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

### Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stop #</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yosemite Village Parking</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>The Ahwahnee</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Yosemite Valley Visitor Center</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
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<td>Yosemite Valley Lodge</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Glacier Point Parking</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Yosemite Village</td>
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### Snow and Ice Conditions

Service to shuttle stops #15 - #19 may stop due to snow and ice.
Things to Do

Winter in Yosemite

**WINTER SPORTS**

**Badger Pass Ski Area**
The Badger Pass Ski Area opens on December 13, conditions permitting. Live information on winter sports is available by calling (209) 372-8430; recorded information is available at (209) 372-1000. See page 6 for service hours.

**Badger Pass A-Frame**
Open 9am to 4pm, seven days a week when the Badger Pass Ski Area is open. Wilderness permits for the Glacier Point area, Ostrander Hut check-in, and cross-country ski trail information available. It's also the starting point for ranger led snowshoe walks, weather and conditions permitting.

**Badger Pass Shuttle (FREE)**
The free shuttle service to and from the Badger Pass Ski Area begins December 13, weather and road conditions permitting. The Badger Pass shuttle arrival and departure times are subject to change due to traffic and weather conditions.

**Shuttle Schedule**
Yosemite Valley to Badger Pass Departures
Curry Village - 8:05am and 10:35am
Yosemite Village (YTS) - 8:18am and 10:40am
Ahwahnee Hotel - 8:15am and 10:45am
Yosemite Valley Lodge - 8:30am and 11am

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

**Ice Skating**
Take the shuttle to Curry Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. See page 6 for ice rink hours.

**Ice Skating**

**CAMPING**

**Crane Flat Snow Play Area**
A snow play area is open at Crane Flat Campground in winter when enough snow is present. Please do not sled onto roadways!

**Walking and Hiking**
Yosemite Valley has a wide range of year-round walking and hiking possibilities. Stop by Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for trail maps and updated weather and trail conditions.

**PROGRAMS AND GUIDED ADVENTURES**

**Naturalist Programs**
Naturalists give programs about Yosemite’s natural and cultural history every day. See page 5 for scheduled programs. For additional information, check local listings at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center or at the Yosemite Valley Lodge Tours & Activity Desks.

**Tours**
The Valley Floor Tour is a two-hour, guided tour of Yosemite Valley. It departs several times daily from Yosemite Valley Lodge, weather permitting. Call (209) 372-1241 or visit the Tours & Activity Desk at Yosemite Valley Lodge between 7:30am and 3pm.

**Adventure Out With Yosemite Mountainaingear School**
Yosemite Mountainaingear 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 Nordic skiers and snowshoe trips. Reservations required. Call (209) 372-8444 or email yms@aramark.com.

**Take A Photography Class**
Enjoy the beauty of winter in Yosemite. Join a photography expert from The Ansel Adams Gallery and learn how to best capture the landscape. Several classes are offered weekly. Custom photography guides available upon request. See page 5 for scheduled classes.

**Yosemite Conservancy Adventures**
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 snowshoe hike or field school excursion, or create a Custom Adventure tailored to your interests and schedule. For details, visit yosemite.org/experience, or call (209) 379-2317 ext. 10. See page 5 for upcoming adventures.

**OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY**

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

**Tuolumne Grove**
The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 mature sequoias is near the Big Oak Flat and Tioga road intersection at Crane Flat. The moderately strenuous trail leads downhill from the parking area into the grove and drops 400 feet (150 meters) in one mile. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you.

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

**Yosemite’s Quietest Stand of Sequoias**

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**Tuolumne Grove**
The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 mature sequoias is near the Big Oak Flat and Tioga road intersection at Crane Flat. The moderately strenuous trail leads downhill from the parking area into the grove and drops 400 feet (150 meters) in one mile. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10.

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

**yosemite.org**

**Experience Your America Yosemite National Park**

**Yosemite's Quietest Stand of Sequoias**

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**Tuolumne Grove**
The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 mature sequoias is near the Big Oak Flat and Tioga road intersection at Crane Flat. The moderately strenuous trail leads downhill from the parking area into the grove and drops 400 feet (150 meters) in one mile. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10.

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

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**Tuolumne Grove**
The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 mature sequoias is near the Big Oak Flat and Tioga road intersection at Crane Flat. The moderately strenuous trail leads downhill from the parking area into the grove and drops 400 feet (150 meters) in one mile. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10.

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

**yosemite.org**
Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Entrance Fees
Non-commercial car, truck, RV, or van with 15 or fewer passenger seats (per-person fee)

Vehicle: Valid for 7 days $35/vehicle

Motorcycle: Valid for 7 days $30/motorcycle

Individual: Valid for 7 days $20 (in a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse).

Yosemite Pass $70
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 Pass $20 (Lifetime) For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

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

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

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

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

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

Group Sales Office: (888) 339-3481 www.travelyosemite.com

(888) 413-8869

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

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 Visitor Bureau
(559) 683-4636 www.yosemitebyyear.com

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
(209) 783-5529

Highway 140/49
California Welcome Center, Merced
(800) 446-5335 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.leeving.com

Yosemite Winter Weather and Driving

Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

In the event of heavy rainfall, road conditions may become hazardous, especially in areas recently burned by the Ferguson Fire. The risk of rockfalls, debris flows, and mudslides increases after a fire, mainly because of vegetation loss and increased runoff. High-risk areas for rock falls and debris flows are located within burned areas along the Highway 140 and 41 corridors. Be aware, drive cautiously, and obey posted signs and closures.

Chain Control Information:

Winter road conditions through Yosemite National Park may require tire chains. It is possible that your route will take you from an elevation of 3,000 feet up to an elevation of 7,000 feet in just a few miles, and road conditions can vary widely with the terrain. For updated 24-hour road and weather conditions for Yosemite National Park, please call (209) 372-0200.

You are required to have and carry chains or traction devices in your vehicle any time you see a “Chains Required” sign. Speed limit is 25 MPH. Signs will indicate when chains must be installed on your tires. Here is a short explanation of chain control signs on Yosemite roads.

R1 - This sign indicates that all vehicles without mud and snow tires are required to install traction devices. Vehicles that have mud and snow tires do not need to have traction devices on but must carry chains. All vehicles towing trailers must have chains on one drive axle. Trailers with brakes must have chains on at least one trailer axle.

R2 - This sign indicates that chains or traction devices must be installed on all vehicles except 4-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicles with mud and snow tires. Four-wheel drive vehicles do not need traction devices installed but must have 4-wheel drive engaged.

R3 - This sign indicates that ALL vehicles are required to install traction devices, regardless of having mud and snow tires or 4-wheel/all-wheel drive capability, NO EXCEPTIONS.

*Mud and snow tires are commonly indicated by an “M+S” icon on the side of the tire.

*Be sure to install traction devices on the drive axle of your vehicle.
Yosemite Valley

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

Glacier Point Road

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and Yosemite's high country, is located 30 miles (1 hour) from Yosemite Valley. The road stays open as weather permits, however, overnight parking along it ends October 15. Glacier Point Road closes beyond the Badger Pass Ski Area after the first significant snow fall. When the road is snow-covered and conditions permit, a system of cross-country ski tracks are maintained on it. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail leads you to a stunning view looking into Yosemite Valley.

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 station. While the Mariposa Grove Road closes to cars in the winter, approximately from the end of November until mid-March, the road is open to hikers, snowshoers, and skiers, and all trails in the grove remain open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. 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.

Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

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

Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

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

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area’s low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles (1 ½ hour) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 8am to 5pm through March 31. Self-registration wilderness permits for the Hetch Hetchy trailheads only are available at the kiosk. Vehicles and/or trailers over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not permitted on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.
Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore
The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore are open from 9am to 5pm. They are located west of the main post office, near shuttle stops #5 and #9. The facility offers information, maps, and books. Explore the exhibits and learn how Yosemite’s landscape formed and how people interact with it.

YOSEMITE FILMS
Two films are shown daily, every half-hour, in the Theater behind the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. The Spirit of Yosemite plays on the half-hour, in the Theater behind the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Gathering of Spirit plays on the hour and film is at 4:30pm. Ken Burns’ Yosemite: A Natural History, performed by the National Park Foundation, is shown twice daily. The first showing is at noon. The last showing begins at 9:30am, except on Sundays. Two films are shown daily, every half-hour, in the Theater behind the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

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

YOSEMITE MUSEUM EXHIBITS

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

INFORMATION, ART, AND EXHIBITS

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

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

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

YOSEMITE MUSEUM EXHIBITS

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

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT
Explore the cultural history of Yosemite’s Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. Visit with Indian Cultural Demonstrators and see demonstrations of traditional skills such as stone tool making, basket weaving, beadwork, flutes, etc. Open daily from 9am – 5pm. May close for lunch.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM EXHIBITS

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

32 Degrees of Winter
- Images by Resident Photographers

To Ansel Adams, furthering the art and education of photography was paramount. He advocated the importance of bringing new and younger minds into the field. He encouraged them to seek original ways of interpreting the world as they saw it through their lens. As the popularity of photography grew throughout the late 20th century, The Ansel Adams Gallery brought in permanent staff photographers to become onsite educators available to park guests looking to learn more about their cameras and the visual mysteries of the park. The benefits were mutual, with visitors liberally absorbing knowledge about photography in a place stepped in photographic tradition, while the staff had year-round access to a big back yard of natural wonders.

Opening at The Ansel Adams Gallery on January 5, 2020, and running through February 22, 2020, 32 Degrees of Winter explores an array of contemporary work made by our full-time instructors and staff members as they have come to see the most enigmatic season of the year. Pieces on display will consist of platinum prints and digital photographs, and all original. Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery
Open daily from 9am to 5pm (10am to 5pm beginning January 1), the gallery offers works of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other artists. Call (209) 372-4211 or visit www.anseladams.com for more details. Closes at 3pm December 24, closed December 25.

EXHIBIT
November 17, 2019 – January 4, 2020 Light on the Landscape - Photographs by William Neill

In 1977, photographer William Neill found his life’s path redirected when he moved to Yosemite to work for the National Park Service. Not long after this, he began working at The Ansel Adams Gallery as a staff photographer, teaching visitors all he could about the art form and the place that he loved. Mr. Neill has said that: “Perhaps one of the greatest joys of being a photographer to me is to see the light on the landscape, seeing its daily cycles change with each season and shift with each day’s weather. I revel in the light. I am its disciple.” While other itinerant interests would take him on adventures far and wide, from the American Southwest to the Himalayas to Antarctica, he would make Yosemite his permanent home.

His life in photography since has been an amazing journey as witnessed by the incredible and intimate imagery that has resulted, as well as the numerous books and articles written in the process. Between November 17, 2019, and January 4, 2020, The Ansel Adams Gallery will be exhibiting “Light on the Landscape - Photographs by William Neill” featuring work made throughout an illustrious career. A reception with the artist will be held on Saturday, November 23 from 1pm to 3pm, on what will no doubt be a beautiful autumn day in the park!

NEW EXHIBIT
January 5 – February 22
32 Degrees of Winter - Images by Resident Photographers

Search NPS-Yosemite in app stores or at nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit in app stores or at nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit to download the official park app for up-to-date listings of programs, services, an interactive map, and more!


Events and Programs

Schedule

Yosemite Conservancy Adventures

Experience the park in a new way with Yosemite Conservancy’s naturalist guides!

Dec 14  Sequoia Stroll in Mariposa Grove*
Jan 25  Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Views from Dewey Point
Feb 1  Yosemite Field School: Winter Wildlife in Mariposa Grove*
Feb 8  Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Views from Dewey Point
Feb 22  Winter Wonder: Tuolumne Grove and Crane Flat

*Adventures marked with (*) take place in locations other than Yosemite Valley.

You could become Yosemite’s newest Junior Ranger by completing the following steps:

- Purchase a Junior Ranger or Little Cub Hand Book
- Attend a guided program
- Complete the pages in your hand book
- Pick up trash
- Return your completed book and a bag of trash to the staff at a Visitor Center
- Take your official Junior Ranger Pledge
- Receive a Junior Ranger Badge and a Junior Ranger Patch or Little Cub Button.

Visit yosemite.org/experience or call (209) 379-2317 ext. 10 to learn more, see all upcoming programs and sign up. Proceeds from all our programs help preserve and protect Yosemite.

TIME | PROGRAMS | DURATION | EXCEPTION DATES | LOCATION | SU | M | T | W | TH | F | SA
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
9:00am | Camera Walk | Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) | 1.5 hrs. | Yosemite Valley X X X
9:00am | Adventure Hike – Dewey Point Snowshoe | Tickets/vtol at any tour desk. Badger Pass Nordic Center. (YH) | 6.5 hrs. Except Dec 4-21 | Badger Pass X X
10:00am | JUNIOR RANGER TALK | Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) | 15 mins. | Yosemite Valley X X X
10:00am | Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter | (conditions permitting) Meet at Badger Pass Ranger Station for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing. Snowshoes provided. (NPS) | 2 hrs. Except Dec 4-21 | Badger Pass X X X X X
2:00pm | Historic Ahwahnee Hotel Tour | Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind The Ahwahnee. Meet at the The Ahwahnee hotel concierge desk. (YH) | 1 hr. | Yosemite Valley X X X X X
3:00pm | Collector’s Fine Print Viewing | Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) | 1 hr. | Yosemite Valley X
3:30pm | Naturalist Stroll | Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on The Ahwahnee hotel back lawn. (YH) | 1 hr. | Yosemite Valley X X X X X X
5:30pm | EVENING PROGRAM | Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite’s past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30 pm. To request a program, drop by the piano before 8 pm, while Tom is performing. | 4 hrs. Drop-in anytime Dec 13 - Jan 4 Only, Except Dec 25 | Wawona X X X X
7:00pm | Ranger Evening Program | Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. See local listings for topic (NPS) | 1 hr. | Yosemite Valley X
7:00pm | Evening Program | Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) | 1 hr. | Yosemite Valley X X
7:00pm | FIRESIDE STORYTELLING | Gather by the fire and listen to the stories of Yosemite’s past and present! Meet at The Ahwahnee hotel. (YH) | 1 hr. | Yosemite Valley X
7:00pm | Film - Ansel Adams: Photographer | Check local listings for venue. (TAAG) | 1 hr. | Yosemite Valley X
7:00pm | FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE | No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) | 2 hrs. | Jan 7-10 Only | Badger Pass X X X X
7:30pm | NIGHT PROBE | Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. See pg. 6 for locations. (YH) $ | 1 hr. | Yosemite Valley X
7:30pm | Film - Ansel Adams: Photographer | Yosemite Valley Lodge, check local listings for venue. (TAAG) | 1 hr. | Yosemite Valley X
8:00pm | NIGHT PROBE | Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. See pg. 6 for locations. (YH) $ | 1 hr. | Yosemite Valley X X X X X X
8:30pm | STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE | Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. See pg. 6 for locations. (YH) $ | 1 hr. | Yosemite Valley X X X X X X

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

Ranger Walks - 2pm
All programs, except Thursdays, begin in Yosemite Valley, near shuttle stop #5/#9.

Sunday: Merced Meanders
Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
Monday: Yosemite’s First People
Front of Yosemite Museum
Tuesday: Geology
Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
Wednesday: Inspiring Generations
Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
Thursday: Trees
The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3
Friday: Discover Yosemite
Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
Saturday: Ahwahnechee Lifeways
Front of Yosemite Museum

Photography Classes - 1pm
Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery, located in Yosemite Valley, near shuttle stop #5/#9.

Monday & Wednesday: Ansel Adams’ Legacy and Your Digital Camera (4 hrs.) $

Tuesday: In the Field: Creative Smartphone Photography (2 hrs.) $

Tuesday & Saturday: In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams (4 hrs.) $

Thursday: Using Your Digital Camera (4 hrs.) $
Services in Yosemite

**Food and Drink**

**YOSEMITE VILLAGE**
- **Degnan’s Kitchen**
  - 7am to 6pm
- **The Loft at Degnan’s**
  - 7am to 10am
  - Lunch: 11am to 2pm
  - Dinner: 5:30pm to 9:30pm
- **Mountain Room Bar**
  - Monday - Friday: 5pm to 10pm
  - Saturday & Sunday: Noon to 10pm
  - Includes: Special Events, Sporting Events, and Sundays on Holiday Weekends;
  - New Year’s Eve: Noon to 1am
- **Mountain Room Restaurant**
  - Dinner: 5pm to 9pm
- **Curry Village**
  - Pizza Deck
  - Dec 13 to Jan 3:
    - Noon to 9pm Daily
    - Beginning Jan 3:
      - Friday: 5pm to 9pm
      - Saturday: Noon to 9pm
  - Coffee Corner
    - 6:30am to 11am Daily
    - Beginning Jan 3, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays only.
- **Wawona Area**
  - Wawona Hotel
    - Open Dec 13 through Jan 5
  - Breakfast: 6:30am to 10:45am
  - Lunch: 11am to 4:30pm
  - Dinner: 4:30pm to 8pm
  - Mountain Room Bar
    - Monday - Friday: 5pm to 9pm
    - Saturday & Sunday: Noon to 10pm
    - Includes: Special Events, Sporting Events, and Sundays on Holiday Weekends;
    - New Year’s Eve: Noon to 1am
- **Mountain Room Restaurant**
  - Dinner: 5pm to 9pm
- **Coffee Corner**
  - 6:30am to 11am Daily
  - Beginning Jan 3, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays only.

**YOSEMITE VILLAGE**
- **Village Store**
  - 8am to 8pm
- **YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE**
  - Gift/Grocery
    - 8am to 8pm
  - Gift/Grocery
    - 8am to 8pm
  - **Wawona**
    - Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
      - 8am to 6pm,
      - Closes at 7pm from Dec 13 - Jan 5

**Gas Stations**

**YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE**
- **Gift/Grocery**
  - 8am to 8pm
  - **Wawona**
    - Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
      - 8am to 6pm,
      - Closes at 7pm from Dec 13 - Jan 5

**Post Offices**

**YOSEMITE VILLAGE**
- **Main Office**
  - Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
  - Saturday: 10am to noon
  - **YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE**
    - Monday - Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm
  - **EL PORTAL**
    - Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
    - Closed for lunch from 12:30pm to 1:30pm
  - **Wawona**
    - Monday - Friday: 9am to 5pm
    - Saturday: 9am to noon

**Books, Gifts, & Apparel**

**YOSEMITE VILLAGE**
- **YOSEMITE Conservancy Bookstore at Yosemite Valley Visitor Center**
  - 9am to 5pm
- **Yosemite Museum Store**
  - 9am to 5pm
  - May close for lunch
- **The Ansel Adams Gallery**
  - 9am to 5pm
  - 10am to 5pm, beginning January 1
  - Close at 3pm on Dec 24, closed Dec 25

**Groceries**

**YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE**
- **Gift/Grocery**
  - 8am to 8pm
  - **Wawona**
    - Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
      - 8am to 6pm,
      - Closes at 7pm from Dec 13 - Jan 5

**Recreation**

**YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE**
- **Gift/Grocery**
  - 8am to 8pm
  - **Mountain Shop**
    - 8:30am to 6:30pm
  - **Wawona**
    - Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
      - 8am to 8pm
  - **MARIPOSA GROVE**
    - Yosemite Conservancy Depot at Mariposa Grove
      - 9am to 5pm, closes for the season Dec 15
  - **BADGER PASS SKI AREA**
    - Sport Shop
      - 9am to 4pm, beginning Dec 13

**General Services**

**Medical Clinic - Yosemite Valley**
- (209) 372-4637
  - For emergency care CALL 9-1-1
- Monday - Friday: 8am to 5pm
- Closed weekends and federal holidays

**Laundry (Housekeeping Camp)**
- 8am to 10pm

**Shower House (Curry Village)**
- Open 24 hours

**YOSEMITE Village Garage**
- 8am to noon
  - 11am to 5pm
  - Towing available 24 hours
- Propane available until 4:30pm

**Religious Services**

**Church of Christ**
- Non-denominational
  - El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am
  - Info: 209-373-2500

**Yosemite Community Church**
- Pastor Brent Moore: Resident Minister
  - (209) 372-4831 • www.YosemiteVillageChapel.org
- Sunday Service: 9:15am
- Sunday Evening: 6:30pm

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
- Tuesday, December 24 at 4:30pm

**New Years Eve Watch Night Service**
- Tuesday, December 31 at 10:30pm

**Shuttle stop #5 or #9**
- Visitor Center Theater

**El Portal Chapel / Worship**
- Sunday: 11am

**Oakhurst Hotline**
- (559) 683-1662

**BADGER PASS SKI AREA**
- 7:30am to 3pm (after hours service available at Front Desk)

**YOSEMITE Valley Lodge**
- **Gift/Grocery**
  - 8am to 8pm
  - **Mountain Shop**
    - 8:30am to 6:30pm
  - **Wawona**
    - Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
      - 8am to 8pm
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  - **EL PORTAL**
    - Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
    - Closed for lunch from 12:30pm to 1:30pm
  - **Wawona**
    - Monday - Friday: 9am to 5pm
    - Saturday: 9am to noon
Permit Information
Camping, Hiking, and Wilderness Use

Wilderness Permits
Wilderness permits are required year round for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Permits are issued and bear canisters are available for rent in Yosemite Valley during hours of operation. Self-registration permits are available at the Hill's Studio in Wawona, Big Oak Flat Information Station and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. 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/backpacking.htm or the Leave No Trace website at www.lnt.org, or the Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue website at www.friendsofyosar.org for more information on wilderness travel and safety please see page 8.

YOSEMITE VALLEY
Wilderness permits for Yosemite Valley trailheads are available at the Visitor Center daily from 9am to 5pm. Bear canisters are also available for rent at the bookstore. For information on wilderness travel and regulations, please see page 8.

WAWONA AND MARIPOSA GROVE
Self-registration wilderness permits for the Wawona and Glacier Point Road trailheads only are available on the front porch of Hill's Studio. Please come prepared with your own bear canister. Hill’s Studio is located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, walk from the hotel or park at the store and follow the path uphill.

BIG OAK FLAT
Self-registration wilderness permits for the Crane Flat area and Tioga Road trailheads only are available on the front porch of Hill's Studio. Please come prepared with your own bear canister. The center is located just inside the park entrance on Hwy 120W.

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</td>
<td>2.5 miles round-trip, 2 days</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.0 miles round-trip, 7 days</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>2.5 miles round-trip, 2 days</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.0 miles round-trip, 7 days</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)</td>
<td>Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17</td>
<td>2.5 miles round-trip, 2 days</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall/Chilnualna</td>
<td>Vernal Fall Shuttle Stop #18</td>
<td>1.0 miles round-trip, 7 days</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>2.5 miles round-trip, 2 days</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6</td>
<td>1.0 miles round-trip, 7 days</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GLACIER POINT
Self-registration wilderness permits for the Glacier Point Road trailheads only are available at the Badger Pass Ranger Station.

HETCH HETCHY
Self-registration wilderness permits for the Hetch Hetchy trailheads only are available at the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station daily from 8am to 5pm. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

Half Dome Permit Information
The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be back up by May 22, 2020 through October 13, 2020, conditions permitting. Permits are required 7 days, a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2019 permits begins March 1, 2020 and ends March 31, 2020. To apply for permits visit www.recreation.gov or call (877) 444-6777. More information about the Half Dome permit process is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.

Camping
Upper Pines, Camp 4, Wawona (closed this winter for sewer work), and Hodgdon Meadow are open year-round. For more information on campground opening dates, visit our website at nps.gov/yose. Call (209) 372-0266 for same-day camping availability. Sleeping in vehicles and frontcountry camping are only permitted in designated campites.

CAMPING Reservatons
In Yosemite Valley’s rock campgrounds, reservations are recommended December through February, and required March through November. Outside the valley, reservations are required for all fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and 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 7 am Pacific time. Log onto the website or call as soon as possible as some campgrounds fill within a few minutes of the opening period.

For campground reservations, visit www.recreation.gov (recommended) or call (877) 444-6777 or TDD (877) 433-6777 or (518) 885-3639 from outside the US and Canada.

Call Center Hours:
7am to 7pm Pacific time (November - February)
7am to 9pm Pacific time (March - October)

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

General Camping Information
Services
• All sites include picnic tables, firepits with grills, and a food locker (33” dx 45”w x 18”h). See page 9 for food storage regulations.
• Shower and laundry facilities are available in Yosemite Valley.
• There are no hookees 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 10 pm to 6 am.
• Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

Campfires
• In Yosemite Valley between May 1 and September 30, campfires are permitted between 5 pm and 10 pm. 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 permitted within the boundaries of campgrounds in Yosemite Valley, and can otherwise be gathered anywhere in the park that is outside Yosemite Valley, below 9,600 feet, and not in a sequoia grove.

*Trails may be closed due to unsafe conditions. Ask for a ranger for current conditions and heed all warning and closure signs!
WEATHER
Your best approach to the weather is to check the latest forecast and always be prepared for all extremes. Dress in layers so that you can adjust to weather changes. Weather in mountainous climates, like Yosemite, varies drastically depending on elevation, with temperatures cooling by as much as five degrees for every 1,000 feet of elevation gain; a moderate rain in the Valley can be a white-out blizzard with just a short drive or hike.

NAVIGATION
Snow blanketed terrain can quickly cause disorientation. Winter specific trails are marked with a blaze. Always keep at least one marker or reference point in sight. Carry a good map and compass (or GPS) and always know your location.

YOSEMITE’S TRAILS
Know before you go! Some trails and trail segments may be closed due to weather or other hazards, check ahead at the visitor center during business hours and obey all signage. All trails can be icy or wet—use tools that are helpful to you! Trekking poles, crampons, or other footwear traction can help with preventing a serious fall.

FOR ALL SEASONS
• Let someone know – always leave travel and hiking plans, including intended routes and estimated time of return, with a trusted person.
• Stay on established trails
• River, streams and lakes can be hazardous all year. Maintain awareness and crossing water should only be attempted where it is safe.
• Regardless of season you still need to stay hydrated and snack frequently! If you are sweating, replace lost salts with salty, easy-to-digest snacks.
• *10 hiking essentials* – including sunglasses, sunscreen, and a signaling method (mirror and whistle).

WILDERNESS ETIQUETTE: USING YOUR BACKWOODS BATHROOM
When nature calls, make sure you are at least 200 feet away from any water source. Dig a hole in dirt at least 6 inches deep so you’re able to bury your waste—your toilet paper gets packed out with you. Don’t bury it or try to burn it! If you are in snow and can’t dig a hole to soil you are expected to pack out your waste as well.

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 contact with these rodents. HPS risk is greater inside of buildings or other enclosures where deer mice are present. If staying in guest lodging, please tell the housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your accommodations. Do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors to guest lodging shut and do not bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. If you are camping and backpacking, do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings. HPS often begins with flu-like symptoms such as aches, fever, and chills one to seven weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and difficulty in breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms and mention any potential rodent exposures to your physician. For more information on hantavirus and other environmental safety hazards visit: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/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 animals, including humans. To protect yourself from plague, never feed wildlife, avoid dropping food when eating outside, avoid pitching a tent near or disturbing rodent burrows, wear insect repellent with DEET, and immediately tell a park ranger if you see a dead animal.

Early symptoms of plague may include fever, chills, nausea, painful swelling at the site of an insect bite or lymph node, and other flu-like symptoms. If you develop any of these symptoms within 6 days of visiting an area at risk for plague, see your doctor and inform your physician. For more information on treating with antibiotics if given in time.

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Keep Bears Wild
With warmer spring weather, bears emerge hungry from hibernation. Please, keep Yosemite's black bears wild and alive, while protecting yourself and your property.

STORE YOUR FOOD PROPERLY
The typical daily diet of most bears may consist of 4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, acorns, and grubs. It's easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling on 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 see in color, so they recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.

DRIVE THE SPEED LIMIT
The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Slow down! Driving too fast is almost always the cause of these accidental deaths. Please report bear sightings by calling (209) 372-0322.

IF YOU SEE A BEAR...
...scare it away or keep your distance. You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away. Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there are more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky— but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed. Report bear sightings and incidents to the Save-A-Bear hotline (209) 372-0322 or by emailing yose_bear_mgmt@nps.gov. For more information about bears in Yosemite please visit www.keepbearswild.org.

How to Store Food
“Food” includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This includes items you may not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed dishes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FOOD STORAGE</th>
<th>WHY?</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 all food-wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in the baby seats.</td>
<td>Keep food away from bears and wildlife.</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 RVs with windows closed.</td>
<td>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>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.</td>
<td>Bears may enter campgrounds when people are present, and some will even smash 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry in the Wilderness</td>
<td>Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite.</td>
<td>Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present; be alert.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yosemite Guardians
Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. With nearly 4 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be!

During your visit, be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:
- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items, such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Biking off of paved roads
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons inside federal facilities
- Possessing or using marijuana, including medical marijuana
- Operating an unmanned aircraft system (“drone”)

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and call the park dispatch office at (209) 379-1992.

E-BIKES
E-bikes with two or three wheels, fully operable pedals, and electric motors less than 750 watts (1 horsepower) are allowed on roads open to cars, as well as on Happy Isles Road and Mirror Lake Road. They are not allowed on bike paths or trails.

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, 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.

Yosemite National Park Zero Landfill Initiative
Be a steward of Yosemite by helping make Yosemite the first Zero Landfill park in the country. Through the Zero Landfill Initiative, Yosemite National Park is reducing the amount of trash that goes to the landfill every year. In partnership with Yosemite Hospitality, we are making it easier for visitors and staff to participate by adding more recycling containers with better labels. We are also working to reduce the amount of waste we generate in park management operations.

Here are 3 things you can do to help:
1. Get rid of excess packaging by repackaging food in reusable containers before you leave home.
3. Put trash and recycling in the right containers.
Yosemite’s Glacial Story

Story by Park Geologist Greg Stock

Yosemite is an iconic glacial landscape that preserves the story of past and present climatic changes. Although there are now only small ice patches clinging to the slopes of Yosemite’s highest peaks, previously there were huge expanses of ice that covered more than two-thirds of Yosemite National Park. Glaciers have advanced and retreated over Yosemite’s terrain many times over the past few million years, leaving evidence of their passage that is still visible today.

Glaciers are among the most powerful geologic forces, yet they are formed from tiny snowflakes. As snow accumulates, it compacts to ice; as the ice becomes thicker, it flows downhill, much as honey flows down a tilted plate. In the summer, thin films of meltwater collect underneath the glacier, reducing friction and allowing the ice to skid over the bedrock below. By these mechanisms, large glaciers can move several feet each day. As they slide along, glaciers quarry rock fragments that become embedded in the ice, acting as grit in something akin to a giant deck with abrasive sandpaper dragging across the topography. These erosional processes can strip away vast quantities of rock.

The most recent glacial period, known locally as the Tioga glaciation, occurred about 15,000 years ago. This was a globally cold period, causing glaciers around the world to expand. In North America, glaciers covered the entire northeastern United States and upper Midwest, with ice extending as far south as Indiana and Ohio. In the Sierra Nevada, mountain icefields fed valley glaciers that flowed down canyons into the foothills.

During the Tioga glaciation, a great icefield covered the Tuolumne Meadows region to a depth of nearly 2,000 feet. As the glaciers scraped along, the ridges and knobs beneath the ice were smoothed and rounded, whereas the sides of peaks that projected above the ice became sharpened and pointed. Ice spilled from the Tuolumne region down Tenaya Canyon to Yosemite Valley, joining with another large glacier near Half Dome. The combined power of these glaciers widened the valley and steepened the cliffs, leaving behind the vertical granite walls now so popular with rock climbers.

Glaciers also excavated a deep hole in the eastern portion of Yosemite Valley, which is now partially filled with sediment. Though the walls of Yosemite Valley may seem unfathomably large, they are even loftier than they appear, as another 2,000 feet lies hidden beneath the sediment floor of the valley.

As part of the natural cycle, the climate warmed about 15,000 years ago, causing glaciers to retreat into the shadows of the highest peaks, leaving behind a barren, burnt landscape. Boulders that had been frozen into the ice, or riding on top of the glacier, were gently set down as the glacier melted back; these boulders, known as erratics, dot the domes and ridges around Olmsted Point and Tenaya Lake. Retreating glaciers also revealed glacial polish, admired by John Muir:

“The most striking and attractive of the glacial phenomena in the upper Yosemite region are the polished glacier pavements… the best preserved portions reflect the sunbeams like calm water or glass, and shine as if polished fresh every day…”

The original inhabitants of Yosemite referred to the area around Tenaya Lake as “Py-we-ack,” which means “glistening rocks”, a reference to the dazzling glacial polish along the lake’s bedrock shores.

Beyond the appealing aesthetic qualities, glaciation has also had a profound effect on the distribution of Yosemite’s iconic features. For example, almost all of the lakes in the park are located inside of the extent of the Tioga glaciation, as they occupy rock basins gouged out by glaciers. Conversely, groves of Giant Sequoia trees are located outside of the glacier extent where deep soils haven’t been scoured away.

Yosemite’s glaciated landscapes continue to offer surprises. Scientists recently discovered that the shiny brilliance of glacial polish is not just due to abrasion but also to a thin rock layer precipitated by pressurized, mineral-rich waters under the ice. The process is akin to sanding a deck with abrasive sandpaper, then coating it with a varnish that seals and protects the surface. The coating layer of glacial polish likely explains why these mirror-like surfaces have persisted for so long.

Yosemite’s glaciated landscape reveals the scale of natural climate change that has occurred on regular cycles over thousands of years. Now, human changes to earth’s atmosphere are disrupting these cycles, causing the last ice in Yosemite to melt away. Yosemite’s glacial landscapes are a reminder of the ancient and powerful forces that shape the earth’s surface, and of the increasingly influential role we play in that story.

Park Map
Geologists have recently published a new map showing the extent of the last glaciation in Yosemite, which can be found online at https://pubs.usgs.gov/publication/sim3414
Supporting Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s Future

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

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

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates the arts and the natural grandeur of our environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world by offering visitors a unique variety of literature and art, as well as programs that inspire creativity. Visit online at: www.anseladams.com.

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 lifelong connection to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it. Find out more about our year-round programs for schools and summer programs for individual teens at www.naturebridge.org/yosemite.

Yosemite Conservancy

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 $125 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: yosemite.org or (415) 434-1782.

Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

Over 10,374 volunteers donated more than 139,500 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 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)

Lose Something in Yosemite?

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.

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Half Dome, Christine White Loberg
Raven, Photo by Karen Kroner Amstutz