



# Yosemite Guide

December 7, 2016 - February 7, 2017

Photo by Sherree Peshlakat



Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

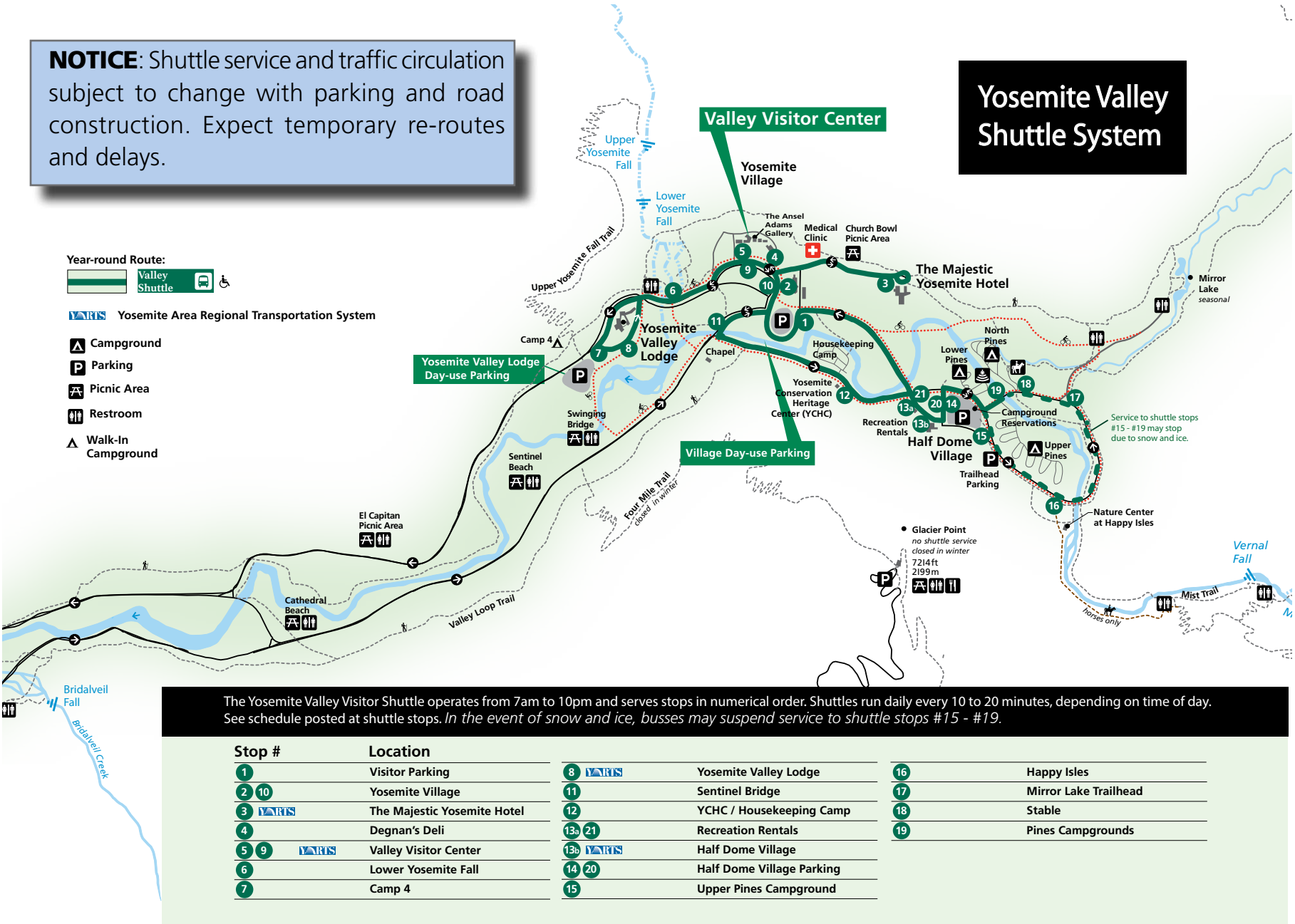
Volume 42, Issue 1

Yosemite Guide December 7, 2016 - February 7, 2017

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

**NOTICE:** Shuttle service and traffic circulation subject to change with parking and road construction. Expect temporary re-routes and delays.

## Yosemite Valley Shuttle System



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

Third Class Mail  
Postage and Fee Paid  
US Department of the Interior  
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# Seasonal Highlights

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

### Celebrating 100 Years of Service

The National Park Service turned 100-years-old on August 25, 2016! The Centennial kicked off a second century of stewardship of America’s national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs. As we enter into 2017, continue to explore, learn, discover, and be inspired, in over 400 national parks.



### 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](http://www.everykidinapark.gov) for more information.

### FREE INTERAGENCY 4TH GRADE PASS

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

### VISIT THE YOSEMITE MUSEUM

Visit the Yosemite Museum and explore exhibits of California Indian culture, and talk with the Indian cultural demonstrator. Tour the outdoor Indian Village. You can also view changing exhibits in the gallery. The Museum is located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. *See page 4 for details.*

### STROLL WITH A RANGER

Learn about the wonders of the park on a ranger-guided stroll. Programs are offered daily in Yosemite Valley on a variety of topics including geology, trees, bears, geology and more. *See pages 5 for details.*



NPS Photo

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

### GET OUTDOORS WITH YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY

Are you looking for a memorable way to explore Yosemite, tailored to your interests and abilities? Our expert naturalist guides will enhance your understanding of the park as you walk among world-famous cliffs, trees, and waterfalls. Whether you want to explore flora and fauna while taking a gentle saunter along the river or learn about natural history during an exhilarating hike, we’ll help you create the perfect outdoor experience. Contact us to plan a Custom Adventure for your family or group. Visit [yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures) or call 209/379-2317 x10 to find your adventure today.

### 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 for details.*

### LOSE SOMETHING IN YOSEMITE?

To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite’s restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses or tour services, call 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/379-1001 or email [yose\\_lostandfound@nps.gov](mailto:yose_lostandfound@nps.gov)

### VISIT THE ICE RINK AT HALF DOME VILLAGE

Visit Half Dome 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 YOSEMITE SKI AND SNOWBOARD AREA (YSSA)

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

### TAKE THE BUS

Free shuttles, which are environment-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 pollution, you’ll also have your hands free and able to capture that perfect photo of Half Dome.

### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK ZERO LANDFILL INITIATIVE

Be a steward of Yosemite by helping make Yosemite the first Zero Landfill park in the country. Through the Zero Landfill Initiative, we are reducing the amount of trash that goes to the landfill every year. In partnership with Yosemite Hospitality, we are making it easier for visitors and staff to participate by adding more recycling containers with better labels. We are also working to reduce the amount of waste we generate in park management operations.

- Here are 3 things you can do to help:
1. Get rid of excess packaging by repacking food in reuseable containers before you leave home.
  2. Use refillables! Bring a refillable water bottle and travel mug. Camping? Use refillable propane canisters.
  3. Put trash and recycling in the right containers.

### 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](http://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 available upon request. Contact Deaf Services at 209/379-5250 (v/txt), VP: 209/222-3944, or at [yose\\_deaf\\_services@nps.gov](mailto:yose_deaf_services@nps.gov). Two weeks advance notice preferred. Assistive Listening Devices 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 (*closed until Summer 2017*). Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.





# 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)

**Vehicle** Valid for 7 days  
\$30/Vehicle

**Motorcycle** Valid for 7 days  
\$20/motorcycle

**Individual** Valid for 7 days  
\$15, (In a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse)

**Yosemite Park Pass \$60**  
Valid for one year in Yosemite.

**Interagency Annual Pass \$80**  
Valid for 1 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**  
888/413-8869  
www.travelyosemite.com  
Group Sales Office: 888/339-3481

## 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

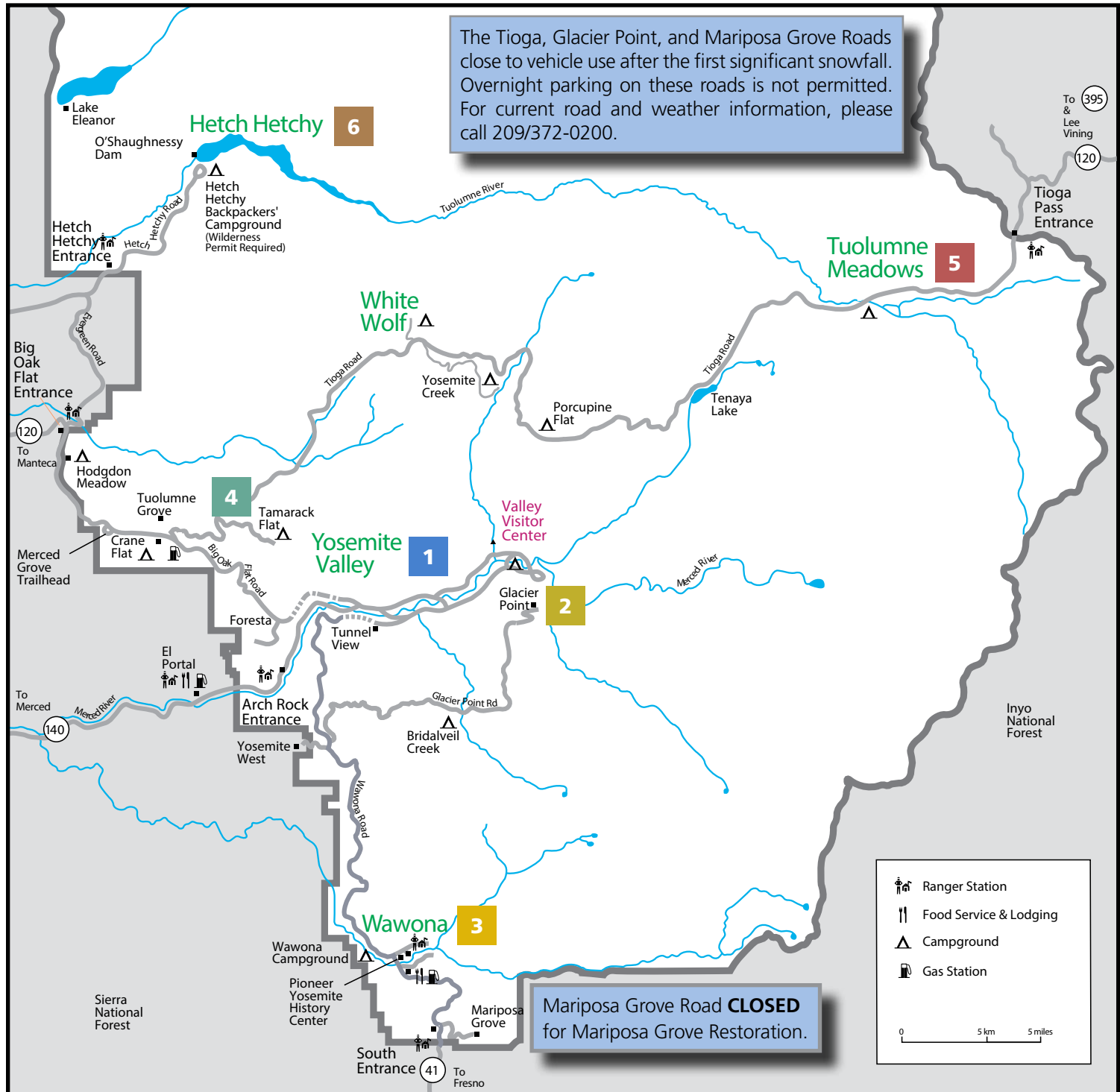
**Highway 132/49**  
**Coulterville Visitor Center**  
209/878-3329

**Highway 140/49**  
**California 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 can 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 in summer. 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 fall and 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.



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 (1 hour) from Yosemite Valley. The road stays open as weather permits, however, overnight parking along it ends October 15. *Glacier Point Road closes beyond the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard 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.

## 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 feet 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

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. **6** The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles (1¼ hour) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 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:

- Yosemite signed its first sister park agreements in 2006 with Huangshan and Jiuzhaigou National Parks in China.
- Yosemite National Park has signed 15 sister park agreements with parks in 9 different countries.
- Yosemite and its sister parks share similar global challenges like air and water pollution, climate change, and impacts due to high popularity.
- Yosemite’s International Affairs Program also manages short-term technical exchanges and hosts as many as 50 international delegations a year.



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 Sheree Peshlakai

### 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](http://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.**

AUTOS & PICKUPS  
SNOW TIRES OK  
CARRY CHAINS

**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)

4W DRIVE WITH  
SNOW TIRES OK  
CARRY CHAINS

**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.

NO EXCEPTIONS

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



# Yosemite Valley

## Art and Exhibits



"Highlights, A View From The Meadow," oil painting by Jeffrey Skelly, Yosemite Renaissance 31

### 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 for Yosemite Valley trailheads are available at the Visitor Center daily from 9am to 5pm. Bear canisters are also available for rent. 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*.

#### MUSEUM EXHIBIT

*LANDMARK: Yosemite Through the Lens of Contemporary Landscape Photography*

November 18, 2016 - January 22, 2017

The Yosemite Museum is hosting this special display of contemporary landscape photography in celebration of the National Park Service centennial. This traveling exhibition, curated and organized by Cara Goger of the Mariposa County Arts Council, features the work of Binh Danh, Mark Klett, Byron Wolfe, Ted Orland, Millee Tibbs and Jerry Uelsmann. These contemporary artists bring new representation and varied voices to the genre of landscape photography, which has been such an integral part of the park's history. The Yosemite venue for this traveling exhibit will also feature historic photographs and ephemera from the Yosemite Museum collection to help place these contemporary works in their historic context. This exhibit was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Yosemite Museum Gallery, open daily from 10am to noon, and 1pm to 4pm, except for holiday closures November 23 to 25, December 24 to 27, and December 31 to January 2.



Bear illustration by Tom Whitworth

#### COMING SOON, YOSEMITE RENNAISSANCE 32!

Yosemite Renaissance is an annual juried competition and exhibition, now in its 32nd year. The exhibit is held each year in the Museum Gallery and will run from February 24th through April 30th, 2017. Historically the arts have played a very important role in the establishment of our State and National Parks. Yosemite Renaissance was organized to continue this heritage and encourage diverse artistic interpretations of Yosemite National Park and the surrounding area. The exhibit features a variety of fine art mediums including painting, photography, drawing, printmaking, textiles and sculpture created by artists from all around the country. Both representational and non-representational art will be on display with subjects ranging from landscape, environment, wildlife, and people of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. For more information please visit our website, [yosemiterenaissance.org](http://yosemiterenaissance.org).

### The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery is open daily from 9am to 5pm, *closed on December 25*. Beginning January 1, 2017, the hours of operation will be from 10am to 5pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other artists. For more information call 209/372-4211 or visit [www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com). See page 5 for photo walk and other event times.

#### GALLERY EXHIBIT

*Uncommon Photographs of a Common World*

November 6, 2016 - January 7, 2017

With a candid eye and compassionate vision, photographers Mark Citret and Kerik Kouklis have continually shared through their imagery a reverence for a world that is at once natural and urban, discreet and distinct, unique and ubiquitous, human and eternal. Their individual bodies of work each crisscross these themes diligently but with ease, their cameras finding earnest light on subjects many of us may take for granted -- whether it be a stoic Half Dome, lazy suburban lane, a melancholy motel bathroom, or simply an empty room. The Ansel Adams Gallery is excited to showcase on its walls photographs from these two distinguished and extraordinary artists. On display will be original gelatin silver and platinum prints from their archives, including both new and familiar images made here in Yosemite to as far away as Mongolia. Please join us in Yosemite Village where the gallery is located, next door to the Valley Visitor Center.

#### NEW GALLERY EXHIBIT

*Statements of Sanctum: Photographs from Winter*

January 8, 2017 – March 4, 2017

Tapestried by acute and unassumingly vibrant light, the landscape in winter yields ripe opportunities to black and white and color photographers alike. Too often associated with the inhospitably of conditions, winter and its weather sculpt scenes of romantic rarity that indulge the gamut of artists -- whether it be the minimalist, those in search of whimsy, or anyone in between. It is truly a season of sanctum for us all. In honor of this time of year, The Ansel Adams Gallery will be hosting *Statements of Sanctum*, featuring fine art photographs by Ansel Adams, Bob Kolbrener, John Sexton, Keith Walklet, Michael Frye, Christopher Burkett and more, that showcase winter in all of its glory.

#### POST OFFICE

Yosemite Village

##### Main Office

Monday - Friday, 8:30am to 5pm  
Saturday, 10am to noon

Yosemite Valley 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

9am to 5pm,  
*Dec 24 - 9am to 3pm,*  
*Dec 25 - Closed,*  
*10am to 5pm, beginning Jan 1, 2017*

##### 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

The Majestic Yosemite Hotel

##### Gift Shop

8am to 10pm,

##### Sweet Shop

7am to 10pm

Yosemite Valley Lodge

##### Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm,

Half Dome Village

##### Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

##### Mountain Shop

8am to 6:30pm

Wawona Area

##### Big Trees Lodge General Store

8am to 7pm

#### SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

##### Housekeeping Camp Laundromat

8am to 10pm

##### Half Dome Village Showers

Open 24 hours



# Events and Programs

## Schedule

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	WAWONA
Sunday	9:30am <b>Adventure Hike - Snowshoe Hike to Dewey Point</b> 7 hrs. Tickets/info at any tour desk*. Yosemite cross country ski center at YSSA. (YH) \$ 10:00am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5. (NPS) ♿ 10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except Dec 11) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for a naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS) 2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk –Wild About Bears</b> 1.5 hrs. Explore the biology and history of Yosemite's black bears. Meet in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5. (NPS) ♿ 2:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿ 7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿ 8:30pm <b>NIGHT PROWL</b> 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk*. (YH) \$ ♿ 8:30pm <b>STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE</b> 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk*. (YH) \$ ♿	5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (Dec 25 Only) 4 hrs. Join Pianist/Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8pm to ask Tom. (YH) ♿
	9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. (TAAG) ♿ 10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except Dec 12) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for a naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS) 2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Yosemite's First People</b> 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5/#9. (NPS) ♿ 2:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿ 7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿ 7:00pm <b>FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE</b> (Jan 9 Only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk*(YH) \$ 8:30pm <b>NIGHT PROWL</b> 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk*. (YH) \$ ♿ 8:30pm <b>STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE</b> (Except Jan 9) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk*. (YH) \$ ♿	<div>Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND <b>COLOR</b> are especially for children and their families.</div>
	9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿ 10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except Dec 13) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for a naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS) 1:00pm <b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$ 2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Geology</b> 1.5 hrs. Uncover the geologic stories of Yosemite's granite walls. Meet in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5. (NPS) ♿ 3:30pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH) ♿ 7:00pm <b>FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE</b> (Jan 10 Only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk*(YH) \$ 8:30pm <b>STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE</b> (Except Jan 10) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk*. (YH) \$ ♿	5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (Dec 20 Only) 4 hrs. Join Pianist/Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8pm to ask Tom. (YH) ♿
	9:30am <b>Adventure Hike - Snowshoe Hike to Dewey Point</b> 7 hrs. Tickets/info at any tour desk*. Yosemite cross country ski center at YSSA. (YH) \$ 10:00am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 mins. Meet in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5. (NPS) 10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except Dec 7 and 14) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for a naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS) 1:00pm <b>Ansel Adams' Legacy and Your Digital Camera Photography Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$ 2:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> (Except Jan 18) 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿ 2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Inspiring Generations</b> 1.5 hrs. Learn how Yosemite helped inspire conservation. Meet in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿ 7:00pm <b>Ranger Program - Various Topics</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge. (NPS) ♿ 7:00pm <b>FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE</b> (Jan 11 Only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk*(YH) \$ 8:30pm <b>STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE</b> (Except Jan 11 and 18) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk*. (YH) \$ ♿	5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (Dec 21 and 28 Only) 4 hrs. Join Pianist/ Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8pm to ask Tom. (YH) ♿
	9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿ 10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except Dec 8 and 15) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for a naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS) 1:00pm <b>Using Your Digital Camera</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$ 2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Trees</b> 1.5 hrs. Find out which trees call Yosemite Valley home. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel, shuttle stop #3. (NPS) ♿ 3:30pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH) ♿ 7:00pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING</b> (Except Dec 22 and Jan 12) 1 hr. Gather by the fire and listen to the stories of Yosemite's past and present! The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. (YH) ♿ 7:00pm <b>FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE</b> (Jan 12 Only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk*(YH) \$ 8:30pm <b>STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE</b> (Except Jan 12) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk*. (YH) \$ ♿	5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (Dec 22 and 29 Only) 4 hrs. Join Pianist/ Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8pm to ask Tom. (YH) ♿
	10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except Dec 9 and 16) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for a naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS) 2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Wildlife</b> 1.5 hrs. Experience a variety of wildlife habitats and learn about the animals that live in Yosemite. Meet in front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿ 2:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿ 3:30pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH) ♿ 7:00pm <b>Film - Ansel Adams</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge, check local listing for venue. (TAAG) ♿ 8:30pm <b>NIGHT PROWL</b> 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk*. (YH) \$ ♿ 8:30pm <b>STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE</b> 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk*. (YH) \$ ♿	5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (Dec 16, 23 and 30 Only) 4 hrs. Join Pianist/ Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8pm to ask Tom. (YH) ♿
	8:00am <b>Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas Atop Dewey Point</b> (Jan 7 Only) 8 hrs. Join us for a guided snowshoe walk to Dewey Point. See pg. 6 for details. Pre-registration required at 209/379-2317 x10 or yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures. (YC) \$ 9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿ 10:00am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿ 10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except Dec 10) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS) 1:00pm <b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class</b> (Except Dec 24) 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$ 2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk –Ahwahneechee Stories and Games</b> 1.5 hrs. Learn about the culture of Yosemite's First People Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5. (NPS) ♿ 2:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿ 3:00pm <b>Fine Print Viewing</b> (Except Dec 24) 1 hr. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. Very limited space. (TAAG) 7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿ 8:30pm <b>NIGHT PROWL</b> 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk*. (YH) \$ ♿ 8:30pm <b>STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE</b> 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk*. (YH) \$ ♿	5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (Dec 17, 24 and 31 Only) 4 hrs. Join Pianist/ Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8pm to ask Tom. (YH) ♿
	<div><div><b>NPS</b> National Park Service <b>YH</b> Yosemite Hospitality, LLC <b>TAAG</b> The Ansel Adams Gallery <b>YC</b> Yosemite Conservancy</div><div><b>SC</b> Sierra Club <b>\$</b> Programs with a fee *see page 6 for tour and activity desk information</div></div>	



# Things to Do

## Winter Activities: Yosemite Valley and Beyond



NPS Photo

### Yosemite in Winter

**NATURALIST PROGRAMS**

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

**TOURS**

The **Valley Floor Tour** is a 26-mile, two-hour, guided tour of Yosemite Valley. It departs several times daily from Yosemite Valley Lodge, weather permitting. Call 209/372-1240 or inquire at the Tour and Activity Desk in the Yosemite Valley Lodge between 7:30am and 3pm.

**WALKING AND HIKING**

Yosemite Valley has a wide range of walking and hiking possibilities. Stop by Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for trail maps and 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. (Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls may 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 busses may not go to stop #16 when road is snow-covered or icy.*
- **Tunnel View**, along the Wawona Road (Hwy 41), showcases Yosemite Valley. Capture breathtaking views of El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall and Half Dome. It is particularly spectacular at sunset or after aclearing storm.

### Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy’s year-round Outdoor Adventures offer something for every park explorer. This winter, join us for a snowshoe hike to Dewey Point, above Yosemite Valley. As you make your way through a frosty forest wonderland, your experienced naturalist guide will point out winter wildlife, animal tracks, tree species and more. Enjoy lunch at the overlook, where you’ll find spectacular views of El Capitan, Ribbon Fall and other natural wonders. Trips are offered on January 7, February 11, March 4 and March 18. Pre-registration is required. To learn more, sign up and see our full adventure calendar, including wildflower walks and backpacking treks, visit [yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures) or call 209/379-3217 x10. Registration includes park entry (as

needed) and camping; additional lodging options are available. Proceeds from all Yosemite Conservancy programs help preserve and protect the park.

### Winter Sports

**YOSEMITE SKI AND SNOWBOARD AREA**

The Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area (YSSA) opens on December 15, weather and conditions permitting. Live information on winter sports is available by calling 209/372-8444; recorded information is available at 209/372-1000.

- Lift Tickets - 8:30am to 4pm
- Lift Operations - 9am to 4pm
- Ski School Desk - 8:30am to 4pm
- Tubing - 11:30am to 1:30pm and 2pm to 4pm
- Rental Shop - 8:30am to 4:30pm
- Cross Country Ski Center - 8:30am to 4pm
- Skiers Grill - 8am to 4pm
- Snowflake Room - 8am to 4pm, Friday to Sunday and holidays only
- Sports Shop - 9am to 4pm

**YSSA A-FRAME**

Open 9am to 4pm, seven days a week when the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area (YSSA) is open, beginning December 15, weather and road conditions permitting. Wilderness permits for the Glacier Point area, Ostrander Ski Hut check-in and cross-country ski trail information available. It’s also the starting point for ranger led snowshoe walks.

**YSSA SHUTTLE (Free)**

The free shuttle service to and from the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area (YSSA) begins December 15, weather and road conditions permitting. The YSSA shuttle arrival and departure times are subject to change due to traffic and weather conditions.

**YSSA Shuttle Schedule**

Yosemite Valley to YSSA:  
Half Dome Village - 8am and 10:30am  
Yosemite Village - 8:10am and 10:40am  
Majestic Hotel - 8:15am and 10:45am  
Yosemite Valley Lodge - 8:30am and 11am  
YSSA to Yosemite Valley:  
2pm and 4pm

**ICE RINK AT HALF DOME VILLAGE**

Take the shuttle to Half Dome Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. The ice rink will be open daily beginning December 16, conditions permitting, from 12pm to 2:30pm, 3:30pm to 6pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm. On weekends and holidays, the ice rink is open from 8:30am to 11am, in addition to the daily hours.

**YOSEMITE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL**

Provides outdoor adventures for people of all experience levels. We are here to help you enjoy Yosemite outdoor sports safely, and responsibly. Join one of our group cross country skiing classes or schedule a custom outing designed specifically for your group. We offer professional guides for cross country skiing and snowshoeing, as well as hiking, and rock climbing (depending on weather). Reservations required for most activities, please call 209/372-8344 or email [yms@aramark.com](mailto:yms@aramark.com).





Hours listed are core hours for facilities and may be extended during periods of peak visitation.

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

Yosemite Village

**Degnan’s Deli**

*Closed for Renovation*

**Village Grill**

*Closed for the season*

The Majestic Yosemite Hotel

**Dining Room**

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm,

Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm,

*Appropriate attire required for dinner.*

*Reservations recommended for dinner*

*and Sunday Brunch, 209/372-1489.*

**The Coffee Bar** 7am to 10:30am

**The Majestic Bar** 11:30am to 11pm,

*11:30 am to 10pm, Beginning Jan 9.*

**Room Service** 6am to 11pm

Yosemite Valley Lodge

**Food Court**

Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am

Lunch: 11am to 4:30pm

Dinner: 4:30pm to 8pm,

*Grab n’ Go until 8:30pm.*

**Mountain Room Lounge**

Monday-Friday: 5pm to 10pm,

Saturday & Sunday: 12pm to 11pm

**Mountain Room Restaurant**

Brunch: 9am to 1pm,

*Subject to closure for private events.*

Dinner: 5pm to 10pm,

*Reservations taken for 8 or more.*

*209/372-1281*

Half Dome Village

**Pavillion**

*Closed for the season*

**Pizza Deck**

6pm to 10pm,

*January 1 to March 11 Hours:*

*Sunday-Thursday: 5pm to 9pm*

*Saturday: Noon to 10pm*

**Coffee Corner**

*Opens for the holidays on December*

*15,*

*7am to 11am*

*Jan 1 to March 11 hours:*

*Fridays & Saturdays: 7am to 11am*

**Half Dome Village Bar**

*Closed for the season*

Big Trees Lodge

*Lodge open from December 15 to*

*January 1,*

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm

Dinner: 5pm to 9pm,

*Call 209/375-1425 for dinner*

*reservations*

Lounge Service: 5pm to 9:30pm

**GROCERIES**

Yosemite Valley Lodge

**Gift/Grocery**

8am to 8pm

Yosemite Village

**Village Store**

8am to 8pm

Half Dome Village

**Gift/Grocery**

8am to 8pm

**Mountain Shop**

8am to 6:30pm

Wawona

**Big Trees Lodge General Store**

8am to 7pm

**GAS STATIONS**

**NO gas in Yosemite Valley**

El Portal

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

Big Trees Lodge Service Station

8am to 5pm. Diesel & propane.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

Crane Flat

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

# Visitor Services



Although the Mariposa Grove is closed for restoration, the Tuolumne and Merced Groves remain open and are considered park highlights. *NPS Photo*

## Wawona & Mariposa Grove

### WAWONA WILDERNESS PERMITS

Self-registration wilderness permits are available on the front porch of Hill’s Studio are valid only for the Wawona trailheads. Please come prepared with your own bear canister. Hill’s Studio is located on the grounds of the Big Trees Lodge; walk from the hotel or park at the store and follow the path uphill.

### GLACIER POINT WILDERNESS PERMITS

Self-registration wilderness permits are available at the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger Station and are valid only for the Glacier Point Road trailheads. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

### EVENING PROGRAM

Between December 16 and 31, join Pianist/ Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby from 5:30pm to 9:30pm, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite’s past, see page 5 for schedule. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano early in the evening when Tom’s performing. *The Big Trees Lodge will be open from December 16 to 31.*

### 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 due to restoration, including bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Hiking trails within the grove are also closed.**

## Big Oak Flat

### WILDERNESS PERMITS

Wilderness permits valid for the Crane Flat area and Tioga Road only, 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 1.5 miles, making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water 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 Big Oak Flat and Tioga road intersection 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 available 24 hours.

Propane available until 4:30pm.

#### MEDICAL CLINIC (Yosemite Valley)

Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm

*Closed weekends and federal holidays.*

For emergency care after 5pm, call 9-1-1.

Medical Clinic Phone: 209/372-4637.

### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST (Non-denominational)

El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am

Info: 209/379-2100

### YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Brent Moore - Resident Minister

209/372-4831 • [www.YosemiteValleyChapel.org](http://www.YosemiteValleyChapel.org)

[www.YosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org](http://www.YosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org)

SUNDAY SERVICES IN THE YOSEMITE CHAPEL:

9:15am - Sunday School and Nursery Available

6:30pm - Evening Service/Bible Study in Chapel

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

7pm, Call for location

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK SERVICE

7pm, at the Chapel

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - 4pm

NEW YEARS EVE CHAPEL SERVICE - 10pm-12am

### ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

Sunday, 10am, East Auditorium behind Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, shuttle stops #5/#9.

Rectory Phone: 209/372-4729

### SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

#### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Yosemite Valley Chapel

Sunday: 8pm to 9pm

Tuesday and Thursday: 7:30pm to 8:30pm

#### LIONS CLUB

First and third Thursday of each month at noon, The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Call 209/372-4475



# Protecting yourself...



NPS 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.

Winter in Yosemite National Park brings the closure of our centennial year and what an exciting year it has been! This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy smaller crowds and to experience a different personality in the Park. Winter is a favorite time for viewing wildlife and for capturing Yosemite’s beauty on camera and canvas. Moreover, outdoor recreation opportunities abound. However, winter also creates its own challenges for staying safe and comfortable but with a little planning, preparation, and awareness your winter visit to Yosemite will 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 all winter weather extremes. Rather than thinking in terms of “avoiding hypothermia,” a life-threatening cooling of your body temperature, 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 so that you will feel dry.
- Mid layer – insulation to keep warm. Many outdoor enthusiasts enjoy fleece or wool.
- Outer layer/shell – protects you from outside moisture, i.e., rain and snow. Newer materials are designed to “breathe” to reduce sweating while also keeping water out.
- Hat – one suitable for keeping your head warm and dry. A good knit hat that is long enough to cover your ears can make a big difference. Keep warm with scarves and neck gaiters.
- 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 but prepare for wide-ranging temperatures, rain, snow, and ice.

### NAVIGATION

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

### SNOW PLAY

Snow opens up exciting winter recreational opportunities in Yosemite. To keep the fun in your recreation, be realistic about your physical limits and stay within them.

### YOSEMITE’S ROADS

Unpredictable changes in weather can quickly affect park roads. Plan for all potential road conditions; call ahead to hear current road conditions and restrictions at 209/372-0200. Be aware of changing conditions such as icy roads, which may remain frozen in shadowed areas, even while other surfaces have thawed. Carry chains at all times. Slow down and allow for extra travel time.

### FOR ALL SEASONS

- Stay on established trails - do not take shortcuts.
- Rivers, streams, and lakes are hazardous all year. Crossing water should only be attempted where it is safe.
- Rock scrambling – leave this to the critters.
- Water and food – stay hydrated and 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.

### HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases 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. 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 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. 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 animals, including humans.

To protect yourself from plague, never feed wildlife, avoid dropping food scraps when eating outside, avoid pitching a tent near or disturbing rodent burrows, wear insect repellent with DEET, and immediately tell a park ranger if you see a dead animal.

Early symptoms of plague may include fever, chills, nausea, 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.

### WILDERNESS PERMIT DETAILS

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Please see pages 6 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](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits) to check trailhead availability and for more information on how to make a reservation. Reservations can be made by fax, phone or mail starting November 14, 2016. To make a reservation by phone, call 209/372-0740, Mon-Fri from 8:30am to 4:30pm. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm), the Leave No Trace website at [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org), or the Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue website at [www.friendofyosar.org](http://www.friendofyosar.org)

### HALF DOME PERMIT INFORMATION

The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be put back up May 26, 2017, conditions permitting. Permits are required 7 days a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2017 permits begins March 1, 2017, and ends March 31, 2017. To apply for permits visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or you can call 877/444-6777. More information about the Half Dome permit process is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm>.





# ...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, acorns, and grubs. It’s easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling on 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 see in color, so they recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.

### 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.**

### 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.

### Wilderness Etiquette: Using Your Backwoods Bathroom

When you “doo,” make sure you’re at least 200 feet away from any water source. Dig a hole in soil that’s at least six inches deep so you’re able to bury your waste when you’re done. Follow Leave No Trace protocols and always pack out toilet paper in ziplocked bags, never bury or burn it.

## 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](http://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?
<b>Your Vehicle</b>	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!
<b>Your Campsite or Tent Cabin</b>	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.
<b>Picnic Areas &amp; on the Trails</b>	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.
<b>Backpacking in the Wilderness</b>	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 <b>Trail to Columbia Rock</b>	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



# International Symposium at Yosemite:

## A Gathering With Its Sister Parks

by Park Ranger Sheree Peshlakai



Park officials joined Yosemite Acting Superintendent Linda Mazzu to sign a sister park arrangement between each park and Yosemite on September 29, 2016. NPS Photo

Many people believe that the idea of national parks was born with Yosemite, but regardless of whether or not that is true, it ultimately became an idea that spread around the world. In the process of that journey, the notion of publicly protected land has been molded and reimagined in many ways to suit the different places where protected areas are found. Yet, Yosemite and other national parks and protected areas worldwide are still linked, not only by natural and cultural phenomena that cross international borders, but by a mutual desire to preserve and protect its public lands.

The National Park Service and Yosemite have been a global inspiration. With over a century of dedication, commitment and experience in the management of public lands, Yosemite is now working to share knowledge of its best practices in park management with others.

The International Affairs Program (IA) at Yosemite National Park was appointed the mission to help the park serve as a leadership campus for the National Park Service. With a mission to develop a sister park relationship on every continent, except Antarctica, the IA program began an effort to build up its international relationships in 2013. It started with three existing sister parks (Jiuzhaigou and Huangshan national parks in China and Torres del Paine National Park in Chile), then added several new sister parks over the last few years, until accomplishing its goal this year. On September 29, 2016, Yosemite welcomed its last three sister parks to its family: Wadi Rum Protected Area in Jordan, Cumbres de Monterrey National Park in Mexico, and Blue Mountains National Park in Australia.

“We are elated to formally welcome three new international sister parks,” stated Mike Gauthier, Yosemite Chief of Staff and International Affairs Program Manager. “We are excited to collaborate with our peers and bring rangers from across the world together as we work to address many challenges facing parks and protected areas worldwide.”

Also, beginning on September 27, 2016, Yosemite hosted “Partners in Global Conservation,” its first three-day international symposium, which welcomed delegates from its sister parks and other protected areas, gateway communities, and other park partners, including Yosemite Conservancy, Nature Bridge, Yosemite Hospitality, Global Parks, Subaru, and the Mongol Ecology Center, all aiming to strengthen international relations and to collaborate and learn from one another.

“A lot of the problems that park managers deal with, whether here, or in Nepal, or in Chile, are problems that are bigger than the park, like dealing with climate change, or the introduction of invasive species,” said International Affairs Ranger Jodi Bailey. “The symposium gave us an opportunity to learn from and share with our colleagues, the variety of ways people approach those issues, which is really helpful because we’re all trying to work on keeping our visitors safe, managing resources, and protecting the natural and cultural resources under our stewardship.”

Panel discussions at the symposium focused on the importance and advantages of partnerships, on managing crowds and high visitation, and on handling human and wildlife interactions, among other matters.

“We picked a number of topics that were similar to us all, for example, we had a panel session on managing high visitation because most of the parks that came share that problem at one level or another,” Bailey said. “We also had a panel session on visitor and wildlife interaction and safety; we have bears in Yosemite, they have bears in Cumbres de Monterrey in Mexico, other big animals in Ngorongoro, and tigers in Chitwan, so it was good to have this community of practice that we could approach to figure out how to solve some of these common problems together.”

Now, Yosemite intends to start investing time in strengthening its sister park relationships by implementing projects from short action plans that were mutually developed with each park, and start figuring ways to produce tangible results, and connecting the global community in the pursuit to protect their public lands.



Acting Superintendent Linda Mazzu and International Affairs Ranger Jodi Bailey with delegates from three new sister parks.

- Yosemite has sister park arrangements with 15 parks in 9 countries, including:**
- Huangshan National Park, China
  - Jiuzhaigou National Park, China
  - Torres del Paine National Park, Chile
  - Berchtesgaden National Park, Germany
  - Lake Hovsgol National Park, Mongolia
  - Tengis-Shishged National Park, Mongolia
  - Ulaan Taiga Protected Area, Mongolia
  - Horidal Saridag Protected Area, Mongolia
  - Chitwan National Park, Nepal
  - Langtang National Park, Nepal
  - Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal
  - Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania
  - Wadi Rum Protected Area, Jordan
  - Cumbres de Monterrey National Park, Mexico
  - Blue Mountains National Park, Australia



# 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](http://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](http://www.anseladams.com).

### Contact Us

**Yosemite National Park**  
PO Box 577  
9039 Village Drive  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/372-0200  
<http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm>

**The Ansel Adams Gallery**  
PO Box 455  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/372-4413  
209/372-4714 fax  
[www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com)

**Yosemite Hospitality L.L.C.**  
PO Box 306  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
888/304-8993  
[www.aramarkleisure.com](http://www.aramarkleisure.com)

**Yosemite Conservancy**  
101 Montgomery Street,  
Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
415/434-1782  
415/434-0745 fax  
[www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org)

**NatureBridge**  
PO Box 487  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/379-9511  
209/379-9510 fax  
[www.yni.org](http://www.yni.org)

### Yosemite Hospitality LLC



Yosemite Hospitality, a division of Aramark, operates lodging, food and beverage, retail, recreational activities, tours, interpretive programs, transportation, and service stations under contract with the U.S. Department of Interior with a focus on delivering authentic and memorable guest experiences. Yosemite Hospitality encourages employees to immerse themselves in the Park and all of the experiences offered

For more information on employment opportunities with Yosemite Hospitality at Yosemite National Park visit [www.yosemitehospitalityjobs.com](http://www.yosemitehospitalityjobs.com).

### Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

Over 10,800 volunteers donated more than 186,000 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](http://www.nps.gov/yose/getinvolved/volunteer.htm) or call the volunteer office at 209/379- 1850.



### 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](http://www.naturebridge.org/yosemite)

### Yosemite Name Changes

The names of the following facilities in Yosemite have changed.

- The changed names are:
- Half Dome Village (formerly Curry Village)
  - Yosemite Valley Lodge (formerly Yosemite Lodge)
  - The Majestic Yosemite Hotel (formerly The Ahwahnee)
  - Big Trees Lodge (formerly Wawona Hotel)
  - Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area (formerly Badger Pass Ski Area)
  - Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge)

### Yosemite Conservancy



*Providing For Yosemite's Future*

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](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org) or call 415/434-1782.



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