

**THIS IS YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**—a 1,189-square mile geological wonderland with sculptured peaks and domes, waterfalls tumbling from hanging valleys down the faces of shining granite cliffs; groves of giant sequoias and extensive forests of pine, fir, and oak; wildflowers in alpine meadows; hundreds of species of birds and mammals; and scenic drives and trails to areas of high-country grandeur with sparkling glacial lakes.

We urge you to stop at the visitor center in Yosemite Valley. Here you can see audiovisual programs and museum exhibits about the park, and obtain information and orientation before starting your tour. A booklet, *Yosemite Road Guide*, which you can purchase at the visitor center or the concessioners, will prove to be of great assistance to you in planning your initial tour of the park. Other publications about the park are also available.

**Interpretive program.** Naturalist-guided walks and campfire, junior ranger, and audiovisual programs are offered. Check visitor center and campground bulletin boards for details.

**Hiking.** More than 700 miles of trails await you if you would know the park intimately. Try one of the shorter trails from the valley or an overnight trip into the high country. Be sure to get a fire permit for the latter. A visit to the Happy Isles Trail Center in the valley will help you plan your hiking.

**Climbing.** Inexperienced persons should not engage in rock climbing. Qualified climbers should register at the visitor center before beginning a climb and immediately upon completion. Guide service and a climbing school are available.

**Riding.** In summer, saddle and pack animals are available at the stables in Yosemite Valley, at White Wolf, Tuolumne Meadows, Wawona, and Mather, on the road to Hetch Hetchy.

**Driving.** Yosemite has more than 200 miles of public roads for scenic drives. For your safety, and the protection of park values, you are required to stay on the surfaced roads. Speed limit for all motorized equipment is 35 m.p.h. unless otherwise posted. Commercial trucks allowed only on park business; commercial buses need prior written permission.

**Fishing.** Trout can be found in most park streams and lakes. A California license is required, and State rules on catch and season apply.

**Swimming.** There are swimming pools at several of the lodging units. Swimming in the Merced River is not recommended because of swift currents and deep pools.

**Skiing.** Ski slopes at Badger Pass challenge all but the experts. The season is usually mid-December

to early April. For details write Yosemite Park and Curry Co., Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

**Camping.** From June 1 to September 15, camping is limited to 7 days in Yosemite Valley and 14 in the rest of the park; from September 16 to May 30, it is limited to 30 days throughout the park. All camping is restricted to designated campsites.

**Pets.** Visitors must keep pets on leash. They may not be taken on trails or beaches or into public buildings. Campers with pets are restricted to Camp 12 in Yosemite Valley, Camp 7 during winter season, and to designated sections elsewhere. Dogs may be boarded in kennels.

**Trail use.** Stay on designated trails; do not shortcut between zigzags or switchbacks. Never hike alone; tell someone where you are going and when you will return. Horses have the right-of-way; stand quietly at trailside until they pass. Motor bikes, or other motorized equipment, are not allowed to operate off designated roadways.

**Fires.** Report fires immediately to nearest ranger station. Campfire permits required except in public automobile camps. Never leave fires unattended, and extinguish with water before leaving.

**Preserving natural features.** Do not deface or remove trees or rocks, pick wildflowers or other plants, or kill, capture, or injure wildlife; they are protected by law.

**Wildlife.** All park animals are wild. DO NOT TOUCH OR FEED THEM.

**Firearms.** Hunting or discharging of any kind of weapon is prohibited. Firearms must be unloaded and cased or broken down.

**Assistance.** In emergencies, telephone 372-4466. For weather, road conditions, etc., telephone 372-4222.

## NATURAL FEATURES

**Flora and fauna.** Elevations within the park range from less than 2,000 to more than 13,000 feet above sea level. In this range are five plant belts, each with its related community of animals. Conifers are the predominant trees, but there are a number of hardwoods, especially black oak and canyon live oak. Flowering trees and shrubs include dogwood and azalea, and there are meadows colorful with seasonal wildflowers at almost every elevation. Of the 220 bird and 75 mammal species known to live in Yosemite, many stay within their accustomed zones, but others, like the California mule deer, migrate with the seasons between high and low elevations. Illustrated books describing plants and animals of the park are on sale at park visitor centers and studios. For list and prices of

publications, write Yosemite Natural History Association, Box 545, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

**Geology.** Nature's handiwork in the Yosemite region, as you now see it, began with an enormous granite intrusion into existing rock. Then followed an uplift of this granite block and its wearing down, first by stream erosion, then by glacial erosion. It was the glacial action that created the broad, U-shaped valleys and lakes.

A more graphic account of how the mountains and Yosemite Valley, with its towering cliffs and waterfalls, were formed is told by exhibits at the main visitor center and in publications on sale there.

## YOU WILL WANT TO SEE:

- *Yosemite Valley*, with its sheer cliffs and waterfalls, reaching their maximum flow in May and June; some have no water from about mid-August through early autumn. (Yosemite Valley is open all year.)
- *Principal scenic features of the valley*—Yosemite Falls, Bridalveil and Nevada Falls, Mirror Lake, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Sentinel Dome, and El Capitan.
- *Happy Isles Trail Center*, which features natural history, stressing wilderness, Trailhead for Vernal and Nevada Falls and the high country.
- *Giant sequoias* in three groves. The largest is Mariposa Grove, 35 miles from the valley near the South Entrance; here you will see the Grizzly Giant. Private vehicles may be driven only to the edge of this grove. Beyond that point you can board the tour car transportation (for a nominal fee) or hike the trail system through the grove. Other giant sequoias are at Tuolumne and Merced Groves near Crane Flat.
- *Glacier Point*, one of the best high views of Yosemite Valley and of the crest of the lofty Sierra Nevada. (Closed in winter.)
- *Pioneer Yosemite History Center* at Wawona—a collection of historic buildings and horse-drawn vehicles associated with the history of the park.
- *Tuolumne Meadows* (8,600 feet), the largest sub-alpine meadow in the High Sierra. This area is 55 miles from the valley by way of the highly scenic Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads, and is the starting point for hiking and pack trips into the high country. The Service operates a large campground and conducts a full-scale naturalist program here in summer. (Closed in winter.)
- *El Portal Museum*, where exhibits tell the story of early-day railroad and auto transportation in the Yosemite region.



## ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

Campgrounds are maintained on a first-come, first-served basis. Camp 7 in the valley is open all year. There are no utility connections for house trailers except on private property at Wawona. All campgrounds are near water and restrooms. Showers are available for a small fee in Yosemite Valley and at Tuolumne Meadows.

Reservations are advised at all times for accommodations in hotels, lodges, and cabins; they are operated by the Yosemite Park and Curry Co., Yosemite National Park, CA 95389. There are restaurants, cafeterias, stores, and lodging in Yosemite Valley and at Wawona, El Portal, and Tuolumne Meadows.

Camping equipment may be rented at the Housekeeping section of Curry Village in Yosemite Valley; ski equipment, at Badger Pass in winter.

Medical and dental services are available all year at Lewis Memorial Hospital in Yosemite Valley.

A schedule of religious services is posted on bulletin boards in summer. Services are held only in Yosemite Valley in winter.

Mail should be addressed to you in care of general delivery at the main post office, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389, or at the lodging unit where you are staying. Post offices at Yosemite Lodge and at Wawona are open all year; Camp Curry and Tuolumne Meadows post offices summer only.

A self-service laundry is available during the summer season in the Housekeeping section of Curry Village in Yosemite Valley.

Filling stations with towing service are located throughout the park; the Yosemite Lodge station is open all year. Garage and repair service is available in Yosemite Valley and at El Portal.

## ADMINISTRATION

Yosemite National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Yosemite National Park, CA 95389, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

# YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

CALIFORNIA



## YOSEMITE VALLEY

