

Yosemite

Official Map and Guide

From Glacier Point the scenery spreads out in all directions, giving you a breathtaking view no matter which way you look. Looking northeast, you see Half Dome.

Yosemite National Park embraces a vast tract of scenic wildlands set aside in 1890 to preserve a portion of the Sierra Nevada that stretches along California's eastern flank. The park ranges from 2,000 feet above sea level to more than 13,000 feet and offers 3 major features; alpine wilderness, groves of Giant Sequoias, and Yosemite Valley. The 196 miles of roads give access to all of these features either by car or by free shuttle bus in some areas. To get to know the real Yosemite, however, you must leave your car and take a few steps on a trail. You don't have to

National Park California

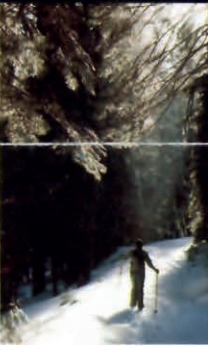
National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Visiting the Park



▲ Climbers enjoy a spectacular view and a well-earned rest after achieving their goal.

▼ A Steller's Jay perches on a branch for a brief rest.



▲ A fresh snowfall brings a hush to the park and gives the skier the opportunity of seeing the familiar in another perspective.

▼ Mirror Lake is silting up and in a few years will be a meadow.



▲ Nature's camouflaging protects this mule deer fawn.

▼ Birding is a rewarding pastime, especially as your ability to identify birds grows.



▲ Everywhere you turn you will discover that the beautiful and rare are commonplace in Yosemite. Here the sun's last rays touch Half Dome.

▼ The stage arrives at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.



▲ The areas around Tioga Pass and Tuolumne Meadows offer many trails into the high country wilderness.

▼ El Capitan's sheer walls attract experienced rock climbers who have made many successful ascents.



▲ Camping in Yosemite can be the source of many memories.

▼ Though brown, this moraine and cub are American black bears.



Tuolumne Meadows and the High Country
This section of Yosemite has some of the most rugged, sublime scenery in the Sierra. In summer the meadows, lakes, and exposed granite slopes teem with life. Because of the short growing season, the plants and animals take maximum advantage of the warm days to grow, reproduce, and store food for the winter ahead.

The Tioga Road, State Route 120, crosses this area. This scenic highway, originally built as a mining road in 1882-83, was realigned and modernized in 1961. The road passes through an area of sparkling lakes, fragile meadows, domes, and lofty peaks that only 10,000 years ago lay under glacial ice. Overlooks along the road afford superb views. At Tioga Pass the road crosses the Sierra's crest at 9,945 feet, the highest automobile pass in California.

Tuolumne Meadows, at 8,600 feet, is the largest subalpine meadow in the Sierra. It is 55 miles from Yosemite Valley via the Tioga Road. Long a focal point of summer activity, it is growing in popularity as a winter mountaineering area. In the summer Tuolumne Meadows is a favorite starting point for backpacking trips and day hikes. The meadows are spectacular in early summer, abounding in wildflowers and wildlife.

Rangers at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center, open during the summer, can help you. Remember that Yosemite's meadows are fragile and are easily affected by foot traffic and are closed to bicycles and autos.

A trip into the high country can be rewarding. But remember that the elevation ranges from 7,000 to 13,000 feet, and the vigorous exercise can make even hardy visitors short of breath. Slow your pace, and take time to awaken your sense of wonder.

Glacier Point
Glacier Point is one of those rare places where the scenery is so vast that it overwhelms the viewer. Below, a sheer rock cliff about 3,200 feet straight down affords you a bird's eye view of the entire Yosemite Valley. Across the valley you can see the 2,425-foot drop of Yosemite Falls. Beyond, the panoramic expanse of the High Sierra stands out in awe-inspiring clarity. Signs identify major peaks. Sunset and full-moon nights are ideal times to visit the point. A full moon transforms the pastel granite landscape into a fairland. In summer you can drive to Glacier Point, 32 miles from Yosemite Valley. In winter, when the road is closed at Badger Pass Ski Area, Glacier Point is a favorite destination for crosscountry skiers.

But no matter how you travel or when you go, Glacier Point offers what may be Yosemite's finest view.

Giant Sequoia Groves
The Mariposa Grove, 35 miles south of Yosemite Valley, is the largest of 3 sequoia groves in Yosemite. The Tuolumne and Merced Groves are near Crane Flat. Despite human pressures, these towering trees, largest of all living things, have endured for thousands of years. Only in recent years, have we begun to understand the giant sequoia environment. During the last 100 years protection has sometimes been inadequate and sometimes excessive. For example, in the late 1800s tunnels were cut through two trees in the Mariposa Grove. Conversely, good intentions created another problem; protection from fire has resulted in adverse effects.

Sequoias are wonderfully adapted to fire. The wood and bark are fire-resistant. Black scars on a number of large trees that are still prospering indicate they have survived many scorching fires. Sequoia reproduction also depends on fire. The tiny seeds require mineral soil for germination, and seedlings need sunlight. Historically, frequent natural fires opened the forest, thinned out competing plant species, and left rich mineral soil behind. But years of fire suppression

have allowed debris, such as fallen branches, to accumulate, stifling reproduction and allowing shade-tolerant trees to encroach. Prescribed fires, intended to simulate natural fires and improve the health of the forest, are now set by the National Park Service. For additional information on the parkwide fire management program, contact any park visitor center.

As you look at these trees, keep in mind that they have been here since the beginning of history in the western world. The Mariposa Grove's Grizzly Giant, 2,700 years old, is thought to be the oldest living sequoia. Private vehicles are not permitted beyond the parking area in the Mariposa Grove. You may ride the trams through the Grove from May until October. Trails are available year-round for hiking or cross-country skiing.

Wawona
Wawona was once an Indian encampment and, later, was the site of a wayside hotel built in 1857 by Galen Clark. Known as Clark's Station, it served as a stop for visitors in transit between Yosemite Valley and Mariposa. In 1864, when Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were set aside for protection, Clark became the first guardian of the area. In 1875, the year the original Wawona road opened, the Washburn brothers pur-

chased the area and built the Wawona Hotel that is human history. It is the setting of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, a collection of relocated historic buildings and horse-drawn coaches.

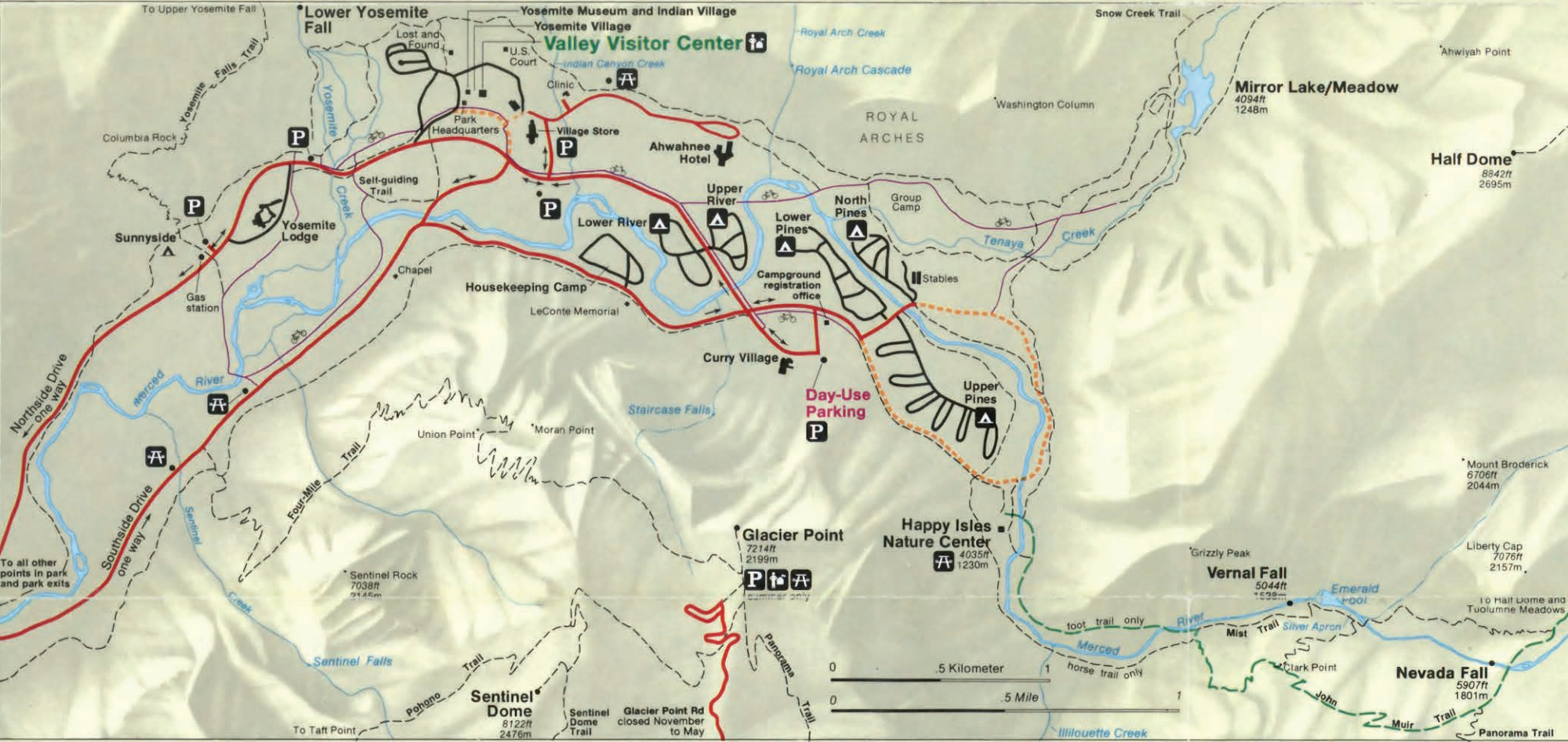
Wilderness
Yosemite's wilderness is varied and offers hiking and backpacking experiences for the seasoned hiker and the novice. About 800 miles of trails offer a variety of climate, elevation, and spectacular scenery. Near the crest of the Sierra Nevada you can take long and short trips at elevations above 9,000 feet. The higher regions offer a cool climate; lower elevations are warmer and drier.

To protect Yosemite's wilderness, free wilderness permits are required for overnight use. They are available at front country ranger stations and visitor centers. Maps and guide books are available at visitor centers to help you plan your trip. Be sure to read the information you receive with your permit and observe all regulations. Remember to keep your impact to a minimum. Please use appropriate equipment and good footgear.

In winter the wilderness is receiving increased mountaineering use. Crosscountry skiing and snowshoeing

have grown in popularity and open a new world for the wilderness user. The high country is a wonderland. Deep snow covers the land, and summer landmarks may be unrecognizable. Winter in the wilderness is more demanding than summer. Good equipment, warm clothing, and proper planning are essential for a safe and comfortable trip into the harsh Sierra Nevada winter environment. Backcountry travel, both summer and winter, can be gratifying. However, you are experiencing the mountains on their terms, and the mountains are not forgiving to the careless or unprepared.

When you get your wilderness permit, winter or summer, ask about trail conditions, weather forecasts, campfire regulations, and special precautions you should take in the area where you will be travelling. Double check your equipment and food, stay on established trails, don't shortcut switchbacks, and observe proper food storage regulations. If you hike alone, tell someone where you're going and when you will return. For stock use, check at any ranger station. Pets and bicycles are not allowed in the wilderness.



Yosemite Valley

"The Incomparable Valley," so it has been called, is probably the world's best known example of a glacier-carved canyon. Its leaping waterfalls, towering cliffs, rounded domes, and massive monoliths make it a preeminent natural marvel. These attributes have inspired poets, painters, photographers, John Muir, and millions of visitors for more than 100 years. Nowhere in Yosemite is the sense of scale so dramatic.

Yosemite Valley is characterized by sheer walls and a flat floor. Its evolution began when alpine glaciers lumbered through the canyon of the Merced River. The ice carved through weaker sections of granite, plucking and scouring rock but leaving intact harder portions, such as El Capitan and Cathedral Rocks. The glacier greatly enlarged the canyon that the Merced River had carved through successive uplifts of the Sierra. Finally the glacier began to melt and the terminal moraine left by the last glacial advance into the valley dammed the melting water to form ancient Lake Yosemite, which sat in the newly carved U-shaped valley. Sediment eventually filled in the lake, forming the flat valley floor you see today. This same process is now filling Mirror Lake at the base of Half Dome.

In contrast to the valley's sheer walls, the Merced Canyon along State Route 140 inside the park is a typical river-cut, V-shaped canyon, for the glaciers did not extend this far. Back from the rim of the valley forested slopes show some glacial polish, but, for the most part, these areas were not glaciated.

The valley is a mosaic of open meadows sprinkled

with wildflowers and flowering shrubs, oak woodlands, and mixed-conifer forests of ponderosa pine, incense-cedar, and Douglas-fir. Wildlife from monarch butterflies to mule deer and black bears flourishes in these communities. Waterfalls around the valley's perimeter reach their maximum flow in May and June, and crash to the floor. Yosemite, Bridalveil, Vernal, Nevada, and Illilouette are the most prominent falls, some of which have little or no water from mid-August through early fall.

Take time to visit the Valley Visitor Center, where a slide program and publications are available. Exhibits highlight the valley's natural and human history. Rangers are available to answer questions or assist you. Behind the visitor center, a self-guiding walk leads through the Indian Village. Nearby, the Indian Cultural Museum displays the cultural history of the native Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present, and the Museum Gallery features artwork of past and current Yosemite artists.

Note: When you arrive in Yosemite Valley, park your car and walk to the places you want to see. Distances are short. If you prefer, use the free shuttle bus system that serves most of the valley. Either way, you'll save gas and frustration. If you are visiting for the day, park your car in the day-use parking lot at Curry Village.

Meadows, riverbanks, and oak woodlands have been severely damaged by long-term human uses. Please respect restoration efforts in these areas and stay on maintained trails.

Activities, Services, General Information
The *Yosemite Guide*, a free newspaper available at park entrances, ranger stations, and other locations in the park, is your key to current park information. It lists ranger talks, facilities, services, and phone numbers, and provides general information and feature articles. For a 24-hour recorded message about road conditions, weather, and other park information, call 209-372-0200.

Campgrounds are located throughout the park; one in Yosemite Valley, one at Hodgdon Meadows, and one at Wawona are open all year. Utility hookups are not available, but all campgrounds have toilets and tap or stream water. You must treat stream water before using. Reservations are required for most campgrounds. To reserve campsites through MISTIX write: MISTIX, P.O. Box 85705, San Diego, CA 92138-5705; or call 1-800-365-2267 (CAMP) in the United States and Canada. The number for international callers is

619-452-8787. Reservations should be made 8 weeks in advance. For general campground information, call 209-372-0200. Eating facilities, stores, and lodging are available in Yosemite Valley, Wawona, and El Portal year round, and at Tuolumne Meadows and White Wolf during the summer season. Reservations for accommodations are recommended. Write: Yosemite Park Lodging Reservations, 5410 East Home, Fresno, CA 93727; or call 209-252-4848. For information on reservations for High Sierra Camps, call 209-454-2002.

Printed information in Spanish, Japanese, German, and French is available on request. Publications about the park may be purchased in the park or by writing to Yosemite Association, Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318.

Accessibility
For visitors with disabilities an information packet and vehicle wheelchair-embellish placards for special driv-

ing privileges are available at park entrances and information stations.

Protecting Yourself
Serious injuries and fatalities occur with frightening frequency and the loss of or damage to personal belongings is a common complaint. The causes of these incidents are varied, but they have a common denominator—the victims did not know the danger of what they were doing.

Speed limits in Yosemite nowhere exceed 45 miles per hour and are lower where posted. Most accidents occur because of excessive speed and careless driving. Drive only on the roads.

Bears are attracted to human food. In trying to obtain that food, bears cause hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to vehicles, foodstuffs, and camping equipment each year. Federal regulations, designed

to minimize the chance of bears obtaining human food, require that you store your food certain ways while in Yosemite. Use food storage lockers when available. If lockers are not available, all food and food containers must be stored either in the trunk of a vehicle or covered and out of sight in vehicles without trunks. Improper food storage is a violation subject to fine. A list of precautions you should take and additional information on bears is available at park entrances and campgrounds.

Mountain Lions live in this park. Avoid hiking or running alone, and watch your children closely. If you encounter a mountain lion, do not run or crouch down. Pick up little children. Wave, shout, and throw stones. If attacked, fight back.

Feeding wildlife, including birds and other animals, such as coyotes, deer, and squirrels, results in injuries to visitors and an unhealthy environment for wildlife.

Disturbing or feeding wildlife is a violation subject to fine.

Rivers, streams, and waterfalls can be treacherous at all times, but especially when water levels are high. Approach them cautiously and be alert for undercut banks and slippery rocks. Fast currents and cold water are deadly combinations. Do not swim above waterfalls or in swift water.

Do not drink untreated water from streams, lakes, or snow. To treat, boil for 3 minutes, use an iodine-based purifier, or use a Giardia-rated water filter.

Trails are the safest routes when travelling off roads. Straying off trails results in lost children and hikers as well as injuries caused by falls. Do not scramble up cliffs or over rocks—take the trail. Rock climbing is for the experienced. For safety reasons horses and mules have the right-of-way on trails; stand quietly at trailside

until they pass. While hiking in steep terrain, watch out for rock slides.

Valuables should not be left unattended. Store them securely and lock your vehicle when you leave it. If you camp, place lanterns, stoves, and other equipment inside your tent or vehicle when you leave your campsite. Report thefts promptly.

Bicycles are allowed only on established, paved public roads, in parking areas, and on designated paved bikeways. Pedestrians should use footpaths. Bicyclists must always exercise care to ensure the safety of pedestrians, other bicyclists, and wildlife. Keep to the right of the center line except to pass. Bicycles are not allowed on any park trails.

Yosemite

Camping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. Advance reservations are advised. Staying overnight on roadsides or in parking areas is not permitted. You must register for first-come, first-served campsites in accordance with the instructions posted at campground entrances.

There are camping fees and limits on length of stay. Firewood gathering is prohibited in Yosemite Valley, Giant Sequoia Groves, and elevations above 9,600 feet. It is allowed in other parts of the park. Wood gathered must be down on the ground and dead. Cutting

standing trees or attached limbs, alive or dead, is prohibited. Campfires are permitted only at designated campsites and fireplaces. Check for local regulations when camping in Yosemite Valley. Burn only dry wood to minimize smoke pollution. Extinguish fires with

water before leaving. Smoldering campfires can burn down into the ground and then travel laterally for great distances. Where there is sufficient fuel, they may burn back to the surface. Report all wildfires to the nearest ranger station. Pets must be kept on a

leash. They are not allowed on trails, beaches, in the backcountry, or in public buildings. Campers with pets are restricted to Bridalveil Creek, Crane Flat, Hodgdon Meadow, Tuolumne Meadows, Upper Pines, Wawona, White Wolf, and Yosemite Creek campgrounds. A boarding kennel is available at the

Yosemite Valley stables during the summer. Firearms: Hunting or discharging any kind of weapon is prohibited. Firearms must be unloaded and cased at all times within the park. Fishing is permitted with

a California license, which can be purchased at the Village Store Sport Shop or Wawona Store in summer, or at the Curry Village Mountain Shop in winter. State rules apply on season and catch. Local regulations may apply in Yosemite Valley.

All park features are protected. Do not deface or remove any natural or historic features. Do not pick wildflowers or other plants, or kill, capture, feed, or molest wildlife. Administration: Yosemite National Park is administered by the National Park Service, a part of the U.S.

Department of the Interior. For information write: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389-0377 USA.

Caution: This map should not be used for hiking. Use appropriate USGS topographic maps.

John Muir Trail and Pacific Crest Trail
Trail

0 1 Kilometer
0 1 Mile

Picnic area
Ranger station
Campground
Backpacker walk-in campground
Parking
Food service and lodging
High Sierra Camp (by reservation only)
Gas station

