chemistry, and habitat. Conifers have encroached into the meadows since the cessation of Native American burning since the late 19th century. Trees will be selectively removed along meadow edges in Ahwahnee meadow and under California black oak trees.

DITCH REMOVAL
Drainage ditches in Ahwahnee Meadow that channelize water flow and reduce the sheet flow that supports meadow plant communities will be filled to restore natural condition and meadow topography. These manmade ditches alter meadow hydrology by diverting and concentrating surface flow, draining groundwater and drying out adjacent areas leading to changing plant communities. Soils available on site will be used to contour ditches and encourage ponding and sheet flow. Native plants will be salvaged during the restoration process and planted in order to restore native vegetation.

SOCIAL TRAIL REMOVAL
Visitor created trails exist within many sensitive meadows in Yosemite Valley. To restore meadow hydrology and native plant communities, select social trails will be removed.

RESTORING PLANT COMMUNITIES ON THE MERCEDES RIVER BANKS

Much of the soil found on the banks of the Merced River is easily eroded when not held together by plant roots. Vegetation on the banks is often trampled and thinned, removing the roots that stabilized the soil. National Park Service employees and volunteers are revegetating the riverbanks with native riparian plant species to rebuild eroded riverbanks and create complex plant communities to provide valuable habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species.

RESTORING LARGE WOOD PIECES TO THE MERCEDES RIVER

Tree trunks, branches, and rootwads that fall into the river become an integral part of the river ecosystem. Wood in the river often slows flowing water, which deposits sediments transported by water thereby creating sandbars. Many plant and wildlife species take advantage of the varied habitat that forms around large wood in the channel. Large wood can also increase over bank flow, sustaining important riparian and wetland and meadow habitat.

REMOVAL OF RIPRAP

Many of the rivers and creeks in Yosemite have been lined with large stones, called riprap, to prevent the river from moving and to protect roads and buildings from being overtaken by the river. You have probably seen these stones if you have ever driven on roads in Yosemite that parallel the Merced River. Riprap prevents the establishment of native vegetation that supplies needed nutrients to the aquatic ecosystem as well as shade for macroinvertebrates and fish. Riprap placement in Yosemite Valley began in the late 1800s. Although much of that riprap has now been removed, there remains about three miles of riprap in the Merced River that has been identified for removal. Part of the current restoration involves removing riprap that has already collapsed and is no longer functional, or replacing riprap with bioengineered structures that can serve the same function as the riprap and incorporate native willows that can naturally stabilize the bank and enhance riparian habitat.

Returning the Ahwahnee Meadow back to natural meadow conditions is one of several projects underway as part of the Merced River Plan Implementation.
Supporting Your Park

Enhance the Visitor Experience

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

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

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Yosemite Guide  August 31, 2016 - October 4, 2016

Volunteering in Yosemite

Over 10,800 volunteers donated more than 186,000 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.

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WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PLAN

The Yosemite Wilderness is one of the most highly visited wilderness areas in the country. Currently managed under the Wilderness Management Plan of 1989, changing levels and patterns of visitor use, as well as environmental factors such as climate change, warrant the park to develop an updated plan that will assist in monitoring wilderness character while providing an adaptive management strategy as we continue to preserve and protect our natural and cultural resources.

This summer, the park hosted public webinars and workshops to help further define the issues and plan alternatives. For more information on locations and times of the workshops, or to provide feedback, please visit our planning webpage at www.parkplanning.nps.gov/yosewild.