

See  
**Yosemite  
Today**

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

# Yosemite Guide



*Your Key to Visiting the Park*

**SUMMER/FALL 2003**

VOLUME XXXII, NO. 1

25¢



## A History Remembered

by Ranger Shelton Johnson



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One day I wandered into Yosemite's Research Library and was talking to the librarian when I noticed an old photograph. I took a closer look at the picture and read the caption. It was a photograph of the 24<sup>th</sup> Mounted Infantry taken somewhere in Yosemite in 1899. The 24<sup>th</sup>, along with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry and the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, were African-American Army regiments that during the Indian War period became known as *Buffalo Soldiers*. In 1903, four troops of the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry became among the first "rangers" assigned to protect Yosemite and Sequoia & General Grant (Kings Canyon) National Parks. For me, as an African-American park ranger, seeing this photograph was like stumbling into my own family while traveling in a foreign country.



*Continued on page 1*



# YOSEMITE GUIDE

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## A History Remembered

Continued from front cover

I had no idea that 100 years ago the 24<sup>th</sup> Mounted Infantry and the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry were entrusted with the protection of Yosemite National Park. I had never read this information in any history or heard another ranger tell this story. But there, staring at me, across a gulf of 100 years were these black soldiers who had overcome obstacles that made my challenges seem insignificant. I immediately wanted to know their names, to find out as much as I could about them. They had almost completely disappeared from Yosemite's history. If it weren't for this one photograph, who would know or care that they ever existed?

Yosemite's military history is otherwise fairly well documented. Prior to the creation of the National Park Service in 1916, the U.S. Army was charged in the protection of Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Sequoia & General Grant (Kings Canyon) National Parks. With millions of acres of land set aside for preservation, the Department of Interior called upon the then Department of War for assistance—to protect Yellowstone's fragile geothermal wonders, ancient groves of giant sequoias in the Sierra Nevada, and the sanctity of the national park idea itself from those who sought exploitation rather than inspiration.

In 1903, nearly 400 African-American soldiers made the dusty journey on horseback from the Presidio in San Francisco to Yosemite. During this time, African-Americans occupied the lowest rung on the social ladder. Most of the jobs available to "colored folks" were menial, labor-intensive, and very rarely considered professional. Segregation and lynchings were common affairs of daily life in America. One of the few paths out of this morass was through the military. The Army provided a vocation, training, room and board, and a pension. It also provided a sense of self-esteem; the uniform provided pride in country.

But while these soldiers had the same responsibilities as their Euro-American counterparts, they had the added burden

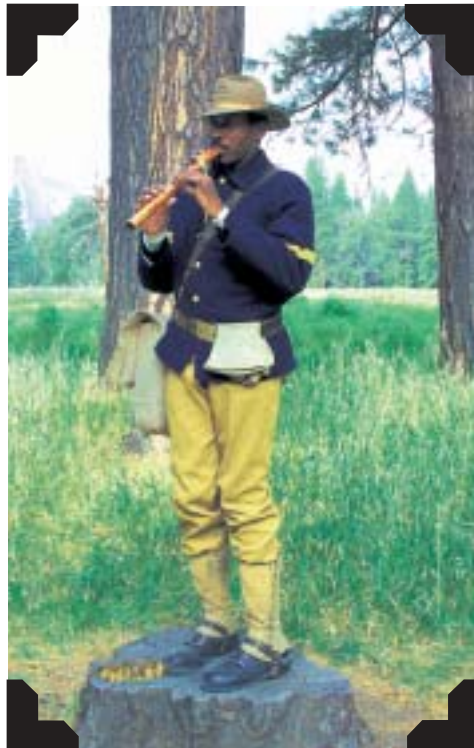


Photo courtesy of Yosemite Research Library

of race on their shoulders. On the one hand, the Buffalo Soldiers were sent to protect parks, routinely telling white visitors what they could and could not do. On the other, these soldiers were a part of a larger society that had difficulty seeing them as symbols of authority. In spite of these challenges, the Buffalo Soldiers fulfilled their mission.

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their service in Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. Birthdays are important to us individually because they celebrate our arrival into a family. So too, marking this centennial is a way of honoring the arrival of African-Americans into the family history of our wilderness parks. And since national parks exist "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" both in the United States and around the world, this is also a celebration in which everyone can take pride.

Today, as a National Park Service ranger who is also African-American, I want to speak to these men, to tell them that they weren't forgotten. The following "Letter to Dead Soldiers" is a result of that desire.

### A LETTER TO DEAD SOLDIERS

Dear men,

Forgive me for not writing sooner, but I only recently discovered that the dead do not completely vanish from this earth. I realize now that death does not occur with the stopping of the heart, but when we choose to forget. One hundred years after horses and the creaking of wagon wheels, your names are air, unseen, yet moving around us. How can something as substantial as a column of twenty-six men riding side by side on a dusty road leave neither imprint on the ground nor sound in sky?

A century's accumulation of dust has buried the fourteen days it took for you to get from San Francisco to Yosemite. Yet, there you are astride your horses in a Yosemite that is as close as the open window of my office

When you arrived in Yosemite, the stockmen noticed your presence and avoided you. This was of little concern to sheepherders who used parklands illegally for grazing their flocks. They knew the country better than you, and ran their sheep far from the trails you patrolled. A million acres is a lot of space for 25 men to cover. It was easy in your time to avoid the presence of other people, and to lose yourself in Yosemite.

I think that I understand why you joined the army. You had few choices, and a military career provided a sense of dignity, respect, and a pension upon retirement. I imagine the hardships you endured in America and in service abroad. You left loved ones behind who cherished your memory. You risked your lives so that the lives of your brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, would be better. You are more than just soldiers of the Twenty-fourth Regiment of Infantry, and this story is bigger than just a chapter in Yosemite's military history.

How can I reach across 100 years and hold out my hand for you to take? How can I convince people that you are not dead but live on? Not just in documents and old photographs, or even in the park ranger uniform I wear, but are real soldiers surviving into the present? Because I choose to remember you, you live on in me. I know your lives had meaning to black folks.

The deeper we gaze into the past, the greater our recognition of ourselves in other places and other times. You, who are soldiers, who are family, have given me that story. In so doing you have assured yourself a presence in Yosemite. Thank you for clearing the trail that I followed 100 years later. You cannot imagine how your passage has made my journey infinitely easier.

At the time of his death, Col. Charles Young (1897-1931) was the highest ranking African-American in the U.S. Army.



Photo courtesy of the Charles Young Collection, National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center, Wilberforce, OH



Shelton Johnson has been a Yosemite ranger since 1993. "I've always felt spiritually connected to Yosemite, but now I feel culturally connected as well." He was the recent regional recipient of the Freeman Tilden Award, the highest honor given those who work in Interpretation within the National Park Service.

### TO LEARN MORE...

- Go on a walk with Ranger Shelton Johnson as he assumes the personae of Elizy Boman, a member of Yosemite's 9th Cavalry. "Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier" takes place on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and meets in front of the Valley Visitor Center.
- Visit <http://shadowsoldier.wilderness.net> for an online exhibit devoted to the story of Sierra Buffalo Soldiers. Also visit [www.buffalosoldiers.com](http://www.buffalosoldiers.com) for more information on the history of African-American service to the United States military.
- To learn more about Buffalo Soldier history, read *The Buffalo Soldier* by William H. Leckie, available at the Valley Visitor Center or through the Yosemite Association (see left).

### HELP US CELEBRATE!

For 80 years, the Yosemite Association has been a nonprofit organization in service to Yosemite National Park. When you purchase Yosemite Association publications, you share in that commitment to stewardship. Stop by the bookstore in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center or any visitor information station in the park; or visit online at [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org) or [www.yosemitestore.com](http://www.yosemitestore.com). Look for this anniversary logo throughout the *Yosemite Guide* for more information on the important contributions of this dedicated partner.



### YOSEMITE GUIDE

Published by the National Park Service  
NPS Editor-in-Chief Kristina Rylands  
Production by Skip Gaynard Designs

#### We're Interested...

We are always looking for ways to improve our visitor publications. You can help by sending your comments via email to [Kristina\\_Rylands@nps.gov](mailto:Kristina_Rylands@nps.gov); fax to 209/379-1295; or mail to the address on this *Yosemite Guide*.



# YOSEMITE NEWS

## If You Only Have One Day

### Acquaint Yourself

Park your vehicle in Yosemite Village and ride the free shuttle bus around Yosemite Valley's east end. Be sure to stop by the Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Museum. See *Yosemite Today* for shuttle bus schedule.

### Talk to an Expert

Stop by any visitor center or information station. Rangers are a great resource for ideas on what to do with limited time. Free informational handouts are available. Just ask!

### Feel the Thunder of a Waterfall

While at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, be sure to view the state-of-the-art film, *Spirit of Yosemite*. Prepare yourself to be inspired! This award-winning film will connect you to places throughout the park that you might not get to—until your next visit!

### Take A Tour

There are several tours available in the park. Beginning this summer, Yosemite National Park rangers will guide the popular Valley Floor Tram Tour. The 2-hour open-air tram tour begins at Yosemite Lodge and takes you past many of the Valley's significant features. Motor coach tours are also available to Glacier Point, Tuolumne Meadows, or the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. For pricing and information on these and other tours, see *Yosemite Today*, stop by any tour desk, or call 209/372-1240.

### Go for a Walk

From photography to American Indian traditions to stargazing, you can experience a guided program virtually anywhere in the park. See *Yosemite Today* for a schedule of parkwide interpretive programs, walks, and talks. Also consider attending an outdoor adventure through the Yosemite Association (see page 15). For self-guiding trails in Yosemite Valley, see page 12.

### Marvel at the Giants

Before leaving the park, be sure to see the giant sequoias in the Mariposa Grove (Wawona Road, South Entrance), the Tuolumne Grove (Tioga Road), or the Merced Grove (Big Oak Flat Road). See *Yosemite Today* for more information.

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



NPS Photo

Dear Yosemite Friends,

Welcome to Yosemite! This park has long been associated with the early origins of the National Park System. Its history is filled with such champions as Galen Clark, John Muir, and Theodore Roosevelt. In fact, did you know that this year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Muir's historic Yosemite meeting with Roosevelt where they discussed the idea of a system of national parks? But as Shelton Johnson captures in his article, there are histories hidden in this park that are no less important in the fabric of its compelling stories.

The first rangers of Yosemite were members of the U.S. Cavalry. During the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in a segregated nation, African-American soldiers answered the call to protect three western national parks in order to assure their preservation

for future generations. Thus, in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Buffalo Soldiers in Yosemite, we speak the names of soldiers like Col. Charles Young, Private Guthrie Underwood, Private Alonzo Hill so that the world will never forget their important contributions to national parks.

I encourage you to uncover more hidden histories here in Yosemite. Our parks are places set aside by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. In our parks we honor our past and our diversity so that future visitors—those yet to be named—can find their place here as well.

Sincerely,

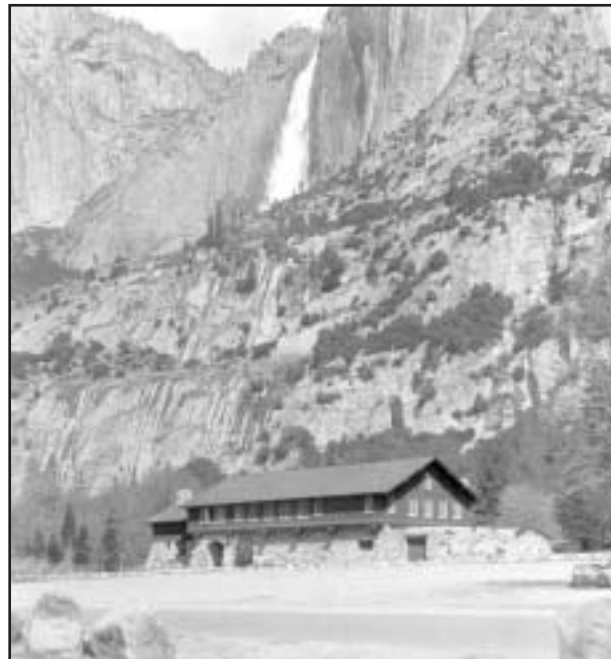
Michael J. Tollefson

## YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Yosemite's oldest nonprofit support organization, the Yosemite Association, celebrates 80 years of service to the park on August 4, 2003. The association was organized in 1923 under the auspices of the American Museum Association to secure funds for building a new museum and to promote a better knowledge of the natural history of the region among the visiting public. Known as the Yosemite Museum Association (and later to be called the Yosemite Natural History Association), the group became the first cooperating association in the National Park System. There are now nearly 70 similar organizations, modeled on the association, in national parks throughout the country.

In 1925, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Foundation made a large gift to the association, which was

used with other donated funds to construct the Yosemite Museum. The two-story structure contained exhibits, a library, storage facilities, a classroom, offices, and caretaker's quarters. Today it



The Yosemite Museum, circa 1925.

Photo courtesy Yosemite Research Library

houses the park Research Library, the museum collection, two galleries, and park offices.

As the Yosemite Natural History Association grew, it began to publish educational materials to provide the public with information to enhance the study of natural and human history in Yosemite. Among them was *Yosemite Nature Notes*, a monthly publication of the naturalist staff that was printed from 1926 until 1961. In recent years, the association's publication program has expanded, and it regularly produces high quality, award-winning books and maps.

The Yosemite Association is proud of its accomplishments over the past 80 years, and looks forward to making even greater contributions to the park in the new century. To learn more about the Yosemite Association, see page 14 or visit [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org).



## HISTORIC CAMP 4

Due to a successful collaboration between the National Park Service and the rock climbing community, Camp 4 (once known as Sunnyside Campground) was listed with the National Register of Historic Places on February 21, 2003. From 1947 to 1970, Yosemite Valley became a center of rock climbing activity. Camp 4, a walk-in campground traditionally used by climbers, was instrumental in those early years as climbing grew into a sport. "What makes this dusty little campground so historic and unique is its freewheeling, dynamic spirit and the people drawn to it over the decades," said Linda McMillan, vice president of the American Alpine Club, a rock-climbing organization.



Royal Robbins and TM Herbert in Camp 4, sorting hardware for a climb of El Capitan in 1964.

Photo by Tom Frost

# YOSEMITE NEWS

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

The *Yosemite Valley Plan* outlined over 250 actions that would take place during the next 20 years. While clearly no changes can occur overnight, a great deal of preparation has gone into launching some of the initial projects. Today, much has been accomplished that will move these activities from the drawing board to the project site.

In addition to *Yosemite Valley Plan* projects, other work is scheduled to begin in areas around the park. From Tuolumne Meadows to Wawona, from wilderness trails to the Valley Visitor Center, taking care of Yosemite requires the hard work and hands of not only park staff, but scores of volunteers.

This year, visitors to Yosemite will notice increased activity throughout the park. Many projects may be less apparent than others, while some may cause temporary inconveniences. However, each one plays a valuable part in the bigger picture of Yosemite's future—to improve the visitor experience while preserving the park's treasured natural and cultural resources, both today and for future generations.

To learn more about park improvement efforts, visit online at [www.nps.gov/yose/planning](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning)

### THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN YOSEMITE VALLEY:

- Ecological restoration at Happy Isles Fen
- Improvements at the Lower Yosemite Fall area, including trail work and removal of the parking lot

### LOOK FOR THESE ACTIVITIES TO BEGIN AROUND THE PARK FROM SUMMER TO FALL:

- Ecological restoration projects at various locations parkwide
- Continued repairs and realignment of the park's antiquated utility systems
- Removal and replacement of the condemned South Fork Merced River Bridge in Wawona
- Removal of Cascades Diversion Dam at the intersection of Big Oak Flat and El Portal Roads
- Renovation of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center lobby and bookstore
- Rebuilding of portions of Yosemite Lodge
- Construction of employee housing at Curry Village



Artist drawing of new viewing platform at the base of Lower Yosemite Fall. See page 14 for The Yosemite Fund's "Campaign for Yosemite Falls."

## Stay Connected

National parks help connect us with places that tell the stories of what is truly special about America. A visit to a national park can bring about memories that will last a lifetime. After you arrive home, these are some ways you can stay connected with your Yosemite experience:

- Learn more about the state-of-the-park.

A series of monthly open houses is conducted to inform visitors about the latest improvement projects occurring in the park. See *Yosemite Today* for scheduled dates.

- Sign up to be on the Yosemite mailing list.

A quarterly *Planning Update* newsletter is available. Also, coming this summer, a monthly email newsletter will be available. To sign up for either or both of these informational publications, sign up at any visitor center or send your email address to [yose\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:yose_planning@nps.gov).

- Support one of Yosemite's park partner organizations.

The Yosemite Association and The Yosemite Fund are both nonprofit organizations that support the National Park Service's mission of protecting this special place for future generations. (See page 14 for more information.)

- Volunteer your time or expertise.

Individuals or groups can participate in service projects in Yosemite. See page 15 for information on the Volunteers in Parks program.

- Take part in a planning process.

Yosemite's planning efforts can only truly succeed with the help of public involvement. As the park moves forward with plans for various improvements, let your voice be heard. Sign up on the park's mailing list or visit the planning web page at [www.nps.gov/yose/planning](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planning).

- Come back and spend some more time in this amazing park!



10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in late 1800s.

In 1903, African-American soldiers patrolled what was then Yosemite's 1 million acres and collected the park's first entrance fees.

## BUFFALO SOLDIER CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE SIERRA

The first marked nature trail in a national park was built in 1904 by the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry as part of an arboretum in the Wawona area.

African-American soldiers built the majority of the first trail to the top of Mt. Whitney, highest mountain in the contiguous United States located in Sequoia National Park. In 1903, the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was actually stopped from completing the trail due to boulders. Because they were African-American, they weren't allowed to use any explosives. A civilian crew "finished" the job, taking credit for the trail's accomplishment.

Col. Charles Young (pictured on page 1) is considered to be the first African-American superintendent of a national park, serving in Sequoia & General Grant (Kings Canyon) National Park in 1903.

## ENTRANCE FEES: EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA WHILE HELPING NATIONAL PARKS

To help the National Park Service, Congress took a bold step in 1996 and authorized the Recreational Fee Demonstration (Fee Demo) Program. Prior to the Fee Demo Program, fees—such as entrance fees—collected at National Park Service sites were returned to the U.S. Treasury, and were not available to directly support park projects. Under the Fee Demo Program, these fees are now retained by the agency that collects them and are earmarked for backlogged infrastructure projects and improved visitor services, with 80% retained in the collecting park and 20% shared with other parks to support similar projects.

In addition to providing admission into Yosemite, your fees directly support projects in the park as well as other sites in the

National Park System. When you *Experience Your America* by visiting a Fee Demo site, you help the National Park Service preserve and protect our nation's heritage for future generations.

### PROJECTS COMPLETED IN YOSEMITE, THANKS TO ENTRANCE FEES:

- Renovation of the Valley Visitor Center's West Auditorium Theater
- Repair to sections of sewer line that services Yosemite Valley

### OTHER PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Stabilizing historic backcountry cabins
- Replacing picnic tables, fire rings, and signs in out-of-Valley campgrounds
- Improving facilities and programs for persons with disabilities



- Rehabilitating amphitheaters at White Wolf and Tuolumne Meadows
- Improving shuttle buses in Yosemite Valley
- Refurbishing roads, trails, and utilities throughout the park

# PROTECT YOUR PARK

## Special Protection for Special Places

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park's most important guardians. With nearly 3.5 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 call 911 or 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 bike paths. 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! Not long ago, many areas along the Merced River showed signs of human trampling. 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.

### RIVER CROSSINGS

In summer, rivers and creeks swollen by runoff from snowmelt are dangerous.

- 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 places where the water is either swift or over your knees. Use a stick or pole for balance and try to cross where there is a gravel bottom. Crossing on a

natural bridge of rocks or logs can be surprisingly slippery. Consider where you will land if you fall. Never cross above rapids or falls. To prevent being pulled under by the weight of your pack, unbuckle the waist strap so you can shed it if you fall in. Do not tie yourself into safety ropes—they can drown you.

### RAFTING

- Conditions permitting, 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.
- 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.
- 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.

### 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 it to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline.
- Trout season opens on the

last Saturday in April and continues through November 15 (except Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor which 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, and from there downstream to Foresta Bridge in El Portal. Within these reaches of the river 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, and always wash hands afterwards with soap and water. 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.



Over 400 African-American soldiers took part in protecting Yosemite National Park. This photo was taken on the Fallen Monarch tree in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Are you a descendant? To view the Cavalry muster roll of names, visit <http://shadowsoldier.wilderness.net>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT...

- Fire safety tips, see page 5.
- Food storage regulations, see page 6.
- Camping and campfires, see page 7.
- Wilderness regulations, see page 12.
- 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.
  - California law requires that you wear seatbelts and use child safety seats for children under six years of
- age or under 60 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.

# NATURE NOTES



## FIRE AS A TOOL



### 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.

Illustration by Lawrence Ormsby

Yosemite fire managers recognize that fire has been an essential part of the ecosystem for thousands of years. Due to decades of fire suppression, the natural role of fire was eliminated, resulting in overgrown and unhealthy forests. Naturally occurring fires allow forests to be thinned, opening the canopy and allowing sunlight through. Fire also allows the recycling of nutrients to the soil while reducing the amount of wood, which could otherwise be hazardous and threaten to destroy forests and structures.

Fire managers use three tools to restore the benefits of this natural process: *prescribed fire*, *mechanical thinning*, and *wildland fire*. While visiting Yosemite, you may see evidence of any of these practices.

**Prescribed fires** are ignited by qualified park fire staff under certain pre-determined conditions. These fires are carefully managed to achieve such goals as public safety by protecting developed areas, and ecosystem restoration by clearing unsafe accumulation of dead and down wood.

**Mechanical thinning** requires the use of chainsaws to cut smaller trees and

brush, as well as chippers if needed onsite. You may see piles of cut material. There may also be park vehicles and trucks near the site to haul away any excess material.

**Wildland fires** caused by lightning may be allowed to burn in certain park wilderness areas under specific conditions, and with close surveillance by park fire staff. These fires may be managed and allowed to burn to fulfill their natural role as an agent for the ecosystem. Where it is not prudent to allow fires to burn, park fire staff will suppress them.

During the 2003 fire season, Yosemite Fire Management staff plans 7,519 acres of prescribed burns and 988 acres of mechanical thinning. During your visit, you may notice signs along roadways indicating that a managed fire is in progress. Fires in Yosemite National Park—natural or prescribed—may result in smoky conditions and reduced visibility. Please observe all warning signs posted in fire areas. Visitors with respiratory problems may need to use caution when exerting themselves in smoky areas.

## 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 cold and out.

### Cigarettes

- Never throw lighted cigarettes on the ground or out of a car window.
- Crush cigarettes butts dead and out before discarding them 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

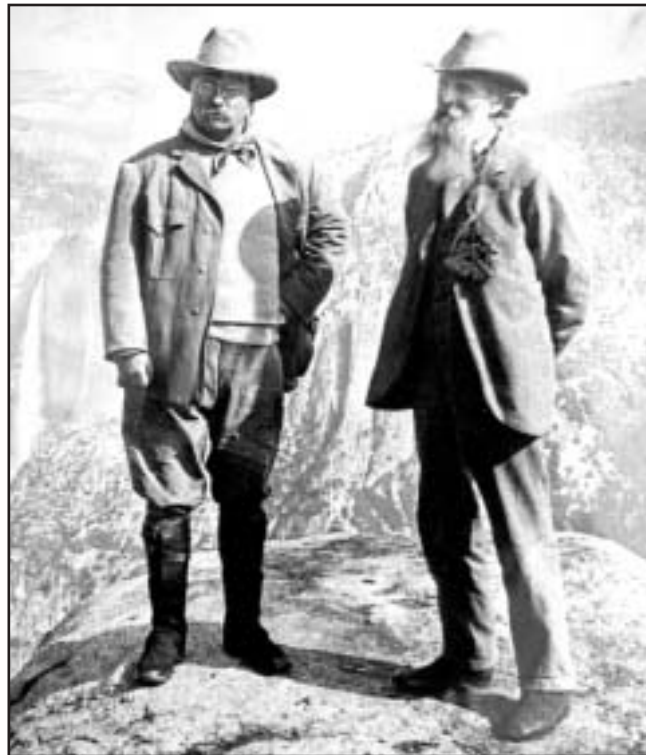
- Refuel stoves or lanterns only when they are cold and in a well-ventilated area.
- Never use gas-fueled lanterns and stoves in tents, vehicles, or other confined spaces. These devices produce carbon monoxide gas which can be deadly.

## CENTENNIAL OF ROOSEVELT'S HISTORIC YOSEMITE VISIT

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Theodore Roosevelt's historic—and unorthodox—visit to Yosemite National Park.

Despite the official welcome and fanfare planned to celebrate the arrival of President Roosevelt to Yosemite National Park in 1903, he requested privacy. Roosevelt wanted nothing more than to shed his entourage and “outskirt and keep away from civilization.” The president had prearranged to have none other than naturalist John Muir as his Yosemite guide. While here, he and John Muir discussed what Muir called doing some “forest good.”

It is difficult to determine what influence the visit to Yosemite may have had on the president. Perhaps there is a correlation between his Yosemite experience and the 230 million acres of public land protected during his presidency. The fact that a sitting president went on a camping trip with a renowned naturalist sent a clear message to the country—it was time to think about conserving our natural resources for future generations.



Courtesy of Yosemite Research Library

Roosevelt and Muir on Glacier Point. Look for a sign before Bridalveil Fall in Yosemite Valley where the two men camped and swapped stories.

## BLUES FOR THE 24<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY

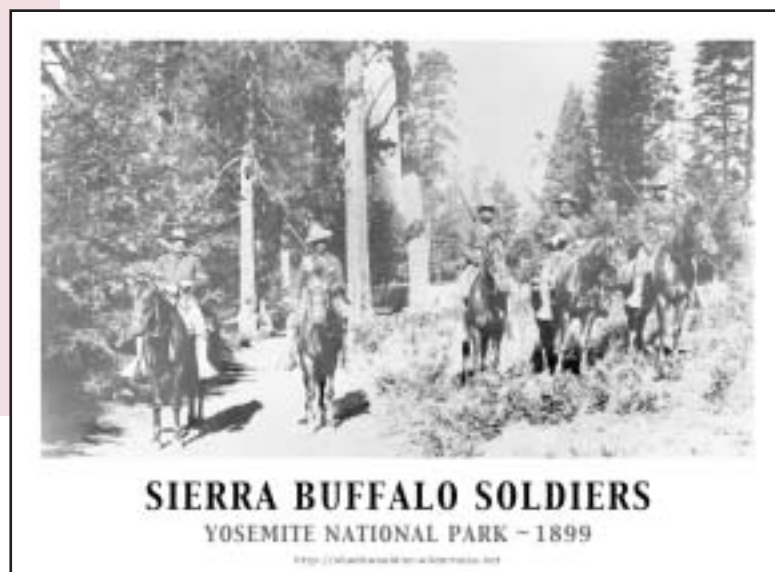
Horse beneath me,  
Rollin' like the sea.  
Horse beneath me,  
Rollin' like the sea.  
A soldier's life is ridin' far,  
But never being free.

People gaze upon us,  
Along the dusty road.  
Strangers gaze upon us,  
Along the dusty road.  
Nev'r seen a horse, I guess,  
Carryin' such a load.

Joined the 24th Infantry,  
To get away from pain.  
Joined the Infantry, I guess,  
To get away from pain.  
Though hurt ain't somthin'  
you can leave,  
The motion keeps you sane.

Horse beneath me,  
Rollin' like the sea.  
Horse beneath me,  
Rollin' like the sea.  
This soldier's life is ridin' far,  
But never being free.

—SHELTON JOHNSON



This commemorative poster is available through the Yosemite Association. Check at the Valley Visitor Center or visit online at [www.yosemitestore.com](http://www.yosemitestore.com).



# BEARS

## Mountain Lions

**Mountain lions are a normal and very important part of the park ecosystem and help 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 on humans are extremely rare, they are possible, just 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!**

## KEEP BEARS WILD (while protecting yourself and your property)

### TOP THREE WAYS YOU CAN KEEP YOSEMITE'S BLACK BEARS WILD AND ALIVE

- 1. Store your food properly** (see table below for details). Imagine each day eating 4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, berries, acorns, and grubs—that's the typical diet of most bears. It's a lot easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling at grasses. Their incredible sense of smell allows them to detect things we can't, which helps them find food—a black bear can smell a dead deer three miles away. To top it off, bears have excellent vision and can see in color, so they recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.
- 2. If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.** You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away: Make as much noise as possible by yelling or banging pots together. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four parked shuttle buses). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around

humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

- 3. Drive the speed limit.** The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Slow down. Driving too fast is almost always the cause of these accidental deaths.

### BACKPACKERS: SAVE YOUR FOOD, SAVE A BEAR

Bear resistant food canisters are 2.7 pound containers that can be used to store 5 or more days of backpacker food when meals are carefully planned. Canisters have an inset lid that bears are unable to open. When used correctly, bears quickly learn that—although they smell like food—the

canisters are not worth investigating. See page 15 or *Yosemite Today* for canister rental locations throughout the park.

### REPORT ALL BEAR SIGHTINGS!

To report bear sightings, improper food storage, trash problems, and other bear-related problems, leave a message for the Bear Management Team at 209/372-0322. Your call can be made anonymously.



Illustration by Lawrence Ormsby

## HOW TO STORE FOOD

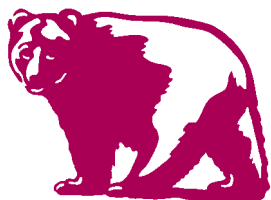
"Food" includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, perfume, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals.

LOCATION	FOOD STORAGE	WHY?
<b>YOUR VEHICLE</b>	You may store food in your car only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark: use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, crumbs in baby seats, and baby wipes.	Bears can smell food, even if it's sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!
<b>YOUR CAMPSITE OR TENT CABIN</b>	You must store all your food in food lockers. Each campsite contains a food locker measuring 33"x45"x18". Tent-cabin areas have smaller lockers. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed.	Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check bear boxes to see if they're secured. Keep food locker closed and latched at all times, even when you are in your campsite.
<b>PICNIC AREAS &amp; ON THE TRAIL</b>	Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within an arm's reach. Don't turn your back to your food.	Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.
<b>WILDERNESS</b>	Bear resistant food containers are required in some areas and are strongly recommended everywhere else. Hanging food is only a delaying tactic for bears, as bears can easily climb trees.	In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food. See page 15 for canister rental locations.

**NOTE: Following these regulations and precautions helps decrease the chance of personal injury or property damage. However, bear damage and confrontations are still possible, even when all the guidelines are followed. Improper food storage may result in impoundment of your food or vehicle, a fine of up to \$5,000, and/or revocation of camping permit.**

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

### KEEP BEARS WILD



YOSEMITE WILD BEAR PROJECT

# 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 are available up to five months in advance, beginning on the 15th of each month.

DATE TO CALL	FOR ARRIVAL DATES THROUGH
January 15	June 14
February 15	July 14
March 15	August 14
April 15	September 14
May 15	October 14
June 15	November 14
July 15	December 14
August 15	January 14
September 15	February 14
October 15	March 14
November 15	April 14
December 15	May 14

From May through September, campsites are in heavy demand and prospective campers are encouraged to call National Park Reservation Service 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. Pacific time, beginning on the 15th of each month. Written requests should include desired location, type of equipment you will be camping in (i.e., tent, RV, etc.), as well as method of payment. Written requests will be accepted 2 weeks prior to—but will not be processed until—the 15th.

## YOSEMITE VALLEY

There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in a calendar year; however, **May 1 - September 15, the camping limit in Yosemite is 14 days, and only 7 of those days can be in Yosemite Valley or Wawona.** 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 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 National Park Reservation Service; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets and generators are not permitted in group sites.

## SERVICES

- All sites include picnic tables, firepits or grills, tent space, parking, and a food storage locker (33"dx 45"w x 18"h). See *Keep Bears Wild* on page 6 for food storage regulations.
- Toilet facilities are available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat contain non-flushing vault toilets only.
- Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley; showers are also available at Tuolumne Meadows (summer only) during limited hours. See *Yosemite Today* for locations and hours of service.
- RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcu-



Can you see the crossed swords of the Cavalry carved on the tree? The Army used blazes like this one to mark trails and post regulations. This tree was located in Spiller Canyon in the northeastern part of the park.

pine Flat campgrounds, and RVs are not permitted in walk-in and group campsites. 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.

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

## REGULATIONS

- Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.
- A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.
- Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Generators may be used **sparsely** between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

## CAMPFIRES

- In order to improve air quality in Yosemite Valley during peak visitation months, campfires are only permitted May 1 through October 15 between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. There are no restrictions in effect in Yosemite Valley during the remainder of the year.
- Firewood collection is prohibited in Yosemite Valley. This includes "dead and down" wood.

## NATIONAL PARK RESERVATION SERVICE

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](http://reservations.nps.gov)  
You may reserve only one campsite at a time.

**INTERNATIONAL CALLERS:**  
301/722-1257

**TTY (TOLL-FREE):**  
888/530-9796

**MAIL-IN RESERVATIONS:**  
National Park Reservation Service  
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/trip/camping.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/trip/camping.htm)).

## CAMPGROUNDS IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

	CAMPGROUND	ELEVATION	MILES FROM YOSEMITE VALLEY	NUMBER OF SITES/ SPACES	DAILY FEE*	TAP WATER	STREAM WATER (BOIL)	PETS ALLOWED (MUST BE ATTENDED)	GROCERIES NEARBY	STOCK CAMP	NOTES**
IN YOSEMITE VALLEY	<b>NORTH PINES</b>	4,000'/1,200m	0	81	\$18/s	●		●	●		Open April-September Reservations required
	<b>UPPER PINES</b>	4,000'/1,200m	0	238	\$18/s	●		●	●		Open All Year Reservations required
	<b>LOWER PINES</b>	4,000'/1,200m	0	60	\$18/s	●		●	●		Open March-October Reservations required
	<b>CAMP 4 WALK-IN</b>	4,000'/1,200m	0	35	\$5/p	●			●		Open All Year/Walk-In First-come, first-served. Limited parking
OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY	<b>WAWONA</b> 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)
	<b>BRIDALVEIL CREEK</b> Glacier Point Road	7,200'/2,194m	25	110	\$12/s	●		●		●	Open July-early September First-come, first-served
	<b>HODGDON MEADOW</b> 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) Group camp closed in winter
	<b>CRANE FLAT</b> Big Oak Flat Road, near the Tioga Road turnoff	6,191'/1,886m	17	166	\$18/s	●		●	●		Open June-September Reservations required
	<b>TAMARACK FLAT</b> Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	6,315'/1,924m	23	52	\$8/s		●				Open June-early September Three-mile access road not suitable for large RVs or trailers. First-come, first-served
	<b>WHITE WOLF</b> 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'
	<b>YOSEMITE CREEK</b> Tioga Road (Highway 120 East)	7,659'/2,333m	35	40	\$8/s		●	●			Open July-early September Five-mile access road not suitable for RVs over 24' or trailers. First-come, first-served
	<b>PORCUPINE FLAT</b> 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
	<b>TUOLUMNE MEADOWS</b> 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



## 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.yosemitestore.com](http://www.yosemitestore.com).

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



## ACCESS & PARKING

Reservations are **NOT** required to enter Yosemite National Park. Private vehicles may park in designated spaces throughout Yosemite.

### The park can be accessed along four State Highways:

#### From the West (Year-Round)

Highway 120 W to Big Oak Flat Entrance  
Highway 140 to Arch Rock Entrance

#### From the South (Year-Round)

Highway 41 to South Entrance  
Highway 120 W to Big Oak Flat Entrance

#### From the East (Summer-Fall only)

Highway 120 E from Lee Vining to the Tioga Entrance

## TRANSPORTATION

### To and From Yosemite

THE YOSEMITE AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (YARTS) offers park visitors a voluntary alternative to driving their car into Yosemite by providing bus service throughout the region. Round-trip transit service is available to Yosemite from the outlying communities. Daily service from Mammoth Lakes runs July to early September. For schedule and service information visit the YARTS web site at [www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com) or call toll free 877/98-YARTS (877/989-2787) or 209/388-9589.

### Within Yosemite

Free shuttle bus service is provided throughout the eastern portion of Yosemite Valley year-round. All Valley shuttles are lift equipped for wheelchairs. 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, stop by any tour desk, or visit [www.yosemitetour.com](http://www.yosemitetour.com).

## PARK LODGING

### (AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND)

Reservations for all overnight lodging in Yosemite can be made by calling 559/252-4848, by writing to Central Reservations, Yosemite Concession Services, 5410 East Home, Fresno, CA 93727, or by visiting [www.yosemitetour.com](http://www.yosemitetour.com). Lodging in Yosemite Valley includes the following:

#### YOSEMITE VALLEY

Yosemite Lodge	Year-Round
The Ahwahnee	Year-Round
Curry Village (cabins & tent cabins)	Year-Round (weekends only in winter)
Housekeeping Camp	Spring-Fall

#### OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY

Wawona Hotel	Year-Round (weekends only in February & March)
Tent cabins at: Tuolumne Meadows Lodge White Wolf Lodge	Summer-Early Fall

Rates range from \$59 per night for a basic tent cabin with nearby bathroom, to \$358 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*.

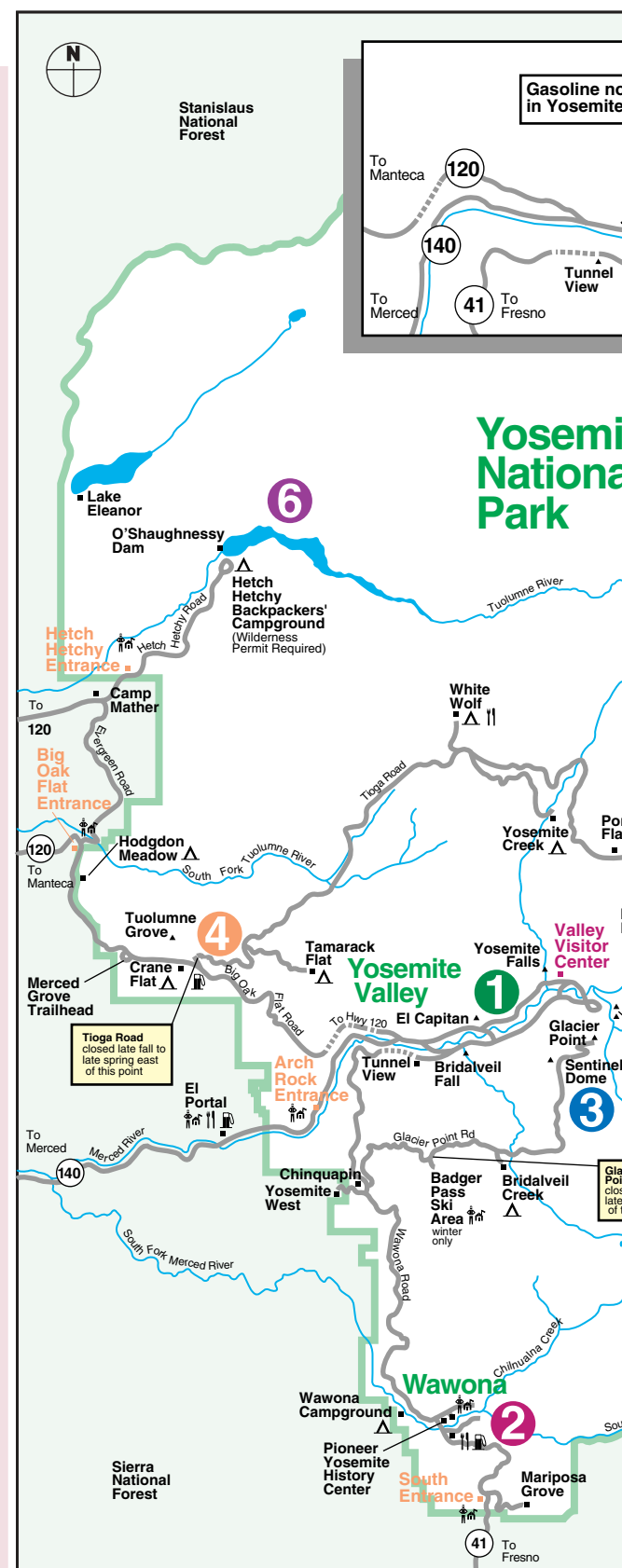
## 2 MARIPOSA GROVE AND WAWONA

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (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. Trailers are not allowed on the Mariposa Grove Road, and vehicles 23 feet and longer are restricted from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

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.

## 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.



## 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](http://www.thegreatunfenced.com)

**Highway 41**  
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau  
41969 Highway 41  
Oakhurst, CA 93644  
559/683-4636  
[www.go2yosemite.net](http://www.go2yosemite.net)

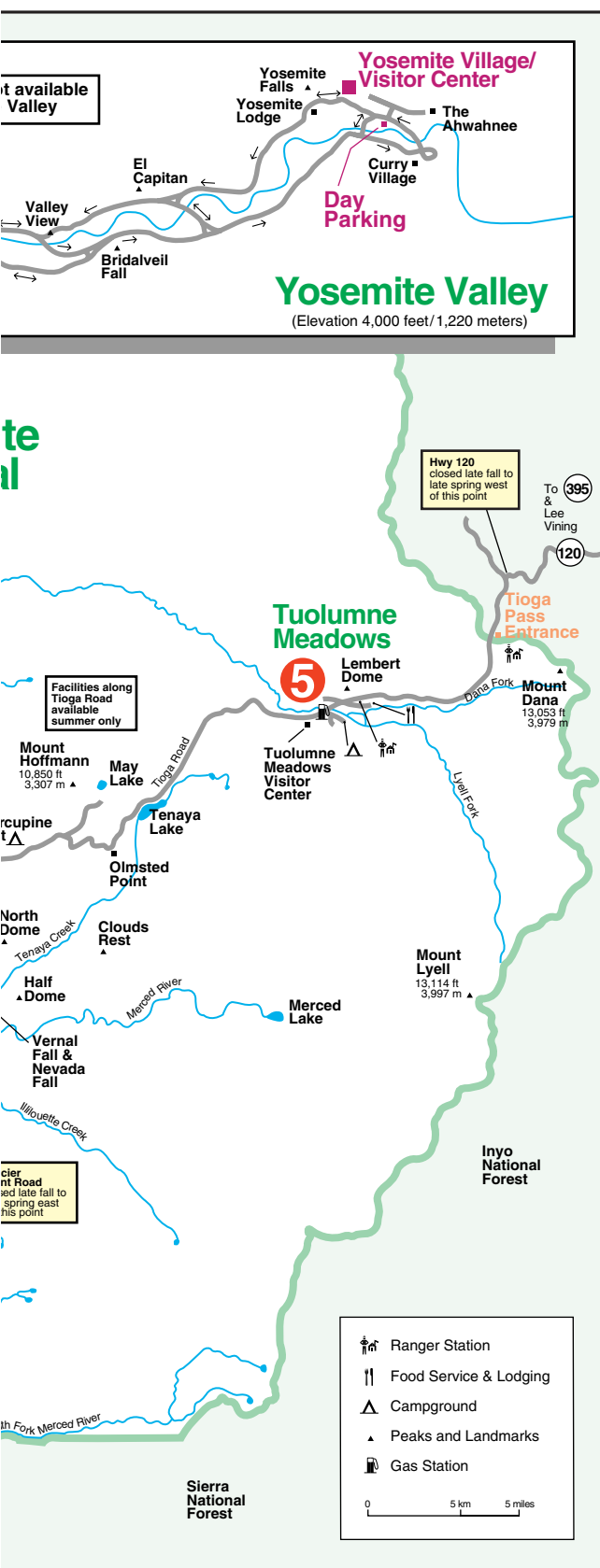
**Highway 132/49**  
Coulterville Visitor Center  
P.O. Box 333  
5007 Main Street  
Coulterville, CA 95311  
209/878-3074

**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](http://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](http://www.leevining.com)

**California Welcome Center, Merced**  
710 W. 16th Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791  
[www.yosemite-gateway.org](http://www.yosemite-gateway.org)

# YOUR VISIT



## 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.

### 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.

**Trail 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](http://www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness). For some ideas on hiking, as well as information about backpacking, see page 12.

**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...

### BY PHONE

- 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

- Yosemite National Park [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose)
- Yosemite Concession Services [www.yosemitenationalpark.com](http://www.yosemitenationalpark.com)
- Camping Reservations [reservations.nps.gov](http://reservations.nps.gov)
- Regional Information [www.yosemite.com](http://www.yosemite.com)
- Yosemite Association [yosemite.org](http://yosemite.org)
- Yosemite Fund [www.yosemitelfund.org](http://www.yosemitelfund.org)
- Yosemite Institute [www.yni.org/yi](http://www.yni.org/yi)
- Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) [www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com)
- The Ansel Adams Gallery [www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com)
- VIA/Gray Line Bus Service [www.via-adventures.com](http://www.via-adventures.com)

### RESERVATIONS

- Lodging Reservations 559/252-4848 TTY 559/255-8345
- Campground Reservations (callers from U.S. and Canada) 800/436-7275 TTY 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
<b>Annual</b>	<b>37.3/94.7</b>		

\*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 all year.

### BIG OAK FLAT INFORMATION STATION

Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall.

### WAWONA INFORMATION STATION AT HILL'S STUDIO (NEXT TO WAWONA HOTEL)

Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall.

### TUOLUMNE MEADOWS VISITOR CENTER

Closed in winter and spring; generally open June through September.

## VISITOR ACTIVITIES

[www.nps.gov/yose/trip/activities](http://www.nps.gov/yose/trip/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), Glacier Point (summer), and the Mariposa Grove Museum (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 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. Information is also available online at [www.yosemitetours.com](http://www.yosemitetours.com).

## ROAD INFO

Due to construction, you may experience short delays or temporary detours on some park roads. Call 209/372-0200 for recorded road information.



For accessibility information, see page 15. The Yosemite Accessibility Guide is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, or online at [www.nps.gov/yose/access/htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/access/htm).

# 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 (Opens late May)

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.

#### 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



Half Dome as seen from Olmsted Point.

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 thundershow-



Tenaya Lake, a sparkling jewel on the Tioga Road, is located just west of Tuolumne Meadows.

ers, particularly in August). A person staying at Tuolumne Meadows could take a different hike every day of the week and still not exhaust the possibilities. Some of the recommended hikes are those to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Lember Dome, Dog Lake, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon. Stop in at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center for a free day hike hand-out.

### 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 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



Harden Lake, near White Wolf, is a relatively easy 6-mile round-trip hike.



A hike to the top of Lember Dome is rewarded with a panoramic view of Tuolumne Meadows.

# EXPLORE YOSEMITE



Chilnualna Falls is an impressive series of cascades just outside of Wawona.

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 Falls

One of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley, Chilnualna Falls cascades down two chutes. The falls, instead of leaping and free falling from some precipice, drop 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.



Check out the 360 degree High Sierra view from the top of Sentinel Dome.

## THREE GREAT HIKES FROM THE GLACIER POINT ROAD (Opens late May)

### 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. It's just over two miles round trip; give yourself two hours.

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. You can also stop at a visitor center for a day hike hand-out.



### 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 and the Fissures offer dramatic views of Yosemite Valley and the natural processes of erosion at work.

# ON THE TRAIL



## 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 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. 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 and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy emergency food.
- Be prepared for an emergency bivouac even when out just for the day. Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.
- Avoid the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Know symptoms and treatment methods for hypothermia. Carry emergency fire starting materials and food.

### PROTECT YOSEMITE'S WILDERNESS

- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Use gas stoves rather than wood fires.
- Camp in an existing 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 6 for food storage regulations; see page 4 for water quality and water safety information.

### WILDERNESS PERMITS

Free wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. A limited number of overnight users are permitted to enter the wilderness for each day on each trail. Sixty percent of each daily trailhead quota is available by reservation, and 40% of trailhead quotas are available on a first-come, first-served basis the day of or one day in advance of departure. Maximum group size is 15 people, 8 for cross-country travel. Trailhead quotas for popular trails often fill, but there is always space available at trailheads elsewhere in the park. No permit is required for day hiking. Permits are issued at wilderness centers located in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. For general hiking information or for information on making a wilderness permit reservation, visit any park wilderness center.

Backpackers who plan to visit Yosemite's beautiful wilderness during the peak season (May through September) are encouraged to make a permit reservation.

Reservations are taken from 24 weeks to 2 days in advance of the start of your trip. There is a \$5 per person reservation fee. To make a permit reservation, check the park's web site for trailhead availability, plan an itinerary, and then call 209/372-0740.

**For recorded wilderness information, call 209/372-0200 or go to [www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness](http://www.nps.gov/yose/wilderness)**



*Yosemite Once Removed—Portraits of the Backcountry* is a stunning series of photographs paired with essays that focus on the territory beyond the roads and beaten paths of Yosemite. This book is devoted to the greater Yosemite National Park, with wilderness area that comprises more than 94% of its nearly 1,200 square miles.

Claude Fiddler, photographer, with essays by Steve Roper, Nancy Fiddler, John Hart, Ann Macquarie, and Doug Robinson. Available through the Yosemite Association. Visit online at [www.yosemitestore.com](http://www.yosemitestore.com).

## SELF-GUIDING TRAILS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

**The Miwok in Yosemite** is a short loop that winds through the Indian Village of Ahwahnee, a reconstructed Miwok-Paiute village. A booklet is available at the trailhead and in the Visitor Center. The trail begins behind the Yosemite Museum. ♿

**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, American Indian use, and history of this popular destination. To reach the start of the trail, walk 1 mile from shuttle stop #17 to the disabled parking spaces near the lake. The self-guiding trail begins here.

**The 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.

## YOSEMITE VALLEY DAY HIKES

For detailed descriptions, ask for a day hikes information sheet at the Valley Visitor Center.

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	Paved trail; last 50' may be steep for visitors with mobility impairments
MIRROR LAKE (a seasonal lake)	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17	2 miles round trip (3.2 km)	Easy	1 hour round trip	♿ Vehicle access available via road with placard
LOWER YOSEMITE FALL	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	1/2 mile round trip (0.8 km)	Easy	20 minutes round trip	Paved trail; last 50' is significantly sloped
UPPER YOSEMITE FALL TRAIL COLUMBIA ROCK	Camp 4 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
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 early 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 and early spring
VALLEY FLOOR LOOP	Lower Yosemite Fall 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

# JUST FOR KIDS



## FUN FAMILY EXHIBITS

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 through mid-September (see *Yosemite Today* for hours), 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 through mid-September, Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., features a children’s corner and offers children’s and family programs.

## WILD VALLEY PROGRAMS

### WEE WILD ONES

Bring your wee wild one for a fun-filled program featuring nature-related stories, activities, songs and more! This 45-minute program is geared for children 6 and under, though older children are welcome. Each child must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Check *Yosemite Today* for program times and locations.

### YOSEMITE THEATER LIVE PRESENTS

#### *Yosemite Tails—Animal and Earth Stories*

(Saturdays, June 21 to August 23)

New for the 2003 season, this 1-hour evening program is especially for children...or the kid in all of us! Join the Story Quilters as they weave stories and songs of the land and its critters that will make you laugh and smile and use your imagination. Located at the Valley Visitor Center East Auditorium. Check *Yosemite Today* for schedule.

### EXPLORE YOSEMITE FAMILY PROGRAM

(July through August)

Enjoy the morning or afternoon in Yosemite Valley with a professional naturalist and a small group of families to explore the wonders of Yosemite’s natural world and cultural history. The “Explore Yosemite Family Program” offers a hands-on exploratory adventure for families with children ages 12 and under. Each child must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Check *Yosemite Today* for schedule and details.



## 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.

## BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

Kids ages 7-13: You can become a Yosemite Junior Ranger by purchasing a self-guided booklet published by the Yosemite Association. This booklet is sold for \$4.95 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. Also visit WebRangers, the National Park Service’s online junior ranger program at [www.nps.gov/webangers](http://www.nps.gov/webangers).

## 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.

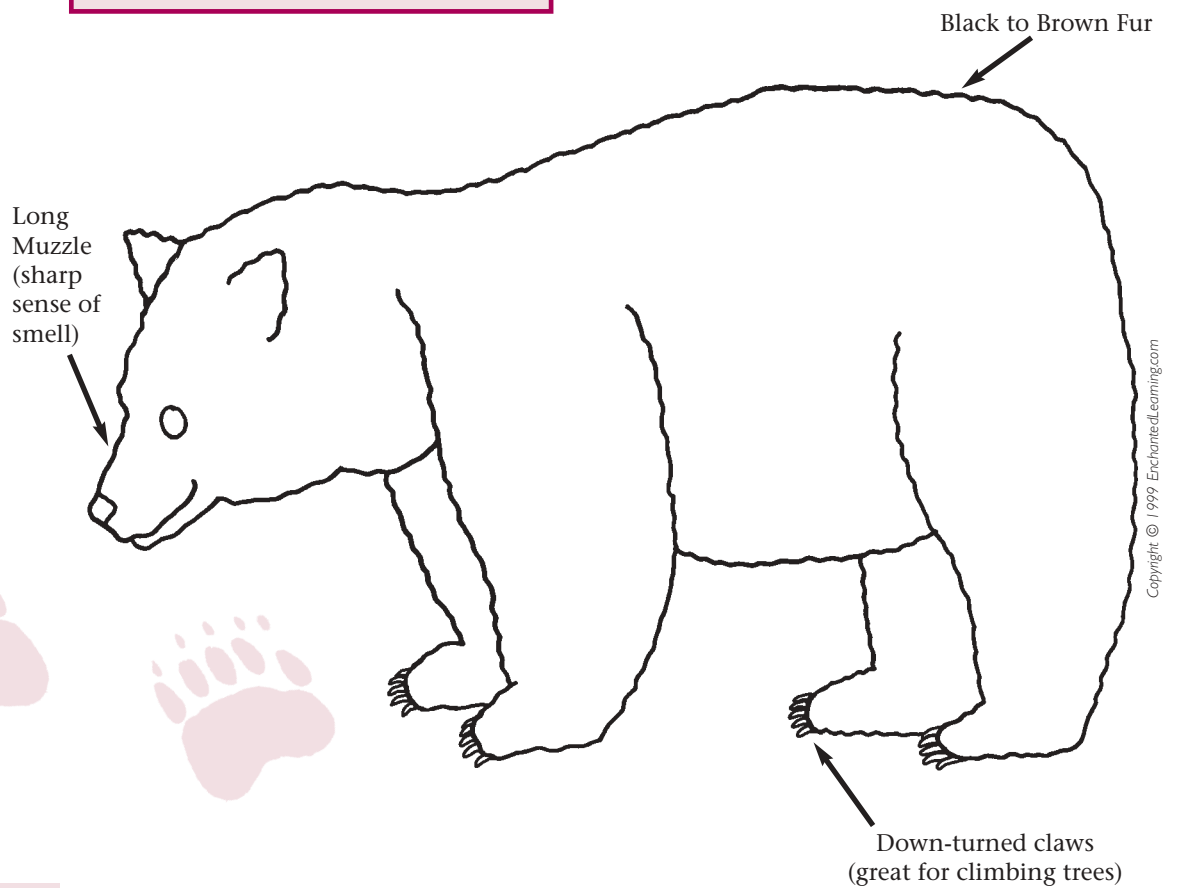
### DIET

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

### CLASSIFICATION

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

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



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## TAKE THE BLACK BEAR TRUE/FALSE QUIZ

Bears break into cars and enter campsites to get food because there isn’t enough natural food for them.

**False.** There is plenty of natural food for the bears, but they are opportunistic, seeking out what’s easiest. If they smell some food nearby, like a bag of potato chips in your car, they may attempt to get it.

Bears in Yosemite Valley are active both day and night.

**True.** Researchers have determined that bears are active both day and night. Bears that visit public places like campgrounds may come out at night in order to avoid people.

Bears can smell canned beans, soda, or a jar of peanut butter.

**True.** There is no animal that has a better sense of smell than a bear. On top of that, they can unscrew jar lids!

To learn more about black bears in Yosemite National Park, visit [www.nps.gov/yose/nature/wlf\\_bears.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/nature/wlf_bears.htm)

# HELP YOUR PARK



## YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

### BECOME PART OF A TRADITION OF SERVICE

Yosemite's oldest nonprofit support organization, the Yosemite Association, is proud to celebrate 80 years of service to the park this year! Join YA today, and help them continue to provide a wide array of educational products and services that enhance the visitor experience and promote stewardship of this amazing park.

In cooperation with the National Park Service and with authority from Congress, the Yosemite Association:

- Provides funding annually to the National Park Service for visitor information, educational, and interpretive programs;
- Publishes award-winning books on Yosemite and operates bookstores in the park;
- Provides member volunteers to work on restoration projects and to act as docents at many park facilities;
- Protects Yosemite's bears through education and bear canister rental programs;
- Offers scores of outdoor classes on topics such as natural history, photography, American Indians, backpacking, and art.

If you love Yosemite and wish to become more closely involved with the park, become a member of the Yosemite Association. Sign up for membership through this *Yosemite Guide* and receive as a free gift *The Complete Guidebook to Yosemite National Park*. This humorous and informative book has earned the "Best National Parks Guidebook" award from the National Park Service.

Membership dues start at \$30 per year and entitle you to many valuable benefits, including:

- *Yosemite*, the quarterly journal
- A 15% discount on all books, merchandise, and Outdoor Adventures offered by the Yosemite Association
- A 10% discount at selected lodging facilities both in and near the park
- The opportunity to attend special events for members and to participate in volunteer programs in the park

Complete the form below to join the Yosemite Association today!

## YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION AND HELP CONTINUE ITS TRADITION OF SERVICE!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <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<br>(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 \_\_\_\_\_

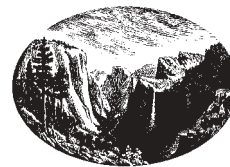
Enclosed is my check or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or charge to

Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_



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



## THE YOSEMITE FUND

### PROVIDING FOR YOSEMITE'S FUTURE

Yosemite Falls, the highest waterfall in North America, is a key destination for more than 2 million Yosemite visitors each year. Yet the approach to this stunning natural icon is in need of repairs: landscape has been trampled, access for wheelchair users is limited, and educational exhibits are minimal.

The Campaign for Yosemite Falls, a partnership between The Yosemite Fund and the National Park Service, is providing funding to restore natural habitat and improve the visitor experience in this 56-acre area. The Kresge Foundation has made a \$600,000 challenge grant to help raise the remaining \$1.8 million required to complete the project. Please consider becoming a part of this historic effort by making a donation to help meet this important challenge grant.

The restoration at Lower Yosemite Fall is just one 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 15th year, the Fund has distributed over \$20 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
- Create *Spirit of Yosemite*, a captivating, award-winning visitor orientation film
- Rebuild numerous sections of Yosemite's 800+ miles of trails

This year, the Fund hopes to sponsor many more projects including new educational wayside exhibits, wilderness restoration, and reclamation of an acre of wetland at Happy Isles.

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

- Access to a special telephone number to make lodging reservations in the park
- 10% off park lodging, including The Ahwahnee and Wawona Hotel
- Free subscription to the Fund's biannual full-color magazine, *Approach*
- Listing 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\* When you make a gift of \$100 or more, you'll receive a set of beautiful Yosemite note cards.

\*\* **John Muir Heritage Society** members, giving \$1,000 or more, receive invitations to events in Yosemite, name listing on the Honor Wall in Yosemite Valley, 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

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## LOST AND FOUND

To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite's restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses, or tour services, call Yosemite Concession Services at 209/372-4357, or write YCS Lost & Found, P.O. Box 578, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call the National Park Service at 209/379-1001, or write to NPS Warehouse, 5083 Foresta Road, B-759, El Portal, CA 95318.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Bear Canister Rental

\$5 rental fee with \$75 deposit (credit card or cash). Available at the Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Centers, the Big Oak Flat Information Station, the Wawona Information Station at Hill's Studio, the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station, and the Crane Flat and Wawona Stores. Canisters can be returned to any of these locations. Drop bins are available for after-hour returns. Drop bins are also available in the Yosemite Valley Trailhead Parking area, near Happy Isles. Canisters are required in some areas of Yosemite's Wilderness and are highly recommended everywhere else. See page 6 for more information about proper food storage.

### Babysitting

Limited babysitting is available for registered guests at Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee. Call the front desk or concierge for additional information.

### Kennel

(Spring through fall, weather permitting)

Located at the stable in Yosemite Valley. Dogs must be gentle, weigh over 10 pounds, with proof of shots and license required. 209/372-8348

### Employment Opportunities

Would you like to be part of Yosemite's future? Employment opportunities exist at Yosemite National Park with the National Park Service, Yosemite Concession Services Corporation, and Volunteers in Parks.

#### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

For job information on the web visit, [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov)

Employment hotline:

209/372-0200-6-1-1 (for permanent positions)

209/372-0200-6-1-2 (for seasonal positions)

To contact the Yosemite National Park Human Resource Office, call 209/379-1805 or write: Yosemite National Park, Human Resource Office, P.O. Box 700, El Portal, CA 95318.

#### YOSEMITE CONCESSION SERVICES

Contact Yosemite Concession Services Corporation at the General Offices in Yosemite Village or call 209/372-1236.

#### VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

Individuals and groups interested in community service projects in Yosemite can call the Volunteer Program Manager at 209/379-1850. Free camping is provided and entrance fees are waived during your work project.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

#### YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION

Outdoor courses in the park in natural history, art, backpacking, photography, and more. P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. 209/379-2321 [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org)

#### YOSEMITE INSTITUTE

Non-profit environmental education organization. Week-long, field-based sessions for school groups, teachers, and other groups. P.O. Box 487, Yosemite, CA 95389. 209/379-9511 [www.yi.org/yi](http://www.yi.org/yi)

#### NPS EDUCATION BRANCH

Educational outreach and information for teachers. Wawona Education Office, P.O. Box 2027, Wawona, CA 95389, 209/375-9505, [www.nps.gov/yose/education](http://www.nps.gov/yose/education). For entrance waivers for educational groups, call 209/372-0206, or visit online at [www.ups.gov/yose/trip/waivers.htm](http://www.ups.gov/yose/trip/waivers.htm).

### PARKS AS CLASSROOMS

Yosemite National Park is the ideal outdoor classroom for exploring natural and cultural history. Yosemite's *Parks As Classrooms* program coordinates with the California State Frameworks for elementary grades. Each program lasts 1 to 2 hours. Park entrance fees can be waived for the visit.

These programs emphasize the National Park Service message of protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources. Fall visits feature a Miwok Indian theme. Reservations can be made beginning July 1, and class size is limited to 35 students.

**For further information regarding fall programs, call at 209/372-0303, or visit the web site at [www.nps.gov/yose/education](http://www.nps.gov/yose/education). For a fee waiver application, call 209/372-0206 or download an application online ([www.nps.gov/yose/trip/waivers.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/trip/waivers.htm)).**

### READY FOR ADVENTURE?

Yosemite Outdoor Adventures invites you to explore Yosemite through a series of fun, educational courses. You can learn about photography amidst one of the world's most spectacular landscapes, study the wildflowers as you backpack along the Sierra Crest, or gaze at the starry skies over Half Dome with an astronomer.

UPCOMING COURSES INCLUDE:

June 7-8	Springtime Wildflowers in Yosemite Valley
June 28	Hetch Hetchy History Walk
July 6	Investigating the Wildflowers of Tuolumne Meadows
July 27-31	Starry Skies Over Yosemite
Sept. 4-7	Yosemite Great Peaks Backpack
Sept. 19-21	Southern Miwok Miniature Burden Basket Making
Nov. 6-9	Nature Photography in Autumn

Yosemite Outdoor Adventures is operated by the Yosemite Association, a nonprofit educational organization that has supported Yosemite since 1923. Proceeds from the program directly benefit the park. **For more information or to request a catalog call 209/379-2321 or visit [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org).**



## ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

An accessibility brochure is available at park entrance stations and visitor centers. Information is also available online at [www.nps.gov/yose/trip/access.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/trip/access.htm). Alternative formats may be available upon request. Phone NPS accessibility coordinator Don Fox at 209/379-1160 or send an email to [Don\\_Fox@nps.gov](mailto:Don_Fox@nps.gov).

Wheelchair rental is available at the Yosemite Medical Clinic, 209/372-4637, and the Yosemite Lodge bike rental stand, 209/372-1208. See *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation.

The Golden Access Passport waives entrance fees for blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Inquire at entrance stations or visitor centers in the park.




A temporary access placard is available at park entrance stations and visitor centers. Displayed on the windshield, it allows driving on paved roads normally closed to vehicle traffic.



Designated parking spaces are marked throughout the park with the international access symbol.

### In Yosemite Valley

- Valley Visitor Center—Take Southside Drive past Chapel to stop sign. Turn left over bridge onto Sentinel Drive. At stop sign, turn left on Northside Drive and follow the signs with . Turn right on Village Drive. A few close-in spaces are available near Yosemite Museum.
- Park in the day-visitor parking area at Yosemite Village and ride the free shuttle bus. All shuttles in Yosemite Valley are lift equipped.



Audio description devices and closed captioning are available for the film, *Spirit of Yosemite*, shown daily in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center's West Auditorium Theater. Assisted listening devices may also be available for some National Park Service interpretive programs. Check at the Valley Visitor Center.



TTY phones are available for visitor use at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and for guests at Curry Village, Yosemite Lodge, and The Ahwahnee. TTY pay phones are also available outside the Curry Village registration area, inside the Yosemite Lodge lobby, and at The Ahwahnee in the mezzanine area.



With advance notice, Nanette Oswald, Yosemite's Deaf Services Coordinator, interprets ranger-led activities and provides park information for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors in spring through fall. **For more information about the Deaf Services Program, come to the Valley Visitor Center information desk, or call 209/372-4726 (TTY) or 209/372-0642 (voice). For a listing of accessible interpretive programs, look for the international symbol in *Yosemite Today*.**

## ENJOY THE JOURNEY WITH

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:**

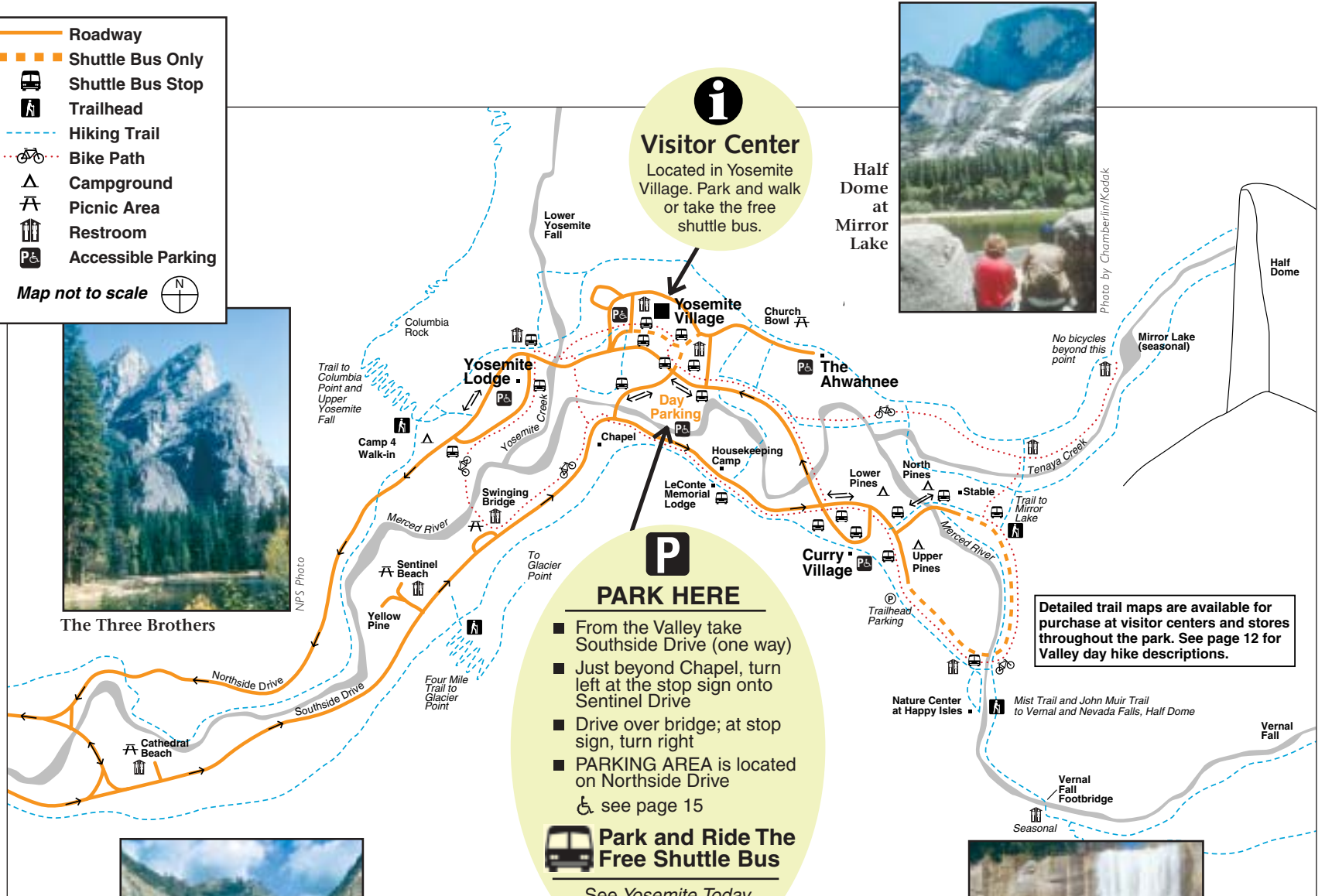
- From Mammoth Lakes and Lee Vining to Yosemite Valley on Highway 395 and 120 East via the June Lake Loop (*weekends only through June, and from September 6–28; daily service July 1 through September 1*).

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.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com) or call toll free 877/98-YARTS (877/989-2787) or 209/388-9589. For information on the Highway 120 East service (Mammoth Lakes to Yosemite Valley) please call 800/626-6684.**



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



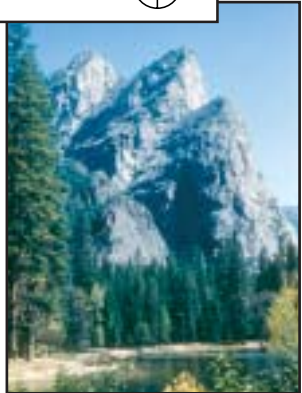
**i**  
**Visitor Center**  
 Located in Yosemite Village. Park and walk or take the free shuttle bus.

**P**  
**PARK HERE**

- From the Valley take Southside Drive (one way)
- Just beyond Chapel, turn left at the stop sign onto Sentinel Drive
- Drive over bridge; at stop sign, turn right
- PARKING AREA is located on Northside Drive
- ♿ see page 15

**Park and Ride The Free Shuttle Bus**  
 See *Yosemite Today* for schedule and route.

**ROAD INFO** Due to construction, you may experience short delays or temporary detours on some park roads. Call 209/372-0200 for recorded road information.



Detailed trail maps are available for purchase at visitor centers and stores throughout the park. See page 12 for Valley day hike descriptions.

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

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