Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, visitor services and access may be affected. Check local resources and area signage in light of changing public health requirements related to COVID-19. For details, visit www.nps.gov/yose.

We encourage you to follow CDC guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

• Practice social distancing by maintaining 6 feet of distance between you and others.
• Wear a face covering when social distancing cannot be maintained.
• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
• Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
• Most importantly, stay home if you feel sick.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, the Yosemite Valley Shuttle System will not be operating during the 2020 season.

The Yosemite Valley Shuttle System will not be operating during the 2020 season.
COVID-19 Coronavirus

Safety Alert

For your safety and the safety of other visitors and employees, we encourage you to follow CDC guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Practice social distancing. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between you and others.

Wash hands using soap and water or use hand sanitizer frequently.

Wear a face covering when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Additionally, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and most importantly, stay home if you feel sick.

WELCOME

Ask A Ranger

Drop by a visitor contact station to ask your Yosemite-related questions and to get park information and updates. They are located in Yosemite Valley, Mariposa Grove, Big Oak Flat, and Tuolumne Meadows. Look for signs to direct you to locations.

Park App

Download the Yosemite app for an interactive map, hiking trails, and park updates. See page 11 for more information.

How Will COVID-19 Effect My Visit?

Following guidance from federal, state, and local public health authorities and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we are increasing access and services in a phased approach at Yosemite National Park. Visit the park website, www.nps.gov/yose, for updates and safety information.

TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Keep a 6-foot distance from others.

What Does 6-ft Look Like?

The wing span of a bald eagle is roughly 6 feet long. While social distancing, imagine the length of a soaring eagle’s wing span between you and others.

Access for People with Disabilities

For a complete list of accessible services, exhibits, and recreational opportunities, pick up a Yosemite Accessibility Guide at any park entrance station or visitor center, or view online at www.nps.gov/yose/accessibility.htm, or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at (209) 379-1035.

- Sign Language interpreting is available upon request. Contact a park Accessibility Coordinator at (209) 379-1350.
- Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request at any visitor center.
- Audioguides are available at Yosemite Visitor Center. Contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.
- Accessible parking spaces are available west of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

View of El Capitan, Cathedral Rocks and the Merced River. Image by NPS

Yosemite Inspirations

Yosemite

As you burst into this valley of wonder you can hear the falls like thunder. Drifting through the shallow streams flowing through the sunlight beams And the mountains, oh so high the wind’s silent cry. The silent cry that makes its way through sequoia groves everyday... The sequoia trees which are so tall make every person seem so small People, people everywhere enjoying what nature has to share...

Nature shares a beautiful storm with wind so strong and so warm! The storm brings courage to your heart and you will never want to part with... Yosemite National Park!

-Day Schul, age 11

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, 2020! The National Park Service recognizes and celebrates the contributions, achievements, and histories of Hispanics and Latinos in American culture. We embrace the diverse and rich cultural history preserved within our national parks. Take some time to learn about Hispanic American early explorers and modern day leaders.

Yosemite National Park!
-AAA towing services for emergency only, NO gas, Food, or energy services.
-(guidelines only, NO gas, Food, or energy services)
- (in Yosemite Valley)
-
- (209) 379-1035.

Bridalveil Fall Rehabilitation Project

Why: To improve parking, roads, trails, and facilities situated near Bridalveil Fall. When: Lasting through 2020 and 2021 Visitor Impact: Comfort station and parking lot may not be available due to construction.

Tinga Road Rehabilitation Plan, Tenaya Lake Plan, and Tuolumne River Plan

Why: To make safety improvements and improve visitor experience, while preserving natural and cultural resources along the road. When: Late 2020 through 2022 seasons Visitor Impact: 30-minute traffic delays along Tinga Road due to construction.

Glacier Point Rehabilitation Plan

Why: To repair aging and deteriorated pavement, pullouts, and parking areas along Glacier Point Road. When: Lasting through 2021 and 2022 seasons Visitor Impact: Full road closure from spring through fall 2021, and 30-minute delays in 2022.

WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO DO IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Park Updates

01 Park Updates

05 Services

06 Hiking

07 Permit Information

08 Protecting Yourself

10 Feature Story

Back Valley Map

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide August 26, 2020 - September 29, 2020

Park Updates

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

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 (no 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 Senior Pass $20
For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.
Interagency Access Pass (Free) (Annual) For actively 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
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
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau (559) 683-4636
www.tcvb.com
Highway 41 Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau (209) 878-3329
Highway 140/49 California Welcome Center, Merced (800) 446-5353 or (209) 724-8104
Mariposa County Visitor Center (866) 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

Walking Yosemite Valley
We strongly recommend moving around the east end of Yosemite Valley on foot or bike if possible. On the map below, the numbers in the white circles show the average walking time between each destination, represented by the red circles.
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 or car, 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 (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.

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.

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 information center to find out about hikes to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Lambert Dome, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon.

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. 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 and Beyond**

**Information, Exhibits, and Programs**

**Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore**
A visitor contact station will be available outside the visitor center for information and updates. The Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore will be operating as an outdoor “to-go” store from 9am to 5pm. Located in Yosemite Village.

**YOSEMITE FILMS**
Closed during the 2020 season.

**YOSEMITE MUSEUM**
Closed during the 2020 season.

**INDIAN CULTURAL VILLAGE**
Walk through the reconstructed Indian Village of Ahwahnee and learn about the structures the Ahwahneechee lived in and the plants they used for survival. Check out the interactive displays and see the ceremonial roundhouse, bark houses, and sweathouse members of the local tribes still actively use for ceremonies and special gatherings. Located behind the Yosemite Museum in Yosemite Village.

**YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE**
Closed during the 2020 season.

**YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE - A CALL FOR ARTISTS**
The call to artists for Yosemite Renaissance 36 begins July 1, 2020. The competition is open to artists worldwide, and offers $5000 in cash awards. The show opens at the Yosemite Museum Gallery in February 2021, then travels to other art centers across California. The exhibit focuses on artwork inspired by Yosemite and the California Sierra Nevada region. Artists interested in applying can view the prospectus at www.yosemiterenaissance.org and can apply at www.smarterentry.com. For more information, call (559) 683-5551 or email info@yosemiterenaissance.org

**The Ansel Adams Gallery**
Open 10am to 3pm daily. The gallery offers works by Ansel Adams as well as contemporary photographers, painters, and printers. To book a guided tour, call (209) 372-4413 or visit www.anseladams.com for more information. The Ansel Adams Gallery is located in Yosemite Village.

**EXHIBIT**
August 23, 2020 – October 10, 2020
Yosemite and The West: Photographs by Bob Kolbrener
Wide open expanses call like never before. While places like Yosemite and The West have always found their way into our collective consciousness, stirring us through social media, politics, their metaphors of perseverance, strength and receptiveness carry a new weight.

Bob Kolbrener has been photographing these landscapes for over 50 years with his large and medium format cameras. He knows first-hand the important messages and lessons that these places can impart, crediting Ansel Adams who concisely articulated the experience best when he said: “The great rocks of Yosemite are the most compelling formations of their kind. And you cannot casually pass them by for they are the very heart of the earth speaking to you.”

Much like Mr. Adams before him, it is easy to see in Mr. Kolbrener’s images a benevolence and power in grand landscapes, of the earth calling to us.

Yosemite and The West, Photographs by Bob Kolbrener, will open at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village on Sunday, August 23 and run through Saturday, October 10. While we are unable to host a reception due to COVID-19, we do hope you stop by to see these incredible large scale, gelatin silver photographs in person, and all that they speak to.

**YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY**
Join Yosemite Conservancy for naturalist-led Outdoor Adventures, including backpacking trips (Aug 28-30, Sep 3-6 & Sep 10-13) and a “Field School” weekend focused on climate change (Sep 10-12), or contact us to plan a Custom Adventure or Custom Art Class. Strict safety measures will be in place. Learn more at:

Outdoor Adventures: yosemite.org/experience/outdoor-adventures
Custom Adventures: yosemite.org/experience/custom-adventures
Custom Art Classes: yosemite.org/experience/custom-art-classes

Stay connected with Yosemite virtually, through naturalist videos and online art demonstrations. Explore our website (yosemite.org) and follow us on social media to find the latest resources from our team, learn more about our organization, and see our program calendar.

**PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES**
The Ansel Adams Gallery offers photography classes every day! Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery, located in Yosemite Valley or visit their website for more information at anseladams.com/photography-education. Excursions have been modified to limit group size and accommodate social distancing for guest safety.

**YOSEMITE CONSERVATION HERITAGE CENTER**
The Sierra Club’s Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (YCHC) is closed for the 2020 season due to COVID-19. We apologize for any inconvenience. We may have evening programs online soon. Please visit the Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center website for more information: sierrachc.org/yosemite-conservation-heritage-center.

**YOSEMITE FILMS**

**ITS FREE TO ENTER**

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Yosemite Renaissance 36 is a juried art competition open to artists worldwide, and offers $5000 in cash awards. The show opens at the Yosemite Museum Gallery in February 2021, then travels to other art centers across California. The exhibit focuses on artwork inspired by Yosemite and the California Sierra Nevada region. Artists interested in applying can view the prospectus at www.yosemiterenaissance.org and can apply at www.smarterentry.com. For more information, call (559) 683-5551 or email info@yosemiterenaissance.org

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Services in Yosemite

COVID-19 Coronavirus
All available operations and hours of operations are subject to change. Check local resources and area signage in light of changing public health requirements related to COVID-19.

Food and Drink

YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Degnan’s Kitchen
7am to 11am, 11:30pm to 6pm
Take-out meals only
The Loft at Degnan’s Kitchen
Closed for the 2020 season
Village Grill
11am to 5pm
THE AHWAHNEE
Dining Room
Closed for the 2020 season
The Ahwahnee Bar
Dining Room
Temporarily closed due to COVID-19
YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE
Lodge, Store, Laundry, and Showers
Temporary closed due to COVID-19
YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE
Base Camp Eatery - Indoor dining may be temporarily unavailable due to COVID-19
Starbucks Coffee: 7am to 3pm
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Lunch: 11am to 4:30pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm
YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Mountain Room Restaurant / Bar
Temporarily closed due to COVID-19
CURRY VILLAGE
Meadow Grill
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Lunch/Dinner: 12pm to 8pm, Closes after breakfast Sep 7, reopens Sep 28, 7am to 10am/12pm to 8pm from Sep 28 to Oct 18
Taco Food Truck
1pm to 9pm, 7am to 10am/12pm to 8pm from Sep 8 to Sep 27, 12pm to 2pm/5pm to 8pm from Sep 28 to Oct 18.
California Bowl Food Truck
5pm to 9pm, 12pm to 2pm/5pm to 8pm from Sep 8 to Sep 20. Closes for the season Sep 20.
Pavilion/Pizza Deck/Coffee Corner/Bar
Closed for renovations
GLACIER POINT
Snack Stand
9am to 6pm, conditions permitting
WAWONA
Wawona Hotel, Stable, and Golf Shop
Closed for the 2020 season
TUOLUMNE MEADOWS
Gift/Grocery
Open 24 hours - For lodging guests only
Curry Village
Gift/Grocery
Open 24 hours for emergencies only
Newell’s Market
Open 24 hours - For lodging guests only
YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Gift/Grocery
11am to 8pm
YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Gift Shop
11am to 8pm
YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Sweet Shop
11am to 8pm
YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Yosemite Museum Store
11am to 8pm
YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Curry Village Bookstore
11am to 8pm
YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Curry Village Bookstore
11am to 8pm
YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Pre-Packaged Meals (will be operating as an outdoor “to-go” store)
YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE
Village Store
9am to 8pm
YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE
Gift/Grocery
10am to 6pm
CURRY VILLAGE
Gift/Grocery
10am to 7pm
Mountain Shop
8am to 4pm
GLACIER POINT
Gift Shop
9am to 6pm, conditions permitting
WAWONA
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 5pm
The Depot at Mariposa Grove
Closed

Groceries

YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Village Store
9am to 8pm
YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE
Gift/Grocery
10am to 6pm
CURRY VILLAGE
Gift/Grocery
10am to 7pm
Gas Stations

EL PORTAL
24-hour pay-at-the-pump, Automotive supplies available at El Portal Market.
WAWONA
24-hour pay-at-the-pump, Automotive supplies available at Wawona Store.
CRANE FLAT
24-hour pay-at-the-pump, Automotive supplies available at Village Store.

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 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 (will be operating as an outdoor “to-go” store)
YOSEMITE MUSEUM
Closed for the 2020 season
The Ansel Adams Gallery
10am to 3pm
Village Store
9am to 8pm
THE AHWAHNEE
Gift Shop
10am to 5pm
Sweet Shop
11:30am to 7pm
YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE
Gift/Grocery
10am to 6pm
CURRY VILLAGE
Gift/Grocery
10am to 7pm
Mountain Shop
8am to 4pm
GLACIER POINT
Gift Shop
9am to 6pm, conditions permitting
WAWONA
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 5pm
The Depot at Mariposa Grove
Closed

Recreation

CURRY VILLAGE
Bike Rentals
8am to 6pm, 10am to 5pm beginning Sep 8
YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE
Bike Rentals
8am to 6pm, 10am to 5pm beginning Sep 8

General Services

Medical Clinic - Yosemite Valley
(209) 372-4637
for emergency CALL 9-1-1
Monday - Friday: 9am to 5pm, Closed weekends and federal holidays
YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Garage
24-hour towing service for emergencies only
CURRY VILLAGE
Shower House
Open 24 hours - For lodging guests only
Closed for 1 hour at 5am, 11am, 3pm, and 10pm
HOUSEKEEPING CAMP
Lodge, Store, Laundry, and Showers
Closed for the 2020 season

RECOMMENDED SERVICES
YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH (The Chapel)
Pastor Brent Moore: Resident Minister
(209) 372-4833 • www.YosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org
SUNDAY SERVICES
Morning Services: 9:15am (Year-round)
11am (Memorial Day - Labor Day)
THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY - Call for location

CHURCH OF CHRIST (Non-denominational)
El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am
Info: 209/379-2100

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
ADDICTS ANONYMOUS
Yosemite Valley Chapel
Tuesday and Thursday: 7:30pm
Oakhurst Hotline: (559) 683-1662

Additional information available at yosemite.com

Photo by Sheree Peshlakai
Choose your adventure

What better way to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite than on foot. Ask a ranger at any visitor contact station for updated trail conditions and one of several free day-hike handouts.

Know Before You Go:

- Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.
- Stay away from swift-moving water. Keep children from wandering 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.

Popular Yosemite Day Hikes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail / Description</th>
<th>Starting Point</th>
<th>Distance / Time</th>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>NPS Images of Trails</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall</td>
<td>Yosemite Valley - Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>![Bridalveil Fall](NPS Images of Trails)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Yosemite Valley - Yosemite Valley Lodge Parking Lot</td>
<td>1 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>![Lower Yosemite Fall](NPS Images of Trails)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel Dome</td>
<td>Glacier Point Road - Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>![Sentinel Dome](NPS Images of Trails)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taft Point</td>
<td>Glacier Point Road - Sentinel Dome Parking Area</td>
<td>2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
<td>![Taft Point](NPS Images of Trails)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariposa Grove: Big Trees Loop</td>
<td>Mariposa Grove Welcome Center Parking Lot</td>
<td>4.3 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>![Mariposa Grove: Big Trees Loop](NPS Images of Trails)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Permit Information
Camping, Hiking, and Wilderness Use

Wilderness Permits
Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Following adaptive management guidelines and the need to protect the health and safety of our visitors and employees, there will be no first-come, first-served permits issued in the park for 2020. The remaining 40% of trailhead quotas will be available through a two week out lottery using the advanced reservation system. Please go to www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm to checktrailhead availability and for more information on how to apply for these permits. Reservations can be made online at www.yosemite.org/experience/wilderness-permits. A processing fee of $5 per permit plus $5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm, the Leave No Trace website at www.Int.org, or the Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue website at www.friendofyosar.org.

Wilderness Centers
YOSEMITE VALLEY
Open daily from 9am to 1pm for bear canister rentals only. The Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village, between the post office and The Ansel Adams Gallery.

WAWONA
Open daily from 9am to 1pm for bear canister rentals only. 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 Wawona Store parking area and follow the path up the hill.

BIG OAK FLAT
Open daily from 9am to 1pm for bear canister rentals only. The information station is located just inside the park entrance on Hwy 120W.

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS
Open daily from 9am to 1pm for bear canister rentals only. The Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center is located just south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

Half Dome Permit Information
Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are required seven days a week when the cables are up for 2020, June 5 through October 13. A daily total of 225 preseason lottery permits have already been issued for 2020. Some additional permits will be released by daily lottery throughout the season based on estimated under-use and cancellation rates. Applications for daily lottery will be accepted 2 days prior to the desired hiking date between midnight and 1pm. To apply, visit Recreation.gov or call 877/444-6777. A non-refundable application fee applies to all submissions and a use fee applies to winning applicants. Finally, a daily quota of 75 Half Dome permits will be available to overnight users with an appropriate wilderness permit (use fee applies). For the 2020 season, Half Dome permits attached to a wilderness permit will only be available through the current online wilderness reservation system. 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.

Camping
Upper Pines is open year-round during the 2020 season. For more information on campground opening dates, visit our website at go.nps.gov/campground. Sleeping in vehicles and frontcountry camping are only permitted in designated campsites.

CAMPING RESERVATIONS
In Yosemite Valley’s car campgrounds, reservations are recommended December through February, and required March through November. Outside the valley, reservations are required 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 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) 833-6777 or (518) 885-3639 from outside the US and Canada.

Fire Restrictions Are in Effect for the Entire Park
• Wood and charcoal fires (including twig stoves) are only permitted in open developed campgrounds, open picnic areas with park-installed grills, and residential areas.
• Only portable stoves that use pressurized gas, liquid fuel, propane, or alcohol (including table/cub stoves), not wood, are allowed.
• Smoking is prohibited except within an enclosed vehicle, a building in which smoking is allowed, designated campgrounds, designated picnic areas, paved developed areas, and designated smoking areas.
• Smoke is inevitable throughout the year in different parts of the park, whether from campfires, natural wildfires in the backcountry, or prescribed fire. The park may also experience smoke impacts from other areas throughout the region. To help plan your trip look up the air quality page on the park’s website.

COVID-19 Coronavirus
PARK UPDATE
• There is no walk-up service, campground offices are closed. Same-day availability may be accessed via recreation.gov.
• Some campgrounds will be closed.

General Camping Information
Services
• All sites include picnic tables, firepits with grills, and a food locker (33” x 45” x 18”). See page 9 for food storage regulations.
• Shower and laundry facilities are not available during the 2020 season.
• 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 and may not be left unattended.

Campfires
• In Yosemite Valley between May 1 and September 30, campfires are permitted between 5pm and 10pm.
• Firewood collection 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.
Altitude illness is to lose elevation. This condition, and gender. The only cure for altitude illness affects us equally, regardless of age, physical condition, and gender. The only cure for altitude illness is to lose elevation. 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.

Altitude
The elevation of Yosemite Valley is around 4,000 feet, and Tuolumne Meadows hovers 4,000 feet, and Tuolumne Meadows hovers 8,000 feet. Altitude illness affects us equally, regardless of age, physical condition, and gender. The only cure for altitude illness is to lose elevation.

Rivers and Stream
Yosemite's streams are a huge temptation for the curious, the photographer, and the overeager and weary hiker simply wanting to cool tired feet. Do not be fooled! Yosemite's water is deceptively dangerous and unforgiving. Visitors are urged to enjoy moving or falling water from a safe distance. Please: Do NOT leave the safety of the trail.

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.

For All Seasons
- Stay on established trails – do not take shortcuts, ignore fences, or approach water. Almost all of Yosemite's non-traffic related 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).
- Let someone know – leave your hiking plan, including intended route, destination, and estimated time of return, with a trusted person. If no one knows you are missing, no one is going to be looking for you.

Hantavirus Information
Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases harmful to humans. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread to humans via the droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. You may come into close proximity to rodents during your visit, so 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. When an infected rodent dies, its fleas can carry the infection to other animals, including humans. Never feed wildlife, avoid dropping food when eating outside, and pitching a tent near rodent burrows. Wear insect repellent with DEET, and tell a park ranger if you see a dead animal. Early symptoms of plague may include high fever, chills, nausea, weakness, and painful swelling at the site of an insect bite. If you develop these symptoms within 6 days of visiting an area at risk for plague in the park, see your doctor and inform them you may have been exposed.

Avoid Contact with Wildlife
Wild animals 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, that is behaving erratically, don't touch it. Report it to a park employee.

Wilderness Etiquette:
How to Poop in the Woods
- When nature calls, make sure you are at least 200 feet away from any water source.
- Carry a trowel so you can dig a hole in the dirt that is at least 6 inches deep so you're able to bury your waste.
- Pack out toilet paper, don't burn it or try to burn it! If you are in snow and can't dig a hole into soil you are expected to pack out your waste as well.
**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.

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**Clean water is a precious resource for all living beings**

You can protect these waters and this pristine watershed which supplies drinking water for 2.7 million people.

- **Protect fragile plants and soils**: Trampling vegetation and compressing soils affects the movement and cleanliness of water.
- **Walk and camp on durable surfaces**: Use established trails, campsites, rock, and gravel to minimize your impact. Walk single file and keep groups small.
- **Pack it in, pack it out**: Pack out toilet paper, hygiene products, leftover food, trash, and litter from campsites, rest areas, and trails. Leave no trace!
- **Wash yourself or dishes 200 feet away from water sources**.
- **Use restroom facilities or bury human waste**: Bury human waste in a hole at least 6 inches (15 centimeters) deep and at least 200 feet (60 meters) from streams and lakes.

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**Yosemite Guardians**

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

During your visit, 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 (209) 378-1992.

**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/your-safety.htm.
You may see some unexpected activities by the Merced River during late summer and fall in Yosemite Valley. You may glimpse a large yellow excavator tracking down the riverbank, carrying a giant tree trunk in its bucket. Park rangers may emerge from dense thickets carrying bundles of newly-lopped willow and cottonwood poles. These are signs that riverbank restoration is underway.

Perhaps the first reliable written description of the state of Yosemite Valley’s stream systems, before the arrival of European Americans, was penned by the California state geologist J. D. Whitney after his visit to Yosemite Valley in 1866. “Through the Valley flows the Merced River, about 70 feet in width, making many sharp and curiously angular bends, touching the talus first on one side and then on the other. Along the banks of the river and over the adjacent rather swampy meadows, we find a somewhat varied vegetation...” he wrote.

Yosemite Valley’s stream systems used to be messier and more complex, full of meanders and abandoned channels. The waterways were choked with downed trees, and dense vegetation grew on the riverbanks. Yosemite Valley was wetter and swampier, in part because the river used to flood more frequently.

Since the late 1800s, park managers and residents of Yosemite Valley changed this stream system to match their particular vision for this place. They removed large pieces of wood out of the Merced River to decrease flooding and increase the ease of swimming and boating. They placed large boulders on the riverbanks, called riprap, to armor the banks and make it hard for the river to move certain directions. At one point more than 14,000 linear feet of this riprap existed in Yosemite Valley. They also filled in old river channels and make it hard for the river to move certain directions. At one point more than 14,000 linear feet of this riprap existed in Yosemite Valley. They also filled in old river channels.

The riverbed at Housekeeping Camp two years after restoration. Left: NPS Photos

The park service now recognizes that many of those changes were harmful to the health of the Yosemite Valley ecosystem. Some impacts were unintentional. As more and more people began accessing the river, they trampled vegetation on the banks and over time the streambanks grew more bare. Without roots to hold the soil together, the banks eroded and in some places the river widened. Under sized bridges caused localized erosion and deep scour pools.

Yosemite National Park first established an ecological restoration program in the 1980s as we began to recognize the harmful legacy of our activities and desired to create healthier ecosystems. From its beginning the program has focused on process-based restoration. This type of restoration seeks to restore the underlying processes that sustain ecosystems so that systems regain dynamism and can evolve to match changing conditions. The restoration methods also leverage processes that still function—such as sediment transport and vegetation growth—to assist the system in fixing itself.

The current Merced River restoration work is directed by the Merced River Plan, which since 2014 has served as the guiding document to protect and enhance river values and manage use within the river corridor. Since 2016 the park has conducted a major riverbank restoration project in Yosemite Valley every fall. These projects have multiple goals, but generally aim to decrease the width of the river channel to its original size, remove riprap, and revegetate banks.

The most recent project was completed in 2019 at the Swinging Bridge Picnic Area. National Park Service employees used heavy equipment to remove approximately 200 linear feet of riprap from the riverbanks and replaced the riprap with an engineered log structure to stabilize the bank while it is revegetated. Crews planted hundreds of willow and cottonwood poles and thousands of native plants, including dogwood saplings and rhododendron. The area was fenced off to allow the plants time to grow. Once the plants mature, the dense root systems of the plants will stabilize the bank and the diverse plants will create valuable habitat for many animal species.

Yosemite’s restoration program is an expression of our commitment to leave the park unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. And it is our acknowledgement that we are willing to fix our past mistakes and to let natural processes act as the main influence on the landscape. Restoring the river is just one of the many ways we can make a difference as responsible caretakers for this special place.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The park is currently carrying out major river restoration projects that are part of the Merced River Plan.
- The easiest projects to visit are at Housekeeping Camp or Swinging Bridge Picnic Area.
- You can help the restoration projects succeed by not crossing fences that are protecting young plants.

Story by Cat Fong
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 over $130 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.

Contact Us
Yosemite National Park
PO Box 577
9039 Village Drive
Yosemite, CA 95389
(209) 372-0200
http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm

The Ansel Adams Gallery
PO Box 455
Yosemite, CA 95389
(209) 372-4413
www.anseladams.com

Yosemite Hospitality LLC
PO Box 306
Yosemite, CA 95389
(888) 304-8993
www.aramarkleisure.com

Yosemite Conservancy
101 Montgomery Street,
Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 434-1782
(415) 434-0745 fax
www.npshalifornia.org

NatureBridge
PO Box 487
Yosemite, CA 95389
(209) 379-9511
(209) 379-9510 fax
www.nbi.org

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.

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

Yosemite National Park App
Want the Guide on your Apple or Android device?
Search NPS-Yosemite in app stores or at nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit

to download the official park app BEFORE arriving to the park. See up-to-date listings of programs, services, an interactive map, and more!

Looking for a Hiking Trail?
Check out the TRAILHEADS tab, located within the SERVICES tab.