

A person wearing a red vest, a blue long-sleeved shirt, white shorts, and a wide-brimmed straw hat is sitting on a rock by the edge of a dark lake. They are looking out over the water towards a range of rugged, rocky mountains under a clear blue sky. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding landscape.

*A lake is the landscape's most  
beautiful and expressive feature.*

*It is earth's eye;  
looking into which  
the beholder measures the  
depth of his own nature.*

Henry David Thoreau

**Yosemite National Park Wilderness**

# Pre-trip planning for overnight use in the Yosemite Wilderness

Visit [www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness/permits.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness/permits.htm) for more information.



**Wilderness Permits.** Permits are required year-round for overnight use in Wilderness.

Permits are available for individuals and groups of up to 15 if traveling on trail, or eight if traveling cross-country. For trips occurring from May to October, permits are available one of two ways:

## 1. Reserve up to 24 weeks (168 days) ahead of time.

To reserve, submit the application found at [www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness/permits.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness/permits.htm) via fax to 209/372-0739, call 209/372-0740, or write to Wilderness Permits, PO Box 545 Yosemite, CA, 95389.

**2. First-come, first-served.** Forty percent of available permits are held for walk-up visitors. These first-come, first-served permits are available one day before you plan to leave for your trip and can be obtained from May to October at the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center, Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center, Big Oak Flat Wilderness Kiosk, Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station and the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio. For winter camping regulations, visit [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildwinter.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildwinter.htm)

## Pre-Trip Planning.

- **Have more than one trip in mind.** When selecting a route of travel, you should have at least one other option.
- **Consult a topographical map.** In addition to considering total trip miles, factor elevation changes into your trip planning. Many trips are quite strenuous due to steep gradients, and high altitude can have a major effect on physical abilities.
- **Check weather and be prepared for anything.** At higher elevations, significant amounts of snow can remain well into July. Temperatures vary significantly at different elevations, and thunderstorms are common at high elevations.
- **Check road conditions and road closures** by calling 209/372-0200 (press 1).
- **Arrive ready to go.** You can purchase food, cooking fuel, and some backpacking gear in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows (summer only); however, selection is limited and some items may be unavailable.

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