



Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide

February 10, 2016 - February 29, 2016



Carl Casey, Big tree hunter and Volunteer-in-Parks for Yosemite, stands at the base of the National Co-Champion Sugar Pine he discovered in Yosemite. Photo by Rick Messier

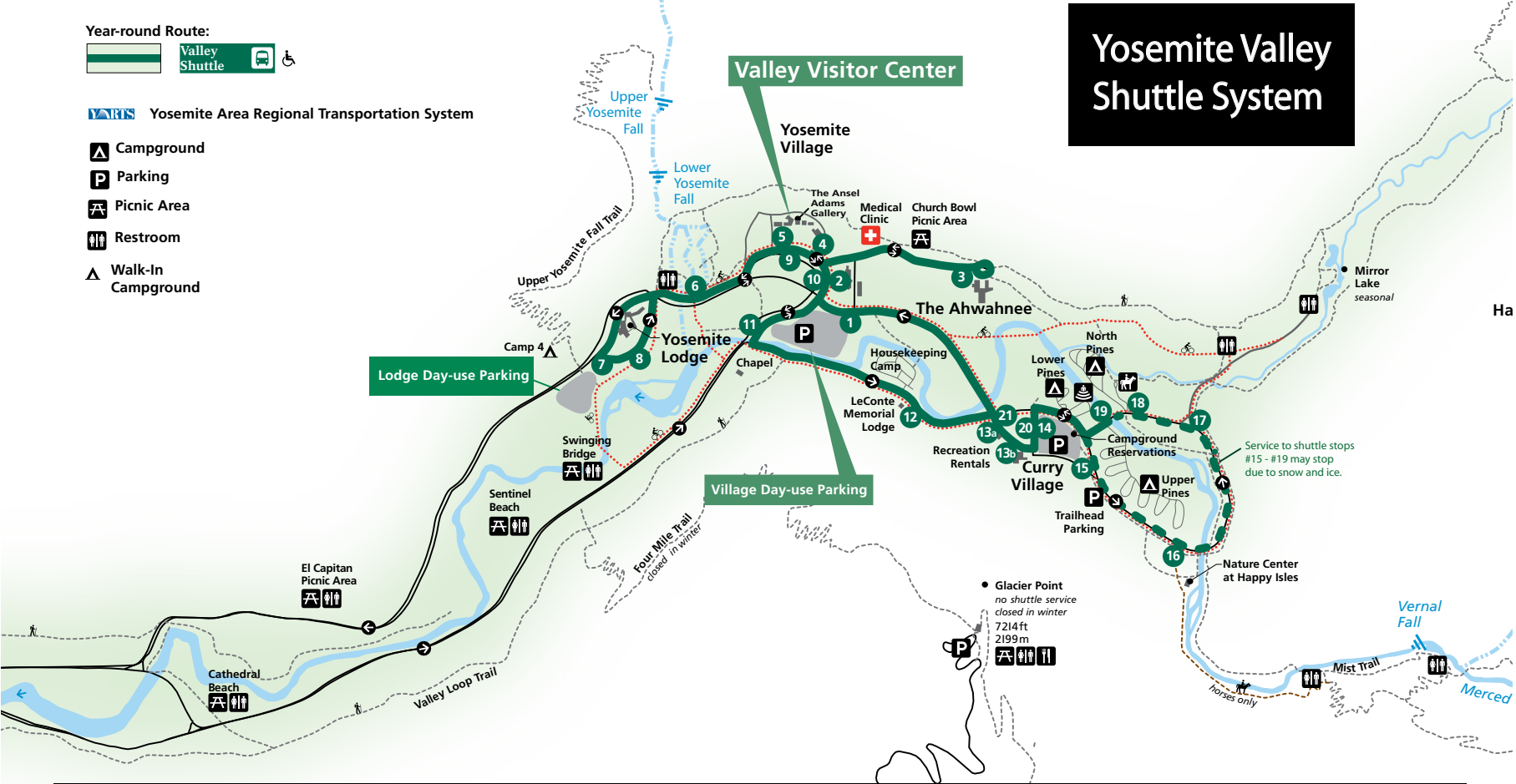
Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Volume 41, issue 2

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



The Yosemite Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7 am to 10 pm and serves stops in numerical order. Shuttles run daily every 20 to 30 minutes, depending on time of day. In the event of snow and ice, busses may suspend service to shuttle stops #15 - #19.

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

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CENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Yosemite National Park



Celebrating 100 Years of Service

The National Park Service turns 100-years-old on August 25, 2016! The Centennial will kick off a second century of stewardship of America's national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs. Join the celebration to explore, learn, discover, be inspired, or simply have fun in over 400 national parks.

Celebrate the National Park Service Centennial at Yosemite!

Yosemite National Park is gearing up for a NPS Centennial celebration that you're invited to. Visit www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary or www.FindYourPark.com to find more information about events happening in Yosemite throughout the year.

NPS Centennial at Yosemite Calendar

April 16-24, 2016

National Park Week

Free admission to all National Parks.

National Park Week is America's largest celebration of national heritage. It's about making great connections, exploring amazing places, discovering open spaces, enjoying affordable vacations and enhancing America's best idea—the national parks!

April 23, 2016

Yosemite Earth Day and Junior Ranger Day celebration

Enjoy games, interactive activities, volunteer opportunities and demonstrations that allow you to experience how the park and its partners practice sustainability in Yosemite.

May 29, 2016

90th Anniversary of the Yosemite Museum

June 4, 2016

National Trails Day

Join in on the country's largest celebration of trails. More details to come.

August 25, 2016

NPS 100th Anniversary

Celebrate with us. More details to come.

August 25-28, 2016

NPS Birthday Weekend

Free admission to all National Parks in honor of the NPS Centennial.

September 21-25, 2016

Yosemite Facelift

Join the National Park Service and the Yosemite Climbing Association for this official National Public Lands Day event, volunteering to pick up litter and performing special projects to help clean up Yosemite.

September 24, 2016

National Public Lands Day

Free admission to all National Parks.

November 11, 2016

Veterans Day

Free admission to all National Parks.



Yosemite Park Ranger Adrienne Freeman, Yosemite Superintendent Don Neubacher, NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis. Yosemite National Park would like to thank the Yosemite Conservancy for their generous support in Yosemite's Rose Parade participation. NPS Photo



Rose Parade Equestrian Unit Marshal (and Yosemite Mounted Patrol Program Manager) Justin Fey (second from left) practices with the NPS Color Guard members (left to right) Heidi Edgecomb, James Cox, and Tyler Bernacchi at the LA Equestrian Center. NPS Photo

The centennial will kick off a second century of stewardship of America's national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs.

2016 Rose Parade

The National Park Service launched into its Centennial year by participating in the 127th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., on January 1, 2016.

Several dozen National Park Service uniformed employees, including NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis, Yosemite Superintendent Don Neubacher, Park Rangers, U.S. Park Police officers, packers, Buffalo Soldiers, junior rangers, volunteers, and partners, all walked the 5-mile parade route, waving at the cheering crowd.

In honor of the National Park Service's Centennial, the 127th Rose Parade theme was "Find Your Adventure," and all participants were encouraged to be

inspired by the National Park Service's natural, cultural, and historic sites, when creating their floats.

FIND YOUR PARK

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation invite you to Find Your Park and discover the national parks and programs in your own backyard. Visit www.FindYourPark.com to find more information about NPS Centennial events happening in a national park near you, throughout the year, and also to share your pictures and stories once you've found your park.



Yosemite Corral Manager Shane Fairbanks lines up his pack string for parade practice at the LA Equestrian Center. NPS Photo



Wawona Stage Driver Burrel "Buckshot" Maier enjoys a parade-day laugh on the brand new Yosemite Stagecoach, which was purchased with a generous grant from the Yosemite Conservancy. NPS Photo

Every Kid In A Park

Fourth graders, grab your family and go enjoy your national parks for FREE! The Every Kid In A Park initiative was launched to help the next generation of park visitors and supporters create positive attitudes towards public lands and to give every child the chance to explore America's great outdoors and unique history. Visit www.everykidinapark.gov for more information.



FREE Interagency 4th Grade Pass

A free, annual pass for 4th grade students and their families, to have free access to any federal land or water, during the school year from September 1 to August 30. Families must present a paper voucher at any park entrance to obtain the pass. Visit www.everykidinapark.gov for details.

Visit the Ice Rink at Curry Village

Visit Curry Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. See page 6 for daily, weekend and holiday hours.

Enjoy Winter Fun at Badger Pass

Badger Pass Ski Area is a perfect place for visitors to play in the snow, take a guided snowshoe hike or embark on a cross-country skiing adventure. Badger Pass is open daily, weather and conditions permitting. See page 6 for service hours and free shuttle schedule.

Reserve Ostrander Ski Hut For an Epic Winter Adventure!

Ostrander Ski Hut, managed by Yosemite Conservancy, is accepting reservations for the 2015-2016 season. The hut operates from early December through March and is located 10 miles from the Badger Pass Ski Area. Trips to Ostrander require advanced snowshoe or cross country skiing experience. Reservations can be booked by calling 209-379-5161. Information, equipment lists and more can be found at www.yosemiteconservancy.org/ostrander.

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. Some require fees. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 4 and 5)

Lose Something in Yosemite?

File a lost report by email at yose_lostandfound@nps.gov. To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite's restaurants, hotels, shuttle buses or tour services, call 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, email yose_lostandfound@nps.gov.

Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Entrance Fees

Non-commercial car, pickup truck, RV, or van with 15 or fewer passenger seats - Valid for 7 days

(No per-person fee)

\$30/vehicle April through October

\$25/vehicle November through March

Motorcycle Valid for 7 days

\$20/motorcycle

Individual Valid for 7 days

\$15, (In a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse)

Yosemite Pass

\$60, 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.

Interagency Military Pass (Free)

(Annual) For active duty U.S. military and dependents

Interagency 4th Grade Pass (Free)

(Annual) For fourth graders and their families. Must present paper voucher.

Reservations

Campground Reservations

877/444-6777

www.recreation.gov

Lodging Reservations

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

209/878-3329

Highway 140/49

Calif. Welcome Center, Merced

800/446-5353 or 209/724-8104

www.yosemite-gateway.org

Mariposa County Visitor Center

866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081

Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau

209/742-4567

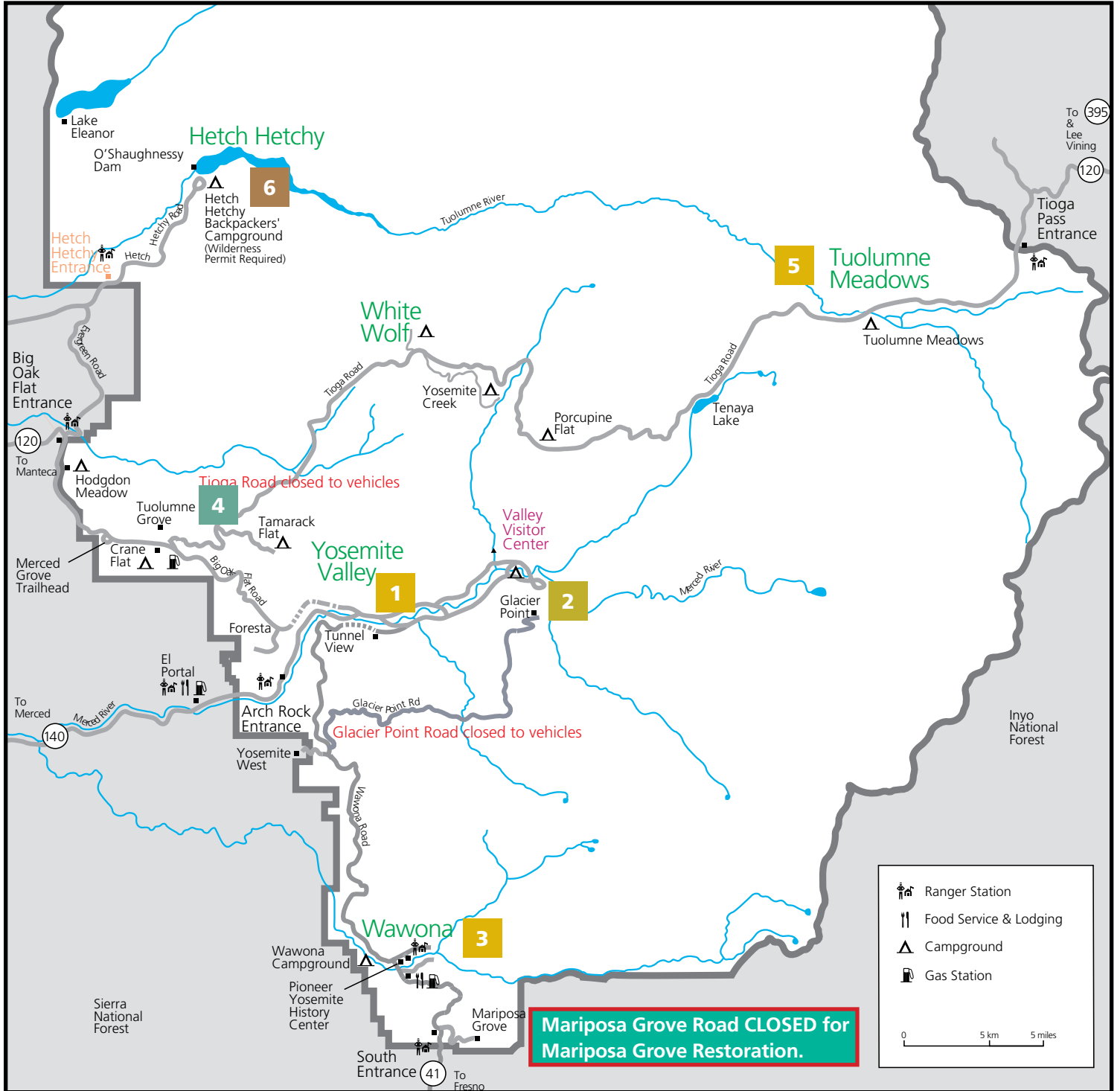
www.homeofyosemite.com

Highway 120 East

Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake

Visitor Center, 760/647-6629

www.leevining.com



Yosemite Valley

1 Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 West from Manteca, and via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, its plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and its attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow recharge it, a moderate hike will take you to Vernal and Nevada Falls. Yosemite's meadows are great places to see wildlife and to photograph the winter scenery. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, car or with a tour, the scenery will leave you in awe and eager to see what's around the next corner.



Yosemite Valley after snowfall. Photo by Christine Loberg

Glacier Point Road

2 Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and Yosemite’s high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. The road stays open as weather permits, however, overnight parking along it ends October 15. *Glacier Point Road closes beyond the Badger Pass Ski area after the first significant snow fall.* When the road is snow-covered and conditions permit, a system of cross-country ski tracks are maintained on it. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, when the road is open, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating view looking down 3,214 feet into Yosemite Valley.

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. *As of July 6, 2015, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is closed for restoration, see page 7 for details.* 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. For more information about hiking trails in the Wawona area, 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.

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 The Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. *The road closes after the first big snowfall, and overnight parking ends on October 15.* The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. Tuolumne Meadows embodies the high-country of the Sierra Nevada. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. 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.

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. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles (1 hour 15 minutes) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 8am to 7pm through October 31, then 8am to 5pm through March 31. Wilderness permits and bear canisters are available while the road is open. Vehicles and/or trailers over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not permitted on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Champion trees are the largest of their species. Champion status is based on a point system equation of: girth in inches + feet in height + ¼ the average canopy width in feet = total points. Yosemite currently has four National Champion trees and a fifth, a western white pine, is in the nomination process.
- 1) Sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) “Yosemite Monarch” 28 feet 1 inch (8.6 m) girth, 205 feet (62.5 m) tall, 65 foot (19.8 m) canopy = 558 total points.
 - 2) Red fir (*Abies magnifica*) “Leaning Tower” 30 feet 5 inches (9.3 m) girth, 172 feet (52.4 m) tall, 41 foot (12.5 m) canopy = 547 points.
 - 3) White fir (*Abies concolor*) “Merced Lake Giant” 23 feet 0 inches (7.0 m) girth, 217 feet (66.1 m) tall, 39 foot (11.9 m) canopy = 503 points.
 - 4) Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) “Smoky Jack” 23 feet 5 inches (7.1 m) girth, 186 feet (56.7 m) tall, 66 foot (20.1 m) canopy = 485 points.

Think you might have found a champion? See the American Forests National Big Tree Register (<http://www.americanforests.org/bigtrees>) or the California Big Trees Registry (<http://californiabigtrees.calpoly.edu>) for tree nomination information!



The view from Glacier Point. NPS Photo



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



Tuolumne Meadows deep freeze. Photo by Wendy Malone



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Photo by Erik Skindrud

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 late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storms. 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 road conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit www.dot.ca.gov for highways connecting to Yosemite, outside the park.

Chain Control Information:

You must have tire chains or cables in your possession when entering a designated chain control area, **even if you’re driving a four-wheel drive or rental vehicle.**



R1 - Chains Required, unless you are driving a car, pickup truck, or SUV weighing less than 6,000 pounds AND your auto or pickup has mud/snow tires installed. (look for “M+S” on the wall of the tire)



R2 - Chains Required, unless you are driving a car, pickup truck, or SUV weighing less than 6,500 pounds AND your car has snow tires installed on all four wheels AND has four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive engaged.



R3 - Chains Required, on ALL vehicles (chains on 2 wheels of a 4-wheel drive).

Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas in the heart of the park



Yosemite Valley in winter. Photo by Sheree Peshlakai

Experience 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 Visitor Center and Bookstore

The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore are open from 9am to 5pm. They are located west of the main post office, near 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.

YOSEMITE FILMS

Two films are shown daily, every half-hour beginning at 9:30am (except on Sundays, when the first showing is at noon). The last film is at 4:30pm. Ken Burns’ *Yosemite: A Gathering of Spirit* plays on the hour and *The Spirit of Yosemite* plays on the half-hour, in the Theater behind the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

WILDERNESS PERMITS

Wilderness permits are required year-round. Permits and bear canisters are available at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center daily from 9am to 5pm. For more information on wilderness travel and safety please see page 8.

Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center. The museum is open daily from 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite’s Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. The Indian Cultural Museum is open from 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

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

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery is open daily from 10am to 5pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other artists. See page 5 for photo walk and other event times. For more information call 209/372-4211 or visit www.anseladams.com.

EXHIBIT Wild Winter

January 4, 2016 - March 5, 2016

Of all seasons, the unpredictability and invigorating light of Winter seems to inspire the artist’s mind. The iconic Ansel Adams photograph, *Clearing Winter Storm*, stands as precedent. From January 4, 2016 through March 5, 2016, The Ansel Adams Gallery will exhibit *Wild Winter*, featuring photographic works from our distinguished collective of photographers. We hope you have a chance to stop by to enjoy the show. All exhibited works will be available for purchase with shipping options available.



David Will, Winter Wonderland, Pastel, on display at Yosemite Renaissance 31 Exhibition

Yosemite Renaissance 31 Art Exhibition

Yosemite Renaissance 31 opens on February 27 at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. This art exhibit continues through May 1, 2016. The official opening will be preceded by a reception and awards ceremony from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Friday, February 26 at the Museum Gallery; the public is cordially invited to attend this reception. Yosemite Renaissance is an annual exhibit, which encourages diverse artistic interpretations of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. Its goal is to bring together the works of serious contemporary artists that do not simply duplicate traditional representation but establish a continuum with past generations of Yosemite artists. For this year’s competitive exhibit there were 973 entries, resulting in an exhibition of 55 paintings, photographs and 3-dimensional works by artists throughout the country. The Museum Gallery is open, 10am to Noon and 1pm to 4pm daily.

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 12:30pm to 1:30pm
Wawona Post Office
Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm
Saturday, 9am to noon

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

Yosemite Village
The Ansel Adams Gallery
10am to 5pm
Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore
Inside Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
9am to 5pm
Yosemite Museum Store
9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*
Village Store
8am to 8pm
Sport Shop
Closed for the season
The Ahwahnee
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 6pm
Curry Village
Mountain Shop
9am to 4pm
Curry Village Gift/Grocery
9am to 7pm
Wawona Area
Wawona Store and Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 5pm

SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

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

Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

	YOSEMITE VALLEY
Sunday	9:00am Adventure Snowshoe Hike - Dewey point 7 hrs.Tickets/info at any tour desk. Badger Pass Cross Country Center. (DN) \$
	10:00am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿
	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass Ranger Station A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)
	2:00pm Ranger Walk – Bears 1.5 hrs. Shuttle stop #6. (NPS) ♿
Monday	9:00am Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel. (TAAG) ♿
	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass Ranger Station A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)
	2:00pm Ranger Walk – Yosemite’s First People 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿
Tuesday	9:00am Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿
	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass Ranger Station A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)
	1:00pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$
	2:00pm Ranger Walk – Geology 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿
Wednesday	9:00am Adventure Snowshoe Hike - Dewey point 7 hrs.Tickets/info at any tour desk. Badger Pass Cross Country Center. (DN) \$
	10:00am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿
	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass Ranger Station A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)
	1:00pm Ansel Adams’ Legacy and Your Digital Camera Photography Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$
	2:00pm Ranger Walk – Inspiring Generations 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿
	7:00pm Ranger Program 1 hr. Check local listings for topic and venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (NPS) ♿
Thursday	9:00am Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿
	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass Ranger Station A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)
	1:00pm Using Your Digital Camera 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$
	2:00pm Ranger Walk – Trees 1.5 hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3. (NPS) ♿
Friday	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass Ranger Station A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)
	10:30am Ranger Program – Yosemite Inside 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. Yosemite Valley Auditorium, behind Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. (NPS) ♿
	2:00pm Ranger Walk – Wildlife 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿
	7:00pm Film - Ansel Adams 1 hr. Check local listing for venue. (TAAG) ♿
Saturday	8:30am Tuolumne Sequoia Grove Adventure hike 5-7 hrs. (including transportation). Tickets/info at any tour desk. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls front desk. (DN) \$
	9:00am Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿
	10:00am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿
	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass Ranger Station A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)
	10:30am Ranger Program – Yosemite Inside 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. Yosemite Valley Auditorium, behind Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. (NPS) ♿
	1:00pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$
	2:00pm Ranger Walk –Ahwahneechee Stories and Games 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿

Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families.

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, or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at 209/379-1035 for more information.

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.



Sign Language interpreting is available upon request. Contact Deaf Services at 209/379-5250 (v/txt). Two weeks advance notice is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request, inquire at a visitor center.



Audio tours are available for the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

- NPS National Park Service
- DN Delaware North
- TAAG The Ansel Adams Gallery
- YC Yosemite Conservancy
- \$ Programs offered for a fee

Things to Do

Yosemite Valley and Beyond



Badger Pass A-frame/ NPS Photo

Yosemite in Winter

NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Naturalists give walks and talks every day about Yosemite’s natural and cultural history. See page 5 for scheduled walks, talks, and evening programs.

RANGER PROGRAM –YOSEMITE INSIDE

Join a ranger in an indoor venue for an in-depth look into a Yosemite topic. Topics will vary from Yosemite wildlife, to climbing, to Yosemite artists. See page 5 for schedule and visit the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for specific topics.

WALKING AND HIKING

Yosemite Valley has a wide range of walking and hiking possibilities. Stop by a visitor center for a trail map and the most current trail conditions, or see page 9 for a list of popular Valley day hikes.

SIGHTSEEING

Some of the famous landmarks in Yosemite Valley include:

- **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy 30-minute loop trail starting from shuttle stop #6. (Both Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow return.) This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired.
- **Bridalveil Fall** is a year-round waterfall that can be visited on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds, swirling about the cliff, blow the wispy water into a delicate free-fall.
- **El Capitan** is a massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from

base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan. *Please stay on foot paths to avoid damaging delicate meadows.*

- **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 iconic feature into what we see today. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge and Glacier Point all provide stunning views of Half Dome.
- **Happy Isles** is easily reached by the free shuttle bus at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite’s geologic story. *Shuttle buses may not go to stop #16 when road is snow-covered or icy.*
- **Tunnel View**, along the Wawona Road (Hwy 41), provides a view that showcases Yosemite Valley. Capture breathtaking views of El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall and Half Dome. It is particularly spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.

TOURS

Tours listed depart from Yosemite Lodge, weather permitting. Check Tour and Activity Desk for times.

The **Valley Floor Tour** is a 26-mile, two-hour, guided tour of Yosemite Valley. It departs several times daily. Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at the Tour and Activity Desk in the Yosemite Lodge at the Falls, 7:30 am to 5pm.

Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing the wonders of Yosemite through our year-round Outdoor Adventures. From backpacking to botany and birding, our wide range of programs offers something for every Yosemite adventurer.

Find detailed information and register for your adventure at yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures or call 209/379-2317 x10. Camping and park entry are included; additional lodging options are available. Custom Adventures can also be arranged for individuals, families and groups. Proceeds support Yosemite Conservancy’s work in the park; preserving and protecting Yosemite for generations to come.

Winter Sports

BADGER PASS SKI AREA

Open daily from 9am to 4pm, weather and conditions permitting, Live information on winter sports is available by calling 209/372-8430, or recorded information is available at 209/372-1000.

Lift Operation - 9am to 4pm
Lift Tickets - 8:30am to 4pm
Ski School Desk - 8:30am to 4pm
Rental Shop - 8:30am to 4pm
Tubing - 11:30 am and 2pm
Skiers Grill - 8am to 4pm
Sport Shop - 9am to 4pm

RANGER LED SNOWSHOE WALKS

Enjoy a ranger led tour of Yosemite’s winter landscape, conditions permitting. All ranger led snowshoe walks meet at Badger Pass Ranger Station A-frame. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. See schedule on page 5.

BADGER PASS A-FRAME

Open 9am to 4pm, seven days a week when Badger Pass Ski Area is open. Ostrander Ski Hut check-in and cross-country ski trail information available, as well as wilderness permits for Badger Pass area trails, which are only obtainable here.

BADGER PASS SHUTTLE (FREE)

Take the free shuttle service to and from Badger Pass, weather and conditions permitting. *(Approximate arrival and departure times are subject to traffic and weather conditions.)*

Yosemite Valley to Badger Pass

Curry Village - 8am and 10:30am
Yosemite Village - 8:10am and 10:40am
Ahwahnee Hotel - 8:15am and 10:45am
Yosemite Lodge - 8:30am and 11am
Badger Pass to Yosemite Valley
2pm and 4:30pm

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. *Closes for the season March 1.*

Weekends and holidays:

8:30am to 11am, noon to 2:30pm, 3:30pm to 6pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm.

Monday through Friday:

3:30pm to 6pm and 7pm to 9:30pm.

YOSEMITE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

Provides outdoor adventures for people of all experience levels. Give us a call to schedule a custom outing designed specifically for your group. We offer professional guides for cross country skiing and snowshoeing, as well as hiking, backpacking and rock climbing. Reservations recommended, please call 209-372-8344 or email yms@dncinc.com.

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

The Ahwahnee

Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Sunday Brunch: 7am to 2pm

Appropriate attire required for dinner.

Reservations recommended for dinner

and Sunday Brunch. 209/372-1489.

The Coffee Bar Closed for remodel

The Ahwahnee Bar Closed for remodel

Great Lounge Beverage Service

11:30am to 10pm

Yosemite Lodge

Food Court

Breakfast: 6:30am to 10:30am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm

Dinner: 5pm to 8pm

last 30 minutes are grab and go only

Mountain Room Lounge

Monday - Friday, 4:30pm to 11pm

Saturday & Sunday, noon to 11pm

Mountain Room Restaurant

5pm to 8pm

Reservations taken for 8 or more.

209/372-1281

Curry Village

Pizza Deck

Friday, 5pm to 9pm

Saturday, noon to 9pm

Sundays of holiday weekends, noon to 9pm

Coffee Corner

Saturday & Sunday, 7am to 11am

Open Presidents’ Day - Feb 15.

Wawona

The Wawona Hotel and Dining Room are closed for the season.

GROCERIES

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery

8am to 7pm

Yosemite Village

Village Store

8am to 8pm

Curry Village

Gift/Grocery

9am to 7pm

Wawona

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 5pm

GAS STATIONS

Gas outside Yosemite Valley

El Portal

Diesel available

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

Wawona

8am to 6pm. Diesel & propane.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

Crane Flat

Diesel available.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

Visitor Services

Beyond Yosemite Valley



The Mariposa Grove is closed for restoration, see details below. The Tuolumne and Merced Groves remain open and are park highlights. NPS Photo

Wawona & Mariposa Grove

Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits for Wawona trailheads are available by self-registration on the front porch of Hill’s Studio. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

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 throughout the year.

Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees.

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE MARIPOSA GROVE

The Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project is now underway! On July 6, 2015, a temporary closure of

the grove for up to 24 months began. The restoration project will improve the habitat and restore the hydrology of the Mariposa Grove and improve visitors’ experience and enjoyment of the grove. Trails will be improved providing universal access along with improved restrooms.

The Mariposa Grove Road is closed to all public access, including bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Hiking trails within the grove are also closed.

Big Oak Flat

BIG OAK FLAT INFORMATION STATION

Wilderness permits for Big Oak Flat Road trailheads are available by self-registration on the front porch of the information station. Please come prepared with your own bear canister. The center is located just inside the park entrance on Hwy 120W.

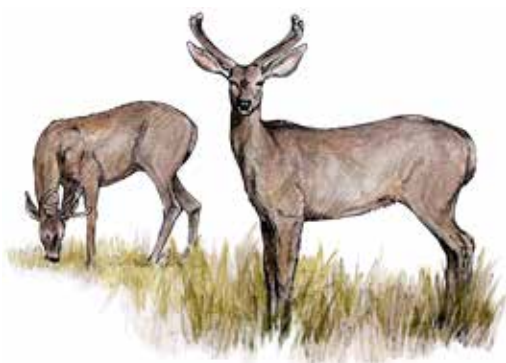
Merced Grove

Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of approximately 20 big trees accessible only on foot. It’s a three-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe into the grove. The trail drops down 1.5 miles, making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water in the area so be

sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10.

Tuolumne Grove

The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 sequoias is near the intersection of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga roads at Crane Flat. The moderately strenuous trail leads downhill from the parking area into the grove and drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you.



GENERAL SERVICES

YOSEMITE VILLAGE GARAGE

8am to 5pm, Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4:30pm. 209/372-1160

MEDICAL CLINIC (Yosemite Valley)

Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm
Closed weekends and federal holidays.
For emergency care after 5pm, call 9-1-1.
For more information call 209/372-4637.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

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

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Brent Moore - Resident Minister
209/372-4831 • www.YosemiteValleyChapel.org
Wedding information on website

SUNDAY SERVICES IN YOSEMITE CHAPEL:

9:15am - Sunday School Available
11am - (Memorial Day - Labor Day ONLY)
6:30pm - Evening service in chapel

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY - 7pm,
Call for location

THURSDAY MID-WEEK SERVICE - 7pm, chapel

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS
Sunday, 10am, Theater behind Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, shuttle stops #5/#9.
Rectory Phone: 209/372-4729

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

7:30pm - Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday
DN General Office Building, Yosemite Village

LIONS CLUB

Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. 209/372-1464.

Protecting yourself...



Winter landscape, NPS File Photo

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.

ENJOYING YOSEMITE’S WINTER

Winter in Yosemite National Park is often defined by weather extremes and its contrasts to other seasons. In addition to recreational opportunities, winter is a favorite time for viewing wildlife. Photographers and other artists often discover unique aspects of Yosemite’s beauty, calling out to be captured on film or canvas. With a little planning, preparation, and awareness, your winter visit to Yosemite National Park can be pleasantly rewarded.

SUNLIGHT

Daylight is short; carrying a headlamp or flashlight and extra batteries can be a lifesaver if you find yourself with a later-than-anticipated return to your vehicle or shelter.

WEATHER

Weather is unpredictable. Therefore, prepare for inclement weather. Avoid hypothermia, a life-threatening cooling of your body temperature, and hike in comfort and warmth by adding or reducing layers as follows:

- **Base Layer** – synthetics, wool, or silk, never cotton. This layer is meant to pull moisture away from your skin to keep you feeling dry.
- **Mid Layer** – insulation to keep you warm. Many outdoor enthusiasts prefer fleece or wool.
- **Shell or Outer Layer** – protects you from rain and snow. Newer materials are designed to “breathe” to reduce sweat while keeping water out.
- **Hat** – A good knit hat can make a big difference and should keep your head warm and dry and be long enough to cover your ears. Some people also find that warm scarves and neck gaiters promote warmth.
- **Shoes** – wear sturdy boots that protect your feet from rain, snow, and slush. Your boots should never be tight or you will lose circulation which will make your feet cold. Thick wool or synthetic socks help keep your feet warm and dry. Carry extra socks.
- **Gloves** – have an extra pair in case your first pair gets wet.

Weather varies drastically in the park, depending on elevation, with temperatures cooling by as much as five degrees for every 1,000 feet of elevation gain. At night, the opposite can occur, with colder air sinking to the valley floor. Always check the latest weather forecast and prepare for changing temperatures, rain, snow, and ice.

NAVIGATION

Snow blanketed terrain can quickly cause disorientation. Winter specific trails are marked with blazes. Always keep at least one marker in sight. Carry a good map and compass (or GPS) and know your location at all times.

SNOW PLAY

Snow always opens up exciting winter recreational opportunities at Badger Pass and other parts of the park. To keep the fun in your recreation, be realistic about your physical limits and stay within them.

YOSEMITE ROADS

Weather is unpredictable and changes quickly, often affecting our park’s roads. Plan for all potential road conditions; call (209) 372-0200 +1 for current road conditions and restrictions. Be aware of changing conditions such as icy roads, which may remain frozen in shadowed areas, even while other surfaces have thawed. *See page 3 for chain control information.*

FOR ALL SEASONS

- Stay on established trails – do not take shortcuts.
- Rivers, streams, and lakes are hazardous year round. Crossing water should only be attempted where it is safe.
- Rock scrambling – leave this to the critters.
- Water and food – make it a point to stay hydrated and to snack frequently; make sure you have plenty of food and water. If you are sweating, replace lost salts with salty, easy-to-digest snacks.
- “10 hiking essentials” – including sunglasses, sunscreen, and a signaling method (mirror and whistle).
- Let someone know – always leave your travel and hiking plan, including your intended route and estimated time of return, with a trusted person.

WILDERNESS PERMIT DETAILS

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Please see pages 4 and 7 of this Guide for more information about obtaining wilderness permits. 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. Go to www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits for trailhead availability and more information on how to

make a reservation. Reservations can be made by fax, phone or mail starting November 16, 2015. To make a reservation by phone, call (209) 372-0740 Mon-Fri from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

More Information:

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

HALF DOME PERMIT INFORMATION

The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be put back up May 27, 2016 conditions permitting. Permits are required 7 days a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2016 permits begins March 1, 2016 and ends March 31, 2016. To apply for permits visit recreation.gov or call 877/444-6777. More information about the Half Dome permit process is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm>.

HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases that are harmful to humans. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread to humans via the droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. In California, deer mice are the primary carrier of the virus that causes HPS. You may come into close proximity to rodents during your visit, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS. HPS risk is greater inside of buildings or other enclosures where deer mice are present. If staying in guest lodging, please tell the housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your accommodations. Do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors to guest lodging shut and do not bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. If you are camping and backpacking, do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings. HPS often begins with flu-like symptoms such as aches, fever, and chills one to seven weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and difficulty in breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms, and mention any potential rodent exposures to your physician. For more information on hantavirus and other environmental safety hazards visit: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm>.

PLAGUE

Plague is an infectious bacterial disease that is carried by squirrels, chipmunks and other wild rodents and their fleas. When an infected rodent becomes sick and dies, its fleas can carry the infection to other warm-blooded animals including humans. To protect yourself from plague, never feed wildlife, avoid dropping food scraps that attract rodents when eating outside, avoid pitching a tent near or disturbing rodent burrows, wear insect repellent with DEET, and tell a park ranger immediately if you see a dead animal. Early symptoms of plague may include high fever, chills, nausea, weakness, painful swelling at the site of an insect bite or lymph node, and other flu-like symptoms. If you develop any of these symptoms within 6 days of visiting an area at risk for plague in the park, see your doctor and inform them you may have been exposed. Plague is treatable with antibiotics if given in time.

AVOID CONTACT WITH WILDLIFE AND KEEP FOOD AND TRASH STORED PROPERLY.

Wild animals in Yosemite can transmit numerous diseases, including plague, rabies, and hantavirus. Keeping your distance and your food from wildlife not only protects them, it also protects you from injury and exposure to diseases. If you encounter a mammal, particularly a raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, or bat, that is behaving erratically, don’t touch the animal. Instead, report the sick animal to a park employee. In addition to keeping bears away, storing your food properly also reduces your exposure to rodents and their fleas, which may carry plague.



...and Yosemite



Black bears in a Yosemite meadow. *NPS Photo*

Keeping Bears Wild

Yosemite bears may still be active during the winter months. Please, keep Yosemite’s black bears wild and alive, while protecting yourself and your property.

Store Your Food Properly.

The typical daily diet of most bears may consist of 4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, berries, acorns, and grubs. 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 are more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping

the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

Drive the speed limit.

The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Slow down! Driving too fast is almost always the cause of these accidental deaths.

Please report bear sightings by calling 209/372-0322.

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
- Possessing or using marijuana, including medical marijuana
- Operating an unmanned aircraft system (“drone”)

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and call 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.

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.

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

TRAIL / DESTINATION	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE / TIME	DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION
Bridalveil Fall	Bridalveil Fall Parking Area	0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes	Easy
Lower Yosemite Fall	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes	Easy
Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock	Camp 4 Near Shuttle Stop #7	2 miles round-trip, 2–3 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Upper Yosemite Fall	Same as above	7.2 miles round-trip, 6–8 hours	Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain
Mirror Lake (A seasonal lake)	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17	2 miles round-trip, 1 hour	Easy
Vernal Fall Footbridge	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	1.4 miles round-trip, 1–2 hours	Moderate, 400-foot gain
Top of Vernal Fall	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	3 miles round-trip, 2–4 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Nevada Fall	same as above	5 miles round-trip, 5–6 hours	Strenuous 1,900-foot gain
Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point (Closed in winter)	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's Other Big Trees

Story by Alison Colwell

One could say that the inspiration for the idea of national parks sprang as much from Yosemite's grand trees as from its dramatic landscapes. In 1864, the Yosemite Grant provided for setting aside both Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias for "preservation, improvement, and protection". Thus was implemented an innovative concept for the time: protection, for public enjoyment, of natural landscapes and trees. One of the many fruits of this endeavor was the creation of the National Park Service in 1916. As we celebrate 100 years of the National Park Service, the sequoias of the Mariposa Grove grow ever grander. What also catch one's eye are the other tree species that reach gigantic size in Yosemite: red fir, white fir, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, and western white pine. In fact, the largest known specimens of each occur in Yosemite National Park (See Did You Know on page 3).

Why do trees grow so big here?

The montane west slope of the Sierra Nevada has ideal conditions for giant conifer growth: mild winter and summer temperatures, ample winter snowpack, low wind velocity, and deep, nourishing soils. The fortunate mix of these elements enhances both a tree's chances of living a long time and of growing to a large size. All 75 natural populations of giant sequoia occur in this region, from Calaveras Big Trees State Park south to Sequoia and Kings



Mike Taylor, project volunteer and member of American Forests National Cadre of Big Tree Measurers, measures the height of a Yosemite pine discovered using LIDAR data. This pine is 274 feet tall, the tallest living pine known. Photo by Steven DelFavero, NPS

Canyon National Park. Each park and national forest in this region also contains champion size trees of other species. History has also played a role in the prominence of big trees on this landscape—there remains an unusual abundance of old growth forests in this region, most notably in Yosemite, as these lands were set aside for protection before these relatively inaccessible forests were harvested.

"I never saw a Big Tree that died a natural death; barring accidents they seem to be immortal, being exempt from all the diseases that afflict and kill other trees. Unless destroyed by man, they live on indefinitely until burned, smashed by lightning, or cast down by storms, or by the giving way of the ground on which they stand." - John Muir

Immortal but not invulnerable:

Researchers confirm that John Muir is likely correct about the longevity of the giant sequoia. Unlike animals, individual trees can far outlive the typical upper age limit of their species, and, if not a victim of accident or disease, some species of trees appear to have the capacity to grow indefinitely. Trees succumb to a variety of afflictions in Yosemite as elsewhere—typically drought, fire, insects and fungi. The current brutal drought and several recent wildfires have killed thousands of pine and fir trees in Yosemite. Another signature of drought and fire is disease. For example, throughout the park one can see clusters of fir trees with "flags" or rust-red branch tips killed by burrowing beetle larvae. These consequences of natural calamities are painful to observe but are part of the natural oscillation between phases of forest advance and retreat, and an appropriate component of a protected landscape.

Protection measures:

Park staff work to protect Yosemite's forests from unnatural calamities. For example, the small cardboard boxes occasionally seen tied to tree trunks are monitoring for alien pests attacking forests throughout the Western U.S. The brush piles observable along park roads are part of a park-wide effort to reduce large fuel loads and reduce the risk of hot or uncontrollable fires. The Rim Fire of 2013 threatened two of Yosemite's giant sequoia groves and much surrounding old growth forest. It exemplifies the new reality of massive wildfires that threaten to decimate ancient forests. Yosemite's three giant sequoia groves are well documented and have had dedicated fire management for decades. To enhance protection for the park's other old growth groves and large tree species, a new partnership between Yosemite resources staff, volunteers and the California Big Tree Registry, funded by the Yosemite Conservancy and Cal Fire, formed in 2015.



California Polytechnic State University graduate student Jason Johns and Cal Poly Professor and California Big Tree Coordinator Matt Ritter measure a large sugar pine in Tuolumne Grove in 2015. Photo by Kyle Nessen

The project's first task is compiling existing data held by NPS and by big tree hunters. The next task is to use the data to map large trees and old growth groves, measure them and assess their health and the level of surrounding fuels, the kinds of information that will improve protection capability during prescribed burns and wildfire emergencies. The partnership has already made new finds. Using remote-sensing imagery obtained after recent fires, park GIS specialist Steven DelFavero identified the park's tallest groves of trees. Ground-truthing confirmed the height of some new giants, including a 274-foot tall sugar pine (photo, lower left), and some known giants were confirmed to have grown while others lost tops.

Why fuss over big trees?

Big trees and the old growth groves they inhabit not only inspire awe and reverence

in humans, they provide unique ecological services. For example, Sierra great gray owls only use the broken tops of dead giants for their nests. Big trees also sequester large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. Finally, old trees play an important role in maintaining the genetic reservoir of their species, contributing gene arrangements optimized under climate conditions that prevailed hundreds or thousands of years ago and which will occur again.

Big trees are a phenomenon of favorable climate conditions and benevolent history. According to forest demographers, they are rare and becoming rarer as the western US climate gets drier and experiences more extreme weather. In Yosemite, big trees are all around you, so enjoy them while you, and they, are here.



Brian Mattos, Yosemite Park Forester, clears the flammable "debris skirt" from the base of a Jeffrey pine during the Rim Fire, 2013. Photo by Martin Hutten, NPS

Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

Enhance the Visitor Experience

It takes a legion of people working together to protect this special park for you and future generations of visitors. You too can extend your connection to Yosemite well after you return home by getting involved with the organizations that partner to preserve Yosemite.

This publication was made possible by the Yosemite Park Partners listed on this page. Read more below or visit www.yosemitepartners.org to learn more about helping these organizations provide for the future of Yosemite National Park.



Half Dome, Christine White Loberg

The Ansel Adams Gallery



The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates the arts and the natural grandeur of our environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world by offering visitors a unique variety of literature and art, as well as programs that inspire creativity. Visit online at: www.anseladams.com.

Delaware North at Yosemite



Delaware North at Yosemite 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. Delaware North encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure.

For more information and employment opportunities with Delaware North visit online at www.YosemitePark.com

NatureBridge



NatureBridge provides residential field science programs for youth in the world's most spectacular classroom- Yosemite National Park. Through active student engagement, our faculty teaches science, history, and the arts and gives these subjects context through personal experience. A NatureBridge learning adventure strives to foster a life-long connection to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it. Find out more about our year-round programs for schools and summer programs for individual teens at www.naturebridge.org/yosemite

Yosemite Conservancy



Through the support of donors, Yosemite Conservancy provides grants and support to Yosemite National Park to help preserve and protect Yosemite today and for future generations. Work funded by the Conservancy is visible throughout the park, in trail rehabilitation, wildlife protection and habitat restoration. The Conservancy is also dedicated to enhancing the visitor experience and providing a deeper connection to the park through outdoor programs, volunteering, wilderness services and its bookstores. Thanks to dedicated supporters, the Conservancy has provided more than \$100 million in grants to Yosemite National Park. Learn more at www.yosemiteconservancy.org or call 415/434-1782.

Contact Us

Yosemite National Park

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NatureBridge

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Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

Over 10,400 volunteers donated more than 163,000 hours of service to Yosemite last year, restoring native habitat, working in visitor centers, serving as camp hosts, studying wildlife, cleaning up litter and more. Would you like to serve? We have group and individual volunteer opportunities, both short term and long term. Learn more at: www.nps.gov/yose/getinvolved/volunteer.htm or call the volunteer office at 209/379- 1850.



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Raven, Karen Kroner Amstutz