

See
Yosemite
Today
 for a complete
 calendar of
 what's happening
 in the park.

YOSEMITE GUIDE

Your Key to Visiting the Park



SUMMER / FALL
 VOLUME XXX, NO. 2

25¢

A Climber Returns to El Capitan



by
 Tom
 Frost

What a joy it was to have as my Yosemite climbing companion the enthusiastic, young Ryan Frost! It was June 1997. We were a third of the way up the Nose of El Capitan when I shared with Ryan my sudden realization. "This is the first time I've been up on El Cap without Royal." What a comfort it brought, now with my 1960s climbing partner and mentor Royal Robbins not present, that his shoes could be filled by a new light and companion—my son, Ryan Frost.

Continued on page 1



Photo by F. Mang, Jr.

The historic Nose route on El Capitan, first climbed in 1958 by Warren Harding, follows the south buttress between the sunlit and shadowed faces.



Look Inside!

Valley Map	Back Panel
Park Map	
Planning Your Visit	8 & 9
Protect Your Park	4
Bears	5
Camping	6
Backpacking & Valley Day Hikes	7
Explore Yosemite	10 - 12
Yosemite News	2
Nature Notes	3
Just for Kids	12 & 13



YOSEMITE GUIDE

Your Key to Visiting the Park



SUMMER / FALL
VOLUME XXX, NO. 2

A Climber Returns to El Capitan

Continued from front cover

I never thought I would climb El Capitan again. Thirty-seven years had passed since this same route with Robbins, Chuck Pratt, and Joe Fritschen had transformed my life. Now suddenly, as great as the adventure of 1960 had been, this new one moved once again up into the unknowns of my life. It almost seemed as though nothing had changed. My first reason to climb has always been the companionship. We climb to be inspired. I enjoy climbing only with companions that help point me toward God. Ryan and Royal did that well; it didn't hurt that they also knew climbing.

Coming home to the Valley is sacred business. The rocks of Yosemite are so majestic and beautifully crafted that to know them and to realize how tailor-made they are for our use is, in small measure, to know the creator of them.

The bad news was this: El Capitan, the object of our design, had not shrunk. We headed around the Valley loop looking forward to a reunion in that Camp 4 family of which Steve Roper, in his book *Camp 4: Recollections of a Yosemite Rockclimber*, had helped us catch the vision. The rock walls of Yosemite may be our gymnasium, workshop, and crucible, but Camp 4 (the famed climber's walk-in campground) is home. With no small amount of nervousness, we took a place in Site 23 near our heroes in the SAR (search and rescue) camp. What change had taken place!

Forty years ago and fresh out of college, I fell in with three climbers who became bigger-than-life heroes—Royal Robbins, Chuck Pratt, and Yvon Chouinard. Royal was the natural leader. He was the right man for the job at this magical moment. The stage was set for the climbing of the first routes of a virgin El Capitan.



Royal Robbins aid climbing on the third pitch of the Salathé Wall route in 1961.

CLIMBING'S PIONEERS

But even back then, decades of Yosemite climbing history preceded us. The very first Yosemite climber, and also the most influential, was the naturalist John Muir. Muir's respect for the creation, including Yosemite's great rocks, and his leave-no-trace philosophy of resource stewardship established the foundation upon which every succeeding generation of Yosemite climber built. Then in the late 1940s, John Salathé's bold 5-day ascents of the Lost Arrow Chimney and the North Face of Sentinel Rock set the climbing standard for courage, commitment, and traveling light. Salathé hand-forged stronger pitons to avoid the placing of many bolts, and raised himself to be the measure of his inspiring climbs.

Ten years after Salathé, Royal Robbins became the visionary and leading figure of the Golden Age of Yosemite big wall climbing. Even considering the size and massiveness of El Cap, he believed, "It isn't getting to the top that counts; it's the way you do it." Robbins shunned fixed ropes and excessive bolting of the wall.

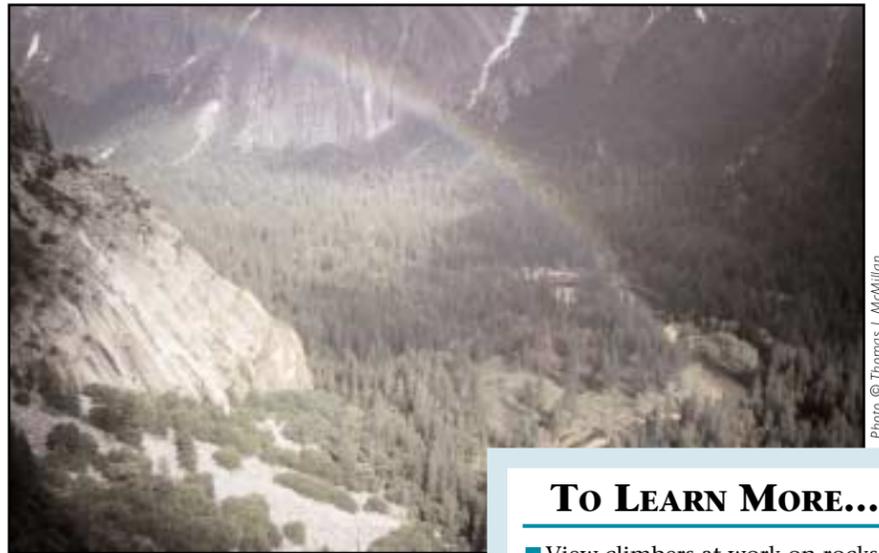
In 1998, Camp 4's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places acknowledged Yosemite's place in the development of rock climbing history. In this Valley are found the finest quality, accessible, large granite monoliths in the world. Out of this Valley, a style and method of climbing was exported that influenced rock-climbers everywhere. Now the world of climbers comes to Yosemite to climb the classic routes

and to rub shoulders with the spirit of Muir, Salathé, and Robbins. These climbers are the newest and current generation of Camp 4 pioneers.

WHY CLIMB?

So you might ask, "Why? Why climb anyway? Especially walls as intimidating as El Capitan?" I still go up for the same reasons I did 40 years ago. It is not due to a lack of fear, but more because of it. Whereas the non-climber—for good reasons—stands in El Capitan Meadow and decides not to go up, I find it scarier looking up at El Cap from the Meadow than down on the Meadow from high on El Cap. And so I go—and find out what is to be learned. After all these years, I still find that I am in love with the rock and the Valley. I still love to go up. I am inspired by the mystery and majesty of El Capitan and want to be a part of it. To feel the joy of movement on sunlit granite, the wind in my face, the teamwork, the shared high adventure.

A lot has changed since the days of the early ascents of El Capitan. There are many more climbers now, and they climb at a lot higher standard. But, notwithstanding, there is one thing that has not changed: El Cap is just as big and scary as



View of the Valley from El Capitan.

it ever was! The climbs are exposed and require as much hard climbing as did their first ascents.

Not realizing this, Ryan and I continued up the Nose. After we arrived at El Cap Tower an hour after dark, the rain began. We checked inside our little haul bag of supplies and confirmed that two of our three gallons of water had perished on the swing from Sickle Ledge. The night was cold. Rain continued. The next day, we observed that we had the Big Stone all to ourselves. Ryan led a treacherous climb up the chimney-like gap behind Texas Flake in stiff boots and lived. The traverse across to the bivouac in the Gray Band was tedious, pendulum swings and more wet rock. The Great Roof was not only a roof, but also great. To keep warm, we climbed by day, but shivered by night. Our final day—high in the huge, open dihedral that forms the top of the wall, with its planes of granite shooting outward—beams of light cut the crisp, clean air and we ascended to where pioneers had gone before.

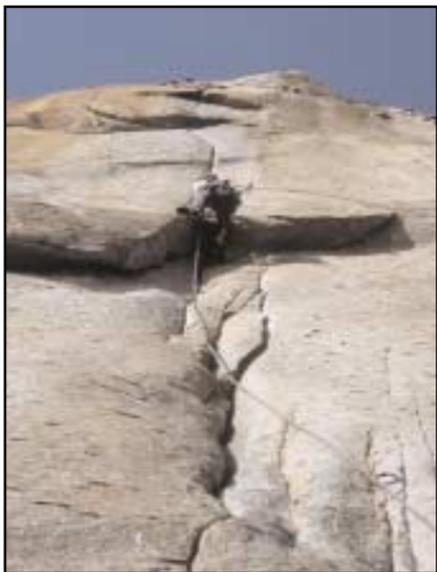


Tom Frost high on the Nose route of El Capitan, June 1997.

In the 1960s, Tom Frost climbed actively in Yosemite and the Himalayas and built climbing hardware with renowned pioneer, Yvon Chouinard. At 65, he owns and operates FROSTWORKS, a manufacturer of climbing hardware, and is Chief Engineer and Chairman of the Board of Chimera Photographic Lighting. Tom is planning a second comeback to climb El Capitan.

TO LEARN MORE...

- View climbers at work on rocks like Swan Slab just north of Yosemite Lodge, Lembert Dome in Tuolumne Meadows, and El Capitan from El Capitan Meadow (bring your binoculars). Most El Cap and Valley climbing takes place in May, June, September, and October. In the evening, you can see the flashes of light from their headlamps as climbers settle in for the night.
- Take a walk through the historic Camp 4 walk-in campground. Talk to climbers and ask questions. You can often see them practicing on large boulders near the campground.
- Attend a climbing interpretive slideshow or a walking tour to the Nose of El Cap, Swan Slab, or Lembert Dome. See *Yosemite Today* for schedule.
- Sign up for a climbing course with the Yosemite Mountaineering School, located in Curry Village and Tuolumne Meadows.
- Read *Camp 4: Recollections of a Yosemite Rockclimber* by Steve Roper or *Vertical World of Yosemite* by Galen Rowell. A climbing route poster of El Capitan is available at the Curry Village Mountain Shop.



A climber on the historic Headwall pitch on El Capitan's Salathé Wall route.

YOSEMITE NEWS

On The Web

The official Yosemite National Park web site (www.nps.gov/yose/) contains the latest park information.



Camping reservations can be made online from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific time (reservations.nps.gov).



The Yosemite Association's Yosemite Online (yosemite.org) features visitor information, a bookstore, gift shop, 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 web site (www.yosemitfund.org) frequently has project updates with photographs online. It 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.yosemitpark.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 lodging reservations.



The Ansel Adams Gallery site (www.anseladams.com) features fine art photography, gifts, calendar of events, and photos of Yosemite and Mono Lake.



The Yosemite Institute's web site (www.yni.org/yi/) describes its residential, in-park field-science program for elementary, middle, and high school students, and post-visit challenge units for educators.



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.



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Yosemite Friends,
Welcome to Yosemite! Tom Frost's article on the cover of this issue of the *Yosemite Guide* reminds us of the deep connections that visitors can make to this very special park. Everyday, I receive letters from visitors the world over who share their memories, their impressions, and the lessons they have taken home with them. Many letters tell of those connections made by generations of families who have returned to Yosemite year after year. These connections help us better protect Yosemite, but also better understand our natural world.

I invite you to discover all that Yosemite has to offer. Use the *Yosemite Guide* to enjoy and explore this spectacular place. New this season is a section entitled "Explore Yosemite" with which you may discover some easy-to-reach vistas and some of the quieter corners of the park. We are also launching a brand new companion to the *Guide*, entitled *Yosemite Today*. Along with a suite of maps, *Yosemite Today* includes a calendar of all of the latest park

happenings and special events geared to help you make the most of your time here in Yosemite.

Another way to begin making your own Yosemite connections is to view the spectacular new film, *Spirit of Yosemite*, currently showing every hour (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the Valley Visitor Center's brand new west auditorium theater. (Read more about this amazing production below.)

National parks were set aside to preserve our nation's natural and cultural heritage. When you visit a park like Yosemite, you not only create memories for yourself, you make lasting connections that make the National Park Service mission meaningful to you. In so doing you help to protect for the future, as well as enjoy, our nation's heritage.

Sincerely,

David A. Mihalic



Photo by Steven Smith, Greystone Communications

CONNECT TO THE SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

The National Park Service is proud to announce the completion of a state-of-the-art theater and a new park film at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. The film, *Spirit of Yosemite*, provides an introduction to the stories behind Yosemite's grand beauty, extraordinary community of living things, Native American culture, and history of wildland preservation. The 23-minute surround sound film, shot over a period of two years, makes a conscious effort to motivate Yosemite visitors to discover their own special connection with this magnificent national park. *Spirit of Yosemite* was made possible by donations from The Yosemite Fund and Yosemite National Park entrance fees.

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF NATURE

Are you interested in learning more about Yosemite's birds, rocks, and trees at your own pace? Borrow an Explorer Pack, a convenient day pack filled with activities and guidebooks designed to help the whole family explore the world of nature.

Four different packs are available at the Nature Center at Happy Isles in Yosemite Valley. *Featuring Feathers* will help you learn to identify many of Yosemite's birds, *Rocking in Yosemite* teaches the geology of the park, *The World of Trees* aids in tree identification, and *Small Wonders* will help you to discover the many tiny miracles around you. Packs are available for checkout and are free. A \$50 deposit (cash or credit card) is required and will be refunded when the pack is returned.



Photo by Tom Frost

The striking formation known as El Cap Spire is two thousand feet up the Salathé Wall and forms the classiest bivouac ledge on El Capitan. Here, Royal Robbins relaxes during the first ascent in 1961.

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 Transportation System (YARTS) provides round-trip transit service between communities within Mariposa, Merced, and Mono Counties and Yosemite National Park.

Year-round:

■ From Merced east along Highway 140 to Yosemite Valley.

Summer only:

■ From Coulterville along Highway 132 to Highway 120 West into the park via the Big Oak Flat Entrance (*weekends only to mid-September*).

■ From Mammoth Lakes and Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley on Highway 395 and 120 East via the June Lake Loop (*weekends June through September; daily service in July and August*).

Fares for riding YARTS vary, but generally range between \$7 and \$20 round trip for an adult, including entrance to the park. YARTS also offers discounts for children and seniors.

For 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.

NATURE NOTES

CLIMBING BIG WALLS

Traditionally, big walls are climbed using direct aid techniques where a lead climber, belayed from below, places spring-loaded gear called “cams” or “nuts” in a crack, then stands in aid slings to place the next piece. The second person below removes the hardware as they ascend while the load of food, water, and bivy (sleeping) gear is hauled up by the leader in a large bag. Traditional ascents of El Capitan take 3 to 7 days. At night, wall climbers bivouac (spend the night) on natural rock ledges or on “porta-ledges” they have brought with them.

Nowadays, there are “speed climbers” capable of climbing El Capitan in a day. Free climbers—who use natural foot- and hand-holds in the rock along with rope and protection hardware just for safety—can climb some of El Cap’s routes without resorting to any direct aid. Thus, the tradition of challenging climbing standards continues in Yosemite!



Photo by Tom Frost

Ryan Frost demonstrates a climbing technique known as “chimneying.” This tight spot is located on the north face of Sentinel Rock in a place known appropriately as “The Narrows.”

Whereas El Capitan is a focal point for super alpinists who come to Yosemite from around the world, Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley offer some of the finest rock for climbers of all abilities and ages. The thousands of routes on Yosemite’s granite vary from short to long, and easy to difficult. Climbing is a joyous sport that can be enjoyed by everyone with desire. As illustrated in Tom Frost’s cover article, climbing can be a lifelong hobby and a family activity.

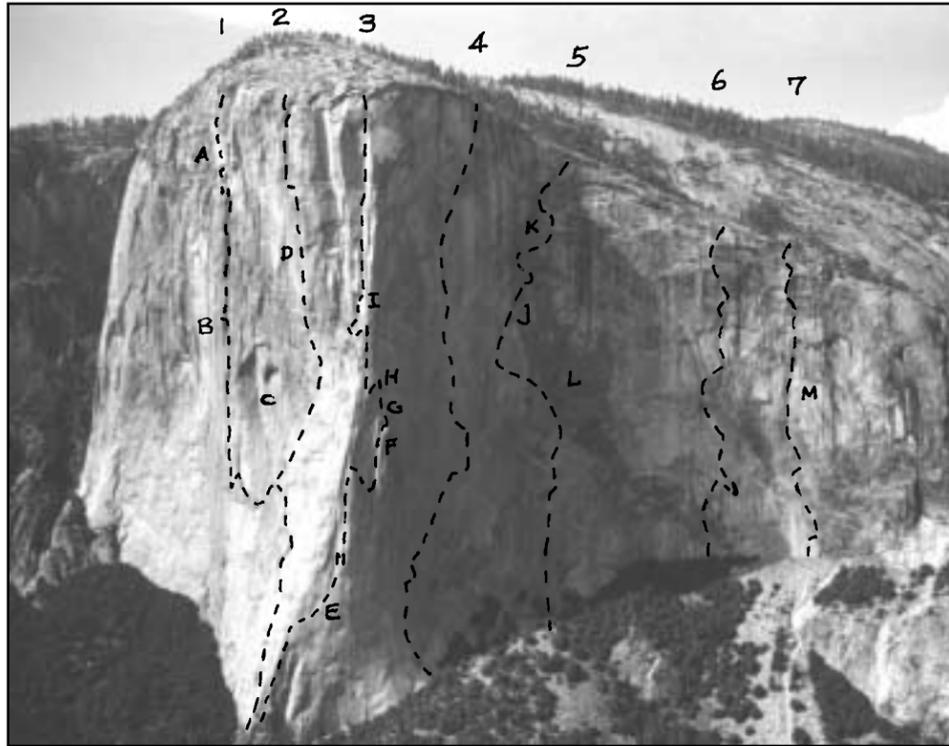


Photo by Tom Frost

EL CAPITAN TRADE* ROUTES

**In climbing, a “trade route” is one that is extremely well-traveled.*

A brief survey of El Capitan’s most historic and popular climbs.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Salathé Wall | 4. Mescalito | 7. Zodiac |
| 2. The Shield | 5. North America Wall | |
| 3. The Nose | 6. Tangerine Trip | |

Major features on the wall.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| A. Salathé Headwall | E. Sickle Ledge | J. Black Dihedral |
| B. El Cap Spire | F. El Cap Tower | K. Cyclops Eye |
| C. The Heart | G. Texas Flake | L. North America |
| D. Shield Headwall | H. Boot Flake | M. Gray Circlez |
| | I. Great Roof | |

FIRE AS A TOOL

Yosemite fire managers recognize that fire has been an essential part of the ecosystem for thousands of years. Since the early 1970s, managers have used two tools to restore the benefits of this natural process: *wildland fire* and *prescribed fire*.

Wildland fires caused by lightning may be allowed to burn under strictly monitored conditions in certain park wilderness areas. Since 1972, 550 lightning fires have been successfully managed by Yosemite National Park’s fire staff. Where it is not prudent to allow fires to burn, the park has a policy of fire suppression combined with a prescribed fire program. *Prescribed fires* are ignited under approved conditions by qualified park fire staff to protect developed areas (like Yosemite Valley and Wawona) and in other areas with unnaturally high amounts of dead and down woody debris. Yosemite has safely conducted 191 prescribed burns since 1970.

All human caused wildland fires are immediately suppressed no matter where they occur within the park.

During your visit, you may notice signs along roadways indicating that a managed fire is in progress. Please heed all warning signs posted in fire areas. Occasionally, trails that are within or adjacent to fires need to be closed for safety reasons. Trail closures will be posted in the Valley’s Wilderness Center and at appropriate trailheads.

Yosemite National Park is currently developing a new *Fire Management Plan*. A draft environmental impact statement will be released in late summer, at which time the public will be invited to submit comments. To stay informed on this project, inquire at a visitor center. Once released, the plan will be posted on the park’s planning web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning.

Because the new *Fire Management Plan* is under development, it is anticipated that no wildland fires will be managed this season and only limited prescribed burning will be accomplished. Some wilderness fires may be suppressed or contained to their immediate area. Crews will be cleaning up limbs and needles for burning later this fall.



NPS Photo

This 1992 prescribed fire in Cook’s Meadow helped restore vital nutrients to the soil.

Fire Safety

Each year campfires, cigarettes, and human carelessness cause unwanted fires in Yosemite. You can help prevent these fires by following a few fire safety tips.

Campfires

- Build small campfires in established campfire rings.
- Never leave a campfire unattended.
- Extinguish campfires by stirring with water a half hour before leaving the site. Carefully feel charred material to make certain the fire is out.

Cigarettes

- Never throw lighted cigarettes on the ground or out of a car window.
- Crush cigarette butts dead out before discarding in an ashtray or trash can.
- Do not smoke while walking on trails. Stop, smoke, and properly discard the cigarette butt before resuming your walk.

Charcoal Briquettes

- Never burn charcoal briquettes in a tent or vehicle. The carbon monoxide produced by burning charcoal is deadly in a confined space.

- After use, dunk burning briquettes in water until cold. Carefully check them to make sure the fire is out.

- Never throw burning or warm briquettes into trashcans or dumpsters.

Camping Stoves and Lanterns

- Refuel stoves or lanterns only when they are cold and in a well-ventilated area.
- These devices also produce carbon monoxide gas which can be deadly if used in tents, vehicles, or other confined spaces.

PROTECT YOUR PARK

Special Protection for Special Places

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park's most important guardians. With Yosemite's nearly 4 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be!

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either intentionally or unknowingly harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

- feeding wildlife
- collecting plants
- hunting animals
- collecting reptiles and butterflies
- picking up archeological items such as arrowheads
- using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- driving vehicles into sensitive meadows
- camping outside of designated campgrounds
- possession of weapons

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and contact the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

Pets

Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. In Yosemite, pets have a few rules to follow:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas, on roads, and paved trails. They are not allowed on other trails or in wilderness areas.
- Pets must be on a leash or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of other visitors, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles. This protects pets and wildlife from disease.

Bicycling

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved trails. They are not allowed to travel off-trail, on unpaved trails, or in wilderness areas. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite.

Success! Five years ago, many areas along the Merced River showed signs of human trampling. The soil was bare and heavily eroded. Now, because of the careful actions of park staff and visitors, many of these areas have been restored to more natural conditions. The plants, birds, insects, and animals that depend on living in or near the water have been able to return to these once barren areas.

You can help continue this progress by entering and exiting the river at designated launch and removal points, and by taking breaks on rocky, sandy beaches or "point bars." Packing out what you pack in will also help keep the river free from trash and prevent animals from swallowing harmful plastic or aluminum.

Please observe the following safety tips to protect Yosemite's river and lakeshore habitats and to safely enjoy water activities throughout the park.

SWIMMING

- Always supervise children closely.
- Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions. Avoid areas of "whitewater" where streams flow over rocky obstructions.
- Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.

WATER WAYS

RIVER CROSSINGS

In summer, rivers and creeks swollen by runoff from snowmelt are dangerous. Powerful current, icy water, and river obstructions can trap or kill the unwary.

- Stay away from river and creek banks during high water conditions and avoid "rock hopping." Stream polished rocks along the water's edge may be slippery when wet or dry.
- If you choose to cross a stream without a bridge, avoid deep and/or swift water. If crossing on a natural bridge of rocks or logs, consider where you will land if you fall. Never cross above rapids or falls. To prevent being pulled under by its weight, unbuckle your pack's waist strap so you can shed it if you fall in. Do not tie yourself into safety ropes—they can drown you.

RAFTING

- Rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stoneman Bridge to Sentinel Beach), and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device
- You must wear or have a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device immediately available.
- Fallen trees and other natural debris in the river create important habitat for fish and other wildlife. Be alert—they can also create hazards for rafters.

- The entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher.

FISHING

- Fishing in Yosemite is regulated under State law. A valid California sport fishing license is required for those persons age 16 years and older. When fishing the license must be plainly visible by attaching to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline.
 - Trout season opens on the last Saturday in April and continues through November 15 (except that Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor opens June 15). All lakes and reservoirs are open year-round.
 - Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the Pohono Bridge where it is catch-and-release only for rainbow trout. Brown trout limits are five fish per day. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used.
 - The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.
- ### WATER QUALITY
- To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking. Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia rated water filter, or iodine based purifier.
 - To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash, camp, and bury human waste (6" deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.



Two climbers with all of their gear, ready to head down from El Capitan.

Photo © Thomas J. McMillan

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT...

- Fire safety tips, see page 3.
- Food storage guidelines, see page 5.
- Camping and campfires, see page 6.
- Wilderness regulations, see page 7.
- Bicycling rules, see page 9.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traveling through Yosemite by car, bus, or bicycle provides a wonderful opportunity to slow down and enjoy the park's incredible scenery. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules:

- Yosemite's roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Please obey posted speed limits.
- Wear seatbelts and use child safety seats required for

children under four years of age or under 40 pounds in weight. All motorcyclists must wear helmets.

- Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park's scenery and wildlife.
- Stay alive, don't drink and drive. For your safety, park rangers enforce laws against alcohol and drug related driving offenses.

BEARS

BEARS ARE NOT TO BLAME: STORE FOOD PROPERLY

Each year black bears are killed in Yosemite National Park as a direct result of human carelessness and improper food storage. Some call it a “bear problem,” but the bears are not to blame.

Driven by their powerful sense of smell and voracious appetite, black bears are drawn to human food. Once they get it, they continue to seek it out—from backpacks, picnic tables, ice chests, and even cars. As their natural fear of people fades, they may become aggressive. When bears become too aggressive, they often have to be killed. In 2000, there were 654 incidents involving bears, resulting in over \$120,000 in damage; 5 bears had to be killed. The only way to stop this devastating cycle is to make sure that all food and trash are stored properly.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A BEAR

Never approach a bear, regardless of its size. If you encounter a bear in a developed area of the park (e.g., campground, parking lot, etc.) or on a hiking trail, act immediately:

yell, clap hands, and bang pots together, throw small stones or sticks toward the bear from a safe distance (the intent is to scare the bear, not to injure it). If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear (allow the bear a way to run away). Use caution if you see cubs, as a mother may act aggressively to defend them. Never try to retrieve anything once a bear has it. When done immediately, these actions have been successful in scaring bears away. Report all bear incidents to a park ranger as soon as possible. On occasion, park rangers will go a step further, shooting loud noisemakers or rubber projectiles to chase bears out of developed areas.



Illustration by Lawrence Omsby

BACKPACKERS: USE BEAR-RESISTANT FOOD CANISTERS

Each plastic canister weighs about 3 pounds, fits in a full-sized backpack, and is capable of holding a 3 to 5 day supply of food for one person. Canisters are available for rental (\$3/trip, plus security deposit) or purchase (approximately \$75) throughout the park (see page 15 for locations). Canisters can be returned at any of the rental locations throughout the park.

Mountain Lions

Mountain lions are a normal and very important part of the park ecosystem, helping to keep deer populations in check. They are attracted to areas with healthy deer populations, which includes many areas of the park. Although lion attacks are extremely rare, they are possible, as is injury from any wild animal. We offer the following recommendations for your safety:

Do not leave pets or pet food outside and unattended, especially at dawn and dusk. Pets can attract mountain lions into developed areas.

Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind on the trail. Talk to children about lions, and teach them what to do if they meet one.

What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?

Never approach one, especially if it is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Always give them a way to escape.

Don't run. Stay calm. Hold your ground, or back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up.

If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms, shout, and throw objects at it. The goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous yourself. If attacked, fight back!

Generally, mountain lions are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!

HOW TO STORE FOOD

“Food” includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This includes items that are not food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soaps, cosmetics, toiletries, perfumes, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and un-washed items used for preparing or eating meals. Follow regulations in the table below to help save Yosemite's bears.

LOCATION	FOOD STORAGE	WHY?
PARKING AREAS	Food must not be stored in vehicles after dark. Don't forget to clear vehicles of food wrappers, crumbs in baby seats, and baby wipes. Food may be stored in vehicles during daylight hours only. Use a bear box where available.	Bears can smell food, even if it's in a glove compartment or trunk, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles! The less cluttered your vehicle, the less likely a bear will break into it to investigate.
CAMPGROUNDS	All food must be stored in food storage lockers without exception, day and night. Each campsite contains a food storage locker (“bear box”), measuring 33”x45”x19”.	Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check bear boxes to see if they're secured. Keep bear boxes closed and latched with their clips at all times.
TENT CABINS	All food must be stored in food storage lockers, day and night. In Curry Village, coin-operated lockers are available for small items (do not leave items in an unlocked coin locker—items may be confiscated). Never leave items with an odor in your tent cabin!	Bears may break into tent cabins, even if they only smell cosmetics.
HOTEL ROOMS & CABINS	All food must be kept inside your room; if you are not in the room, the windows and doors must be closed.	Bears can break into hard-sided cabins through an open door or open window.
PICNIC AREAS & ON THE TRAIL	Do not leave food unattended.	Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.
BACKPACKING IN THE WILDERNESS	Bear resistant food canisters are strongly recommended and are required above 9,600 feet. Hanging food is nothing more than a delaying tactic for bears.	In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food. The lack of trees suitable for hanging food above 9,600 feet necessitates use of bear canisters.

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.

SUPPORT THE YOSEMITE WILD BEAR PROJECT

Help keep Yosemite's bears wild! Purchase items from park bookstores bearing the “Keep Bears Wild” logo. Proceeds from the sale of these products directly benefit the Yosemite Wild Bear Project. You can also make a donation to the Yosemite Association to support distribution and purchase of bear-resistant food storage canisters described above. Call 209/379-2646 for more information.

KEEP BEARS WILD



YOSEMITE WILD BEAR PROJECT

also make a donation to the Yosemite Association to support distribution and purchase of bear-resistant food storage canisters described above. Call 209/379-2646 for more information.

For more information regarding bears and proper food storage, visit the park's web site (www.nps.gov/yose).

SAVE-A-BEAR HOTLINE

To report trash problems, improper food storage, bear sightings, and other bear-related problems, leave a message for the Bear Management Team at 209/372-0473. Your call can be made anonymously.

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 11/14/01	6/15/01
11/15/01 thru 12/14/01	7/15/01
12/15/01 thru 1/14/02	8/15/01
1/15/02 thru 2/14/02	9/15/01
2/15/02 thru 3/14/02	10/15/01
3/15/02 thru 4/14/02	11/15/01

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

Reservations can be made by phone, mail, or online. All requests are processed at the same time, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. beginning on the 15th of each month. Written requests will be accepted 2 weeks prior to the 15th. Include desired location, type of equipment you will be camping in (i.e., tent, RV, etc.), as well as method of payment.

YOSEMITE VALLEY

There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in any calendar year; however, **May 1 - September 15, the camping limit in Yosemite Valley and Wawona is 7 days inclusive, and 14 days outside the Valley.** 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 campsites after you arrive in the park. **Maximum length for recreational vehicles in Valley campgrounds is 40 feet.**

Camp 4 (formerly 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 often fills before 9:00 a.m. each day May through September.

CAMPING IN AREAS SURROUNDING YOSEMITE

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite. **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 outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 8.

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.

SERVICES

- All sites include picnic tables, firepits or grills, tent space, parking, and a food storage locker (45" w x 19" h x 33" d). See *Bears Are Not To Blame* on page 5 for food storage regulations.
- Toilet facilities are available in campgrounds, however Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat contain vault toilets only.
- Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley; showers are also available at Tuolumne Meadows. See *Yosemite Today* for locations and hours of service.
- RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat campgrounds, and RVs are not permitted in walk-in sites. 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.

REGULATIONS

- Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.
- Maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles per campsite.
- 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.

CAMPFIRES

- 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.
- Please start campfires with newspaper. Do not burn pine needles or cones, as they create unnecessary smoke.

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. For more information, call the park campgrounds office at 209/372-8502 or visit online (www.nps.gov/yose/camping).



Royal Robbins and TM Herbert in Camp 4, sorting hardware for an El Cap climb in 1964.

Photo by Tom Frost

CAMPGROUNDS IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

	CAMPGROUND	ELEVATION	MILES FROM YOSEMITE VALLEY	NUMBER OF SITES/ SPACES	DAILY FEE*	TAP WATER	STREAM WATER (BOIL)	PETS ALLOWED	GROCERIES NEARBY	STOCK CAMP	NOTES**
IN YOSEMITE VALLEY	NORTH PINES	4,000'/1,200m	0	81	\$18/s	●		●	●		Open April-September Reservations required
	UPPER PINES	4,000'/1,200m	0	238	\$18/s	●		●	●		Open All Year Reservations required
	LOWER PINES	4,000'/1,200m	0	60	\$18/s	●		●	●		Open March-October Reservations required
	CAMP 4 WALK-IN (Sunnyside)	4,000'/1,200m	0	35	\$5/p	●			●		Open All Year/Walk-In First-come, first-served. Limited parking
OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY	WAWONA Wawona Road (Highway 41) near Wawona	4,000'/1,200m	27	93	\$18/s	●		●	●	●	Open All Year Reservations required May-Sept. (\$18); First-come, first-served Oct.-April (\$12)
	BRIDALVEIL CREEK Glacier Point Road	7,200'/2,194m	25	110	\$12/s	●		●		●	Open July-early September First-come, first-served
	HODGDON MEADOW Big Oak Flat Road (Hwy. 120 West near the Big Oak Flat Entrance)	4,872'/1,484m	25	105	\$18/s	●		●			Open All Year Reservations required May-Sept. (\$18); First-come, first-served Oct.-April (\$12)
	CRANE FLAT Big Oak Flat Road, near the Tioga Road turnoff	6,191'/1,886m	17	166	\$18/s	●		●	●		Open June-September Reservations required
	TAMARACK FLAT Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	6,315'/1,924m	23	52	\$8/s		●				Open June-September Three-mile access road not suitable for large RVs or trailers. First-come, first-served
	WHITE WOLF Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	8,000'/2,437m	31	74	\$12/s	●		●			Open July-early September First-come, first-served Not suitable for RVs over 27'
	YOSEMITE CREEK Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	7,659'/2,333m	35	75	\$8/s		●	●			Open July-early September 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'/2,468m	38	52	\$8/s		●				Open July-September RV access front section only First-come, first-served
TUOLUMNE MEADOWS Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	8,600'/2,620m	55	304	\$18/s	●		●	●	●	Open July-September ½ advanced reservations, ½ same-day reservations	

*s = per site
/p = per person

**Dates approximate

HIKING & BACKPACKING

EXPERIENCE YOSEMITE'S WILDERNESS . . . SAFELY

Yosemite National Park is a place of steep canyons, waterfalls, craggy mountain peaks, and gently rounded domes. It is a place where rain, wind, fire, and flood are a part of its inherent beauty, where the landscape is shaped by falling rock and toppling trees. It is a place where animals are wild and plants prevail.

There are many ways to experience the wildness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning you can minimize the human risks associated with many of these activities:

HIKING, BACKPACKING, ROCK CLIMBING AND SCRAMBLING

- Be honest about your abilities and plan activities toward the least experienced member of your group.
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you are due back. Carry a signal mirror and whistle. Solo activities require increased precautions.

- Stay on designated trails or routes. If hiking, carry and know how to use a map and compass.
- Avoid scrambling in steep terrain or off-trail. If new to climbing, take a class to learn important safety techniques before venturing out alone.
- Check weather forecasts prior to your trip. Sudden extreme changes in weather can occur even in summer.
- Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry plenty of water and food.
- Be prepared for an emergency bivouac even when out just for the day. Know how to use your gear and carry minimum repair materials.
- Avoid the combination of wetness, wind and cold. Know symptoms and treatment methods for hypothermia. Carry emergency fire starting materials.

PROTECT YOSEMITE'S WILDERNESS

- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Use gas stoves rather than wood fires.
- Camp in an existing, well-used campsite at least 100 feet from water and trail. You must be 4 miles from any populated area and 1 mile from any road before camping.
- To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.
- Maximum group size is 15 people for trail travel and 8 people for off-trail travel.
- Yosemite is a wildlife preserve. Pets, weapons, bicycles, strollers, and motor vehicles are never allowed on Yosemite's wilderness trails.
- See page 5 for food storage regulations; see page 4 for water quality and water safety information.

WILDERNESS PERMITS

Free wilderness permits are required year-round for all overnight trips into Yosemite's wilderness. They are not required for day hikes. Permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis the day of, or one day prior to, the beginning of your trip. Permits are issued at Wilderness Centers located in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Call 209/372-0200 or go to the wilderness web site for information on making advance reservations, and Wilderness Center locations and hours.

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

Reservations are taken from 24 weeks to 2 days in advance of the trip start date. For permit reservations and general wilderness information, call 209/372-0740.

The wind blew up the river, fresh and mysterious, against my face...Far, far away, beyond the river, beyond the canyons...rose a snow-covered divide that seemed to bound the universe. Between me and this dimmest outpost of the senses was not the faintest trace of the disturbances of man; nothing, in fact, except nature, immensity, and peace.

Robert Marshall
(1901-1939)
Founder of the
Wilderness
Society



Ryan Frost climbs the third pitch of the Nose of El Capitan in 1997. The Great Roof and the huge, open dihedral that forms the top of the wall, loom high above.

Photo by Tom Frost

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

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 #17	2 mile to round trip (3.2 km)	Easy	1 hour round trip	♿ Vehicle access available with placard
LOWER YOSEMITE FALL	Yosemite Falls Shuttle Stop #6	1/2 mile round trip (0.8 km)	Easy	20 minutes round trip	♿ with assistance
UPPER YOSEMITE FALL TRAIL COLUMBIA ROCK	Camp 4 (Sunnyside Campground) near Shuttle Stop #7	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 #16	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	5 to 6 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 inaccessible
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 #6	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, or 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.**

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. Expanded summer service is offered mid-May to mid-September. New daily service from Mammoth Lakes runs in July and August. For schedule and service information visit the YARTS web site 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, or visit 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.yosemitedpark.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 \$48.00 per night for a basic tent cabin with nearby bathroom, to \$318.75 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.

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 and scheduled Valley activities in *Yosemite Today*.

2 MARIPOSA GROVE AND WAWONA

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1½ 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 *Yosemite Today* for activities and additional information about Wawona and the Mariposa Grove. The covered bridge is closed for emergency repairs.

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. See *Yosemite Today* for schedule of activities.

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.
National Parks Pass	\$50	Valid for 1 year in all national park areas.
Golden Eagle Hologram for National Parks Pass	\$15	Covers entrance fees at other federal sites.
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.

PROJECTS COMPLETED INCLUDE:

- Significantly upgraded the visitor orientation theatre in Yosemite Valley
- Repaired sections of the sewer line that services Yosemite Valley

PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY INCLUDE:

- Stabilizing historic backcountry cabins
- Replacing picnic tables, fire rings, and signs in out-of-valley campgrounds

FUTURE PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Refurbishing roads, trails, and utilities throughout the park
- Improving the shuttle buses and service in Yosemite Valley

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

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 Visitors 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
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

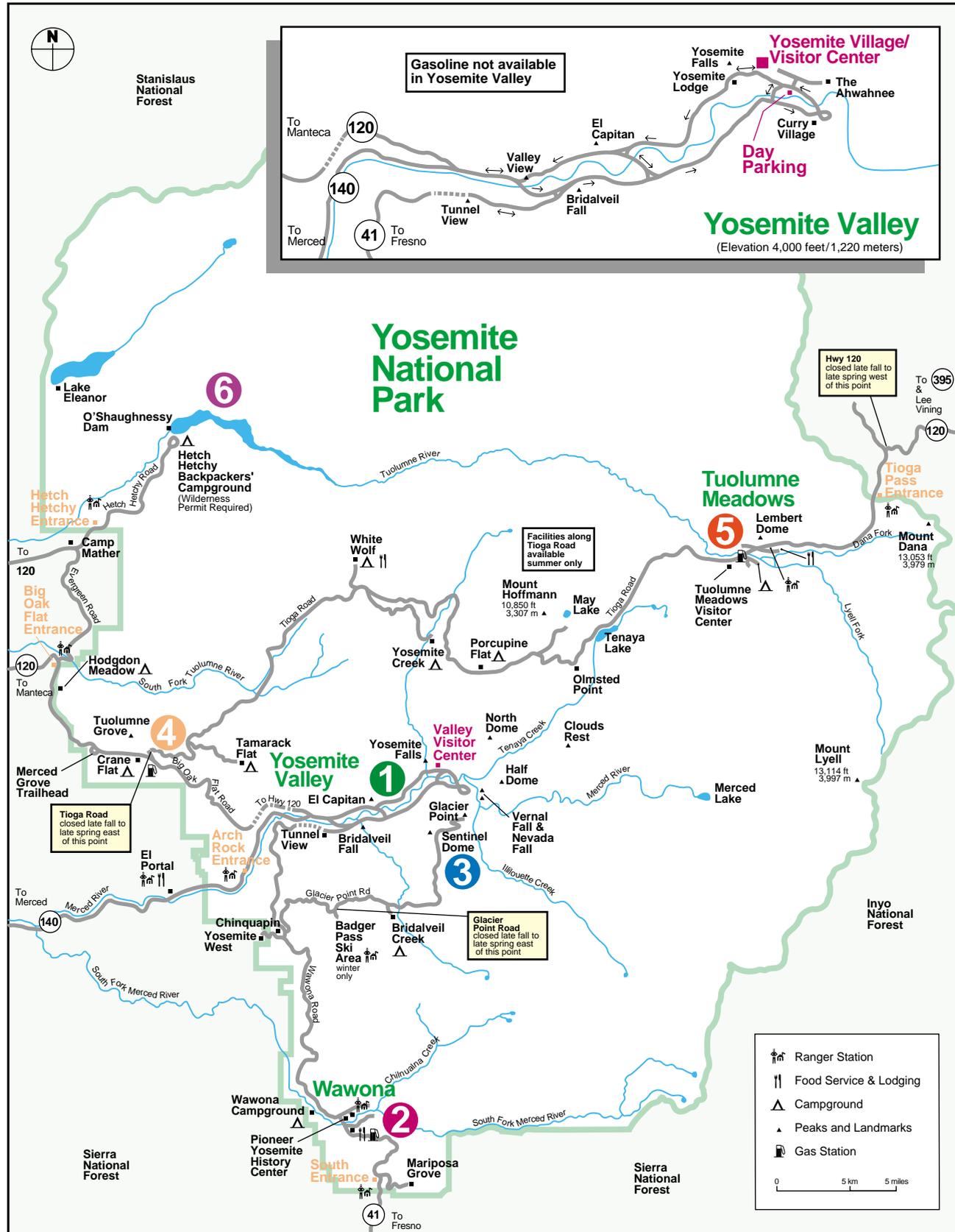
Yosemite Store and Visitor Center
5027 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338
209/966-3888
www.yosemite.org

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

PLANNING YOUR VISIT



AREAS TO VISIT IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK





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 *Yosemite Today*.

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 May through late October or early November 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. For activities, see *Yosemite Today*.

6 HETCH HETCHY

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power 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.

at the best-known scenic locations in Yosemite Valley. There is a fee for all sight-seeing tours. For reservations and more information, call 209/372-1240 or stop by any hotel tour desk. Information is also available online at www.yosemitepark.com.

RECREATION

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, half-day, and full-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 and Tuolumne Meadows (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 7.

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 late spring through 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)
 - Yosemite National Park www.nps.gov/yose
 - Yosemite Concession Services www.yosemitepark.com
 - Camping Reservations reservations.nps.gov
 - Regional Information www.yosemite.com
 - Yosemite Association yosemite.org
 - Yosemite Fund www.yosemitefund.org
 - Yosemite Institute www.ymi.org/yi
 - The Ansel Adams Gallery www.anseladams.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 CENTERS

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

YOSEMITE VALLEY VISITOR CENTER

Open daily 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

BIG OAK FLAT INFORMATION STATION

Open daily 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (closed for lunch).

WAWONA INFORMATION STATION AT HILL'S STUDIO

Open daily 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed for lunch).

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS VISITOR CENTER

After the Tioga Road opens for the season in late May or early June, open daily 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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, or 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, The Ansel Adams Gallery, Parsons Lodge in Tuolumne Meadows (summer), and Glacier Point (summer). Check park visitor centers and bulletin boards for additional information, and see activities listed in *Yosemite Today*.

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 Valley in a different light during summer months. In winter, tours are conducted on heated and enclosed motor coaches; stops are made



NPS Photo

Nanette Oswald, Yosemite's Deaf Services Coordinator, interprets ranger-led activities and provides park information for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors June through August. **For more information about the Deaf Services Program, come to the Valley Visitor Center information desk, or call 209/372-4726 (TDD) or 209/372-0296 (voice/TDD). The TDD number for lodging reservations is 559/255-8345; for camping reservations, call 888/530-9796.**

EXPLORE YOSEMITE

SPECTACULAR VISTAS AND QUIET CORNERS OF THE PARK

Yosemite National Park embraces one of the world's most outstanding concentrations of spectacular mountain-and-valley scenery. Its Sierran setting harbors a grand collection of high waterfalls and forests, including groves of giant sequoias. Within its 1,200 square miles—a landscape roughly the size of the state of Rhode Island—there is much to see and do. During your visit, we invite you to experience as much of this glorious place as possible. No doubt, you will most likely spend part of your visit in the incomparable Yosemite Valley. These pages will briefly touch upon some of the park's other special corners.

ALONG THE TIOGA ROAD

Originally a wagon road across the Tioga Pass built by the Great Consolidated Silver Company in 1883, the Tioga Road literally splits Yosemite National Park in two. Improved to its present condition and realignment in 1961, the road opened up some of Yosemite's most stunning country and allowed access to previously remote high-country destinations. This road is closed for winter some time in November and reopens for the season in late May.

White Wolf

You could easily spend an entire afternoon exploring the lush meadows and forests of this Tioga Road retreat. Take a day hike to peaceful glacial lakes, such as Lukens Lake (mostly uphill, but less than a mile, great for families) or Harden Lake (a relatively flat 6-mile round trip). Each hike is relatively easy with trailheads located near the campground in the heart of White Wolf.

With its covered porch and its low-key yet intimate dining room, the White Wolf Lodge, a white-washed wooden structure, is an enjoyable spot to eat. Breakfast and dinner are served inside (grab a table on the porch if they're serving outside), and sandwiches and other items can be purchased from the adjacent store for lunch outside.



Half Dome as seen from Olmsted Point

Olmsted Point

Located about midway between White Wolf and Tuolumne Meadows, Olmsted Point offers one of the hands-down most spectacular vistas anywhere in the park. Here the enormous walls of the Tenaya Canyon are exposed and an endless view stretches all the way to Yosemite Valley where Clouds Rest and the back side of Half Dome are visible.

Tenaya Lake

A few minutes east of Olmsted Point is Tenaya Lake, named for the leader of Yosemite Valley's native people before the arrival of Euro-Americans. Tenaya Lake is one of the best places to have a swim along the Tioga Road. One of the park's larger lakes, Tenaya Lake is approximately 8 miles west of Tuolumne Meadows, or 30 miles east of Crane Flat. The inviting sandy beach on the eastern shore is a good bet, but be prepared for some cold water.

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows is a stunningly picturesque region that sits 8,600 feet up in the transparent sky of Yosemite's high country. Contained in a basin about 2.5 miles long, the meadow system may be the largest in the Sierra Nevada at the subalpine level. Tuolumne Meadows is only

55 miles by road from Yosemite Valley, but it's a world apart. The hiking around Tuolumne Meadows is first-rate. The trails are varied, the scenery is exceptional, and the weather usually cooperative (but plan for afternoon thunderstorms, particularly in August). A person staying at Tuolumne Meadows could take a different hike every day of a week and still not exhaust the possibilities. Some of the recommended hikes are those to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Lembert Dome, Dog Lake, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon.

WANDER THE WAWONA AREA

Wawona Point (in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias)

For great views high above Wawona, this short, half-mile walk is not to be missed. From Wawona Point you'll be able to see the Wawona Meadow and golf course, with views to the east of Wawona Dome. This excellent



Harden Lake near White Wolf



Cathedral Peak is one of Tuolumne Meadow's most prominent features.

EXPLORE YOSEMITE



Chilnualna Fall

lookout on the entire Wawona basin is a short walk from the top of the Mariposa Grove. Get off the tram at the Wawona Tunnel Tree and walk back to the north to the Galen Clark Tree where the old road to Wawona Point branches off. Ask your tram driver for directions if you need them. The round trip walk should take you less than an hour. To take in a sunset view, bring a flashlight and be prepared to walk over and hour back to the parking area (trams stop operating at 7:30 p.m.).

Chilnualna Fall

One of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley, the Chilnualna Fall cascades down two chutes. The fall, instead of leaping and free falling from some precipice, drops through a narrow chasm in a furious rush. The trail to this delightful cascade is fairly strenuous, gaining almost 2,500 feet in approximately 4 miles. The route is an enjoyable one through manzanita, deer brush, and bear clover and finally meets with Chilnualna Creek. Start from the trailhead, which is located 1.7 miles east of the main road on Chilnualna Falls Road. If the road turns to dirt, you've gone too far. Allow 6 to 8 hours for this 8 mile round trip. Carry lots of water in the summer when temperatures can be extreme.

The Meadow Loop

This easy, leisurely, and picturesque walk begins directly across the Wawona Road from the entry to the Wawona Hotel. Its almost entirely flat route skirts the edges of the

Wawona Meadow, then circles back, crosses the Wawona Road, and finishes up behind the Wawona Hotel. This stroll amounts to about 3 miles total and may take an hour or so.

THREE GREAT HIKES FROM THE GLACIER POINT ROAD

Sentinel Dome Trail

Ansel Adams made the top of this dome famous with his unforgettable shot of the wind-swept Jeffrey pine. The 1.1 mile hike to the top is a small price to pay for the 360 degree panorama of Yosemite's unbelievable landscape. See Yosemite Falls in its entirety—from upper fall, middle cascades, to lower fall. You'll be at 8,122 feet (more than 4,000 feet above the Yosemite Valley floor). It's a good idea to have a park map for landmark identification, although a landmark compass is inset in a granite boulder, marking most of the major peaks in the 360 degree view. Try this easy hike at sunrise or sunset or on the night of a full moon (bring a flashlight). The round trip requires about two hours. The trailheads for this hike and the one to Taft Point are the same. Park at the Sentinel Dome parking area (it's about at the spot where you first eye Sentinel Dome). There is no water available, however a vault toilet is located at the parking area.

Taft Point Trail

Unusual rock formations and an overhanging lookout point reward hikers on this short route. Start at the Sentinel Dome parking lot.

The trail is mostly flat and slightly downhill to the fissures. Some of the cracks are 40 feet long and 20 feet wide at the top and 1,000 feet deep. The wall of Yosemite actually overhangs the narrow ravine at Taft Point where you'll be standing on the only solid object between you and the Valley floor, thousands of feet below you. It's just over two miles round trip; give yourself two hours.

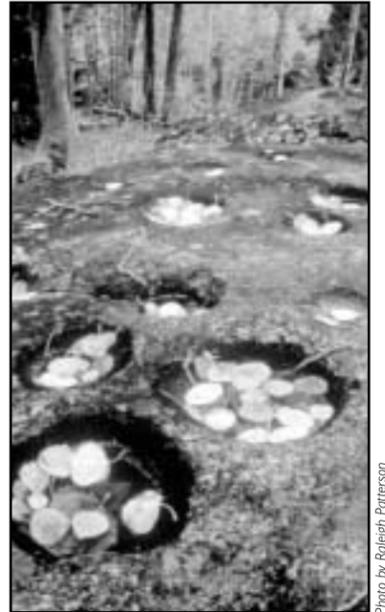


View from the top of Sentinel Dome

Much of the text for "Explore Yosemite" comes from The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park by Steven P. Medley. This everything-you-need-to-know book, published by the Yosemite Association, is available at visitor centers and stores throughout the park.

Dewey Point

One of the most interesting perspectives on Bridalveil Fall and El Capitan is afforded by this commanding view point (7,385 feet). The trail starts two-tenths of a mile west of (before you get to) Bridalveil Campground on the Glacier Point Road. You can begin at the McGurk Meadow trailhead, then head north. The route meanders through forest and meadows, intersects with the Pohono Trail (go left), then extends to the Valley rim. While there's not much elevation gain or loss, the round trip is approximately 7 miles. Allow 4 to 6 hours for the out and back hike.



McGurk Meadow, on the trail to Dewey Point



Taft Point

JUST FOR KIDS



COLOR YOUR OWN AMERICAN BLACK BEAR *Ursus americanus*

American black bears are large, mostly harmless bears that usually live in forests, but also in swamps and desert scrub. These solitary mammals are found across North America.

ANATOMY

American black bears are up to 6 feet (1.8 m) long and weigh up to 300 pounds (135 kg). Their long, thick fur ranges in color from black to brown. Like all bears, they are plantigrade (flat-footed). The front claws are longer than the rear claws.

BEHAVIOR

Black bears are good swimmers and can also climb trees. They have a good sense of smell but have poor eyesight.

CUBS

Usually two cubs are born during the winter while the mother is in deep winter sleep. Cubs stay with the mother for about one year.

DIET

American black bears are omnivores who eat plants, leaves, fruits, berries, nuts, roots, honey, insects, and other small mammals.

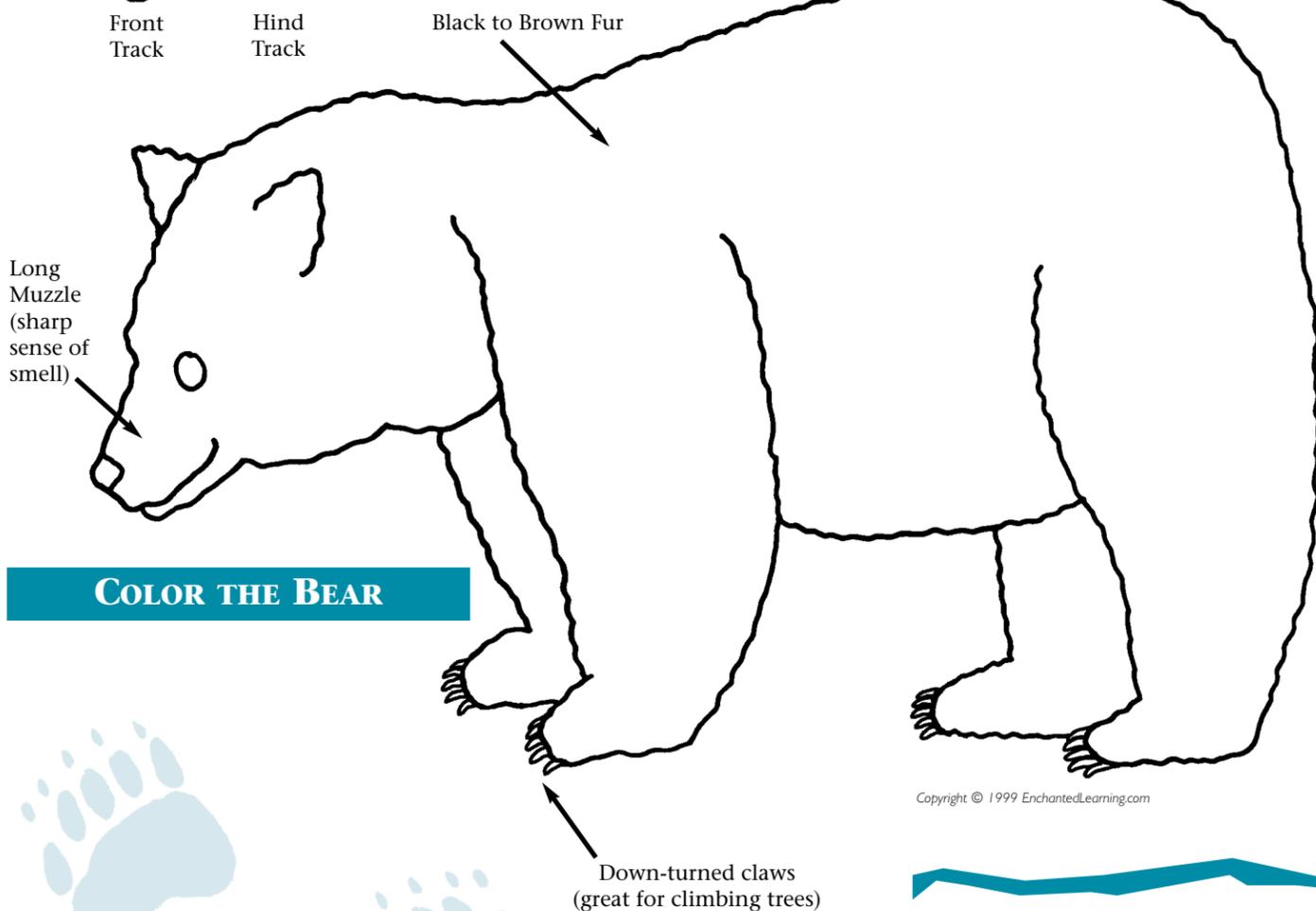
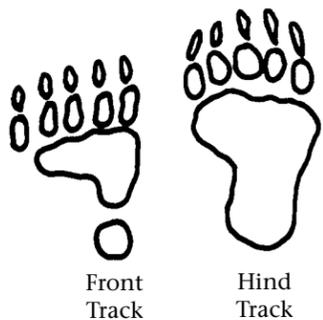
CLASSIFICATION

Class Mammalia, Order Carnivora, Family Ursidae (bears), Genus *Ursus*, species *americanus*.



HOW WAS EL CAPITAN FORMED?

While two bear cubs sleep, the rock on which they are lying grows and grows and grows. How will the other animals rescue the little bears from their perch high in the clouds? Two Bear Cubs is the lively retelling of an authentic Miwok legend set in incomparable Yosemite Valley. It is told and illustrated by the award-winning brother-collaborators Robert D. and Daniel San Souci, and published by the Yosemite Association. Available at the Valley Visitor Center. Your whole family will be amazed to see who eventually comes to the rescue and becomes an unlikely hero!



Copyright © 1999 EnchantedLearning.com

COLOR THE BEAR

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

Kids ages 7-10: You can become a Yosemite Junior Ranger by purchasing a self-guided booklet published by the Yosemite Association. This booklet is sold for \$3.50 plus tax at the Nature Center at Happy Isles, Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Centers, and Wawona and Big Oak Flat Information Stations. In order to earn a Junior Ranger patch, the booklet must be completed, a bag of trash collected, and a guided program attended.

See *Yosemite Today* for a schedule of ranger-led Junior Ranger programs in Tuolumne Meadows.

LITTLE CUBS WANTED!

Are you between the ages of 3 and 6? 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 (published by the Yosemite Association) is sold for \$3 plus tax in the Nature Center at Happy Isles, Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Centers, and Wawona and Big Oak Flat Information Stations.



Yosemite's Critters



ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Two historic landmarks in Yosemite Valley—the Nature Center at Happy Isles and LeConte Memorial Lodge—can help families with children explore and understand Yosemite’s natural world. The Nature Center at Happy Isles, open daily 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (closes for the season late September), offers state-of-the-art exhibits, hands-on activities, and a small bookstore (near shuttle bus stop #16). LeConte Memorial Lodge (shuttle bus stop #12), open Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., features a children’s corner and offers children’s and family programs.

Enjoy the morning or afternoon with a professional naturalist and a small group of families to explore the wonders of Yosemite’s natural world and cultural history. Working in partnership with Yosemite Concession Services (YCS), Yosemite Institute’s “Discover Yosemite” program offers a hands-on exploratory adventure for families with children ages 6-14 beginning mid-July. Registration and information can be obtained at the front desk of any YCS lodging or at any tour desk. Children are \$10 and parents are free. Each child must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. All sessions will depart from the Curry Village Amphitheater.

Check the activity schedules in *Yosemite Today* for information on specific children’s program schedules and locations throughout the park. You’ll find children’s and family programs printed in color on these pages.

Many animals live in Yosemite though sometimes it’s hard to find them. If you’re patient and pay attention, you’ll probably see some of the animals whose names are hidden in the block above. They can be found going up, down, across, or diagonally. Circle the words when you find them. Answers on page 15.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| GOPHER | TREE FROG | COYOTE |
| GARTER SNAKE | DEER | MOSQUITO |
| PIKA | GROSBEAK | MARMOT |
| CHICKADEE | MARTEN | EAGLE |
| TROUT | FALCON | PORCUPINE |
| LADYBUG | SQUIRREL | GRASSHOPPER |
| JAY | DRAGONFLY | |

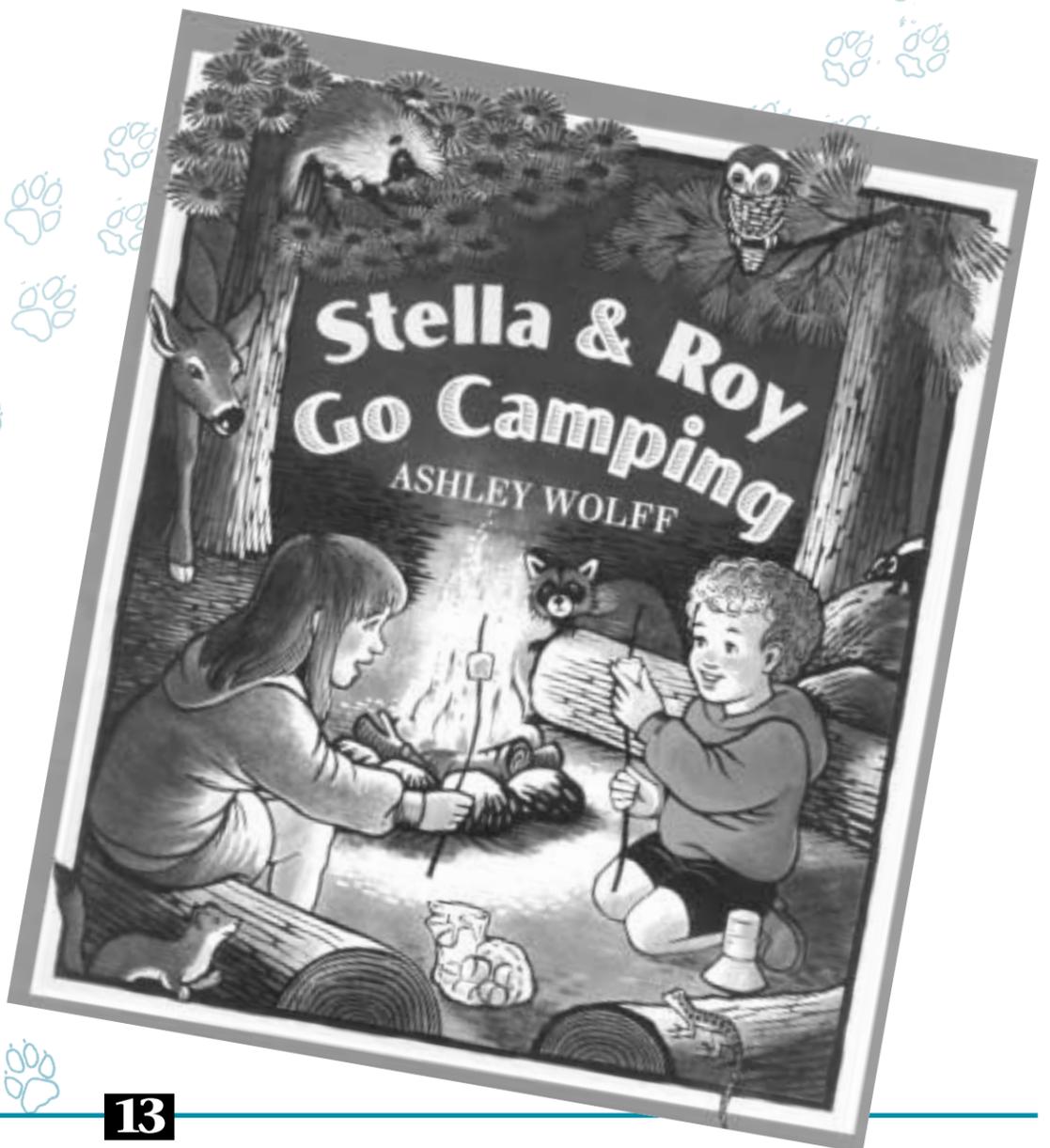
Yosemite’s Critters is based on the **Yosemite Fun Book** by Michael Elsohn Ross, available at stores throughout the park.

STELLA & ROY GO CAMPING

by Ashley Wolff

The engaging sister-and-brother duo from the highly acclaimed Stella & Roy series are on the trail of something exciting! Roy really hopes to see a bear. But along the way, they discover more than just animal tracks. While the story is not set in Yosemite, you will recognize some familiar park landmarks in Wolff’s distinctive hand-tinted linocuts (see if you can find Half Dome). Readers learn about animal tracks and food storage in the wilderness. Plus, the family gets a surprise visitor in the night! Available at the Valley Visitor Center. Ages 4-8.

For activities especially for children, look for programs listed in color in *Yosemite Today*.



HELP YOUR PARK



YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

JOIN THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

The Yosemite Association is a nonprofit 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
- Receive a 10% discount on purchases at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Valley
- Have an opportunity to volunteer in Yosemite and attend special members' events
- Receive the quarterly journal, *Yosemite*, which features informative articles on both the natural and human history of the park
- 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

Just how vast and extraordinary is Yosemite? Many visitors leave before getting a chance to find out. Now you can obtain a sense of the whole Yosemite—from the upper reaches of a giant sequoia tree to the beautiful backcountry to dramatic aerial views of the park—through a new visitor orientation film, *Spirit of Yosemite*.

This stunning 35mm Surround Sound film was directed by Oscar-nominated David

Vassar, a former Yosemite ranger. The film replaces an outdated slide show and includes magnificent scenery, outstanding sound, and information about Yosemite's formation and natural/cultural history. Visit the newly remodeled Valley Visitor Center theater to experience *Spirit of Yosemite*.

The new visitor film and much of the remodeled theater are just two of many projects supported by The Yosemite Fund, a nonprofit organization that raises money from Yosemite enthusiasts to protect and restore the park and enhance the visitor's experience. Now in its 13th year, the Fund has distributed over \$13 million for more than 150



"*Spirit of Yosemite*"—a new state-of-the-art visitor orientation film sponsored by the The Yosemite Fund, is now showing at the Valley Visitor Center theater.

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 numerous sections of Yosemite's 800+ miles of trail

This year, The Yosemite Fund hopes to sponsor many more projects, including wilderness restoration, additional trail reconstruction, and educating school children about Yosemite and natural resource protection.

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 biannual full-color magazine, *Approach*, featuring articles 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* (with a \$25 gift), 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
800/4MY-PARK
www.yosemitfund.org

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

 Roadway
 Shuttle Bus Only
 Shuttle Bus Stop
 Trailhead
 Hiking Trail
 Bike Path
 Campground
 Picnic Area
 Restroom
 Parking
 Information
 Map not to scale

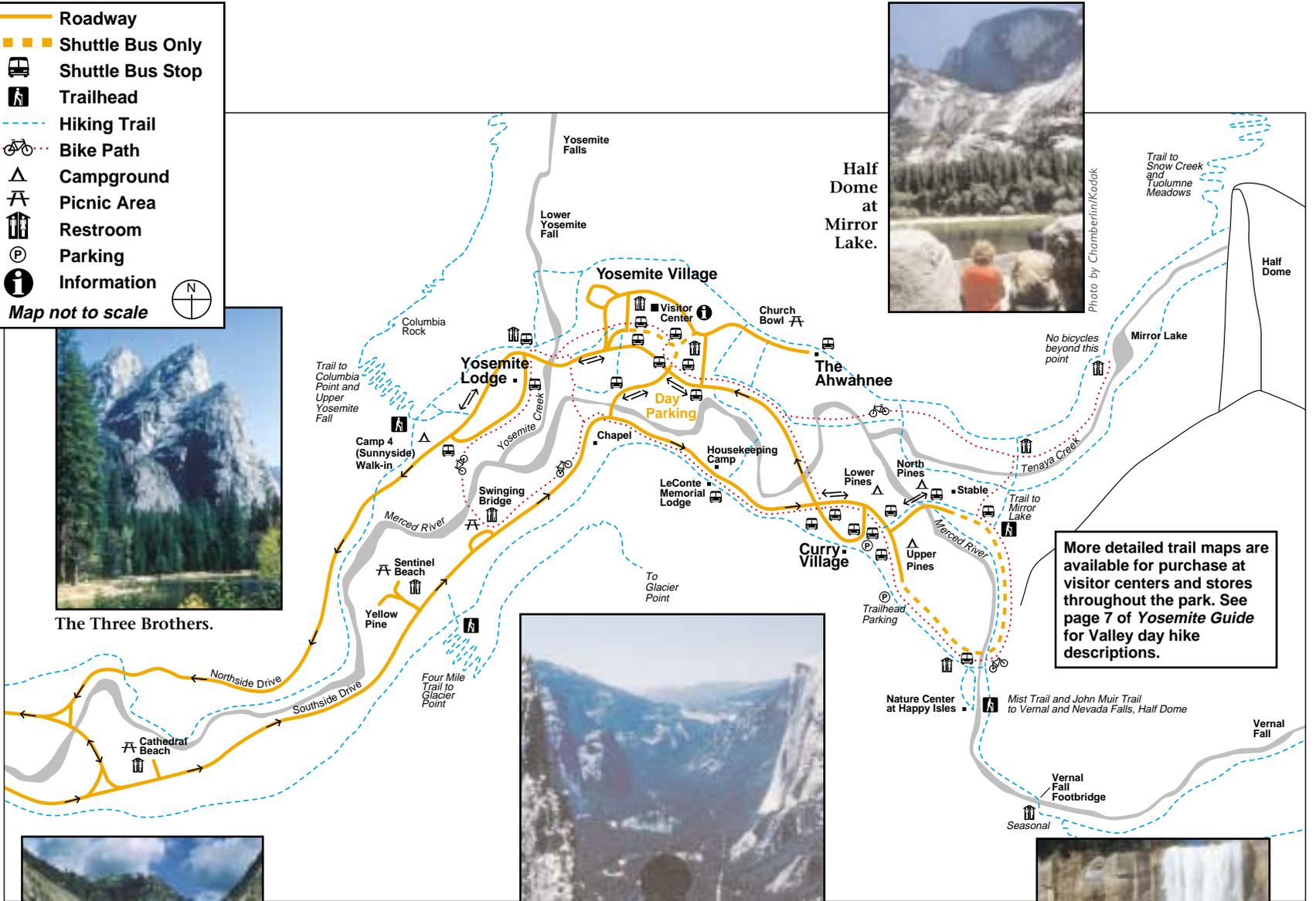
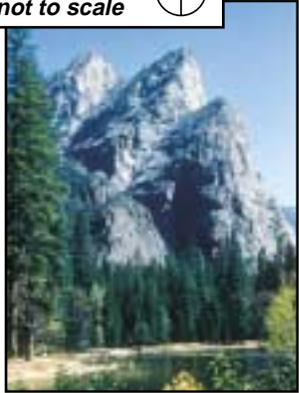


Photo by Chamberlin/Kodak



The Three Brothers.

More detailed trail maps are available for purchase at visitor centers and stores throughout the park. See page 7 of *Yosemite Guide* for Valley day hike descriptions.



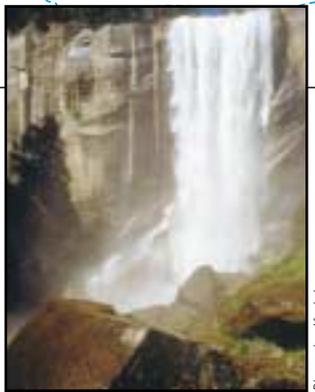
Valley view from the Four Mile Trail.

NPS Photo



Bridalveil Fall.

Photo by Mike Osborne



Vernal Fall.

Photo by Kodak

Third Class Mail
Postage and Fees Paid
U.S. Department
of the Interior
G-83