



Half Dome Cable Permit System



Rising nearly 5,000 feet above Yosemite Valley and 8,800 feet above sea level, Half Dome is a Yosemite icon and a great challenge to many hikers. This 14- to 16-mile round-trip hike climbs a total of 4,800 feet and takes most hikers 10-12 hours to complete. Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are required seven days a week when the cables are up (approximately from the end of May until mid-October, weather permitting).

The permit system protects the wilderness character of the Half Dome area while providing the public with opportunities to reach the summit; improves visitor experience on the trail; protects the area's natural and cultural resources; and improves public safety by reducing crowding on the Half Dome Cables.

Permits for Day Hikers

National Park Service will hold two sets of permit lotteries. A single preseason lottery application period will occur from March 1 to March 31, with results announced in early April. This lottery will cover all dates the cables are expected to be up that year. Permits for 225 day hikers per day will be available through this lottery.

In addition, NPS will hold a daily lottery throughout the Half Dome hiking season, which allows for more spontaneous trip planning. This lottery will have an application period two days in advance of the hiking date with lottery results announced one day in advance. The application period will be from midnight to 1 pm Pacific time with results announced by e-mail or by calling Recreation.gov the next morning (one day before the permit is valid). Based on previous experience, NPS estimates that permits for approximately 50 people will be available each day. The actual number will be based on the observed rate of cancellations and under-use of permits, allowing the park to manage daily permit numbers so that as close as possible to 300 permits are used each day.

Each person may apply as a trip leader only once per lottery. People applying multiple times as a trip leader for a single lottery will have all their lottery applications canceled. Each preseason lottery application allows for up to seven date choices. The preseason lottery and daily lotteries will be managed through Recreation.gov . You can apply for a permit by visiting <http://www.recreation.gov/> or by calling 877/444-6777.

Fees

Two separate fees are collected. The first fee, which is charged at the time you submit an application, is \$10. This fee, which is per application (not per person), is charged by Recreation.gov for the costs of processing your permit application. The application fee is non-refundable.

The second fee is \$10 per person and is charged only when you receive a permit. (This fee also applies to wilderness permit holders.) This fee pays for park rangers checking for Half Dome permits and providing Half Dome visitors with hiking and safety information. The per person fee is fully refundable if you cancel your permit more than two days before the hiking date specified on your permit or if the cables are not up on the date for which your permit is valid.

Permits for Backpackers

Backpackers may apply for Half Dome permits with their wilderness permit or, if unsuccessful, may apply using the day hiking lotteries.

The quota for Half Dome permits for backpackers is 75 permits per day (50 available by reservation and 25 available one day in advance on a first-come, first-served basis at wilderness centers). The cost for Half Dome permits is \$10 per person, payable at a wilderness center the day of or day before your trip, and is therefore not refundable.

You may apply for a wilderness permit reservation 24 weeks (168 days) prior to your trip. First-come, first-serve permits are given out 1 day before your hike starting at 11 am. Please visit our website for resources and specific information regarding wilderness permits at <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm>.

If you would like a Half Dome permit included in your backpacking trip, be sure to specify when making a reservation, or a first-come, first-serve wilderness permit request. If Half Dome permits are available and Half Dome is reasonably part of your itinerary, you will receive a reservation that includes them.

For More Information

For more in-depth information about Half Dome and Half Dome permits, please visit our website: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/halfdome.htm>