Yosemite’s rockclimbing community go to great lengths to clean hard-to-reach areas during a Yosemite Facelift event. Photo by Kaya Lindsey.
Seasonal Highlights

Keep this Guide with you to get the most out of your trip to Yosemite National Park

WELCOME
You made it! You’re here! The following information may help maximize your time in Yosemite.

Ask A Ranger at the Visitor Center
All visitor centers in Yosemite National Park are staffed with knowledgeable rangers and volunteers, ready to help answer your questions, provide directions, and hand out maps and brochures. Visitor centers are located in Yosemite Valley, Big Oak Flat, Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows. See pages 5, 8, and 10 for hours and more details.

Pop-up Information Centers
Look for pop-up blue booths throughout Yosemite, which are staffed with Yosemite Conservancy volunteers who are ready to answer your questions and give you directions. If you’re interested in volunteering with the Yosemite Conservancy in the park, visit yosemitconservancy.org/volunteer.

ARTS & CULTURE
Visit the Yosemite Museum
Learn the history of Yosemite Indians by exploring a museum collection that includes remarkable woven baskets and traditional dress. Tour the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. Shuttle stops #5 and #9.

The Ansel Adams Gallery
Photography Classes
Looking to enhance your Yosemite photography skills in the footsteps of Ansel Adams? Join a photography expert from The Ansel Adams Gallery in a dynamic hands-on class, or basic camera walk while soaking up the surrounding beauty of Yosemite Valley. For details, visit http://anseladams.com or sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. See pages 5 and 6 for more information.

Arts in the Park
Add some art and theater to your Yosemite itinerary! Join Yosemite Conservancy at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center (shuttle stop #16) for an outdoor workshop with a professional artist, or for children’s art activities, or at the Yosemite Theater for an evening performance or film. See page 6 for upcoming workshops and shows.

GUIDED OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
Adventure with Yosemite Conservancy
Are you looking for a memorable way to deepen your connection with the park? Go on an expert-led adventure with Yosemite Conservancy! Join a scheduled Outdoor Adventure, such as a day hike, backpacking trip or bird-watching walk, or create a Custom Adventure tailored to your interests and schedule. For details, visit yosemiticonservancy.org/adventures, or call (209) 379-2317 ext. 10. See pages 6 and 11 for upcoming adventures.

Adventures Out with the Yosemite Mountaineering School (YMS)
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 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

Yosemite Conservancy in the park, visit yosemitconservancy.org. Volunteer Drop-In Program
Want to give back to Yosemite? Come join the fun! The Volunteer Drop-In Program is a family-friendly activity where you can take an active role in protecting and preserving our natural resources. Whether it’s your first time to the park or you are an returning visitor, come create new memories while removing invasive species, collecting native seeds, or picking up litter. The Drop-In Program will meet every Friday from 10am to 12pm in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center from May 31 to September 13. Projects will last 1-3 hours and volunteers must wear clothes that can get dirty, long pants, and closed-toe shoes. Sun protection, water, and snacks are recommended. Youth under 18 must be accompanied by parent or guardian.

Getting Around
Take the Free Shuttle
Park your car and let the free shuttle take you to the most scenic points in the valley. You will help cut down on traffic congestion, and will be able to capture the best pictures. See schedules posted at shuttle stops.

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park
Welcome to Yosemite
Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Yosemite Travel Tips
The busy summer months have arrived! 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 Curry Village Parking. 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.

Reservations
Campground Reservations
(877) 444-6777
www.recreation.gov

Lodging Reservations
(888) 413-8869
www.travelyosemite.com

Group Sales Office: (888) 339-3481

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.tcvb.com

Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
(559) 683-4636
www.yosemitevisit.com

Highway 132/49
Courtierville Visitor Center
(209) 875-3339

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

Mariposa County Visitor Center
(888) 425-3366 or (209) 966-7081

Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau
(209) 742-4567
www.yosemite.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 year-round, is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. 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 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, 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 (a 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—some might say unnerving—view 3,214 feet down to Yosemite Valley below. Single vehicles over 30 feet long and trailers, are not permitted beyond Sentinel Dome/Taft Point Trailhead.

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. 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 Wawona Hotel. 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 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, 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 home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area’s low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles (1¼ hour) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 7am to 9pm through Labor Day. Wilderness permits and bear canisters are available at the entrance station from 7am to 5pm. Vehicles and/or trailers over 25 feet long, and RV’s and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not permitted on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.
Yosemite Valley
Spectacular vistas and the heart of the park

The Incomparable Yosemite Valley
Yosemite Valley embraces one of the world’s most outstanding concentrations of waterfalls, granite walls, meadows, wildflowers, and trees, and also harbors a rich collection of human stories.

Yosemite Valley
An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Let your senses run wild as you learn about the scenery that surrounds you. See pages 5, 6, and 7 for information about programs and services.

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 tram tour narrated by a park ranger. Ask about Moonlight Tours, Starry Skies at Glacier Point Tours, and the Tuolumne Meadows Tour and Hiker’s Bus.

The Glacier Point Tour is offered daily. One-way tickets are available for those who want to hike into Yosemite Valley from Glacier Point.

The 8-hour Grand Tour combines Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias into one memorable tour. Departs daily until Sep 2.

For more information on departure times or to make reservations, call (209) 372-1240 or inquire at any of the Tour and Activity Desks at Yosemite Valley Lodge, Yosemite Village, or Curry Village.

Rafting
Rafting is a great way to see Yosemite Valley. Rent rafts at Curry Village, conditions permitting. See page 5 for hours. If you bring your own raft, see page 15 for regulations.

Bicycling
Experience Yosemite Valley on a bicycle. There are several miles of bicycle paths that wind through Yosemite Valley. Use your own bicycle or rent one from Yosemite Valley Lodge or Curry Village, see page 5 for hours. Bicycles are only allowed on paved roads and bicycle paths.

Sightseeing
Some famous, awe-inspiring landmarks that Yosemite Valley is known for 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 the top, see pg. 17.
- Half Dome, Yosemite’s most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, and Glacier Point, are a few locations that have 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. See if you can spot climbers on El Capitan through your binoculars and discover the thrill of the vertical wilderness on Yosemite’s big walls.
- 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, wander through indoor and outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite’s geologic story, or connect with nature through daily art workshops and activities.
- Tunnel View, along Wawona Road (Hwy 41) showcases the immensity of the granite walls that surround Yosemite Valley, providing a classic view of 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 periods of peak visitation. Check local postings for changes to hours of operation.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

The Ahwahnee Bar
11:30am to 1pm

Base Camp Eatery Bar
6am to 6pm

Base Camp Eatery
Breakfast: 6:30am to 10:45am
Lunch: 11am to 4:30pm
Dinner: 4:30pm to 9:30pm

Coffee Corner/Ice Cream
8am to 11pm

El Capitan Bar
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Lunch: 11am to 4:30pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Happy Isles Restaurant
9am to 11pm

Lodge Dining Room
Breakfast: 6:30am to 10:45am
Lunch: 11am to 4:30pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9:30pm

Mountain Room Lounge
Monday - Friday
4:30pm to 11pm
Saturday
Noon to 11pm
Sunday
Noon to 9pm

Pavilion
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Lunch: 11:30am to 4:30pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Pizza Deck
11am to 10pm

Happy Isles Art and Nature Center
8am to 6pm, closes at 5pm beginning Sep 2, and closes for the season Oct 22.

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

The Ahwahnee Bar
Gifts, Gifts, Gifts

The Gift Shop
8am to 10pm, closes at 9pm starting Sep 15
The Sweet Shop
8am to 10pm

Yosemite Village Gift/Grocery
8am to 6pm, closes at 5pm starting Sep 9

Yosemite Mountain Shop
8am to 8pm

Gifts/Grocery
8am to 10pm, closes at 9pm starting Sep 10

Happy Isles Art and Nature Center
9am to 4pm, may close for lunch
Yosemite Valley
Where to go and what to do
Experience Yosemite National Park

SCHEDULED EVENTS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY
August 28, 2019 - October 1, 2019

Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures (YC)
Experience the park in a new way with Yosemite Conservancy's naturalist-guided Upcoming outings include:

- Sept 14: Bake and Discover: Full Moon Hike to Taft Point
- Sept 22-23: Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point
- Sept 29: Yoga in Yosemite Valley: Morning and Afternoon

Visit yosemiteconservancy.org/events or call (209) 375-2317 ext. 10 to learn more, see other upcoming adventures and sign up. Custom Adventures can be arranged for individuals and groups. Proceeds from all our programs help preserve and protect Yosemite. See page 10 for adventures starting from Tuolumne Meadows.

Yosemite Theater (YC)
Yosemite Conservancy’s theater program offers entertainment and inspiration through live performances, educational presentations, and beautiful films. All shows start at 7pm at the Yosemite Theater, shuttle bus stops 6 & 9.

- Get your tickets ($10 per person, free ticket for children under age 12) online at yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-theater, or Yosemite Hospitality tour desks, at any tour desk.

Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier (YC) (Select dates, see page 7.) Ranger Shelton Johnson portrays a Buffalo Soldier in Yosemite in the early 1900s.

- A Room of Raxals: School in Yosemite’s Stagecoach Days (Select dates, see page 7.) Storyteller Brian Shor uses a tale of antics and adventures set in the late 1880s.

- Conversations with a Tramp: An Evening with John Muir (Wed) Actor Lee Stetson brings John Muir to life as the legendary naturalist learns about the future of his beloved Hetch Hetchy Valley in the early 20th century.

- John Muir’s Wild Mountain Adventures (Thursday) Ask John Muir Engage with celebrated actor and historian Lee Stetson on his thrilling journeys in the western wilderness.

Growing up in Yosemite: The Spirited Life of Florence Hutchings (Thursday) Growing up in Yosemite with Florence “Flo” Hutchings, born in Yosemite Valley in 1864.

Return to Balance: A Climber’s Journey (Saturday) Join rock-climber Ron Kauk for a film and conversation, celebrating Yosemite’s vertical world.

Yosemite Conservancy Art Programs (YC)
Art classes for ages 4-12 and up are taught by volunteer instructors Monday-Saturday, 10am-2pm (unless otherwise noted), and are typically held outside in Yosemite Valley. Most workshops are $20 per person, per class (materials and supplies not included). Upcoming classes include:

- Jan 19-31: Art and Nature: Nature’s Patterns (YC) 4 hrs. Self-guided Yosemite-themed art activities for visitors of all ages at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center (shuttle stop #15). Bring, rent or purchase supplies. Daily, 11am-3pm. (YC) $10
- Feb 1-28: Art Workshop: Fly Fish (YC) 1 hr. Instructor-led class for kids age 4-12 at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center. Limited to 10 students. (YC) $5
- Feb 1-28: Bike to Hike Tour: 2.5 hrs. Curry Village Bike Stand. Tickets to any tour desk. (YC) $10
- Mar 1-31: Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10
- Apr 1-30: Art Workshop: Rock Art (YC) 1 hr. Instructor-led workshop at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center. Limited to 10 students. (YC) $10
- May 1-31: Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10
- Jun 1-30: Junior Ranger Walk: 1 hr. Happy Isles Art and Nature Center, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $3
- Jul 1-31: Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10
- Aug 1-31: Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10
- Sept 1-30: Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10
- Oct 1-31: Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10

More events, programs, and classes are available online at yosemiteconservancy.org/art. Drop-ins welcome if space is available. Ages 12+. See page 6. (YC) $9

MORNING EVENTS

9:00am Bike to Hike Tour: 2.5 hrs. Curry Village Bike Stand. Tickets to any tour desk. (YC) $10
9:00am Bike to Hike Tour: 2.5 hrs. Curry Village Bike Stand. Tickets to any tour desk. (YC) $10
10:00am Art Workshop: Fly Fish (YC) 1 hr. Instructor-led class for kids age 4-12 at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center. Limited to 10 students. (YC) $5
11:00am Bike to Hike Tour: 2.5 hrs. Curry Village Bike Stand. Tickets to any tour desk. (YC) $10
11:00am Bike to Hike Tour: 2.5 hrs. Curry Village Bike Stand. Tickets to any tour desk. (YC) $10
12:00pm Art Workshop: Rock Art (YC) 1 hr. Instructor-led workshop at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center. Limited to 10 students. (YC) $10
1:00pm Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10
1:00pm Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10
2:00pm Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10
3:00pm Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10
4:00pm Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10
5:00pm Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10
6:00pm Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10
7:00pm Bike to Hike Tour: Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, shuttle stop #15. (YC) $10

Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES
YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH Pastor Brent Moore - Resident Minister (209) 375-4837 yosemitechurch@ymail.com www.YosemiteValleyChapel.org YOSEMITE VALLEY WEDDINGS Call for pricing and availability SUNDAY SERVICES AT THE YOSEMITE CHAPEL 9:30am - 10am September through July only 9:30am - 10am Sunday School available 11am - 12pm Memorial Day through Labor Day only 6:30pm - 7:30pm Evening Service WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK SERVICE 7pm THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY: call for location.

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS Our Lady of the Blessed Visit our Visitor Center in Yosemite Theater, Shuttle stops #6 & #9 SUNDAY - 10am 10am - 10pm For additional information call (559) 642-3462

CHURCH OF CHRIST (Non-denominational) SUNDAY - 11am, El Portal Chapel. (209) 375-2100

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST Church of Seventh-day Adventists at Lower River Amphitheater, Saturday May 25 to Aug 31 9:45am - Mount Kineo Sabbath School 11am - Worship, 12:30pm Potluck www.facebook.com/Yosemite7DAChurch THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Sacrament Meeting, Sunday 1pm to 1:45pm Yosemite Valley Chapel, Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30pm Oakhurst Hotline (559) 683-1662 LIONS CLUB President elected Thursday of each month, at noon, at the Ahwahnee. Call for more information.

RECREATIONAL SERVICES

HYA National Park Service SC Sierra Club TAAG The Ansel Adams Gallery YC Yosemite Conservancy

AAC American Alpine Club

NPS National Park Service

NY Yosemite Conservancy

YM Programs offered for a fee

Indicates facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Short, steep inclines may be encountered.

Contact (209) 375-5205 (white) to request a sign language interpreter. Advanced notice of two weeks is requested, but not required.

Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advanced request for any public program. Inquire at any visitor center or tour desk.

Audio tours are available for the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Refer to the Accessibility Guide for details.

6
**EVENING**

- **Ranger Walk – Wild About Bears** (Aug 19) 3:00pm - 4:00pm. Free. Meet near The Ahwahnee hotel concierge. (YH) $10
- **WEE WILD ONES** (Aug 20) 10:00am - 12:00pm. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater. (YH) $10
- **Yosemite Theater – Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier** (Sep 18) 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Meet in the Yosemite theater in the 1880s with storyteller Brian Shoor. For ticket information, see page 6. (YC) $10
- **Yosemite Theater – Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier** (Sep 21) 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Meet in the Yosemite theater in the 1880s with storyteller Brian Shoor. For ticket information, see page 6. (YC) $10
- **WEE WILD ONES** (Aug 22) 10:00am - 12:00pm. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater. (YH) $10
- **Naturalist Staff** (Sep 17) 12:00pm - 2:00pm. Meet in the Yosemite theater for the naturalist. (YH) $10
- **WEE WILD ONES** (Aug 23) 10:00am - 12:00pm. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater. (YH) $10
- **Yosemite Theater – Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier** (Sep 25) 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Meet in the Yosemite theater in the 1880s with storyteller Brian Shoor. For ticket information, see page 6. (YC) $10
- **WEE WILD ONES** (Aug 24) 10:00am - 12:00pm. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater. (YH) $10
- **Naturalist Staff** (Sep 18) 12:00pm - 2:00pm. Meet in the Yosemite theater for the naturalist. (YH) $10
- **WEE WILD ONES** (Aug 25) 10:00am - 12:00pm. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater. (YH) $10
- **Yosemite Theater – Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier** (Sep 29) 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Meet in the Yosemite theater in the 1880s with storyteller Brian Shoor. For ticket information, see page 6. (YC) $10
- **WEE WILD ONES** (Aug 26) 10:00am - 12:00pm. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater. (YH) $10
- **Yosemite Theater – Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier** (Sep 30) 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Meet in the Yosemite theater in the 1880s with storyteller Brian Shoor. For ticket information, see page 6. (YC) $10
- **WEE WILD ONES** (Aug 27) 10:00am - 12:00pm. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater. (YH) $10
- **Yosemite Theater – Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier** (Oct 1) 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Meet in the Yosemite theater in the 1880s with storyteller Brian Shoor. For ticket information, see page 6. (YC) $10
- **WEE WILD ONES** (Aug 28) 10:00am - 12:00pm. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater. (YH) $10
- **Yosemite Theater – Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier** (Oct 2) 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Meet in the Yosemite theater in the 1880s with storyteller Brian Shoor. For ticket information, see page 6. (YC) $10
- **WEE WILD ONES** (Aug 29) 10:00am - 12:00pm. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater. (YH) $10
- **Yosemite Theater – Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier** (Oct 3) 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Meet in the Yosemite theater in the 1880s with storyteller Brian Shoor. For ticket information, see page 6. (YC) $10
- **WEE WILD ONES** (Aug 30) 10:00am - 12:00pm. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater. (YH) $10
- **Yosemite Theater – Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier** (Oct 4) 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Meet in the Yosemite theater in the 1880s with storyteller Brian Shoor. For ticket information, see page 6. (YC) $10
- **WEE WILD ONES** (Aug 31) 10:00am - 12:00pm. Stories and activities for kids 10 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater. (YH) $10

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**Programs printed in ALL CAPS and COLOR are especially for children and their families.**
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
Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio
Open daily from 8:30am to 5pm. The visitor center offers information about park activities, books, wilderness permits, trail information, 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.

Evening Program
Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30pm to 9:30pm, Tuesday through Saturday, for music and stories from Yosemite’s past. If you ask him, Tom might perform one of three one-hour picture shows: Yosemite Music, Roosevelt & Muir 1903, or Wawona History.

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 has interpretive signs available.

Experience Horse-Drawn Travel
Travel into history by taking a 10-minute horse-drawn stage ride. Purchase tickets at the Grey Barn on Forest Drive, near the Wawona Store. See page 9 for schedule. Five dollars for adults and $4 for children ages 3 to 12-years old.

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 schedule.

Mariposa Grove
Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees in the grove. Allow 1½ hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Trails into the grove extend uphill from the trailhead at the Mariposa Grove Arrival Area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the California Tree provide a self-guiding tour.

Nature Walk In The Mariposa Grove
Surround yourself by some of the rarest and most remarkable living things on the planet, giant sequoias! Take a walk through the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias with an interpretive ranger and get all your sequoia questions answered. This 1.5 hour program is offered daily at 10am and 2pm. See page 9 for more programs information.

Free Shuttle to the Mariposa Grove
A free shuttle provides service from the Mariposa Grove Welcome Plaza, to the Mariposa Grove, from 8am to 8pm, departing every 10 minutes. Private vehicles may only enter the Mariposa Grove when the shuttle bus is not operating. Only vehicles displaying an accessibility placard are permitted to drive into the Mariposa Grove at any time. There is no shuttle service between Wawona and the Mariposa Grove, for the general public. Pets are not allowed on trails in the Grove.

Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Map
Meet a ranger to enjoy the lengthening shadows in Yosemite Valley and the alpenglow (or moonrise) on the Sierra high country. Ranger walks, sunset talks, and stargazing programs are offered for your enjoyment at this stunning location. See table for times and information.

**Thursday**

8:00am JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM (Except Sep 6) 10 mins. Wawona Visitor Center (NPS)

10:00am – 1:00pm Blacksmithing Demonstration (Aug 28 Only) 1.5 hrs. Wawona Hotel (NPS) $5

2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1.5 hrs. Mariposa Grove Area (NPS) $5

5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Parking/Tom Bopp performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past in the Wawona Hotel lobby. Historical programs available by request are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the pioneer room before 8pm, while Tom's performing.

10:00am – 1:00pm Blacksmithing Demonstration (Aug 29 Only) 1.5 hrs. Wawona Hotel (NPS) $5

2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1.5 hrs. Mariposa Grove Area (NPS)

8:00pm Campfire Talk (Except Sep 20 and 27) 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

**Friday**

8:00am JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM (Aug 30 Only) 10 mins. Wawona Visitor Center (NPS)

10:00am – 1:00pm Blacksmithing Demonstration (Aug 30 Only) 1.5 hrs. Wawona Hotel (NPS) $5

2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1.5 hrs. Mariposa Grove Area (NPS)

5:00pm – 5:30pm Blacksmithing Demonstration (Aug 30 Only) Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS)

5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Parking/Tom Bopp performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past in the Wawona Hotel lobby. Historical programs available by request are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the pioneer room before 8pm, while Tom's performing.

10:00am – 1:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (Except Sep 6) 10 mins. each. Parking/Tickets at Grey Barn in Pioneer Yosemite History Center, $5 adult / $4 children ages 3-12. (NPS) $5

2:00pm – 5:00pm Blacksmithing Demonstration (Aug 30 Only) 1.5 hrs. Wawona Hotel (NPS) $5

5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Parking/Tom Bopp performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past in the Wawona Hotel lobby. Historical programs available by request are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the pioneer room before 8pm, while Tom's performing.

7:30pm Campfire Talk (Except Sep 20 and 27) 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

**Saturday**

9:00am Nature Walk with a Ranger (Aug 31 Only) 1.5 hrs. Each. Meet at the Redwoods in Yosemite Vacation Home Rentals office on Chinuama Falls Road. For questions (855) 290-3499 (NPS)

10:00am – 1:00pm Blacksmithing Demonstration (Aug 31 Only) 1.5 hrs. Wawona Hotel (NPS) $5

2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1.5 hrs. Mariposa Grove Area (NPS)

5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Parking/Tom Bopp performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past in the Wawona Hotel lobby. Historical programs available by request are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the pioneer room before 8pm, while Tom's performing.

7:30pm Campfire Talk (Except Sep 21 and 28) 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)

**Sunday**

2:00pm Ranger Walk - Short Walk to a Great View of El Capitan 1.5 hrs. Moderately difficult. Meet at Glacier Point Gift Shop. (NPS)

6:15pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Sep 22 and 29 Only) 30 mins. Glacier Point parking, overlooking Yosemite Valley and High Sierra. (NPS)

8:30pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Except Sep 22 and 29) 30 mins. Glacier Point parking, overlooking Yosemite Valley and High Sierra. (NPS)

8:30pm Stars Over Yosemite (Sep 1 Only) 1.5 hrs. Glacier Point amphitheater. Includes presentations and telescope viewing. A paid to sit/lie on and dress warm. Canceled if overcast. (NPS) $5

9:00pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Sep 2 Only) 1 hr. Discover 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. See Valley Services on pg. 5. Shuttle services available. (YH)

10:00am – 1:00pm Blacksmithing Demonstration (Sep 2 Only) 1.5 hrs. Wawona Hotel (NPS) $5

2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1.5 hrs. Mariposa Grove Area (NPS)

5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Parking/Tom Bopp performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past in the Wawona Hotel lobby. Historical programs available by request are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the pioneer room before 8pm, while Tom's performing.

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8:00pm Campfire Talk (Sep 1 Only) 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. Includes presentations and telescope viewing. A paid to sit/lie on and dress warm. Canceled if overcast. (NPS) $5

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10:00am – 1:00pm Blacksmithing Demonstration (Aug 28 Only) 1.5 hrs. Wawona Hotel (NPS) $5

2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1.5 hrs. Mariposa Grove Area (NPS)

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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 bathroom 100 feet away from water, trail, and camp areas; bury human waste six inches deep; pack out all toilet paper and trash.

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Open 9am to 5pm. Get park orientation, trail information, books, maps, programs and displays. Closes for the season Sep 27.

Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center
Open daily from 8am 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 south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

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 from 10am to 4pm. The Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs that attract birds and deer. Please stay on the trail to protect this unique place.

Ranger Walks
Join a FREE ranger program to explore new areas. Learn about geology, wildlife, history, wildflowers, the Tuolumne Meadows area and more. Most are easy walks.

Just For Kids
Programs for kids include Junior Rangers, 1.5- or 2-hour ranger-led program targeting ages 7-12, Little Cubs, a 45-minute program targeting ages 3-6, and a 1-hour Campfire for Kids. Check for special programs posted weekly.

Evening Activities
Come to a traditional, ranger-led campfire to experience 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 stargazing program. See page 11 for details.

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

Big Oak Flat
Big Oak Flat Information Station
Open daily from 8am to 5pm. The information station offers information about park activities, books, wilderness permits, trail information, bear canister rentals and maps. The center is located just inside the park entrance on Hwy 120W.

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 trail leads downhill from the parking area into the grove, and drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip is moderately strenuous. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile nature trail. Bring drinking water.

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, moderately strenuous hike (about three hours). Bring drinking water. 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.

The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River in Tuolumne Meadows. NPS Photo
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Grill</td>
<td>8am to 6pm</td>
<td>for residents and guests. Open to the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Dining Room</td>
<td>7am to 9pm</td>
<td>24-hr. Self-serve café. Located in the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GIFTS &amp; GROCERIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>GSMNP Visitor Center</td>
<td>9am to 5pm</td>
<td>Gift/Grocery Store. Located in the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TRANSPORTATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Crane Flat Service Station</td>
<td>6am to 9:30pm</td>
<td>for residents and guests. Open to the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INFORMATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TMVC Visitor Center</td>
<td>9am to 5pm</td>
<td>24-hr. Self-serve café. Located in the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GAS STATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GUIDED ADVENTURES</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures</td>
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**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS**

- **Wildflower Walks**
  - Backyard: Young Lakes area
  - Backyard: Lower Tuolumne area

- **Family Campfire**
  - Meet at Crane Flat Campground Amphitheater.

- **Wildlife Tours**
  - Meet at Crane Flat Campground Amphitheater.

- **Nature Hikes**
  - Meet at Crane Flat Campground Amphitheater.

- **Morning Meadow Sketch Walk**
  - Meet at Crane Flat Campground Amphitheater.

- **JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM**
  - Meet at Crane Flat Campground Amphitheater.

- **Hetch Hetchy, Hodgdon Meadow, & Crane Flat**
  - Meet at Crane Flat Campground Amphitheater.

**Hetch Hetchy, Hodgdon Meadow, & Crane Flat**

- **Join a Ranger for a traditional high-country campfire program.**
  - Meet at Crane Flat Campground Amphitheater.

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Just For Kids
Experience the Adventures of a Junior Ranger

Explore, Learn, and Protect!
Junior Rangers at Yosemite National Park take an oath to protect parks, continue to learn about the natural and cultural history at other parks, and vow to share their own ranger story with friends and family.

Here Is How YOU Can Become A Junior Ranger!
Every year, hundreds of thousands of youth are sworn in as Junior Rangers in National Parks across the country! At Yosemite alone more than 20,000 youth participate in the Yosemite Junior Ranger Program, earning themselves an official Junior Ranger patch and badge! You could become Yosemite’s newest Junior Ranger today by completing the following steps:

- Purchase your Junior Ranger or Little Cub Hand Book at any of the Yosemite Conservancy Bookstores located in park Visitor Centers, or at the Village Store
- Complete the pages in your Junior Ranger Booklet
- Pick up trash.
- Attend a Guided Program.
- Return your completed book and a bag of trash to the staff at a Visitor Center, or the Happy Isles Art and Nature Center, or attend a Junior Ranger Swear-in Ceremony.
- Take your official Junior Ranger Pledge.
- Earn your official Junior Ranger Badge along with a Junior Ranger Patch or a Little Cub Button.
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 makes 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). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Slow down! Driving too fast is almost always the cause of these accidental deaths.

Red Bear, Dead Bear

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

Please remember that Yosemite National Park is a wildlife preserve: by driving the speed limit, you may be dangerous. If attacked, fight back!

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.

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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, soaps, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FOOD STORAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your Vehicle</td>
<td>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 unattended food wrapped to the outside of a vehicle or in a pickup truck bed. 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!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</td>
<td>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 food canisters with inset lids that bears are unable to open. When used correctly, bears learn that—although they smell like food—the canisters are not worth investigating. Bears may enter campgrounds 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. Bears may be attracted by the smell of food near the food lockers. Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Areas &amp; on the Trails</td>
<td>Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm’s reach. Don’t turn your back to your food. Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert. Bears are opportunistic carnivores that primarily prey on small mammals. Like bears, their diets change throughout the year with food availability. 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 feed coyotes you see along the road. This encourages them to frequent roadsides to beg for food, endangering both coyotes and drivers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpacking in the Wilderness</td>
<td>Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite. In Yosemite and the southern Sierras, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food. Bears that become comfortable around 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.</td>
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<td>Red Bear, Dead Bear</td>
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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!
PROTECT YOURSELF...

Make safety a priority during your visit to Yosemite

AUTUMN CHANGES IN YOSEMITE
As the heat and excitement of the summer come to a close, changing seasons in Yosemite welcome in new possibilities for adventure and enjoyment. Shorter days and cooler temperatures provide a glimpse of the coming winter. With these changes, it is important to know your limits and to be prepared with the essentials when enjoying the myriad of outdoor recreation opportunities in Yosemite.

RIVERS, STREAMS, AND WATERFALLS
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 water or falling water from a safe distance.

Visitors are strongly urged to enjoy moving water or falling water from a safe distance. Rivers, streams, and waterfalls

FOR ALL SEASONS
• Stay on established trails - do not take shortcuts, ignore 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. If you are sweating, replace lost salts with salty, easy-to-digest snacks.
• “10 hiking essentials” - including a whistle, insect repellent with DEET, and a signaling method (mirror and whistle).

ALITUDE
The elevation of Yosemite Valley is around 4,000 feet, and Tuolumne Meadows hovers around 9,000 feet, which may leave you experiencing signs of altitude illness. The effects of altitude can lead to problems with judgment and physical performance and may even become life threatening. Altitude illness affects us equally, regardless of age, physical condition, and gender. The only cure for altitude illness is to lose elevation.

YOSEMITE’S ROADS
Yosemite’s roads have added hazards when compared to your roads at home. Rock fall, distracted motorists, and abundant wildlife, including deer and bear, to name a few. Moreover, there are many sites to distract you. If you cannot devote all of your attention to your driving, pull completely off the road into designated pull-outs. Buckle up! Park rangers enforce California’s Motor Vehicle Code on park roads.

WEATHER
Dehydration and exhaustion can occur during any season. You are particularly vulnerable during the lingering summer heat in lower elevation areas of the park. Always carry more water than you need and 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 replacing lost salts with salty, easy-to-digest snacks. During this season the high country may see its first storms, making it important to monitor weather forecasts while planning trips and making sure to be prepared with extra warm clothes in the event of cooler temperatures.

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Yosemite Search and Rescue prepare for a medical transport from the Ahwahnee Meadow. NPS Photo

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FOR ALL SEASONS
• Stay on established trails - do not take shortcuts, ignore 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. 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).

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 take steps to protect yourself from HPS. HPS risk is greater inside enclosures where deer mice are present. If staying in guest lodging, tell 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 containers. 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. For more information on hantavirus visit: www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.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. Never feed wildlife and avoid pitching a tent near or 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, and weakness. If you have these symptoms within 6 days of visiting an area at risk for plague, see your doctor and tell them you may have been exposed.

AVOID CONTACT WITH WILDLIFE
Wildlife in Yosemite can transmit diseases, including plague, rabies, and hantavirus. Keeping your distance and your food from wildlife not only protects them, it also protects you. If you encounter a mammal behaving erratically, don’t touch it. Report the sick animal to a park employee. Storing your food properly will reduce your exposure to rodents and their fleas, which may carry plague.

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Wilderness Permits Details
Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into Yosemite’s Wilderness. For summer trips, reservations are taken from 24 weeks to two days in advance of the start of your trip. A processing fee of $5 per permit plus $5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. Go to www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm to check trailhead availability and for more information on how to make a reservation. Reservations can be made online, by phone, or by mail. To make a reservation by phone, call (209) 372-0740, Mon-Fri from 8am to 5pm and Saturday from 9am to 4pm. After September 2, the phone lines will be open Mon-Fri from 8:30am to 4:30pm. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm, the Leave No Trace website at www.lnt.org, or the Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue website at www.friendofyosar.org.

Permit Required to Hike Half Dome
Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are required seven days a week through October 15, conditions permitting. A daily total of 225 preseason lottery permits have already been issued for 2019. 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 lotteries 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). 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 Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 11am to 6pm daily to non-motorized vessels or flotation devices.

- The Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices when the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher. Ask at a visitor center for conditions and obey all signs.
- You must have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device.
- Fallen trees and natural debris in the river create important habitat for wildlife, but can create hazards for rafters.

Fishing
Fishing in Yosemite is regulated by state law. A valid California sport-fishing license is required for persons age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible, attached above the waistline. Fishing from bridges in the park is not allowed. Additionally, Yosemite has special fishing regulations for the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers to protect native Rainbow trout:

- **Merced River** - From Happy Isles bridge to the western boundary of the Park:
  - Open to fishing from the last Saturday in April to November 15
  - Artificial lures only (no bait of any kind) with a single barbless hook may be used
  - Daily bag limit - zero (0) rainbow trout; five (5) brown trout per day
  - Possession bag limit - zero (0) rainbow trout; ten (10) brown trout in possession

- **Tuolumne River** - From O’Shaughnessy Dam downstream to Early Intake Diversion Dam:
  - From last Saturday in April to November 15
  - Maximum size limit of 12 total inches
  - Artificial lures only (no bait of any kind) with a single barbless hook may be used
  - Daily bag limit - two (2) trout per day
  - Possession bag limit - two (2) trout

- From November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April
  - Artificial lures only (no bait of any kind) with a single barbless hook may be used
  - Daily bag limit - zero (0) trout per day
  - Possession bag limit - zero (0) trout
  - The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibia, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited

Pets
Daytime temperatures can reach above 100 °Farenheit in the summer. Keep your pet cool and well-hydrated. In Yosemite:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on paved roads and paved bike paths. Pets are not allowed anywhere in the Mariposa or Merced Sequoia groves, on trails, or in wilderness areas.
- Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.
- Please deposit pet feces in trash receptacles.
- Pets are not allowed in lodging facilities. Camp 4, or other buildings in the park.
- Pets may not be left unattended.

Bicycling
Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails. Bikes are not allowed to travel off paved trails. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite.

Yosemite Guardians
Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. 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

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.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) is prohibited. Use of UAS can harm park resources and/or interfere with park operations.

**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.

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Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Camping

What you need to know about camping in Yosemite

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.

Camping Outside Yosemite

For information about U.S. Forest Service seasonal campgrounds near Yosemite, 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 2.

Campfires/Fireworks

You must practice fire safety while visiting. Know and understand current fire rules and restrictions. Make sure campfires are out cold before leaving by using the “drown, stir, and feel” method and remember fireworks are strictly prohibited.

GENERAL CAMPING INFORMATION

To check same-day camping availability, call (209) 372-0266.

Services

- Sites include picnic tables, firepits with grills, and a food locker (33” x 45” x 18”).
- Toilets available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat have non-flushing vault toilets only and no potable water.
- Showers and laundry facilities are available all year in Yosemite Valley.
- RVs over 24 feet in length are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat campgrounds. RVs are not permitted in walk-in and group campsites. There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer-only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows.

Regulations

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

Campfires

- 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, fires are permitted at any time, as long as they are attended.
- Firewood collection (including pine cones and pine needles) is not permitted in Yosemite Valley; you may purchase firewood at stores near the campgrounds.

Group Campgrounds

Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek have group campgrounds. Tents to 30 people are allowed in each group camp. Tent camping only. Pets, RVs, and generators are not permitted.

CAMPgrounds in yosemite National Park*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAMPGROUND</th>
<th>OPEN FOR</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>Yosemite Valley - Upper Pines</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>All Year</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley - Lower Pines</td>
<td>Apr 1 - Oct 27</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley - North Pines</td>
<td>Apr 1 - Oct 27</td>
<td>40 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite Valley - Camp 4</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>April 8 - Oct 1</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South - Wawona</td>
<td>Closed Oct 1 for construction</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>April 8 - Oct 1</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South - Bridalveil Creek</td>
<td>July 15 - Sep 23</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>April 8 - Oct 1</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North - Hodgdon Meadow</td>
<td>All year</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>30 ft</td>
<td>Apr 1 - Oct 1</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North - Crane Flat</td>
<td>Aug 1 - Oct 15</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North - Tamarack Flat</td>
<td>June 24 - Oct 15</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North - White Wolf</td>
<td>77 - Sep 23</td>
<td>27 ft</td>
<td>24 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North - Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>July 15 - Sep 3</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North - Porcupine Flat</td>
<td>July 26 - Oct 15</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North - Tuolumne Meadows</td>
<td>July 12 - Sep 23</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>35 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Top</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

NEW Camp 4 Daily Lottery

A Camp 4 pilot daily lottery is in effect until September 15 (last lottery will run September 14), and will return to first-come, first serve September 16. You must enter lottery for a chance to obtain a site and may no longer stand in line at Camp 4 for a site. The lottery opens at www.recreation.gov at 12:01am Pacific time the day before your intended arrival date and closes at 4pm Pacific time. A $10, non-refundable application fee is required. The lottery automatically matches applicants with the number of open camping spaces and charges for the number of nights indicated. All applicants will be notified by email as to whether or not they were successful. Each person (not just the primary applicant) must check in at the campground using a valid photo ID. Six people will be assigned to each campsite; people in one group may be assigned to different campgrounds. You can register for up to seven nights. Camp 4 is open all-year and sites are not wheelchair accessible.


camping in Y osemite Photos by Ray Santos
## 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 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, 6 to 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, 3 miles, loop around lake</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>3.4 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>7 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, 2 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,800-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Half Dome</td>
<td>Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16</td>
<td>7 miles round-trip, 2 to 5 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,000-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-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</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 - Meadow Loop</td>
<td>Wawona Hotel</td>
<td>3.5 miles round-trip, 1.5 hours</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawona - Swinging 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>Mariposa Grove - Big Trees Loop</td>
<td>Mariposa Grove Arrival Area</td>
<td>9.3 miles round-trip, 30 to 45 mins.</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariposa Grove - Grizzly Giant Loop Trail</td>
<td>Mariposa Grove Arrival Area</td>
<td>2.4 miles round-trip, 1.5 to 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glacier Point Area - 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>Glacier Point Area - 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 - 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>Tuolumne Meadows - 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>Tuolumne Meadows - John Muir Trail through Lyell Canyon</td>
<td>Dog Lake Parking Area</td>
<td>8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Easy, 200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows - 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>Tioga Road - Lukens Lake</td>
<td>White Wolf</td>
<td>5.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tioga Road - Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>Porcupine Creek</td>
<td>7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tioga Road - Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek</td>
<td>Lukens Lake Trailhead</td>
<td>10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours</td>
<td>Moderately Strenuous, 4,500 to 4,000-foot loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tioga Road - Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest</td>
<td>Tenaya Lake</td>
<td>19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hetch Hetchy Area - 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>

## Mirror Lake Loop

**Distance:** 5 miles / 8 kilometers  
**Elevation Gain:** 200 feet  
**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Time:** 2 to 3 hours  
**Trailhead:** Mirror Lake (shuttle stop #17)  
*Pets are not allowed on this loop trail*

**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 hikes 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.

**Know Before You Go:**
- Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.
- Stay away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards. Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions.
- Always supervise children closely.
- Avoid areas of whitewater, where streams flow over rocky obstructions.
- Never swim or wade upstream from a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Nearly every year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
Yosemite Facialift:
Climbing Stewardship in Yosemite

Every summer millions of people visit Yosemite National Park to experience and explore the world renowned scenery. And while most visitors arrive and leave with little or no trace, sometimes trash is left behind. Ken Yager, founder of the Yosemite Climbing Association and Yosemite area local, noticed the summer impact on the park and worried that winter snow and rain would make the trash harder to cleanup. Why not pull together a group of volunteers in the autumn to get the trash while it was still close to the road and campgrounds?

Starting in 2004, Yosemite Facialift has taken place every September in coordination with the National Public Lands Day. The week-long event started with a few climbers, passionate about taking care of a place they love, and has grown into the largest volunteer cleanup in the National Park Service (NPS). The event is still a partnership between Yosemite Climbing Association and the NPS, and now thousands of volunteers take time from sight-seeing to collect trash from the park’s most heavily visited areas.

Last year’s event logged 3,344 volunteers who put in over 11,700 hours of work. In total, 14,126 pounds of trash was collected, of which 8,745 was small trash. That’s a lot of toilet paper and cigarette butts! Synchronizing the event with National Public Lands Day means entrance fees to the park are waived. All National Park Sites will offer free admission this year on September 28, 2019. During the week, visitors to Yosemite will see people walking around the park with litter sticks and reflective vests.

In addition to cleaning up trash on the ground, Facialift Special Project cleanups utilize climbing techniques to access the vertical terrain of Yosemite. Many popular overlooks are adjacent to cliffs and trash from these over looks can collect in hard-to-access areas. Yosemite Climbing Rangers and volunteer Climber Stewards organize skilled teams to reach areas near Glacier Point, Half Dome, Vernal Fall, and Tunnel View. At Half Dome’s Cables Route, Facialift teams use ropes to rappel down the cliff to collect water bottles, cell phones, cameras and other items that have dropped from this famously exposed hike.

"When we learn about the extraordinary efforts that go into cleaning up the places we cherish, we are less likely to walk past a stray piece of trash."

The Yosemite Climbing Ranger program is generously supported by Yosemite Conservancy with an overarching mission of educating the visiting public and climbers regarding low impact climbing and stewardship in parks. The Yosemite Facialift is one of many avenues that they use to achieve those goals.

Since it began, climbers have used Facialift as an opportunity to clean climbing routes as well. Yosemite Valley is world renowned for the multi-day rock climbs that wind up its huge expanses of vertical rock. Like a backpacker in the wilderness, most climbers follow Leave No Trace ethics on multi-day rock climbs, but certain locations on El Capitan and other cliffs have collected trash during thousands of ascents.

The popular Nose route of El Capitan is a route often targeted for cleanup by climbers. The world famous route was first climbed in 1958 by Warren Harding, Wayne Merry, and George Whitmore. The modern average team spends 3 to 5 days on the route, spending nights on small ledges as they ascend the wall. Near the top of the route is one such ledge, known as Camp VI. A deep crack at the back of the ledge collects accidental and intentional trash. When the first "Nose Wipe" cleanup took place in 2006 detritus had all but filled the crack. Multiple Facialift cleanups later, and the crack has little to no trash left. The hope of these clean-ups is that restoring natural places will inspire everyone to keep them clean in the future.

Did You Know...

- Yosemite Facialift is the largest organized volunteer cleanup of any national park.
- Yosemite Facialift is a park-wide volunteer event that was started by the Yosemite Climbing Association in 2004 to encourage climbers and other visitors to clean up the park at the end of the busy summer season.
- September 24th to 30th, 2019, will be the 16th Annual Facialift.
- Using ropes, Climbing Rangers and Climber Stewards clean up hard to access areas below visitor overlooks and on cliffs.
- Evening Programs during Facialift feature slideshows from local and international climbers.
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's environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world's environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world's environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world's environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world's environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world's environment.

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.

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

Yosemite Conservancy
Yosemite Conservancy inspires people to support projects and programs that preserve Yosemite National Park and enrich the visitor experience. Thanks to generous donors, the Conservancy has provided $119 million in grants to the park to restore trails and habitat, protect wildlife, provide educational programs, and more. The Conservancy's guided adventures, volunteer opportunities, wilderness services and bookstores help visitors of all ages connect with Yosemite. Learn more: yosemiteconservancy.org or (415) 434-1782.

Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite
Over 10,714 volunteers donated more than 139,520 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. Toss excess packaging before leaving home by repacking food in reusable containers.

Yosemite Name Changes
The names of the following facilities in Yosemite have changed:
- Curry Village (formerly Half Dome Village)
- The Ahwahnee (formerly The Majestic Yosemite Hotel)
- Wawona Hotel (formerly Big Trees Lodge)
- Badger Pass Ski Area (formerly Yosemite Ski & Snowboard 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.