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Oct - Dec 2008

Yosemite Valley autumn oaks. Photo by Jen Nersesian

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

October 15 - December 16

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 this edition of *Yosemite Guide*. The contents of this publication will give you options for the 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



Autumn hues and early snow add color to this Valley scene. 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.



Giant sequoias. NPS Photo



High Sierra fun. Photo by Hugh Sakols.

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 11).

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.



Indian village. NPS photo.



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 9) and those designed for your safety (page 8).

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, edu-

cational, ecological, and historic values; and provide opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. To learn more about how to safely plan your trip and reduce your impact on the Wilderness during your visit, see pages 8 and 9.



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 209/372-0642 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 weeks 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.



Rosy Finch by Tom Whitworth

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Exploring Yosemite

Spectacular Vistas and Quiet Corners of the Park



Nov. 19. Call 209/372-8319 for more information on bike rentals.

Weather permitting, several motor coach sightseeing tours are available in Yosemite.

To experience the Valley with a bus and guide, take the Valley Floor Tour. This 26-mile, 2-hour tour departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. During warm fall days, an open-air tram is used. When weather turns colder, tours travel by motocoach.

The Glacier Point Tour is a four-hour round trip from Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, which departs daily 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 daily from Yosemite Lodge. **Both tours end when snow closes Glacier Point Road.**

Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at tour/transportation desks at Yosemite Lodge, Curry Village, or Yosemite Village.

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.

Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 5-7 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 dries 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. Shuttle buses may not travel to stop #16 when the road is snow-covered or icy though.

For a strenuous day hike, you can use this trailhead to reach Vernal Fall footbridge (¾ miles) and Nevada Fall (2.7 miles) via the Mist Trail. 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.

Winter sports get underway in November and December. Badger Pass Ski Area is tentatively scheduled to open on Dec. 12. The ice rink at Curry Village is scheduled to open on Nov. 21. To learn more: 209/372-8341.

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.

To experience the Valley on foot, stop by a visitor center for a trail map and the most current trail conditions.

To experience the Valley by bike, bring or rent a bike. Weather permitting, rentals at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village are both open 10 am to 4 pm; closed 1:30 - 2 pm for lunch. Curry Village bike rentals close on Oct. 28. Yosemite Lodge bike rentals close on



Top Left: Late-season Yosemite Falls. Photo by Erik Skindrud

Above: The Valley Floor Tour operates open-air trams on warmer days. In cooler weather, buses are used. Photo by Pam Meirding

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. Also in Wawona, you will find 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. *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 stays open through sometime in November, although overnight parking ends Oct. 15. 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 when the road is open. 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 trip to an overhanging lookout, choose the trail to Taft Point.

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, Hetch Hetchy's towering cliffs make this a popular hiking area. Hetch Hetchy's relatively low elevation gives the area one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite National Park.



Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

Tioga Road and Glacier Point Road are closed each year from November to late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storm periods. Motorists should always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel. To check conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit www.dot.ca.gov for highways connecting to Yosemite.

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 east shore is a great spot for a swim in summer, but even then, be prepared for some cold water.

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows is only 55 miles (1.5 hrs) by road from Yosemite Valley, but it's a world apart. Due to its high elevation, most facilities in Tuolumne Meadows are closed; however, the road usually stays open until November (snow can shut it earlier). While the road is open, a person can take a different hike every day of the week. Some popular hikes are those to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Lembert Dome, Dog Lake, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon. Winter brings ski and snowshoe options for experienced parties carrying avalanche beacons.



Self-Guided Trails

A Changing Yosemite

This one-mile-long walk through Cook's Meadow explores both natural and cultural stories of Yosemite. Brochure available at the Valley Visitor Center.

Mirror Lake

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 and American Indian use. To reach the start of the trail, walk one mile from shuttle stop #17 to the disabled parking spaces near the lake. The trail begins here.

Indian Village

This short loop 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.

Curry Village

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.

Top left: Giant sequoias. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Right top: Geology hut at Glacier Point. Photo courtesy of the Yosemite Research Library.

Middle right: Snowy trails. Photo by Pam Meierding

Right lower: Valley Visitor Center. NPS photo.

Planning Your Trip

What do you want your experience to be?

Entrance Fees

Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite. The park is open year-round, 24 hours a day.

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.

Campground Reservations
877/444-6777
www.recreation.gov

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

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

INFO 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

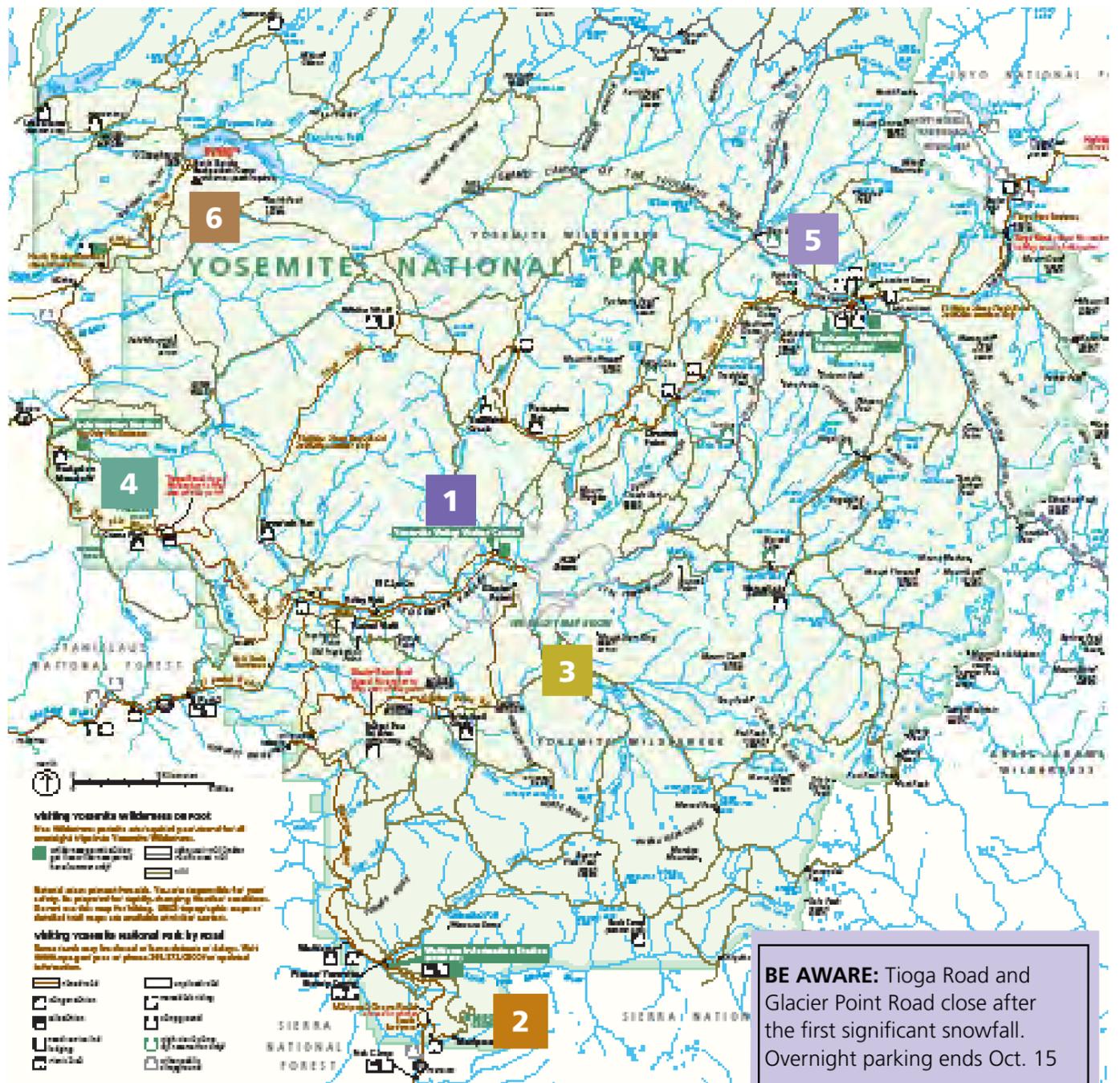
Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/683-4636
www.yosemitethisyear.com

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

Highway 140/49
Yosemite Mariposa Tourism Bureau
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



BE AWARE: Tioga Road and Glacier Point Road close after the first significant snowfall. Overnight parking ends Oct. 15

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 into November. As of Oct. 15, no overnight parking is allowed. 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 domes and 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 8 am to 7 pm through Oct. 31; then 8 am to 5 pm through March 31.

Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do.

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	CRANE FLAT, HETCH HETCHY	WAWONA
Sunday	9:00am WEE WILD ONES (except Oct. 26 & Nov 16) ¾ hr. (Stories & activities for kids 6 & under) Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) 1:00pm STORYTIME (Nov. 30 only) ½ hr. Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Merced Meanders 1 ½ hrs. - Shuttle Stop #6 (NPS) 7:30pm Evening Programs 1 hr. Check local postings for venue & topic. (DNC)	1:30pm Ranger in the Grove (Except Dec. 7 and 14) 3 hrs. Informal talks in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias (NPS)	
Monday	8:30am Photography Walk (October Mondays only) 1 ½ hrs. Sign up/meet at Ahwahnee Front Desk (DNC) 10:00am Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. (See details on page 7) (YA) 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Yosemite's First People (Except Dec. 1) 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) 4:00pm Autumn Twilight Stroll (Only Nov. 3 & 24 and all December Mondays) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Patio (DNC) 4:30pm Autumn Twilight Stroll (October Mondays only) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Patio (DNC) 7:30pm Evening Programs 1 hr. Check local postings for venue & topic. (NPS)		5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)
Tuesday	9:00am Photography Walk 2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG) 10:00am Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. (See details on page 7) (YA) 12noon Yosemite Forum (Nov. 18 only) Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Traditional Use Study, Shelly Davis-King (Dec. 9 only) Overview of Tuolumne Corridor Research 1 hr. East Auditorium (NPS) 12:30pm Using Your Digital Camera Class 4 hrs. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$ 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Trees 1 ½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, Shuttle Stop #3 (NPS) 7:30pm Evening Programs 1 hr. Check local postings for venue & topic. (DNC)		5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)
Wednesday	9:00am WEE WILD ONES (Only Oct. 22 and 29, Nov. 26, and Dec. 10) ¾ hr. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under) Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) 10:00am Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. (See details on page 7) (YA) 1:00pm NPS Open House (Oct. 29 and Dec. 3 only) 4 hrs. Come learn about park improvement efforts. Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS) 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Wild about Wildlife 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) 7:30pm Evening Programs 1 hr. Check local postings for venue & topic. (DNC/NPS)	1:30pm Ranger in the Grove (Except Dec. 3 and 10) 3 hrs. Informal talks in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias (NPS)	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)
Thursday	9:00am Photography Walk 2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG) 10:00am Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. (See details on page 7) (YA) 1:00pm STORYTIME (Nov. 27 only) ½ hr. Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) 12:30pm Using Your Digital Camera Class 4 hrs. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$ 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Yosemite's Legacy 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) 3:00pm FAMILY STROLL (Nov. 27 only) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Patio (DNC) 4:30pm Autumn Twilight Stroll (October Thursdays only) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Patio (DNC) 7:30pm FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES (Except Nov. 27) 1 hr. Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) 7:30pm Evening Programs 1 hr. Check local postings for venue & topic. (DNC)		5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)
Friday	10:00am Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. (See details on page 7) (YA) 1:00pm FAMILY STROLL (Nov. 28 only) 1 hr. Meets at Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) 12:30pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with Your Camera 4 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$ 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Geology 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) 3:30pm STORYTIME (Nov. 28 only) ½ hr. Yosemite Lodge Cliff Room (DNC) 7:30pm Film - Ansel Adams 1 hr. Check local postings for venue & topic. (AAG) 7:30pm HALLOWEEN HISTORY STROLL (Oct. 31 only) 1 ¼ hr. Walk to Yosemite Cemetery. Meet in front of Visitor Center with flashlights. (DNC) 8:00pm NIGHT PROWL (October Fridays only) 1 - 1 ½ hrs. Explore night animal adaptations and nocturnal wonders! Sign up at any Tour desk. \$ (DNC)		5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC)
Saturday	9:00am Photography Walk 2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting)(AAG) 10:00am Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center. (See details on page 7) (YA) 12:30pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with Your Camera 4 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$ 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Bears 1 ½ hrs. Yosemite Lodge, shuttle stop #8 (NPS) 3:00pm Fine Print Viewing 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up in advance at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) 4:00pm Autumn Twilight Stroll (Nov. 29 only) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Patio (DNC) 6:30pm HALLOWEEN FAMILY NIGHT. (Oct. 25 only) 2 ½ hrs. See information below. Nature Center at Happy Isles. Near shuttle stop #16. (DNC/NPS) 7:30pm Evening Programs (except Oct. 25) 1 hr. Check local postings for venue & topic. (NPS)	10:30am Ranger Hike - Hetch Hetchy (Except Dec. 6 and 13) 1½ hrs. Meet at O'Shaughnessy Dam. Bring water (NPS)	

NPS National Park Service
DNC DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
AAG The Ansel Adams Gallery
YA Yosemite Association
\$ Programs offered for a fee



A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Contact 209/372-4726 (TTY) or 209/372-0642 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 weeks is requested.



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



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

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



HALLOWEEN FAMILY NIGHT
 October 25, 2008 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Nature Center at Happy Isles

Join park interpretive staff at the Happy Isles Nature Center for an evening of "super-natural" fun for the whole family! Stations will be set up investigating some of Yosemite's nightlife such as spiders, scorpions, bats and owls. You can also go out on a night walk and enjoy a story finale to the evening with goodies and hot drinks for attendees. The Nature Center is a short walk from shuttle stop #16; shuttle service will continue out to Happy Isles until 9:30p.m. for the event.



HALLOWEEN HISTORY STROLL
 October 31, 2008 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. Valley Visitor Center

Join a naturalist at the front of the Visitor Center with your flashlight. Take a shuttle bus to stops #5 or #9 (parking is not available). It is a short walk to the Yosemite Cemetery where we will piece together the story of some of the residents there. Not a scary event.

Services and Facilities

Where to Go & What to Do



Throughout Yosemite National Park

In Fall, Yosemite begins a transition to a cooler and quieter time of year. Below you will find a list of services and facilities that are available throughout the park. **Note that some tours and roads close after the first big snowfall of the season.**

Yosemite Valley

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 5 pm, just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The center offers information, maps, and books, in the attached bookstore.

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 4:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 4:30 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. May close for lunch. 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.

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 November 9.

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.

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.

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite

Held every Friday from 9 am to 1 pm through Oct. 31. Meet at Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. 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 sun-block are recommended. To learn more, please contact Laura Elze at 209/379-3286 or Laura_Elze@nps.gov.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center and open daily from 9 am to 5 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 EXHIBITS

- OCT. 17** Climbing Museum benefit auction (Check gallery for time)
- OCT. 18-NOV. 30** Kerek Kouklis - Wet Plate Collodion Photographs and Prints
- DEC. 1 - (CLOSE DATE TBD)** Jeff Conley - Black and White Photography

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.

- Oct. 13 - 18** Jean Bradshaw: Plein Air Painting in Watercolor
- Oct. 20 - 25** Sonja Hamilton: Autumn Color Watercolor
- Oct. 27 - Nov. 1** Barbara Beaudreau: Plein Air Pastel
- Nov. 3 - 8** Miles Hermann: Yosemite Landscapes in Acrylic

(The Nov. 8 class is the last of the 2008 season.)

Top Left: Ranger stroll. Photo by Ray Santos
Top Center: Stoneman Bridge reflection. Erik Skindrud
Top Right: Half Dome view. Photo by Jen Nersesian

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

Wawona Post Office

Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to noon

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

Yosemite Village

The Ansel Adams Gallery

9am to 5pm

Yosemite Art & Education Center

9am to 4:30pm closed for lunch

Yosemite Bookstore

Inside Yosemite Visitor Center

9am to 5pm

Yosemite Museum Store

9am to 5pm

Village Store

8am to 9pm

Habitat Yosemite

11am to 5pm

Sport Shop

10am to 5pm

The Ahwahnee

The Ahwahnee Gift Shop

8am to 8pm

The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop

7am to 10pm

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

Nature Shop

11am to 7pm

Curry Village

Mountain Shop

8am to 5pm

Curry Village Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm; Starting Dec. 1, 8am-7pm

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 5pm

WINTER SPORTS

Badger Pass Ski Area and Sport Shop

Scheduled to open Dec. 12.

9am to 4 pm, conditions permitting.

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 Delicatessen

7am to 5pm

Village Grill

11am to 5pm (closes for season Oct. 26)

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

Food Court

Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am

Lunch: 11:30am to 5pm

Dinner: 5pm-7:30pm (Sun.-Thurs.)

5pm-8:00pm (Fri.-Sat.)

Mountain Room Lounge

4:30pm to 11pm (Mon.-Fri.)

Noon - 11pm (Sat.-Sun.)

Mountain Room Restaurant

Monday - Thursday 5:00pm to 8:30pm

Friday - Sunday 5:00pm to 9:00pm

Reservations taken for 8 or more.

209/372-1281

Curry Village

Pizza Deck

5pm-9pm Mon.-Fri.; 12pm-9pm Sat.-

Sun.; closes for season on Nov. 29.

Coffee Corner

7 to 11am, closes for season Nov. 30

Curry Village Bar

5pm - 10 pm Sun.-Thurs. and Noon to

10 pm on Sat.-Sun., closes Oct. 25

Pavilion Buffet

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm, closes Oct. 26

Wawona

Wawona Hotel Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

Reservations taken for 6 or more.

209/375-1425

GROCERIES

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

Yosemite Village

Village Store

8am to 9pm

Degnan's Delicatessen

7am to 5pm

Curry Village

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm;

Starting Dec. 1: 8am - 7pm

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 5pm

Crane Flat

Store

9am to 5pm

GAS STATION

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

Wawona Gas Station

9am to 5pm (Closed Oct. 13 to Nov.

6 due to construction.) Diesel & propane

available. Pay at the pump 24

hours with credit or debit card.

Crane Flat

9am to 5pm

Diesel & propane available.

Pay at the pump 24 hours with

credit or debit card.

GOLF

Wawona Hotel Golf Course

9am to 5pm weather and condi-

tions permitting. Nine-hole, par-35

course. Closes for season on Nov. 4.

Visitor Services

Where to find what you need.

Wawona

Pioneer Yosemite History Center

Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explores Yosemite's history and explains how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and around the world. The center is open throughout the year.

Evening Programs

Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Monday through Friday, as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past.

Wilderness Permits

Visitors can obtain wilderness permits at a self-service kiosk attached to Hill's Studio, adjacent to the Wawona Hotel.

Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area. Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area. The road to the Grove closes in November or December and opens sometime in April. Visitors can walk, ski, or snowshoe when the road is closed to vehicles.

Getting to Mariposa Grove

Allow 1½ hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot.

Trailers are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road. Private vehicles longer than 25 feet are not permitted.

MARIPOSA GROVE & WAWONA SHUTTLE

A free shuttle stops at the Wawona Store, South Entrance, and Mariposa Grove. Visitors may park at the Wawona Store to board the bus. Shuttles operate beginning at 9 am, and the last shuttle leaves the grove at 6 pm, or after the last tour. Service stops for winter after the first significant snowfall.

BIG TREES TRAM TOUR

A 1¼-hr. tram tour of the grove available 9 am to 5 pm if weather permits. This audio tour is available in five languages and for visually impaired. Call 209/375-1621 or stop at a tour desk for information.

Walking through the Grove

Trails into the grove extend uphill from the trailhead at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the California Tree provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations are available at the trailhead in Spanish, German, French and Japanese. When snow covers the ground, access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski.

Dogs or bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.

Distance & Elevation

GRIZZLY GIANT

Distance from trailhead:

0.8 mile / 1.3km

Elevation Gain: 400ft / 122m

GROVE MUSEUM

Distance from trailhead:

2.1 miles / 3.5km

Elevation Gain: 800ft / 292m

FALLEN TUNNEL TREE

Distance from trailhead:

2.5 miles / 4.0km

Elevation Gain: 1,000ft / 305m

WAWONA POINT

Distance from trailhead:

3.0 miles / 4.8km

Elevation Gain: 1,200ft / 438m

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.

- Oct. 17-19** Forest Illuminations - Andie Thrans on forests for inspiration.
- Oct. 20-22** Autumn Light Photography with Dave Wyman and Ken Rockwell.
- Nov. 13-16** Focusing on Nature: Autumn Photography with Keith Walklet.
- Dec. 6** Woodpeckers: The Quest for Eleven with Pete Devine.

Big Oak Flat (Hwy 120)

Big Oak Flat Information Station

Open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm daily. The station closes for the season Nov. 30. Wilderness permits are available at a self-service, 24-hour kiosk throughout the winter season.

Merced Grove

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees accessible only on foot. It's a four-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe (about three hours) into the grove from Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). Located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance, the trailhead is marked by a road sign and post labeled B-10.

Tuolumne Grove

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. Now closed to cars, this path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip (you can walk, ski, or snowshoe) is moderately strenuous uphill. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.

SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

Curry Village

Curry Village

Showers open 24 hours

Housekeeping Camp

Laundromat

8am to 10pm

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH

(Nondenominational Christian)

WORSHIP SERVICE/YOSEMITE VALLEY CHAPEL

Sunday 9:15 am and 6:30 pm

Thurs.: 7 pm; Thanksgiving: 10 am (Nov. 27)

Tuesday Bible Studies

Call 209/372-4831 for information

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater

Sunday Mass 10 am

CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

El Portal Chapel/Worship: Sunday 11 am

Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane

GENERAL SERVICES

Village Garage

NO GAS AVAILABLE IN

YOSEMITE VALLEY

8am to 5pm

Towing 24 hours. Propane available until

4pm. 209/372-8320

Dental Services

Adjacent to Yosemite Medical Clinic.

For hours, call 209/372-4200.

If no answer, call 209/372-4637

Yosemite Medical Clinic

Emergency care: 24 hours daily.

Drop-in and urgent care: 8am to 7pm.

Appointments: 8am to 5pm Mon. through

Fri. 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

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 res-

ervations or information, call 209/372-8459.

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.

Avoid Hypothermia

Sierra winters are comparatively mild, but temperatures can drop into dangerous territory with little warning. Winter sports require a high degree of preparation and training. Be prepared for a 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 of hypothermia. Carry emergency fire-starting materials and food. Avoid dehydration; carry and drink plenty of water and carry emergency high-energy food.

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.

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, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

- There are no scheduled winter patrols, so be prepared. You're on your own. Be honest about your abilities and plan with the least experienced member of your group in mind. Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back.
- Be prepared for icy travel before conditions arise. Bring crampons, ice axe, climbing skins, and other traction devices.
- Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
- Check weather forecasts. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult. Temperature shifts are common.
- 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.

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. No permit is required for day hiking. Permits are issued at Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows (road closed after first big snow), Big Oak Flat, Wawona, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Self-service permit kiosks are open during the autumn and winter, with an additional permit point open at Badger Pass during snowy months. The Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center closes for the season on Oct. 27. Call the park's main phone line for backcountry information: 209/372-0200.

Backpackers who visit during the summer 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 fee. To make a reservation, check the park's website for trailhead availability, plan and 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 trash cans 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: On the trail. Photo by Bob Roney

Protecting Your Park

Enjoy park places, plants, and wildlife safely and responsibly



Sow and cub. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Around Ice and Water

- Stay off frozen lakes, ponds and streams and away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards.
- 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 or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

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. 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, or in wilderness areas.
- 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.
- 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 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 or on dirt paths or trails.

Permits and Other Rules

To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit www.nps.gov/yose/plan_your_visit/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 applicable federal statutes and regulations.

Reporting Violations

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 the following illegal acts:

- Actively feeding or harassing wildlife
- Collecting plants, reptiles, or insects
- Hunting or directly harming animals
- Picking up archeological items such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Camping outside of 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.

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.

Never approach a lion, especially if it is with kittens. Most lions will avoid confrontation. Always give them a way to escape. Don't run. Hold your ground, or back away slowly.

Face the lion and stand upright. 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!

Report lion encounters at 209/372-0322.

Keeping Bears Wild

Three Top Ways to Keep Yosemite's Black Bears Wild and Alive. Remember that Yosemite Bears are Active All Winter Long:

1. Store Your Food Properly.

"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. 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. If you are staying in a campsite or tent cabin, you must store all your food in food lockers. 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. Do not leave food unattended at picnic areas and along trails. When backpacking in the wilderness, bear resistant food containers are required.

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.

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. Please slow down!

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.

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

Yosemite's Grizzly Legacy

Feature Article



Ranger Christine White Loberg shows visitors casts of a grizzly skull (foreground) and a black bear (rear). The bear pelt is from a Yosemite black bear. NPS photo by Erik Skindrud.

California grizzlies once ruled the region, but faded away due to human pressure. Yosemite animals are still affected by people—but today experts are working to limit our impact.

Bears' fate can help us avoid similar mistakes.

By Ranger Erik Skindrud

In 1854, what may have been the fourth party of Euro-Americans to enter Yosemite arrived in the Valley. Roaring waters “painted the spray with rainbows,” the leader later recalled. But scenery was not the group’s top priority.

They were hunters, and the leader’s name was James Capen Adams. He was also a shoe-maker, gold seeker, and exhibitor of wild beasts at San Francisco. In the decade before the Civil War, he was becoming known as “Grizzly” Adams.

Hunting Yosemite Grizzlies

“We had moved to the head waters of the Mariposa River,” Adams recalled, likely referring to the Merced. “On the first hunt there, I discovered a grizzly’s den, and no sooner had my eyes fallen upon it, (that)... I thought and dreamed of nothing else than how to take it.”

A few years earlier, he had shot a large female in the wilds outside Mariposa. His goal was to steal each dead bear’s cubs. Now that one young bear was tamed and trained, Adams was seeking to capture a new cub. A live, tame bear, the showman knew, was worth many times more than a dead one.

Bears Circle Globe

The land was rich with the great brown bear, *Ursus arctos*, that still exists in fading numbers across Japan, Siberia, parts of Europe, and North America. As settlers and miners spread across California in the 1850s, they stumbled into the big bears, often with fatal results.

Modern firearms let settlers dominate bears, and they were killed in large numbers because they threatened life and property. What’s regrettable is how little we know about the magnificent bear that survives only on California’s flag, says David M. Graber, a National Park Service biologist who has researched the California grizzly story.

“What’s terrible is that (humans) killed them off before we knew what we had here,” he said. “When Joseph Grinnell went out to collect specimens for his

museum (in Berkeley, around 1905) there were virtually none left.”

The last documented brown bear in the state met its end in Tulare County in 1922. The last brown bear in Yosemite was seen and shot around 1895 at Crescent Lake, east of Wawona. Its skin now resides in Berkeley, at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Remarkably, though, the last grizzlies in the Yosemite region likely survived later. Reliable reports have grizzlies in the hills outside of Mariposa from 1908 to 1911.

John Muir Replies

Adams, it turns out, was a promoter and all too ready to relay a good story before the facts. John Muir knew Yosemite a lot better and had a ready response when he came across Adams’ book (by journalist Theodore Hittell) years later. “I do not believe he found any wild sheep near the ‘Mariposa River.’ Nor any such huge caves & dens of bears and wolves as he describes,” Muir wrote in 1899. Still, while the distances and route descriptions are largely wrong, Adams’ description of grizzly habitat rings true. Scientists know that brown bears today prefer lower elevations to a forest home.

Witnessed Grizzly’s Den

“It was a canon-like ravine between two hills, densely covered with thickets of chaparral, with here and there a bunch of juniper bushes, a scrubby pine, or a cedar,” Adams related. “A heap of fresh dirt in the thicket on one side, indicated the site of the den. It resembled the earth which a miner wheels out and dumps at the opening of a tunnel; and in size was as much as fifty cart-loads.”

That landscape sounds like the Mariposa River canyon along Hwy 140 just west of the park. In the end, Adams killed the mother bear and grabbed a little male, which he exhibited with his other bears, wolves, mountain lion, and at least one sea lion at San Francisco and in New York, where he signed a contract with P.T. Barnum. Adams success would be short lived, however. By the end of 1860 he was dead. The cause of death? An old skull wound made worse by repeated tussles with his animal “friends.”

Lessons for Future

In California, the grizzly may be gone, but the great bears are holding their own in other states and on other continents in spots where they once tottered on the edge. The upside today is that scientists, legislators and citizens know much more about the feeding ranges and other resources species need to survive. In California, for example, experts know that Sierra Nevada mountain beaver, red fox, bighorn sheep, and other species are threatened. With understanding and public support, however, those creatures need never crawl into the sunset like the brown bear did.

Learn more about Yosemite animals at: www.nps.gov/yose/naturesciencel/animals.htm



“Grizzly” Adams with his Yosemite-captured prize.

Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

Enhancing the Visitor Experience

It takes a legion of people working together to protect this special park for you and future generations of visitors. You, too, can extend your connection to Yosemite well after you return home by getting involved with the organizations that partner to preserve Yosemite.

This publication was made possible by the Yosemite Park Partners listed on this page. Read more below or visit www.yosemitepartners.org to learn more about helping these organizations provide for the future of Yosemite National Park.



The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates the arts and the natural grandeur of our environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world by offering visitors a unique variety of literature and art, as well as programs that inspire creativity. Visit online at www.anseladamsgallery.com.

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite (DNC) operates hotels, restaurants, sightseeing tours, recreational activities, interpretive programs, stores, shuttles and service stations in the park under contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior. DNC encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure. For more information and employment opportunities with DNC at Yosemite, visit online at www.YosemitePark.com.

Yosemite Association

The Yosemite Association is a nonprofit membership organization that provides opportunities for people to learn about, enjoy, and experience Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada. The Association celebrates the majesty and grandeur of this region through its visitor services, publications, outdoor classroom, and membership activities, which give people of all ages the chance to forge an enduring and inspirational connection to Yosemite. This, in turn, builds a commitment to the long-term preservation and vitality of Yosemite and our National Parks. Since 1923, the Association has provided important services and financial support to the National Park Service. Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to become more closely involved and affiliated with the park will enjoy membership in the Association. For more information, visit park bookstores or www.yosemite.org.

The Yosemite Fund

The Fund provides broad-based private funding from 27,000 members for projects that preserve, protect, or enhance Yosemite Park. Fund operations result in material improvement in the stewardship and quality of Yosemite's natural, cultural or historical resources or the visitor experience. Fund grants repair trails, restore habitat, conduct scientific research, enhance visitor education, preserve park history, and protect wildlife. Since 1988 the Fund has provided over \$50 million to complete more than 200 projects. Visit online at www.yosemitefund.org.

Yosemite Institute

Since 1971, thousands of school-age children have benefited from learning in "nature's classroom" through the residential field-science programs offered by Yosemite Institute (YI). A YI experience strives to foster a life-long connection to the natural world—whether it is in Yosemite, on a city street or in our own backyards. YI also offers professional development for teachers, summer youth programs, backpacking adventures, community outreach programs and service learning projects. For more information, visit www.yni.org/yi.

Contact Us...

The Ansel Adams Gallery

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DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

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801/559-5000
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Yosemite Association

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209/379-2646
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www.yosemite.org

The Yosemite Fund

155 Montgomery St. #1104
San Francisco, CA 94104
800/469-7275 or 415/434-1782
www.yosemitefund.org

Yosemite Institute

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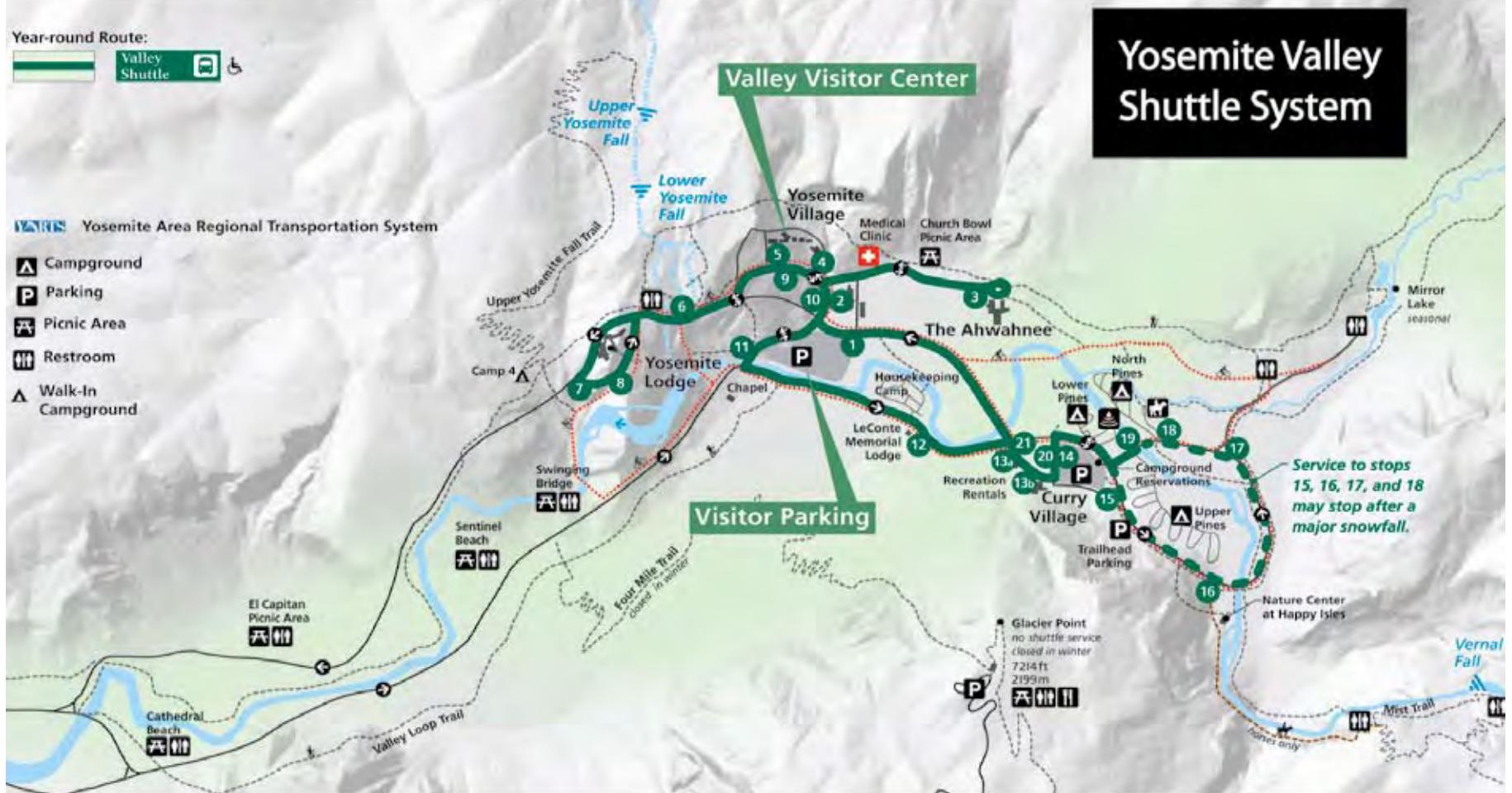
THE YOSEMITE FUND®
Providing for Yosemite's Future

Above right: El Capitan. NPS Photo

Year-round Route:
 Valley Shuttle 

 Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

-  Campground
-  Parking
-  Picnic Area
-  Restroom
-  Walk-In Campground



Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

Service to stops 15, 16, 17, and 18 may stop after a major snowfall.

Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am - 10:00pm. All shuttles follow the same route, serving stops in numerical order. Service may be affected by construction projects. Check shuttle stops for more information.

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	Yosemite Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2	10 Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	3 YARS The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	4 Degnan's Deli	13a	21 Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5	9 YARS Valley Visitor Center	13b	YARS Curry Village		
6	6 Lower Yosemite Fall	14	20 Curry Village Parking		
7	7 Camp 4	15	15 Upper Pines Campground		