

THIS IS YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK—a 1,189-square-mile scenic wonderland of 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.

We urge you to stop at the visitor center in Yosemite Valley's Village Mall to see audiovisual programs and exhibits about the park and to obtain information before starting your tour. The Visitor Center is best reached by the Free Valley Shuttle from the Curry Village Parking lot.

Also check visitor-center and campground bulletin boards and the Yosemite Guide for information on conducted walks, talks, youth programs, seminars, living history programs, arts and skills demonstrations, and shuttle-bus schedules.

Shuttle-bus service is available the year around in Yosemite Valley. It's free, fun, and frequent, and operates between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. each day during summer. Schedules vary in fall, winter, and spring. Summer tram service is also available at Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.

NATURAL FEATURES

Nature's handiwork in the Yosemite region, as you see it today, began eons ago with the formation of granite beneath the earth's surface. As the granite block was uplifted, stream erosion sculptured the landscape. Recently, glacial action carved broad U-shaped valleys and formed lakes.

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. Seasonal wildflowers color the meadows at almost every elevation. Of 220 bird and 75 mammal species that live in Yosemite, many stay within their accustomed zones. Others, like the mule deer, migrate seasonally between high and low elevations.

For a graphic account of the geologic sequence, see exhibits at the main visitor center. For illustrated publications describing natural features, write to Yosemite Natural History Association, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389, or stop at a visitor center or studio.

WHAT TO SEE

Yosemite has more than 200 miles of scenic roads. For your safety and the protection of the park, 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 are allowed only on park business; commercial buses need prior written permission.

Here are some of the highlights you shouldn't miss:

Yosemite Valley, and its sheer cliffs, and waterfalls that reach their maximum flow in May and June; some have no water from about mid-August through early autumn. Principal scenic features of the valley, which is open all year, are Yosemite Falls, Bridalveil Fall, Mirror Lake, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, El Capitan, The Three Brothers, and Cathedral Rocks.

Happy Isles Trail Center, which is accessible by shuttlebus and has information about traveling in the wildlands. This is the trailhead for the John Muir Trail, Vernal and Nevada Falls, and the high country.

Three groves of giant sequoias, the largest of which is Mariposa Grove. This grove, 35 miles from the valley near the south entrance, includes the Grizzly Giant tree. Private vehicles may be driven only to the edge of this grove. Beyond that point, board the free shuttlebus or hike the trail system through the grove. You will find other giant sequoias at Tuolumne and Merced Groves near Crane Flat.

Glacier Point, from which you can get one of the best high views of Yosemite Valley and the crest of the lofty Sierra Nevada. The approach road, from the Badger Pass intersection, is closed in winter.

Pioneer Yosemite History Center at Wawona, where living history demonstrations, historic buildings, and horse-drawn vehicles tell of man's history in the park.

Tuolumne Meadows (8,600 feet), the largest sub-alpine meadow in the High Sierra. Closed in winter, this area is 55 miles from the valley by way of highly scenic Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads and is the starting point for hiking and pack trips into the high country. The Park Service operates a large campground and conducts a full-scale naturalist program here in summer.

Yosemite Travel Museum in El Portal, where exhibits tell the story of early-day railroad and auto transportation in the Yosemite region.

WHAT TO DO

Camping. From June 1 to September 15, camping is limited to 7 days in Yosemite Valley and 14 days in the rest of the park. From September 16 to May 30, it is limited to 30 days throughout the park. Except for the backcountry, all camping is restricted to designated campsites. Backcountry campers may build open fires below 9600-foot elevation. Get a wilderness permit, needed for backcountry use, at ranger stations and visitor centers. Keep a clean camp to reduce conflicts between bears and campers. Lock all food in vehicle trunks or suspend packs from trees while in the backcountry.

Hiking and climbing. More than 700 miles of trails await you if you want to know the park intimately. They range from one of the shorter trails from the valley to an overnight trip into the high country.

Stay on designated trails; do not shortcut between zigzags or switchbacks. If you hike alone tell someone where you are going and when you will return. For safety purposes, horses have the right-of-way; stand quietly at trailside until they pass.

Motorbikes and other motorized equipment are not allowed off designated roadways.

Rock climbing should not be attempted by the inexperienced. All who wish to climb should register at the visitor center and report immediately upon return. This procedure is for your protection. Guide service and a climbing school are available.

Horseback riding. In summer, saddle and pack animals can be rented at the stables in Yosemite Valley, White Wolf, Tuolumne Meadows, Wawona, and Mather.

Water activities. Some lodging units have swimming pools. *Park waters do not have lifeguards.* Do not swim above a waterfall or in any swift water.

A California fishing license is required in the park and may be purchased at the Village Store. State rules on catch and season apply.

Skiing. The slopes at Badger Pass challenge beginner and intermediate downhill skiers. The season is usually mid-December to early April. More than 50 miles of cross-country ski and snowshoe trails are maintained by the National Park Service.

Ski touring is encouraged; but remember to sign in and out at a ranger station. Guided trips are available.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

Daily entrance and camping fees are posted where applicable. Group campsites must be reserved in advance. All individual campsites are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

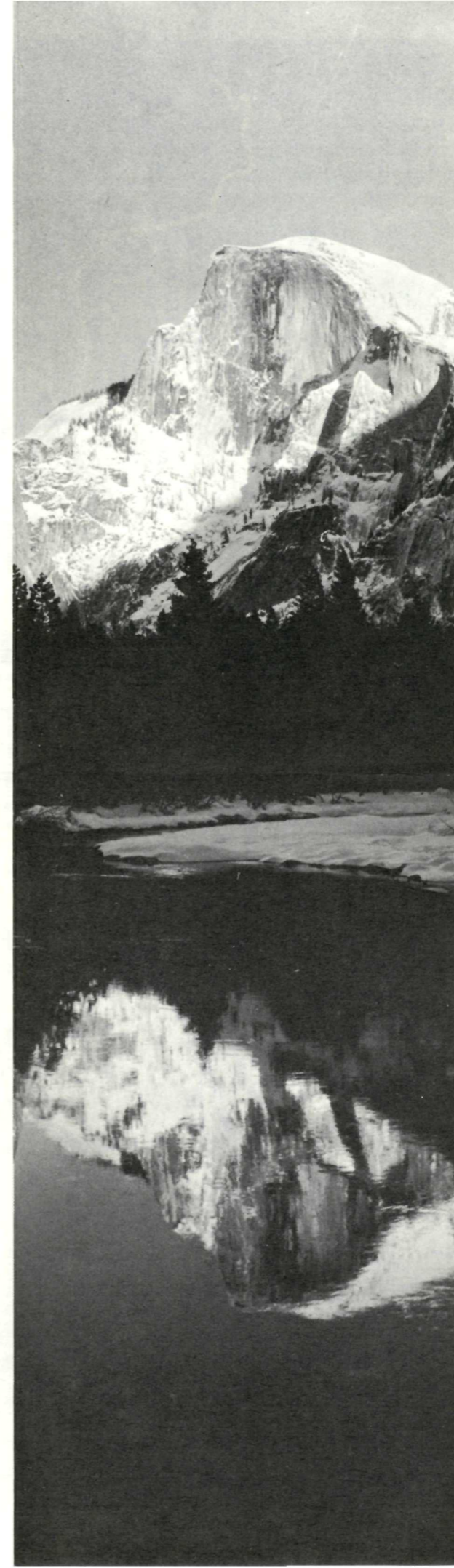
Two campgrounds in the valley and one in Wawona are open all year. There are no utility connections for house trailers, but all campgrounds are near water and restrooms. Showers are available for a small fee in Yosemite Valley and at Tuolumne Meadows.

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

Camping and cross-country ski equipment can be rented at Curry Village in Yosemite Valley; downhill ski equipment, at Badger Pass in winter.

Medical and dental services are offered at Lewis Memorial Clinic in Yosemite Valley.

A schedule of religious services is posted on bulletin boards in summer. Services are held in Yosemite Valley, Wawona, and El Portal in winter.



Mail should be addressed to you c/o General Delivery, Main Post Office, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389, or at the lodging unit where you are staying. Branch post offices at Yosemite Lodge and Wawona are open all year; Curry Village and Tuolumne Meadows post offices, in summer only.

A self-service laundry is open at Curry Village in Yosemite Valley during the summer months.

Filling stations with towing service are located throughout the park; stations at Yosemite Lodge and Wawona, open all year. Garages are in Yosemite Valley and at El Portal.

In emergencies, telephone 372-4461. Park rangers are available to help you. For weather, road conditions, etc., telephone 372-4222.

PROTECTING YOUR PARK

Fires. Report wildfires immediately to the nearest ranger station. Campfires are permitted at designated camping and firesites only. Never leave fires unattended and extinguish them with water before leaving. Some controlled burning may be encountered (watch for roadside signs).

Preserving natural features. Do not deface or remove trees or rocks, pick wildflowers or other plants, or kill, capture, or injure wildlife.

WILDLIFE. ALL PARK ANIMALS ARE WILD. DO NOT TOUCH OR FEED THEM.

Pets. Keep pets on a leash. They are not allowed on trails, beaches, in the backcountry, or in public buildings. Campers with pets are restricted to North Pine Campground in Yosemite Valley during the summer or to designated sections elsewhere in the park. Dogs may be boarded in kennels.

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

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 to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, park and recreation areas, and for the wise use of all those resources. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

