



Inside:

- 01 Things to Do
- 02 Park Overview
- 05 Yosemite Valley
- 08 Wawona, Glacier Pt.
- 10 Tuolumne Meadows
- 16 Camping
- 17 Hiking

September-October 2009

Backpackers over Merced Lake. Photo: Kenny Karst / DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

September 9 - October 13, 2009

Yosemite Guide

Things to Do

Keep this Guide with you to get the most out of your visit

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours. To give you some ideas, park rangers made a list of possibilities for adventure. In no particular order, here are 12 popular activities for a day in Yosemite National Park.

Bike Yosemite Valley

With over 12 miles of bike trails in Yosemite Valley, exploring by bike provides opportunities for awesome views of the granite cliffs that surround the Valley. Bikes are available for rent at the Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village recreation center. Please help us protect fragile plant communities by biking only on paved surfaces and have a blast!

Explore a Sequoia Grove

Meet the most massive living things on earth as you explore a giant sequoia grove. Yosemite is home to three groves—the Mariposa Grove, which contains hundreds of sequoias, and the Tuolumne and Merced Groves, which each hold dozens. (See page 2 for a map of the park.)

See Sunset from Glacier Point

Glacier Point provides a superb view of Half Dome, towering more than 3,000 feet above Yosemite Valley. Witness the sunset, as it lights up the cliff face, from Glacier Point or other points in Yosemite Valley. Listen in on a sunset talk with a ranger at Glacier Point. Expect a half-hour delay on the Glacier Point Road Monday through Friday. (See page 2 for a park map and road delay info.)

Visit the Other Valley: Hetch Hetchy

“Almost an exact counterpart of the Yosemite... a visit to its counterpart may be recommended, if it be only to see how curiously nature has repeated herself.”
-Josiah D. Whitney. Hetch Hetchy provides spectacular vistas, waterfalls, and



Rangers lead volunteer, hiking, and educational activities throughout the park. NPS photo by David Miyako

How to Use Your Yosemite Guide

The list on this page offers 12 popular things to do. The table of contents (“What’s Inside...”) at lower right shows where you can turn for more information. Program listings (by park district) are on pages 6, 7, 9, and 11.

late-season hiking. (See page 2 for a park map and area info.)

Drive to Olmsted Point

Take in the spectacular panoramic view from this scenic turnout on the Tioga Road: Tenaya Canyon, granite peaks and domes, and Tenaya Lake with Mt. Conness in the background. Bring your binoculars to see hikers ascend the Half Dome cables! (See page 2 for a park map and area info.)

Travel Back in Time

Visit Wawona’s Pioneer Yosemite History Center and join “Buckshot” for a horse-drawn stage ride! These 10-minute rides introduce you to an early chapter in Yosemite’s history. Fun for the whole family! (See pages 8 and 9 for

history center and other program info.)

Stroll with a Ranger

Learn about the wonders of the park on a ranger-guided stroll. Programs are offered daily throughout the park on a variety of topics including waterfalls, trees, bears, geology, Yosemite Indians and more. (See regional program grids on pages 6, 7, 9, and 11.)

Take a Photography Class

Learn how to best capture the landscape of Yosemite by joining a photography expert from the Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 6 and 7 for times and meeting places.)

Roam the Park After Dark

Exploring Yosemite after dark is an amazing way to discover the park, but you’ll need to use all of your senses to do it. Join interpreters for 90 minutes of fun on this nocturnal nature tour almost every Friday. Contact any tour desk for more info. (See listings on page 7.)

Take in a Film

Each Thursday and Friday night, Ron Kauk introduces the climbing film *Return to Balance* at the Valley Visitor Center Theater. On Sept. 27 through Oct. 2, Ken Burns’ new documentary *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea* is shown at three Valley locations each night. (See page 7 for times and places.)

Have Fun with the Family

Learn about Yosemite, meet a park ranger, and have a blast by becoming a Yosemite Junior Ranger or Yosemite Little Cub. Check in with any visitor center to find out how. Stop by the Nature Center at Happy Isles for another great place to explore with the family. (See page 12 for the Jr. Ranger Page.)

Visit the Yosemite Museum

Learn about Yosemite Indians by exploring a museum collection that includes remarkable woven baskets and traditional dress. Tour the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. The Yosemite Museum is located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 5 for museum hours and a list of gallery events and features.)



Violet green swallow. By Lauren Hamilton

Welcome, and Be Prepared Emergency: Dial 911



Website: www.nps.gov/yose/
Road, Weather, and General Park Information: 209/372-0200

Access for People With Disabilities



The *Yosemite Accessibility Guide* is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm. Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue-and-white signs.

An American Sign Language interpreter is available for Deaf and hard of hearing



visitors. Call 209/372-0645 (Voice) or 209/372-4726 (TTY) to request an interpreter. Please call at least two weeks before the visit. Assisted listening devices are available at the Visitor Center.



Lost and Found

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

Weather

Sudden changes in weather are common in the Sierra Nevada. Check at a park visitor center for the most up-to-date weather forecast.

Road Information

Construction may cause short delays or detours on some park roads. Road info: 209/372-0200.

What’s Inside:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 Discover Yosemite | 9 Wawona Programs |
| 3 Exploring the Park | 10 Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, Hetch Hetchy |
| 4 Yosemite Valley | 11 Tuolumne Programs |
| 5 Valley Store, Restaurant, Medical, and Service Info | 12 Jr. Ranger Activities |
| 6-7 Yosemite Valley Program Listings | 14 All About Bears |
| 8 Wawona, Glacier Point | 16 Camping |
| | 17 Hiking |
| | 18 Feature Article: Ken Burns |

Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Entrance Fees

Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite. The park is open year-round, 24 hours a day.

Vehicle \$20
Valid for 7 days

Individual \$10
In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for 7 days.

Yosemite Pass \$40
Valid for one year in Yosemite.

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

Interagency Senior Pass \$10
(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.

Reservations

Campground Reservations
877/444-6777
www.recreation.gov

Lodging Reservations
801/559-5000
www.yosemitepark.com

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.thegreatunfenced.com

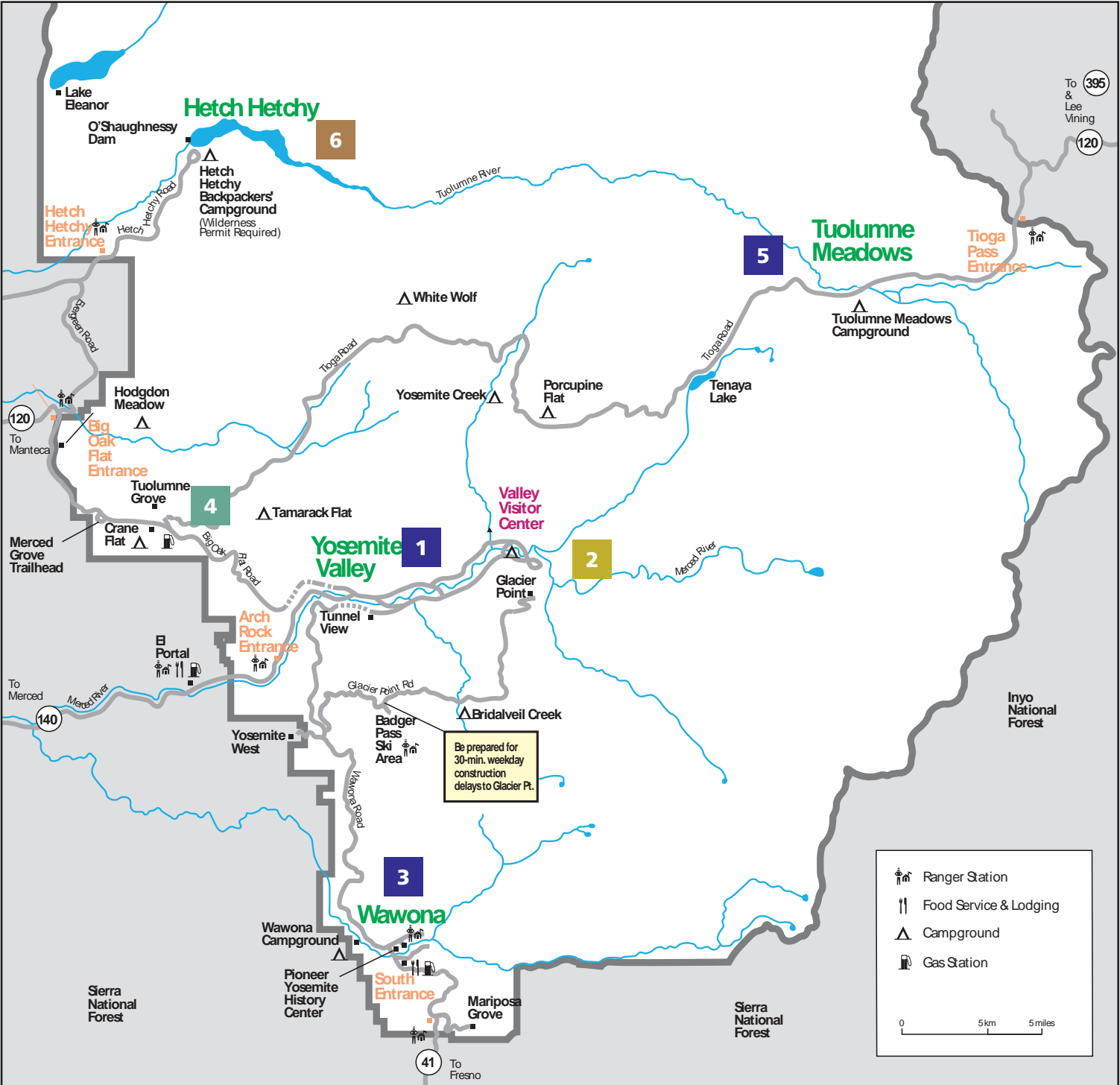
Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/683-4636
www.yosemitethisyear.com

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/878-3074

Highway 140/49
Yosemite Mariposa Tourism Bureau
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081
www.homeofyosemite.com

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

Calif. Welcome Center, Merced
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791
www.yosemite-gateway.org



Yosemite Valley

1 Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may 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. Yosemite 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 dries up by August, a moderate hike will bring you to impressive Vernal and Nevada Falls. While it is dry this time of year, walk to the site of Mirror Lake, where you can gaze straight up at Half Dome. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, bike, car, on horseback, or tour, you will behold scenery that will leave you breathless and eager to see what's around the next corner.



Granite, the Merced River, trees, and meadows compose the Valley's unique blend. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Glacier Point

2 Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Yosemite’s high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road. Glacier Point Road is open through sometime in November. Motorists should be prepared for 30-minute construction delays during the work week, however. 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

3 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. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Enjoy a horse-drawn stage ride, learn an old trade at the blacksmith shop, or hike one of the scenic trails. For more information, visit the newly-designed Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio, adjacent to the historic Wawona Hotel. This was once a painting studio for the 19th-century artist Thomas Hill. The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is a short drive or help reduce congestion by taking the free shuttle from the Wawona Store. A portion of the Wawona Road is subject to 30-minute delays Monday through Friday.

Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

4 Crane Flat is a forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. A number of hikes through pleasant meadows are available. 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

5 The Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. It is generally open from late May or early June through sometime in November. The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 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 even higher granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. Stop at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center for information about hiking to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Dog Lake, Lembert Dome, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon. Take advantage of the free shuttle service in Tuolumne Meadows or the Tuolumne Meadows Tour and Hikers’ Bus from Yosemite Valley.

Hetch Hetchy

6 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 has high summer temperatures, and visitors should travel with sufficient water. Due to its use as a municipal water supply, no fishing or swimming is permitted. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 7 am to 9 pm May 1 through Labor Day, with reduced hours during the rest of the year. The road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is a 1 hour and 15 minute drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.



The Mariposa Grove Museum. Photo by Pam Meierding



Tenaya Lake (along Tioga Road) offers cool diversions. Photo: Kenny Karst / DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite, Inc



Bridge over the Tuolumne River at Tuolumne Meadows. Photo by John Sun



Wilderness Travel Basics

Yosemite’s Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude in a beautiful setting. In order to avoid overcrowding and reduce impacts, the park has a trailhead quota system limiting the number of backpackers entering a trailhead on a given day. Of each daily quota for a trailhead, 60 percent can be reserved ahead of time, while the remaining 40 percent is available on a first-come, first-served basis one day prior to, or the same day as, the beginning of your hike. See page 14 for more information about wilderness permits and wilderness permit reservations.

Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas and the heart of the park



The Incomparable Yosemite Valley

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

Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 5, 6, and 7 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

El Capitan, the massive granite monolith and rock climbers’ challenge, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit at the west end of the Valley.

Half Dome, Yosemite’s most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing

Yosemite’s geologic story. You can park at Curry Village and walk too. It takes about 15 minutes to get there.

For a strenuous day hike, you can use this trailhead to reach Vernal Fall footbridge (¾ miles) and Nevada Fall (2.7 miles) via the Mist Trail. Please observe warning signs along the trail, and always pack your trash out.

The base of **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. (Both Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow return.) Bicycle paths offer an alternate way to access the trailhead. The hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired when the path is clear. More adventurous hikers can switchback up to the top of Upper Yosemite Fall.

Bridalveil Fall is another waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley. This fall flows more consistently into autumn.

Tunnel View, along Wawona Road

(Hwy 41) provides a classic view of Yosemite Valley, El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridalveil Fall. It is spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.

Daily sightseeing **tours** are offered in Yosemite throughout the year. The Valley Floor Tour is a 26-mile, two-hour tour that departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. Summer coach tours are also offered daily to Glacier Point, with a daily Grand Tour covering the Valley, Glacier Point, and the Mariposa Grove. An experienced guide narrates each tour. The Valley tour uses an open tram, except during poor weather.

Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at the tour and transportation or info desks at Yosemite Lodge, Yosemite Village, Curry Village, and The Ahwahnee.

You can experience the Valley by **bike** by bringing your own, or by renting at Curry Village or Yosemite Lodge. Rental facilities are open 9 am to 6 pm, with the last bike out at 4:45 pm.

VALLEY SERVICES

POST OFFICES

Yosemite Village
Main Office
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
Saturday: 10am to noon
Yosemite Lodge
Post Office
Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm

GROCERY, BOOKS, & GIFTS

Yosemite Village
The Ansel Adams Gallery
9am to 6pm
Yosemite Art & Education Center
9:30am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm,
Wednesday-Saturday through Oct. 3
Yosemite Bookstore - Visitor Center
9am to 6pm
Yosemite Museum Store
9am to 5pm (May close for lunch)
Village Store Gift/Grocery
8am to 9pm
Habitat Yosemite
11am to 4pm, open Fri., Sat., Sun. only
Sport Shop
10am to 5pm
Tour Desk - Village Store
7:30am to 3pm
The Ahwahnee
The Ahwahnee Gift Shop
8am to 8pm
The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop
7am to 10pm
Yosemite Lodge
Gift/Grocery
8am to 8pm
Nature Shop
10am to 6pm
Tour Desk
7:30am to 7pm
Curry Village
Mountain Shop
8am to 6pm
Gift/Grocery
8am to 8pm
Tour Desk
7:30am to 3pm through Oct. 11
Housekeeping Camp
Gift/Grocery
8am to 5pm through Oct. 11; closes
for season at noon on Oct. 12



Top: Tunnel View is a top spot for Valley photos.
Photo by Dustin Nelson
Above: Valley Floor Tour. Photo by Pam Meierding

Yosemite Valley

Dates, times, and places



The Heart of Yosemite National Park

The end of summer and start of autumn offer special opportunities for learning and adventure. Crowds begin to thin, but a range of events and activities remain.

Yosemite Valley

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 6 pm. The center is just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The facility offers information, maps, and books, in the attached bookstore. Explore the exhibits and learn how Yosemite’s landscape formed and how people interact with it.

FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

This inspiring visitor-orientation film provides a stunning overview of Yosemite’s splendor. It is shown every 30 minutes, Monday through Saturday between 9:30 am and 5:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 5:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE EXHIBIT

An exhibition of selected artists-in-residence who have worked in Yosemite over the last 20 years is ongoing at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. Participants include John Barnett, Jane Culp, Tom Killion, Bruce Klein, Hearne Pardee, Bonnie Peterson, and Gina Werfel. The exhibit continues through November 8.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Open 9 am to 5 pm. Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite’s Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

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

Ansel Adams Gallery

In Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9 am to 6 pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, other photographers and artists, camera walks, workshops, and classes. Activities are listed on the front porch. Call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com

Through October 4

“Color, Light, and Form: Photography by Michael Frye.” Frye is author of *Photographer’s Guide to Yosemite*. A reception and booksigning will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 pm on Friday, Aug. 28.

Opening October 5

“Bob Kolbrener and Ansel Adams: 90 Years in the American West.” A traveling exhibition features select vintage and modern prints by Ansel Adams from the 1930s and ‘40s. Bob Kolbrener’s prints, like Adams’, are gelatin silver and are also made by the artist. A reception is open to the public on Oct. 24 from 4 to 6 pm.

Wilderness Center

The Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village adjacent to the post office. Hours are 8 am to 5 pm through Sept. 30. Hours change to 8 am to 4:30 pm starting Oct. 1. Drop by to plan trips, get permits, and rent bear canisters.

Yosemite Art & Education Center

The Yosemite Art & Education Center

offers free art classes through Oct. 3. The center’s hours are 9:30 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm Wednesday through Saturday. Please register for classes in advance at the center, located south of the Village Store. For artist seminars, see pages 6 and 7.

Parking Info Station

Yosemite Association volunteers staff an information station at Visitor Parking (see map on back of this Guide). Yurt station hours are 10 am to 4 pm daily through Sunday, Sept. 27.

Nature Center at Happy Isles

Open 10 am to 4 pm through Sept. 27. May close for lunch. Designed for nature-exploring children and their families, the center offers natural-history exhibits and a bookstore. The center is a short walk from shuttle stop # 16.

Internet Access

Fee-based terminals are at Degnan’s Deli. Wireless access is offered at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village. Free access is available at the Mariposa County library, south of the Yosemite Cemetery at Yosemite Village (hours vary).

Horse or Mule Rides

Horse or mule rides begin at the stable near North Pines Campground. Stable hours are 7:30 am to 5 pm daily. Information: 209/372-8348.

Top right: Rangers with visitors. *NPS photo by Erik Skindrud*
Top center: Pine flower.
Top left: Summer fun along the Merced.
Photos by Bethany Gediman

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Yosemite Village

Degnan’s Loft
5pm to 9pm daily
Degnan’s Delicatessen
7am to 5pm
Village Grill
11am to 5pm

The Ahwahnee

Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am
Lunch: 11:30am to 3pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm
Reservations recommended for all meals, required for dinner.
209/372-1489
The Ahwahnee Bar
11am to 11pm

Yosemite Lodge

Food Court
Daily 6:30am to 8:00pm
Mountain Room Lounge
4:30pm to 11pm M-F
Noon to 11pm Sat.-Sun.
Mountain Room Restaurant
5:30pm to 9:00pm Reservations for 8 or more: 209/372-1281

Curry Village

Guest Lounge
8am to 10pm
Coffee Corner
7am to 11am
Curry Village Bar
Noon to 10pm daily thru Sept. 19;
5pm-10pm Sun.-Thurs. / Noon-10pm Sat.-Sun. as of Sept. 20
Pavilion Buffet
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm
Pizza Deck
Noon to 9pm
Taqueria
11am to 5pm thru Sept. 13
Happy Isles Snack Stand
11am to 5pm thru Sept. 26

MEDICAL & DENTAL

Yosemite Medical Clinic

Emergency care: 24 hours daily.
Drop-in and urgent care: 8am to 7pm. Appointments: 8am to 5pm, M-F. (Also: Mountain Crisis Services for victims of domestic violence.) Located on Ahwahnee Drive. Call 209/372-4637.

Dental Services

Next to Yosemite Medical Clinic.
Call 209/372-4200 or 209/372-4637.

SCHEDULED EVENTS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

September 9 - October 13, 2009



A DNC Interpreter engages young park visitors during a Wee Wild Ones program.
Photo courtesy of DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite.

Outdoor Adventures and Custom Adventures

For more on Yosemite Association’s field seminars, pick up a catalog at any park visitor center, call 209/379-2321, or visit www.yosemite.org. The Yosemite Association also offers individualized Custom Adventures for groups and families. Call ahead at least two weeks to arrange your own naturalist guide who will meet your interests and schedule.

Sept. 18-20	Hidden Lakes Revealed: A ranger’s favorite alpine treasures	Oct. 2	A Walk on the Rim: An autumn delight for naturalists
Sept. 16-20	Lyell Glacier Survey: fit field assistants needed on the ice	Oct. 4	Sierra Shrubs Demystified: A gifted author and teacher at work
Sept. 25-27	Miwok-Piute Acorn Basketry: the Parker family’s finest craft	Oct. 4	Buffalo Soldiers on Patrol: Shelton Johnson shares history
Oct. 2	Latinos in the Landscape: Betsy Rivera and a hidden heritage	Oct. 9-20	Hiking Yosemite’s Sister National Parks in China

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite

Wednesdays (Sept. 9, 16, & 30 only), 9 am to noon, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

Join the Habitat Protectors of Yosemite for a weekly drop-in program. Work alongside Resources Management & Science staff and learn about restoration efforts in Yosemite. Help preserve and protect native habitat in your national park. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required. Sunscreen, water, and a hat are recommended. Tools and work gloves will be provided. Groups larger than 10 are required to pre-register. To learn more, please contact the Volunteer Office at (209) 379-1850 or YOSE_Volunteers@nps.gov.

Yosemite Mountaineering School

YMS offers rock climbing classes, guided climbs, custom backcountry trips, and daily hikes. YMS is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. Experience the park with a professional guide: 209/372-8344.

Free Art Classes

The Yosemite Art & Education Center’s season runs through Oct. 3. Until then, the center offers free classes Wednesday through Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Be prepared for a short walk and bring something to sit on. Please register in advance.

September 9-12	Mash Alexander: Glowing Landscape in Acrylic
September 16-19	Chris Van Winkle: Watercolor Painting on Location
September 23-26	Douglas Castleman: Outdoor Watercolor
Sept. 30-Oct. 3	Kirah Van Sickle: Yosemite Diamond in Acrylic

Showers are open at Housekeeping Camp from 7am to 10pm and **laundry facilities** from 8am to 10pm. Showers are also available at Curry Village.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Valley Chapel, Pastor Brent Moore
www.yosemitevalleychapel.org
Wedding info on web site.
Services: Sunday 9:15am & 6:30pm;
Thursday 7pm; Tuesday Bible studies
Information: 209/372-4831

ROMAN CATHOLIC
Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater
Mass: 7:30pm Saturdays; 10am Sundays

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

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
7:30pm Sunday, Tuesday, & Thursday
DNC General Office Bldg. Yosemite Village.

AL-ANON
Al-Anon meetings are not currently taking place. Help / advice: Dave M., 209/765-1266.

LIONS CLUB
First and third Thursday of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4475.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
Thursday at noon at The Ahwahnee.
Visiting Rotarians and guests welcome.
Reservations / information: 209/372-8459.

	MORNING
Sunday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 11) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
	8:30am Photography Walk 1 ½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
	9:00am CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! (Sept. 13 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater, free (DNC)
	10:00am Ranger Stroll—Merced Meanders 1 ½ hrs. Lower Yosemite Fall, shuttle stop #6 (NPS)
	10:30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK—TREES (September only) 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13. (NPS)
Monday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 12) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
	8:30am Photography Walk at The Ahwahnee 1 ½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery. Meet at The Ahwahnee (conditions permitting)(AAG)
	10:00am Ranger Stroll—Yosemite’s First People 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS)
	10:30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK—BEARS (September only) 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13. (NPS)
Tuesday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 13) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
	8:30am Photography Walk 1 ½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
	10:00am Ranger Stroll—Trees 1 ½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3. (NPS)
	10:30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK—GEOLOGY (September only) 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop # 16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)
	11:00am KIDS’ PHOTOGRAPHY WALK 1 hr. For kids and their parents. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG)
Wednesday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
	10:00am Ranger Stroll—Geology 1 ½ hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS)
	Free Art Class (through Sept. 30) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art & Education Center at Yosemite Village (YA)
10:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK—WATER (September only) 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)
Thursday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
	8:30am Photography Walk 1 ½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
	9:00am HABITAT PROTECTORS OF YOSEMITE (HAPY) (Sept. 9, 16, & 30 only) 3 hrs. Volunteer to help protect and restore native plant life. Meet at Valley Visitor Center. (NPS)
	10:00am Ranger Stroll—Wild About Wildlife 1 ½ hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS)
	Free Art Class (through Oct. 1) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art & Education Center at Yosemite Village (YA)
10:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK—SMALL WONDERS (September only) 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)
Friday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
	10:00am Ranger Stroll—Cholok, Wakalla, and other Indigenous Site Names 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS)
	Free Art Class (through Oct. 2) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art & Education Center at Yosemite Village (YA)
10:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK—WILDLIFE (September only) 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)
Saturday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
	8:30am Photography Walk 1 ½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)
	9:00am CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! (Sept. 12 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater, free (DNC)
	10:00am Ranger Stroll—Trees 1 ½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (NPS)
	Free Art Class (through Oct. 3) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art & Education Center at Yosemite Village (YA)
	10:30am JUNIOR RANGER WALK—AHWAHNEECHEE (September only) 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended for ages 7-13. (NPS)
11:00am	KIDS’ PHOTOGRAPHY WALK 1 hr. For kids and their parents. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG)

Programs printed in **ALL CAPS & COLOR** are especially for **CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

NPS	National Park Service
DNC	DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
AAG	The Ansel Adams Gallery
AAC	American Alpine Club
SC	Sierra Club
YA	Yosemite Association
YMS	Yosemite Mountaineering School
\$	Programs offered for a fee

































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



An American Sign Language interpreter is available for Deaf and hard of hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0645 (Voice) or 209/372-4726 (TTY) to request an interpreter. Please allow at least two weeks to schedule an interpreter.



Assisted listening devices are available upon request. Inquire at Visitor Center.

	AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING	EVENING
Sunday	<div>1:30pm</div> <div>JUNIOR RANGER WALK (except Oct 11) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)</div> <div>3:00pm</div> <div>Ranger Stroll—Bears (except Oct. 11) 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) Fine Print Viewing 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up in advance at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) WEE WILD ONES ¾ hr. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under, Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div> <div>6:30pm</div>	<div>7:30pm</div> <div>Special Event: <i>The National Parks: America's Best Idea, Episode 1, "The Scripture of Nature"</i> (Sept. 27 only) 2 hrs. Join the National Park Service as it unveils Episode 1 of the six-episode film series by Ken Burns that celebrates America's national parks, shown simultaneously in three locations: Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, Curry Village Amphitheater, and Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (NPS) </div> <div>8:00pm</div> <div>LeConte Memorial Lodge: James Downs and John Peterson: "Nature & Spirit Poetry Reading" (Sept. 13 only) 1 hr. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC) Ranger Program (except Sept. 27) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)  Evening Program (except Sept. 27) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div>
Monday	<div>1:30pm</div> <div>JR. RANGER WALK (except Oct. 12) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)</div> <div>3:00pm</div> <div>Ranger Stroll—Bears (except Oct. 12) 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19. (NPS)</div>	<div>7:30pm</div> <div>Special Event: <i>The National Parks: America's Best Idea, Episode 2, "The Last Refuge"</i> (Sept. 28 only) 2 hrs. Join the National Park Service as it unveils Episode 2 of the six-episode film series by Ken Burns that celebrates America's national parks, shown simultaneously in three locations: Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, Curry Village Amphitheater, and Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (NPS) </div> <div>8:00pm</div> <div>Ranger Program (except Sept. 28) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)  Evening Program (except Sept. 28) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div>
Tuesday	<div>12:00pm</div> <div>Yosemite Forum (Oct. 13 only) 1 hr. Elizabeth Pierson on "The Secret Life of Yosemite's Bats: What 20 years of Research Has Told Us About Where They Live and What They Eat." Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS)</div> <div>1:00pm</div> <div>Using Your Digital Camera Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$</div> <div>1:30pm</div> <div>JUNIOR RANGER WALK (except Oct. 13) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop 16 (NPS)</div> <div>3:00pm</div> <div>Ranger Stroll—Bears (except Oct. 13) 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)</div>	<div>7:30pm</div> <div>Special Event: <i>The National Parks: America's Best Idea, Episode 3, "The Empire of Grandeur"</i> (Sept. 29 only) 2 hrs. Join the National Park Service as it unveils Episode 3 of the six-episode film series by Ken Burns that celebrates America's national parks, shown simultaneously in three locations: Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, Curry Village Amphitheater, and Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (NPS) </div> <div>8:00pm</div> <div>Ranger Program (except Sept. 29) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)  Evening Program (except Sept. 29) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div>
Wednesday	<div>1:00pm</div> <div>Open House (Sept. 30 only) 3 hrs. Learn about park improvement efforts. Valley Visitor Center Auditorium. (NPS) </div> <div>1:30pm</div> <div>JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop 16 (NPS)</div> <div>3:00pm</div> <div>Ranger Stroll—Bears 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)</div> <div>5:00pm</div> <div>Twilight Stroll (except Sept. 16) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) </div>	<div>7:30pm</div> <div>Special Event: <i>The National Parks: America's Best Idea, Episode 4, "Going Home"</i> (Sept. 30 only) 2 hrs. Join the National Park Service as it unveils Episode 4 of the six-episode film series by Ken Burns that celebrates America's national parks, shown simultaneously in three locations: Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, Curry Village Amphitheater, and Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (NPS) </div> <div>8:00pm</div> <div>Ranger Program (except Sept. 30) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)  Evening Program (except Sept. 30) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div>
Thursday	<div>1:00pm</div> <div>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically With Your Camera 4 hrs. Limited space. Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$</div> <div>1:30pm</div> <div>JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)</div> <div>3:00pm</div> <div>Ranger Stroll—Bears 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)</div> <div>6:30pm</div> <div>WEE WILD ONES ¾ hr. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under, Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div>	<div>7:00pm</div> <div>Yosemite Theatre LIVE: World-renowned climber Ron Kauk presents <i>Return To Balance</i> (High-definition climbing film) 1 ½ hrs. Valley Visitor Center Theater. Tickets available at visitor center bookstore until 6 pm; limited sales available at the door. (YA) \$ </div> <div>7:30pm</div> <div>Special Event: <i>The National Parks: America's Best Idea, Episode 5, "Great Nature"</i> (Oct. 1 only) 2 hrs. Join the National Park Service as it unveils Episode 5 of the six-episode film series by Ken Burns that celebrates America's national parks, shown simultaneously in three locations: Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, Curry Village Amphitheater, and Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (NPS) </div> <div>8:00pm</div> <div>Ranger Program (except Oct. 1) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)  Evening Program (except Oct. 1) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div>
Friday	<div>1:30pm</div> <div>JR. RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)</div> <div>3:00pm</div> <div>Ranger Stroll—Bears 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop 19 (NPS)</div> <div>4:00pm</div> <div>CHILDREN'S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED'S BIG ADVENTURE! (Sept. 11 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater, free (DNC) </div>	<div>7:00pm</div> <div>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE (September only) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles campfire ring, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS) Yosemite Theatre LIVE: World-renowned climber Ron Kauk presents <i>Return To Balance</i> (High-definition climbing film) 1 ½ hrs. Valley Visitor Center Theater. Tickets available at visitor center bookstore until 6 pm; limited sales available at the door. (YA) \$ </div> <div>7:30pm</div> <div>Special Event: <i>The National Parks: America's Best Idea, Episode 6, "The Morning of Creation"</i> (Oct. 2 only) 2 hrs. Join the National Park Service as it unveils Episode 6 of the six-episode film series by Ken Burns that celebrates America's national parks, shown simultaneously in three locations: Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, Curry Village Amphitheater, and Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (NPS) </div> <div>8:00pm</div> <div>LeConte Memorial Lodge: Ben Cunningham-Summerfield on "American Indian Storytelling and Flute" (Sept. 11 only) 1 hr. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC) Ranger Program (except Oct. 2) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop # 19 (NPS)  Film: Ansel Adams (except Oct 2) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (AAG)  NIGHT PROWL (except Oct. 2) 1 ½ hrs. Explore Yosemite at night! Tickets/info at any tour desk (DNC) \$ </div> <div>8:30pm</div>
Saturday	<div>1:00pm</div> <div>Using Your Digital Camera Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$</div> <div>1:30pm</div> <div>JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)</div> <div>3:00pm</div> <div>Ranger Stroll—Bears 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)</div> <div>4:00pm</div> <div>CHILDREN'S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED'S BIG ADVENTURE! (Sept. 12 only) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater, free (DNC) </div> <div>5:00pm</div> <div>Twilight Stroll (except Sept. 19 & 26) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) </div> <div>6:30pm</div> <div>WEE WILD ONES ¾ hr. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under, Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) </div>	<div>7:00pm</div> <div>JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE (September only) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles campfire ring, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)</div> <div>8:00pm</div> <div>LeConte Memorial Lodge: Jonathan Bayless, YNP Chief Curator, on "Yosemite Museum: New Developments in an Old Collection" (Sept. 12 only) 1hr. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC) Ranger Program 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop # 19 (NPS)  Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater (DNC/AAC)  Evening Program 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) </div>

Free Ken Burns Screenings

The National Parks: America’s Best Idea starts at 7:30 pm on Sept. 27, 28, 29, 30, and Oct. 1 and 2 at Curry Village Amphitheater, Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater, and Lower Pines Amphitheater.

Visiting Yosemite is no reason to miss the PBS-TV series on its debut week. At the end of September, the National Park Service helps unveil the six-episode Ken Burns film that celebrates America’s national parks. Rangers Shelton Johnson and Scott Gediman, along with Lee Stetson (who portrays John Muir), will be at different locations each evening to answer questions. The run time for each episode is 2 hours.



Filmmakers Ken Burns (left) and Dayton Duncan (right) with John Muir impersonator Lee Stetson.
NPS photo by Scott Gediman

Wawona, Mariposa Grove and Glacier Point

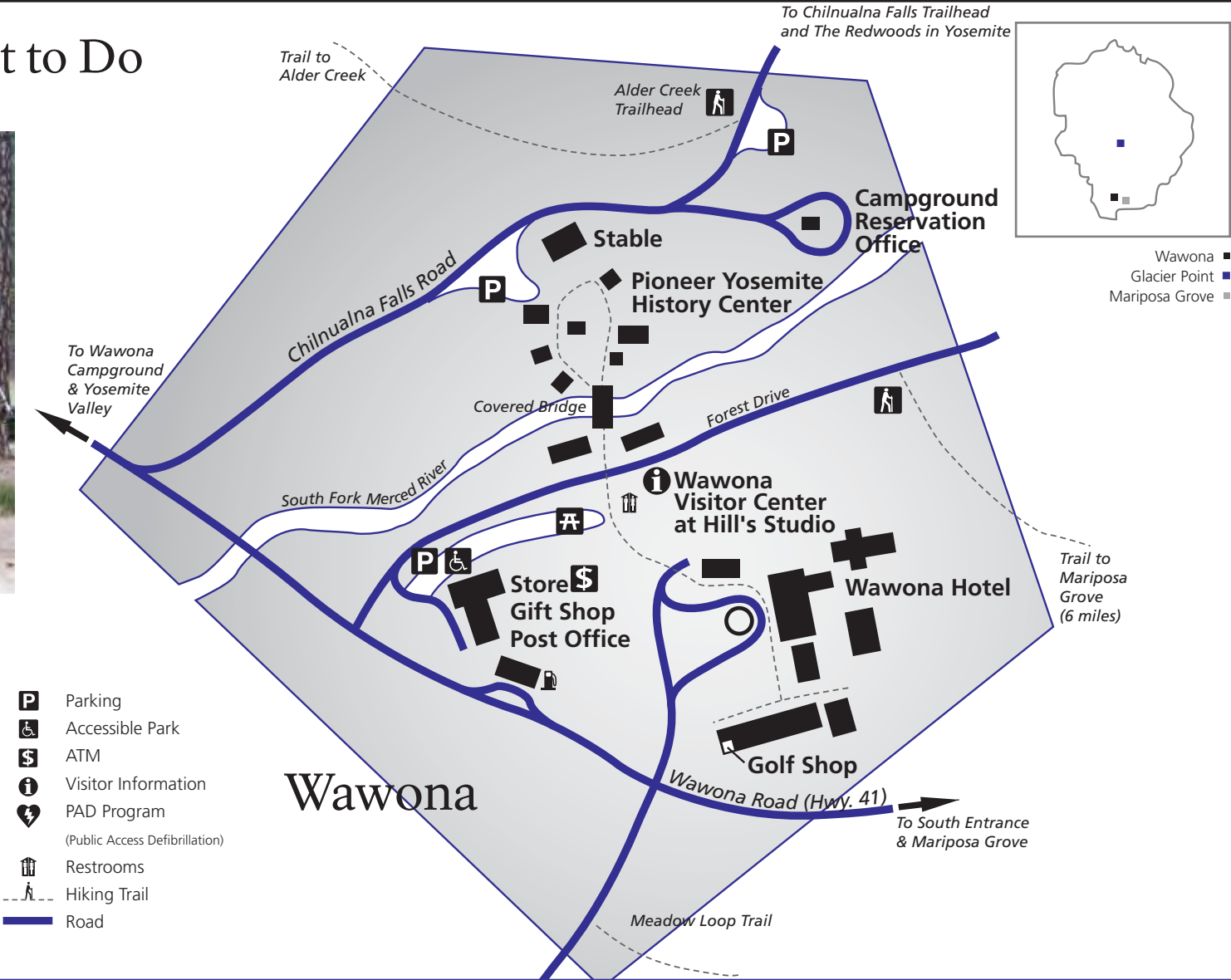
Where to Go & What to Do



Horse-drawn stage ride. NPS photo by Susan Michael

Explore History Discover Giant Trees Find Amazing Vistas

These park areas offer unique opportunities to visit historic and natural landmarks.



Wawona & the Mariposa Grove

Coffee with a Ranger

Grab your mug and join a ranger in the Wawona Campground Amphitheater for coffee, tea, and hot cocoa. Use this time to plan your day or get other questions answered. See page 9, at right, for dates and times.

Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio

Open 8:30 am to 5 pm, the visitor center offers information about park activities, wilderness permits, trail information, books, bear canister rentals, and maps.



Visitor Center at Hill's Studio. NPS photo by Vickie Mates

Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, Hill's Studio was the gallery and art studio of famous 19th-century land-

scape painter, Thomas Hill. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona Store parking area and follow the path up the hill. For more information call 209/375-9531.

Evening Programs at the Wawona Hotel

Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Once or twice a week, he will present an hour-long interpretive program on the vintage songs of Yosemite, or on the history of Wawona, with slide or music accompaniment.

Ranger Evening Programs

Join a ranger around a campfire for an hour of nature, history, and insight into Yosemite. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (B Loop). Monday and Saturday nights only. Topics vary.

Pioneer Yosemite History Center

Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins.

A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explores Yosemite's history and explains how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and around the world. The center is always open, and interpretive signs and brochures are available.

Live Demonstrations

See page 9, at right, for dates and times.

EXPERIENCE HORSE-DRAWN TRAVEL

Travel into history by taking a 10-minute horse-drawn stage ride. Tickets may be purchased at the Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. \$3/ adults and \$2/child (ages 3-12).

Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 large mature sequoias. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area. Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area.

Getting to Mariposa Grove

Allow 1 ¼ hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot. The road may close due to limited parking, so use the free shuttle.

Trailers are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road. Private vehicles longer than 25 feet are not permitted on this road.

FREE MARIPOSA GROVE & WAWONA SHUTTLE

A shuttle stops at the Wawona Store, South Entrance, and Mariposa Grove. Visitors may park at the Wawona Store to board the bus. Shuttles operate beginning at 9 am, and the last shuttle leaves the grove at 6 pm, or after the last tour. *Please use this free bus service to help reduce congestion and parking delays.*

BIG TREES TRAM TOUR

Weather permitting.
A 1 ¼-hr. tram tour of the grove is available 9 am to 5 pm. This audio tour is available in five languages and for the visually impaired. Call 209/375-1621 or stop at a tour desk for more information.

Mariposa Grove Museum

Open 10 am to 4 pm daily until late September or later—depending on weather. Located in the Upper Mariposa Grove, the museum offers information, displays on giant sequoias, and a bookstore.

Walking through the Grove

Trails into the grove extend uphill from the trailhead at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the California Tree provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations are available at the trailhead in Spanish, German, French, and Japanese.

Dogs or bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Mariposa Grove.



Geology Hut. *Photo courtesy Yosemite Research Library*

Glacier Point

Evening Programs

Meet a ranger to enjoy the lengthening shadows in Yosemite Valley and the alpenglow (or moonrise) on the Sierra high country.

Note that start times vary to coincide with changing daylight hours. Sunset Ranger Talks are held at dusk and Stars Over Yosemite events are held after the sky darkens.

At 5:30 pm on Saturday, Oct. 3, a ranger leads a moonlit hike up Sentinel Dome. See listings at right for more info.

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

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Wawona
Wawona Hotel Dining Room
Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
Saturday BBQ: 5-7pm thru Sept. 12
Golf Shop & Snack Stand
8am to 6pm
when golf course is open
Glacier Point
Snack Stand
10am to 4pm thru Sept. 13

GROCERIES

Wawona Store & Pioneer Shop
8am to 7pm; 8am-6pm as of Oct. 4

GIFTS & APPAREL

Wawona
Wawona Store & Pioneer Shop
8am to 7pm; 8am-6pm as of Oct. 4
Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio (Books and Information)
8:30am to 5pm
Glacier Point
Gift Shop
10am to 5pm
Mariposa Grove
Mariposa Grove Museum
10am to 4pm, depending on weather
Big Trees Gift Shop
9am to 5pm

POST OFFICE

Wawona Post Office
Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to noon

GAS STATION

Wawona Gas Station
9am to 6pm
Diesel & propane available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

GOLF

Wawona Hotel Golf Course
8am to 6pm Weather and conditions permitting.
Nine-hole, par-35 course.

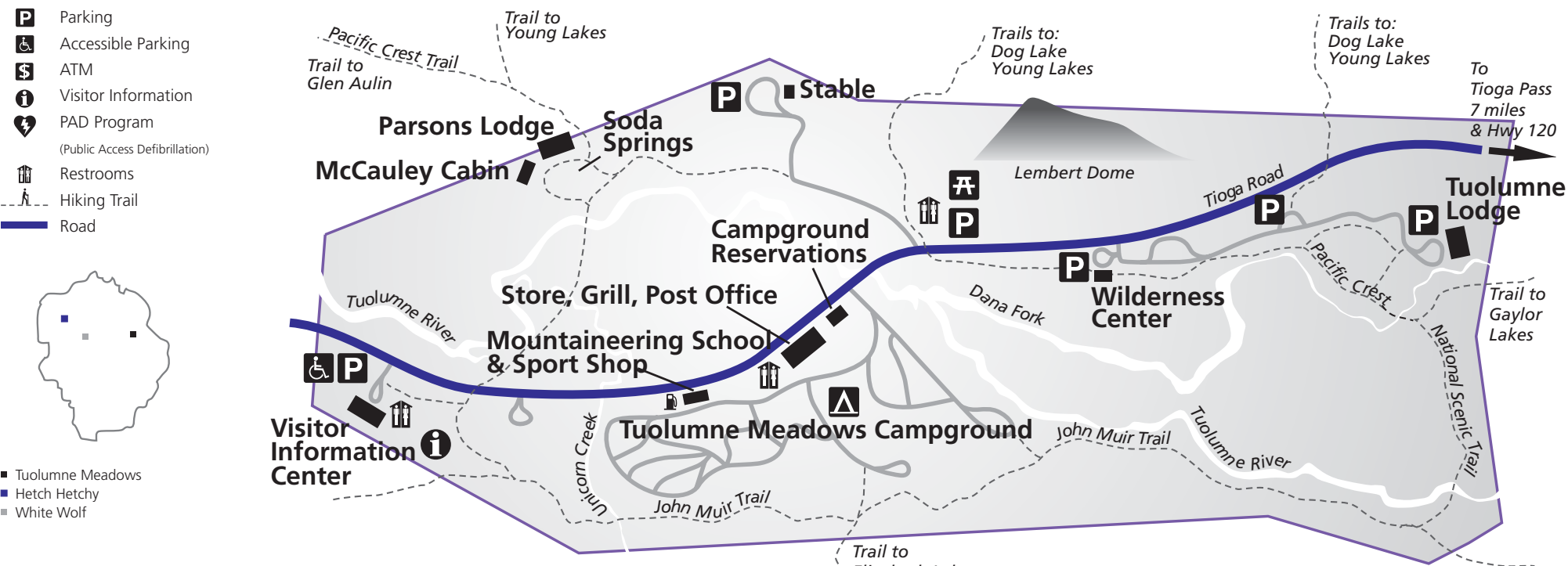
	WAWONA & MARIPOSA GROVE	GLACIER POINT
Sunday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) 11:00am – 3:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) \$ 2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	10:00am A Short Walk to a Great View of El Capitan 1 ½ hrs. Easy. Meet in front of the Glacier Point Gift Shop (NPS) Dusk Sunset Ranger Talk 6:45pm on Sept. 13 6:30pm on Sept 20 & 27 6:15pm on Oct. 4 6:00pm on Oct. 11 ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
Monday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) 11:00am – 3:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (Oct. 12 only) 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) \$ 7:30pm Campfire Talk with a Ranger 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)	2:00pm Ranger Walk—Cliffs and Domes 2 hrs. Meet at Taft Point/Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road. (NPS) Dusk Sunset Ranger Talk 6:45pm on Sept. 14 6:30pm on Sept 21 & 28 6:15pm on Oct. 5 6:00pm on Oct. 12 ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
Tuesday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 13) ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) 2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) 5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist / singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)	10:00am A Short Walk to a Great View of El Capitan 1 ½ hrs. Easy. Meet in front of the Glacier Point Gift Shop (NPS) Dusk Sunset Ranger Talk 6:45pm on Sept. 15 6:30pm on Sept 22 & 29 6:15pm on Oct. 6 6:00pm on Oct. 13 ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS) After Dark Stars Over Yosemite 7:30pm on Sept. 15 & 22 7:00pm on Sept. 29 & Oct. 6 & 13 1 hr. Glacier Point railing (NPS)
Wednesday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) 2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) 5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist / singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)	<div>Programs in CAPS & COLOR are for CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES</div>
Thursday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) 2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) 5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist / singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)	2:00pm Ranger Walk—Cliffs and Domes 2 hrs. Meet at Taft Point/Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road (NPS) Dusk Sunset Ranger Talk 6:45pm on Sept. 10 6:30pm on Sept 17 & 24 6:15pm on Oct. 1 6:00pm on Oct. 8 ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
Friday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) 11:00am – 3:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) \$ 2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) 5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist / singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)	2:00pm Ranger Walk—Cliffs and Domes 2 hrs. Meet at Taft Point/Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road (NPS) Dusk Sunset Ranger Talk 6:45pm on Sept. 11 6:30pm on Sept 18 & 25 6:15pm on Oct. 2 6:00pm on Oct. 9 ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
Saturday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) 10:00am – Noon Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (Sept. 12 & Oct. 3 only) 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) \$ 2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove (except Oct. 3) 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS) 5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist / singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) 7:30pm Campfire Talk with a Ranger 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)	1:00pm JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM 1 hr. Meet in front of the Glacier Point Gift Shop (NPS) 5:30pm Full Moon Hike to Sentinel Dome (Oct. 3 only) 2 hr. Meet at Sentinel Dome parking area (NPS) Dusk Sunset Ranger Talk 6:45pm on Sept. 12 6:30pm on Sept 19 & 26 6:00pm on Oct. 10 ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS) After Dark Stars Over Yosemite 7:30pm on Sept. 12, 19, & 26 7:00pm on Oct. 10 1 hr. Glacier Point railing (NPS)



Ranger Dick Ewart presides over Glacier Point. *NPS photo by Erik Skindrud*

Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, Crane Flat

Where to Go & What to Do



High Sierra Peaks and Quiet Corners of the Park

These areas offer amazing vistas and opportunities for solitude. Hiking, backpacking, and ranger-led programs are popular activities.

Tuolumne Meadows



Meadows, river, forest, and peaks. Photo by Calvin Liu

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center

Open through Sunday, Sept. 27. Hours are 9 am to 5 pm. Park orientation, trail information, books, maps, and displays available. Phone 209/372-0263.

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs

Two trails, both flat and ¾-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge is open from 10 am to 4 pm through Saturday, Sept. 19. Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs.

Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center

Hours are 8 am to 5 pm through Sept. 30. Hours move to 8 am to 4:30 pm starting Oct. 1. The wilderness center is located just south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, at shuttle stop #3. The center offers maps, permits, and bear canister rentals.

Just for Kids

Junior Rangers, a two-hour, ranger-led program for children ages 7-12, is offered Saturday mornings. See listings at right for details.

Ranger Walks

Join a ranger to explore new areas and learn about geology, birds, flowers, history, the Tuolumne River, and more. These walks range from one to eight hours and, except for the long walks, are fairly easy.

Evening Activities

Come to a traditional, ranger-led campfire program for stories, songs, and insight into Yosemite. Program topics vary, and are posted at the campground, Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. End your day with a star program. Bring a pad to sit on and dress warmly.

Horse or Mule Rides

Horse or mule rides begin at the Tuolumne Meadows stable. Stable hours are 7 am to 5 pm through Sept. 13. Information: 209/372-8427.

Big Oak Flat

Big Oak Flat Information Station

Open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm through Sept. 27. The station offers general park information, books, and maps. It also provides wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, and backpacking information.

Merced Grove

Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees accessible only on foot. It’s a four-mile round-trip hike (about three hours) into the grove from Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). Located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance, the trail is marked by a sign and post labeled B-10.

Tuolumne Grove

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of Big Oak

Flat and Tioga Roads. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. The path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The way down can seem much easier than the return to the parking lot. The trip is moderately strenuous on the uphill portion. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.

Free Shuttle Bus

Tuolumne Meadows, Olmsted Point, and Tioga Pass

Shuttle service continues through Sunday, Sept. 20. Shuttles are free.

Service is available along the Tioga Road from Olmsted Point to Tioga Pass. Due to limited trailhead parking, use of the shuttle is encouraged.

Shuttles travel between Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and Olmsted Point with stops along the Tioga Road, including Tuolumne Meadows Campground and the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. They make morning and afternoon runs to Tioga Pass.

Service begins at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge at 7 am. Shuttles arrive at approximately 30-minute intervals between 7 am and 7 pm. The last shuttle leaves Olmsted Point at 6 pm. Schedules are subject to change. Please check route maps at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center or shuttle stops for details.

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

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Tuolumne Meadows
Tuolumne Meadows Grill
8am to 5pm thru Sept. 27
Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 9am thru Sept. 20
Dinner: 5:50pm to 8pm thru Sept. 19
Meals are served family style, and reservations are required.
Call 209/372-8413

White Wolf – open thru Sept. 13
White Wolf Lodge
Breakfast: 7:30am to 9:30am
Take-out Lunch: noon to 2pm
Dinner: 6pm to 8pm
Reservations recommended.
Call 209/372-8416.

GROCERIES

Tuolumne Meadows
Store
9am to 5pm; closes for season at noon on Sunday, Sept. 27
Crane Flat
Store
8am to 5pm
closes Oct. 5 for remodeling

GIFTS & APPAREL

Tuolumne Meadows
Mountaineering School and Sport Shop
8:30am to 6pm
Tuolumne Meadows Bookstore
9am to 5pm through Sunday, Sept. 27
Inside the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Tuolumne Meadows Store
9am to 5pm; closes for season at noon on Sunday, Sept. 27
Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center
8am to 5pm daily

POST OFFICE

Tuolumne Meadows
Post Office
Monday – Friday: 9am to 4pm
Saturday: 9am to Noon
Closes for season between Sept. 15-20—exact date TBD.
Info: 209/372-8236

GAS STATIONS

Tuolumne Meadows
Gas and propane available.
Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

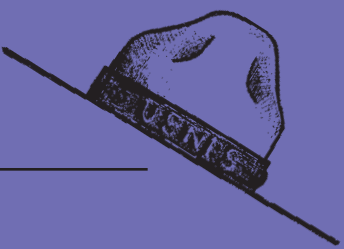
Crane Flat
5am to 5pm
Diesel & propane available.
Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card. Fuel availability may be temporarily interrupted by construction through March 2010.

	TUOLUMNE MEADOWS		WHITE WOLF	CRANE FLAT / HODGDON MEADOW / HETCH HETCHY
Sunday	10:00am	Ranger Hike—Lembert Dome (except Oct. 4 & 11) 3 hrs. Moderately strenuous. 3 miles. Dog Lake parking, shuttle stop #2. Bring snacks & water (NPS)	7:30pm	Ranger Camp-fire Program (Sept. 13 only) 1 hr. White Wolf camp-fire circle (NPS)
	2:00pm	Ranger Walk—Winter’s A–Comin’! (except Oct. 4 & 11) 2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)		
	7:30pm	Campfire (except Oct. 4 & 11) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ♿		
Monday	10:00am	Ranger Walk—Domes and Meadows (except Sept. 28 & Oct. 5 & 12) 2 hrs. Pothole Dome shuttle stop #8, road marker T-29 (NPS)	6:30pm	Ranger in the Grove (Sept. 14 & 21 only) 2 hrs. Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias for answers to your questions (NPS)
	2:00pm	Ranger Walk—Bears & Other Wildlife (except Sept. 28 & Oct. 5 & 12) 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservation Office (NPS)		
	7:30pm	Campfire (except Sept. 28 & Oct. 5 & 12) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ♿		
Tuesday	9:15am	Ranger Hike—Gaylor Lakes Basin (except Sept. 29 & Oct. 6 & 13) 5-6 hrs. Moderately strenuous. 5 miles. Meet at Gaylor Lakes trailhead. Bring lunch, water & raingear (NPS)	10:00am	Starry, Starry Night (Sept. 15 only) 1 ½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)
	2:00pm	Ranger Walk—Along the River (except Sept. 29 & Oct. 6 & 13) 2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)		
	7:30pm	Campfire (except Sept. 29 & Oct. 6 & 13) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ♿		
Wednesday	10:00am	Ranger Walk—Geology (except Sept. 23 & 30 & Oct. 7) 2 hrs. Pothole Dome, shuttle stop #8, road marker T-29 (NPS)	9:00pm	Ranger Hike—Wilderness & Water (Sept. 9, 16, & 23 only) 2 hrs. O’Shaughnessy Dam. Bring water (NPS)
	7:30pm	Campfire (except Sept. 23 & 30 & Oct. 7) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ♿		
	9:00pm	Ranger Talk—Stars (except Sept. 23 & 30 & Oct. 7) 1 hr. Lembert Dome picnic area. Bring pad to sit on and dress warmly (NPS)		
Thursday	8:00am	Ranger Walk—Birds (except Oct. 1 & 8) 2 ½ hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area. Binoculars available (NPS)		6:30pm
	9:15am	Ranger Hike—Mono Pass (except Oct. 1 & 8) 6-8 hrs. Moderately strenuous. 8 miles. Meet at Mono Pass trailhead. Bring lunch, water, & raingear (NPS)		
	2:00pm	Ranger Walk—History (except Oct. 1 & 8) 2 hrs. Tuolumne Visitor Center porch (NPS)		
	7:30pm	Campfire (except Oct. 1 & 8) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ♿		
Friday	8:30am	Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 2 & 9) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup (NPS) ♿	7:30pm	10:00am
	10:00am	Ranger Hike—Hawk Watch on Gaylor Ridge (except Oct. 2 & 9) 3 hrs. Moderately strenuous. 1 mile. Meet at Gaylor Lakes trailhead. Binoculars available. Bring lunch, water, & raingear (NPS)		
	2:00pm	Ranger Walk—The Secret Life of Plants (except Oct. 2 & 9) 2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)		
	7:30pm	Campfire (except Oct. 2 & 9) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ♿		
Saturday	8:30am	Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct. 3 & 10) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup (NPS) ♿	7:30pm	7:30pm
	10:00am	JUNIOR RANGERS (except Sept. 26 & Oct. 3 & 10) 2 hrs. Ages 7-12 Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)		
	11:00am	Ranger Hike—Twin Bridges Loop (except Oct. 3 & 10) 3-4 hrs. Easy. 3 miles. Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservation Office. Bring lunch, water, and raingear (NPS)		
	7:30pm	Campfire (except Oct. 3 & 10) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ♿		
	9:00pm	Ranger Talk—Stars (except Oct. 3 & 10) 1 hr. Lembert Dome picnic area. Bring pad to sit on and dress warmly (NPS)		



Cathedral Peak to Fairview Dome. Photo by John Sun

Become a Junior Ranger



Ages 3 and up can earn a badge by exploring the park

Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge.

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

- 1. Write the name of the trail you walked. _____
- 2. Explore with your senses! Record the following.

I see: _____

I hear: _____

I smell: _____

I touch: _____

Draw a picture of something you saw along the trail.

- 3. Learn to “leave no trace.” If you see trash or rubbish, please pick it up. Be sure to recycle any recyclable materials you pick up or bring along.
- 4. Learn more. Go to a ranger-led program or visit with an Indian Cultural Demonstrator. Have the ranger or demonstrator sign below.

Signed by: _____

- 5. Write down something you learned from a ranger or Indian Cultural Demonstrator.

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

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

Be a naturalist. Look for these common Yosemite animals. If you see one, make a note by the animal's picture below. If you don't see the animal below, try to draw it in the box on this page. Where did you see it? What was it doing? Also, remember never to feed or approach an animal.



Marmot



Coyote



Clark's nutcracker



Black bear



Golden-mantled ground squirrel



Mule deer

Illustrations by Tom Whitworth

Bears and Wildlife

Enjoying wildlife safely and responsibly



Sow and Cub. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Keeping Bears Wild

(While protecting yourself and your property)

Top Three Ways to Keep Yosemite’s Black Bears Wild and Alive:

1. Store Your Food Properly.

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

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

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

If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

3. 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.

Red Bear, Dead Bear

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

Please remember that Yosemite National Park is a wildlife preserve: by driving the speed limit you are helping to protect the park and its wildlife.

Backpackers: Save Your Food, Save A Bear

Bear resistant food canisters are 2.7-pound containers that can be used to store five or more days of backpacker food when meals are carefully planned. Canisters have an inset lid that bears are unable to open. When used correctly, bears learn that—although they smell like food—the canisters are not worth investigating.

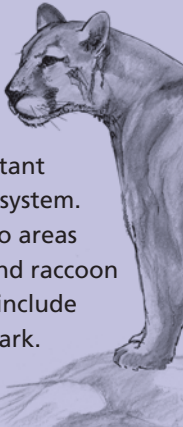
Bear canisters are available for \$5 per trip at the Valley Wilderness Center, the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio, Big Oak Flat Information Station, Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Canisters can be rented and retuned at any of these locations.

Report Bear Sightings!

To report bear sightings, improper food storage, trash problems, and other bear-related problems, leave a message for the Bear Management Team at 209/372-0322. Your call can be made anonymously.

For more information regarding bears and proper food storage, visit the park’s website (www.nps.gov/yose/bears).

Mountain Lions



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

For your safety:

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

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

What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?

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

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

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

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

How to Store Food

“Food” includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals.

LOCATION	FOOD STORAGE	WHY?
Your Vehicle	You may store food inside your car (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark: use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats.	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!
Your Campsite or Tent Cabin	You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed.	Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and latched at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin.
Picnic Areas & on the Trails	Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm’s reach. Don’t turn your back to your food.	Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.
Backpacking in the Wilderness	Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite.	In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food.

Note: Improper food storage may result in impoundment of your food or vehicle, a fine of up to \$5,000, and/or revocation of camping permit. Following these regulations and precautions decreases the chance of personal injury or property damage. However, bear damage and confrontations are still possible, even when all the regulations and guidelines are followed.



Protecting Yourself

Keep safety in mind as you explore the park



Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

There are many ways to experience the wildness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning, you can minimize the risks associated with many activities.

Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules: Please obey posted speed limits. Yosemite’s roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park’s scenery and wildlife.

Pack Water

Hydration is life. Avoid dehydration and heat exhaustion by carrying plenty of water. Filters or other treatment methods are essential. (See “Water Quality” at right.)

Effects of Altitude

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley’s elevation is 4,000 feet). The risk of occurrence increases with age and with diseases of the heart and lungs.

Symptoms include headache, nausea, insomnia, irritability, shortness of breath, general malaise and fatigue. The best way to avoid it is to slowly acclimatize yourself to higher elevations, over the span of two to three days by gradually gaining elevation until you reach 10,000 feet (Tioga Pass). Avoid alcohol, sugar, and high-fat meals. Should altitude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

Hiking, Backpacking, Rock Climbing and Scrambling

- Be honest about your abilities and plan with the least experienced member of your group in mind. Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back. Carry a signal mirror and whistle. Solo activities require increased precautions.
- Stay on designated trails and routes. Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
- Avoid scrambling in steep terrain or off-trail. If new to climbing, take a class

to learn critical safety and protection techniques. Never climb alone.

- Check weather forecasts. Storms can occur with little warning. Snow is possible year-round at higher elevations, and can make route finding difficult. Temperature shifts are common.
- Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food.
- Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.
- Don’t depend on cell phone or GPS reception for your safety.

Protect Yosemite’s Wilderness

- Free wilderness permits are required for all wilderness trips.
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Use gas stoves, not wood fires.
- Camp in an existing campsite at least 100 feet from water and trail. You must camp four trail miles from any populated area and one mile from any road.
- To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.
- Maximum group is 15 people for on-trail and eight for off-trail travel.

Wilderness Permits

Free permits are required for overnight trips. Permits are issued at Yosemite Valley, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station (opening times vary). You can reserve permits, but they must be picked up in person. Check the park’s website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740 to reserve a permit.

More Information

www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm
Leave No Trace:
www.lnt.org
Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue:
www.friendofyosar.org



Jr. Ranger Day 2009. NPS Photo by David Miyako

Top left: Taft Point overlook. Photo by Wendy Malone

Top right: Theresa Ho on belay.
Kenny Karst / DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.

Water Safety

Protecting park resources, cycling, and pets in the park

The Water Ways

Not long ago, many areas along the Merced River showed signs of human trampling. Now, because of the careful actions of park staff and visitors, many of these areas have been restored to more natural conditions. The plants, birds, insects, and animals that depend on living in or near the water have been able to return to these once barren areas. You can help continue this progress by entering and exiting the river at designated launch and removal points. Packing out what you pack in will also help keep the river free from trash and prevent animals from swallowing harmful plastic or aluminum.

Please observe the following safety tips to protect Yosemite’s river and lakeshore habitats and to safely enjoy water activities throughout the park.

Swimming

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 the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
- Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

River Crossings

In summer, rivers and creeks swollen by runoff from snowmelt are dangerous.

- Stay away from river and creek banks during high water conditions and avoid rock hopping. Stream-polished rocks along the water’s edge are slippery when wet or dry.
- If you choose to cross a stream without a bridge, avoid places where the water is either swift or over your knees. Use a stick or pole for balance and try to cross where there is a gravel bottom. Crossing on a natural bridge

of rocks or logs can be surprisingly slippery. Consider where you will land if you fall. Never cross above rapids or falls. To prevent being pulled under by the weight or your pack, unbuckle the waist strap so you can shed it if you fall in. Do not tie yourself into safety ropes—they can drown you.

Rafting

Water is low in the Merced River in late summer and early autumn. Conditions permitting, however, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stoneman Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10 am to 6 pm daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device. At low water, however, any rafting will likely be restricted to the deeper pools in this area.

Raft Rentals

Raft rentals are closed for the season.

- The entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher.
- You must wear or have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device immediately available.
- Fallen trees and other natural debris in the river create important habitat for fish and other wildlife. Be alert—they can also create hazards for rafters.

Fishing

Fishing in Yosemite is regulated under state law. A valid California sport-fishing license is required for those persons age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible by attaching it to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline.

- Trout season runs through November 15 (except Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, which opens June 15).
- Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the Foresta Bridge in El Portal. Within these reaches of the river, it is catch-and-release only for rainbow trout. Brown trout limits are five fish per day. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used.
- The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

Water Quality

To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking.

- Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier.
- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available, and wash hands with soap and water. Follow wilderness procedures in the backcountry.

Help Guard Park Resources...

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. With nearly 3.5 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be!

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm and find a copy of the *Superintendent’s Compendium*. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7 and 34), and other applicable federal statutes and regulations.

Dogs & Other Pets

Keep in mind, in Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. Dogs or other pets are not allowed anywhere in the Mariposa, Tuolumne, or Merced sequoia groves. They are not allowed on trails, in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted.
- Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.

- For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles.
- Pets are not allowed in any lodging facilities or other buildings within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.
- Pets may not be tied to an object and left unattended.

Bicycling

Bike rentals at Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge are open 9 am to 6 pm. The last bike goes out at 4:45 pm.

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails.

Bikes are not allowed to travel off-trail. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite National Park.



Upper Yosemite Fall in springtime. NPS Photo

Camping in Yosemite National Park

Planning your camping experience



Camping in Yosemite. Photo by Ray Santos

General Info...

Services

- All sites include picnic tables, firepits or grills, tent space, parking, and a food locker (33"d x 45"w x 18"h). See page 5 for food storage regulations.
- Toilet facilities are available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat contain non-flushing vault toilets only and no potable water.
- Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley.
- RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat campgrounds, and RVs are not permitted in walk-in and group campsites. There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows.

Regulations

- Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.
- A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.
- Quiet hours are from 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 not permitted in Yosemite Valley; you may purchase firewood at stores near the campgrounds.

The overnight-outdoor experience

Yosemite National Park contains 13 popular campgrounds. Up to seven are on a reservation system, the rest are first-come, first-served. From April through September, reservations are essential and the first-come, first-served sites often fill by noon during these months.

Camping Reservations

Reservations are required year-round for campsites in Yosemite Valley’s car campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served. Campground reservations are available up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month at 7 am Pacific time. Log onto the website or call as soon as possible as some campgrounds fill within several minutes of the opening period.

ARRIVAL DATE	FIRST DAY TO MAKE RESERVATIONS (7 AM PT)
Dec. 15 – Jan. 14	Aug. 15
Jan. 15 – Feb. 14	Sept. 15
Feb. 15 – Mar. 14	Oct. 15
Mar. 15 – Apr. 14	Nov. 15
Apr. 15 – May 14	Dec. 15
May 15 – Jun. 14	Jan. 15
Jun. 15 – Jul. 14	Feb. 15
Jul. 15 – Aug. 14	Mar. 15
Aug. 15 – Sep. 14	Apr. 15
Sep. 15 – Oct. 14	May 15
Oct. 15 – Nov. 14	Jun. 15
Nov. 15 – Dec. 14	Jul. 15

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.

Hours:

7 am to 7 pm Pacific time
(November through February)

7 am to 9 pm Pacific time
(March through October)

Reservation centers 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.

Yosemite Valley

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

Camp 4 is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis; these campsites are not wheelchair accessible. Sites are available

on a per-person basis, and six people will be placed in each campsite, regardless of number of people in your party. Camp 4 often fills before 9 am each day, May through September.

Camping in Areas Surrounding Yosemite

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite. For additional information, contact Groveland Ranger Station at 209/962-7825; Mariposa Ranger Station at 209/966-3638; Mono Lake Ranger Station at 760/647-3044; or Oakhurst Ranger Station at 559/683-4636. For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 10.

Group Campgrounds

There are group campsites at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds. Reservations can be made the same way as individual site reservations; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets, RVs, and generators are not permitted in group sites.

Campgrounds in Yosemite National Park

CAMPGROUND	OPEN 2009 (APPROX)	MAX RV LENGTH	MAX TRAILER LENGTH	RESERVATIONS REQUIRED?	DAILY FEE	# OF SITES	PETS	WATER
YOSEMITE VALLEY								
Upper Pines	All year	35 ft	24 ft	March 15 - Nov 30	\$20	238	Yes	Tap
Lower Pines	April 4 – Nov 2	40 ft	35 ft	Yes	\$20	60	Yes	Tap
North Pines	April 1 – Oct 13	40 ft	35 ft	Yes	\$20	81	Yes	Tap
Camp 4	All year	No RVs/trailers	n/a	First-come, first-served	\$5/pers.	35	No	Tap
SOUTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY								
Wawona	All year	35 ft	35 ft	June 20 – Sep 28	\$20	93	Yes	Tap
Bridalveil Creek	July 1 – Sep 8	35 ft	24 ft	First-come,first-served	\$14	110	Yes	Tap
NORTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY								
Hodgdon Meadow	All year	35 ft	27 ft	Apr 10 – Oct 13	\$20	105	Yes	Tap
Crane Flat	June 18 – Oct 13	35 ft	27 ft	50%	\$20	166	Yes	Tap
Tamarack Flat	June 23 – Oct 15	No RVs/trailers		First-come, first-served	\$10	52	No	Creek (boil)
White Wolf	Late June – Sep 15	27 ft	24 ft	First-come, first-served	\$14	74	Yes	Tap
Yosemite Creek	July – Sep 8	No RVs/trailers		First-come, first-served	\$10	40	Yes	Creek (boil)
Porcupine Flat	July – Oct 15	24 ft (limited)	20 ft	First-come, first-served	\$10	52	No	Creek (boil)
Tuolumne Meadows	Late June – Sep 28	35 ft	35 ft	50%	\$20	304	Yes	Tap



Hiking On the Trails

Discover an easy stroll or a challenging hike



Choose your adventure

With over 800 miles of hiking trails, what better way to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite than on foot? Ask a ranger at any visitor center for one of several free, day-hike handouts. Excellent maps and guidebooks are available at bookstores throughout the park.

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

TRAIL / DESTINATION	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE / TIME	DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION
Bridalveil Fall	Bridalveil Fall Parking Area	0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes	Easy
Lower Yosemite Fall	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes	Easy
Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock	Camp 4 Near Shuttle Stop #7	2 miles round-trip, 2–3 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Upper Yosemite Fall	Same as above	7.2 miles round-trip, 6–8 hours	Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain
Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17	2 miles round-trip, 1 hour	Easy
Vernal Fall Footbridge	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	1.4 miles round-trip, 1–2 hours	Moderate, 400-foot gain
Top of Vernal Fall	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	3 miles round-trip, 2–4 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Nevada Fall	same as above	5 miles round-trip, 5–6 hours	Strenuous 1,900-foot gain
Top of Half Dome	same as above	14 mi (via Mist Trail) or 16.3 mi (via John Muir Trail) round-trip, 10–12 hours	Extremely Strenuous, 4,800-foot gain
Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point	Southside Drive	4.8 miles one-way, 3–4 hours one-way	Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain
Valley Floor Loop	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	13 miles full loop, 5–7 hours full loop	Moderate

Day Hikes Outside of Yosemite Valley

TRAIL / DESTINATION	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE / TIME	DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION
WAWONA			
Wawona Meadow Loop	Wawona Hotel	3.5 miles round-trip, 1.5 hours	Easy
Chilnualna Falls Trail	Parking 2 mi. up Chilnualna Falls Rd.	8.2 miles round-trip, 5 hours	Strenuous 2,400-foot gain
GLACIER POINT ROAD			
Taft Point	Sentinel Dome Parking Area	2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours	Easy to Moderate
Sentinel Dome	Sentinel Dome Parking Area	2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours	Moderate
TUOLUMNE MEADOWS AREA			
Soda Springs / Parsons Lodge	Lembert Dome Parking Area	1.5 miles round-trip, 1 hour	Easy
Lembert Dome	Lembert Dome Parking Area	4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours	Moderately Strenuous
John Muir Trail through Lyell Canyon	Dog Lake Parking Area	8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours	Easy, 200-foot gain
Elizabeth Lake	Tuolumne Meadows Group Campground	4.8 miles round trip, 4 to 5 hours	Moderate
TIOGA ROAD			
Lukens Lake	White Wolf ¹	5.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours	Moderate
Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek	Porcupine Creek ¹	7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours	Moderate, 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss
Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek	Lukens Lake Trailhead ¹	10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours	Moderately Strenuous 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss
Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest	Tenaya Lake ¹	19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours	Strenuous
HETCH HETCHY			
Wapama Falls	O'Shaughnessy Dam	5 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours	Easy to Moderate

¹These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers’ Bus. Additionally, the Tuolumne Meadows free shuttle serves all Tuolumne Meadows hikes listed above.

Self-Guided Trails

A Changing Yosemite

This one-mile-long walk through Cook’s Meadow explores both natural and cultural stories of Yosemite. Brochure available at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

Giant Sequoias

Two self-guiding trails in the Mariposa Grove, and one in the Tuolumne Grove, interpret the natural history and ecological dynamics of the giant sequoia community.

Mirror Lake

Mirror Lake interpretive trail is a short loop adjacent to Mirror Lake, a seasonal lake on Tenaya Creek. Exhibits focus on the rich natural history of the area, American Indian use, and history of this popular destination. To reach the start of the trail, walk one mile from shuttle stop #17 to the disabled parking spaces near the lake. The self-guiding trail begins here.

Indian Village

This short loop winds through the Indian Village of Ahwahnee, a reconstructed Miwok-Paiute village. A booklet is available at the trailhead and in the Visitor Center. The trail begins behind the Yosemite Museum.

Curry Village

The Legacy of Curry Village is an easy stroll commemorating the early days of Camp Curry. Pick up a map and guide at the Curry Village front desk or tour desk.

Masthead: Hikers. *Illustration by Lawrence W. Duke*

Top Left: Hikers. *Photo by Bob Roney*

Top Right: Hikers. *Photo by Bob Roney*

Ken Burns Brings Parks Home

Feature article



The star of Ken Burns' film is stunning imagery of America's national parks. Photo courtesy of QT Luong, terragalleria.com

“To understand wilderness you have to be in it, and it has to be in you. At least, that’s what I used to think before I became associated with a man named Ken Burns.”

By Ranger Shelton Johnson

There are millions of kids in America who have never visited a national park, never seen a black bear digging up roots in a meadow, or felt the thunder of a waterfall. They’re growing up in cities far from the migrations of caribou, the stillness of old-growth forests, and when they come of age what will they know about that America?

They will be conversant in the culture of shopping malls and commerce, fluent with Twitter and Facebook, their fingers will flash intuitively across the keyboard of some electronic device, but will they understand mountains or listen knowingly to the wind?

Right now in national parks all across America, there are children playing amid some of the most inspiring landscapes on the face of the earth. Do they know they are in a classroom, that they are joyfully learning an ancient language built out of the earth itself? By the time these kids have become adults they will speak the words fluently, fully understand the meaning of bear or waterfall or forest.

But there are millions of kids, millions of young and old Americans, who have never visited a national park, never spoken the language of mountain or desert. So, when they hear bear or waterfall or

forest, their eyes do not shine with that old brightness—that knowing look that our ancestors wore in the presence of a bear drinking water beside a waterfall flowing at the heart of a great forest. Today, most Americans speak English, but not nearly as many Americans can still converse in the tongue of trees that have never felt an axe or rivers that have never known a dam. To understand wilderness you have to be in it, and it has to be in you. At least, that’s what I used to think before I became associated with a man named Ken Burns.

Ken Burns is a filmmaker, specifically a documentary filmmaker, and his newest film is *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea*. This film is 12 hours long and just about every national park shows up somewhere during those 12 hours, but something else shows up as well.

As you hear story after story about individuals and communities who fought to preserve some patch of earth, not just for themselves but for their children, something magical begins to happen. You begin to understand, to feel why these people loved what they loved. You begin to understand Yosemite through the life of a great Japanese artist named Chiura Obata or the area that is now Biscayne National Park through the life of an African American named Lancelot Jones. It’s because their passion becomes the lens through which we see

our own country in a new light.

This doesn’t just happen once or twice, but over and over, and in episode after episode, until by the time the credits roll at the end, the experience of watching the film has actually begun to mirror the experience of being in a national park.

It takes time to really be where you are. Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan know this, so nothing is rushed, which is just the way it should be when you’re walking along a trail and a story is being told and continues to be told around each new bend.

Sure, there are many experiences in the national parks that are an easy sell

to the soul, but there are many other experiences that need time to grow and the nurturing of dreams before you really begin to feel them. I’ve met people who’ve told me that they feel that Great Basin National Park is one of the most beautiful places in America, and I’ve met others who just couldn’t understand why that place was a national park. The folks who saw the beauty had stayed for days or even a week, but the people who left, did so after only minutes or an hour.

The night sky in Yosemite is full of stars, and because cities are farther away, you see more stars, stars that are too faint to be seen in Los Angeles or San Francisco. In Great Basin National Park, the sky is so dark you see stars that are too faint to be seen in Yosemite. Over time your eyes slowly adjust, they open up and you begin to see something that was there all along, right there in front of you, yet invisible. Because you invested the time and just sat there, looking, finally you’re rewarded by being able to see a light, a brilliance, that just a few minutes earlier had been undetectable.

That is the experience of watching Ken Burns’ newest documentary film. The light that builds is the cumulative impact of the stories of people and their passion for a place, for an idea, and for 12 hours that brilliance is allowed to grow, like stars in a desert sky, so by the time it’s all done, there’s little need for that weekend backpacking trip to the mountains.

On Sept. 27, *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea* will light up your living room for six nights like a returning comet, and it really will be the next best thing to being there.

The National Parks: America’s Best Idea debuts on PBS affiliates across the country in September. Learn more about the film at www.pbs.org/nationalparks



Filmmakers Dayton Duncan (left) and Ken Burns visit young people in Yosemite. Photo: Al Golub / Golub Photography

Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's future

Enhancing 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.anseladamsgallery.com.

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite (DNC) operates hotels, restaurants, sightseeing tours, recreational activities, interpretive programs, stores, shuttles and service stations in the park under contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior. DNC encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure. For more information and employment opportunities with DNC at Yosemite, visit online at www.YosemitePark.com.

Yosemite Association

The Yosemite Association is a nonprofit membership organization that provides opportunities for people to learn about, enjoy, and experience Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada. The Association celebrates the majesty and grandeur of this region through its visitor services, publications, outdoor classroom, and membership activities, which give people of all ages the chance to forge an enduring and inspirational connection to Yosemite. This, in turn, builds a commitment to the long-term preservation and vitality of Yosemite and our National Parks. Since 1923, the Association has provided important services and financial support to the National Park Service. Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to be become more closely involved and affiliated with the park will enjoy membership in the Association. For more information, visit park bookstores or www.yosemite.org.

The Yosemite Fund

The Fund provides broad-based private funding from 27,000 members for projects that preserve, protect, or enhance Yosemite Park. Fund operations result in material improvement in the stewardship and quality of Yosemite's natural, cultural or historical resources or the visitor experience. Fund grants repair trails, restore habitat, conduct scientific research, enhance visitor education, preserve park history, and protect wildlife. Since 1988 the Fund has provided over \$50 million to complete more than 200 projects. Visit online at www.yosemitefund.org.

Yosemite Institute

Since 1971, thousands of school-age children have benefited from learning in "nature's classroom" through the residential field-science programs offered by Yosemite Institute (YI). A YI experience strives to foster a life-long connection to the natural world—whether it is in Yosemite, on a city street or in our own backyards. YI also offers professional development for teachers, summer youth programs, backpacking adventures, community outreach programs and service learning projects. For more information, visit www.yni.org/yi.

Contact Us...

The Ansel Adams Gallery

PO Box 455
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-4413
209/372-4714 fax
www.anseladams.com

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

PO Box 578
Yosemite, CA 95389
801/559-5000
www.yosemitepark.com

Yosemite Association

PO Box 230
El Portal, CA 95318
209/379-2646
209/379-2486 fax
www.yosemite.org

The Yosemite Fund

155 Montgomery St. #1104
San Francisco, CA 94104
800/469-7275 or 415/434-1782
www.yosemitefund.org

Yosemite Institute

PO Box 487
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/379-9511
209/379-9510 fax
www.naturebridge.org/yosemite




THE YOSEMITE FUND®
Providing for Yosemite's Future

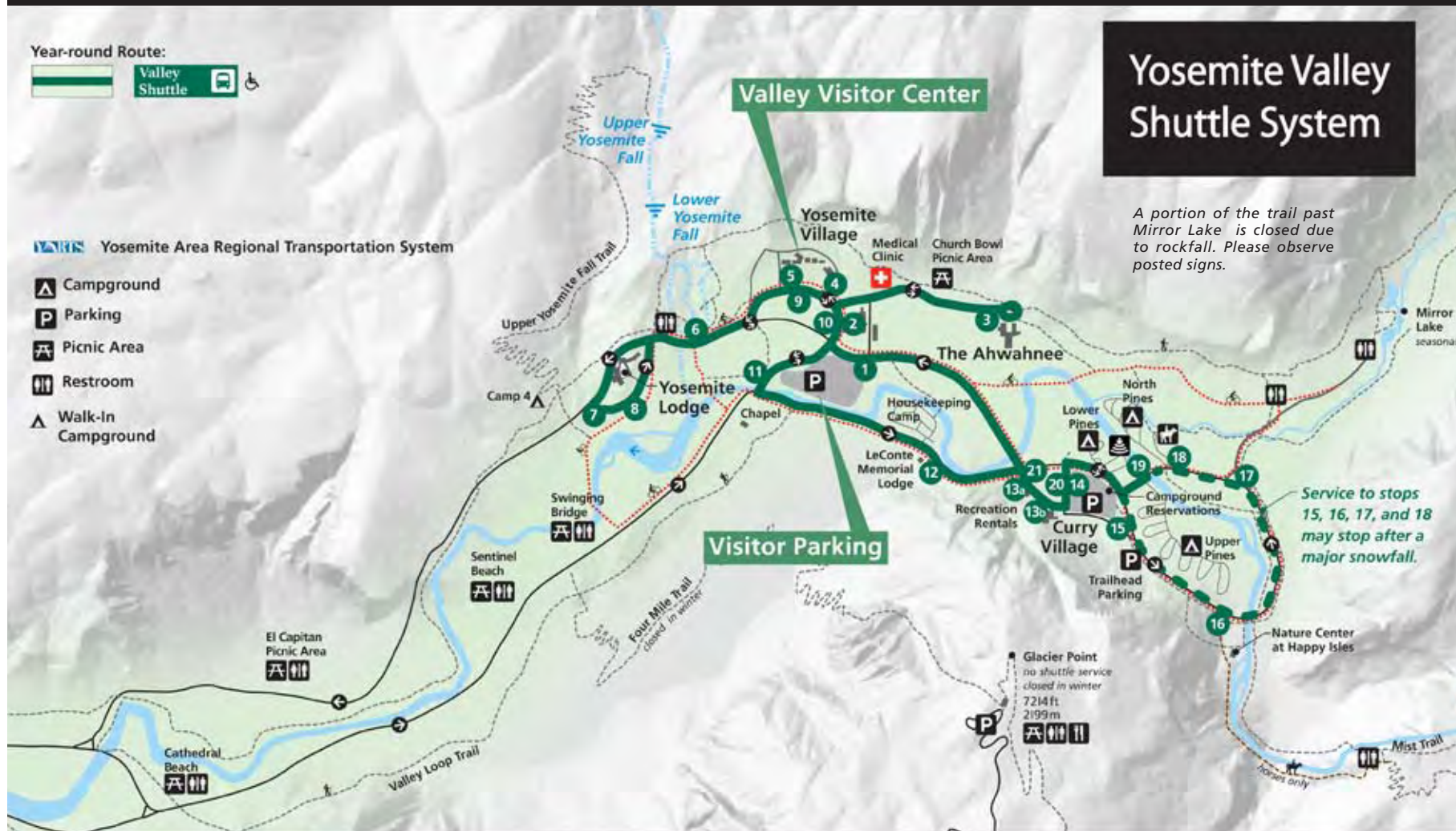
To Learn more about Park
**Planning and
Improvement Efforts**
visit online at
**[www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/
planning](http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning)**

Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg

Year-round Route:
 Valley Shuttle 

 Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

-  Campground
-  Parking
-  Picnic Area
-  Restroom
-  Walk-In Campground



Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am - 10:00pm. All shuttles follow the same route, serving stops in numerical order. Service may be affected by construction projects. Check shuttle stops for more information.

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	Yosemite Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2 10	Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	Degnan's Deli	13a 21	Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5 9	Valley Visitor Center	13b	Curry Village		
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	14 20	Curry Village Parking		
7	Camp 4	15	Upper Pines Campground		