

YOSEMITE GUIDE

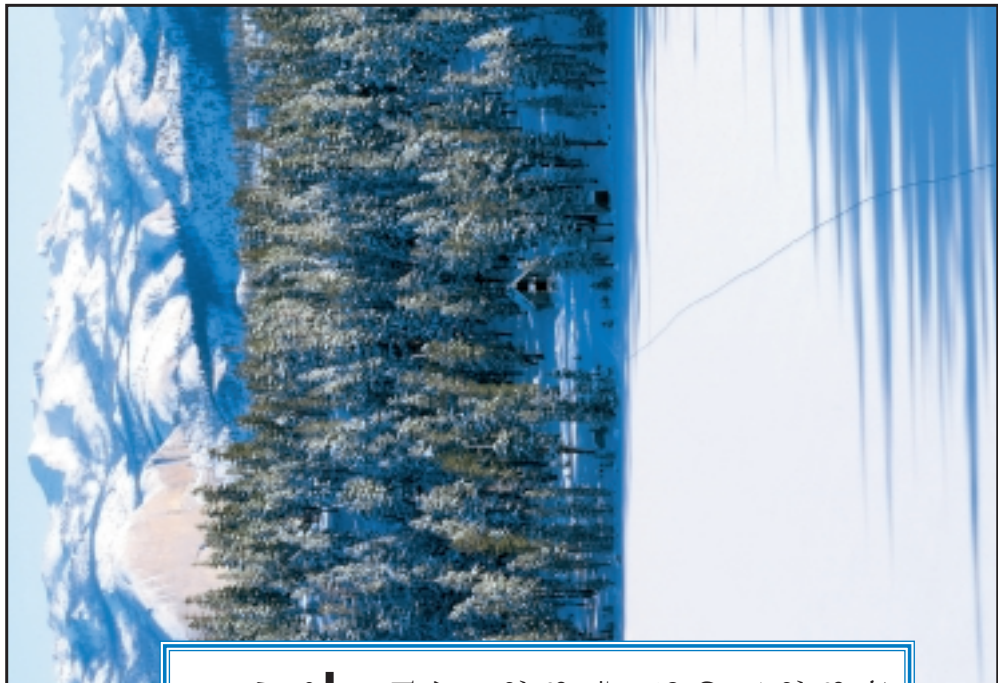
YOUR KEY TO VISITING THE PARK

WINTER
 NOVEMBER 14, 2000 - MARCH 12, 2001
 VOLUME XXIX, NO. 4



Reflections of a Winter Hutkeeper

By Howard Weamer from his book
The Perfect Art: The Ostrander Ski Hut and Yosemite Ski Touring



The backside of Half Dome rises above the ski hut and a snow-covered Ostrander Lake.
 Photo by Howard Weamer

It is embarrassing to admit that my interest in the history of the Ostrander Lake ski hut was ten years in developing, since I had come to Ostrander with materials to complete doctoral research on Yosemite history. Perhaps those who have felt the lure of the place, the warmth of friends, the seduction of the ski bowls, and the attraction of wilderness travel in winter will understand how my life and ambitions became redirected in Yosemite.

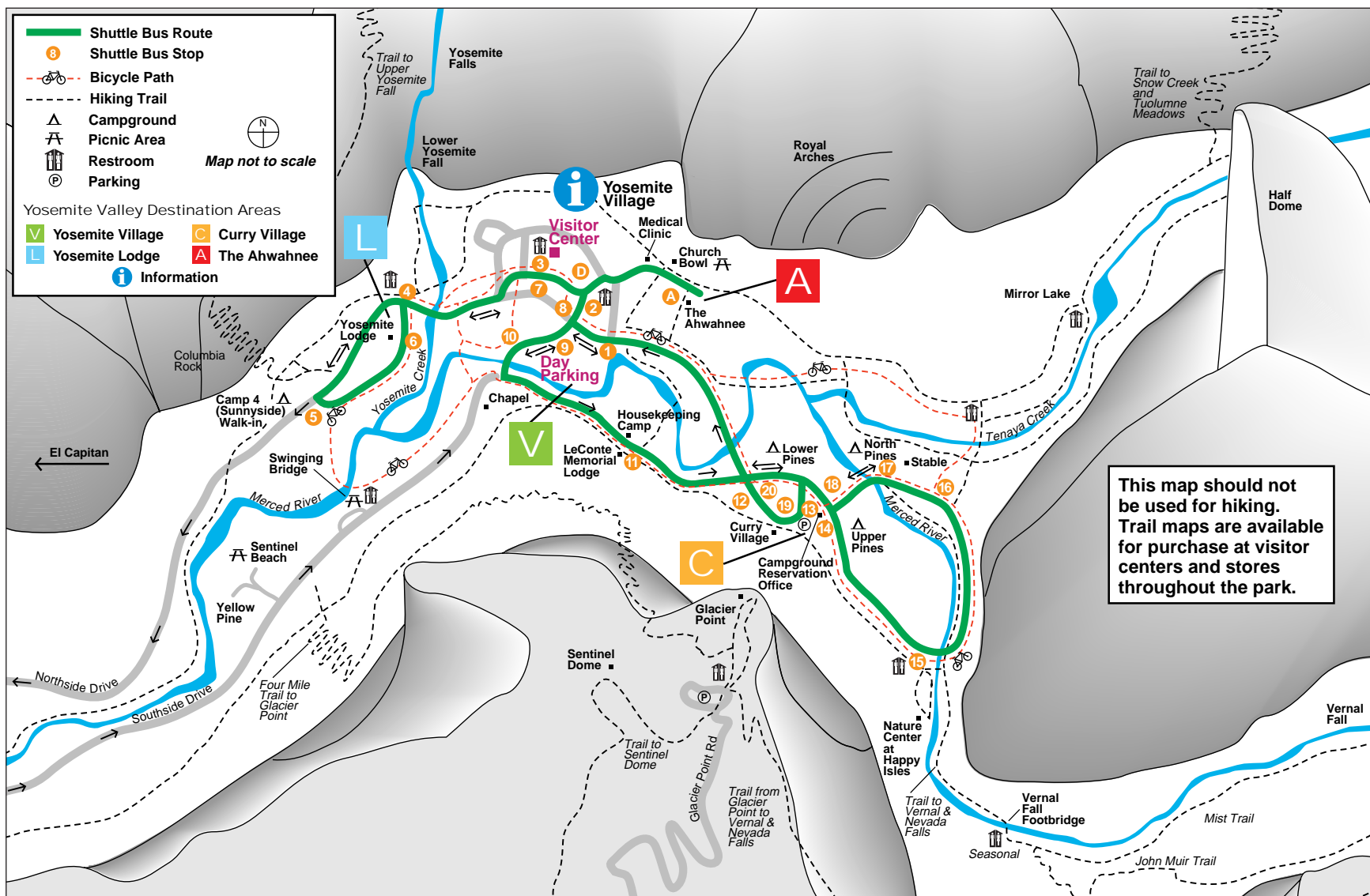
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U.S. Department of the Interior
 National Park Service
 P.O. Box 577
 Yosemite, CA 95389



This map should not be used for hiking. Trail maps are available for purchase at visitor centers and stores throughout the park.

RIDE THE FREE YOSEMITE VALLEY SHUTTLE BUS



Schedules and routes may vary. Shuttle buses operate daily at 20-minute intervals. All buses follow the same route, serving stops in numerical order.

SCHEDULE:
 November 14, 2000 - March 12, 2001
 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

- | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 Yosemite Village/Day Parking | 7 Visitor Center | 14 Out of service for the season |
| 2 Yosemite Village | 8 Yosemite Village | 15 Out of service for the season |
| A The Ahwahnee | 9 Out of service for the season | 16 Out of service for the season |
| D Degnan's Deli | 10 Sentinel Bridge/ Yosemite Chapel Parking | 17 Out of service for the season |
| 3 Visitor Center | 11 Housekeeping Camp/ LeConte Memorial Lodge | 18 Pines Campgrounds |
| 4 Yosemite Falls (Service ends at 5:00 p.m.) | 12 Ice Skating Rink | 19 Curry Village |
| 5 Yosemite Lodge/Camp 4 | 13 Curry Village | 20 Ice Skating Rink |
| 6 Yosemite Lodge | | |

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YOUR KEY TO VISITING THE PARK



WINTER

NOVEMBER 14, 2000 – MARCH 12, 2001
VOLUME XXIX, NO. 4

Reflections of a Winter Hutkeeper

Continued from front cover

A life of splendid isolation in spectacular wilderness is a cornerstone of the ranger myth. In the popular mind, rangers are distantly related to the trapper, miner, or sailor, with personalities forged by hardship, and manifesting self-reliance and fortitude. No more. Isolation at Ostrander is as rare as rangers in patrol cars are common, occurring most frequently during storms when roads and trails are blocked by snow.

Most visitors sense that we are more isolated than in fact we are. Perhaps it's the lack of a telephone. We have abundant company and can ski out in an emergency anytime. Ostrander is not Antarctica. The normal shift is ten days on, four off, to minimize travel time. In fact I prefer 20 or 30 day stretches at Ostrander, giving me more time off with my wife, Lynn, in the winter backcountry or with the spring wildflower bloom.

SOLITUDE AND SILENCE

With the ability to be alone for a time any day, simply by walking or skiing a hundred yards in any direction, it is strange that being alone in the hut is so special, yet both visitors and hutkeepers are enchanted by having the hut to themselves. An hour or two of uninterrupted quiet, lounging on the sunny balcony in a beanbag chair with a good book, with an occasional gaze across the lake to the ridge, is as soul filling as a sunset or a good tour.

The dominant chord in nature is not a sound, but silence. Ostrander offers opportunities, whether it be windless forest soundproofed by snow, or the center of the lake on a cold, starry night. It is only in the silence that one hears the music of the hut. The roof whangs with temperature changes, the stairs ring, the floor drums, and a drop of water falling into the pot on the stove shoots through me, reminding me forever how little I truly hear.



The Ostrander ski hut is a welcome sight to this skier after a nine-mile journey through stormy wilderness.

Photo by Mike MacCiaszek

THE JOB

There is a philosophical edge to my response to a ranger who asked me exactly what my responsibilities at Ostrander were.

I answered, "as few as possible," meaning I didn't get needlessly worried about people, did no aggressive law enforcement or aggressive interpretation or even aggressive snow shoveling. 50% maintenance; 45% interpretation; 4.9% assistance; 1% law enforcement, all minimized to get in the way of the day as little as possible. What we do here is grow by waiting and watching what's here, including ourselves—patience and self-observation.

Actual calls for help in the wilderness are rare and produce about the only adrenaline beyond the ski thrills that we get on the slopes. Winter puts most hut users on their guard, and rightly so. That does not mean we hutkeepers do not worry, but risk is also a part of any definition of wilderness. We try to balance over protective handholding against both the potential danger to visitors with passing time and the diminishing effectiveness of searches as snow covers tracks. Judging by the

number of heartfelt "thank yous," we appear as saviors often enough to confirm our sense of timing. It has become a private joke that just gearing up and opening the front door is enough to materialize the headlamp of a missing party up the track.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD

These are the winter residents you're most likely to hear or see around Ostrander. In various winters, a mallard, kingfisher, and water ouzel stayed until the last open water iced over. Animal tracks, like birdsong, far outweigh sightings. Snow is both a help and a hindrance. Tracks remain for investigation, but the snow distorts size and stride, making positive identification often impossible. Three tracks far outnumber all others in the Ostrander area: the pine

marten, the Douglas squirrel or chickaree, and field mice.

The fringes of winter fill out the record of mammals. Actual sightings of black bear have occurred only in December and April, but tracks are seen every month, most often in the lower and warmer drainages like Illilouette and Chilnualna. Bears here don't hibernate, in the sense of shutting down bodily processes for the winter, but estivate, waking up when it's warm, wandering a bit, then returning to the den. Tracks will probably be males, as females give birth in January and are nursing their cubs alone in the den.

Coyotes in Yosemite have learned to use humans; they bed in parking lots and roadsides as well as extend their winter range by traveling in our ski tracks. The energy economy of the coyote mystifies me. I have watched them leap high and crash down, bloodying their paws trying to penetrate ice. I have seen tracks at 11,000 feet in January, yet rarely see carrion on the snow surface. If the coat of the arctic fox keeps him warm at rest at -40 degrees, perhaps the coyote's caloric needs are deceptive. In any event, I'm glad they're around; there is nothing like a pair of coyotes howling across the lake to put a wild chill in the air.

DO YOU EVER GET BORED?

If one considers nature a source of value and, like Wordsworth, the imagination as a means of grace, the winter landscape surrounds you with opportunities. With each passing year, what some see as "the same old thing" both changes subtly in itself and becomes a friendly mirror for our own changes in perception. With time, appreciation grows, discriminations become finer, discoveries seem more

ecstatic, and are welcomed as signs of growth rather than seen negatively as something previously missed. No one would spend much time here who saw the glass half empty rather than half full, who lived a life of regrets, who wanted to "make something of themselves" in conventional terms, or who thought they had seen it all in a week or a season.

The above pretty much answers the often heard question: "Don't you ever get bored here?" It must appear that a life so simple can't possibly be very satisfying, but I can't recall 20 minutes of boredom in 20 years at the hut. Every tour yields something of interest, something new, if only in a small way. It may only be short-term memory loss, but no two days, no two snow textures, no two runs, are the same.

In December, Howard Weamer will begin his 27th winter as hutkeeper at Ostrander. He spends the spring and fall months working on his fine art photography. In summer he leads Yosemite Association seminars and guides photography backpacks for both Yosemite Guides and Southern Yosemite Mountain Guides.



Photo by Art Baggett

TO LEARN MORE...

- Howard Weamer's book, *The Perfect Art: The Ostrander Hut and Ski Touring in Yosemite* can be purchased in the park at the Valley Visitor Center.
- For more information about Ostrander Ski Hut see page 2.
- Join a snowshoe walk at Badger Pass. See page 9 for details.



Ostrander Lake at sunset.

Photo by Howard Weamer

Park Rules

There are federal laws and regulations that protect Yosemite, its wildlife, historic and prehistoric sites and structures, natural beauty, and park visitors. Protect your park by following these rules:

Store your food properly, keeping it away from bears and other Yosemite animals (see page 3 for details).



Camping or sleeping in vehicles is permitted only in designated campsites and is prohibited along roadsides, in turnouts, or in parking lots.



Bicycles (including mountain bikes), in-line skates, scooters, and strollers must remain on paved roads and designated paved bike paths. They are not allowed on hiking trails or anywhere off-pavement (see bike rules on page 7).



Motor vehicles must stay on established roads open to public travel, and are not permitted off-road.



Pets frighten wildlife and disturb hikers. They must be leashed at all times and are not permitted on any park trails, with the exception of paved trails on the floor of Yosemite Valley.



Firearms and hunting are prohibited in Yosemite National Park. Report possible hunting violations to the park's tip line, 209/372-0214, or to the Department of Fish and Game's tip line, 888/DFG-CALTIP, 24 hours a day.



Do not remove any objects from the park, including pine cones, rocks, leaves, obsidian, historic items, etc. If you find an object that may be prehistoric or historic, do not move it. Note its location and inform a ranger. If you must collect something, please pick up litter!



The use of metal detectors in the park is illegal. Please report possible violations to a park ranger.



All public buildings are designated as non-smoking.



Snowmobiling is not allowed in Yosemite National Park.



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to Yosemite!

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. Yosemite is but one of 380 national park areas in our care. It is one of the oldest of the "special places" saved by the American people. Yosemite along with Sequoia, the Grand Canyon, and the other Western parks are part of our nation's heritage as part of the National Park System. But, did you know that System also includes

places like the Statue of Liberty, the Washington Monument, Golden Gate National Parks and even Manzanar National Historic Site near Independence, California? All are part of the American experience. The story of Yosemite inspired great deeds by great people in the 19th century that have resulted in many of our contemporary ideas of conservation, national parks, and care for the environment. Take time to learn that story while you're here!

Although the National Park Service cares for Yosemite so that you can experience its magnificent beauty, we can't do our job without your help. One of the easiest ways you can help is by simply disposing of trash properly. Every dollar we spend to pick up litter is a dollar we can't spend on research, caring for park wildlife, or preserving the history of Yosemite National Park. Another key problem in our efforts to keep the *wild* in Yosemite's wildlife is improperly stored food. Park wildlife biologists and rangers strive to keep food away from bears to protect both visitors and bears alike. You'll see park and concession staff working hard to keep Yosemite clean. So please heed their warnings to rid your vehicle of garbage and properly store your food. And if you see litter, won't you pick it up too?

These are but a few of the ways you can make your trip to Yosemite an experience of a lifetime and help us care for this place so generations to come may do the same. Thanks for your help! Experience your America!

Sincerely

David A. Mihalic

YOSEMITE FIELD SEMINAR PACKAGES

Enjoy Yosemite's quieter seasons by taking a winter or spring seminar. The Yosemite Association offers excellent field courses for both adults and families. Sign up now for one of the following field courses scheduled from February through April. All courses include discounted lodging.

February 6 – 8	<i>Snowshoe Yosemite</i>
February 13 – 14	<i>Yosemite Valley Winter Hikes</i>
February 20 – 23	<i>Winter Photography</i>
February 20 – 21	<i>Snowshoe Yosemite</i>
March 7 – 8	<i>Yosemite Valley Winter Ecology</i>
March 20 – 23	<i>Observing Wildlife</i>
April 18 – 20	<i>A Walk in the Wild (writing & reading)</i>
April 25 – 26	<i>Early Spring Birds & Flowers</i>

Call or write for the free catalog of seminars: YOSEMITE FIELD SEMINARS, PO Box 230, El Portal, California 95318. Full program description can be seen on our Web site: www.yosemite.org
Phone: 209/379-2321
FAX: 209/379-2486
E-mail: YOSE_Yosemite_Association@NPS.gov

YOSEMITE LITERARY WINTER CONFERENCE

Enjoy Yosemite in the winter season while meeting western authors, scientists, and artists at Yosemite Association's First Annual Yosemite Literary Winter Conference from February 25 to March 1, 2001, at the Ahwahnee Hotel. Gary Snyder, Terry Tempest Williams, Robert Hass, Gretel Ehrlich, and Pam Houston are among the many speakers. This four-day event will include presentations by authors, winter outdoor activities, and park ranger-led programs. To request more information, call 209/379-2646.

ENJOY THE JOURNEY WITH YARTS!

If you prefer to enjoy the Yosemite area's magnificent scenery rather than watch the road, YARTS transit service to and from the park could be the option for you. The Yosemite Area Regional Transit System (YARTS) provides round-trip transit service from communities within Mariposa, Merced, and Mono Counties to Yosemite National Park.

Year-round:

- From Merced east along Highway 140 to Yosemite Valley (*winter schedule offers limited service*)

Summer only:

- From Coulterville along Highway 132 to Highway 120 West into the park via the Big Oak Flat Entrance (*begins May 18, 2001*)
- From Mammoth Lakes and Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley on Highway 395 and 120 East. (*begins June, 2001*)
- From Wawona (*begins May 18, 2001*)

Fares for riding YARTS vary, but generally range between \$7 and \$15 round trip for an adult, including entrance to the park. YARTS also offers discounts for children and seniors.

For winter and spring schedule information, check the YARTS web site at www.yosemite.com/yarts or call toll free 877/98-YARTS (877/989-2787). For information on the Highway 120 East service (Mammoth Lakes to Yosemite Valley) please call 800/626-6684.

ON THE WEB

- The official Yosemite NPS home page (www.nps.gov/yose/) contains the latest park information.
- The Yosemite Association's Yosemite Online (yosemite.org) features visitor information, a bookstore, a listing of outdoor classes, membership news, the daily weather forecast, a live-camera view of Half Dome and Yosemite Valley, and even a 3-D QuickTime video of Yosemite Valley.
- The Yosemite Fund home page (www.yosemitefund.org) frequently has project updates with photographs online. The site currently features photos of the restoration work at Glacier Point. Other features include "Wild Card," "Waterfalls," and "Tips For Travelers," along with current donation information.
- The Yosemite Concession Services site (www.yosemitepark.com) features 200 pages of information on lodging, shopping, dining, and park activities with links to other Yosemite-related web sites. It also includes a live-camera view of Half Dome, online gift shop, and off-season lodging reservations.
- The Ansel Adams Gallery site (www.adamsgallery.com) features fine art photography, gifts, calendar of events, and photos of Yosemite and Mono Lake.
- The Yosemite Institute's Web page (www.yni.org/yi) describes its residential, in-park, field science program for elementary, middle, and high school students, and post-trip challenge units.
- Yosemite.com (www.yosemite.com), provides the latest information on an 11,000-square-mile area containing and surrounding Yosemite. Includes lodging information, travel advisories, and road and weather conditions.
- Camping reservations can be made online from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time (reservations.nps.gov)

OSTRANDER LAKE SKI HUT INFORMATION

The Ostrander Lake Ski Hut is operated for the National Park Service by the Yosemite Association. The trip to the hut is approximately nine miles, and all routes to the hut require considerable stamina and cross-country skiing experience. The trip is not for novices. Reservations are required. The charge is \$20.00 per person/per night. Skiers must provide their own food, water filter, sleeping bag and personal gear. The hut is open from December 22, 2000 to April 18, 2001 (depending on snow conditions).

For further information please call 209/379-2317 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For reservation information please write: Ostrander Reservations, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389 or call 209/372-0740 after December 4.



WINTER WATCH



THE CHANGING SEASONS

When planning a trip to Yosemite, keep in mind the changing seasons. The timing of your visit will determine the amount of clothing to bring, the availability of different campgrounds and parking lots, and the need for tire chains. Call road and weather information (209/372-0200) before you leave home. Here are some general guidelines:

ROADS

The Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) and Glacier Point Road beyond Badger Pass Ski Area are closed each year from late fall through spring. These roads generally close for the season with the first major snowstorm after November 1 and re-open by Memorial Day weekend, conditions permitting. The road to the Mariposa Grove is also closed in winter.

WILL I NEED TIRE CHAINS?

It is recommended that you carry tire chains in your vehicle (including rental cars) between November and April, as a sudden storm could make them mandatory at any time. Due to changing weather conditions, under park regulations, any vehicle entering a chain control area must carry chains, even if their use is not mandatory at the time. Chains should be obtained in advance; several towns on highways leading into Yosemite rent them. Vehicles over 6,000 lbs. are required to use link-type chains; on sets of dual tires, only one tire needs



Photo by Howard Weamer

chains. Once in the park, tire chains are available at retail outlets for purchase, but not for rent.

TEMPERATURE

Weather in Yosemite can change rapidly during all seasons of the year. Since areas in the park range from 2,000 to 13,000 feet in elevation, the lower foothills can be experiencing spring while the higher elevations remain in the grip of winter.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Yosemite National Park's 2000 Christmas Bird Count, part of the National Audubon Society's annual holiday census of North American birds, is scheduled for Sunday, December 17. Both experienced and novice birdwatchers are welcome to participate in this exciting activity. For more information, call Steve Thompson on weekdays at 209/379-3261, or write to P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389.

SNOW PLAY SAFETY

Each year sleds, toboggans, innertubes, saucers, and other sliding devices cause more injuries, on the average, than any other winter activity. To reduce your chances of being injured, consider the following guidelines:

- Choose a snow play area that has a long, gentle runout.
- Slow down! The faster the speed, the less control.
- Slide one-at-a-time. Several people on one sliding device have a greater chance of being injured. Small children riding at the front or in the laps of others can suffer injuries during sudden stops or spills.
- Sledding is not allowed in the Badger Pass area.

BEARS IN WINTER

Many people falsely believe that once winter descends on Yosemite, all of the bears are safely tucked away in hibernation. Black bears can be active throughout the winter and spring months, which means proper food storage is required in Yosemite year-round.

As of September 2000, there were 490 incidents this year involving bears, resulting in over \$108,000 in damage. Four bears had to be killed when their behavior became too aggressive and destructive. The only way to stop the devastating cycle of bear habituation is to make sure that all food items are stored away from bears.

- Even during winter months, if your car will be parked in Yosemite after dark, it must not contain any food or related items (i.e., food containers, utensils, etc.).

- **Federal regulations require that you store all food and related food supplies in metal storage boxes; clips must be used to secure bear boxes.** Each box measures 45" w x 18" h x 34" d. Be sure to remove all potential bear attractants, as bears can clearly smell any food or trash in your car, even when it's hidden from view or stored in the trunk!
- Bears recognize ice chests and cans, so store them the same as food. Also, store grocery bags, garbage, and scented articles such as soap, sunscreen, hairspray, and toothpaste.
- Food and related items in campgrounds must be stored in bear boxes 24 hours a day, except when food is being prepared and eaten. Bears enter campsites during the day, even when people are present. Keep bear boxes latched and secured with the clips at all times. Dispose of trash frequently.
- Visitors staying in tent cabins must remove all food and food-related items from vehicles and tent cabins. Storage lockers are available for guest use throughout Curry Village (contact the front desk for locker locations).
- Visitors staying in hard-sided cabins or lodging units must remove all food and related items from vehicles and store such items indoors. Be sure to close windows when you are away from your cabin.

- For wilderness travel, use bear-resistant portable food canisters, especially when traveling in the lower elevations. (See page 5 for more wilderness information.)

SAFETY: Never approach a bear, regardless of its size. If you encounter a bear, act immediately: throw small sticks or stones toward the bear from a safe distance. Yell, clap your hands, and bang pots together. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. Use caution if you see cubs, as a mother may act aggressively to defend them.

When done immediately, these actions have been successful in scaring bears away. Never try to directly retrieve anything once a bear has it. Report all incidents and sightings to a ranger.

NOTE: These regulations and precautions help decrease the chance of personal injury or property damage. However, bear damage and confrontations are still possible, even when all the guidelines are followed. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in a citation and/or impoundment of property.



Drive Safely

As of September 2000, there were 238 motor vehicle accidents this year in Yosemite National Park. Twelve bears have been hit by vehicles so far. Speeding kills wildlife and people. Slow down and follow these driving tips to avoid accidents:

California law requires that all vehicle occupants wear seat belts, and children under four years of age (or under 40 lbs.) be restrained in an approved child safety seat.



Do not stop in the roadway! Find a safe turnout if you wish to take a photo, consult a map, or enjoy park scenery or wildlife.



In winter and early spring, road conditions may change suddenly. Wet asphalt may be slippery or icy, especially in shady spots or on bridges. Keep speed down and allow extra distance from the vehicle in front of you.



Water from melted roadside snow often freezes on road surfaces, creating treacherous "black ice." This can occur even when the weather appears dry and fair.



Anticipate snowplows as they may be working just around the next curve. Wait for a signal from the plow driver before passing.



Don't drink and drive. It's a fatal combination.

KEEP YOSEMITE'S WATER CLEAN

Yosemite's utility systems serve hundreds of employees and nearly 4 million visitors annually. On a busy summer day, 700,000 gallons of wastewater flows through the pipeline from Yosemite Valley to a wastewater treatment facility 17 miles away. To help prevent damage or clogging to the system and pumps, flush only appropriate items down drains or toilets and never flush chemicals that could contaminate surface or groundwater. A list of the items never to flush down drains is posted on bulletin boards and in public restrooms throughout the Park.

CAMPING

CAMPING RESERVATIONS

Reservations are required year-round for Yosemite Valley's auto campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served.

Camping reservations will be available in blocks of one month at a time, up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month through the National Park Reservation System (NPRS).

Thus, for:

CAMPING ARRIVAL DATE	FIRST DAY TO MAKE RESERVATION
All dates thru 4/14/01	11/15/00
4/15/01 thru 5/14/01	12/15/00
5/15/01 thru 6/14/01	1/15/01
6/15/01 thru 7/14/01	2/15/01
7/15/01 thru 8/14/01	3/15/01
8/15/01 thru 9/14/01	4/15/01 etc.

From May through September, campsites are in heavy demand and prospective campers are encouraged to call NPRS as early as possible in the period.

Written requests should be made to NPRS so they are received no sooner than two weeks before the 15th of the month that the desired camping arrival date goes on sale. Written requests will not be processed until the 15th of the month (at the same time telephone requests are being taken). Include desired location, type of equipment you will be camping in (i.e., tent, RV, etc.), as well as method of payment. Online reservations can be accessed through reservations.nps.gov from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time.

YOSEMITE VALLEY

Check-in/check-out time for Yosemite Valley campgrounds is 10:00 a.m. Campsites are assigned by NPRS at the time the reservation is made. Campers may request a specific campsite number if it is available at the time the reservation is made. All campsite assignments are final—you may not switch or change camp-

sites after you arrive in the park. Maximum length for recreational vehicles in Valley campgrounds is 40 feet.

Camp 4 (Sunnyside) Campground is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis; these campsites are not wheelchair accessible. Sites are rented on a per-person basis, and six people will be placed in each campsite, regardless of the number of people in your party. Camp 4 (Sunnyside) often fills before 9:00 a.m. each day May through September.

There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in any calendar year; however, May 1-September 15, camping limit in Yosemite Valley is 7 days inclusive.

OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY

Check-in/check-out time for campgrounds outside the Valley is noon. Maximum length for recreational vehicles is 35 feet.

There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in any calendar year; however, from May 1 to September 15, the camping limit outside the Valley is limited to a total of 14 days, except for Wawona, which is limited to seven days. Wawona and Hodgdon Meadow are open all year. Other campgrounds outside the Valley are open only during the summer months. See grid below for details.

CAMPING IN AREAS SURROUNDING YOSEMITE

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite in the Inyo, Sierra, and Stanislaus National Forests. Many of these campgrounds are operated on a first-come, first-served basis; however, some may be reserved. Unlike Yosemite, the national forests allow dispersed camping in some areas (outside of designated campgrounds). Campfire permits are required. For additional information, contact the local USFS district offices: Highway 120 West, Groveland Ranger Station (Stanislaus NF) 209/962-7825; Highway 140, Mariposa

Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 209/966-3638; Highway 120 East, Mono Lake Ranger Station (Inyo NF) 760/647-3044; Highway 41, Oakhurst Ranger Station (Sierra NF) 559/683-4636. For private campgrounds and lodging outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 6.

GROUP CAMPGROUNDS

There are group campsites at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds. Reservations can be made through NPRS; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets are not permitted in group sites. Check-in/check-out time is noon.

SERVICES

There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows. Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley; see page 11 for locations and hours of service. Bear-proof food storage lockers are available in all Yosemite campgrounds (they measure 45" w x 18" h x 34" d). See *Bears In Winter* on page 3 for food storage guidelines.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Camping/sleeping in vehicles is permitted only in designated campsites.
- Maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles per campsite.
- Pets are permitted only in specific campgrounds (check grid below). Pets must be on a leash at all times, are not allowed on any hiking trails, and may not be left unattended.
- Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Generators may be used sparingly between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Camp wastewater and sewage must be disposed of in designated utility drains.
- Electrical extension cords may not be connected to campground restroom outlets.

CAMPFIRE RULES

- In order to improve air quality in Yosemite Valley May 1 through October 15, campfires are permitted only between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- Firewood collection is prohibited in Yosemite Valley. This includes "dead and down" wood.
- Outside the Valley, wood may not be gathered at elevations above 9,600 feet or in sequoia groves.
- Cutting standing trees or attached limbs, alive or dead, is prohibited, as is the use of chainsaws.
- Please start campfires with newspaper. Do not burn pine needles or cones, as they create unnecessary smoke.
- Campfires are permitted only in established fire rings.

Reservations may be made from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time.

TOLL-FREE RESERVATIONS:
800/436-7275

ONLINE RESERVATIONS:
reservations.nps.gov
You may reserve only one campsite at a time.

INTERNATIONAL CALLERS:
301/722-1257

TDD (TOLL-FREE):
888/530-9796

MAIL-IN RESERVATIONS:
NPRS
P.O. Box 1600
Cumberland, MD 21502

Up to two campsites may be reserved at a time by mail or phone with Mastercard, Visa, Discover, personal check, or money order.

CAMPGROUND	ELEVATION	MILES FROM YOSEMITE VALLEY	# OF SITES/SPACES	DAILY FEE *	RV SPACE	TENT SPACE	TAP WATER	STREAM WATER (BOWL)	FLUSH TOILETS	PIT TOILETS	PICNIC TABLES	FIRE PITS OR GRILL	PETS ALLOWED	DUMP STATION	PARKING	SHOWERS NEARBY	LAUNDRY NEARBY	GROCERIES NEARBY	SWIMMING	FISHING	HORSEBACK RIDING	NOTES**	
																							IN YOSEMITE VALLEY
NORTH PINES	4,000' 1,220 m	0	81	\$15/s	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open April-September Reservations required
UPPER PINES	4,000' 1,220 m	0	238	\$15/s	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open All Year Reservations required
LOWER PINES	4,000' 1,220 m	0	60	\$15/s	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open March-October Reservations required
CAMP 4 WALK-IN (Sunnyside)	4,000' 1,220 m	0	35	\$3/p	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open All Year/Walk-In First-come, first-served Limited parking
OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY																							
WAWONA Wawona Road (Highway 41) near Wawona	4,000' 1,220 m	27	93	\$15/s	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open All Year Reservations required May-Sept. (\$15); First-come, first-served Oct.-April (\$10)
BRIDALVEIL CREEK Glacier Point Road	7,200' 2,194 m	25	110	\$10/s	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open July-early Sept. First-come, first-served
HODGDON MEADOW Big Oak Flat Road (Hwy. 120 west near Big Oak Flat Entrance)	4,872' 1,484 m	25	105	\$15/s	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open All Year Reservations required May-Sept. (\$15); First-come, first-served Oct.-April (\$10)
CRANE FLAT Big Oak Flat Rd. near the Tioga Road turnoff	6,191' 1,886 m	17	166	\$15/s	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open June-September Reservations required
TAMARACK FLAT Tioga Road (Highway 120 east)	6,315' 1,924 m	23	52	\$6/s	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open June-early Sept. Three-mile access road not suitable for large RVs or trailers. First-come, first-served
WHITE WOLF Tioga Road (Highway 120 east)	8,000' 2,437 m	31	74	\$10/s	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open July-early Sept. First-come, first-served. Not suitable for RVs over 27'
YOSEMITE CREEK Tioga Road (Highway 120 east)	7,659' 2,333 m	35	75	\$6/s	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open July-early Sept. Five-mile access road not suitable for RVs over 24' or trailers. First-come, first-served
PORCUPINE FLAT Tioga Road (Highway 120 east)	8,100' 2,468 m	38	52	\$6/s	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open July-early Sept. RV access front section only. First-come, first-served
TUOLUMNE MEADOWS Tioga Road (Highway 120 east)	8,600' 2,620 m	55	304	\$15/s	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Open July through Sept. ½ advanced reservations, ½ same-day reservations. 25 walk-in spaces available for backpackers/campers without vehicles

* /s = per site
/p = per person

**Dates approximate

HIKING & BACKPACKING

ENJOY YOSEMITE'S WINTER WILDERNESS...SAFELY!

Yosemite is a popular destination for winter skiing and snowshoeing. Most winter wilderness users prefer to enjoy the marked ski and snowshoe trails at Yosemite's three winter use areas. (Maps and descriptions of winter trails at Badger Pass, Crane Flat, and the Mariposa Grove are available at visitor centers.) Visitors to the wilderness should be familiar with the use of snowshoes or skis in order to navigate deep snow conditions. Those who choose to explore Yosemite's more remote wilderness areas should be competent in winter wilderness travel, route finding, winter camping, avalanche safety, and survival skills.

PLANNING AND SAFETY

- Register for a wilderness permit and pick up regulations and proper food storage information at the Ranger A-Frame at Badger Pass for all trips originating there; register for other trips at the Wawona or Big Oak Flat Information Stations or the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.
- Choose a reasonable route. Cold and altitude can sap energy. Allow plenty of time for rest, campsite selection, and proper food storage. Use topographic maps and guidebooks to plan your trip.
- Check weather conditions and forecasts before your trip. Plan for sudden, extreme changes in weather.
- Leave an accurate itinerary with friends or family before beginning a trip. Carry a signal mirror and whistle.
- Don't go out alone unless you are very experienced.

- Stay oriented to where you are and how to get back. Carry a map and compass—know how to use them.
- Carry plenty of food and water. You will need to eat and drink more in cold weather.
- Be prepared for an emergency bivouac even when out just for the day. Be familiar with your gear and carry minimum repair materials.
- Prevent hypothermia by avoiding the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Know symptoms and treatment methods. Carry emergency fire starting materials.

Trail maps, hiking guides, and other literature may be obtained at visitor centers or ordered from the Yosemite Bookstore, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, 209/379-2648 or fax 209/379-2486.

PROTECT YOSEMITE'S WILDERNESS

- Pack out all trash.
- Use a portable stove rather than wood fires.
- Stay 100 feet away from any water source when camping, washing, and disposing of human waste.
- Store food properly using a bear-resistant canister; bears can be active even in winter and early spring.
- Camp at least four miles from the trailhead in populated areas and one mile from the trailhead in unpopulated areas.



Photo by Howard Weamer

VALLEY DAY HIKES

Hiking is generally not recommended above the Valley floor due to winter hazards; however, experienced winter hikers may wish to venture upwards. Consult the grid below for day hikes originating in Yosemite Valley. These trails are open in the winter (weather permitting) unless otherwise noted.

BE SAFE

- Trails may be icy or slick. Wear solid footwear and do not exceed your limitations.
- Be aware of the possibility of falling ice and/or snow when hiking below cliff walls.
- Follow the same precautions listed for wilderness travelers under "Planning and Safety" to the left. Wilderness permits are not required for day hikes.

WINTER TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Do not hike or snowshoe in cross-country ski tracks. People on snowshoes should walk alongside, but not in, the ski trail.
- Yosemite's wilderness is a wildlife preserve—pets and weapons are prohibited. Bicycles, strollers, and motor vehicles are not allowed on unpaved park trails or in wilderness areas.

For wilderness information, call 209/372-0200 or go to www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness

Watch Your Step!

In 1999, rangers in Yosemite worked on 164 search and rescue operations. Seven people died in the park due to accidents.

Tripping and falling are common accidents on park walkways and trails, especially in slippery conditions.

At night, artificial lighting is kept to a minimum; always carry a flashlight.

Rock climbing and scrambling are the leading causes of injury and death for unprepared and inexperienced hikers. Routes are often more difficult than they appear, and even a short fall can cause serious injury or death. Before you scramble or climb on Yosemite's rocks or walls, provide yourself with proper equipment and training.

Swift currents and wet, slippery rocks can cause you to fall and be swept over a waterfall. Never swim or wade in streams above waterfalls or in swiftly moving water.

Any unbridged stream crossing may be hazardous. If a bridge is not nearby and you must cross, do so at a wide, shallow spot that is not above rapids or waterfalls.

Supervise children closely when around all bodies of water.

WILDERNESS PERMIT RESERVATIONS

Wilderness users who plan to enjoy Yosemite's beautiful high country during the peak season (May through September) are encouraged to make permit reservations.

Call 209/372-0200 for the latest information. Currently, reservations are available from 24 weeks to 2 days in advance of the trip start date, and can be made by writing to Wilderness Permits, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389, or by calling 209/372-0740.

Include the following in your request: name, address, daytime phone, number of people in the party, method of travel (i.e., ski, snowshoe, foot, horse), number of stock (if applicable), start and end dates, entry and exit trailheads, and principal destination. Include alternate dates and/or trailheads.

A \$5 per person non-refundable processing fee is charged for all reservation requests. Payment by check or money order should be made to the Yosemite Association. Credit card payments are accepted with valid card number and expiration date.

Reservation phone lines are often busy. We encourage you to make your request in writing. Mailed requests are processed simultaneously with phone requests.

YOSEMITE VALLEY DAY HIKES

DESTINATION / TRAIL	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY/ ELEVATION GAIN	APPROXIMATE HIKING TIME	NOTES
BRIDALVEIL FALL	Bridalveil Fall Parking Area	1/2 mile round trip (0.8 km)	Easy	20 minutes round trip	♿ with assistance
MIRROR LAKE	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #16	1 mile to lake (1.6 km)	Easy	1/2 hour to lake	♿ Vehicle access available with placard
LOWER YOSEMITE FALL	Yosemite Falls Shuttle Stop #4	1/2 mile round trip (0.8 km)	Easy	20 minutes round trip	♿ with assistance
UPPER YOSEMITE FALL TRAIL COLUMBIA ROCK	Camp 4 Shuttle Stop #5	2 miles round trip (3.2 km)	Strenuous 1,000' (300 m) elevation gain	2 to 3 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter
TOP OF YOSEMITE FALL	Same as above	7.2 miles round trip (11.6 km)	Very Strenuous 2,700' (810 m) elevation gain	6 to 8 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center in winter
MIST TRAIL OR JOHN MUIR TRAIL					
VERNAL FALL FOOTBRIDGE	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #15	1.4 miles round trip (2.0 km)	Moderate 400' (120 m) elevation gain	1 to 2 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available
TOP OF VERNAL FALL	Same as above	3 miles round trip (4.8 km)	Strenuous 1,000' (300 m) elevation gain	2 to 4 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available
TOP OF NEVADA FALL	Same as above	7 miles round trip (11.3 km)	Strenuous 1,900' (570 m) elevation gain	6 to 8 hours round trip	Check conditions at Visitor Center Winter route available
TOP OF HALF DOME	Same as above	17 miles round trip (27.4 km)	Extremely Strenuous 4,800' (1,463 m) elevation gain	10 to 12 hours round trip	Cables up from June to mid-October; otherwise cable route is closed
GLACIER POINT FOUR MILE TRAIL	Southside Drive	4.8 miles one way (7.6 km)	Very strenuous 3,200' (960 m) elevation gain	3 to 4 hours one way	Check conditions at Visitor Center Closed in winter
VALLEY FLOOR LOOP	Yosemite Falls Shuttle Stop #4	13 miles full loop (20.8 km) 6.5 miles half loop (10.4 km)	Moderate	5 to 7 hours full loop 2.5 to 3.5 hours half loop	Get full description from Visitor Center

What is the best way to visit Yosemite?

Your experience in Yosemite depends on the time you have available and your interests. Many fine maps and books are sold in visitor centers and park stores to help plan your visit. Publications such as *Yosemite's Official Park Handbook*, published by the National Park Service, or *The Yosemite Road Guide* are available at visitor centers, gift shops, or by mail from the Yosemite Association Bookstore, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, 209/379-2648, fax 209/379-2486, web site, www.yosemite.org.

Remember that road and trail conditions and available services may change with the weather. **For current conditions and general information, call 209/372-0200.**

ENTRANCE FEES

THE PARK IS OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, YEAR-ROUND.
(fees subject to change)

TYPE	PRICE	NOTES
Vehicle	\$20	Valid for seven days.
Individual	\$10	In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for seven days.
Yosemite Pass	\$40	Valid for one year in Yosemite.
Golden Eagle Pass	\$50	Valid for one year in all national parks.
Golden Age Pass (Lifetime)	\$10	For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.
Golden Access Pass (Lifetime)	Free	For blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.



"WHAT HAPPENS TO MY ENTRANCE FEE DOLLARS?"

Thanks to the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, a temporary program approved by Congress in 1995, 80% of your \$20 entrance fee remains in Yosemite to help fund projects that improve the park and your visit. Yosemite anticipates earning \$51 million by 2001 and completing projects by 2004.

PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY INCLUDE:

- Repairing the deteriorated sewer line that services all of Yosemite Valley
- Refurbishing the multi-purpose auditorium at the Visitor Center

SEVERAL FORTHCOMING PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Replacing picnic tables, fire rings, and signs in campgrounds
- Refurbishing roads, trails, and utilities throughout the park
- Improving the shuttle bus service in Yosemite Valley

TRANSPORTATION

To and From Yosemite

THE YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (YARTS) offers park visitors an alternative to driving their car into Yosemite by providing transit service throughout the region. This new voluntary bus service provides scheduled round-trip transit service to Yosemite from the outlying communities. Winter service is limited to the Highway 140 corridor. Summer service begins May 18, 2001, from Coulterville and Wawona. Service from Mammoth Lakes begins in June, 2001. For schedule and service information visit the YARTS website at www.yosemite.com/yarts or call toll free 877-98-YARTS (877/989-2787).

VIA, the Yosemite-Amtrak Connection/Gray Line, offers service from Merced Amtrak Station and Transpo Center to Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Lodge. Deluxe coaches provide several round-trips daily between Merced and Yosemite. Wheelchair-lift equipped with advance notice. Schedules available at Yosemite Lodge tour desk, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, or by calling VIA or visiting their web site. Tickets can be purchased from drivers. 209/384-1315 or in CA 800/369-PARK www.via-adventures.com

Within Yosemite

Free shuttle bus service is provided throughout the eastern portion of Yosemite Valley year-round. In summer, free shuttle buses run from Wawona to the Mariposa Grove, and from Tioga Pass to Tenaya Lake. Hikers' buses run daily to Glacier Point late spring through autumn and between Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley late June through Labor Day. Call 209/372-1240 for hikers' bus fee, schedule, and reservations, or stop by any tour desk.

LODGING

Reservations for all overnight lodging in Yosemite can be made by calling 559/252-4848 or by writing to Central Reservations, Yosemite Concession Services, 5410 East Home, Fresno, CA 93727 or visit www.yosemitepark.com. Lodging in Yosemite Valley includes Curry Village, Housekeeping Camp, Yosemite Lodge, and The Ahwahnee. Lodging outside Yosemite Valley includes the Wawona Hotel, and in summer, White Wolf Lodge and Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. Rates range from \$36 per night for a basic tent cabin with nearby bathroom, to \$246.50 per night for a room at The Ahwahnee (rates are subject to change). Reservations are highly recommended and may be made up to one year and one day in advance.

INFORMATION OUTSIDE THE PARK

West Highway 120
Highway 120 Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 1263
Hotel Charlotte, Suite B
Groveland, CA 95321
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429

1 YOSEMITE VALLEY

Yosemite Valley is world famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 from Manteca, and in late spring through late fall via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. Many activities and services are available in Yosemite Valley. Detailed information is available at the Valley Visitor Center in Yosemite Village. See the shuttle bus map on the back panel, and for scheduled Valley activities, see page 8.

2 MARIPOSA GROVE AND WAWONA

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), 2 miles from the park's South Entrance Station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed in winter. Activities include hiking, ranger-led walks, and tram tours of the Grove (weather permitting) late spring through fall. Trail brochures printed in English, French, Japanese, and Spanish are available at the Grove trailhead. **To reduce traffic congestion and avoid parking delays, ride the free shuttle bus (spring through fall) from Wawona to the Grove.**

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour of the Center year-round. See page 9 for activities and additional information about Wawona and the Mariposa Grove.

3 GLACIER POINT

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Sierra Nevada, is located 30 miles (a 1-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. The view from Glacier Point provides an opportunity to see the Valley from its rim. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41) 14 miles to the Chinquapin junction, then turn left onto the Glacier Point Road. The road ends at Glacier Point. The Glacier Point Road is generally open from late spring through late fall. In winter, the road is plowed only as far as the Badger Pass Ski Area, and then Glacier Point can be reached via skis or snowshoes only.

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 4020
542 Stockton Road
Sonora, CA 95370
800/446-1333 or 209/533-4420
www.thegreatunfenced.com

Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitor Bureau
40637 Highway 41
Oakhurst, CA 93644
559/683-4636
www.sierranet.net/~ysvb

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
P.O. Box 333
5007 Main Street
Coulterville, CA 95311
209/878-3074
www.mariposa.yosemite.net/visitor

Highway 140/49
Mariposa County Visitor Bureau
(also info. for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Buck Meadows)
P.O. Box 967
5158 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
800/208-2434 or 209/966-2456
www.homeofyosemite.com

East Highway 120
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center
P.O. Box 130
Highway 395 and 3rd Street
Lee Vining, CA 93541
760/647-6629
www.leevining.com

Yosemite Store and Visitor Center
5027 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
209/966-3888
www.yosemite.org

California Welcome Center, Merced
710 W. 16th Street
Merced, CA 95340
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791
www.yosemite-gateway.org

VISITOR CENTERS

The four visitor centers in Yosemite National Park are excellent resources for park information, wilderness permits, and park-related publications and handouts.

YOSEMITE VALLEY VISITOR CENTER

Open daily 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (noon to 4:30 p.m. on December 25). See page 8 for more information.

BIG OAK FLAT INFORMATION STATION

Open Friday-Monday through November 27. Closed for winter.

WAWONA INFORMATION STATION

Closed for winter; generally open spring to fall.

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS VISITOR CENTER

Closed for season. Open in summer.



4 CRANE FLAT

Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat Road and the Tioga Road. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East), and walk one mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. In winter, snowshoes or cross-country skis may be needed. For activities and area information, see page 9.

Or take a 4-mile round-trip hike or ski into the Merced Grove of Giant Sequoias, located 3.5 miles north of Crane Flat or 4.5 miles south of the Big Oak Flat entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trailhead is marked by a post labeled B-10 and a road sign.

5 TIOGA ROAD AND TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

The Tioga Road is generally open from late spring through late fall and offers a 39-mile scenic drive through forests and past meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 feet at Crane Flat to 9,900 feet at the Tioga Pass Entrance Station. There are many scenic and recreational opportunities in these areas. Check visitor centers and park bulletin boards for updated information on available services and activities. From late fall through late spring, this area is only accessible by cross-country skis or snowshoes.

6 HETCH HETCHY

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water for the city of San Francisco, is also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many less-used wilderness trails. Towering cliffs and high waterfalls are easily seen from the walkway on top of O'Shaughnessy Dam. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. Vehicles over 25 feet are prohibited on the road due to its narrowness.

Bicycling More than 12 miles of paved bikeways wind through the eastern end of Yosemite Valley. Weather permitting, rental bikes, baby jogging strollers, and bicycle child trailers are available at Yosemite Lodge (all seasons) and Curry Village (summer). Check with rental agent for restrictions on rental bike use.

Bike Rules
For your safety and to protect Yosemite National Park, please follow these rules:

- California law mandates bicyclists under 18 years of age wear helmets.
- Bikes are allowed only on paved bikeways and park roads (unless the road is closed to bicycle use).
- Bikes are not allowed off roads or on pedestrian and hiking trails.
- Bicyclists must obey all posted traffic signs and travel with the flow of traffic when on roadways used by automobiles.

Horseback Riding Weather and trail conditions permitting, 2-hour and half-day rides depart from stables in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Wawona spring through fall. Closed in winter. Call 209/372-8348 for information.

Hiking & Backpacking Yosemite offers over 800 miles of hiking trails park-wide. For updated trail information, visit the Wilderness Center in Yosemite Valley (spring through fall); in winter, check at the Valley Visitor Center, or call 209/372-0200. Wilderness permits are required for overnight wilderness users. For wilderness permit information and reservations, call 209/372-0740 or go to www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness. For some ideas on hiking, as well as information about backpacking, see page 5.

Rock Climbing Classes The Yosemite Mountaineering School and Guide Service offers beginner through advanced classes in Yosemite Valley spring through fall, and in Tuolumne Meadows in summer. Call 209/372-8344 for information.

Get More Info...

- **Recorded General Park Information including: Road & Weather Conditions, Trip Planning Information, etc.** 209/372-0200
- **Western U.S. National Parks** 415/556-0560
- **On the Web** (see page 2)
NPS Home Page www.nps.gov/yose/
Yosemite Concession Services www.yosemitepark.com
Camping Reservations reservations.nps.gov
Yosemite.com www.yosemite.com
Yosemite Association yosemite.org
Yosemite Institute www.yni.org/yi
Yosemite Fund www.yosemitedfund.org
The Ansel Adams Gallery www.adamsgallery.com
VIA/Gray Line www.via-adventures.com

RESERVATIONS

- **Lodging Reservations** 559/252-4848 TDD 559/255-8345
- **Campground Reservations** (callers from U.S. and Canada) 800/436-7275 TDD 888/530-9796
- **Campground Reservations** (International callers only) 301/722-1257

AVERAGE PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURES IN YOSEMITE VALLEY (4,000 FT/1,220 M)*

MONTH	PRECIPITATION (inches/cm)	MAXIMUM (F°/C°)	MINIMUM (F°/C°)
January	6.2/15.7	49/9	26/-3
February	6.1/15.5	55/13	28/-2
March	5.2/13.2	59/15	31/-0.5
April	3.0/7.6	65/18	35/2
May	1.3/3.3	73/23	42/5.5
June	0.7/1.8	82/28	48/9
July	0.4/1.0	90/32	54/12
August	0.3/0.8	90/32	53/11.5
September	0.9/2.3	87/30.5	47/8
October	2.1/5.3	74/23	39/4
November	5.5/14	58/14	31/-0.5
December	5.6/14.2	48/9	26/-3
Annual	37.3/94.7		

*For temperatures at 8,000 feet (2,440 m), subtract 10-20 degrees.



VISITOR ACTIVITIES

PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITS

Naturalist-guided walks and programs as well as self-guided walks are available. Cultural history demonstrations of basket-weaving, beadwork, and traditional games are offered at the Indian Cultural Exhibit in Yosemite Valley. Other exhibits are in the Valley Visitor Center, Yosemite Museum, Nature Center at Happy Isles (summer), LeConte Memorial Lodge (summer), Wilderness Center, and The Ansel Adams Gallery. Check park visitor centers and bulletin boards for additional information, and see activities listed on pages 8-9.

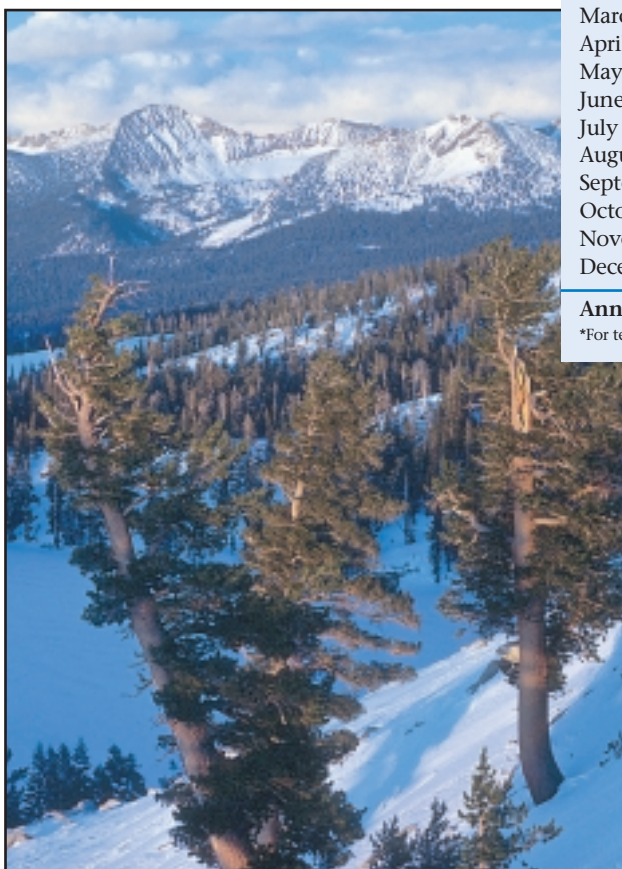
TOURS

For a relaxing and informative experience, take a sightseeing tour on a bus or open-air tram (weather permitting). These tours, narrated by informed guides, operate daily to most points of interest in the park, including Yosemite Valley (year-round), Tuolumne Meadows (summer), Glacier Point, Wawona, and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias (spring through fall). Two-hour moonlight tours show Yosemite in a different light during summer months. In winter, tours are conducted on heated and enclosed motor coaches; stops are made at the best-known scenic locations in Yosemite Valley. There is a fee for all sightseeing tours. For reservations and more information, call 209/372-1240 or stop by any hotel tour desk.

RECREATION

Skiing and Snowshoeing In winter, Yosemite offers downhill skiing at Badger Pass in addition to three main areas for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing: Badger Pass, Crane Flat, and the Mariposa Grove. These areas all have marked winter trails. Badger Pass offers approximately 10 miles (40 km) of groomed track at no charge. Ski trail maps and topographic maps can be purchased at park visitor centers. For cross-country and downhill ski school information and conditions, call 209/372-1000. For Ostrander Ski Hut reservations call 209/372-0740 on or after December 4, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ice Skating The Curry Village Ice Skating Rink (shuttle bus stop #12) is open from mid-November through early March, conditions permitting. Session hours are Monday through Friday, noon to 2:30 p.m., 3:30 to 6:00 p.m., 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.; Weekends and holidays 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., noon to 2:30 p.m., 3:30 to 6:00 p.m., 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Rental skates are available. For more information, call 209/372-8341.

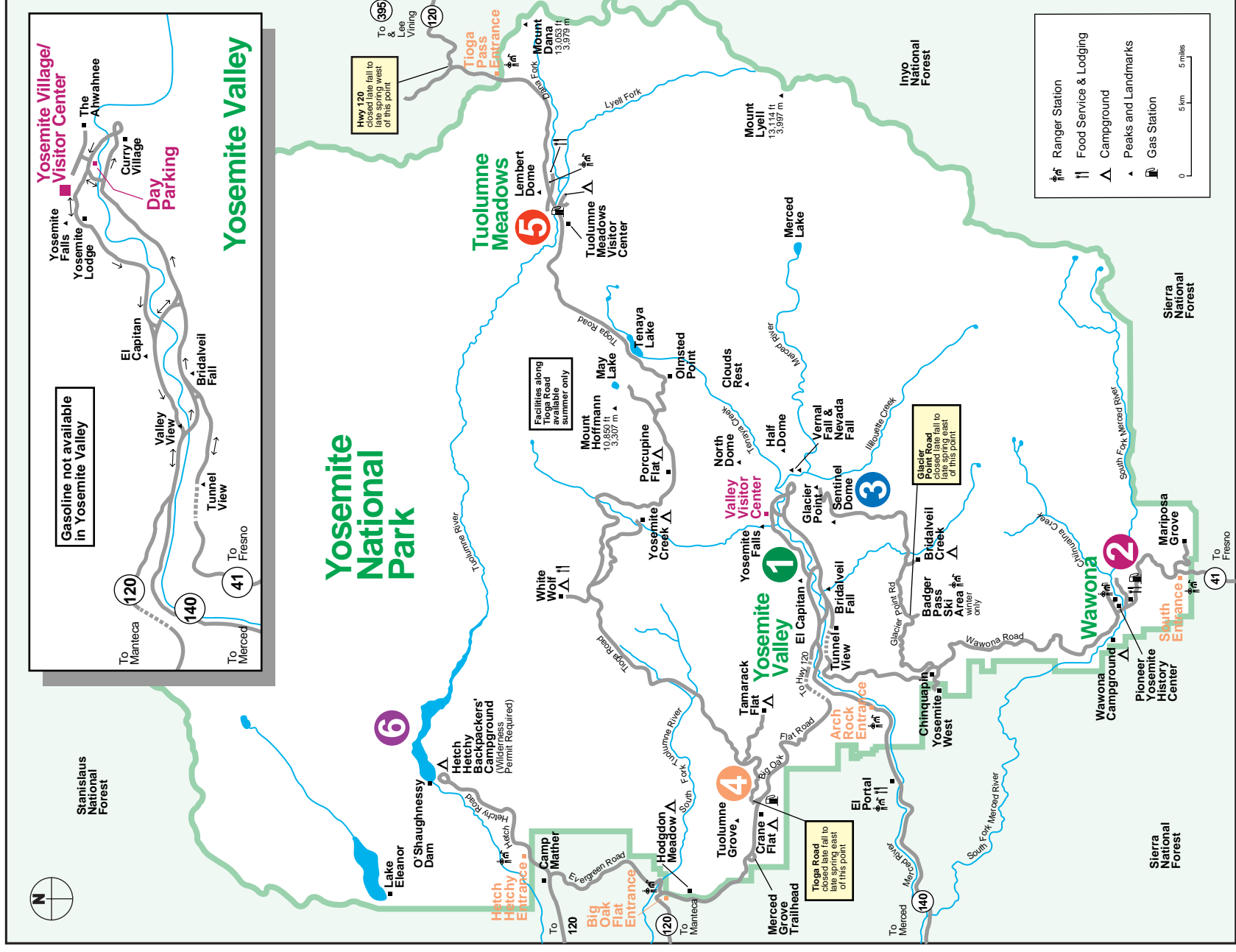


Views of the Clark Range from above Ostrander Lake. Photo by Howard Weamer



PLANNING YOUR VISIT

AREAS TO VISIT IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



ACTIVITIES

YOSEMITE VALLEY

VALLEY VISITOR CENTER

Open daily 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Located in Yosemite Village just west of the main post office (shuttle bus stops #3 and #7). Information, maps, wilderness permits, books, and exhibits. ☺

YOSEMITE MUSEUM

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Visitor Center. ☺

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed for lunch). Displays interpret the cultural history of Yosemite's native Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. Demonstrations of basket-weaving, beadwork, and/or traditional games are presented.

THE MUSEUM STORE

Open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed for lunch 12:00–12:30). Carries books and traditional Indian arts and crafts. Closed January 2, 2001 until spring.

INDIAN VILLAGE OF AHWAHNEE

Located behind the Yosemite Museum and always open. Sometimes there are opportunities to join Indian Cultural Program staff for demonstrations or programs about Ahwahneechee skills and culture. ☺

SELF-GUIDING TRAILS

There are four self-guiding trails in Yosemite Valley: two near the Visitor Center in the Yosemite Village area, one at the east end of the Valley near Mirror Lake, and one at Curry Village.

The Miwok in Yosemite is a short loop trail that meanders through the Indian Village of Ahwahnee, a reconstructed Miwok-Paiute village. A booklet is available at the trailhead and in the Visitor Center. Large-print materials for the visually impaired are available in the Visitor Center. The trail begins behind the Yosemite Museum. ☺

Changing Yosemite is a 1-mile trail that begins in front of the Visitor Center, near shuttle bus stop #3. It winds through a nearby meadow and explores the changes that have led to the Yosemite we experience today. A booklet and large-print materials for the visually impaired are available at the Visitor Center. ☺

Mirror Lake Interpretive Trail is a short loop adjacent to Mirror Lake, a seasonal lake on Tenaya Creek. Exhibits focus on the rich natural history of the area, Native American use, and cultural history of this popular destination. To reach the start of the trail, walk 1 mile from shuttle bus stop #16 to the restrooms near the lake. The self-guiding trail begins here. ☺

Legacy of Curry Village is an easy stroll commemorating the early days of Camp Curry. Pick up a map and guide at the Curry Village front desk or tour desk.

THE ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY

Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Located in Yosemite Village next to the Visitor Center. The Gallery offers work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. In addition, a wide selection of handcrafts, books, gifts, and photography supplies are also offered. For more information, call the Gallery at 209/372-4413 or visit their website at www.adamsgallery.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITS AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

November 25: Book signing by William Neill of his new book by Chronicle, *Traces of Time* between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

December 1 – January 31, 2001 "Traces of Time," new work by William Neill coinciding with release of his new book.

December 9: Artist's reception with William Neill between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

YOSEMITE CEMETERY

This historic cemetery is located across the street and just west of the Yosemite Museum. Galen Clark is buried here, along with other pioneer park visitors, Native Americans, and people who played important roles in the development of what is now Yosemite National Park. A *Guide to the Yosemite Cemetery* is available at the Visitor Center.

WALKS & TALKS

Join a ranger for an easy walk to explore Yosemite's natural and cultural history. Programs are usually offered daily in the afternoons. Topics may include geology, forest ecology, wildlife, waterfalls, human history, and current park management issues. Snowshoe walks are offered on Sundays in the Tuolumne Grove, and daily at Badger Pass.

EVENING PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Evening programs include talks, films, slide presentations, storytelling, and music about Yosemite's human and natural heritage. Offered by either National Park Service (NPS) rangers, staff from Yosemite Concession Services (YCS), or the Ansel Adams Gallery, these programs last one hour and are held indoors during the winter.



JUST FOR KIDS

Kids love the challenge of a scavenger hunt! Stop by the Curry Village front desk or tour desk to take part in a childrens' Curry Centennial Scavenger Hunt. Pick up a handout and, upon completion, return it for a commemorative button.

Kid's Night Out: Kid's 7-12 can spend their parents out for dinner and enjoy dinner and crafts, stories, and games in a fun and educational manner from 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Saturday night at Curry Village or Yosemite Village. Sign up at any tour desk. Cost is \$12.50/child and \$10 for each additional child. Cost includes dinner and supplies. (Begins January 6)



This symbol indicates programs and facilities suitable for visitors in wheelchairs, with assistance.

YOSEMITE WINTER THEATER

Come help Yosemite Theater celebrate its seventeenth season! The National Park Service recognizes Yosemite Theater as the best interpretive program of its type in the National Park System. Tickets may be purchased at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center or Yosemite Lodge Tour Desk in advance, or if seating is still available, at the time of performance. All winter shows are held at the Yosemite Lodge and are accessible to visitors with disabilities. Check with the Valley Visitor Center or the Yosemite Lodge tour desk for specific location.

Please check at the Visitor Center or Yosemite Lodge Tour desk for additional shows not listed in this guide.

JOHN MUIR IN YOSEMITE

Actor Lee Stetson's vibrant portrayal of John Muir has enthralled Yosemite visitors for the past 17 years. Catch his must-see show during a limited holiday engagement. In *The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow*, he'll delight audiences with tales of Muir's daring winter adventures. Each show is 1½ hours. Tickets are \$7/adults, \$6/seniors (62+), and \$3/children (12 and under). December 22, 23, 25, 26, and 29 only. See schedule below for dates and times.

YCS = Yosemite Concession Services
NPS = National Park Service

AAG = Ansel Adams Gallery
\$ = Program offered for a fee

Yosemite Theater programs are in shaded boxes below and are offered for a fee. See prices above.

Programs listed below in color are especially for children and families.

MONDAY

1:00 p.m.
Ranger Talk/Walk—Park Protectors, 1 to 1½ hours
Front of the Visitor Center ☺

2:00 p.m.
Ranger Walk—Yosemite's First People, 1 to 1½ hours
Behind the Visitor Center ☺

6:30 p.m.
Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Dec 11, Jan 8, and April 9 only; no experience necessary), 2 hours, Badger Pass Lodge, sign up necessary at any lodge tour desk (YCS) \$

7:30 p.m.
Fireside Storytelling, 1 hour, The Ahwahnee, Great Lounge fireplace (YCS) ☺

Evening Program, 1 hour
Check for location at Visitor Center or any lodge front desk (YCS/NPS) ☺

Yosemite Theater – *The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Snow and Ice* (December 25 only), 1½ hours, Yosemite Lodge ☺ \$

TUESDAY

8:30 a.m.
Camera Walk (begins March 6), 2 hours
Sign up/Meet at Yosemite Lodge tour desk (YCS)

1:00 p.m.
Ranger Talk/Walk—Nature's Power: Geology and Water (except December 5 and February 6), 1 to 1½ hours, shuttle bus stop #4

6:30 p.m.
Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Dec 12, Jan 9 only; no experience necessary) 2 hours, Badger Pass Lodge, sign up necessary at any lodge tour desk (YCS) \$

7:30 p.m.
Evening Program, 1 hour
Check for location at Visitor Center or any lodge front desk (YCS/NPS) ☺

Yosemite Theater – *The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Snow and Ice* (December 26 only), 1½ hours, Yosemite Lodge ☺ \$

WEDNESDAY

1:00 p.m.
Ranger Talk/Walk—Winter Ecology – How do they survive? (except February 7), 1 to 1½ hours, shuttle bus stop #10

6:30 p.m.
Historic Ahwahnee Tour (except Nov 22), 1 hour
Sign up at The Ahwahnee front desk (YCS)

Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Jan 10, Feb 7 only; no experience necessary) 2 hours, Badger Pass Lodge, sign up necessary at any lodge tour desk (YCS) \$

7:30 p.m.
Evening Program, 1 hour
Check for location at Visitor Center or any lodge front desk (YCS/NPS) ☺

THURSDAY

1:00 p.m.
Ranger Talk/Walk—Yosemite's Legacy, 1 to 1½ hours
In front of the Visitor Center ☺

6:30 p.m.
Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb. 8, March 8 only; no experience necessary) 2 hours, Badger Pass Lodge, sign up necessary at any lodge tour desk (YCS) \$

7:30 p.m.
Evening Program, 1 hour
Check for location at Visitor Center or any lodge front desk (YCS/NPS) ☺

FRIDAY

9:00 a.m.
Color Landscape Photography, Two-hour photography walk and class taught by staff photographers. Limited to 15 participants. Sign up in advance/meet on The Ansel Adams Gallery front porch. Weather permitting

10:00 a.m.
Ranger Talk/Walk—Industries of the Ahwahneechee, 1 to 1½ hours
Behind Visitor Center ☺

1:00 p.m.
Ranger Talk/Walk—Trees in Winter, 1 to 1½ hours, shuttle bus stop #10

6:30 p.m.
Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb. 9, March 9 only; no experience necessary) 2 hours, Badger Pass Lodge, sign up necessary at any lodge tour desk (YCS) \$
Historic Ahwahnee Tour, 1 hour, sign up at The Ahwahnee front desk (YCS)

7:30 p.m.
Family Sing-a-Long with Singer/Songwriter Gail Dreifus (begins January 5) 1 hour, check any lodge front desk for location

Evening Program (ends December 29), 1 hour
Check for location at Visitor Center or any lodge front desk (YCS/NPS)

8:00 p.m.
Yosemite Theater – *The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Snow and Ice* (December 22 and 29 only), 1½ hours, Yosemite Lodge ☺ \$

SATURDAY

9:00 a.m.
Color and Digital Photography, Two-hour photography walk and class taught by staff photographers. Limited to 15 participants. Sign up in advance/meet on The Ansel Adams Gallery front porch. Weather permitting

10:30 a.m.
Fine Print Viewing, Venture into our fine print room with our curator for a closer look at photography represented by The Ansel Adams Gallery. Limited to five participants per viewing. Sign up in advance at the Gallery

11:00 a.m.
Ranger Talk/Walk—Planning for Yosemite's Future, 1½ hours
In front of Visitor Center

1:00 p.m.
Ranger Talk/Walk—Water and Waterfalls, 1 to 1½ hours, shuttle bus stop #4

5:30 p.m.
A Kid's Night Out (begins Jan 6), 2 hours (see activity description above)
Sign up at the Yosemite Lodge (YCS) \$

7:30 p.m.
Evening Program, 1 hour, check at Visitor Center or Yosemite Lodge for location (NPS) ☺

8:00 p.m.
Yosemite Theater – *The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Snow and Ice* (December 23 only), 1½ hours, Yosemite Lodge ☺ \$

SUNDAY

10:00 a.m.
Ranger Walk—Ahwahneechee Stories and Games, 1 to 1½ hours
Behind Visitor Center ☺

11:00 a.m.
Ranger Walk—Sequoias in Winter, 3-4 hours, bring your lunch, walk cancelled in inclement weather or during dangerous road conditions. Tuolumne Grove parking lot (\$3 fee for showshoes)

6:30 p.m.
Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Dec 10 and April 8 only; no experience necessary), 2 hours, Badger Pass Lodge, sign up necessary at any lodge tour desk (YCS) \$

7:30 p.m.
Ansel Adams: Photographer Film, 1 hour, a closer look at Ansel Adams's life in Yosemite and his years as a photographer, check at Visitor Center or any lodge front desk for location (AAG)

FREE ART CLASSES THANKSGIVING WEEK

Chris Van Winkle will teach free, informal outdoor watercolor classes for adults through the Art Activity Center during the week of November 20-26. The Center is located in Yosemite Valley next to the Village Store. Supplies are available for purchase at the Center which will be open 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during this week. Classes begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue until 2:00 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

BADGER PASS



Badger Pass, California's oldest operating ski area, is the center of Yosemite ski and snowboarding activity during the winter. It is located at 7,300 feet in elevation and is a 1-hour drive from Yosemite Valley on the Glacier Point Road. There are 10 runs, ski lifts, a downhill and cross country ski school, ski rentals, and a day lodge; cross-country skiers can utilize groomed and ungroomed trails that originate at Badger Pass; tracks are groomed on the Glacier Point Road all the way to Glacier Point. Call 209/372-1000 for ski conditions.

BADGER PASS BUS

Ride the free bus to Badger Pass Ski Area (bus begins running when ski area opens for the season). Road and weather conditions permitting, the bus leaves daily from Curry Village at 8:05 a.m. and 10:35 a.m., The Ahwahnee at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., and Yosemite Lodge at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Return buses leave Badger Pass at 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Several buses operate on busy days. Allow at least one hour for a one-way trip. Additional information is available at hotel front desks. Call 209/372-0200 for current road and weather information.

SNOWSHOE WALKS

Join a ranger everyday (except for February 6) at 10:30 a.m. to *Explore the Forest in Winter*. Wear warm clothing and boots for this 2-hour, moderately strenuous snowshoe walk. While snowshoes are provided, they are not recommended for children under 10 years of age. A \$3 maintenance fee is charged for use of the snowshoes. Meet in front of the Badger Pass A-frame. NOTE: Ranger walks start for the season when the Badger Pass Ski Area opens. Walks will be canceled if the Badger Pass Road closes, or if weather conditions are too severe.

On clear, moonlit nights, Yosemite Concession Services offers a *Full Moon Snowshoe Walk* (December 10, 11, 12; January 8, 9, 10; February 7, 8, 9; March 8, 9, 10; and April 7, 8, 9 only). Sign-up at the Yosemite Lodge front desk and meet at the Badger Pass Lodge. A fee is charged for use of snowshoes.

WAWONA

PIONEER YOSEMITE HISTORY CENTER

Walk across the covered bridge and visit historic buildings out of Yosemite's past. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center will explain how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and throughout the world. The Center is always open, and explanatory signs and brochures are available. ♪

EVENING PROGRAMS

Discover Wawona's human and natural heritage in a 1-hour presentation offered by Yosemite Concession Services (YCS) interpreters at the Wawona Hotel.

Tom Bopp, pianist/singer at the Wawona Hotel since 1983, performs Tuesday through Saturday nights from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the lobby, often including songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Tom also offers presentations with slides, historic Yosemite music, or Wawona history on some Saturday nights. Winter season schedule subject to change.

SEQUOIA GROVES IN WINTER

MARIPOSA GROVE

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, located at the southernmost end of Yosemite, is the largest stand of giant sequoias in the park (about 500 trees). Allow 1¼ hours driving time from Yosemite Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the parking area; however, many giant sequoias can be seen from there. From the parking area, all trails in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias are uphill. The trailhead is located at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the Grizzly Giant provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations of these signs are available at the trailhead (German, French, Spanish, Japanese). In winter, the access road to the Grove is closed due to snow. Call 209/372-0200 for current road and weather information. Once the access road is closed, add an extra hour walking time from the South Entrance of the park to the Grove.

MARIPOSA GROVE DESTINATIONS

Destination	Distance from Trailhead	Elevation Gain
Grizzly Giant	0.8 mile/1.3 km	400 feet/122 m
Grove Museum	2.1 miles/3.5 km	800 feet/292 m
Fallen Tunnel Tree	2.5 miles/4.0 km	1,000 feet/305 m
Wawona Point	3.0 miles/4.8 km	1,200 feet/438 m

MERCED GROVE

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, accessible only on foot. It's a 2-mile hike or ski into the grove from the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). Located 3.5 miles north of Crane Flat or 4.5 miles south of the Big Oak Flat entrance, the trailhead is marked by a post labeled B-10 and a road sign. Allow about 3 hours for the 4-mile round-trip hike to this small group of sequoias (about 20 trees).

TUOLUMNE GROVE

The Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of the Big Oak Flat Road and the Tioga Road. The former route of the old Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the Tuolumne Grove, a cluster of about 25 sequoias. Now closed to cars, this 2-mile round-trip walk or ski is relatively easy, depending on conditions, and it is moderately strenuous on the uphill return.

Meet a ranger at the Tuolumne Grove parking area for *Sequoias in Winter* on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and enjoy a magnificent walk among giant sequoias in the silence of winter. Wear warm clothing and waterproof boots for this moderate to strenuous walk into the Tuolumne Grove; bring a lunch (three hours and approximately three miles round-trip). While snowshoes are provided when necessary (\$3 maintenance fee is charged), they are not recommended for children under 10 years of age.

JUST FOR KIDS

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

You can become a Yosemite Junior Ranger by purchasing a self-guided booklet for \$3.50. This booklet is sold at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. In order to earn a Junior Ranger patch, the booklet must be completed, a bag of trash collected, and a guided program attended.

LITTLE CUBS WANTED!

Are you between the ages of four and six? Yosemite has a program for YOU! *Little Cubs* is a self-guided booklet that encourages our young visitors and their families to discover Yosemite's wonders and to earn a Little Cubs button. This booklet is sold for \$3.00 in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.



Skiers gather at the entrance of Ostrander Hut.

Photo by Howard Weamer

HELP YOUR PARK



YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

JOIN THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

The Yosemite Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support of Yosemite National Park through a program of visitor services, publications, and membership activities. For over 70 years, the association has provided important financial support to the National Park Service, and has made possible the funding of many projects and purchases otherwise not affordable through normal government appropriations.

The Yosemite Association:

- Provides over \$300,000 annually to the National Park Service for its use in visitor information, educational, and interpretive programs
- Publishes popular and award-winning books on Yosemite and operates bookstores in the park
- Provides member-volunteers to work on meadows, trails, and other much-needed park restoration projects
- Organizes over 60 outdoor classes and field seminars on natural history, Native American lifeways, art, and photography
- Sponsors the Ostrander Ski Hut, Yosemite Theater, Art Activity Center, and other valuable programs

Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to become more closely involved and affiliated with the park is encouraged to become a member of the Yosemite Association. Sign up for a membership through this *Yosemite Guide* and receive as a free gift (*The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park*). This book is informative and useful, lively and humorous, and earned the "Best National Park Guidebook" award from the National Park Service.

As a member, you will:

- Enjoy a 15% discount at Yosemite Association shops on all books, maps, and publications, as well as qualify for a discount on most field seminars
- Have an opportunity to volunteer in Yosemite
- Receive the quarterly journal, *Yosemite*, which features informative articles on both the natural and human history of the park
- Have a chance to attend special members' events in the park
- Have access to a members-only information line
- Have the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting significant projects in Yosemite National Park

PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint/Family \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> International \$40
(for members outside the U.S.) |

Yes, please send *The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park*

Name (please print) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$_____ or charge to

Credit card # _____ Expiration Date _____

E-mail address _____



P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318
209/379-2646
www.yosemite.org



THE YOSEMITE FUND

PROVIDING FOR YOSEMITE'S FUTURE

Endangered California bighorn sheep are still struggling throughout the Sierra Nevada, and unfortunately, Yosemite's herd is no exception. The Yosemite Fund supported the reintroduction of the sheep to the Yosemite region in 1986, and every year since, donations to the Fund have paid for a field census to help track the sheep's progress. But mountain lion predation and a number of other factors are placing tremendous stress on the sheep.

During last year's census, just 14 sheep were sighted, and this year, no sheep were seen. However, both tracks and scat were found, the latter of which now can be used to conduct DNA analysis. This method will give researchers more definitive data on the number and range of the elusive sheep and help Fund-sponsored scientists and other organizations continue to do everything possible to help the bighorns survive.

The bighorn sheep census is one of many projects supported by The Yosemite Fund, a non-profit organization that raises money from Yosemite enthusiasts to protect and restore the Park and enhance the visitor's experience. Now in its 12th year, the Fund has provided nearly \$12 million for more than 150 projects. Thanks to gifts from dedicated "Friends of Yosemite," the Fund has helped:

- install 2,000 bear-proof food lockers throughout Yosemite
- rehabilitate Cook's Meadow in the heart of Yosemite Valley
- rebuild over 30 miles of Yosemite's trails

This year, the Fund is sponsoring many more projects including wilderness

restoration, additional trail reconstruction, education of school children about Yosemite and natural resource protection, and the production of a new visitor orientation film.

You can help by becoming a Friend of Yosemite through a donation to the Fund. All donors of \$25 or more receive:

- The 15-page, full-color Yosemite Postcard Book, or other gift described below
- The Fund's semiannual newsletter, *Approach*, featuring updates on the Park and information about how your donation is helping Yosemite
- Acknowledgement at the Friends of Yosemite Honor Wall at the Valley Visitor Center

Please fill out the coupon below and become a Friend of Yosemite today.

YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF YOSEMITE WHO PROVIDE FOR YOSEMITE'S FUTURE!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$____(Other) |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check or money order, or charge to my VISA/MasterCard/AmEx

Card # _____ Exp. date _____

Friends of Yosemite receive the full-color *Yosemite Postcard Book* (\$25), beautiful Yosemite note cards (\$50) or the photo book, *Cycle of the Seasons* (\$100).

John Muir Heritage Society members, giving \$1,000 or more, receive invitations to events at Yosemite, a park entrance pass, and other Society benefits.



THE YOSEMITE FUND
Providing for Yosemite's Future

THE YOSEMITE FUND
P.O. Box 637
Yosemite, CA 95389
415/434-1782
www.yosemitefund.org

