

Yosemite Guide

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

September 8 - October 12, 2010

September - October 2010

Giant sequoias, photo by

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Vol.35, Issue No.7

Yosemite GuideSeptember 8 - October 12, 2010

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Year-round Route:

Valley Shuttle

Summer-only Routes:

El Capitan Shuttle

Express Shuttle

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

Campground

Parking

Picnic Area

Restroom

Walk-in Campground

The map displays the Yosemite Valley and surrounding areas. Shuttle routes are color-coded: green for the year-round Valley Shuttle, purple for the summer El Capitan Shuttle, and orange for the summer Express Shuttle. Landmarks include Yosemite Village, Yosemite Lodge, The Ahwahnee, Curry Village, and various picnic areas and campgrounds. The map also shows major roads like Highway 140 and Highway 99.

The **Valley Visitor Shuttle** operates from 7 am to 10 pm and serves stops in numerical order. Shuttles run daily every 10 to 20 minutes depending on time of day. Overnight service available by calling 209/372-1001.

The **El Capitan Shuttle** operates from 9 am to 6 pm. Shuttles run daily every 30 minutes. No overnight service available.

The **Express Shuttle** operates from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	Yosemite Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2	Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	Degnan's Deli	13, 21	Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5	Valley Visitor Center	14	Curry Village	20	El Capitan Picnic Area
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	15	Curry Village Parking	21	El Capitan Bridge
7	Camp 4		Upper Pines Campground	22	Four Mile Trailhead

US Department of the Interior
National Park Service
PO Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

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Things to Do

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

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours, but to give you some ideas, here are some popular activities for a day in Yosemite National Park.

Take the Bus!

Free shuttles, including some environmentally-friendly electric/diesel hybrids, are available in many places throughout the park. Park your car and let an expert drive you to some of the most scenic and historic points in the park. Not only will you be doing your part to cut down on traffic congestion and vehicle pollutants, you’ll also have both hands free for that perfect shot of Half Dome.

Walk to a Waterfall

Yosemite Valley is famous for its awe-inspiring waterfalls; each as distinct as the granite cliffs they dive over. While Yosemite Falls is likely dry by September, Bridalveil, Vernal, and Nevada Falls flow all year. (See page 17 for hiking information.)

Explore a Sequoia Grove

Meet the most massive trees 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



Bring Your Yosemite Guide With You!

The Yosemite Guide has much of the information you’ll need to get the most out of your visit, including maps, hiking and camping, and important safety information.

sunset, as it lights up the cliff face, from Glacier Point (or from other points in Yosemite Valley). Listen in on a sunset talk with a ranger at Glacier Point.

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 hiking trails. (See page 2 for a park map and page 3 for area information)

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. (See page 2 for a park map and area information.

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 and are fun for the whole family. (See pages 8 and 9 for history center and other Wawona area information.)

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 area 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.)

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.)

Yosemite Shuttle photo by Al Golub



Entering a National Park

Prepare yourself for a wild experience. Yosemite is a place where natural forces—such as rockfall, fire, and flood—are constantly at work. Here, wildlife freely roams. This is a place where wilderness prevails. The National Park Service recognizes the importance of Yosemite’s natural processes and is bound by its mission to protect them for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. While you are enjoying your visit, be attentive to the special regulations in place to protect park resources (page 6) and those designed for your safety (page 7).



Fire – Police – Medical Emergency:
Dial 911

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

Sudden changes in weather are common in the Sierra Nevada. Call the number above or check at a visitor center for the most recent weather forecast

Road Information

Construction may cause delays and/or detours on park roads. Call 209/372-0200 for updated road information and check the park map on the back of this Guide to determine possible construction impacts.

Access for People with Disabilities

Accessible parking, lodging, tours, and activities are available throughout the park.



For a complete list of accessible services, recreational opportunities, and exhibits, pick up an updated Yosemite Accessibility Guide which 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.

A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0296 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of at least 2 days is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a 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.

What’s Inside:

- 01 Things to Do
- 04 Yosemite Valley
- 08 Mariposa Grove
- Wawona
- Glacier Point
- 10 Tuolumne Meadows
- White Wolf
- Crane Flat
- Hetch Hetchy
- 12 Becoming a Junior Ranger
- 13 Wildlife
- 16 Camping
- 17 Hiking
- 18 Feature Article
- 19 Supporting Your Park

Discover Yosemite

Entrance Fees

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

Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite. The park is open year-round, 24 hours/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.tcvb.com

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

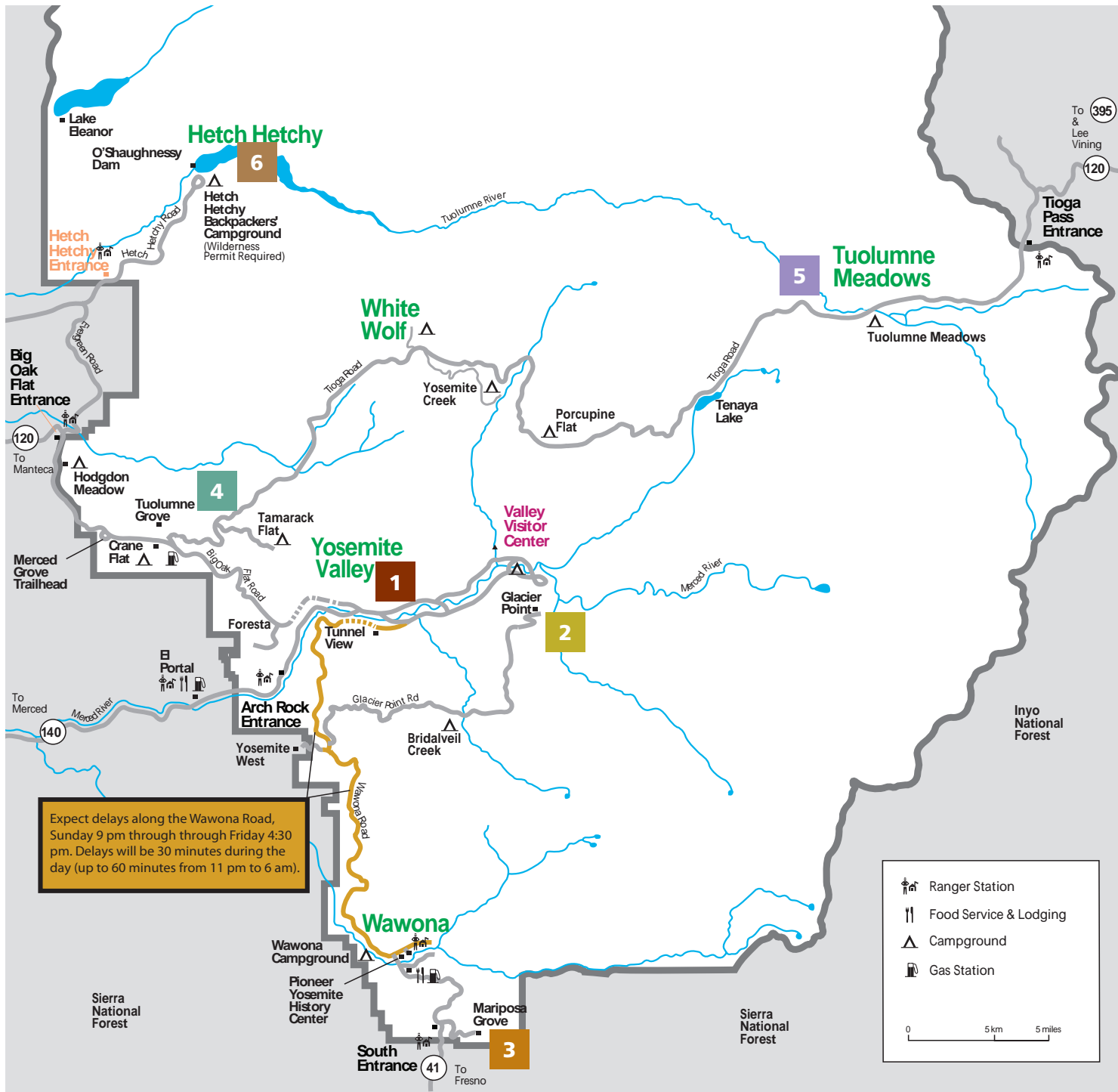
Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/878-3074

Highway 140/49
Mariposa County Visitor Center
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081

**Yosemite Mariposa County
Tourism Bureau**
209/742-4567
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 209/724-8104
www.yosemite-gateway.org



Yosemite Valley

1 Yosemite Valley, open all year, is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. You can get there via Highway 41/Wawona Road from Fresno, Highway 140/El Portal Road from Merced, Highway 120 west/Big Oak Flat Road from Manteca, and (during summer) via the Tioga Road/Highway 120 east from Lee Vining. Yosemite Valley is home to massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls slows to trickle by August, a moderate hike will bring you to impressive Vernal and Nevada Falls. Walk to Mirror Lake, where you will see reflections of Half Dome. Gaze up at El Capitan, a massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the valley by foot, bike, car, on horseback, raft, or tour, you will behold scenery that will leave you breathless and eager to see what's around the next corner.



Mirror Lake and Mount Watkins. 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 or Wawona. To get there from either of these places, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), to Chinquapin, then turn onto Glacier Point Road. Glacier Point Road is usually open from late May through sometime in November. Be prepared for 30-minute construction delays (60 minutes at night) on the Wawona Road Sunday evening through Friday evening. 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. Be prepared for 30-minute construction delays (60 minutes at night) on the Wawona Road Sunday evening through Friday evening. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Enjoy a horse-drawn stage ride, watch blacksmiths at work at the blacksmith shop, or hike one of the scenic trails. For more information, visit the 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.

Tioga Road and Tuolumne Grove

4 Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. It is usually open from late May or early June through sometime in November. The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 to nearly 10,000 feet, so it offers an opportunity to experience many of Yosemite’s habitats. The White Wolf area, midway across the park, is the starting point for day hikes to Lukens Lake and Harden Lake. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the grove. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead on Big Oak Flat Road and walk 1.5 steep miles down to the grove. These groves are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off-limits to vehicles. Remember: walking down is easier than walking back up.

Tuolumne Meadows

5 Tuolumne Meadows provides a glimpse of the High Sierra and the Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River, which 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 also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. Due to its importance as a municipal water supply, no swimming is permitted. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley. 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. Hetch Hetchy Road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is approximately a 1 ¼-hour 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.



View from Glacier Point at sunset. Photo by Christine White Loberg



The Mariposa Grove Museum. Photo by Pam Meierding



Clouds Rest and Half Dome as seen from the Tioga Road at Olmsted Point. Photo by Victoria Mates



Cathedral Peak, Photo by Christine White Loberg



Hetch Hetchy. Photo by Erik Skindrud

Did you know?

Fire has been a natural part of the Sierran ecosystem for centuries. Natural fires swept through these plant communities at intervals that provided conditions for many plant species to regenerate. Fire thins competing species, recycles nutrients into the soil, releases and scarifies seeds, and opens holes in the forest canopy for sunlight to enter. All of these are critical to forest health and natural cycles of growth and decomposition. Plants are not the only living things that have evolved with and adapted to fire. Animal species are just as much a part of the “fire environment.” With the increased forage that results after a fire, many animals low on the food chain experience increases in their populations; therefore species above them on the food chain also benefit.

Despite the evidence that fire is a necessary element in the Sierra Nevada, over most of the past century people have feared and suppressed it whenever possible. Especially in the western United States, the accumulation of dead forest litter and duff during that time now presents extreme hazards to the health of the trees, soil, and wildlife, and to humans living in these areas. To learn more about fire ecology, visit www.nps.gov/fire.

Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas in the heart of the park



Yosemite Falls, NPS Photo

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. See pages 5, 6, and 7 for more information on program topics and visitor services.

Ranger Programs

Rangers give walks and talks every day about Yosemite’s natural and cultural history. See pages 6 and 7 for scheduled strolls, talks, and evening programs.

Walking and Hiking

From easy walks to Lower Yosemite Fall, Cook’s Meadow, and Mirror Lake to strenuous hikes to the top of Yosemite Falls or Nevada Fall, Yosemite Valley has a wide range of walking and hiking possibilities. See page 17 for a list of hikes.

Bicycling

Several miles of paved bicycle paths wind through Yosemite Valley. Bring your own or rent bikes at Yosemite Lodge or Curry Village. Rental stands are open from 9am to 6pm, with the last rentals out at 4:45pm. Bikes are only allowed on paved bicycle paths.

Tours

- (Tours listed below depart from Yosemite Lodge.)
- The **Valley Floor Tour** is a 19-mile, two-hour open-air tram tour narrated by a park ranger (weather permitting). The tour departs

- Yosemite Lodge several times daily.
- The **Glacier Point Tour** leaves Yosemite Lodge at 8:30 am, 10 am, and 1:30 pm daily when the Glacier Point Road is open. One-way tickets are available for those who want to hike down from Glacier Point.
 - The **Grand Tour** includes the Valley, Glacier Point, and the Mariposa Grove. An experienced guide narrates each tour. The tour departs Yosemite Lodge at 8:45 am daily.

Call 209/372-4386 for reservations or inquire at the tour desks at Yosemite Lodge, Yosemite Village, Curry Village, and The Ahwahnee.

Mule & Horseback Rides

Horse or mule rides begin at the stable near North Pines Campground. Stable hours are 7:00 am to 5 pm daily. Information: 209/372-8348 (reservations strongly recommended).

Sightseeing

- Some of the famous landmarks in Yosemite Valley include:
- **Yosemite Falls**, even when it’s dry, you can walk to the base or take the strenuous trail to its top for spectacular views of Yosemite Valley and the High Sierra beyond (see page 17).
 - **Half Dome**, Yosemite’s most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers

- and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, and Glacier Point, are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.
- **El Capitan**, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan.
 - **Happy Isles** is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16 or by walking from Curry Village. Cross the footbridges onto the isles or wander through outdoor and indoor exhibits detailing Yosemite’s geologic story.
 - **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.



Western tanager
Illustration by Lauren Hamilton

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

- Yosemite Village
- **Degnan's Loft**, closes September 19 11am to 9pm
 - **Degnan's Delicatessen** 7am to 5pm
 - **Village Grill** 11am to 5pm, closes October 10
- The Ahwahnee
- **Dining Room** Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am Lunch: 11:30am to 3pm Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm Appropriate attire respectfully requested for dinner. Reservations recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch. 209/372-1489
 - **Ahwahnee Coffee Bar** 7am to 10:30am
 - **The Ahwahnee Bar** 11:30am to 11pm
- Yosemite Lodge
- **Food Court** Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm Dinner: 5pm to 8:30pm
 - **Mountain Room Lounge** Monday – Friday 4:30pm to 11pm Saturday – Sunday Noon to 11pm
 - **Mountain Room Restaurant** 5:30pm to 9:00pm Reservations taken for 8 or more. 209/372-1281
- Curry Village
- **Curry Village Guest Lounge** 8 am - 10 pm
 - **Coffee Corner** 7am to 11am
 - **Curry Village Bar** Noon to 10 pm daily, 5-10 pm Sun-Thurs. and Noon to 10 pm on Sat. & Sun. beginning Sept. 19
 - **Pavilion Buffet** Breakfast: 7am to 10am Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm
 - **Pizza Deck** Noon to 9pm
 - **Taqueria** 11am to 5pm, closes October 3
 - **Happy Isles Snack Stand** 11am to 5pm, closes October 3

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

- Yosemite Village
- **The Ansel Adams Gallery** 9am to 6pm
 - **Yosemite Art & Education Center** 9am to 4:30pm closed for lunch
 - **Yosemite Bookstore** Inside Yosemite Visitor Center 9am to 6pm
 - **Yosemite Museum Store** 9am to 5pm
 - **Valley Wilderness Center** 8am to 5pm
 - **Village Store** 8am to 9pm
 - **Habitat Yosemite** 11am to 4pm, Thursday-Sunday
 - **Sport Shop** 10am to 5pm
- Ahwahnee
- **The Ahwahnee Gift Shop** 8am to 9pm
 - **The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop** 7am to 10pm
- Yosemite Lodge
- **Gift/Grocery** 8am to 8pm
 - **Nature Shop** 10am to 6pm
- Curry Village
- **Mountain Shop** 8am to 6pm
 - **Curry Village Gift/Grocery** 8am to 9pm
- Nature Center at Happy Isles
- Exhibits only, 10am to 4pm. Open through September 29th

Yosemite Valley

Where to Go & What to Do



Experience Yosemite Valley

A variety of programs, services, and events are available for all ages in Yosemite Valley. These pages describe these offerings and hours of operation to help you guide your adventure.

Yosemite Valley

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

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

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.

VIEWS & VISITORS: THE YOSEMITE EXPERIENCE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

This exhibit features paintings, prints, artifacts, and ephemera from Yosemite’s early years. Historic hotel registers and the Grand Register of the Cosmopolitan are also on view. The exhibit includes an interactive kiosk related to the Grand Register and a digital slide show of historic visitors and hotels, and is open daily through October 31. Hours are from 10-12 and 1-4. The exhibit is made possible by a grant from the Yosemite Conservancy.



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.

Wilderness Center

The Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village adjacent to the post office. Hours are 8 am to 5 pm. Visit the wilderness center to learn about

wilderness safety, plan trips, obtain wilderness permits and maps, and rent bear canisters.

Yosemite Art & Education Center

The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers a selection of original art and art supplies, as well as four-hour art workshops Tuesday through Saturday (see pg. 6). Located south of the Village Store, the Center is open 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 4:30 pm daily.

Nature Center at Happy Isles

Open 9:30 am to 4 pm, exhibits only, through September 29th. Designed for nature-exploring children and their families, the nature center offers natural-history exhibits and a bookstore. The nature center is a short walk from shuttle stop # 16.

Internet Access

Fee-based terminals are available at Degnan’s Deli. Wireless access is offered at Yosemite Lodge (for a fee). Free access via terminals is available at the Mariposa County library, south of the Yosemite Cemetery at Yosemite Village (hours are limited).

Yosemite Theater LIVE

Yosemite Theatre LIVE offers entertainment and inspiration through a variety of live theater performances that bring Yosemite’s history to life. Discover the world of John Muir and other characters from the park’s rich history.

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
9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4:30pm,
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 4 pm Thurs-Sun
Sport Shop
10am to 5 pm
Tour Desk - Village Store
7:30am to 3pm

The Ahwahnee
The Ahwahnee Gift Shop
8am to 9pm
The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop
7am to 10pm

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery
8am to 8pm
Nature Shop
8am to 6pm
Tour Desk
7:30am to 7pm

Curry Village

Mountain Shop
8am to 6pm
Gift/Grocery
8am to 9pm
Tour Desk
7:30am to 3pm

Housekeeping Camp

Gift/Grocery
8 am to 6 pm, closes Oct 11th at noon

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.
209/372-4637.

Dental Services

Located next to the Medical Clinic
209/372-4200 or 209/372-4637.

SCHEDULED EVENTS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

September 8 - October 12, 2010



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

Outdoor Adventures

The non-profit Yosemite Conservancy sponsors this year-round series of fun, educational field seminars; they're a great way to deepen your connection to our park. Pick up an Outdoor Adventures catalog in any Visitor Center, find all the details at www.yosemite.org, or call 209/379-2317 x 17 or 12. Park entry and camping are included; motel rooms have already been set aside for these courses. The Conservancy also arranges Custom Adventures for individuals families and groups who want their own naturalist/guide: info@yosemite.org.

September 15-19	Lyell Glacier Survey-Backpack from Tuolumne Meadows to high elevations with Greg Stock and Pete Devine.
October 1-3	Yosemite with an Artist's Eye- Award winning artist Chris Van Winkle covering sketching and water color techniques.
October 8-10	Watercolors in the Wild- Painting in wild places of Yosemite with painter and book artist Andie Thrams.
October 18-20	Autumn Light Photography-Hiking and photography with 2 very talented photographers Dave Wyman and Ken Rockwell.

Art Workshops

The Yosemite Art & Education Center (YAEC) offers art workshops from 10 am to 2 pm Tuesday through Saturday. Register for classes in advance: 209/379-2321 ext. 17. (suggested donation of \$5, supplies extra). Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Be prepared to work outdoors.

September 7 – September 11	Doug Castleman Outdoors With Watercolor
September 14 – September 18	Elaine Drew Learning to Draw From Nature
September 21 – September 25	Mariko Lofink Watercolor Views in Yosemite
September 28 – October 2	Barbara Beaudreau Pastel Painting
October 5 – October 9	Pam Pederson Pen & Ink With Watercolor
October 12 – October 16	Marcy Wheeler Impressive/Expressive Yosemite With Acrylics

Yosemite Theater

Yosemite Theatre LIVE offers entertainment and inspiration through a variety of live theater performances that bring Yosemite’s history to life. Discover the world of John Muir and other characters from the park’s rich history.

LeConte Memorial Lodge

LeConte Memorial Lodge is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm, with evening programs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, and some Thursday evenings. Evening programs are scheduled for 8:00 pm and are free. The Lodge has a library, children’s corner, and a new climate change exhibit. The Lodge is located at shuttle stop #12.

Religious Services and Service Organizations

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH 9:00 A.M. Lower Pines Campground; Various Bible Studies during the week call for times and locations. 209-372-4831	Fr. Anthony Janelli at (209) 372-4729, or tjanelli@yahoo.com
ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS SERVICES SUNDAY MASS CELEBRATIONS: Sat. 6:00 p.m.Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, Sun.10:00 a.m. Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater Sunday, 6:00 p.m. (Spanish) Cedar Lodge, El Portal DAILY MASS CELEBRATIONS: Wed. & Fri., at 8:00 a.m. Tue. & Thu. at 6:30 p.m. at the Parish Rectory. The Rectory is located at 9006 Cedar Ct. (no. 7). For more Information call 209-372-4729 WEDDINGS: To arrange for a Catholic Wedding, contact	CHURCH OF CHRIST El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am Info: 209/379-2100 A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IN THE NATIONAL PARKS 9am Sunday at Lower Pines, Wawona, and Tuolumne Meadows campgrounds. SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 7:30pm Sunday, Tuesday, & Thursday DNC General Office Bldg. Yosemite Village. 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. Reservations / information: 209/372-8459.

	MORNING
Sunday	10:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
Monday	8:30am Camera Walk 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance at the Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at The Ahwahnee Hotel (TAAG) 10:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
Tuesday	8:30am Camera Walk 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) 10:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS) Art Workshop 4 hrs. See schedule of Artists pg 6 (YAEC) 11:00am CHILDREN’S PHOTO WALK 1hr. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)
Wednesday	10:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS) Art Workshop 4 hrs. See schedule of Artists pg 6 YAEC
Thursday	8:30am Camera Walk 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) 9:00am CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! (Sept. 9 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) free, 10:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS) 10:00am Art Workshop 4 hrs. See Schedule of Artists, p.6 (YAEC) 11:00am CHILDREN’S PHOTO WALK 1hr. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)
Friday	9:00am CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! (Sept. 10 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) free, 10:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS) Art Workshop 4 hrs. See Schedule of Artists, p. 6 (YAEC)
Saturday	8:30am Camera Walk 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) 9:00am CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! (Sept. 11 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) free, 10:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS) 10:00am Art Workshop 4 hrs. See Schedule of Artists, p.6 (YAEC)

NPS	National Park Service		Indicates facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Short, steep inclines may be encountered.
DNC	DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.		
AAG	The Ansel Adams Gallery		
AAC	American Alpine Club		
SC	Sierra Club		A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Contact 209/372-4726 (TTY) or 209/ 372-0296 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 days is requested.
YAEC	Yosemite Art Education Center		
YC	Yosemite Conservancy		
YMS	Yosemite Mountaineering School		Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advanced request. Inquire at a visitor center.
\$	Programs offered for a fee		

Did you know?

Congress has designated nearly 95 percent of Yosemite National Park as Wilderness. Wilderness is meant to protect the land’s natural conditions, scientific, educational, ecological, and historic values; and provide opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The best way to experience the 1,100 square miles of Yosemite’s Wilderness is to explore it first-hand. In 1898, John Muir said,“Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity...” To learn more about how to plan your trip and reduce your impact on the Wilderness during your visit, see pages 14 and 15.

	AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING	EVENING
Sunday	<div>1:30pm JUNIOR RANGER WALK-BEARS 1½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)</div> <div>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Yosemite’s First People 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) </div> <div>3:00pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>4:30pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>5:00pm Twilight Stroll 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) </div> <div>6:00pm WEE WILD ONES (except October 3 & 10) 45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under, Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div>	<div>7:00pm Yosemite Theatre: This is America (September 12 only) A film by Ken Burns about diverse National Park pioneers. Followed by a discussion with Ranger Shelton Johnson. 1½ hrs. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Visitor Center Bookstore (9 am – 6 pm) or at any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</div> <div>Yosemite Theatre LIVE: Yosemite Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier, 1904. (October 3 only) Starring Ranger Shelton Johnson. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Visitor Center bookstore (9 a.m. – 6p.m.) or at any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Program 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) </div> <div>Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div> <div>Evening Program LeConte Memorial Lodge 1 hr. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC) September 12: Across the Range: Hike from Sequoia to Mt. Whitney (narrated hiking video) September 19: Sounds Nature Makes (Sound & Poetry Reading with Chris Olander)</div>
Monday	<div>2:00pm Ranger Walk –Trees 1 ½ hrs.The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (NPS)</div> <div>3:00pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>4:30pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div>	<div>7:00pm Yosemite Theatre LIVE: Vintage Songs of Yosemite 1½ hrs. Yosemite entertainer Tom Bopp performs live to historic images and films. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Visitor Center Bookstore (9 am – 6 pm) or at any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Program 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) </div> <div>Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div>
Tuesday	<div>12:00pm Yosemite Forum (September 14 only) 1 hr. Dr. Amy Angert (Colorado State) Population Dynamics of Monkeyflowers: Another Signature of Climate Change? Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS)</div> <div>Yosemite Forum (October 12 only) 1 hr. Dr. Brian Collins (USGS) The Mechanics of Yosemite Valley Rockfalls. Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS)</div> <div>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Bears 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)</div> <div>“Using your Digital Camera” Class 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$</div> <div>3:00pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>4:30pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div>	<div>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: Conversations With a Tramp: An Evening With John Muir (September 14 only) 1½ hrs. A live performance featuring Lee Stetson. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center Bookstore (9am - 6pm) or at any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Program 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) </div> <div>Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div>
Wednesday	<div>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Geology 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>3:00pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>Fine Print Tour 1 hrs. Very limited space. Sign up at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)</div> <div>4:00 pm Meet the Artist Reception (October 6 only) 2 hrs. Ansel Adams Gallery. Meet artist Sally Owens. Light refreshments will be served.</div> <div>4:30pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div>	<div>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: John Muir Among the Animals (September 8 and 15 only) 1½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater. A live performance featuring Lee Stetson. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center Bookstore (9am - 6pm) or at any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Program 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) </div> <div>Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div>
Thursday	<div>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Wild About Wildlife 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>“In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with your Camera.” 4 hours. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$</div> <div>3:00pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>4:00pm CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! (Sept. 9 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) free, </div> <div>4:30pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>5:00pm Twilight Stroll 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) </div> <div>6:00pm WEE WILD ONES 45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under, Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div>	<div>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: The Spirit of John Muir (September 9 and 16 only) 1½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater. A live performance featuring Lee Stetson. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center Bookstore (9am - 6pm) or at any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theatre (YC) \$.</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Program 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) </div> <div>Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </div>
Friday	<div>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Yosemite’s Legacy 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>3:00pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>4:00pm CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! (Sept. 10 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) free, </div> <div>4:30pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>6:00pm JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles campfire ring, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)</div>	<div>7:00pm Yosemite Theatre: Return to Balance: A Climber’s Journey 1 hr. Followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk, featured in the film. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center Bookstore (9am – 6 pm) or at any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Program 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) </div> <div>Film: Ansel Adams 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (AAG) </div> <div>Evening Program LeConte Memorial Lodge 1hr. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC) September 10: Souvenirs-R-Us: A look at simple treasures from Yosemite over 150 years & Make Your Own Souvenirs with Jonathan Bayless, YNP, Chief curator September 17: AMERICAN INDIAN STORYTELLING AND FLUTE September 24: Search & Rescue in Yosemite with John Dill</div> <div>8:30pm NIGHT PROWL 1 ½ hrs, Explore Yosemite at Night! Tickets/info at any tour desk (DNC) \$ </div>
Saturday	<div>1:30pm JUNIOR RANGER WALK-GEOLOGY (Except September 18) 1½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)</div> <div>JUNIOR RANGER WALK-WATER (September 18 only) 1½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)</div> <div>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Bears 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)</div> <div>“Using your Digital Camera” Class 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$</div> <div>3:00pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>4:00pm CHILDREN’S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED’S BIG ADVENTURE! (Sept. 11 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) free, &</div> <div>4:30pm Meet Your Yosemite 15 min talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </div> <div>6:00pm JUNIOR RANGER CAMPFIRE 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles campfire ring, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)</div> <div>WEE WILD ONES (except Sept. 25) 45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under, Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) </div>	<div>7:00pm Yosemite Theatre: Return to Balance: A Climber’s Journey 1½ hrs. Followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk, featured in the film. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center Bookstore (9am – 6pm) or at any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Program 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) </div> <div>Evening Program 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) </div> <div>Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC/AAC) </div> <div>Evening Program LeConte Memorial Lodge 1hr. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC) September 11: ALONG THE JOHN MUIR TRAIL (narrated hiking video) September 18: John Muir’s Science: Where did he get those ideas anyway? September 25: John Muir At Home with Tad Shay, John Muir National Historic Site Lead Ranger</div>

Wawona, Mariposa Grove and Glacier Point

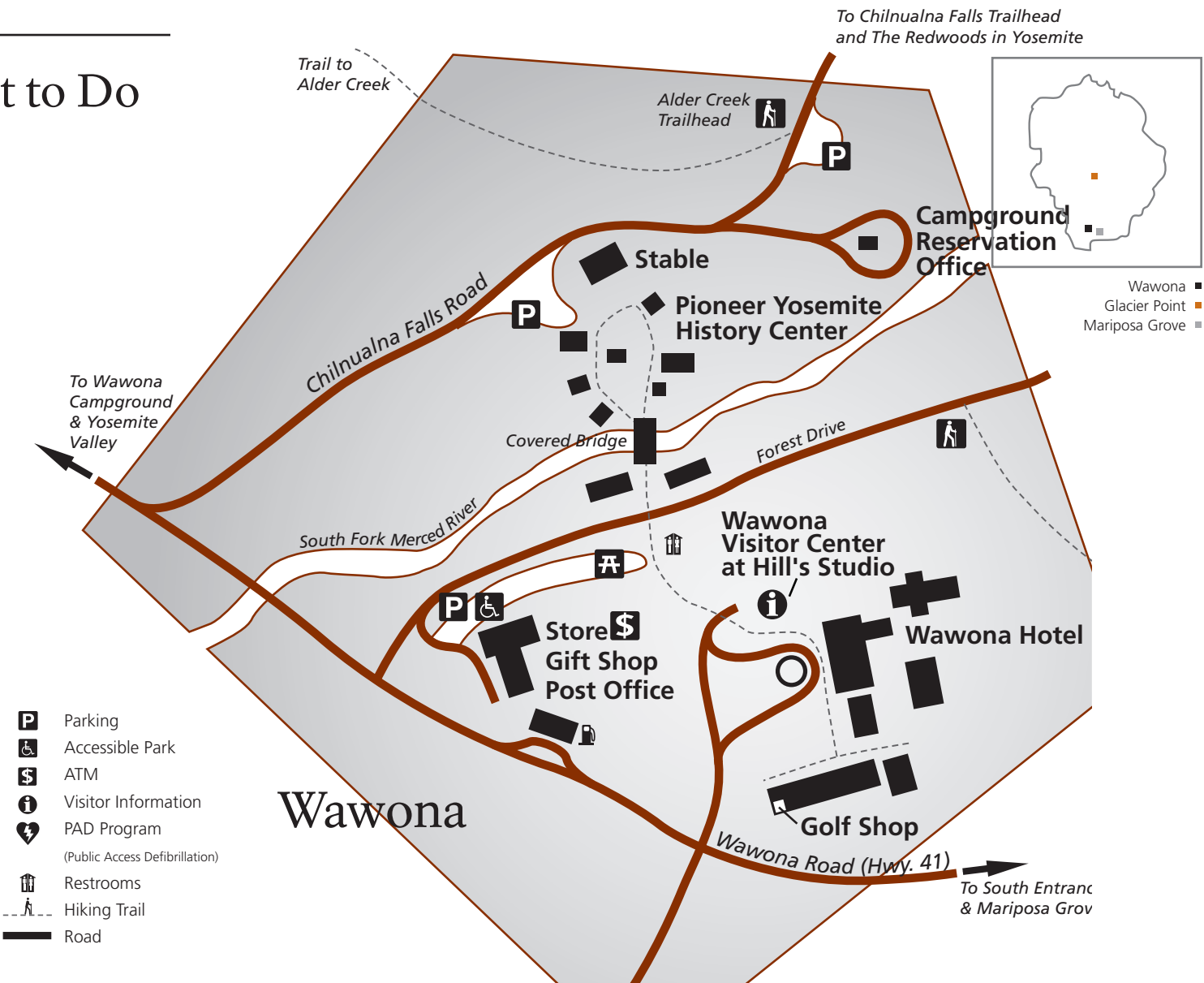
Where to Go & What to Do



Join Burl “Buckshot” Maier for a horse-drawn stage ride in Wawona.
NPS photo by Susan Maier

Explore History
Discover Giant Trees
Find Amazing Vistas

These park areas offer endless opportunities for amazing experiences.



Wawona & the Mariposa Grove

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. Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, Hill’s Studio was the gallery and art studio of famous 19th-century landscape painter, Thomas Hill. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona Store parking area and follow the path up the hill. 209/375-9531.

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.

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.

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 history center is always open, and interpretive signs and brochures are available.

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. \$4/ adults and \$3/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 people with disabilities 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.

Please see pg. 3 or call 209/372-0200 for important road construction information. 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. *Shuttle operates weekends only after September 26th.*

Please use this free shuttle service to help reduce congestion and parking delays.

Mariposa Grove Ranger Walks

Rangers lead walks among the giant sequoias, explaining their natural history and historical importance. (See page 9 for schedule.)

Big Trees Tram Tour

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.

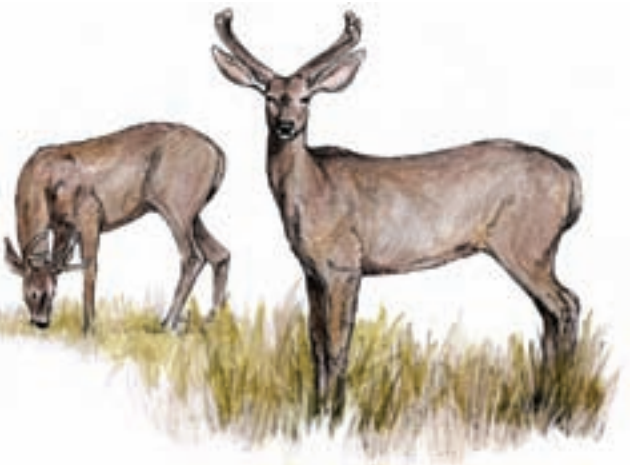
Mariposa Grove Museum & Trails

Open 10 am to 4 pm daily through October 4. Located in the Upper

Mariposa Grove, the museum offers information, displays on giant sequoias, and a small bookstore.

The trail to the Grizzly Giant has new interpretive signs that provide a self-guiding tour. Information is available in Spanish, German, French and Japanese.

Dogs or bikes are not allowed on trails and roads in the Mariposa Grove.



Mule deer
Illustration by Tom Whitworth



Geology Hut. Photo courtesy Yosemite Research Library

Glacier Point

Enjoy breathtaking scenery and experience life on the edge.

Approximately an hour’s drive from either Yosemite Valley or the Park’s South Entrance, Glacier Point offers stunning views up the Merced River Canyon past Vernal and Nevada Falls and across the High Sierra. Meet a ranger to enjoy the lengthening evening shadows and the alpenglow (or moonrise) on the Sierra high country. Stargazing programs are offered as well. Details at right.

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
Late Lunch (Weekends only-limited menu) 1:30-4:30
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
Saturday BBQ: 5pm to 7pm *(last BBQ September 11)*
Glacier Point
Snack Stand
10am to 4pm, open through October 3

GROCERIES

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 6pm

GIFTS & APPAREL

Wawona
Golf Shop & Snack Stand
8:30am to 6pm
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 6pm
Wawona Information Station at Hill’s Studio
8:30am to 5pm
Glacier Point
Gift Shop
10am-5pm
Mariposa Grove
Mariposa Grove Museum
10am to 4pm through October 4
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
8 am to 6 pm 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)	2:00pm A Short Walk to a Great View of El Capitan (except October 10) 1 ½ hrs. Easy. Meet in front of the Glacier Point Gift Shop (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) \$	6:15pm Sunset Ranger Talk (October 3 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)
	2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	6:30pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Except October 3 and October 10) 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)	2:00pm Ranger Walk-Cliffs and Domes 2 hrs. Meet at Taft Point/ Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road (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 11 only) 10 min. each Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) \$	6:15pm Sunset Ranger Talk (October 4 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)
	2:00mm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	6:30pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Except October 4 and October 11) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)
Tuesday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (except Oct 12) ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)	2:00pm Ranger Walk-Cliffs and Domes (Except October 11) 2 hrs. Meet at Taft Point/ Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road (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)	6:15pm Sunset Ranger Talk (October 5 and October 12 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)
	5:30pm Vintage Music Of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening & ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)	6:30pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Except October 5 and October 12) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)
Wednesday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)	2:00pm A Short Walk to a Great View of El Capitan 1 ½ hrs. Easy. Meet in front of the Glacier Point Gift Shop (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 Full Moon Hike to Sentinel Dome (September 22 only) 2 hrs. Dress warmly. Meet at Sentinel Dome parking area (NPS)
	5:30pm Vintage Music Of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening & ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)	6:15pm Sunset Ranger Talk (October 6 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)
		6:30pm Sunset Ranger Talk (September 15 and September 29 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)
Thursday	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 Of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening & ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)	
Friday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS)	2:00pm Ranger Walk-Cliffs and Domes (Except October 8) 2 hrs. Meet at Taft Point/ Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road (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) \$	6:15pm Sunset Ranger Talk (October 1 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)
	2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	6:30pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Except October 1 and October 8) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)
	5:30pm Vintage Music Of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening & ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)	7:30pm Stars Over Yosemite (Except October 8) Meet at railing overlooking Yosemite Valley. Dress warmly (NPS) Free
Saturday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¾ hr. Bring a mug. 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)
	10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	
	11:00am – 3:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (Sept 11 & Oct 9 only) 10 min. each Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) \$	6:15pm Sunset Ranger Talk (October 2 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)
	2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove (except Oct 2) 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	6:30pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Except October 2 and October 9) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS)
	5:30pm Vintage Music Of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening & ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)	7:30pm Stars Over Yosemite (Except October 9) Meet at railing overlooking Yosemite Valley. Dress warmly (NPS) Free

Programs printed in
COLOR
are especially for
Children & their families

Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, Crane Flat, and Hetch Hetchy

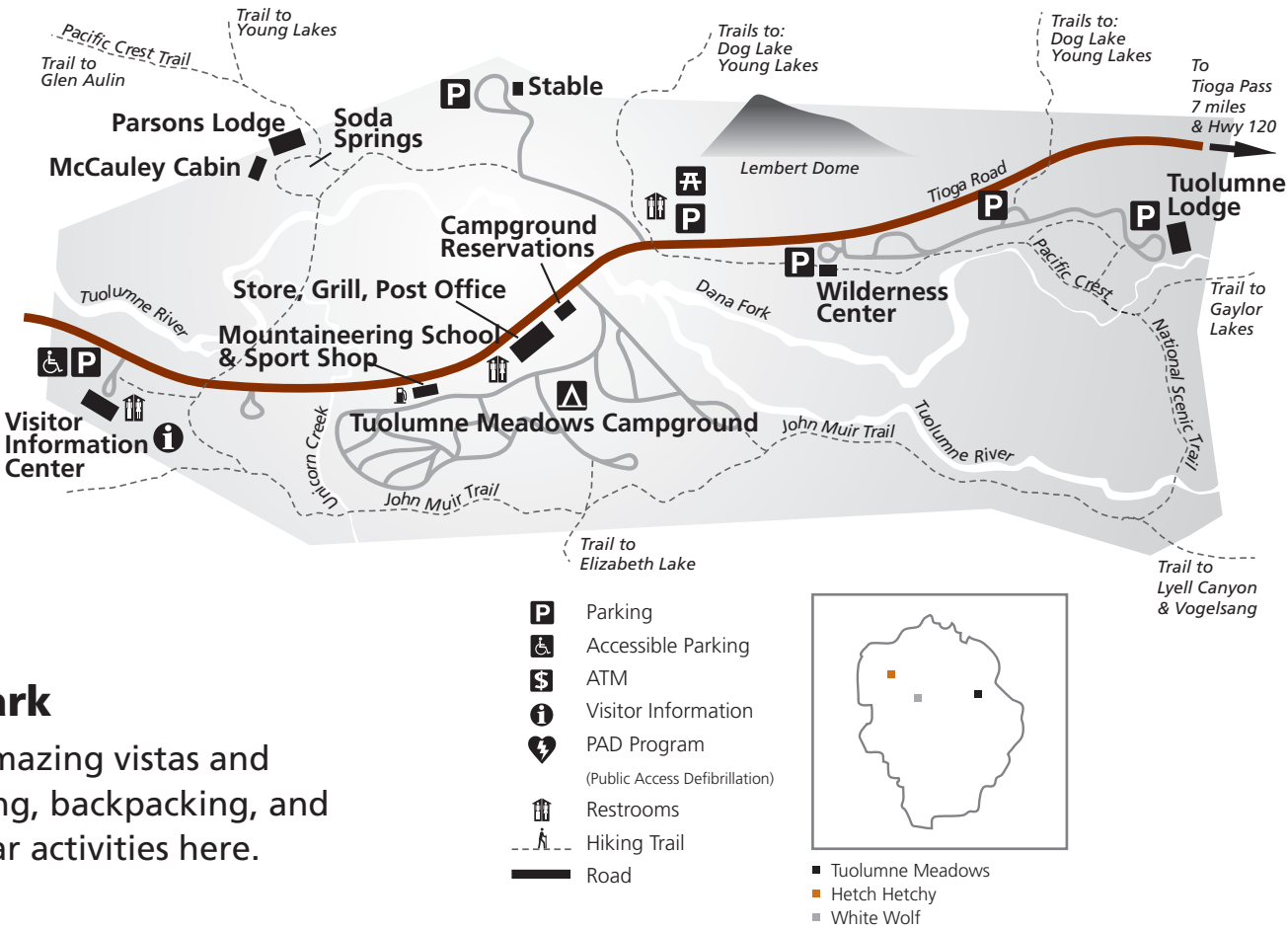
Where to Go & What to Do



Tuolumne Meadows in fall, NPS Photo by Adrienne Freeman

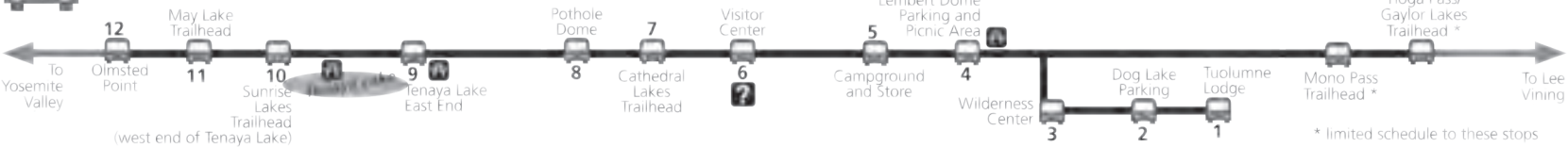
High Sierra Peaks and Quiet Corners of the Park

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



Take the FREE Tuolumne Meadows shuttle bus along Tioga Road!

See schedule posted at stops. See details at right



The Tuolumne Meadows shuttle operates from 7am to 7pm. Open through September 19.

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center

Open 9 am to 5 pm through Sunday, September 26. Park orientation, trail information, books, maps, and displays

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs

Two trails, both flat and 3/4-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge is open from 10 am to 4 pm through Saturday, September 18. Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs that attract birds and deer, especially at sunrise and sunset.

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.

Big Oak Flat

Big Oak Flat Information Station

Open 8 am to 4:30 pm. The information station offers general park information, books, and maps. It also provides wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, and backpacking information. The wilderness center at the Big Oak Flat information station will be open through October 14.

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 three-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.



Clark’s nutcracker

Illustration by Tom Whitworth

Did you know?

The Tioga Road is the highest trans-sierra route in California, crossing Tioga Pass at 9,945 feet in elevation. The road, which isn’t plowed during winter months, is a great place to cross-country ski!

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
Daily:
8am to 5pm, *open through Sept. 26*
Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 9am, *closes after service September 19*
Dinner: 5:50pm to 8pm, *closes after service September 18*
Meals are served family style, and reservations are required.
Call 209/372-8413

White Wolf
White Wolf Lodge, *open through September 12*
Breakfast: 7:30am to 9:30am, *closes after service on September 12*
Take-out Lunch: noon to 2pm, *closes after service on September 11*
Dinner: 6pm to 8pm,*closes after service on September 11*
Reservations recommended.
Call 209/372-8416.

GROCERIES

Tuolumne Meadows
Store
9am to 6pm, *closes for the season at noon September 27*
Crane Flat
Store
9am to 5pm
White Wolf
Camp Store
8am to 9pm, *open through September 12*

GIFTS & APPAREL

Tuolumne Meadows
Mountaineering School and Sport Shop
9am to 5pm, open through Septem-ber 19
Tuolumne Meadows Bookstore
9am to 5pm Inside the Tuolumne Meadow Visitor Center
Tuolumne Meadows Store
9am to 6pm, *closes for the season at noon September 27*
Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center
8am- 5pm through September 30;
8am-4:30pm, through October 14

POST OFFICE

Tuolumne Meadows
Post Office
Monday – Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to 1pm

GAS STATION & ATM

Tuolumne Meadows
Diesel & propane available.
Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.
Crane Flat
9am to 6pm
Diesel & propane available.
Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

Programs printed in
COLOR
are especially for
Children & their families

	TUOLUMNE MEADOWS	WHITE WOLF	CRANE FLAT / HODGDON MEADOW / HETCH HETCHY
Sunday	<div>10:00am Ranger Hike—Lembert Dome (except October 3 and 10) 3 hrs. Moderately strenuous. 3 miles. Dog Lake parking, shuttle stop #2. Bring snacks and water. (NPS)</div> <div>12:00pm Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne! (except October 3 and 10) 15 min. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (NPS) </div> <div>2:00pm Ranger Walk—Winter's A-Comin'! (except October 3 and 10) 2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)</div> <div>7:30pm Campfire (except October 3 and 10) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</div>	<div>9:00am Coffee with a Ranger (September 12 only) 1 hr. White Wolf campfire circle. Bring your own mug. (NPS)</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program (September 12 only) 1 hr. White Wolf campfire circle (NPS)</div>	<div>1:00pm Giant Sequoias (except October 3 & 10) 1½ hrs. Meet a ranger in the Tuolumne Grove for answers to your sequoia questions (NPS)</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program (except October 3 & 10) 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program (September 19 & 26 only) 1 hr. Hodgdon Meadow Campground (check at kiosk for location) (NPS)</div>
Monday	<div>10:00am Ranger Walk—Domes and Meadows (September 13 and 20 only) 2 hrs. Pothole Dome shuttle stop #8, road marker T-29 (NPS)</div> <div>10:30am Tenaya Lake Walk and Clean-up with Climber Ron Kauk (September 13 and 20 only) 1 hr. East end of Tenaya Lake, shuttle stop #9 (NPS)</div> <div>12:00pm Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne! (September 13 and 20 only) 15 min. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (NPS) </div> <div>2:00pm Ranger Walk—Bears and Other Wildlife (September 13 and 20 only) 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservation Office (NPS)</div> <div>7:30pm Campfire (September 13 and 20 only) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</div>	<div>9:00am Ranger Walk – Bears and Other Wildlife (September 13 only) 2 hrs. White Wolf Campfire Circle (NPS)</div>	<div>6:30pm Twilight Stroll (except October 4 & 11) 1½ hrs. Hodgdon Meadow Group Campground (NPS)</div>
Tuesday	<div>9:15am Ranger Hike—Gaylor Lakes Basin (September 14 and 21 only) 5-6 hrs. Strenuous. 5 miles. Meet at Gaylor Lakes parking lot at Tioga Pass. Bring lunch, water, and raingear (NPS)</div> <div>12:00pm Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne! (September 14 and 21 only) 15 min. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (NPS) </div> <div>2:00pm Ranger Walk—Along the River (September 14 and 21 only) 2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)</div> <div>7:30pm Campfire (September 14 and 21 only) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</div>	<div>9:30am Meet Your Yosemite (September 14 only) 15 min. Short talk on a park topic. Lukens Lake trailhead, near White Wolf Campground (NPS) </div>	<div>10:00am Ranger Hike – Hetch Hetchy (except October 5 & 12) 1½ hrs. Bring water. O’Shaughnessy Dam (NPS)</div> <div>4:00pm Giant Sequoias (except October 5 & 12)1½ hrs. Meet a ranger in the Tuolumne Grove for answers to your sequoia questions (NPS)</div>
Wednesday	<div>8:00am Ranger Walk—Birds (September 8 and 15 only) 2 1/2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area. Binoculars available. (NPS)</div> <div>8:30am Coffee with a Ranger (September 8 and 15 only) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)</div> <div>10:00am Ranger Walk—Geology of Tuolumne Meadows (September 8 and 15 only) 2 hrs. Pothole Dome shuttle stop #8, road marker T-29 (NPS)</div> <div>12:00pm Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne! (September 8 and 15 only) 15 min. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (NPS) </div> <div>2:00pm Ranger Walk—Bennettville Exploration (September 8 and 15 only) 2 1/2 hrs. Tioga Lake turnout east of Tioga Pass (NPS)</div> <div>7:30pm Campfire (September 8 and 15 only) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</div> <div>9:00pm Ranger Talk—Stars (September 8 and 15 only) 1 hr. Lembert Dome picnic area. Bring a pad to sit on and dress warmly. (NPS)</div>	<div>9:00am Ranger Walk – Bears and Other Wildlife (September 8 only) 2 hrs. White Wolf Campfire Circle (NPS)</div> <div>6:30pm Twilight Stroll (September 8 only) 1½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)</div>	<div>9:00am Ranger Walk – Bears and Other Wildlife (except September 8 & October 6)1½ hrs. Hodgdon Meadow Group Campground (NPS)</div> <div>11:30 am Meet Your Yosemite (except October 6) 15 min. Short talk on a park topic. Big Oak Flat Information Station (NPS) </div> <div>9:00pm Starry, Starry Night (except October 6) 1¼ hrs. Crane Flat area. Limited to 30 people. Sign-up in advance by calling 209/379-1899 (NPS) </div>
Thursday	<div>10:00am Ranger Walk—History of Tuolumne Meadows (except September 30 and October 7) 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center shuttle stop #6 (NPS)</div> <div>12:00pm Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne! (except September 30 and October 7) 15 min. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (NPS) </div> <div>4:00pm Sketch Walk to Lyell Fork (except September 30 and October 7) 1 1/2 hrs. Tuolumne Lodge front porch. Bring pencil and paper. (NPS)</div> <div>7:30pm Campfire (except September 30 and October 7) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</div>	<div>2:30pm Meet Your Yosemite (September 9 only) 15 min. Short talk on a park topic. White Wolf Lodge (NPS)</div> <div>9:00pm Night Prowl (September 9 only) 1 hr. White Wolf area. Explore nature after dark. Sign up in advance by calling 209/379-1899 (NPS)</div>	<div>3:30pm Ranger Hike – Hetch Hetchy (September 9 & 23 only) 1½ hrs. Bring water. O’Shaughnessy Dam (NPS)</div> <div>9:00pm Night Prowl (September 16 & 23 only) 1 hr. Hodgdon Meadow area. Explore nature after dark. Sign up in advance by calling 209/379-1899 (NPS)</div>
Friday	<div>8:30am Coffee with a Ranger (except October 1 and 8) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)</div> <div>9:15am Ranger Hike—Mono Pass (except October 1 and 8) 6-8 hrs. Moderately strenuous. 8 miles. Meet at Mono Pass trailhead. Bring lunch, water, and raingear. (NPS)</div> <div>12:00pm Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne! (except October 1 and 8) 15 min. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (NPS) </div> <div>2:00pm Ranger Walk—The Secret Life of Plants (except October 1 and 8) 2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)</div> <div>7:30pm Campfire (except October 1 and 8) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</div>	<div>4:00pm Meet Your Yosemite (September 10 only) 15 min. Short talk on a park topic. White Wolf Lodge (NPS)</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program (September 10 only) 1 hr. White Wolf Campfire Circle (NPS)</div>	<div>2:00pm History & the Big Trees (except October 1 & 8) 1½ hrs. Meet in the Merced Grove of Giant Sequoias for answers to your questions (NPS)</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program (except October 1 & 8) 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</div>
Saturday	<div>8:00am Ranger Walk—Birds (September 11 and 25 only) 2 1/2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area. Binoculars available. (NPS)</div> <div>8:30am Coffee with a Ranger (except October 2 and 9) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup. (NPS)</div> <div>11:00am Ranger Hike—Twin Bridges Loop (except October 2 and 9) 3-4 hrs. Easy. 3 miles. Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservation Office. Bring lunch, water, and raingear. (NPS)</div> <div>12:00pm Ranger Talk—Welcome to Tuolumne! (except October 2 and 9) 15 min. Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center parking lot (NPS) </div> <div>7:30pm Campfire (except October 2 and 9) 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS)</div> <div>9:00pm Ranger Talk—Stars (except October 2 and 9) 1 hr. Lembert Dome picnic area. Bring a pad to sit on and dress warmly. (NPS)</div>	<div>2:30pm Meet Your Yosemite (September 11 only) 15 min. Short talk on a park topic. White Wolf Lodge (NPS)</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program (September 11 only) 1 hr. White Wolf Campfire Circle (NPS)</div>	<div>1:30pm Giant Sequoias (except October 2 & 9) 1½ hrs. Meet a ranger in the Tuolumne Grove for answers to your sequoia questions (NPS)</div> <div>8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program (except October 2 & 9) 1 hr. Crane Flat Campfire Circle (NPS)</div>

Become a Junior Ranger

Activities for kids ages 3 and up!

Yosemite National Park offers a wide variety of wide variety of programs and activities for kids of all ages! To find kid-friendly programs, see pages 6, 7, 9, and 11 of the Guide for program descriptions:

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

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.



Coyote



Black bear



Golden-mantled ground squirrel

Illustrations by Tom Whitworth

Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge.*

☐ 1. 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. Write the name of the trail you walked. _____

☐ 2. Explore with your senses! Record the following.

I see: _____ I hear: _____

I smell: _____ I touch: _____

☐

☐ 3. Leave no Trace! If you see trash or rubbish, pick it up. Junior Rangers learn to be good park stewards by bringing in a bag of trash. 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.

*Expanded Junior Ranger and Little Cub programs (and the chance to earn a patch) are available in the *Junior Ranger* or *Little Cub Handbooks*, which can be purchahsed at any park bookstore.

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)
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.

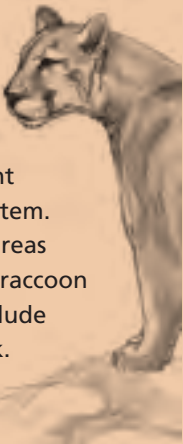
Bear canisters are available for \$5 per trip at the Valley Wilderness Center, the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio, Big Oak Flat Information Station, Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Canisters can be rented and retuned at any of these locations.

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).

Never leave unattended food strapped to the outside of a vehicle or in a pickup truck bed.

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!

Generally, mountain lions 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 in your car (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark: use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats.	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...



Permit Required to Hike Half Dome

To address safety concerns related to increased crowding on the Half Dome cables, the National Park Service has instituted an interim permit system for 2010 and 2011. The system limits the number of people using the cables to about 400 people per day and is in effect on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays when the cables are up (until October 11 in 2010). A permit is not required to day-hike to Half Dome on other days.

Backpackers with an appropriate wilderness permit can receive a Half Dome permit when they pick up their wilderness permit. **Rock climbers** who reach the top of Half Dome without entering the subdome area can descend on the Half Dome Trail without a permit.

No more permits are available for September or October 2010. Permits are also not available in the park or on a first-come, first-served basis. You can find more information at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.

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 traffic lanes, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park’s scenery and wildlife.

Bring Water

Avoid dehydration and heat exhaustion by carrying and drinking plenty of water. Filters or other treatment methods are essential. (See “Water Quality,” page 15))

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.
- 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

The Yosemite Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude in a beautiful setting.

In order to avoid overcrowding and reduce impacts, a trailhead quota system limits the number of backpackers entering each trailhead each day.

Of the daily quota for a trailhead, 60% can be reserved ahead of time, while 40% is available on a first-come, first-served basis one day prior to, or the same day as, the beginning of the hike.

- 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

Safety for Pets

Keep in mind, daytime temperatures can reach above 100 ° Fahrenheit in the summer. Make sure to keep your pet cool and well-hydrated. In Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. Pets are not allowed anywhere in the Mariposa or Merced sequoia groves. They are not allowed on trails, in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted prohibiting them.
- 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.

...and Yosemite

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 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 of 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

Conditions permitting, 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.

- 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. Ask at a visitor center for conditions and obey all posted signs.
- 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 by 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 three 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. .



Yosemite Guardians

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

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

- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items, such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Biking off of paved roads
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons inside federal facilities

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.

Weather in Yosemite

Dressing in layers and bringing plenty of water can help you stay safe through Yosemite’s changing weather conditions. As is true of all mountainous regions, weather in the Sierra Nevada can change rapidly any season of the year. Elevation plays a major role in temeperature and precipitation variability, and Yosemite ranges in elevation from 2,000 feet to more than 13,000 feet above sea level. It is not uncommon for clouds to build up suddenly, bringing rain and/or thunderstorms to an otherwise sunny day. In September and October, temperatures in Tuolumne Meadows can dip well ibelowng freezing, while day time temperatures at lower elevations, like Yosemite Valley and Hetch Hetchy, can soar to over 100° F.

Camping

Planning your camping experience



Camping in Yosemite. Photo by Ray Santos

General Information

To check same-day camping availability, call 209/372-0266

Services

- All sites include picnic tables, firepits with grills, and a food locker (33”d x 45”w x 18”h). See page 13 for food storage regulations.
- Toilets are available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat have 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.

A primitive overnight experience

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

Camping Reservations

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

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

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 2010 (ESTIMATED)	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	March 24 – Nov 2	40 ft	35 ft	Yes	\$20	60	Yes	Tap
North Pines	March 26 – Oct 12	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	April 1 – Sep 27	\$20	93	Yes	Tap
Bridalveil Creek	July 1 – TBD	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 1 – Oct 12	\$20	105	Yes	Tap
Crane Flat	July 1– Oct 12	35 ft	27 ft	50%	\$20	166	Yes	Tap
Tamarack Flat	July – Oct 15	No RVs/trailers		First-come, first-served	\$10	52	No	Creek (boil)
White Wolf	July – Sep 13	27 ft	24 ft	First-come, first-served	\$14	74	Yes	Tap
Yosemite Creek	July – TBD	No RVs/trailers		First-come, first-served	\$10	75	Yes	Creek (boil)
Porcupine Flat	July – Oct 15	24 ft (limited)	20 ft	First-come, first-served	\$10	52	No	Creek (boil)
Tuolumne Meadows	July 1 – Sep 27	35 ft	35 ft	50%	\$20	304	Yes	Tap

Hiking

Discover an easy stroll or an all-day adventure



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	7 miles round-trip, 5–6 hours	Strenuous 1,900-foot gain
Top of Half Dome Permit required to hike to the top of Half Dome Fridays - Sundays and holidays!	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
Swinging Bridge Loop	Wawona Store / Pioneer Yosemite Hist. Ctr. Parking Area	4.75 miles round-trip, 2 hours	Moderate
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.

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.

Top Left: Hikers. *Photo by Bob Roney*

Top Right: Hikers. *Photo by Bob Roney*

Half Dome

Feature Article



Half Dome: A Story of Daring, Determination, and Darn Hard Work By: Haley Bercot, Yosemite Wilderness

Blame it all on Josiah Whitney.

The thousands of people attempting it’s notorious summit, the immediately recognizable silhouette prevalent on outdoor gear. It’s all because Whitney declared Half Dome to be, “probably the only one of all the prominent points about the Yosemite which never has been, and never will be, trodden by human foot.”

Whitney underestimated later climbers. Not climbing Half Dome might have been a disappointment for him and the rest of the California Geological Survey. This team of hardy explorers came to Yosemite in 1863 to map the remote high country. They successfully summited many Yosemite peaks, including Mt. Hoffmann, Mt. Conness, Mt. Dana, Ragged Peak, Merced Peak, Red Peak, and the formidable Mt. Clark. Yet, this mountaineering dream team didn’t even try Half Dome. No wonder Whitney described Half Dome as “perfectly in-

accessible” in his 1868 Yosemite Book.

Those words forever changed Half Dome’s future by daring adventurers to prove Whitney wrong. Hotelier James Hutchings attempted the Dome in 1869. According to his book, *In the Heart of the Sierras*, Hutchings used an “old Indian trail” around Grizzly Peak to reach Half Dome’s shoulder. This adventurous approach required his party to carefully edge along narrow ledges, depending on rock outcroppings and small bushes as handholds. The men feared for their lives, but kept going anyway and eventually reached the safety of the flat shoulder. Relief gave way to despair, though, as they eyed the remaining slope of rock:

“To our dismay, as well as disappointment, we found a great smooth mountain before us, standing at an angle of 40 degrees . . . There was not a place to set a secure foot upon, or a point that we could clutch with our fingers. The very first sight put every hope to flight of reaching its exalted summit.”

Hutchings declared defeat. Their experience, though, helped trail builder

John Conway plan his attempt. Conway and his sons brought a rope and some bolts to assist them through the steep section. They opted to climb the smooth rock barefoot instead of wearing hob nailed boots. Still, Yosemite’s master trail builder only made it 200 feet higher than Hutchings before turning around. The locals had deemed Half Dome too dangerous to climb.

The dangers, daring attempts and dreaded defeats added to Half Dome’s fame. An enterprising blacksmith named George Anderson decided he would make his fortune by building and operating a toll trail leading all the way to Half Dome’s top. But before realizing his dream of fame and fortune, he had to actualize the first ascent.

In the fall of 1875, Anderson attacked that mountain with all he could muster. He based his siege from the slopes above Little Yosemite, and his weapons included baling rope, a sledge hammer, hand drill, wooden pins, a forge and at least 40 home-made seven

inch long eye-bolts. He used pine pitch to increase friction on the slick rock. Then, with heavy gear and sticky feet, he began his assault on the final 1,000 feet of “impossible” and “dangerous” climbing.

Anderson slowly made his way up by creating and climbing a bolt and rope ladder. His method was to drill a hole into the hard granite with his sledgehammer and hand drill. Then, he drove in the seven inch eye-bolt, secured loose ones with a wooden peg, and threaded the rope through the eye of the bolt. Finally, he used that rope, friction on the smooth rock, and his prodigious strength to pull himself up until he was standing on the very same bolt he had just drilled. Then he began the process all over again. Anderson placed bolts every five or six feet until he had secured 975 feet of rope and reached the summit. Thus, on October 12, 1875, Anderson stood atop Half Dome. The crowds of visitors followed shortly thereafter.

You too are following in these pioneers’ footsteps, even if you never set foot on Half Dome. You depend on their knowledge whenever you read a map. You benefit from their ambition whenever you travel on a road or trail. You can carry on their passion by doing some exploring of your own. Learn something new from a Ranger program. Spend some time enjoying the scenery from an overlook you’ve never stopped at before. Hike to some place new, or try to find something new on a familiar trail. Keep on exploring. One day you too will find yourself standing atop your impossible dream.



Remaining George Anderson bolt, NPS

Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

Enhance the Visitor's 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 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.



Yosemite Conservancy

Yosemite Conservancy is the new nonprofit formed by a merger of the Yosemite Association and The Yosemite Fund. The Conservancy has a long history in Yosemite with over 100 years of combined experience supporting the park. Yosemite Conservancy can make the difference you see around you because we are the only philanthropic organization that is dedicated exclusively to Yosemite.

Our mission remains the same: Providing for Yosemite's future is our passion. We inspire people to support projects and programs that preserve and protect Yosemite National Park's resources and enrich the visitor experience.

The Yosemite Conservancy has funded over 300 projects through \$55 million in grants to help preserve and protect the park. The work of the Conservancy can be found in every aspect of the visitor experience from trail restoration, bear-proof lockers and canisters, habitat restoration, outdoor education and so much more. Annually the Yosemite Conservancy recruits over 400 volunteers to work in the park to repair trails, remove invasive species, and provide visitor information.

For more information, visit park bookstores or online at yosemiteconservancy.org



Contact Us...

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Want to get involved?

Yosemite National Park is busy planning for the future. Sign up for our mailing list and receive emails about current and upcoming plans and projects on our website:

<http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm>