The Yosemite Valley Shuttle operates from 7am to 10pm and serves stops in numerical order. Shuttles run daily every 10 to 20 minutes, depending on time of day. The El Capitan Shuttle runs from 9am to 7pm, every 30 minutes. See schedules posted at shuttle stops.

Yosemite Valley Shuttle Map

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

August 30, 2017 – October 3, 2017
Volume 42, Issue 7

Yosemite Falls Parking
Valley Visitor Center
Miracle Mile Trailhead
The Majestic Yosemite Hotel
El Capitan Crossover
Cathedral Beach Picnic Area
Cathedral Beach / Mist Trail
Camp 4 / Yosemite Falls Parking
Camp 4 / Yosemite Falls Parking
Happy Isles / Mist Trail
Cathedral Beach / Mist Trail
Cathedral Beach / Mist Trail
El Capitan Picnic Area
El Capitan Picnic Area
Yosemite Village Parking
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Welcome to Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Yosemite Travel Tips

We’re having a busy summer! If you haven’t already, you’re likely to experience congestion, especially in Yosemite Valley. Be prepared for two- to three-hour delays, especially in afternoons and on weekends. Plan accordingly and use restrooms when available.

If you’re visiting Yosemite Valley for the day, look for parking in three major parking lots: Yosemite Falls Parking Lot, Yosemite Village Parking Lot, and at Half Dome Village Parking (formerly Curry Village). Free shuttle service to destinations throughout Yosemite Valley is available from each of these parking lots. If you have lodging or campground reservations, please park at your lodge or campsite.

Once you find a place to park, please leave your car parked. Using the free shuttles will help you avoid congestion and trouble finding another place to park. Parking fills to capacity throughout Yosemite by mid-morning. Don’t forget where you parked your car, as there are multiple parking areas throughout the Valley. Driving or parking on vegetation is prohibited.

Do not use or block the “Bus and Authorized Vehicles” lane while driving in Yosemite Valley. The bus lane ensures emergency vehicles can respond to incidents when traffic is backed up and provides preference for mass transit.

For visitors arriving by car, let your curiosity guide you to new places.

Entrance Fees

Non-commercial car, truck, RV, or van with 15 or fewer passenger seats: Valid for 7 days
$30/Car
$15/Individual
$25/Motorcycle

Yosemite Pass: $60
Valid for one year in Yosemite.

Interagency Annual Pass: $80
Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.

Interagency Senior Pass: $80
(Lifetime) For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

Interagency Annual Senior Pass: $20
(Annual) For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

Interagency Access Pass (Free):
(Lifetime) For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Interagency Military Pass: (Free)
(Annual) For active duty U.S. military and dependents.

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

Reservations

Campground Reservations
www.recreation.gov

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

Regional Info

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

Highway 120 West
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429

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

Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/681-4689
www.yosemite-sierra.com

Highway 132/49
Coarseville Visitor Center
209/878-3329

Highway 140/49
California Welcome Center, Merced
800/446-5333 or 209/724-8104
www.yosemite-gateway.org

Mariposa County Visitor Center
866/425-3366 or 209/666-7081

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

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

Always check to make sure Yosemite Valley is open before planning your trip.

Yosemite Valley Map

Yosemite Travel Tips

Let your curiosity guide you to new places.
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 the summer) via the Highway 120 east/Tioga Road 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 to Mirror Lake, where you will see reflections of Half Dome. Gaze up at El Capitan, a massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the valley by foot, bike, car, raft, or tour, you will behold scenery that will leave you breathless and eager to see what’s around the next corner.

Glacier Point

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and Yosemite’s high country, is located 30 miles (one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley or Wawona. To get there from either of these places, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), to Chinquapin, then turn onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating view, looking 3,214 feet down to Yosemite Valley. There is a free shuttle service that runs from Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area (YSSA) to Glacier Point (service ends Sept 5). The shuttle will be required when the Glacier Point parking lot is full; visitors with accessibility placards, valid wilderness permits for trailheads along Glacier Point Road, or camping at Bridalveil Creek Campground will be allowed to continue. The Glacier Point shuttle will begin running at 10am. The last shuttle from Glacier Point leaves at 5:30pm, and from YSSA at 4:30pm. There is no free shuttle for hikers from Glacier Point or YSSA to Yosemite Valley.

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 ½ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park’s South Entrance. 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 Half’s Studio, adjacent to the Big Trees Lodge. This was once a painting studio for the 19th-century artist Thomas Hall.

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 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 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

- El Capitan and Half Dome are part of the 95 percent of Yosemite designated as wilderness. In fact, all cliffs above 4,200 feet elevation and more than 200 feet from the road are included in wilderness.
- Yosemite is an international rock climbing destination and there is a long history of rock climbing here. Climbers come from around the world to venture through Yosemite’s vertical wilderness.
- The climbing ethic is to leave as little sign of human passage through vertical wilderness as possible.
- Yosemite is known as a traditional climbing destination. Far less permanent or fixed fall protection is present on Yosemite’s rock than at most other popular climbing destinations.
Seasonal Highlights
Keep this Guide with you to get the most out of your trip to Yosemite National Park

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 different topics including waterfalls, trees, bears, geology, Yosemite Indians and more. See pages 6, 7, 9, and 11 for schedules and more details.

Adventure Out with Yosemite Mountaineering School
Yosemite Mountaineering School provides outdoor adventures for people of all experience levels. We are here to help you learn how to enjoy Yosemite safely and responsibly. Give us a call to join one of our group classes or to 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.

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

Take a Photography Class
Learn how to capture the Yosemite landscape by joining a photography expert from The Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Some have fees, some are free. Sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village, shuttle stops #5 and #9. See pages 5 and 6.

Go to the Theater
After a day of exploring the park, relax and enjoy a show at the Yosemite Theater. This season, you can catch live shows starring Yosemite rangers, get inspired by a renowned rock-climber, and travel back in time to meet important figures from the park’s past. See page 6 for details.

Get Creative at the Art Center
Join Yosemite Conservancy at Yosemite Art Center to take a beginner class with a professional artist, browse supplies and original artwork, and more. We offer expert-led art classes for beginners and Open Studio crafts for the whole family. The Art Center is located next to the Village Store and is open Monday through Saturday, 9am to 4pm (closed for lunch 12pm to 1pm). See page 6 for details.

Get outside and enjoy your park!
Summer offers spectacular views of waterfalls, great hiking, and other endless opportunities for recreation. Find the adventures that will make lasting Yosemite memories for years to come.

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.

Emergency Information
Yosemite Village Garage offers 24-hour emergency roadside assistance. For up-to-date road, weather, and park information: 209/372-0200. Medical Clinic Phone: 209/372-4637. Lodging and Sun Protection are recommended, 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_volunteers@nps.gov or 209/379-1850.

Adventure with Yosemite Conservancy
Explore the park in a new way with Yosemite Conservancy’s naturalist guides! Get an inside look at natural history during a personalized hike or backpacking trip, learn about American Indian traditions and food preparation, or take an evening stroll to Taft Point. Sign up for a scheduled Outdoor Adventure, or contact us to plan a Custom Adventure. See pg. 6 for details.

Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center
Formerly known as LeConte Memorial Lodge, the Center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Free evening programs occur on 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 historical exhibits. Call 209/372-4542 for program details.

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_volunteers@nps.gov or 209/379-1850.

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park
03 Seasonal Highlights
04 Yosemite Valley
08 Wawona
09 Tuolumne Meadows
12 Become a Junior Ranger
13 Wildlife
16 Camping
17 Hiking
18 Feature Story
19 Supporting Your Park

What’s Inside:
03 Seasonal Highlights
04 Yosemite Valley
08 Wawona
09 Tuolumne Meadows
12 Become a Junior Ranger
13 Wildlife
16 Camping
17 Hiking
18 Feature Story
19 Supporting Your Park

Access for People with Disabilities
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Emergency Information
Emergency Dial 911
Yosemite Village Garage offers 24-hour emergency roadside assistance.
For up-to-date road, weather, and park information: 209/372-0200.
Medical Clinic (in Yosemite Valley): Open 7 days per week from 9am to 7pm for primary and urgent care needs. Ambulance available 24 hours 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 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, email yose_lostfound@nps.gov.

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03 Seasonal Highlights
04 Yosemite Valley
08 Wawona
09 Tuolumne Meadows
12 Become a Junior Ranger
13 Wildlife
16 Camping
17 Hiking
18 Feature Story
19 Supporting Your Park

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03 Seasonal Highlights
04 Yosemite Valley
08 Wawona
09 Tuolumne Meadows
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Yosemite Valley

The Incomparable Yosemite Valley

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

Yosemite Valley NATURALIST PROGRAMS

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

WALKING AND HIKING

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

TOURS

Tours listed below depart from Yosemite Valley Lodge and are weather dependent.

The Valley Floor Tour is a 26-mile, two-hour, open-air tram tour narrated by a naturalist with detailed information on Yosemite’s geologic story. The tour departs at 10am, 1pm, and 4pm daily from the Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop.

The Glacier Point Tour leaves Yosemite Valley Lodge at 8:30am, 10am, and 1:30pm 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 to make reservations or inquire at the tour desks at Yosemite Valley Lodge, Yosemite Village, or Half Dome Village.

RAFTING

Rafting is a great way to see Yosemite Valley. Rafts can be rented at Half Dome Village from 10am to 4pm. If you plan to bring your own raft, please see page 13 for safety and regulatory information.

BICYCLING

Several miles of bicycle paths wind through Yosemite Valley. Use your own bicycle or rent one from Yosemite Valley Lodge or Half Dome Village. Bikes are not permitted on dirt trails.

SIGHTSEEING

Some famous landmarks in Yosemite Valley include:

- Yosemite Falls gives the Valley an extra touch of life when flowing with spring runoff. Walk to its base or take the strenuous trail to its top, see page 17 for hiking information.
- Half Dome, Yosemite’s most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, and Glacier Point, are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.
- El Capitan, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan.
- Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the isles or wander through indoor and outdoor 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.

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

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Degnan’s Kitchen
7am to 9pm
Degnan’s Loft
Neon to 9pm
Village Grill
11am to 6pm, Closed for season Sep 12

Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 10am, Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm, end at 2pm beginning Sep 4 Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm, end at 9:30pm beginning Oct 10

Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm, end at 2pm beginning Sep 11

Appropriate attire required for dinner, reservations strongly recommended for dinner and Sunday brunch.

Phone: 209/372-1489

Coffee Bar
7am to 10:30am

The Majestic Bar
11:30am to 11pm

Yosemite Valley Lodge

Food Court
Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am
Lunch: 11am to 4:30pm
Dinner: 4:30pm to 10pm

Mountain Room Lounge
Monday - Friday
4:30pm to 11pm
Saturday & Sunday
8pm to 11pm

Mountain Room Restaurant
Reservations taken for 8 or more, 209/372-1281 or 209/372-1403
Dinner: 5pm to 10pm

Half Dome Village Bar
11am to 10pm

Pavilion
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Pizza Deck
11am to 10pm

Meadow Grill
11am to 9pm, Closed for season Sep 4

FOOD & BEVERAGE

 Yosemite Valley
 Spectacular vistas and the heart of the park

Yosemite Moonrise, a relief print by Tom Killion, will be on display at The Ansel Adams Gallery from August 20 to September 30, 2017.

Illustration by Binta Wolpe
Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore are open from 9am to 5pm. The visitor center is nearest shuttle stops #5 and #9. The facility offers information, maps, and books. Explore the exhibits and learn how Yosemite’s landscape formed and how people interact with it.

Yosemite Museum

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

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Open daily from 9am to 5pm, may close for lunch. Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite’s Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present.

Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center

Open Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm, with free evening programs Friday and Saturday at 8pm. The center has a library, a children’s corner, and a new climate change exhibit. The center is located at shuttle stop #12.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

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

Yosemite Valley

EXHIBIT:

Tom Killion’s High Sierra: The Poetry of Nature
August 20, 2017 – September 30, 2017
It is a celebrated aspect of art in the National Parks that, when successful, it evokes an emotional response and depicts a consequent interpretation of these majestic spaces. There is a caveat of this art which intends to help us see more literally the form that our parks like Yosemite have taken, while also guiding our imaginations to envision these places at their purest and most elemental structures. And this sentiment is on full display when looking at the Ukiyo-e style woodblock prints of Tom Killion. Each print is full of life – with playful lines, graphic designs and rich color or tone. From August 20 through September 30, The Ansel Adams Gallery will be hosting an exhibition of Mr. Killion’s work, from his newest woodblocks of Yosemite, to some rare and old favorites. We will also be holding an artist’s reception for Tom on Saturday, September 9, from 3pm to 5pm, inside the gallery in Yosemite Village where he will be talking about his work and taking questions from attendees. We hope to see you there!

NEW EXHIBIT:

James McGrew – Interpreting Yosemite Through the Seasons
October 1, 2017 – November 11, 2017
It is sometimes easy to forget that The Ansel Adams Gallery began as a painting studio operated by Ansel’s father-in-law Harry Best from 1902 until 1936. Mr. Best’s style of painting grew out of the Hudson River School variety as he ventured into both studio and plein air sessions. Today the Gallery continues this tradition by featuring the work of James McGrew in a new solo exhibit: Interpreting Yosemite through the Seasons, New Original Oil Paintings.

From iconic grand views to remote and intimate perspectives, James McGrew’s most recent original oil paintings convey the diverse moods and experiences of Yosemite through the changing seasons. This exhibit will open on October 1 and run through November 11, 2017 and will feature both plein air and studio paintings showcasing a range from clear blue moonlit snow storms to high water of spring in 2017 to the calm of late summer and Autumn color. The Ansel Adams Gallery will be hosting a public artist’s reception on Wednesday, October 4 from 3pm to 5pm.

NATURE CENTER AT HAPPY ISLES

Open 9:30am to 5pm. Designed for nature-exploring children and their families, the nature center offers natural-history exhibits and a bookstore. Located a short walk from shuttle stop #86. Closes for the season September 4.

Yosemite Village

Where to go and what to do
Yeosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures (YC)
Yeosemite Conservancy’s year-round, naturalist-led Outdoor Adventures offer something for every park explorer. Our autumn outings include:

Sep 30 – Oct 1
Dine and Discover: American Indian Food Preparation and Access
Oct 6
Dine and Discover: Full Moon Hike to Taft Point
Dec 2
Yosemite Biding: The Day of the Woodpecker

To learn more and register, visit bit.ly/yosemite-adventures or call 209/372-3217 x10. Park entry and camping are included with your registration; other lodging options are available. Custom Adventures can be arranged for individuals and groups. Proceeds from Yosemite Conservancy’s programs help preserve and protect the park.

Yeosemite Theater (YC)
Yeosemite Conservancy’s theater program offers live performances, educational presentations, and beautiful films. All shows start at 7:30 at the Yosemite Theater, located behind the Valley Visitor Center, shuttle bus stops #5 & #9. Get your tickets ($10 per person, free tickets for children under age 12) at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Bookstore or at the theater before show time. For show details, visit bit.ly/yosemite-theater.

Visitor Center Bookstore or at the theater before show time. For show details, visit bit.ly/yosemite-theater.

Return to Balance: A Climber’s Journey (Fridays and Saturdays) Join rock-climber Ron Kauk for a film and a presentation celebrating Yeosemite’s year-round beauty, the vertical wilderness, and living in balance with nature.

Yeosemite Art Center (YC)
Get creative at the Art Center! Stop by during our kid-friendly Open Studio Sessions (Monday through Thursday, 10:00am to 10:30am), or plan a beginner-level class led by an artist:

Aug 28 - Sep 2
Drawing: Yeosemite’s Trail to Capture the Beauty with Art
Sep 4 - 9
Capturing the Beauty of Yosemite, with Diana Oates
Sep 11 - 16
Nature Drawing, with Sean Edgerton
Sep 18 - 23
Yeosemite in Pastel, with Ann Thumans and Saira Chink
Sep 25 - 30
Yeosemite in Clay, with Carol Fouldvary-Anderson
Oct 2 - 7
Watercolor Sketchbook Journaling, with Janet Takahashi

Volunteer art instructors teach single-day classes Monday through Thursday, 10am to 2pm. Classes are recommended for ages 12 and up, and are typically held outside. Registration is $15 per person, per day; some scholarships are available. Ages 12+. See page 6 for details. (YC) $
1:00pm Yosemite in Clay (Sep 29 Only) 1.5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Afternoon sculpture workshop with an expert print. See page 6 for details. (YC) $5

1:00pm JUNIOR RANGER DISCOVERY TABLE (Except Oct 2, 22) Drop in any time to get started on earning a Jr. Ranger badge. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #2/#9. (YC) $5

2:00pm Ranger Walk - Wildlife 1.5 hrs. Front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9. (NPC)

2:00pm FAMILY RANGER TALK - MEET YOUR YOSEMITE 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9. (NPC)

2:00pm Historic Majestic Hotel Tour 1 hr. Immerses yourself in the history of and meandering behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH)

2:30pm Ranger - Walk - Wild About Bears 1.5 hrs. Shuttle stop #7. (NPC) $5

3:00pm Family Naturalist Stroll 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite’s natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH)


3:30pm Stories About John Muir from The Wilder Muir: The Curious Nature of John Muir 7:00pm 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 10 and under. Half Dome Village Amphitheater. (YH)

3:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Except Sep 7) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH)

4:00pm Family Naturalist Stroll 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite’s natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH)

4:00pm Yosemite Theater – John Muir Series: Conversation with a Tramp 1.5 hrs. Purchase tickets at Valley Visitor Center Bookstore or Yosemite Theater. See page 5 for details. (YC) $5

4:00pm JUNIOR RANGER DISCOVERY TABLE (Except Sep 3) 1 hr. Rangers talk about safety in Yosemite. Half Dome Village Amphitheater. (YH)

4:00pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Except Sep 7) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH)

4:00pm JUNIOR RANGER DISCOVERY TABLE (Except Sep 3) 1 hr. Rangers talk about safety in Yosemite. Half Dome Village Amphitheater. (YH)

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Experience Your America    Yosemite National Park

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

Spectacular vistas and the heart of the park

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 cocoa. Use this time to plan your day or to get other questions answered. See page 9 for schedule.

RANGER EVENING PROGRAMS

Join a ranger for an hour of nature, history, and insight into Yosemite at a Campfire Talk or at a Tuesday Evening Ranger Program. Topics vary nightly. See page 9 for times and location.

TOM BOPP AT THE PIANO

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 stories from Yosemite’s past. Once or twice a week, he will present an hour-long interpretive program on the vintage songs of Yosemite or the history of Wawona with slide or music accompaniment. Check with Tom at the piano for dates and times.

WAWONA VISITOR CENTER AT HILL’S STUDIO

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

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. Purchase tickets at the Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. See page 9 for schedule. Five dollars for adults and $4 for children ages 3 to 12 years old.

BLACKSMITH SHOP

Feel the heat, 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 throughout the grove.

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE MARIPOSA GROVE!

The Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project is almost complete! On July 6, 2015, a temporary closure of the grove began with hopes to re-open in late 2017. The restoration project will improve the habitat and restore the hydrology in the grove. It will also enhance the visitors’ experience and enjoyment of the grove, with improved trails, providing universal access, and remodeled bathrooms.

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

Explore History, Discover Giant Trees, and Find Amazing Vistas

These park areas offer endless opportunities for amazing experiences.
### Sunday

- **10:00am – 2:00pm** Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (10 min. each). Purchase tickets in Stage Office in Pioneer Yosemite History Center, $5 adult / $4 children ages 3-12. (NPS)
- **10:00am – 1:00pm / 2:00pm to 5:00pm** Blacksmithing Demonstration (Sep 3 Only) (NPS)
- **3:30pm** Campfire Talk (Sep 3 Only) 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. Topics vary nightly. (NPS)
- **2:00pm** Ranger Walk - Short Walk to a Great View of El Capitan (1 hr. Moderately difficult). Meet at Glacier Point Gift Shop. (NPS)
- **6:30pm** Sunset Ranger Talk (OctSep 4 and 11 Only) 30 mins. Glacier Point amphitheater, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
- **9:00pm** GLACIER POINT STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Aug 31 Only) 2 hrs. The stories of the night sky at Glacier Point (elevation: 7,214 ft./2,199 m) Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. Shuttle services available. (YH)

### Monday

- **10:00am** JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 mins. Wawona Visitor Center at HI’s Studio. (NPS)
- **5:30pm** Vintage Music 4 hrs. Pianist/Instructor Tom Bopp performs songs and stories from Yosemite’s past in the Big Trees Lodge lobby. Historical programs available by request are given at 8:30 pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8 pm, while Tom’s performing. (YH)
- **7:00pm** Summer Sunset Ranger Talk (Sep 5 and 12 Only) 30 mins. Glacier Point amphitheater, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
- **6:30pm** Summer Sunset Ranger Talk (Sep 5 and 12) 30 mins. Glacier Point amphitheater, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)

### Tuesday

- **10:00am** JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM 10 mins. Meet at Wawona Visitor Center on Chilnualna Falls Road. For questions please call 855/290-3499. (NPS)
- **10:00am – 2:00pm** Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (Aug 31 Only) 10 min. each. Purchase tickets in Stage Office in Pioneer Yosemite History Center, $5 adult / $4 children ages 3-12. (NPS)
- **10:00am – 1:00pm / 2:00pm to 5:00pm** Blacksmithing Demonstration (Aug 31 Only) Pioneer Yosemite History Center. (NPS)
- **5:30pm** Vintage Music 4 hrs. Pianist/Instructor Tom Bopp performs songs and stories from Yosemite’s past in the Big Trees Lodge lobby. Historical programs available by request are given at 8:30 pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8 pm, while Tom’s performing. (YH)
- **7:30pm** Campfire Talk (Aug 31 Only) 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. Topics vary nightly. (NPS)
- **10:00am** JUNIOR RANGERS 30 min. Meet at Glacier Point Amphitheater (NPS)
- **2:00pm** Ranger Walk - Short Walk to a Great View of El Capitan (1 hr. Moderately difficult). Meet at Glacier Point Gift Shop. (NPS)
- **7:00pm** Sunset Ranger Talk (Aug 30, Sep 3 and 6 Only) 30 mins. Glacier Point amphitheater, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
- **6:30pm** Sunset Ranger Talk (Aug 30 and Sep 6) 30 mins. Glacier Point amphitheater, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
- **9:00pm** GLACIER POINT STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Aug 31 Only) 1 hr. The stories of the night sky at Glacier Point (elevation: 7,214 ft./2,199 m) Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. Shuttle services available. (YH)

### Wednesday

- **10:00am – 2:00pm** Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (Aug 31 Only) 10 min. each. Purchase tickets in Stage Office in Pioneer Yosemite History Center, $5 adult / $4 children ages 3-12. (NPS)
- **10:00am – 1:00pm / 2:00pm to 5:00pm** Blacksmithing Demonstration (Aug 31 Only) Pioneer Yosemite History Center. (NPS)
- **5:30pm** Vintage Music 4 hrs. Pianist/Instructor Tom Bopp performs songs and stories from Yosemite’s past in the Big Trees Lodge lobby. Historical programs available by request are given at 8:30 pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8 pm, while Tom’s performing. (YH)
- **7:30pm** Campfire Talk (Aug 31 Only) 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. Topics vary nightly. (NPS)
- **10:00am – 2:00pm** Horse-Drawn Stage Rides 10 min. each. Purchase tickets in Stage Office in Pioneer Yosemite History Center, $5 adult / $4 children ages 3-12. (NPS)
- **10:00am – 1:00pm / 2:00pm to 5:00pm** Blacksmithing Demonstration (Sep 1 Only) Pioneer Yosemite History Center. (NPS)
- **5:30pm** Vintage Music 4 hrs. Pianist/Instructor Tom Bopp performs songs and stories from Yosemite’s past in the Big Trees Lodge lobby. Historical programs available by request are given at 8:30 pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8 pm, while Tom’s performing. (YH)
- **7:30pm** Campfire Talk (Sep 1 Only) 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. Topics vary nightly. (NPS)
- **9:00pm** GLACIER POINT STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Aug 31 Only) 2 hrs. The stories of the night sky at Glacier Point (elevation: 7,214 ft./2,199 m) Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. Shuttle services available. (YH)

### Thursday

- **8:00am** Coffee with a Ranger...Hot Cocoa too! (Sep 2 Only) 45 mins. Bring a thermos, blankets and pillows. Meet at the big trees in Wawona Campground. (NPS)
- **9:00am** Nature Walk with a Ranger (Sep 2 Only) 2 hrs. Meet at the Redwoods in Pioneer Yosemite History Center office on Chilnualna Falls Road. For questions please call 855/290-3499. (NPS)
- **9:00am** JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM (Sep 2 Only) 1.5 hrs. Especially for ages 7-12. Meet at Wawona Campground Amphitheater. (NPS)
- **10:00am** JUNIOR RANGER TALK (Except Sep 2) 15 minutes Wawona Visitor Center at HI’s Studio. (NPS)
- **10:00am – 2:00pm** Horse-Drawn Stage Rides 10 min. each. Purchase tickets in Stage Office in Pioneer Yosemite History Center, $5 adult / $4 children ages 3-12. (NPS)
- **10:00am – 1:00pm / 2:00pm to 5:00pm** Blacksmithing Demonstration (Sep 2 Only) Pioneer Yosemite History Center. (NPS)
- **5:30pm** Vintage Music 4 hrs. Pianist/Instructor Tom Bopp performs songs and stories from Yosemite’s past in the Big Trees Lodge lobby. Historical programs available by request are given at 8:30 pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8 pm, while Tom’s performing. (YH)
- **7:30pm** Campfire Talk (Sep 2 Only) 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. Topics vary nightly. (NPS)
- **2:00pm** Ranger Walk - Cliffs and Domes 2 hrs. Moderately difficult. Meet at Taft Point/Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road. (NPS)
- **7:00pm** Sunset Ranger Talk (Sep 1 and 8 Only) 30 mins. Glacier Point amphitheater, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
- **6:30pm** Sunset Ranger Talk (Except Sep 1 and 8) 30 mins. Glacier Point amphitheater, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
- **8:15pm** Stars Over Yosemite Glacier Point amphitheater. Cancelled if overcast. (NPS)

### Friday

- **8:00am** Coffee with a Ranger...Hot Cocoa tool (Sep 2 Only) 45 mins. Bring a thermos, blankets and pillows. Meet at the big trees in Wawona Campground. (NPS)
- **9:00am** Nature Walk with a Ranger (Sep 2 Only) 2 hrs. Meet at the Redwoods in Pioneer Yosemite History Center office on Chilnualna Falls Road. For questions please call 855/290-3499. (NPS)
- **10:00am** JUNIOR RANGER TALK (Except Sep 2) 15 minutes Wawona Visitor Center at HI’s Studio. (NPS)
- **10:00am – 2:00pm** Horse-Drawn Stage Rides 10 min. each. Purchase tickets in Stage Office in Pioneer Yosemite History Center, $5 adult / $4 children ages 3-12. (NPS)
- **10:00am – 1:00pm / 2:00pm to 5:00pm** Blacksmithing Demonstration (Sep 2 Only) Pioneer Yosemite History Center. (NPS)
- **5:30pm** Vintage Music 4 hrs. Pianist/Instructor Tom Bopp performs songs and stories from Yosemite’s past in the Big Trees Lodge lobby. Historical programs available by request are given at 8:30 pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8 pm, while Tom’s performing. (YH)
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- **7:00pm** Sunset Ranger Talk (Sep 1 and 8 Only) 30 mins. Glacier Point amphitheater, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
- **6:30pm** Sunset Ranger Talk (Except Sep 1 and 8) 30 mins. Glacier Point amphitheater, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, and Crane Flat

When the Tioga Road is open, the drive through 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.

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

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Open 9am to 5pm through Sunday, September 24. Park orientation, trail information, books, maps and displays.

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs
Two trails, both flat and 3/4 mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge is open 10am to 4pm through September 24. Soda Springs are small, naturally carbonated springs that attract deer, birds and other wildlife. Stay on the trail to help protect this unique place.

Ranger Walks
Join a ranger to explore new areas and learn about geology, wildlife, history, wildflowers, 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-gazing program - bring a pad to sit on and dress warmly.

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

Tuolumne Grove
The trailhead for the Tuolumne Grove, which consists 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 in one mile. The trip is moderately strenuous on the uphill portion. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile nature trail. There is no potable water available. 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. 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 3.5 miles north of Crane Flat and 4.5 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.
FOOD & BEVERAGE
Tuolumne Meadows
Tuolumne Meadows Grill
8:30am to 7pm

Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 9am
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm

Reservations: strongly recommended

GROCERIES
Tuolumne Meadows

GROCES Store

8am to 6pm

for the season Sep 24

Shutle service begins with 7am stop at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge at 7am. The shutle arrives at about 30-minute intervals between 7am and 7pm. Stop times are posted at bus stops.

Shuttle service begins at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge at 7am. The shuttle service arrives at about 30-minute intervals between 7am and 7pm. Stop times are posted at bus stops.

There are a number of different stops between Omcott Pond and Tioga Pass, with varying fees. A few of the commonly asked about stops and fees are included below.

TM Visitor Center to Tenaya Lake - 54
TM Visitor Center to Omcott Point - $6
TM Lodge to Tioga Pass - $8
For more information contact any tours and activity desk.

Yosemite Guide August 30, 2017 - October 3, 2017

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS
See local postings for additional naturalist walks and programs

HETCH HETCHY, HODGDON MEADOW, CRANE FLAT AND WHITE WOLF
See local postings for additional naturalist walks and programs

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Tuolumne Meadows
Tuolumne Meadows Grill
8:30am to 7pm

diners can enjoy a hearty meal.

Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 9am
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm

Reservations: strongly recommended

GROCERIES

Tuolumne Meadows

Grovers Store

8am to 6pm

for the season Sep 24

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Yosemite Guide August 30, 2017 - October 3, 2017

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS
See local postings for additional naturalist walks and programs

HETCH HETCHY, HODGDON MEADOW, CRANE FLAT AND WHITE WOLF
See local postings for additional naturalist walks and programs
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.

**Become a Junior Ranger**

Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge.*

**Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge.**

Did you already finish this page and earn your Junior Ranger badge? Are you ready for more Junior Ranger activities? Drop by a visitor center desk and pick up the free PSAR Junior Ranger booklet or Legacy Junior Ranger page to earn special patches!

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

   Write the name of the trail you walked. ___________________________________

2. Explore with your senses! Record the following.

   I see: ______________________   I hear: ______________________

   I smell: ____________________   I touch: ______________________

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

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

   ____________________________________________________

5. Learn more. Go to a ranger-led program. What program did you attend? Have the ranger sign below.

   Signed by: ______________________________________________

6. Write down something you learned from a ranger.

   ________________________________________________________

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

   ________________________________________________________

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

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

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**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.

Illustrations by Tom Whitworth
Bears and Wildlife

Enjoying wildlife safely and responsibly

Keep Wildlife Wild!

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

Store Your Food Properly.

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

If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.

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

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).

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.

Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!

MOUNTAIN LIONS

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

For your safety:

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

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

What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?

Never approach one, especially if it is with kittens. Most lions will avoid confrontation. Always give them a way to escape.

Don’t run. Stay calm. Hold your ground, or back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up.

If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms, shout, and throw objects at it. The goal is to convince it that you may be dangerous. If attacked, fight back!

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

Keep Wildlife Wild!

Respect animals at a distance.

Never feed or approach them.

How to Store Food

Your Vehicle

You may store food in your car (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark. Use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food, wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats. Never leave unsecured food locked in the trunk or glove compartment.

Your Campsite or Tent Cabin

You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs or tent cabins.

Picnic Areas & on the Trails

Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm’s reach. Don’t turn your back to your food.

Backpacking in the Wilderness

Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite. In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food.

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.

For your safety, avoid contact with wildlife and store food 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.

Black bear “logging in.” Photo by Karen Amstutz

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**Autumn Changes in Yosemite**

As the heat and excitement of the summer come to a close, changing seasons in Yosemite welcome new possibilities for adventure and enjoyment in the park. Shorter days and cooler temperatures provide a glimpse of the coming winter in the high mountains and bring excellent conditions for enjoying Yosemite’s trails and granite walls. With these changes it is important to know your limits to be prepared with the essentials when enjoying the myriad of outdoor recreation opportunities.

**Weather**

Autumn brings a mixture of conditions that may be difficult to anticipate. Dehydration and exhaustion can occur during any season and you are particularly vulnerable during the lingering summer heat in lower elevation areas of the park. Always carry more water than you need. Without rationing water, make sure your hike or outdoor activity is half over before your water is half gone. Prevent dehydration by sipping lots of water throughout the day and frequently eating salty, easy-to-digest snacks. During this season the high country may experience fall colors. Always carry a good topo map and compass (GPS optional) and know your location, including your return route, in case you need to turn around.

**Yosemite’s Trails**

Yosemite’s trails pass through areas that endure all the forces of nature including flooding, fire, erosion, and slides. Trails may be damaged from weather and past fires. Snow will linger over higher elevation trails, and early storms may blanket the landscape. Always carry a good topo map and compass (GPS optional) and know your location, including your return route, in case you need to turn around.

**Yosemite’s Roads**

Yosemite’s roads are just as dangerous as in your hometown but we have other hazards such as rock fall, distracted motorists, and abundant wildlife, including deer and bear. Moreover, there are many sites to distract you. If you cannot devote 100% of your attention to your driving, please pull completely off the road into designated pull-offs and parking areas. Buckle up! Park rangers enforce California’s Motor Vehicle Code on park roads.

**Altitude**

The Yosemite Valley sits at 4,000 feet above sea level and although this is not generally high enough to cause altitude illness, you may feel diminished performance or shortness of breath during physical activity if you have not had an opportunity to acclimate. Altitude illness can begin as low as 6,000 feet. Since Tuolumne Meadows hovers around 9,000 feet and many other accessible destinations are much higher you may experience flu-like symptoms or general weakness which can be signs of altitude illness. The effects of altitude can lead to problems with judgment and physical performance and even become life-threatening. Altitude illness affects us equally, regardless of age, physical condition, and gender. The only definitive cure for altitude illness is to lose elevation.

**Yosemite’s Rivers and Streams**

Yosemite’s streams are a huge temptation for the curious, the photographer, and the weary hiker simply wanting to cool tired feet. Do not be deceived! Yosemite’s water is deceptively dangerous and unforgiving. Visitors are strongly urged to enjoy moving or falling water from a safe distance. Please do not leave the safety of the trail or developed areas.

**FOR ALL SEASONS**

- Stay on established trails – do not take trail shortcuts, go over fences, or approach 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 – have plenty of food and water. If you are sweating, replace lost salts with salty, easy-to-digest snacks.
- “10 hiking essentials” – include a flashlight or headlamp, sunglasses, sunscreen, navigation, and a signaling method (mirror and whistle).
- Let someone know – always leave your travel and hiking plan, including your intended route, destination, 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.

**Hantavirus Information**

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases harmful to humans. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread to humans via the droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. You may come into close proximity to rodents during your visit, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS. HPS risk is greater inside enclosures where deer mice are present. If staying in guest lodging, please tell the housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your room. Do not clean the area yourself. Keep doors to guest lodging shut and keep food in sealed contains. 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. For more information visit: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/your SAFETY .htm.

**Tree Hazard Awareness**

Diseases, insects, soil moisture, wind, fire, and snow combine with human activities to create hazard trees (trees with outwardly visible defects that could fall and strike a person or property within a developed area). While the National Park service seeks to identify and reduce threats from hazard trees, trees without apparent defects also fail, and tree hazards cannot always be immediately identified and mitigated. Several catastrophic tree failures have left visitors seriously or fatally injured in Yosemite, in addition to property damage totaling over $1,000,000. Be aware of your surroundings, especially away from developed areas, and keep in mind that some trees may fail at any time.

**Plague**

Plague is an infectious disease carried by squirrels and other 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 when eating outside, avoid disturbing rodent burrows, wear insect repellent with DEET, and tell a park ranger 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, 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 if caught in time.

**Protect Yourself...**
Protecting Yourself and the Park

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

Wilderness Permit Details

Wilderness permits are required year round for all overnight trips into Yosemite's Wilderness. Permits are issued and bear cammsters are available for rent at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (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 (see page 8) and at the Big Oak Flat Information Station and the Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center (see page 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 and call 209/372-0740. Monday through Friday, from 8am to 5pm and Saturday, 9am to 4pm. After September 2, the phone lines will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm, the Leave No Trace website at www.int.org, or the Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue website at www.friendsofyosar.org.

HALF DOME HIKE - PERMITS REQUIRED

Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are required seven days a week through October 10, conditions permitting. A daily total of 225 presession lottery permits have already been issued for 2017. 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 are taken from 24 weeks to two days in advance of the desired date between midnight and 1pm. 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/hdswildpermits.htm.

Rafting

Conditions permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Clark Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 11am 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 (PFD).
• 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-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

Pets

Keep in mind, daytime temperatures can reach above 100 ° Farenheit in the summer. Make sure to keep your pet cool and well-hydrated. In Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:

• Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. Pets are not allowed anywhere in the Mariposa or Merced sequoia groves. They are not allowed on trails, in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted prohibiting them.
• Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.
• For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash bins.
• Pets are not allowed in any lodging facilities or other buildings within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.

Bicycling

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

YESEOMITE GUARDIANS

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. With over 5 million people visiting it each season, it is important to remember that Yosemite is a fragile place. We all need to do our part to protect Yosemite’s resources and ensure that future generations can enjoy the park as much as we can. Please support the park with your time and money.

• 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 license plate number and call park dispatch office at 209/379-1902.

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 Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served. Campground reservations are available up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month at 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 or call 877/444-6777 or TDD 877/833-6777 from 7am to 9pm, Pacific time, March through October, or from 7am to 7pm, November through February. Call 518/885-3639 if you’re dialing from outside the U.S. and Canada.

Campground offices in the park are located in the visitor parking area at Half Dome Village (shuttle bus stop #14), the Tuolumne Meadows Campground entrance, in Wawona off Chinquapin Road, and at the Big Oak Flat Information Station.

Camping in Areas Surrounding Yosemite

The U.S. Forest Service 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 760/447-3044; 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 camps at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds. Reservations can be made the same way as individual site reservations; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets, RVs, and generators are not permitted in group sites.

Camping in Yosemite National Park*

Camping in Yosemite Valley

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

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

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Camping in Yosemite National Park*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</th>
<th>OPEN DATE (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>NORTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY</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>35 ft</td>
<td>Apr 10 – Oct 9</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane Flat</td>
<td>Jul/Aug - Oct 9</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Apr 10 – Oct 10</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>Jul/Aug – Oct 15</td>
<td>No RV/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>Jul/Aug – Sep 25</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Jul/Aug – Sep 4</td>
<td>No RV/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcupine Flat</td>
<td>Jul/Aug – Oct 15</td>
<td>No RV/trailers</td>
<td>First-come, first-served</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Creek (boil)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows</td>
<td>Aug 1 – Sep 25</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>30 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>2.5 miles round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #8</td>
<td>1.0 miles round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock</td>
<td>Camp 4 Near Shuttle Stop #7</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 2 to 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, 5 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 2,700-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2 miles, 1 hour round-trip to Mirror Lake, 3 miles, loop around lake</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>1.4 miles round-trip, 1 to 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 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>7 miles round-trip, 5 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous, 1,900-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>14 miles (via Mist Trail) or 16.3 miles (via John Muir Trail) round-trip, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Extremely Strenuous, 4,600-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours, one-way</td>
<td>Very strenuous, 3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #8</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 5 to 7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Day Hikes Outside of Yosemite Valley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wawona</td>
<td>Wawona Store / Pioneer Yosemite History Center Parking Area</td>
<td>4.75 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swing Bridge Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Store / Pioneer Yosemite History Center Parking Area</td>
<td>4.75 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taft Point</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel Dome</td>
<td>Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda Springs / Parsons Lodge</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>1.5 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lembert Dome</td>
<td>Lambert Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Muir Trail through Lyell Canyon</td>
<td>Ding Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy, 200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Lake</td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Group campground</td>
<td>4.8 miles round trip, 4 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toggen Road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lushens Lake</td>
<td>White Wolf²</td>
<td>5.4 miles round trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>Porcupine Creek¹</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 3,500 to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lushens Lake Trailhead¹</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 3,500 to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake¹²</td>
<td>19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FEATURED HIKE

Mirror Lake Loop

Distance: 5 miles/8 km
Elevation Gain: 200 ft.
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.

Tips to know before you go:
- Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.
- Stay away from swiftly-moving water. Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions.
- Always supervise children closely.
- Avoid areas of whitewater, where streams flow over rocky obstructions. Never swim or wade upstream from a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
- If you plan to hike or backpack above 8,000 feet, it may still be winter-like conditions. Expect snowy, flooded, and/ or muddy conditions. Check current conditions at a wilderness or visitor center before starting hike.
Vertical Wilderness
Climbing Stewardship in Yosemite

Story by Yosemite Climbing Rangers

Look up...The granite faces of El Capitan, Half Dome, and beyond are all part of Yosemite’s vast wilderness. In fact, rock climbing is an activity that is predominantly done within the 95 percent of Yosemite designated as wilderness. Yosemite’s wilderness includes all cliffs above 4,200 feet elevation more than 200 feet from the road.

What does wilderness mean? As outlined in the Wilderness Act of 1964, “A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

The climbing ethic is to leave as little sign of passage through vertical wilderness areas as possible. By doing so climbers honor the many who will come after them, they honor what drew them to these areas in the first place, and they honor the wilderness itself.

There is a long history of climbing in Yosemite. El Capitan was first climbed in 1958 by Warren Harding, Wayne Merry, and George Whitmore, who spent 45 days on the wall. Now typically climbed in three to five days, El Capitan attracts climbers from around the world. Yosemite’s cliffs are an international destination recognized as one of the birthplaces of modern climbing and a necessary visit for any aspiring climber. Today, the climbing community still recognizes Yosemite as primarily a "traditional" climbing area. In traditional climbing, climbers look for natural crack systems in the rock to enable and protect upward progress. Gear placed for protection in cracks can be placed and removed without affecting the rock.

Interacting with wilderness provides great opportunity. Climbers visit a world protected from human domination, they adventure through vertical expanses of rock untrammeled, and they gain access to lessons available only in such environments. However, wilderness is a fragile entity. Deliberate action must always be made to preserve the wilderness that we as a people have historically treasured.

What are some of the things that rock climbers do to protect wilderness?

• With many climbers coming to Yosemite, access routes that approach and descend from cliffs throughout the park are a concern. Climbers have volunteered immense amounts of time and labor performing restoration and impact mitigation work with Yosemite Climbing Management. Over 26,000 feet of climber access routes were restored in 2016 alone, largely by climber volunteers.

• Yosemite boasts the highest concentration of peregrine falcon nesting sites in the Sierra Nevada. This is particularly impressive as peregrines were absent from the park for more than thirty years before they were re-discovered in 1978. Since their return, climbing closures meant to give nesting sites space have encouraged their recovery. Due to the diligence of the park service and the respect that climbers have shown towards peregrine related climbing closures, these beautiful birds have come to thrive again.

• Innovations in climbing gear technology in the past fifty years have changed the impact climbers have on the rock. No hammers are required to place or remove the vast majority of exceptionally strong protective gear that modern climbers use. Pitons are largely relics of the past, replaced by cams and other clean or hammerless protection.

• Many climbers embrace stewardship as a fundamental aspect of their lifestyle. For the 2017 season, Yosemite Climbing Management is being supported by six Climber Steward Volunteers. These fantastic volunteers are donating months of their time in the name of better protecting and caring for the vertical wilderness of Yosemite.

Interested in learning more about rock climbing in Yosemite? Stop by the Ask-A-Climber program at El Capitan Bridge. A Climbing Ranger will be answering questions about climbing and looking at climbers on the face of El Capitan through telescopes. Ever wonder how rock climbers spend several days and nights on big walls, or how they are able to safely navigate through the vertical environment? Come and find out!

The Climbing Stewardship program and Ask-a-Climber are made possible through the support of Yosemite Conservancy donors. The Yosemite Conservancy assists the National Park Service in protecting and celebrating the history and future of climbing in Yosemite’s vertical wilderness.

Climbers, be mindful of these concepts when climbing in Yosemite’s Wilderness:

• Store your food properly so as not to encourage wildlife toward an unnatural and unhealthy diet.

• Whenever you consider fixing lines or placing permanent anchors, practice respect for the resource and for the wilderness experience of others.

• Follow wilderness regulations regarding camping in Yosemite’s backcountry while pursuing climbing objectives.

• Avoid “gardening” to establish new routes or boulder problems. Cliffs and their talus are unique and limited habitats.

• Educate yourself and other climbers on closures to protect wildlife.

• Limit your group size and follow designated trails.

• The ideal is to always leave the minimum sign of our passage through wilderness.
Supporting Your Park

Enhance the Visitor Experience

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

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

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates the arts and the natural grandeur of our environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world with the organizations that partner to preserve Yosemite.


Yosemite Hospitality LLC

Yosemite Hospitality, a subsidiary of Aramark, operates lodging, food and beverage, retail, recreational activities, tours, interpretive programs, transportation, and service stations under contract with the U.S. Department of Interior with a focus on delivering authentic and memorable guest experiences. Yosemite Hospitality is committed to providing park stewardship in collaboration with the National Park Service in effort to protect and preserve the park for millions of park visitors to enjoy. Visit www.TravelYosemite.com for more information.

Yosemite Conservancy

The Conservancy is dedicated to stewardship in collaboration with the National Park Service in effort to protect and preserve the park for millions of park visitors to enjoy. Visit www.YosemiteConservancy.org or call 415/434-1782.

NatureBridge

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

Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

Over 12,407 volunteers donated more than 174,885 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.

Yosemite Zero Landfill Initiative

Help make Yosemite the first Zero Landfill park in the country. Through the Zero Landfill Initiative, Yosemite is reducing the amount of trash sent to the landfill every year. In partnership with Yosemite Hospitality, we are making it easier to participate by adding more recycling containers with better labels.

Here are 3 things you can do to help:
1. Get rid of excess packaging by repacking food in reusable containers before you leave home.

Yosemite Name Changes

The names of the following facilities in Yosemite have changed:
- 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)

Lost and Found

To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite’s restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses or tour services, call 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/379-1001 or email yose_lostandfound@nps.gov.