

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

February 16 - April 12, 2011

Yosemite Guide

February 16 to April 12, 2011

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Volume 36, Issue 2

Thomas Hill (1829-1908) oil on canvas painting of the view from Inspiration Point area into Yosemite Valley. Yosemite Museum photo

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

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Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

Year-round Route:

Valley Shuttle

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

Campground

Parking

Picnic Area

Restroom

Walk-In Campground

Valley Visitor Center

Visitor Parking

Upper Yosemite Fall

Lower Yosemite Fall

Upper Yosemite Fall Trail

Yosemite Lodge

Chapel

Swinging Bridge

Sentinel Beach

El Capitan Picnic Area

Cathedral Beach

Valley Loop Trail

Four Mile Trail

Glacier Point

Mist Trail

Vernal Fall

horses only

Nature Center at Happy Isles

Upper Pines

Campground Reservations

Curry Village

Recreation Rentals

LeConte Memorial Lodge

Housekeeping Camp

The Ahwahnee

Yosemite Village

Medical Clinic

Church Bowl Picnic Area

Mirror Lake seasonal

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

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

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 visit

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours. 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 Yosemite Valley year-round. 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.

Enjoy Winter Fun at Badger Pass!

California’s original ski resort, Badger Pass Ski Area is a perfect place for visitors of all ages and skill levels to play in the snow. Learn to ski with one of our lessons, get some practice in on 10 runs, or catch some air in one of two terrain parks. You can also set-out on a snowshoe hike or embark on a cross-country skiing adventure from the Nordic center. Badger Pass is open everyday through April 3, 2011, weather and conditions permitting. Downhill ski lifts operate from 9am to 4pm. Call 209/372-1000 for current snow conditions. Equipment rentals and lift tickets are available from 8:30am to 4pm and a free shuttle service is available from Yosemite Valley.

To Badger Pass from Yosemite Valley:

- Curry Village: 8:00am and 10:30am
- Yosemite Village (across the street from Village Store Parking, near Village Garage): 8:10am and 10:40am
- The Ahwahnee: 8:15am and 10:45am
- Yosemite Lodge: 8:30am and 11:00am

From Badger Pass to Yosemite Valley:

2:00pm and 4:00pm

Go on a Snowshoe Hike

Guided hikes are offered daily from the Badger Pass A-Frame through April 3. Bring your own or borrow snowshoes (\$5 donation requested) for a guided winter snowshoe hike. Be sure to check weather and snow conditions before you go. For weather conditions, please call 209/372-0200 or check at any visitor center. (See page 5 for guided hike schedule.)

Explore a Sequoia Grove

Meet the most massive living trees on earth as you explore a sequoia grove. Yosemite is home to three groves—each within walking distance of a road. Skis or snowshoes are recommended if the trail is snow covered. (See map on



Badger Pass A-Frame, NPS Photo

Whether you’re looking for relaxation, adventure, or a little of both, Yosemite National Park is the place for you!

page 2 and info on page 7.)

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 6.)

Take a photography class...or set off on your own photographic adventure. 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. Some have fees, some are free. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. Forget something? The Ansel Adams Gallery has tripods, batteries, and photography guidebooks. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 5 and 6) The paved trails crisscrossing the meadows on the Valley Floor offer spectacular (and often snow-free) photographic opportunities of wildlife and Yosemite’s classic icons

such as Half Dome and Yosemite Falls.

Visit the Other Valley: Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Valley and its reservoir are located about 40 miles north of Yosemite Valley. The contours of Hetch Hetchy are much like its southern neighbor—with precipitous cliffs and waterfalls. Take an easy stroll across the dam for a great view across the reservoir or, if conditions permit, walk to Wapama Fall. (See page 3 for specifics on visiting Hetch Hetchy.)

Drive to Tunnel View

One of the most famous views of Yosemite Valley, Tunnel View has captivated visitors for over 75 years, offering expansive views of El Capitan, Clouds Rest, Half Dome, and Bridalveil Fall. (See map, page 2.)

Walk with a Ranger

Learn about park wonders on a ranger-guided walk. Programs are offered daily in Yosemite Valley and focus on wildlife, geology, trees, and other topics. (See page 5 for times and places.)

See Half Dome at Sunset

Towering more than 4,000 feet above the eastern end of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome is one of the most recognizable features in the Valley. Sunset lights up the cliff face, creating a dramatic and colorful scene. Witness the effect from Sentinel Bridge or one of the meadows near Yosemite Village or Curry Village. (See the Valley map on the back of this Guide.)

Visit the Ice Rink at Curry Village

Take the shuttle to Curry Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. Four sessions are available on weekends and holidays: 8:30am to 11:00am, noon to 2:30 pm, 3:30pm to 6:00pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm. Monday through Friday, two sessions are available from 3:30pm to 6:00pm and 7:00pm to 9:30pm. (Closes for season March 6)

Rent a bike

Approximately 12 miles of level, paved bike trails wind through Yosemite Valley, offering great views of the Merced River and the granite cliffs. Bring your own, or the bike rental stand at the Yosemite Lodge will open on April 1, conditions permitting.

Please Note: The Ahwahnee Hotel will be closed to visitors from February 22 through March 17, 2011 for the Fire and Life Safety Improvements Project, which involves the installation and/or replacement of automatic fire sprinklers, fire and smoke detectors, and fire alarm systems throughout the hotel. For additional information regarding the project, please visit www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm

What’s Inside

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Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove Roads are closed each year from after the first significant snowfall to about late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storm periods. Motorists are advised to always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel. Icy and wet roadways can exist throughout the park! To check conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park. For highways connecting to Yosemite, call 800/427-7623 or visit www.dot.ca.gov.

Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Entrance Fees

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

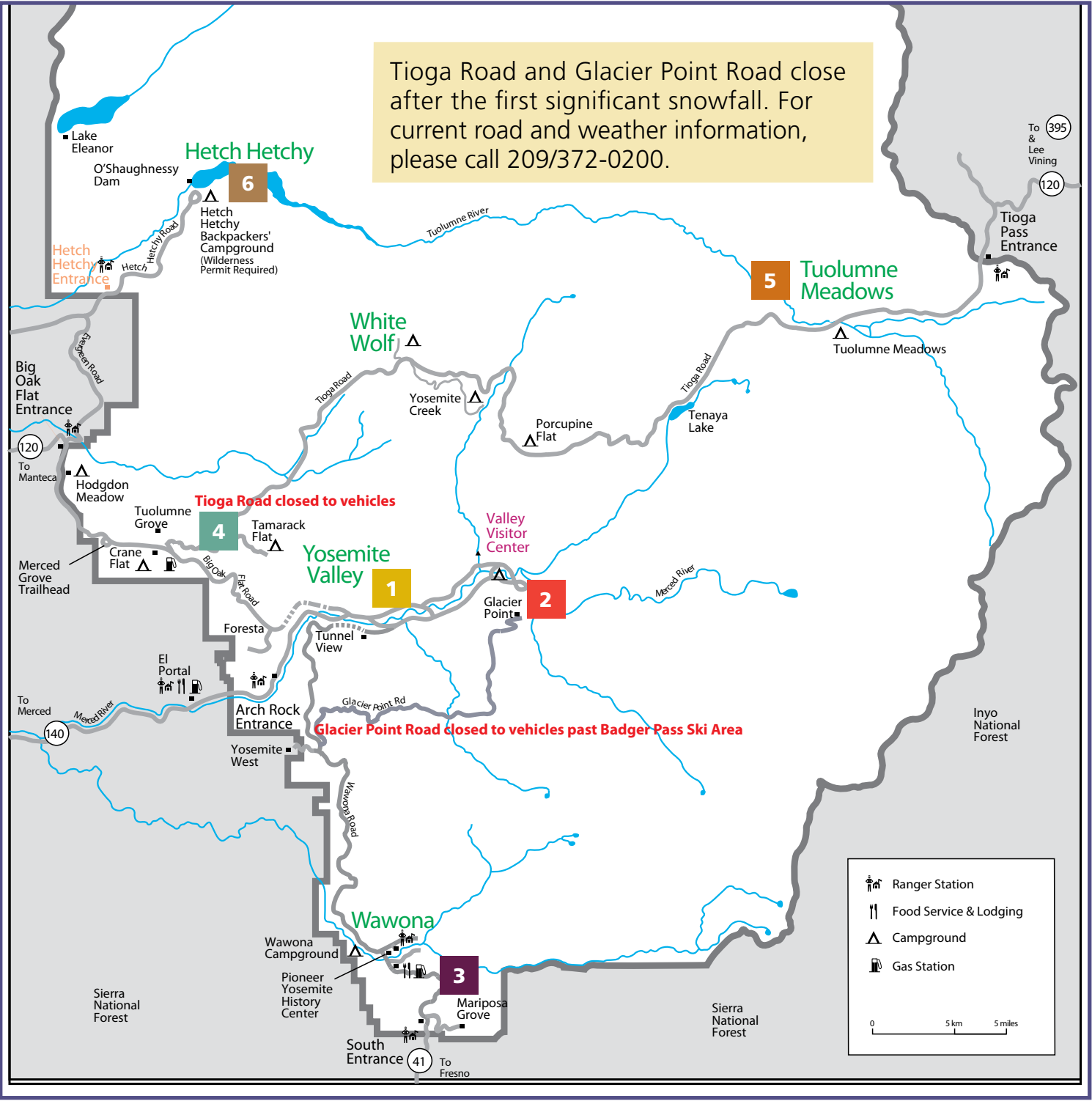
Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/878-3074

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 Iconic Yosemite Valley is known around the world for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and can be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, and Highway 120 west from Manteca. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, and its plunging waterfalls including Yosemite Falls, the tallest waterfall in North America. Take an easy stroll to the base of Lower Yosemite Fall or, if you're looking for a bigger challenge, hike to Vernal and/or Nevada Falls. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, car, or with a tour, the scenery will leave you breathless and eager to see what's around the next corner.



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

Glacier Point Road and Badger Pass

2 Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Yosemite’s high country, is located 30 miles from Yosemite Valley. Although the road is closed to vehicles past the Badger Pass Ski Area in winter months, a system of cross-country ski tracks is maintained along the road, and numerous snowshoe and ski trails originate from it. Badger Pass Ski Area (open through April 3, 2011 conditions permitting) offers downhill skiing, tubing, and ski instruction. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road, or take the Badger Pass Shuttle from the Yosemite Lodge (see page 1 for details).



Skier along the Glacier Point Road, Photo by Jennifer Treutelaar

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

3 The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park’s South Entrance station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed from sometime in December to April. 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.



Snow at Wawona’s covered bridge. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

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

Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

5 Closed to vehicles in the winter, the Tioga Road offers winter adventurers a 39-mile scenic ski or snowshoe past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. In winter, Tuolumne Meadows is often reached by skiers via the Snow Creek Trail from the Mirror Lake trailhead, a short distance east of Yosemite Valley.



Tuolumne Meadows deep freeze. Photo by Wendy Malone

Hetch Hetchy

6 Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area’s low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. Hetch Hetchy Road is open limited hours: 8 am to 7 pm through Oct. 31; then 8 am to 5 pm through March 31. The road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is a 1 hour and 15 minute drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. NPS photo

Did you know?

For almost a century awed spectators could watch the Yosemite Firefall, a blazing pile of burning embers that were pushed off of Glacier Point and fell, in a waterfall of fire, 3000 vertical feet to the Valley floor below.

While the official Yosemite Firefall was discontinued in 1968, visitors brave enough to face the cold February twilight can experience a similar sight: as the setting winter sun hits the seasonal flow at the top of Horsetail Fall, the pink glow makes the waterfall appear briefly like a stream of fire.

Photographer Galen Rowell took the famous “Natural Firefall” image in 1973. Since then, countless amateurs and professionals alike have gathered in Yosemite each February in hopes of capturing it themselves. Check out this natural phenomenon from the El Capitan picnic area on Northside Drive. Stay safe! Make sure to park completely off the roadway and set up your shot well away from traffic.

See page 11 for more photography tips from the pros...

Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas in the heart of the park



Half Dome, Winter, *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, including naturalist programs and hiking possibilities. See pages 5-6 for more information on program topics and visitor services available. **Many Yosemite Valley day hikes are accessible year-round, although some have special winter routes or closures for your safety.**

The base of **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired.

Bridalveil Fall is a year-round waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds swirling about the cliff lift and blow the falling water in a delicate free-fall.

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.

Half Dome, Yosemite’s most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion

from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

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

Shuttle buses may not travel to stop #16 when the road is snow-covered or icy.

For a strenuous day hike, you can use this trailhead to reach Vernal Fall footbridge (¾ miles) and Nevada Fall (2.7 miles) via the John Muir Trail.

Tunnel View, along Wawona Road (Hwy 41) provides a classic view of Yosemite Valley, including El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridalveil Fall. It is particularly

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, <i>winter route</i>	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	1.4 miles round-trip, 1–2 hours	Moderate, 400-foot gain
Top of Vernal Fall, <i>winter route</i>	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	3 miles round-trip, 2–4 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Nevada Fall, <i>winter route</i>	same as above	5 miles round-trip, 5–6 hours	Strenuous 1,900-foot gain
Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point (<i>Closed in winter past Union Point</i>)	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

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.

Photographing the “Firefall”:
February 18-19 Seek a rare show with John Senser.

Full Moon Snowshoe Trek:
March 19 Virgia Bryan and the bright dark night.

Secrets of the West Valley:
March 25 Pete Devine reveals the unknown in Yosemite.

Spring Canyon Wildflowers:
March 27 Michael Ross gives you foothill’s finest show.

Leave No Trace Trainer:
April 1-2 A training in LNT for outdoor leaders.

Photographing the “Moonbow”:
April 17 John Senser captures an elusive light.




























For more details, contact:
www.yosemiteconservancy.org, or call 800/469-7275, ext. 316. 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: info@yosemiteconservancy.org.

spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.

To experience the Valley on foot, stop by a visitor center for a trail map and the most current trail conditions, or see below for a list of popular Valley day hikes.

Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	BADGER PASS	WAWONA
Sunday	9:00am WEE WILD ONES (Except March 6) 45 min, Stories & activities for kids 6 & under,Yosemite Lodge GardenTerrace (DNC)  12:30pm JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1hr. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Bring warm clothing; Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS) 1:00pm Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk (except March 27th, April 3rd, and April 10th) 3 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$ 2:00pm Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls 1 ½ hrs. Shuttle Stop #6 (NPS)  7:00pm Evening Program (except February 20th) 1 hr, Check local listings for venue & topic (DNC)  7:00pm Ansel Adams’ Birthday Celebration Presentation (February 20th only) 1 hr, Check local listings for venue & topic (AAG) 	9:00am Adventure Hike- Snowshoe to Dewey Point (Except April 10) 6 ½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$ 10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except April 10) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (suggested donation \$5) (NPS)	10:00am Mariposa Grove Holiday Snowshoe Walk (February 20th only) 6 hrs, no experience necessary, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$
Monday	9:00am Camera Walk 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG)\ 11:30am Speaker, Making and Documenting Women’s History: Enid Michael and Shirley Shirley Sargent (March 28 only) 1½ hrs. Yosemite Valley Auditorium (NPS) 2:00pm Ranger Walk – Yosemite’s First People 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS)  4:00pm Spring Twilight Stroll 1 hr, The Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC)  7:00pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) 	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except April 4 and 11) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (suggested donation \$5) (NPS)	10:00am Mariposa Grove Holiday Snowshoe Walk (February 21st only) 6 hrs, no experience necessary, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$
Tuesday	9:00am Camera Walk 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) 10:00am Art Workshop 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Education Center (YAEC) (\$5) 12:00pm Yosemite Forum--The Application of Geographic Information Science (GIS) to Search and Rescue in Yosemite (March 8 only) 1 hr. Paul Doherty, Doctoral student at UC Merced Spatial Science Lab (NPS) 12:00pm Yosemite Forum-Macro-Fungi (April 12 only) 1 hr.Tom Bruns, UC Berkeley. Yosemite Valley Auditorium. (NPS) 12:30pm “Using Your Digital Camera” Class 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery <i>Starting March 12, class will be held from 1pm to 4pm</i> (AAG) 2:00pm Ranger Walk –Bears 1 ½ hrs. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #8 (NPS)  7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr, Check local listings for venue & topic (DNC) 	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except April 5 and 12) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (suggested donation \$5) (NPS) 7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 15th only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$	5:30pm Vintage Music (April only) 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) 
Wednesday	9:00am WEE WILD ONES (except April 6) 45 min, Stories & activities for kids 6 & under, Yosemite Lodge Garden Terrace (DNC)  10:00am Art Workshop 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Education Center (YAEC) (\$5) 2:00pm Ranger Walk – Yosemite’s Legacy 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS)  7:00pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS)  <div><div>Programs printed in ALL CAPS and in color are especially for children and their families!</div></div>	9:00am Adventure Hike- Snowshoe to Dewey Point (Except April 6) 6 ½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$ 10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except April 6) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (suggested donation \$5) (NPS) 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (February 16th only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$ 7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 16th only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$	5:30pm Vintage Music (April only) 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) 
Thursday	9:00am Camera Walk 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery 10:00am Art Workshop 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Education Center (YAEC) (\$5) 12:30pm “In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with your Camera” 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. \$ <i>Starting March 12, class will be from 1pm to 4pm</i> (AAG) 2:00pm Ranger Walk – Geology 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS)  4:00pm Spring Twilight Stroll (except February 17th and February 24th) 1 hr, Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC)  7:00pm FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES (March 24th, March 31st, and April 7th only) 1 hr, Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC)  7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr, Check local listings for venue & topic (DNC) 	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except April 7) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (suggested donation \$5) (NPS) 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (February 17th only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$ 7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 17th only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$	5:30pm Vintage Music (April only) 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	9:00am WEE WILD ONES (Except February 25, April 1, and April 8) 45 min, Stories & activities for kids 6 & under, Yosemite Lodge Garden Terrace (DNC)  10:00am Art Workshop 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Education Center (YAEC) (\$5) 2:00pm Ranger Walk – Wild About Wildlife 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS)  7:00pm Film: Ansel Adams 1 hr, Check local listings for venue (AAG) 	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except April 8) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (suggested donation \$5) (NPS) 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (February 18th only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$ 7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 18th only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$	5:30pm Vintage Music (April only) 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) 
Saturday	9:00am Camera Walk 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.(AAG) 10:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK (except March 26)1hr. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Bring warm clothing; Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS) 10:00am Art Workshop 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Education Center (YAEC) (\$5) 12:30pm “Using Your Digital Camera” Class 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery <i>Starting March 12, class will be from 1pm to 4pm</i> (AAG) 1:00pm Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk (except April 2nd and April 9th) 3 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$ 2:00pm WINTER FAMILY CELEBRATION (February 19th only) 3 hrs, See local postings for details. Curry Village Guest Lounge (DNC/NPS)  2:00pm Ranger Walk – Winter Ecology (February 26 and March 5, 12 only) 1 ½ hrs. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #8 (NPS)  2:00pm Ranger Walk – Trees (March 19, 26 and April 2, 9 only) 1 ½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (NPS) 7:00pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) 	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except April 9) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (suggested donation \$5) (NPS) 7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 19th only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$	5:30pm Vintage Music (April only) 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) 

- NPS

National Park Service
- DNC

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
- AAG

The Ansel Adams Gallery
- YC


YosemiteConservancy
- YAEC

Yosemite Art Education Center
- YMS

Yosemite Mountaineering School
- \$


Programs offered for a fee


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.

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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 weeks is requested.
- 

Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.

Visitor Services

Yosemite Valley



Yosemite Valley, NPS Photo

Even when it’s cold outside, Yosemite Valley offers great activities and programs for the whole family.

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 5 pm, just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The center offers information, maps, and books in the attached bookstore. Explore the new exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite’s spectacular landscape was formed, how people have interacted with it through the centuries, how wildlife adapts and survives, and how your national park continues to evolve.

FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

This inspiring visitor-orientation film is shown every 30 minutes, Monday - Saturday between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 4:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater. *Please note: Spirit of Yosemite will not be shown on Saturday, March 26.*

Yosemite Cemetery

This historic cemetery is located just west of the Yosemite Museum, across the street. *Guide to the Yosemite Cemetery* is available at the Valley Visitor Center.

Wilderness Permits

Permits are required year-round for overnight wilderness use. Wilderness permits can be obtained at the

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center seven days a week from 9am to 5pm. Bear canisters can be rented and a wide selection of maps and books are available for purchase.

Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center. Open 9am to

5pm, may close for lunch. *Please note: The Yosemite Museum Indian cultural Exhibit and Yosemite Renaissance will be closed Wednesday, March 16 for routine maintenance.*

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

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. (May close for lunch) The store offers books and traditional American Indian arts, crafts, jewelry, and books.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM GALLERY

The Yosemite Renaissance XXVI exhibition opens on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. The exhibit continues through May 1. The official opening will be preceded by a reception and awards ceremony from 5:30 to 7:30 PM on Friday, Feb. 25 at the Gallery.



George Chester painting from Yosemite Renaissance XXVI Exhibit

Ansel Adams Gallery

The gallery is located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center and is open daily from 10a.m.- 5pm. Starting Monday, March 14, hours are 10am- 6pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists.

Yosemite Art and Education Center

Opens April 1, open 9:00am-4:30pm. Enjoy our display of original Yosemite art or join an Art Workshop for an unforgettable experience. The Yosemite Art and Education Center, located next to the Village Store, offers a series of art workshops Tuesday through Saturday, beginning on April 5. Suggested donation for each student \$5 a day. These workshops are designed for adults and children over 12 , children under 12 may come with a responsible adult. Students need to bring their own art supplies, or they may be purchased at the Art Center. For more information, call 209/379-1442. See page 5 for specific program times.

Tours

Motor coach sightseeing tours are available in Yosemite Valley year-round. To experience the Valley with a guide, take the Valley Floor Tour. This 2-hour tour departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. During winter, tours travel by motorcoach, while warm-weather tours are offered on open air trams.Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at tour/ transportation desks at the Yosemite Lodge.

POST OFFICE

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
El Portal
Post Office
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30
Wawona Post Office
Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to noon

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

Yosemite Village
The Ansel Adams Gallery
10am-5pm, 10am - 6pm starting Monday, March 14,
Yosemite Bookstore
Inside Yosemite Visitor Center
9am to 5pm
Yosemite Museum Store
9am to 5pm
May close for lunch
Please note: The Yosemite Museum Indian cultural Exhibit and Yosemite Renaissance will be closed Wednesday, March 16 for routine maintenance.
Village Store
8am to 8pm
Habitat Yosemite
11am to 4pm Thurs.-Sun. only
Sport Shop
10am to 4pm

The Ahwahnee
(CLOSED FEBRUARY 22 THROUGH MARCH 17)
The Ahwahnee Gift Shop
8am to 8pm
The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop
7am to 10pm
Yosemite Lodge
Gift/Grocery
8am to 7pm
Nature Shop
11am to 7pm

Curry Village
Mountain Shop
9am to 5pm
Curry Village Gift/Grocery
9am-7pm

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 5pm

Yosemite Renaissance XXVI Exhibition

Yosemite Renaissance is an annual exhibit, now in its twenty-sixth year, that encourages diverse interpretations of Yosemite and the environment of the Sierra Nevada. Its goals are to bring together the works of serious contemporary artists that do not simply duplicate traditional representations; to establish a continuum with past generations of Yosemite artists; and to help establish visual art as a major interpretive medium of the landscape and a stimulus to the protection of the environment.

For this year’s competitive exhibit there were nearly 600 entries, resulting in an exhibit of 42 paintings, graphics, photographs and 3-dimensional pieces by artists throughout the country.

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 Delicatessen
7am to 5pm
Village Grill, Opens April 1
11am to 5pm (weather permitting)

The Ahwahnee
(CLOSED FEBRUARY 22 THROUGH MARCH 17)
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.
The Ahwahnee Bar 11:30am to 11pm
The Coffee Bar 7am to 10:30am

Yosemite Lodge
Food Court
Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am
Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm
Dinner: Sunday-Thursday, 5pm-7:30pm, Friday and Saturday, 5pm-8pm
Mountain Room Lounge
4:30pm to 11pm (Mon.-Fri.)
Noon - 11pm (Sat.-Sun.)
Mountain Room Restaurant
Sunday - Thursday 5:00pm to 8:30pm
Friday - Saturday 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Reservations taken for 8 or more. 209/372-1403

Curry Village
Pavilion Buffet
Breakfast 7am-10am, open March 26
Dinner, 5:30pm to 8pm, opens March 25
Pizza Deck
Fridays 5:00 to 9:00 p.m and Saturdays (and Sunday, February 20)
Noon to 9pm Monday thru Friday
5pm to 9pm Saturdays and Sundays, and noon to 9pm beginning on March 26
Coffee Corner
Saturdays and Sundays (and Monday, Feb. 21) 7:00 to 11:00 a.m.; open daily 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. beginning March 26

Wawona
Opens for the season on March 26
Wawona Hotel Dining Room
Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am
Complimentary breakfast offered for hotel guests
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
Reservations taken for 6 or more. 209/375-1425
Lounge Service: 5pm-9:30pm

GROCERIES

Yosemite Lodge
Gift/Grocery
8am to 7pm
Yosemite Village
Village Store
8am to 8pm
Degnan's Delicatessen
7am to 5pm
Curry Village
Gift/Grocery
9am to 7pm
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 5pm
Crane Flat Store
Closed except for February 19 - 21, 2011
10am - 4pm. Daily 10am to 4pm after March 25.

GAS STATIONS

El Portal
9am to noon, 1pm to 5pm
Diesel available. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

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

Crane Flat
Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.
Store closed except for February 19 - 21, 2011 10am - 4pm. Daily 10am to 4pm after March 25

OTHER SERVICES

Wawona Golf Course
Wawona Golf Shop and Snack Stand
Open April 3, weather permitting

Visitor Services

Beyond Yosemite Valley

Wawona

Pioneer Yosemite History Center

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

Evening Programs

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 tells stories from Yosemite's past.

Wilderness Permits

Visitors can obtain wilderness permits at a self-service kiosk on the porch of the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio, adjacent to the Wawona Hotel. Please come prepared with your own allowed bear canister or rent one from the Wawona Store.

Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. The road to the Grove closes in November or December and opens sometime in April. Visitors can walk, ski, or snowshoe when the road is closed to vehicles.

Getting to Mariposa Grove

Allow 1¼ hour driving time to reach the grove's access road from the Valley. A locked gate prevents vehicles from

entering the closure area. Limited parking is available near the gate.

Snow Travel to the Grove

Skiers and snowshoers can follow the snow-covered road into the grove. Trails within the grove are marked by yellow flags attached to trees above ground level. When snow covers the ground, access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski.

Distance and Elevation
Distances below do not include the 2-mile approach from the locked gate near the park's south entrance.

Grizzly Giant

Distance from trailhead: 0.8 mile/1.3km
Elevation gain: 400ft/122m

Fallen Wawona Tunnel Tree

Distance from trailhead: 2.5 miles/4km
Elevation gain: 1,000 ft/305m

Dogs and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.



Giant sequoias. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Big Oak Flat

(Hwy 120)

Big Oak Flat Information Station

The information station is closed until spring. Wilderness permits can be obtained on the Big Oak Flat Information Station porch via self registration. Please come prepared with your own allowed bear canister.

Merced Grove

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees accessible only on foot. It's a four-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe (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 trailhead is marked by a road 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. Now closed to cars, this path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip (you can walk, ski, or snowshoe) is moderately strenuous uphill. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.

SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

Curry Village
Showers
Open 24 hours
Housekeeping Camp
Laundromat
8am to 10pm

GENERAL SERVICES

Village Garage
NO GAS AVAILABLE IN YOSEMITE VALLEY
8am to 5pm Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4pm. 209/372-8320

Yosemite Medical Clinic, located on Ahwahnee Drive in Yosemite Valley, is scheduled to reopen in Spring of 2011. Until reopening, a triage station will be staffed from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with paramedics on call 24 hours per day. Park medical staff will assess and transport emergency cases. There will be a telephone near the clinic facility for visitors to call for medical assistance after hours. The Yosemite Medical Clinic phone number, 209-372-4637, will be answered by NPS staff to assist with emergency medical inquiries. Visitors can also call 911 for emergency medical services.

Dental Services

Adjacent to Yosemite Medical Clinic. For hours, call 209/372-4200. If no answer, call 209/372-4637

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH

209-372-4831, www.yosemitevalleychapel.org
SUNDAY SERVICES

9:15 AM (Sunday School and Nursery available).
11:00 AM (NO Sunday school or Nursery)
6:30 P.M. Sunday Evening Service/Bible

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Bible 6:30 PM call chapel for location
Men's Bible Study - Chapel 6:30 PM

THURSDAY MIDWEEK SERVICE
Thursday Evening Service 7:00 PM

Various Bible Studies during the week call for times and locations.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

SUNDAY MASS CELEBRATIONS:

Saturday, 6:00 pm. Rectory, 9006 Cedar Ct., 200 yds west of Shuttle Stop # 5

Sunday, 10:00 am Visitor Center Theater, Shuttle Stop # 5 or 9

Sunday, 6:00pm (Spanish), Cedar Lodge, El Portal

DAILY MASS CELEBRATIONS: Call for times, 209-372-4729

CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

El Portal Chapel/Worship: Sunday 11 am
Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane
Information: 209/379-2100

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

7:30 pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday
DNC General Office Building
(Employee Training Center) Yosemite Village

Call Dave M.at 209/765-1266. for more information or if you need to speak to someone.

LIONS CLUB

Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4475.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Meets Thursdays for lunch at noon in The Ahwahnee Mural Room. Visiting Rotarian families and guests welcome. For meeting reservations or information, call 209/372-8459.

Protecting yourself...



Swinging Bridge, Yosemite Valley Photo by Michael Freeman

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.

Around Ice and Water

- Stay off of frozen lakes, rivers and streams and away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards.
- Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
- Swimming is prohibited in Emerald Pool (above Vernal Fall) and in the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

Avoid Hypothermia

Sierra winters are comparatively mild, but temperatures can drop into dangerous territory with little warning. Winter sports require a high degree of preparation and training. Be prepared to shelter overnight even when out just for the day. Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

Avoid the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Know symptoms of hypothermia. Carry emergency fire-starting materials and food. Avoid dehydration; carry and drink plenty of water and carry emergency high-energy food.

Water Quality

To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking. Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier. To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available,

and always wash hands afterwards with soap and water. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash, camp, and bury human waste at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail, burying human waste six inches deep and pack out any toilet paper.

Traffic Safety

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

Effects of Altitude

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley’s elevation is 4,000 feet). Should altitude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

There are no scheduled winter patrols, so be prepared. 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.

- Be prepared for icy travel before conditions arise. Bring crampons, ice axe, climbing skins, and other traction devices.
- Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
- Check weather forecasts. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult.
- 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.
- Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

Wilderness Permit Information

Free wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Permits are issued and bear canisters are available for rent at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, the Badger Pass A Frame, and the Hetch Hetchy entrance during hours of operation. Wilderness permits are available via self registration at the Hill’s Studio in Wawona, at the Ranger Station in Tuolumne Meadows, and on porch at the Big Oak Flat Information Station 24hrs a day. Call the parks main phone line at 209/372-0200, or check the web at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm for additional information.

For summer trips, reservations are taken from 24 weeks to two days in advance of the start of your trip. A processing fee of \$5 per permit plus \$5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation.

Check the park’s website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740 .

Half Dome Permit Information

Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are now required seven days per week when the cables are up (in 2011, May 20 to October 10, conditions permitting). This is an interim measure to increase safety along the cables while the park develops a long-term plan to manage use on the Half Dome Trail.

Permits for May and June will become available on March 1; July, on April 1; August, on May 1, September, on June 1; and October on July 1. Permits are not available in the park or on a first-come, first-served basis.

You may obtain a permit to hike Half Dome by visiting www.recreation.gov or by calling 877/444-6777. Up to four permits will be available per web session or phone call. Each permit has a service fee of \$1.50.

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.

More information is available at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.

More Information

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

...and Yosemite



Coyote, Yosemite Valley Photo by Caitlin Lee-Roney

Keep Wildlife Wild!

Black bears, coyote, deer, and grey squirrels are just a few of the many animal species in the park that are active year round. Learn how to help protect Yosemite’s wildlife.

Store Your Food Properly.

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.

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.

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.

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).

Coyotes

Watching a coyote hunting for mice in one of Yosemite’s many meadows can be an amazing wildlife experience. Coyotes are opportunistic carnivores that primarily prey on small mammals. Like bears, their diets change throughout the year with food availability.

Unfortunately, coyotes sometimes change their natural behavior to try to obtain human food. Approaching, and/or feeding coyotes can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans. Please do not stop to feed coyotes that you see along the sides of the roads. This encourages them to frequent roadsides to beg for food, endangering both coyotes and drivers.

If you see a coyote during your visit to Yosemite, consider yourself lucky. Spend some time watching its natural behavior from a distance (at least 50 yards).

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.

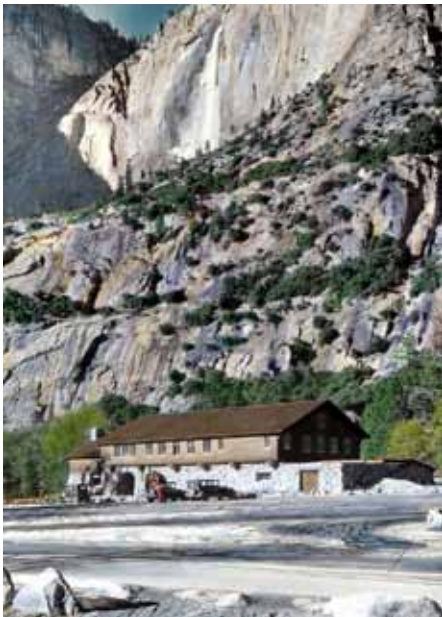
Weather in Yosemite

Dressing in layers and bringing plenty of water (even during cooler months!) will 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 in 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. Temperatures in winter can range well below freezing up into the 60s during the day. Shady spots on trails and roads can remain icy even during the warmth of the day.

The Yosemite Museum: A National Treasure

By Miriam Luchans, Museum Registrar

“The Yosemite Museum was given to the public in order that all visiting this majestic valley might know the story of its creation and native life.” *Plaque on Yosemite Museum entryway, 1926*



Hand-colored glass lantern slide of the Yosemite Museum building before completion. Yosemite Museum collection, YOSE 55099

The first museum in the national parks was created in 1904 when Major John Bigelow, Jr., 95th US Cavalry and Acting Superintendent of Yosemite, built an arboretum in Wawona. Labels along the meandering pathway provided information about the native flowers and trees. This living collection of native plants is considered the beginning of museums in the National Park Service.

Yosemite started receiving donations of Indian collections as early as 1920. These first pieces, including native basketry and fine art were displayed in park headquarters, then moved to Yosemite artist Chris Jorgenson’s former home and studio near the current

Yosemite Chapel-- the site of the old Yosemite Village. This small seed of a museum began to grow as the park recognized the educational value of the museum and the need to protect these irreplaceable items. The park raised \$75,000 (close to \$1 million in current dollars!) for a new facility across the Valley through combined donations from the public and a grant from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Fund.

In response, The Yosemite Museum Association, the first nonprofit cooperating association in the National Park Service, was created to handle the project. National parks across the country established similar partnerships for handling fundraising activities, and the model is still in use today.

Construction of the Yosemite Museum was completed in the spring of 1925 and the collections were moved from Jorgenson’s former studio to the new building, where they can still be found today.

Legacy of the Yosemite Museum

The Yosemite Museum is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a part of the Yosemite Village Historic District. Architect Herbert Maier designed the building in what is now known as the “Rustic Style”. This style of architecture uses natural materials

such as wood and stone to blend the building into the surrounding landscape. Other Yosemite examples of this architecture include the nearby Ranger Club, Post Office and Administration Building, all of which were built around the same time.

private donations, park purchases and field collections in the park, so does the need to protect our national heritage. Museum staff work to preserve museum collections, all while providing access to park staff and the public through research, exhibits, publications, education, inspiration and management.



Museum exhibits in Chris Jorgenson’s former home and art studio from 1920 to 1925. Yosemite Museum photo, YOSE 10599

The Yosemite Museum Today

Over 4 million historic, Native American, and archeological artifacts, archival collections, paintings, photographs, and biological and geological collections were born from the Yosemite Museum’s humble beginnings in Major Bigelow’s arboretum and Jorgenson’s studio. As the museum continues to grow through

Visit the Yosemite Museum

Experience this legacy by visiting the groundbreaking Yosemite Museum featuring the Indian Cultural Exhibit, a display of ethnographic, archeological and historic collections from the museum collection and the Yosemite Renaissance exhibit of contemporary art Yosemite and the Sierra.

Photography in Yosemite: Tips From The Ansel Adams Gallery Staff Photographers

Certainly one of the most popular artistic pasttimes in Yosemite is photography. The following tips from Christine White Loberg and Mike Reeves will help you capture the dramatic winter landscape, while staying safe!

- Safety**- Use caution when photographing! Roads can be icy this time of year, and piled snow can block turnouts. Make sure you are off the road before stopping. Also, low light can make visibility difficult. Set your shots up safely away from roads.
- Storms**-Storms offer fog, mist, and unique lighting conditions that can present more interesting photographs than you may find during sunny days. Be sure to dress for changing weather conditions.
- Wildlife** - Many animals come out to the meadows during the early morning and late evening to feed. By using the zoom function on your camera, you are able to get close to various animals without scaring them. While it is exciting to watch these wild animals, remember that they are wild, and protected by law. Be sure to never approach wildlife; if the animal is aware of your presence, you are too close!
- Meadows** - The many meadows in Yosemite are excellent places for photography, allowing views of the immense cliffs that surround us, or

- allowing small scale views of flowers and grasses. Be sure to watch for fog, which can give your scene a dreamy feel. Be sure to stay on marked trails and out of restoration areas!
- Sunrise** - Those of us who beat the sun to our favorite spots are often rewarded with views not seen by many visitors, excellent colors, and a solitary chance to witness the rays of the new day shine upon your favorite landmark.
- Sunsets** - If the sky is cloudy, be sure to hang around after sunset, when the sun bounces around in the clouds and lights up the sky. Also, be on the watch for alpenglow, which happens when the sun bounces off clouds and back onto the cliff faces, producing soft, bright colors.
- Change Your View!** - Try to take multiple pictures of the objects in your area in different ways. Sometimes you will find that your favorite shots are the ones you took after your initial one. The longer you stay in a particular area, the more you will be able to witness the changing conditions that make Yosemite so special.

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 Conservancy

Yosemite Conservancy is the non-profit 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 60 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, wilderness permits, wildlife preservation, 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 go online at yosemiteconservancy.org



Providing For Yosemite's Future

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.



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Want to get involved?

Join park and partner staff to learn about projects and plans at a free monthly public Open House! Open Houses will be held at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium on:

- Wednesday, February 23, 2011 from 1pm to 4pm
- Wednesday, March 30, 2011 from 1pm to 4pm

Park fees are waived for those attending. For more information, visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/yose.