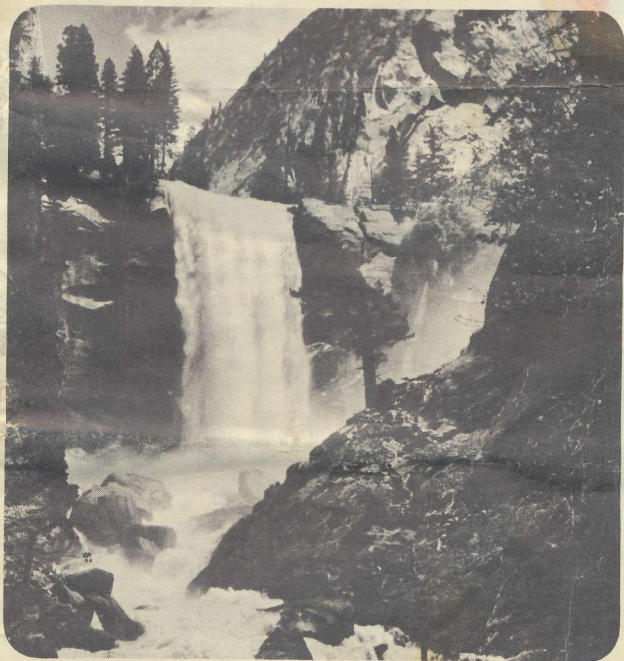


YOSEMITE

MAP and TRAIL GUIDE to

GLACIER POINT
MIRROR LAKE
CLOUDS REST
NEVADA FALL
VERNAL FALL
HAPPY ISLES
HALF DOME



A WHERE-TO-HIKE MAP

PRICE 35 CENTS

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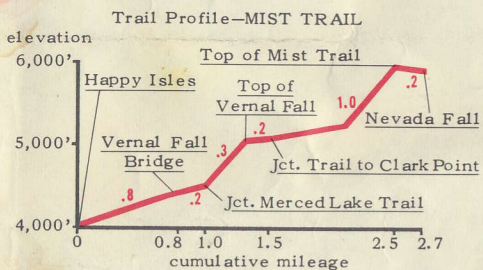


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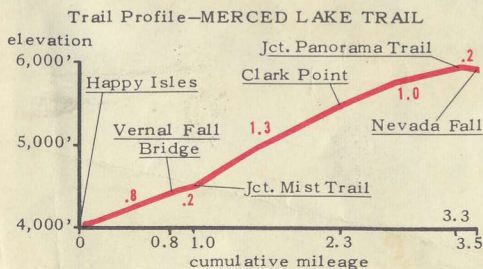
HAPPY ISLES to NEVADA FALL

This is probably the most popular trail in the park, with its dramatic views of Vernal and Nevada Falls. We have a choice of routes: the Mist Trail or the Merced Lake Trail. The Mist Trail stays close to the river and the falls. It is only 2.7 miles long, but is steeper and more strenuous. The Merced Lake Trail leaves the river below Vernal Fall and climbs the south wall of the canyon in switchbacks, staying well above the river for the rest of the route. It is 3.5 miles long, but an easier climb than the Mist Trail. Both trails lead to the top of Nevada Fall, almost 2,000 feet above Happy Isles.

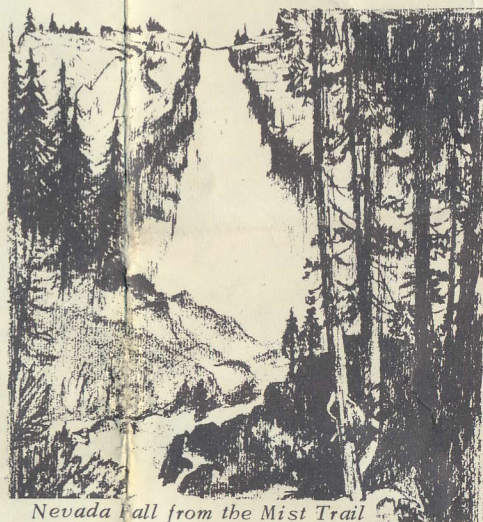
From Happy Isles, the trail rises steadily following the Merced River. Passing below Sierra Point, we see Illilouette Fall up the canyon to the south. After 0.8 miles, we cross the river at a bridge and get our first view of Vernal Fall. 0.2 miles beyond the bridge, we come to the fork between Mist Trail and Merced Lake Trail.



The MIST TRAIL, to the left, hugs the river's south bank as we climb along a wooded path. This soon gives way to rock and in places we gain our altitude on giant-sized granite steps with handrails along the steeper stretches. Now the roar of the fall and the spray fill the canyon as we climb steadily around the fall



to the top. Above the fall, the trail leads past the tranquil Emerald Pool. Upstream, though, there is more white water – the Silver Apion and the Diamond Cascade rushing down from Nevada Fall. The trail crosses the river here by a bridge, follows the north bank to the very base of Nevada Fall, and then climbs steeply in a series of zig-zags to the top. A short walk to the right brings us to the brink of the fall.



Nevada Fall from the Mist Trail

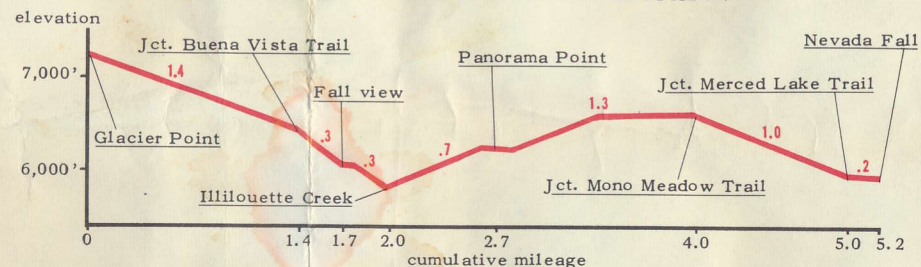
The MERCED LAKE TRAIL climbs sharply upward from the trail junction below Vernal Fall, ascending the south wall of the canyon in switchbacks. Looking back as we climb, we see Glacier Point and Yosemite Falls. After 1.3 miles, we come to Clark Point. A trail to the left leads 0.6 miles down to the Mist Trail above Emerald Pool. From here, we see the back of Half Dome, Mt. Broderick, Liberty Cap, and Nevada Fall. Our trail is to the right, climbing, but not so steeply as before. After almost a mile, the trail crosses a broad rock ledge and we get a good view of the fall ahead. Just beyond the ledge, we come to the junction of the Panorama Trail to Glacier Point. The top of the fall is just 0.2 miles beyond. There, Liberty Cap towers 1,000 feet overhead. To the west, we see Glacier point and Grizzly Peak, while at our feet, the Merced River plunges 594 feet into the chasm below.

GLACIER POINT to NEVADA FALL

The Panorama Trail, as the name suggests, gives sweeping views along its route. From Glacier Point, it is 5.2 miles to Nevada Fall, or 8.3 miles to Happy Isles via the Merced Lake Trail. The trail descends 3,200 feet to Happy Isles with one climb in the middle of 700 feet.

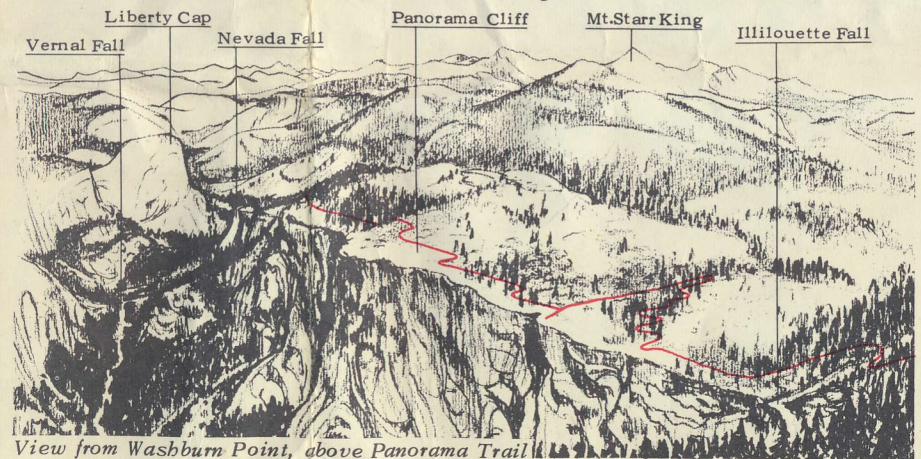
Leaving Glacier Point, the trail travels down the western side of Illilouette Gorge, passing below Washburn Point. This is fairly easy going, with grand vistas up the Merced River to Vernal and Nevada Falls, Half Dome, and Liberty Cap. 1.4 miles from Glacier Point, we come to the junction of the Buena Vista Trail to the south boundary country. We take the fork to the left, and less than a mile further on, come to an excellent view of Illilouette Fall. 370 feet high, this fall is taller than Vernal, but because it can only be seen from a few places in the park, it does not get the acclaim it deserves.

Trail Profile—GLACIER POINT TO NEVADA FALL



The trail continues down to the top of the fall itself where we cross Illilouette Creek by a bridge. We then climb to Panorama Point where the view includes Glacier Point, Yosemite Falls, North Dome, Grizzly Peak, Half Dome, Mt. Broderick and Liberty Cap. Following a level section along the top of Panorama Cliff, the trail comes to a junction with the Mono Meadow Trail. From here it is a steep downhill mile, with many switchbacks, to the junction of the Merced Lake Trail coming up from the Valley.

It is 3.3 miles back to Happy Isles from here via the Merced Lake Trail, but if you have not visited Nevada Fall, it is only 0.2 miles via the fork to the right. If we choose to take the Mist Trail down, it is 2.9 miles to the right from here. The first 0.4 miles takes us across the Merced River just above Nevada Fall to where the Mist Trail begins on the other side.



View from Washburn Point, above Panorama Trail

Indian Rock

to Tioga Road 4.6 mi.

Mt. Watkins
8235

Clouds Rest Δ 9926

HAPPY ISLES AREA

Scale 1:32,000 or 1 inch equals 0.5 miles

0 .5 1 mi.

— 3 — Featured trails, mileage shown between dots
- - - Other trails, not described in detail
- - - Intermittent stream, may be dry in summer

⋯ footpath
■ CS comfort station
☎ public telephone
👁️ viewpoint
▭ parking area
= or = park roads
= bridge
🌿 spring
Copyright 1970, The Yosemite Natural History Association

magnetic north

Snow Creek Falls

Snow Cr. Falls

Tenaya Falls

7602 Δ
Basket Dome

Δ 7542
North Dome

Ahwyah Point

8842 x
Half Dome

Washington Column

Diving Board

Royal Arches

Indian Cave

Iron Spring

Little Yosemite Valley

camp 9

camp 12

camp 14

stables

Mt. Broderick
6706

Liberty Cap
7076

Curry Village

Sleep dangerous. Up only.

Happy Isles

Happy Isles Bridge

Grizzly Peak
6219

Vernal Fall

Vernal Fall Bridge

Sierra Point

44437 CS

Clark Point

5481

Merced Lake

5910 x

Nevada Fall

Nevada Fall Bridge

Δ 7214

CS

Glacier Point

to Valley 4.6 mi.

to Sentinel Dome 0.8 mi.

Washburn Point

Panorama Point

6224

Panorama Cliff

PANORAMA TRAIL

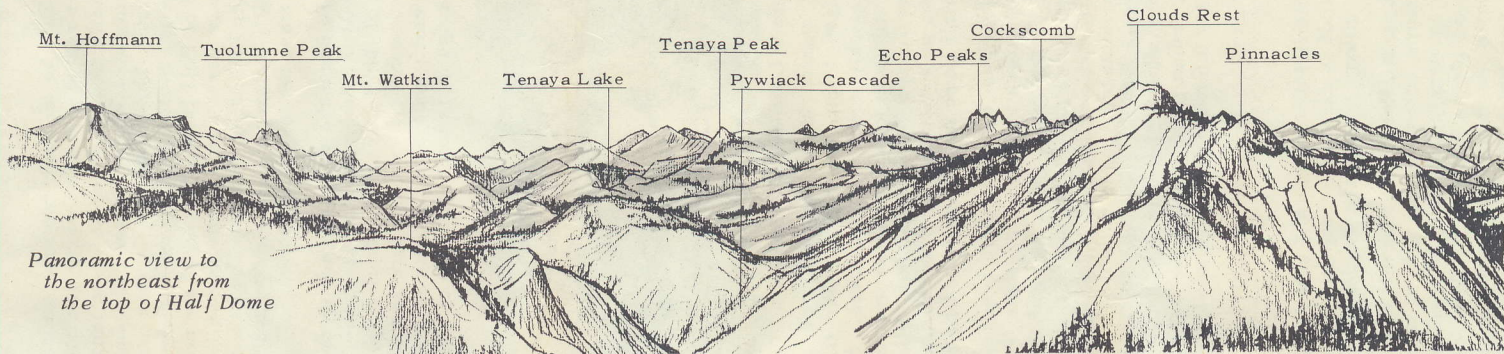
1.3

Mt. Starr King x 9092

to Glacier Point Road 4.9 mi.

to Merced Pass 10.5 mi.

Map by Custom Cartography



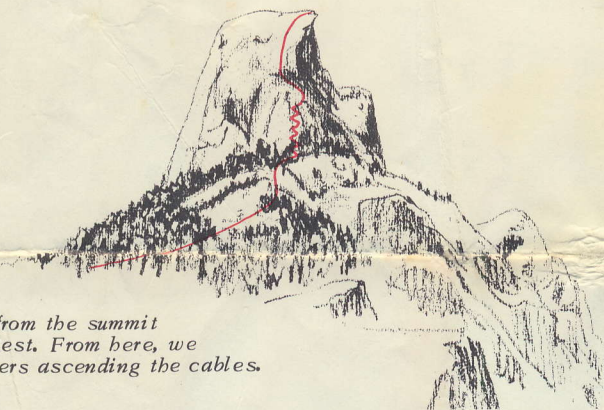
Panoramic view to the northeast from the top of Half Dome

NEVADA FALL to HALF DOME

This famous trail takes us to the very top of Half Dome. With an early start the trip can be made from Happy Isles in one day, but it's a strenuous round trip of 15.6 miles and a climb of 5,000 feet. Rubber or composition-soled shoes are a must.

The trip is certainly a memorable experience. There are cables up the northeast side of Half Dome to help in the last 700 feet of climb. These cables are taken down in winter and early spring. A sign by the Happy Isles Bridge saying, "Cable Down Half Dome" warns when they are not up. To be sure, check with a park ranger. Do not attempt the climb when the cables are down!

From Nevada Fall, the trail leads past the top of the Mist Trail to Little Yosemite Valley. The path is almost level as it winds along the north side of the Merced through a dense pine forest. 1.2 miles from the fall we come to the junction of the Half Dome Trail and take it to the left. After a quarter mile, we begin to climb. 1.3 miles further on, we come to the Clouds Rest Trail junction. We take the left fork and continue climbing through dense forest. Three-quarters of a mile further on, we come to a spring where we should fill our canteens as there is no water above this point.

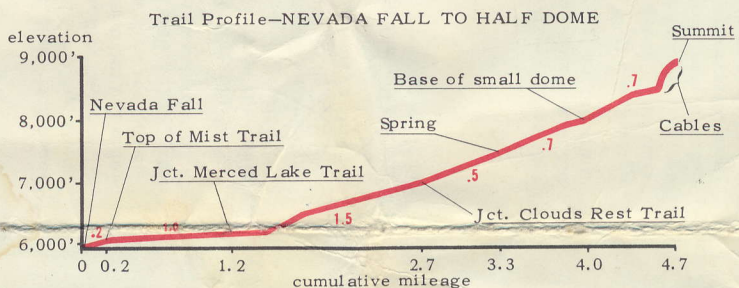


Half Dome from the summit of Clouds Rest. From here, we can see hikers ascending the cables.

Above here, the forest opens somewhat, giving way to open granite as we reach the brink of Tenaya Canyon. We walk left to the base of the small dome just east of Half Dome. The trail climbs this in switchbacks and crosses the saddle to Half Dome itself. The cables are not nearly so steep as they look from here and the rest of the trip is relatively easy, if we allow for frequent stops to catch our breath.

From the top, the view is fantastic! To the North: Mt. Hoffmann, Tenaya Canyon, Tenaya Lake and the Pywiack Cascade. To the east and south: the major peaks of the Sierra - Mts. Dana, Lyell, Florence, and the Clark Range. To the west: Glacier Point, El Captain, Yosemite Falls and, looking down, Mirror Lake.

The return trip will take considerably less time than the trip up, but allow at least two hours to Nevada Fall and another two hours to reach Happy Isles.



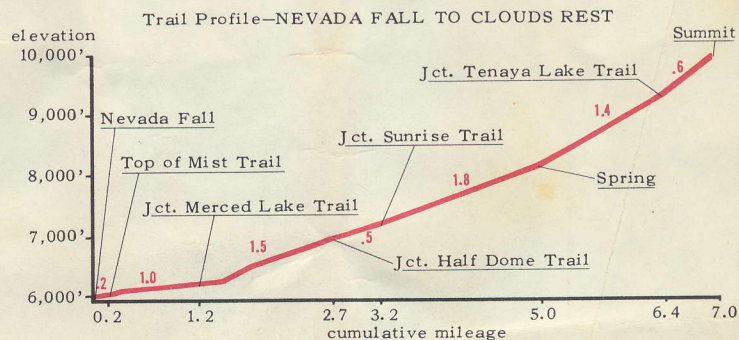
NEVADA FALL to CLOUDS REST

Clouds Rest is the rocky peak east of Half Dome. It is almost ten thousand feet high and the view from the top is outstanding. From Nevada Fall, it is a round trip of 14 miles and a climb of 5,000 feet... a strenuous trip by anyone's standards.

From Nevada Fall, the trail follows the same route as the Half Dome Trail for the first 2.7 miles. At the Clouds Rest Trail junction, we take the right fork and climb through a conifer forest for half a mile. Here, we come to the junction of the Sunrise Trail to Tuolumne Meadows. We take the left fork and climb more steeply for about a mile and a quarter where we come to a spring. There is no water above this point and we should fill our canteens here. Continuing, the trail switchbacks up below the Pinnacles. Two miles above the spring we come to a junction with the trail to Tenaya Lake which bypasses the peak on the east side. We take the fork to the left and after 0.6 miles climbing the ridge, we come to the summit.

At the top, the view is breathtaking. To the north: Mt. Hoffmann. Further east: Mts. Conness, Dana, Gibbs, the Kuna Crest, Lyell, McClure and Florence. To the south: the Clark Range. Closer in: Mt. Starr King, Liberty Cap and Half Dome (1,000 feet lower!). To the west: the familiar features of the valley.

The northwestern slope below us is another of Clouds Rest's distinctions. It falls away for almost a mile to Tenaya Creek and is said to be the largest unbroken rock slope in the world. Hikers must not be tempted to descend that slope to return to the valley as it is considered to be impassable and extremely dangerous. Retracing our steps down the same trail we just came up will take about two and a half hours to Nevada Fall and another two hours should be allowed to reach Happy Isles.



MIRROR LAKE LOOP

This is an easy two-hour walk covering some 4.4 miles with almost no climbing. It affords fine views, particularly of Half Dome at close range. We start at the parking area west of Mirror Lake and cross the road to the lake. This is one of the park's most scenic spots. Towering overhead on the right is the massive northwest face of Half Dome. Beyond it are the granite slopes of Clouds Rest. Further left, across the lake, is the imposing bulk of Mt. Watkins. The best time to see all this is early morning, before the breezes disturb the surface and erase the famous reflection.

To begin the walk, we pick up the trail by the north side of the lake. After about a mile, we pass the junction of the Tenaya Lake Trail on the left. Continuing, we soon come to another fork and take the trail to the left which goes about a tenth of a mile to Snow Creek and stops. It is worth climbing up the creek out onto the



Mirror Lake and Mt. Watkins

bare granite for an unusual view of Half Dome and Ahwiyah Point. Returning to the trail heading south, we quickly reach Tenaya Creek. Another worthwhile side trip is to follow the creek upstream about 0.2 miles to see Tenaya Falls. From there, follow the creek downstream on either side back to the trail and follow it on the Half Dome side of the creek back towards the lake.

Just past the lake, there is a footbridge which is a shortcut back to the starting point. We stay on the south side of the creek, however, and 0.3 miles further on come to an area of rust-colored rock caused by the high mineral content of the creek here. Another 0.3 miles further, we reach Tenaya Bridge. Crossing both the stream and the road, we take the trail north another 0.2 miles to Indian Cave, a reminder of the early Indian inhabitants of the Valley. From here, it is an easy 0.6 miles back to Mirror Lake.

SIERRA POINT

Sierra Point is only 0.6 miles from Happy Isles, but the trail is extremely steep and rugged, climbing 1,200 feet. Hikers should use caution and stay on the trail.

Leaving Happy Isles by the Vernal Fall trail, we go 0.1 miles before turning left at the spring. The trail goes up steeply from here, with granite blocks as steps in some places and even a short stretch with a cable handhold. At Sierra Point, there is an observation platform from which the view includes four waterfalls.

WELCOME TO HIKING

In Yosemite National Park is some of the most beautiful scenery to be found anywhere. Much of it is available only to the hiker who will spend a day or two on the trail to see what lies beyond the reaches of the park's roads. This guide describes the popular trails at the eastern end of Yosemite Valley. From these trails you get closer looks at such familiar landmarks as Half Dome, Vernal and Nevada Falls, Mirror Lake and Glacier Point.

On the map inside, the trails shown in solid red are the ones described in detail. The table below compares these trails as to length, climb and time required. Mileage is given for the whole trip, while climb is shown one-way. The time is estimated for an "average" hiker. It is the time enroute plus normal rest stops. It does not include time for lunch stops or just "enjoying the view", both of which should be added.

TRAIL FACTS

Trip	Miles	Climb	Time
Happy Isles to Sierra Point	1.2	1,200'	1½ hrs
Mirror Lake Loop	4.4	200'	2 hrs
Happy Isles to Nevada Fall via Merced Lake Trail (up) and Mist Trail (down)	6.2	2,000'	5 hrs
Glacier Point to Happy Isles via Panorama and Mist Trails	7.9	3,200'	5 hrs
Happy Isles to Half Dome and return	15.6	5,000'	10 hrs
An easier plan for the Half Dome and Clouds Rest Trails involves camping overnight (campfire permits required) in Little Yosemite Valley and starting from there on the second day.			
Happy Isles to Little Yosemite Valley via Merced Lake Trail	4.7	2,000'	3½ hrs
Little Yosemite Valley to Half Dome to Happy Isles via Mist Trail	10.9	3,000'	8 hrs
Little Yosemite Valley to Clouds Rest to Happy Isles via Mist Trail	15.5	4,000'	10 hrs

SOME GUIDELINES

A few important rules for your enjoyment and safety: Pets, motorcycles, or minibikes are never allowed on the trails...Smoking is allowed only when stopped, never while walking...Use caution always! Never venture beyond the point where you feel comfortable, particularly if traveling off-trail...Along the trails on this map, overnight camping is allowed only at the top of Nevada Fall and in Little Yosemite Valley. Campfire permits are required and may be obtained at the Happy Isles Trail Center or at the Visitors Center.

Cover photograph: Vernal Fall from the Mist Trail.

This Where-to-Hike map is published by Optima Publications, Los Altos Hills, California. Copyright 1970, The Yosemite Natural History Association.