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Jul - Sep 2008

Giant Sequoia Exploration. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

July 23 - September 2

Yosemite Guide

Welcome to Yosemite

Keep this Guide with you to Get the Most Out of Your Trip to Yosemite National Park



Illustration by Lawrence W. Duke

The Yosemite Experience

John Muir once wrote, “As long as I live, I’ll hear waterfalls and birds and winds sing. I’ll interpret the rocks, learn the language of flood, storm and the avalanche. I’ll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can.” Yosemite provides nearly 1,200 square miles of forests, meadows, granite cliffs, lakes and ponds, trails, roads, and pristine wilderness to do just that.

As Muir understood, there are as many ways to experience this amazing place as there are granite rocks in the Sierra Nevada landscape. To make the most of your time here, read through and enjoy edition of *Yosemite Guide*. The contents of this publication will first give you options for what experiences you choose to have here, help you plan those experiences, provide a listing of services and programs available in each area of the park, then provide more detailed



El Capitan looms over Yosemite Valley. Photo by Christine White Loberg

An Internationally Recognized Park

Designated a World Heritage Site in 1984, Yosemite is internationally recognized for its spectacular granite cliffs, waterfalls, clear streams, giant sequoia groves, and biological diversity.



High Sierra. Photo by Bob Roney



Half Dome. NPS Photo

information on topics such as camping and hiking.

Keep this guide with you as you make your way through the park. Pass it along to friends and family when you get home. Save it as a memento of your trip. This guide represents the collaborative energy of the National Park Service, The Yosemite Fund, DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Yosemite Association, The Ansel Adams Gallery, and Yosemite Institute—organizations dedicated to Yosemite and to making your visit enjoyable and inspiring (see page 23).

National parks were established to preserve what is truly special about America. They are places to be shared, places where everyone is welcome, places where we can re-connect with our spirit. Whether you are here for a few hours or a few days, let Muir’s words—and this guide—bring you nearer to the heart of Yosemite. During your visit to Yosemite, perhaps you too will make a lasting connection with this place.

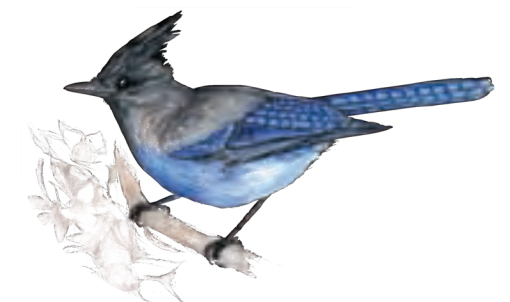


Illustration by Tom Whitworth

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Entering a National Park

Prepare yourself for a wild experience. Yosemite is a place where natural forces—such as rockfall, fire, and flood—are constantly at work. Here, wildlife freely roams. This is a place where wilderness prevails. The National Park Service recognizes the importance of Yosemite’s natural processes and is bound by its mission to protect them for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. While you are enjoying your visit, be attentive to the special regulations in place to protect park resources (page 6) and those designed for your safety (page 7).

Fire – Police – Medical Emergency: Dial 911

Road, Weather, and General Park Information: 209/372-0200

Yosemite Wilderness

Congress has designated nearly 95 percent of Yosemite National Park as Yosemite Wilderness. Wilderness is meant to protect the land’s natural conditions, scientific,

educational, ecological, and historic values; and provide opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. To learn more about how to plan your trip and reduce your impact on the Wilderness during your visit, see pages 6 and 7.



Park Access & Parking

The *Yosemite Accessibility Guide* is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm. TTYs are available inside Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee, and outside the Valley Visitor Center and Curry Village office.

Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue-and-white accessibility signs.

A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0296 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 days is requested.

Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.

Weather

Sudden changes in weather are common in the Sierra Nevada. Check at a park visitor center for the most up-to-date weather forecast. The National Weather Service broadcasts weather information for Yosemite National Park 24 hours a day on NOAA Weather Radio station KAD-94, on a frequency of 162.450 MHz. Please note that reception may not be available in remote areas.

Road Information

Construction may cause short delays or detours on some park roads. Call 209/372-0200 for recorded road 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 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/379-1001.

Exploring Yosemite

Spectacular Vistas and Quiet Corners of the Park



To experience the Valley on foot, see page 21 for a listing of popular day hikes and stop by a visitor center for a trail map.

To experience the Valley by bike, bring or rent a bike. Rentals are available daily, weather permitting. Baby-joggers, wheelchairs, and six-speed bikes with trailers can be rented as well. Rentals at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village are both open 8:30 am to 8:30 pm. (7 pm starting August 18) Call 209/372-8319 for information.

To experience the Valley on an open-air tram tour, take the Valley Floor Tour. This 26-mile, 2-hour tour departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. Moonlight Tram Tours also available the days just prior to and after the full moon.

Experience the Valley by raft along the Merced River. Raft rentals are available daily, weather and river conditions permitting. Rentals at Curry Village are open 10 am to 4 pm. Call 209/372-8319 for information.

To experience the Valley on mule or horseback, rides depart daily. Call 209/372-8348. The stables are located at shuttle stop #18 and are open 7 am to 5 pm.

The Incomparable Yosemite National 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 three groves of giant sequoias. During your visit, experience as much of this glorious place as you desire. These three pages will touch on some ways to experience Yosemite Valley as well as explore the park's other areas and quiet corners.

Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 12-15 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

The base of **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. Impressive views of both the upper and lower falls are seen on the path to the base. This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired. Although Yosemite Falls will dry up by the end of the summer, **Bridalveil Fall** is a year-round waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds swirling about the cliff lift and blow the falling water in a delicate free-fall.

El Capitan, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit.

From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan. *Note: Please park on the paved road shoulder next to El Capitan Meadow. Delicate meadows are easily damaged by trampling, so please stay on footpaths.*

Half Dome, Yosemite's most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook's Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story. The Nature Center at Happy Isles has interactive exhibits and is a great place to take kids.

For a strenuous day hike, you can use this trailhead to reach Vernal Fall footbridge (¾ miles) and Nevada Fall (3½ miles). Visitors with mobility impairments can obtain a placard at the Valley Visitor Center or an entrance station that will authorize them to drive to the Nature Center at Happy Isles or Mirror Lake.

The walk to **Mirror Lake/Mirror Meadow** is a moderately easy, one-mile walk from shuttle stop #17. During spring, you will see mirror reflections of Half Dome. The lake is naturally evolving into a meadow and dries up by summer's end.

Tunnel View, along Wawona Road (Hwy 41) provides a classic view of Yosemite Valley, including El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridalveil Fall. It is particularly spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.



Top Left: Biking through the Valley. NPS Photo by P. Meierding

Top Right: Valley Visitor Center Desk. NPS Photo

Bottom Right: Lower Yosemite Fall. Photo by Ray Santos

Wawona

Located six miles from the park's South Entrance or a one-hour drive from the Valley, the Wawona area tells the story of Yosemite's human history and pioneer past. The charming 19th-century Wawona Hotel and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center are a history buff's delight. The center is a collection of historic buildings associated with the people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour. In summer, take a journey through time on a horse-drawn stage ride. Hill's Studio, a painting studio from the 1880s, now operates as a visitor information station. To experience Wawona on mule or horseback, the Wawona Stable is open 7 am to 5 pm. Call 209/375-6502. Also in Wawona, you will find walks and hikes of varying difficulty to places like Wawona Meadow and Chilnualna Falls, one of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley.

A short drive from Wawona is the **Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias**, Yosemite's largest stand of giant sequoias (about 500 trees), and one of three groves of giant sequoias in the park (road closed to vehicles from sometime in November through May). Trail brochures are available in several languages. A one-hour tram tour of the upper and lower groves is available (normally operating between mid-May and mid-October, 9 am to 5 pm). This audio tour is available in five languages and for the visually impaired. Call 209/375-1621 for information. *Note: To reduce traffic congestion and avoid parking delays, ride the free shuttle spring through fall from Wawona to the Grove. Trailers and vehicles 25 feet and longer are not allowed on the Mariposa Grove Road. Neither bikes nor dogs are allowed in the grove.*

Glacier Point

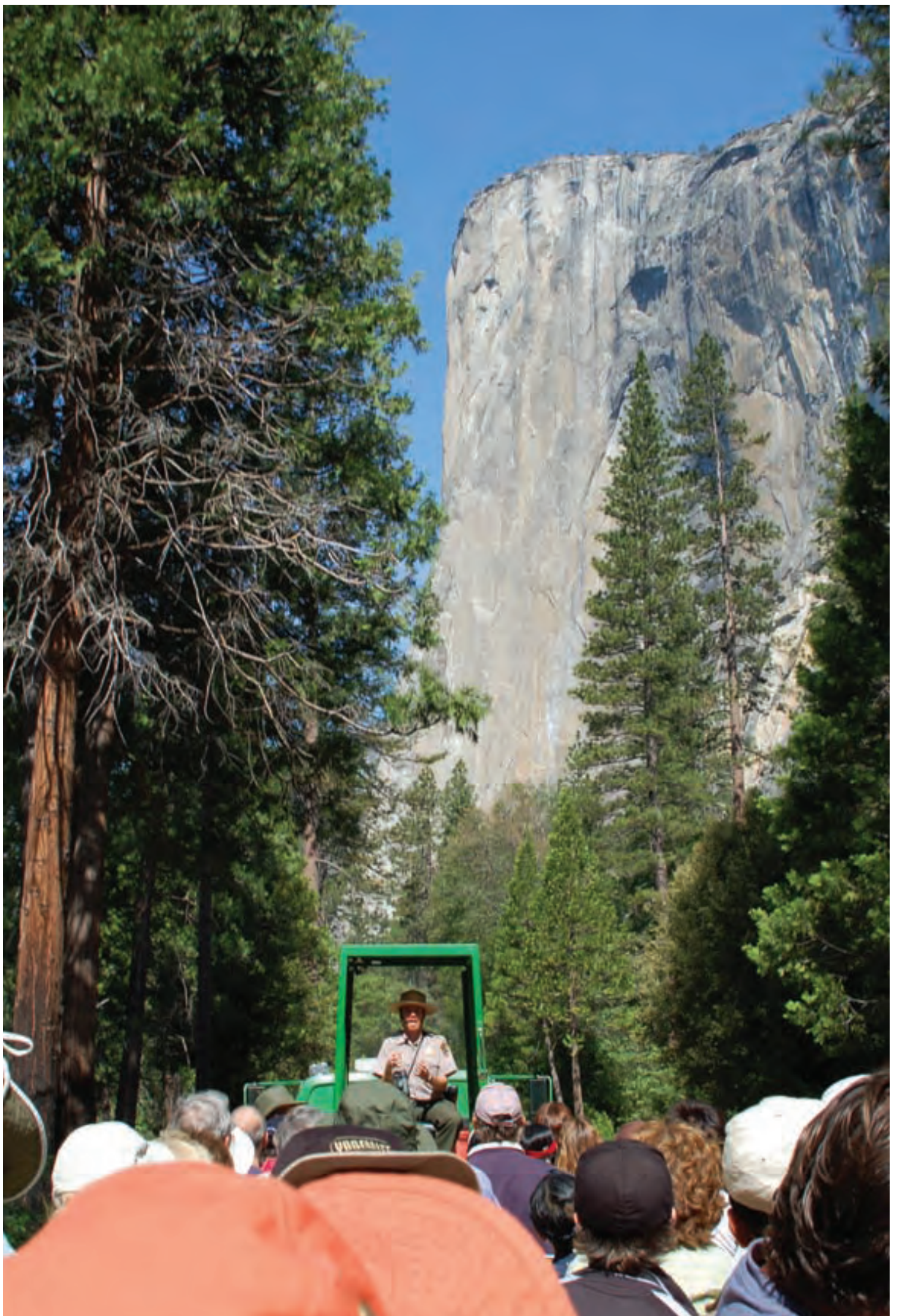
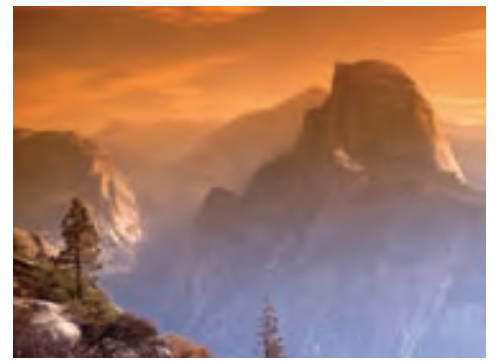
The Glacier Point Road is open late May through sometime in November; Glacier Point is approximately a one-hour drive from either Yosemite Valley or Wawona. The Glacier Point Road takes you right to the brink of Yosemite Valley. Go to the railing's edge and catch your breath at an exhilarating view, looking down 3,214 feet to the Valley floor. The paved trail to Glacier Point is wheelchair-accessible. For a 360-degree panoramic view of Yosemite's unbelievable landscape, take the 1.1-mile hike from the Sentinel/Taft Trailhead to the top of Sentinel Dome. For a hike to deep fissures and an overhanging lookout point, choose the trail to Taft Point.

Top Right: Come take a ride with Buckshot, Yosemite's resident stagecoach driver. *Photo by Bob Roney*

Top Far Right: Glacier Point. *Photo by Christine White Loberg*

Middle Far Right: At Tunnel View. *Photo by Bob Roney*

Bottom Right: Valley Floor Tour. *NPS Photo by P. Meierding*



A wonderful place to learn about nature, history, and yourself

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



Tuolumne Meadows and Lembert Dome before a storm. Photo by John Sun

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows is only 55 miles (1.5 hrs) 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 thundershowers). A person could take a different hike every day of the week and still not exhaust the possibilities. Some popular hikes are those to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Lembert Dome, Dog Lake, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon. Stop at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center for hiking information. For hiking adventures departing from Tuolumne Meadows and arriving in Yosemite Valley, take advantage of the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers' Bus, which departs from Yosemite Lodge at 8:20 am daily. Call 209/372-1240 for information. To experience the Tuolumne Meadows area on mule or horseback, visit the Tuolumne Meadows Stable. Open 7 am to 5 pm. Call 209/372-8427.

Tioga Road

Originally a wagon road built by the Great Sierra Consolidated Silver Company in 1883, the Tioga Road 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 easier access to previously remote high-country destinations. This road is generally closed from November to late May or early June. There are several stops along the road that are worth a visit.

At **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 a peaceful lake, such as Harden Lake (a mostly flat six-mile round trip). You will find the trailhead located near the campground in the heart of White Wolf.

Olmsted Point is located about midway between White Wolf and Tuolumne Meadows. This overlook offers one of the most spectacular vistas anywhere in

the park. Here, the sheer granite walls of Tenaya Canyon and Clouds Rest frame a magnificent view of Half Dome.

A few minutes east of Olmsted Point is **Tenaya Lake**, named for the leader of Yosemite Valley's native people when Euro-Americans arrived. Tenaya Lake is approximately eight miles west of Tuolumne Meadows, or 30 miles east of Crane Flat. This is one of the best places to have a picnic along the Tioga Road. The inviting sandy beach on the eastern shore is a wonderful spot, but if you decide to swim, be prepared for some cold water.

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Valley is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads; it is 40 miles from Yosemite Valley. The Hetch Hetchy Road has restricted hours. Call 209/372-0200 for the most up-to-date information. Vehicles over 25 feet are prohibited on the narrow Hetch Hetchy Road. Once considered a twin to Yosemite Valley, this valley was

described by John Muir as "a grand landscape garden, one of Nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples." Hetch Hetchy is located along the Tuolumne River in the northern part of the park and now contains a reservoir created by the O'Shaughnessy Dam. This dam was built to provide water for the city of San Francisco, and the dam was completed in 1923 and raised to its present height in 1938. Hetch Hetchy's towering cliffs and plunging waterfalls make this a popular hiking area from spring to fall. Hetch Hetchy's relatively low elevation gives the area one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite. **Lake Eleanor** is also nestled in the northwestern edge of Yosemite. Fishing, camping, swimming and motorless boating are permitted on this reservoir. The lake can be accessed from Highway 120.

Sight-Seeing By Motor Coach

Several motor coach sightseeing tours are available to destinations within Yosemite.

The Glacier Point Tour is a four-hour round trip from Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, which departs daily at 8:30 and 10 am, and 1:30 pm from Yosemite Lodge. The Glacier Point Tour also offers a one-way ticket for adventurers to hike back down to Yosemite Valley. The Grand Tour is an eight-hour combination of Big Trees and Glacier Point tours and departs at 8:45 am daily from Yosemite Lodge.

Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at tour/transportation desks at the following locations:

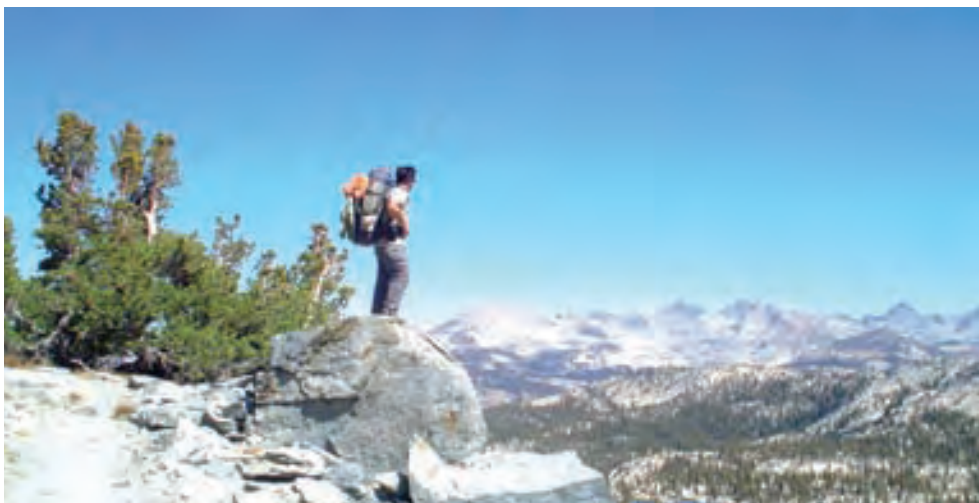
Yosemite Lodge Tour Desk
7 am to 9 pm (Mon. - Fri.)
7 am to 7 pm (Sat. & Sun.)

Village Store Tour Kiosk
9 am to 6 pm

Curry Village Tour Kiosk
7:30 am to 6 pm

Big Trees Tour Kiosk
9 am to 5 pm

Visit a tour desk to inquire about or purchase tickets for the Valley Floor Tour - a ranger guided open air tram tour (more information on page 2).



Backpacking near Red Peak Pass. Photo by Victoria Mates



Highcountry Meadow. Photo by Ken Watson

Bears and Wildlife

Enjoying wildlife safely and responsibly



Sow and Cub. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Keeping Bears Wild (while protecting yourself and your property)

Top Three Ways to Keep Yosemite's Black Bears Wild and Alive:

1. Store Your Food Properly.

(see table below for details) 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 noise and yell as loud as possible. 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 shuttle buses parked end to end). 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.

Red Bear, Dead Bear

Did you notice the red bear markers as you drove through the park? Each of them mark a place where a bear was recently hit. Every year, bears, hundreds of deer, and countless other animals are killed while trying to cross park roads. Many of these deaths could have been avoided if drivers observed posted speed limits.

Please remember that Yosemite National Park is a wildlife preserve: by driving the speed limit, you are helping to protect the park and its wildlife.

Backpackers: Save Your Food, Save A Bear

Bear resistant food canisters are 2.7-pound containers that can be used to store five 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 learn that—although they smell like food—the canisters are not worth investigating.

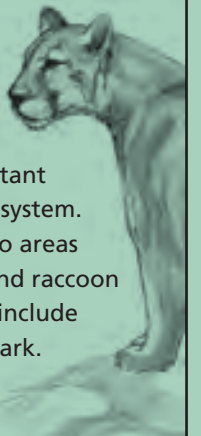
Bear canisters are available for \$5 per trip at the Valley Wilderness Center, the Wawona Information Station at Hill's Studio, Big Oak Flat Information Station, Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Canisters can be rented and returned at any of these locations.

Report 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.

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

Mountain Lions



Mountain lions are a normal and important part of the park ecosystem. They are attracted to areas with healthy deer and raccoon populations, which include many areas of the park. Although lion attacks on humans are extremely rare, they are possible, just as is injury from any wild animal.

For your safety:

Do not leave pets or pet food outside and unattended. Pets can attract mountain lions.

Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind on the trail. Teach children what to do if they see a lion.

What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?

Never approach one, especially if it is with kittens. Most lions will avoid 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 may be dangerous. If attacked, fight back!

Mountain Lions are magnificent creatures and native to Yosemite. Generally, they are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!

How to Store Food

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

LOCATION	FOOD STORAGE	WHY?
Your Vehicle	You may store food in your car (with windows closed) 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, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats.	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!
Your Campsite or Tent Cabin	You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. 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 food lockers to see if they're secured. Keep food lockers closed and latched at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin.
Picnic Areas & on the Trails	Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within 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.
Backpacking in the Wilderness	Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite.	In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food.

Note: 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. Following these regulations and precautions decreases the chance of personal injury or property damage. However, bear damage and confrontations are still possible, even when all the regulations and guidelines are followed.



Protecting Your Park

Special Protection for Special Places

The Water Ways

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. 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

Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions.

- Always supervise children closely.
- 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.
- Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir, May Lake or Emerald Pool.

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 are 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 (Stone-man Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10 am to 6 pm 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).
- Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the 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 inches deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

Pets

Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. Kennels (open only in summer) are located at the Yosemite Valley Stable, should you need a place to board your dog (call (209/372-8348). Keep in mind, in Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. They are not allowed on other trails, in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted indicating as such.

- Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles. This protects pets and wildlife from disease.
- Pets are not allowed in any lodging facilities or other buildings within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.
- Pets may not be tied to an object and left unattended.

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 bicycle 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.

Our Guardians...

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 unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

- Feeding or approaching 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 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 the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit www.nps.gov/yose/plan_yourvisit/yoursafety.htm and find a copy of the *Superintendent's Compendium*. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7 and 34), and other applicable federal statutes and regulations.



Upper Yosemite Fall. NPS Photo

Protecting Yourself

Experience Yosemite — Safely



Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

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 activities.

Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules: Please obey posted speed limits. Yosemite's roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. 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.

Pack Water

Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water.

Effects of Altitude

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley's elevation is 4,000 feet). The risk of occurrence increases with age and with diseases of the heart and lungs. Symptoms include headache, nausea, insomnia, irritability, shortness of breath, general malaise and fatigue. The best way to avoid it is to slowly acclimatize yourself to higher elevations, over the span of two to three days by gradually gaining elevation until you reach 10,000 feet (Tioga Pass). Avoid alcohol, sugar and high-fat meals. Should altitude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

Hiking, Backpacking, Rock Climbing and Scrambling

- Be honest about your abilities and plan activities with the least experienced member of your group in mind.

Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back. Carry a signal mirror and whistle. Solo activities require increased precautions.

- 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 food.
- Be prepared to set up emergency shelter 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 treatments for hypothermia. Carry 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 four trail miles from any populated area and one 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 eight 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.

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. 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 during from May through September are encouraged to make a permit reservation. Reservations are taken from 24 weeks to two 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 website for trailhead availability, plan an itinerary, and then call 209/372-0740.

More Information

www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm
 Leave No Trace www.lnt.org
 Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue www.friendofyosar.org

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 cigarette 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.

Top Left: Wilderness Exploration. Photo by Bob Roney

Top Right: Granite Walls. NPS Photo

Become a Junior Ranger



Featured Programs for Children and Families

Kids Corner

Yosemite offers a variety of walks, presentations, and storytimes in the park.

Join a National Park Ranger for a **Junior Ranger Hike or Campfire** program. These hands-on programs explore Yosemite's natural world.

Spend an evening lying in a meadow looking up at a brilliant sky at the **Starry Skies over Yosemite** program. This program is offered for a fee in Wawona and Yosemite Valley.

Wee Wild Ones is a 45-minute program packed with stories, games, and fun surprises specifically for pre-schoolers. LeConte Memorial Lodge offers family programs and walks geared for kids. **Children's Storytime** includes a 30-minute tale for children 7 and under. **Children's Theatre** offers a fun way for kids to connect through live performances. Here are just a few examples of the possibilities.

Visit the **Nature Center at Happy Isles**. See wildlife exhibits and a display of Yosemite at night or play in the children's corner. Open daily from late spring to September. Take the shuttle to stop #16.

Go into the Field! Join the **Yosemite Institute** on their fun and challenging residential field science program, a five-day introduction to Yosemite's outdoor classroom. Other custom programs for all ages are available. Contact the Yosemite Institute (for more information, see page 23).

Discover Yosemite Books. Learn about the park with *Two Bear Cubs*, an American Indian legend about El Capitan or *The World of Small*, which comes with a magnifying glass. To order these and other titles, call the Yosemite Association at 209/379-2648 or visit www.YosemiteStore.com.

Junior Rangers Wanted!

Complete the activities below, present the completed page to a park ranger, and earn a Junior Ranger badge.

For an expanded program of fun activities and to **earn an official certificate and Junior Ranger patch (ages 7-13) or Little Cub button (ages 3-6)**, visit a park visitor center bookstore and pick up a self-guided booklet published by the Yosemite Association.



¡PRESENTANDO una guía nueva en español para Guardaparques Jóvenes! Por favor visiten un centro de visitantes del parque para recoger su ejemplar. Una segunda guía en español que se llaman "Guías Oseznos" para niños vienen pronto.

1. Attend a guided park program (schedule pages 14-19) or visit with an Indian Cultural Demonstrator at the Yosemite Museum. Get the autograph of the program leader or demonstrator.

Name: _____ Date: _____

2. Describe something new that you learned from the person above.

3. Collect a full bag of garbage and dispose of it properly in a bear proof dumpster

4. Find a special place in Yosemite. It could be a trail, forest, dome, or someplace else.

What do you hear?: _____

What do you smell? : _____

What can you feel?: _____

Draw this place:

Take this page with you, visit a ranger at a visitor center, take your Jr. Ranger oath, and get your badge!

Yosemite Junior Rangers

Feature Article



Yosemite Ranger Shelton Johnson leads a guided walk. Photo by Ray Santos.

What is the best way to spend your family vacation in Yosemite?

Whether you want to have an adventure, to get acquainted with nature, or become part of a timeless tradition, many families rediscover Yosemite through the Junior Ranger program. Fun-filled experiences await those ready to explore.

Rediscovering Yosemite: The Junior Rangers

by Ranger Shelton Johnson

For many school children, both here and abroad, summer means freedom, and freedom is more than a word that opens up the world. It conjures up a sense of liberty, independence, and empowerment.

Sadly, it's easy for adults to forget that wild tension of being in class in the last minute of the last hour on the last day of school—a bold urgency like horses bunched up behind the gates to the Kentucky Derby waiting to uncoil into air.

Kids know that summer is freedom, a time to have adventures with friends and family. It's really about being free to do as one desires, to move in a new direction, to explore.

As a boy growing up in inner-city Detroit, I recall summers in a world of asphalt and steel, a world seemingly far removed from the national park idea, but I always had this longing for mountains. You see, prior to living in Detroit, my family lived in Germany. I still remember a family trip to the Alps, can still feel the coldness, the mist, and the mountains.

Wildness has a way of grabbing hold of you and never letting go. Now, I work as a park ranger in the business of facilitating memories that last a lifetime. The park's Junior Ranger Program is just one tool that helps build lasting connections for children and shape new park stewards.

A national movement to reconnect children to nature is gaining momentum. You can hear it clearly in Richard Louv's, *Last Child in the Woods*. It resonates in a new *Kids in*

Parks initiative, echoes in Junior Ranger programs across the nation, and, more importantly, rings true in the minds of many parents.

Here in Yosemite, families are now discovering the new Junior Ranger Center at the Happy Isles Nature Center and Junior Ranger handbooks, available in English and Spanish, with new activities for specific park areas and topics. More rangers are guiding Junior Ranger programs daily; including hikes, talks, and campfires!

Why? Because kids want to explore and every national park visit should be an adventure—an immersion into a new experience. In Yosemite, the classroom walls are granite cliffs rising into clouds; the floor is meadow, forest, or river; and the ceiling is the sky. To see the tracks of glaciers shining in rock; to feel the bark of the largest living things on earth; to breathe deep the atmosphere of a

meadow; and to hear the ancient music of water falling; yes, school is in session, and the lesson is that freedom, liberty, independence, interdependence, and empowerment are only words until they're felt in your heart.

So, should you put your kids on a Junior Ranger Program? Only if you want them to have an adventure, make new friends, and rediscover Yosemite. Only if you want to see them excited, a tension in their bodies like horses coiled behind a gate, ready to leap into air. Freedom will do that to you. The laughter of children learning and playing in Yosemite is the clear sound of memories being made, and the future of Yosemite being made secure, and isn't that reason enough for joy?

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM GOALS:

1. To engage children in learning about history and nature by participating in activities that enhance their national park experience.
2. To extend the program's reach to underserved audiences so that all parks can establish Junior Ranger programs.
3. To develop and promote respect of, and appreciation for, our national treasures.

JUNIOR RANGER FACTS:

1. 1960—Year the Junior Ranger program is thought to have begun.
2. 385,639—Junior Rangers sworn in during 2006.



Young Visitors and Snow Plant. Photo by Bob Ronney

Entrance Fees

Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite National Park.

Vehicle \$20
Valid for 7 days

Individual \$10
In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for 7 days.

Yosemite Pass \$40
Valid for one year in Yosemite.

Interagency Annual Pass \$80
Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.

Interagency Senior Pass \$10 (Lifetime)
For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

Interagency Access Pass Free (Lifetime)
For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

INFORMATION OUTSIDE THE PARK

West Highway 120
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
800/446-1333
www.thegreatunfenced.com

Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/683-4636
www.yosemitethisyear.com

Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/878-3074

Highway 140/49
Yosemite Mariposa Tourism Bureau (also info for Fish Camp, Wawona, Yosemite West, and Buck Meadows)
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081
www.homeofyosemite.com

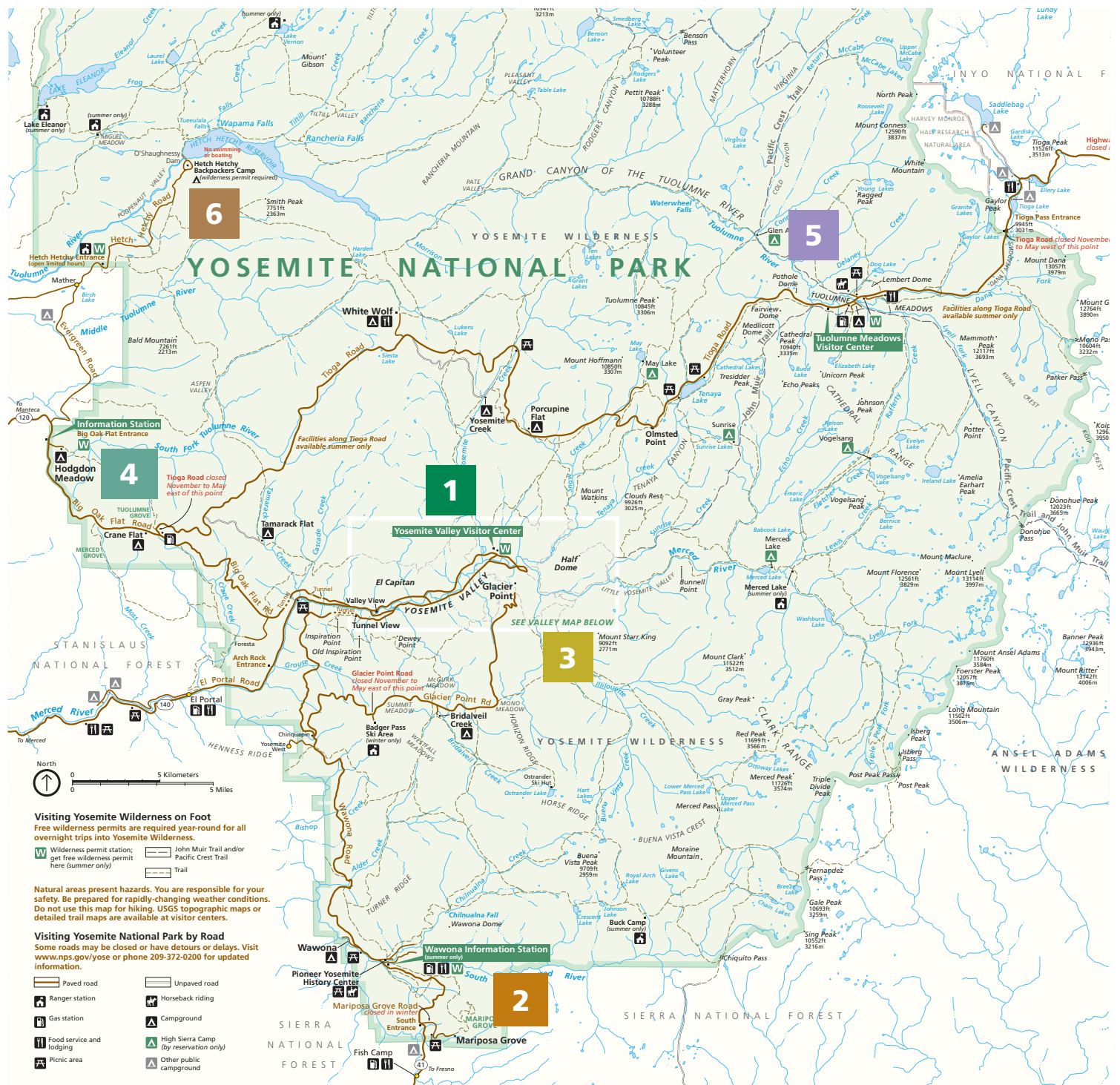
Highway 120 East
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center
760/647-6629
www.leevining.com

California Welcome Center, Merced
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791
www.yosemite-gateway.org

Yosemite is open
YEAR-ROUND
24 HOURS
a day

Planning Your Trip

What do you want your experience to be?



Yosemite Valley

1 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 west from Manteca, and in late spring through late fall via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining.

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

2 The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's South Entrance station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed from sometime in December to April. The nearby 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.

Glacier Point

3 Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Sierra Nevada, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road. Glacier Point Road is open from late May or early June through sometime in November. Mid-December through March, the road is plowed only as far as Badger Pass Ski Area.

Crane Flat

4 Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk 2 steep miles down to this small grove.

Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

5 The Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. It is generally open from late May or early June through sometime in November. The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. Along this corridor lies Tuolumne Meadows. Here, the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River meanders peacefully amidst wildflowers, domes, and views of high mountain peaks.

Hetch Hetchy

6 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 wilderness trails. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 7 am to 9 pm.

Your Visit to Yosemite National Park

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 the *Guidebook to Yosemite*, published by Yosemite Association, are available at visitor center bookstores or by mail.

(Yosemite Association Bookstore, P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318, 209/379-2648, fax 209/379-2486, or www.yosemitestore.com.)

If you have...

1 Day

Park your car in Yosemite Village and ride the free shuttle bus around Yosemite Valley to popular destinations. Be sure to stop at the Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Museum to learn more about Yosemite's story and view the park's award-winning, 23-minute



film *Spirit of Yosemite*. Attend a special event, ranger program, or guided tour (see pages 12-19). The popular Valley Floor

Tour is a two-hour open-air tram tour that takes you past many of the Valley's unique features.

A great way to see any area of the park is to meander along a trail, bike path, or meadow boardwalk. Pick up self-guiding trail brochure, *A Changing Yosemite*, in front of the Valley Visitor Center and follow the trail posts around Cook's Meadow. The short walk to the base of Lower Yosemite Fall is well worth it, especially during the spring season, when the waterfall thunders down the Valley wall. See page 21 for some other trail options, including other self-guiding trails. Before leaving the park, visit giant sequoias in the Mariposa, Tuolumne, or Merced Groves.

2 Days

Consider the suggestions for one day, but perhaps choose two areas of the park to explore. Take in the bird's-eye view of the Valley from Glacier Point and perhaps take a hike to Sentinel Dome or Taft Point. Choose a longer hike to venture more deeply into the Yosemite Wilderness. You might enjoy the features of Yosemite while pedaling a bike, floating on a leisurely raft trip, or riding on horseback. Travel back in time on a horse-drawn stage ride or during a blacksmith demonstration in Wawona. Hike or take a tram tour through the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.

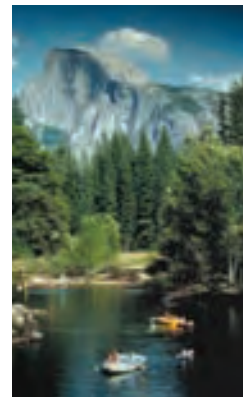


Travel the Tioga Road, where spectacular scenery, vast meadows, and mountain lakes await you. Choose places to stop, picnic, hike, and spend more time based on what appeals most to you. Stop at Olmsted Point for incredible views of Half Dome, Clouds Rest, and Tenaya Canyon. Climb a dome near Tuolumne Meadows.

Nightly programs are available (see pages 12-19). Night sky programs, evening talks, campfires, and theater performances are just a few options that may be available on the nights you are here.

3 Days

For a three-day trip, you could visit all areas or spend your time becoming intimate with one. If your goal is to cover as much of the park as possible, don't miss Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point, the Tioga Road, Tuolumne Meadows, and a giant sequoia grove. You might take advantage of an art class at Yosemite Art and Education Center or participate in a Yosemite Association Outdoor Adventures. To improve outdoor skills, Yosemite Mountaineering School offers programs, guide services, and classes.



or if you are...

Returning

Visit a new area of the park—or focus your visit in just one favorite location. For unique scenery as well as access to the northern Yosemite Wilderness, perhaps travel to Hetch Hetchy. No matter where you are exploring, attend a program or event to learn something new. To increase your involvement, take part in a volunteer clean-up or resource protection project. Attend a park open house to learn about future projects and how to help shape Yosemite's future (see page 22). Explore the potential for becoming a Yosemite Association volunteer to spend a month living and volunteering in Yosemite.

Additional Information

Religious Services

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH
(Nondenominational Christian)
Wedding information at
www.yosemitevalleychapel.org

WORSHIP SERVICE/YOSEMITE VALLEY CHAPEL
Sunday 9:15 am, 11 am and 6:30 pm
Thursday 7 pm

Tuesday Bible Studies
Call 209/372-4831 for information

A CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

Campground Worship Services, Sunday, 9 am
Lower Pines (Yosemite Valley)
Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater
Saturday Mass 7:30 pm
Sunday Mass 10 am

CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

El Portal Chapel/Worship Service
Sunday 11 am
Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane

CROSSWAY TRIBE OF JESUS (CHRISTIAN PROTESTANT)

Worship Gathering Wednesday 7:30 pm
Yosemite Valley Chapel

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Sacrament Meeting at Yosemite Valley Chapel
Sunday 1 pm

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Yosemite Valley at Lower River Amphitheater, across bridge from Housekeeping Camp or travel approx. 1/3 mile north of Stoneman Bridge and turn left at gate.
Saturday Service
Music 9:45 am/Sabbath School 10 am/Worship Service 11 am/Potluck Picnic 12:30 pm
Coordinators: Ray & Edie DeFehr 209/586-4325

Service Organizations

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
7:30 pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday
DNC General Office Building
(Employee Training Center) Yosemite Village

AL-ANON

No Al-Anon meetings are currently taking place. However, if you need to speak with someone, feel free to call Shari B. at 209/372-4812.

LIONS CLUB

Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee.
Call 209/372-4475.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Meets Thursdays for lunch at noon in The Ahwahnee Mural Room. Visiting Rotarian families and guests welcome. For meeting reservations or information, call 209/372-8459.

Get More Info...

BY PHONE & WEB

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

The Ansel Adams Gallery
www.anseladams.com

Camping Reservations
www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/camping.htm

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite
www.yosemitenpark.com

Regional Information
www.yosemite.com

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)
www.yarts.com

Yosemite Association
www.yosemite.org

Yosemite Fund
www.yosemitfund.org

Yosemite Institute
www.yni.org/yi

RESERVATIONS

Campground Reservations (callers from U.S. and Canada)
877/444-6777
TTY (toll-free) 877/833-6777

Campground Reservations (International callers only)
518/885-3639

Lodging Reservations
801/559-5000
www.yosemitenpark.com

VISITOR CENTERS

Excellent resources for park information, wilderness permits, and park-related publications and handouts.

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

Open daily all year.
Current hours: 9 am to 7 pm

Big Oak Flat Information Station

Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall.
Current hours: 8 am to 4:30 pm (Friday and Saturday to 5 pm)

Wawona Information Station

at Hill's Studio (next to Wawona Hotel) Closed in winter; generally open spring through fall.
Current hours: 8:30 am to 5 pm (Friday and Saturday until 6 pm)

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center

Closed in winter and spring; generally open June through September.
Current hours: 9 am to 6 pm

Yosemite Valley

Where to Go & What to Do



Experience Yosemite Valley

A great variety of programs, services, and events are available in Yosemite Valley. The following four pages describe these offerings and hours of operation to help you guide your adventure.

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Open 9 am to 7 pm and located in Yosemite Village just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9), the visitor center offers information, maps, and books.

Explore the new exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite's spectacular landscape was formed, how people have interacted with it through the centuries, how wildlife adapts and survives, and how your national park continues to evolve.

FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

This inspiring visitor-orientation film provides a stunning overview of Yosemite's splendor. It is shown every 30 minutes, Monday through Saturday between 9:30 am and 6:30 pm, and Sunday noon to 6:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Open 9 am to 5 pm.

The exhibit interprets the cultural history of Yosemite's native Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. Demonstrations of traditional skills are presented. No food or drink permitted.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

Open 9 am to 5 pm, the store offers traditional American Indian arts and crafts, and books on related subjects.

MUSEUM GALLERY

Open 10 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm.

GRANITE FRONTIERS: A CENTURY OF YOSEMITE CLIMBING

Through October 27

The Yosemite Museum hosts an exhibit on the park's climbing history, featuring artifacts, movies, and stories covering the development of rock climbing. The exhibit is sponsored by The Yosemite Fund and was produced by the Yosemite Climbing Association.

The Indian Village of Ahwahnee

Located behind the Yosemite Museum and open daily, the village offers a self-guiding trail brochure and exhibits on Ahwahneechee life.



Indian Village. NPS Photo

Yosemite Cemetery

This historic cemetery is located just west of the Yosemite Museum, across the street. People buried here include American Indians and others who played an important role in the development of what is now Yosemite National Park. *Guide to the Yosemite Cemetery* is available at the Valley Visitor Center.

Valley Wilderness Center

Open 7:30 am to 5 pm and located in Yosemite Village next to The Ansel Adams Gallery, the center offers wilderness permits, bear canisters, maps, and guidebooks. Information on pre-trip planning, minimum-impact camping, and Yosemite Wilderness is also available.

Yosemite Theatre-LIVE

Join us for Yosemite Theatre! Shows presented live in the Valley Visitor Center Theater. Hear tales of John Muir, Buffalo Soldier Elizy Boman, or see renowned climber Ron Kauk, as filmed by Sterling Johnson. Tickets cost \$8 adults and \$4 children 12 and under, and are sold in advance at any tour desk, or at the door (if available). See page 15 for dates and times.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center and open daily from 9 am to 6 pm, the gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. Handcrafts, books, gifts, digital services, and photography supplies are available. The Gallery also offers camera walks, photography workshops, and classes. Scheduled activities are listed on the front porch. For more information, call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

GALLERY EXHIBIT

SALLY OWENS & PENNY OTWELL: INTERPLAY: YOSEMITE PAINTING

Owens is best known for her detailed portrayals of natural objects, such as

leaves and feathers, in watercolor. Otwell, working primarily in acrylic, employs brush and palette knife to create vivid landscapes.

Visitor Parking Information Station

Located in the main visitor parking area, and open 10 am to 4 pm, the station offers information about Yosemite.

LeConte Memorial Lodge

Open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm, and located at shuttle stop #12. LeConte Memorial Lodge, Yosemite's first public visitor center, is operated by the Sierra Club and features a children's corner, library, and a variety of environmental education and evening programs. For more information, call 209/372-4542.

Nature Center at Happy Isles

Open 9:30 am to 5 pm. Designed for nature-exploring families, this center offers natural history exhibits, interactive displays, field guides, and maps. Daily Junior Ranger programs are held at 9:30 am, 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Nearby are short trails through forest, river, and fen. The center is a short walk from shuttle stop #16.

Above Left: Ranger Stroll. Photo by Bob Roney

Above Middle: Half Dome. NPS Photo

Above Right: Upper Yosemite Fall. Photo by Victoria Mates

Hours listed are core hours for facilities and may be extended during periods of peak visitation. Check local postings for changes to hours of operation.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Yosemite Village**
Degnan's Loft
 Noon to 9pm
Degnan's Delicatessen
 7am to 5pm
Degnan's Cafe
 11am to 6pm
Village Grill
 11am to 5pm
The Ahwahnee
Dining Room
 Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am
 Lunch: 11:30am to 3pm
 Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
 Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm
 Appropriate attire respectfully requested for dinner.
 Reservations recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch.
 209/372-1489
The Ahwahnee Bar
 11am to 11pm
Yosemite Lodge
Coffee Corner
 6:30am to 8:30pm
Food Court
 Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am
 Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm
 Dinner: 5pm to 8:30pm
Mountain Room Lounge
 Noon to 11pm
Mountain Room Restaurant
 Sunday - Thursday
 5:30pm to 9:30pm
 Friday - Saturday
 5:30pm to 10:00pm
 Reservations taken for 8 or more.
 209/372-1281
Cone Stand at the Pool
 11am to 6pm, weather permitting
Curry Village
Guest Lounge
 8am to 10pm
Coffee Corner
 6am to 10pm
Curry Village Bar
 Noon to 10pm
Pavilion Buffet
 Breakfast: 7am to 10am
 Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm
Pizza Deck
 Noon to 10pm
Taqueria
 11am to 5pm
Happy Isles Snack Stand
 11am to 7pm

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

- Yosemite Village**
The Ansel Adams Gallery
 9am to 6pm
Yosemite Art & Education Center
 9am to 4:30pm *closed for lunch*
Yosemite Bookstore
 Inside Yosemite Visitor Center
 9am to 7pm
Yosemite Museum Store
 9am to 5pm
Valley Wilderness Center
 7:30am to 5pm
Village Store
 8am to 10pm
Habitat Yosemite
 9am to 5pm
Sport Shop
 9am to 6pm
Ahwahnee
The Ahwahnee Gift Shop
 8am to 10pm
The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop
 7am to 10pm
Yosemite Lodge
Gift/Grocery
 8am to 10pm
Nature Shop
 10am to 8pm
Curry Village
Mountain Shop
 8am to 8pm
Curry Village Gift/Grocery
 8am to 10pm
Nature Center at Happy Isles
Bookstore
 9:30am to 5pm

- Parking
- Accessible Park
- ATM
- Visitor Information
- PAD Program (Public Access Defibrillation)
- Restrooms
- Hiking Trail
- Road
- Shuttle Route



- Yosemite Village
- Yosemite Lodge
- Curry Village

Yosemite Lodge

GROCERIES

- Yosemite Lodge**
Gift/Grocery
 8am to 10pm
Yosemite Village
Village Store
 8am to 10pm
Degnan's Delicatessen
 7am to 5pm
Curry Village
Gift/Grocery
 8am to 10pm
Housekeeping Camp Grocery
 8am to 8pm

POST OFFICE

- Yosemite Village**
Main Office
 Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
 Saturday: 10am to noon
Yosemite Lodge
Post Office
 Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm
El Portal
Post Office
 Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30

GAS STATION & AUTO SERVICE

- Gas outside Yosemite Valley**
El Portal
 9am to noon, 1pm to 5pm
 Diesel available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card
Yosemite Village
Village Garage
 NO GAS AVAILABLE IN YOSEMITE VALLEY
 8am to 5pm
 Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4pm. 209/372-8320

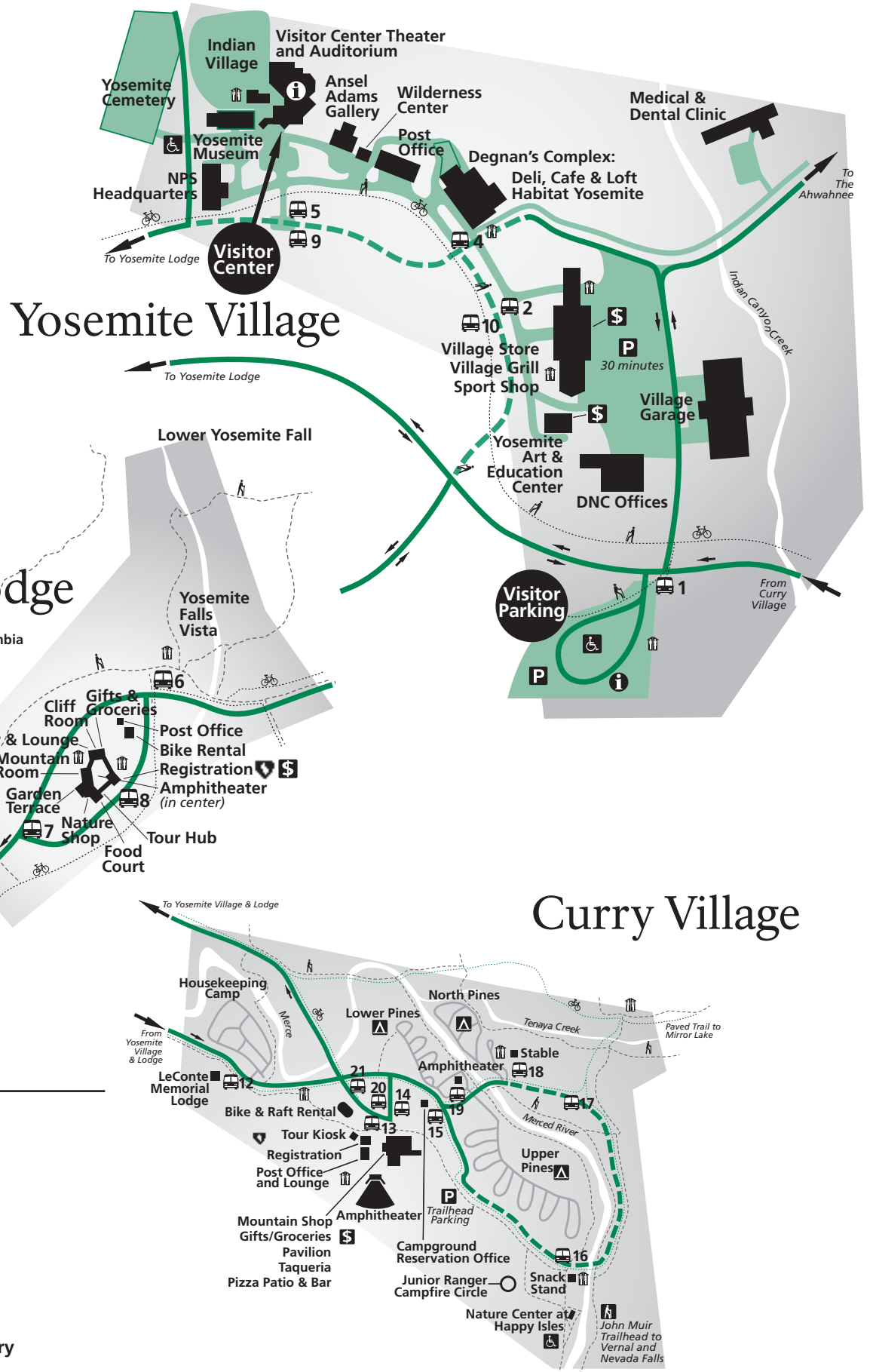
SHOWERS & LAUNDRY

- Curry Village**
Curry Village
 Showers open 24 hours
Housekeeping Camp
 Showers open 7am to 10pm
 Laundromat open 8am to 10pm

Yosemite Village

Yosemite Lodge

Curry Village



GENERAL SERVICES

- Yosemite Medical Clinic**
- Emergency care: 24 hours daily
 Drop-in and urgent care:
 8am to 7pm
 Appointments:
 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday
 Located on Ahwahnee Drive in Yosemite Valley, the clinic provides routine and emergency medical care, 24-hour paramedic/ambulance services, limited pharmacy, lab, x-ray, physical therapy, and Mountain Crisis Services for victims of domestic violence. 209/372-4637
- Dental Services**
 Adjacent to Yosemite Medical Clinic.
 For hours, call 209/372-4200.
 If no answer, call 209/372-4637
- Babysitting**
 Limited babysitting is available for registered guests at Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee. Call front desk or concierge in advance for more information.
- Kennel**
 8am to 4:30pm
 Located at the stable in Yosemite Valley.
 Dogs must be gentle, over 10 pounds; proof of shots and license are required.
 209/372-8348

Internet Access

Internet access is available to park visitors at three locations: Yosemite Lodge, Degnan's Café, and the Mariposa County Library (Girls Club), south of the Yosemite Cemetery. Access at the library is free, requires a sign-up and is available during limited hours Monday through Thursday (check at library for details). At Yosemite Lodge, kiosks and wireless access are available 24 hours for a fee. At Degnan's Café, kiosks are available 7 am to 5 pm for a fee.

YOSEMITE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL AND GUIDE SERVICE

- Yosemite Mountaineering School and Guide Service offers lessons and guided climbing at all levels, overnight backpacking, and guided day hikes to spectacular areas of Yosemite.
- Curry Village**
 209/372-8344
 8:30am to noon, 1pm to 5pm
- Tuolumne Meadows**
 209/372-8435
 9am to 6pm

SCHEDULED EVENTS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

July 23 – September 2, 2008



A DNC Interpreter engages young park visitors during a Wee Wild Ones program. Photo courtesy of DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite.

Outdoor Adventures

For more details and information on Yosemite Association's field seminars, pick up a catalog at any park visitor center, call 209/379-2321, or visit www.yosemite.org.

July 24-27 Family Camping Jamboree 2	Aug. 7-10 Half Dome the Easy Way
July 25-27 Introduction to Sierra Natural History	Aug. 7-10 Tuolumne Meadows en Plein Air
July 27-31 Women's Backpack	Aug. 16 Half Dome in a Day 2
July 28-Aug. 1 Alpine Botany Basecamp Backpack	Aug. 16-23 Advanced Backpack to the North Park
Aug. 1-3 Stars over the High Country	Aug. 21-24 Tuolumne Elite Summits
Aug. 1-3 Writing Your Children's Book	Aug. 30 Into the Gaylor Basin
Aug. 1-3 Photographing High Country Habitats	Aug. 30 Birding Tuolumne Meadows
Aug. 2-5 Mt. Conness-Young Lakes Backpack	Aug. 31 Cloud's Rest Dayhike
Aug. 3 Yosemite's First People	Sep. 1 Tenaya Peak Climb

Adventure Hikes

Join the Yosemite Mountaineering School for extended hikes to popular Valley destinations like Vernal and Nevada Falls. See program dates and times to the right. Call 209/372-8344.

Wednesday Night Art in the Village

Explore Yosemite through the eyes of an artist at the Yosemite Art and Education Center and The Ansel Adams Gallery. Every Wednesday evening from 5 pm to 6:30 pm, come join us for refreshments and celebrate and enjoy art in Yosemite.

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite

Fridays, 9 am to 1 pm, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

Join NPS restoration efforts. Get your hands dirty and help preserve one of America's natural wonders. Volunteers will work on restoration projects and learn about efforts to help restore the Valley. Wear long pants and closed-toe boots. Long sleeves, water, snacks, and sunblock are recommended. Groups larger than ten are required to pre-register. To learn more, please contact Laura Elze at 209/379-3286 or Laura_Elze@nps.gov.

Free Art Classes

The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers free classes Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Be prepared for a short walk and bring something to sit on. Bring your own supplies, or buy them at the center, located near the Village Store. Please register in advance.

July 21 – 26 Thor Ericson "Dramatic Watercolors"	Aug. 18 – 23 Travis Wheeler "Drawing in Pastel"
July 28 – Aug. 2 Linda Mitchell "Watercolors"	Aug. 25 – 30 Pam Pederson "Travel Sketching"
Aug. 4 – 9 Frank Poulsen "Drawing with Colors"	Sep. 1 – 6 Osamu Saito "Watercolors"
Aug. 11 – 16 David Deyell "Fun with Watercolor"	

Yosemite Renaissance Benefit Auction

Art lovers can join an auction of Yosemite art online (www.yosemiterenaissance.org) or live at the Ansel Adams Gallery on Wednesday and Thursday, August 27 and 28. A reception and final live auction take place at the gallery at 6 p.m. on Thursday Aug. 28.

Programs printed in **COLOR** are especially for
CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

NPS	National Park Service
DNC	DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
AAG	The Ansel Adams Gallery
AAC	American Alpine Club
SC	Sierra Club
YA	Yosemite Association
YMS	Yosemite Mountaineering School
YF	Yosemite Fund
\$	Programs offered for a fee



Indicates facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Short, steep inclines may be encountered.



A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Contact 209/372-4726 (TTY) or 209/372-0296 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 days is requested.



Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advanced request. Inquire at a visitor center.

	MORNING	
Sunday	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS) ♿
	9:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK - TREES 2 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS) Discovery Hike- Vernal Falls Bridge 3½ hrs. Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$
	10:00am	Ranger Stroll - Merced Meanders 1 ½ hrs. Shuttle stop #11 (NPS)
	11:00am	Mobile Command Bus (August 3 and 10 only) 3 hrs. Outside of the Visitor Center. Learn about hiking and water safety from Yosemite's Search and Rescue team (NPS)
Monday	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS) ♿
	9:00am	Bike to Hike Tour 2½ hrs. Curry Village bike stand. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$
	9:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK - SMALL WONDERS 2 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
	10:00am	Ranger Stroll - Yosemite's First People 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) ♿ WEE WILD ONES 45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YA)
Tuesday	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS) ♿
	9:00 am	Photography Walk 2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (Conditions permitting) (AAG)
	9:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK - GEOLOGY 2 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS) Adventure Hike- Vernal/Nevada Falls 6 hrs. Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$
	10:00am	Ranger Stroll - Trees 1 ½ hrs. Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (NPS) Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YA)
Wednesday	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS) ♿
	9:00am	Bike to Hike Tour 2½ hrs. Curry Village bike stand Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$ Ranger Hike - Vernal Fall 3 hrs. One-way strenuous hike, 1 ½ miles, shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
	9:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK - WATER 2 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
	10:00am	Ranger Stroll - Geology 1 ½ hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿ Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YA)
Thursday	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS) ♿
	9:00 am	Photography Walk 2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (Conditions permitting) (AAG)
	9:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK - WILDLIFE 2 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles. near shuttle stop #16 (NPS) Discovery Hike- Vernal Fall Bridge 3½ hrs. Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$
	10:00am	Eight Women Who Changed Yosemite (except July 24) 1 ½ hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿ Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YA) WEE WILD ONES 45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)
Friday	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger (except August 8) ½ hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS) ♿
	9:00am	Habitat Restoration Volunteer Program 4 hrs. Valley Visitor Center. See details at left (NPS)
	9:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK - AHWAHNEECHEE (except August 8) 2 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS) Adventure Hike - Secrets of the Valley 6 hrs. Ahwahnee Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$
	10:00am	Ranger Stroll - Wild About Wildlife (except August 8) 1 ½ hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿ Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YA)
	10:30am	LeConte Memorial Lodge KIDS STORYTELLING: JOIN THE STORY OF LITTLE TYCOONEY & THE BIG YOSEMITE RACE (July 25 only) 1hr. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC)
Saturday	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. Bring a mug (NPS) ♿
	9:00am	Bike to Hike Tour 2½ hrs. Curry Village bike stand Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$ Photography Walk 2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (Conditions permitting) (AAG)
	9:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK - BEARS 2 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)
	10:00am	Ranger Stroll - Ahwahneechee Stories and Games 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) ♿ Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. See details at left (YA) WEE WILD ONES 45 min. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)
	10:30 am	LeConte Memorial Lodge August 9: ADVENTURE WRITING FOR KIDS & FAMILIES IN YNP 1hr. Shuttle Stop #12 (SC)

