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Dec '08 - Feb '09

*Yosemite Falls. Photo by Christine White Loberg*

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

December 17, 2008 - February 17, 2009

# 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.

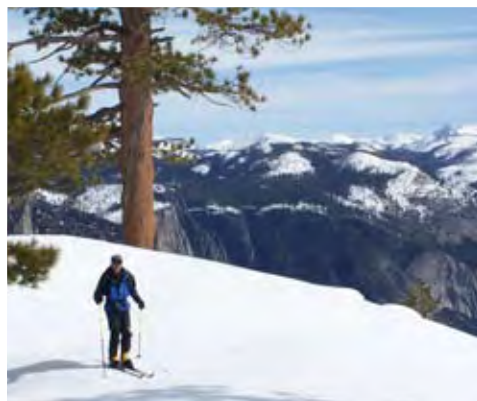
As Muir understood, there are as many ways to experience this amazing place as there are granite rocks in the Sierra Nevada landscape. To make the most of your time here, read through and enjoy this edition of *Yosemite Guide*. The contents of this publication will give you options for the experiences 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



The moon over Half Dome recalls a famous Ansel Adams image. Photo by Bethany Gediman

## 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.



View near Dewey Point. Photo: Tom Medema



Sentinel Rock. Photo: Pam Meierding

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. Photo: Pam Meierding



### 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. 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**

**Website:** [www.nps.gov/yose/](http://www.nps.gov/yose/)

**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 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](http://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.



Great grey owl parent and juvenile. By Tom Whitworth

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# Exploring Yosemite

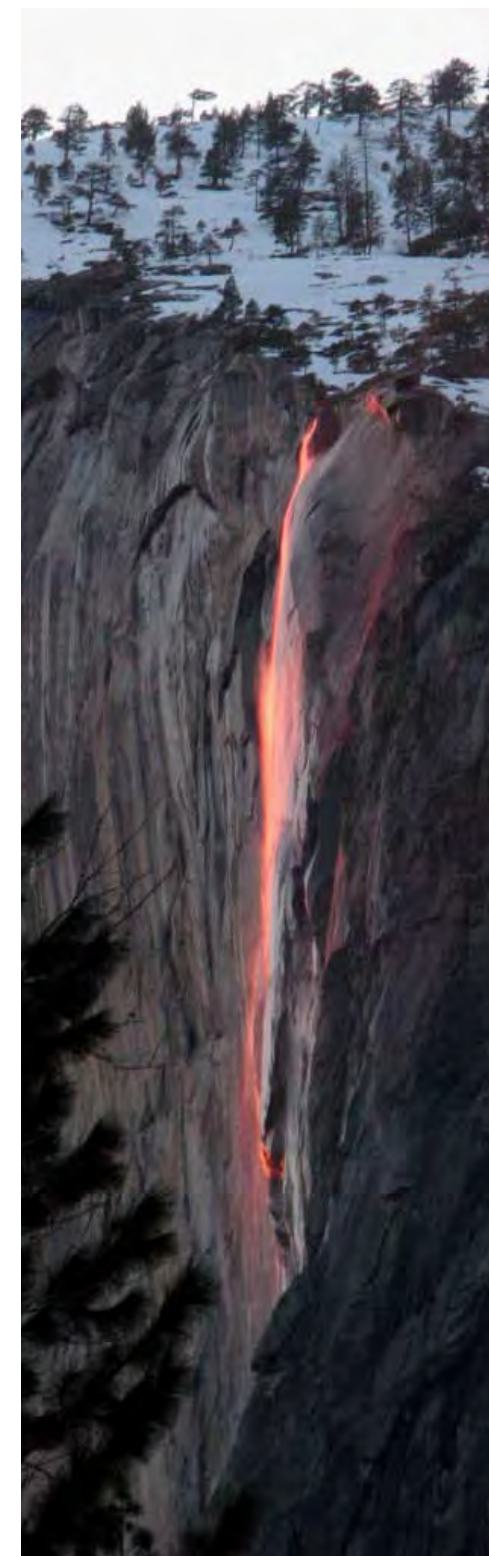
Spectacular Vistas and Quiet Corners of the Park



**A Valley sightseeing tour is offered** in Yosemite through the winter months. The Valley Floor Tour is a 26-mile, 2-hour tour that departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. Tours travel by enclosed motorcoach. An experienced guide narrates the tour. Only very poor weather cancels it.

A variety of other bus and open-top tram tours are offered during the warmer months.

Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at the tour and transportation desk at Yosemite Lodge.



Top: Clearing storm, Yosemite Falls.

Above: Each February, fleeting minutes of afternoon light transform Horsetail Fall. Photos by Bethany Gediman

## 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 usually an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. Be aware that snow and ice can make the walk more difficult. The hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired when the path is clear. **Bridalveil Fall** is another 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.

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. Do not attempt this route when it is snow- or ice-covered, though. Visitors with mobility impairments can obtain a

placard at the Valley Visitor Center or an entrance station that lets them drive to Happy Isles or Mirror Lake.

**The winter sport season is now in full swing.** Badger Pass Ski Area's scheduled opening was Dec. 12—a date that depends on natural snowfall, however. Warm weather, lack of snow, or hazardous conditions can close the facility at any time.

**Ice skating sessions take place daily,** weather permitting, at Curry Village.

*Weekdays:*  
3:30 to 6 pm and 7 to 9:30 pm  
*Weekends & Holidays:*  
8:30 to 11 am, 12 to 2:30 pm, 3:30 to 6 pm, and 7 to 9:30 pm.

To learn more: 209/372-8341 during or shortly before open hours.

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

## 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.

**Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias** is Yosemite's largest stand of giant sequoias (about 500 trees). The road is generally closed through some time in May, but you can ski or snowshoe in.

## 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 is open 8 am to 5 pm through March 31. Call 209/372-0200 for the most up-to-date information. Vehicles over 25 ft. 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. Hetch Hetchy's relatively low elevation gives the area one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite National Park.

## Glacier Point

The Glacier Point Road is open to snowshoeing and nordic skiing during the winter months. It is closed to vehicles past Badger Pass Ski Area. The snow-covered 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. For a trip to an overhanging lookout, choose the ski trail to Dewey Point. The road usually opens to vehicle traffic sometime in May. The trailhead for snow travel is at Badger Pass Ski Area.

## Tioga Road

Tioga Road is closed to vehicles during the winter months, usually until May or later. Winter brings ski and snowshoe options for experienced parties. Reaching Tuolumne Meadows via the road is a serious, multi-day undertaking. An experienced guide and avalanche beacons are among the essentials needed for the journey.



### Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

Tioga Road, Glacier Point Road, and Mariposa Grove Road are closed each year from November to late May or early June. Other roads are plowed, but expect icy or snowy conditions. Roads may close briefly due to accidents or extreme conditions. Motorists must carry chains (see p. 8 for more on chains). To check conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov) for highways connecting to Yosemite.

## Badger Pass

The ski lifts, groomed runs, and cross-country ski trails at Badger Pass make it a destination for winter adventure and beauty at the same time. The ski area is about an hour by road from Yosemite Valley and is located a short distance from Wawona Road at Chinquapin on the Glacier Point Road. (The road is closed for winter beyond Badger Pass.)

Badger Pass Ski Area is the oldest continuously operating ski area in California. The lodge and original lift

opened to the public in December 1935. That January, close to 10,000 people visited the ski facility—proving the demand for winter sport in the region and the appeal of combining a visit to Yosemite with winter activities.

Nordic ski facilities in the area include close to 25 miles of machine-groomed track (depending on conditions) and the availability (with reservations and fee) of ski huts at Glacier Point and Ostrander Lake. Snowshoe enthusiasts are asked not to tread on ski tracks.



### Self-Guiding 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 occupy three park groves. Photo by Paul Bolstad, U. of Minnesota, Bugwood.org

Right top: Valley snowshoe race, 1920s. NPS photo.

Middle right: Snowy trails. Photo by Pam Meierding

Right lower: Valley Visitor Center. NPS photo by Erik Skindrud

Bottom: Badger Pass Ski Area. 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](http://www.recreation.gov)

**Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)** [www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com)

**Lodging Reservations**  
801/559-5000  
[www.yosemitepark.com](http://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](http://www.thegreatunfenced.com)

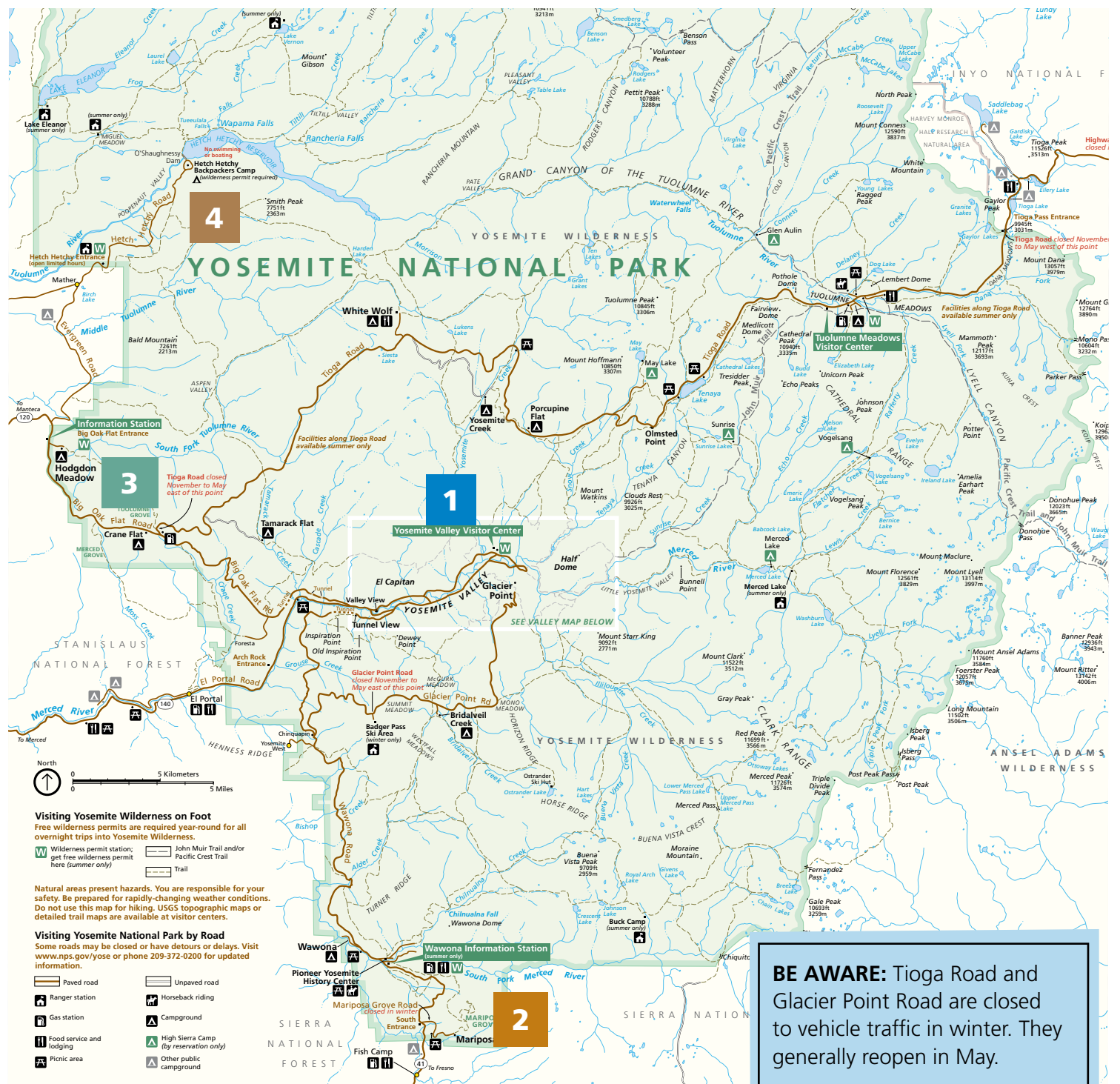
**Highway 41**  
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau  
559/683-4636  
[www.yosemitethisyear.com](http://www.yosemitethisyear.com)

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

**Highway 120 East**  
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center  
760/647-6629  
[www.leevining.com](http://www.leevining.com)

California Welcome Center, Merced  
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791  
[www.yosemite-gateway.org](http://www.yosemite-gateway.org)



**BE AWARE:** Tioga Road and Glacier Point Road are closed to vehicle traffic in winter. They generally reopen in May.

## Yosemite Valley

**1** Yosemite Valley is world famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. Snow occasionally blankets the Valley, but it is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 west from Manteca.

## 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.



Above: Yosemite's giant sequoia groves usually have more snow than this in winter, so travel by skis or snowshoes is recommended. Photo by Christine White Loberg

## Crane Flat

**3** 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, and walk, ski or snowshoe one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk (ski or snowshoe) 2 steep miles down to this small grove.

## Hetch Hetchy

**4** 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 5 pm through March 31.

# Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do.

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	BADGER PASS	WAWONA
<b>Sunday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> (Except Jan. 4, 11, 18, and Feb. 8) ¼ hr. Stories &amp; activities for kids 6 &amp; under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</b> (Starts in January; except Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 8 and 15) 3 hrs. No experience required. Advance sign up/tickets at any tour desk. (DNC) \$</p> <p><b>FAMILY WINTER CELEBRATION</b> (Feb. 15 only) 3 hrs. Curry Village Pavilion (DNC)</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll - Rivers and Waterfalls</b> 1½ hrs. Shuttle stop #6. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 21 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local postings for venue &amp; topic. (DNC) ♿</p> <p><b>Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow</b> (Dec. 21 and 28) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room. Tickets at Lodge tour desk, or at door, if available. (DNC) ♿ \$</p>	<p>8:30am <b>Adventure Hike—Snowshoe to Dewey Point</b></p> <p>Conditions permitting. 6 ½ hours. Meet at nordic center. Tickets/info at any park tour desk. (YMS) \$</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter</b></p> <p>Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. 11 and Feb. 8 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$</p>	
<b>Monday</b>	<p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll - Yosemite's First People</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 22 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>4:00pm <b>Winter Twilight Stroll</b> (Except Jan. 19) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Patio (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local postings for venue &amp; topic. (NPS) ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter</b></p> <p>Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Dress warm; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (Feb. 9 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$</p>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Photography Walk</b> 2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up &amp; meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)</p> <p>12:00pm <b>Yosemite Forum</b> (Jan. 13 and Feb. 10 only) 1 hr. Selected lectures by park scientists. East Auditorium (NPS)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>Using Your Digital Camera Class</b> (Except Dec. 23) 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll - Trees</b> 1 ½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, Shuttle Stop #3 (NPS)</p> <p>3:00pm <b>STORYTIME</b> (Dec. 30 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local postings for venue &amp; topic. (DNC) ♿</p> <p><b>Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow</b> (Dec. 23 only) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room. Tickets at Lodge tour desk, or at door, if available. (DNC) ♿ \$</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter</b></p> <p>Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS)</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (Dec. 23 and 30 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<p>11:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 24 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>1:00pm <b>NPS Open House</b> (Jan. 28 only) 3 hrs. Come learn about park improvement efforts. Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS)</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll - Wild about Wildlife</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> (Except Dec. 31) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge (NPS) ♿</p>	<p>8:30am <b>Adventure Hike—Snowshoe to Dewey Point</b> (Except on Dec. 17, Jan. 7 and 14) Conditions permitting. 6 ½ hours. Meet at nordic center. Tickets/info at any park tour desk. (YMS) \$</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter</b></p> <p>Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. 7 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (Dec. 24 and 31 only) 4 hrs. Live music and interpretive programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Thursday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Photography Walk</b> 2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up &amp; meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>Using Your Digital Camera Class</b> (Except Dec. 25) 4 hrs. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</b> (Starts in January; except Jan. 8 and Feb. 5) 3 hrs. No experience required. Advance sign up/tickets at any tour desk. (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll - Yosemite's Legacy</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 18 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> (Except Dec. 25) 1 hr. Check local postings for venue/topic. (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter</b></p> <p>Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. 8 and Feb. 5 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Friday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> (Except Jan. 9) ¼ hr. Stories &amp; activities for kids 6 &amp; under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll - Geology</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 19 and 26 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Film - Ansel Adams</b> 1 hr. Check local postings for venue and topic. (AAG) ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter</b></p> <p>Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. 9 and Feb. 6 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 and 16 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Drop by the piano and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Saturday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Photography Walk</b> 2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up &amp; meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with Your Camera</b> 4 hrs. Limited space. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</b> (Starts in January; except Jan. 10 and Feb. 7) 3 hrs. No experience required. Advance sign up/tickets at any tour desk. (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Stroll - Winter Ecology</b> 1 ½ hrs. Yosemite Lodge, shuttle stop #8 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Fine Print Viewing</b> 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up in advance at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG)</p> <p><b>STORYTIME</b> (Dec. 27 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC)</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local postings for venue &amp; topic. (NPS) ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter</b></p> <p>Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. 10 and Feb. 7 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 and 17 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>

Programs printed in **COLOR** are specially designed for **CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

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



Facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs.



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.



Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request.

# Services and Facilities

## Where to Go & What to Do



### Throughout Yosemite National Park

Winter is a time of special beauty and offers unique opportunities for sport and outdoor adventure in the park. **Note that some tours and roads familiar to summer visitors do not reopen until May or June.**

## 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 exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite's spectacular landscape formed and how people interact with it.

#### 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.

### Internet Access

Fee-based terminals are open at Degnan's Deli. Free internet access is available at the Mariposa County branch library, adjacent to the Yosemite Cemetery. Hours vary. Ask at the Valley Visitor Center.

### 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.

### 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.

### Ansel Adams Gallery

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm. (It will close at 3pm on Christmas Eve and will remain closed on Christmas Day.) The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. It 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](http://www.anseladams.com)

#### ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY EXHIBITS

**Dec. 1 - Jan. 15** Earth Elements. Exquisite black and white photography by Jeff Conley.  
**Jan. 17- Feb. 28** Yosemite Icons. A group showing of classic images of Yosemite.

Top Left: Ranger and visitors. NPS photo by Erik Skindrud

Top Center: Skiing at Badger Pass, 1960s. NPS photo.

Top Right: Snowfall softens The Ahwahnee. Photo by Wendy Malone

## Special Winter Events

- Yosemite Winter Theater Live!  
The Spirit of John Muir:  
Stories of Snow and Ice  
*Dec. 21 and 28 only, 7pm at Yosemite Lodge.*
- Family Winter Celebration  
*Join park interpretive staff for an afternoon of crafts, learning stations, walks, and winter fun! Sunday, Feb. 15, 1pm at Curry Village Pavilion.*

#### 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

*closed for season*

##### Yosemite Bookstore

**Inside Yosemite Visitor Center**

9am to 5pm

##### Yosemite Museum Store

9am to 5pm; *Thurs.-Sun. as of Jan. 1*

##### Village Store

8am to 8pm

##### Habitat Yosemite

11am to 4pm; *Friday-Sunday only*

##### Sport Shop

10am to 4pm

The Ahwahnee

##### The Ahwahnee Gift Shop

8am to 8pm

##### The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop

7am to 10pm

Yosemite Lodge

##### Gift/Grocery

8am to 7pm

##### Nature Shop

11am to 7pm

Curry Village

##### Mountain Shop

9am to 5pm

##### Curry Village Gift/Grocery

9am to 7pm; Holiday hours: 8am-8pm, (1/16-1/19 and 2/13-2/16)

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 5pm

#### SKIING

Badger Pass Ski Area

Scheduled opening Dec. 12.

9am to 4 pm daily, 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

**The Ahwahnee**

**Dining Room**  
Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am  
Lunch: 11:30am to 3pm  
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm  
*(No regular dinner service on Dec. 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, and 26 due to holiday Bracebridge event.)*  
Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm  
Appropriate attire 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 - 11pm (Mon.-Fri.)  
Noon - 11pm (Sat.-Sun.)  
Noon - 1am (New Year's Eve only)  
Noon - 11pm (Dec. 24 - Jan. 1 only)

**Mountain Room Restaurant**  
Daily: 5:30pm to 9pm  
Christmas Day: 4-9pm  
New Year's Eve: 5-10:30pm

**Curry Village**

**Pizza Parlor**  
Saturdays 5-9pm; (also Sun. Jan. 18)  
**Coffee Corner**  
7 to 11am

*(Both Curry locations open limited days: Sat.-Sun. after Jan. 4; also holidays, 12/20-1/4; also Mon. 1/19)*

**Wawona**

**Wawona Hotel Dining Room**  
Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am  
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm  
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm  
*(Open for the holidays for limited days: Dec. 12 through Jan. 6)*  
Reservations taken for 6 or more.  
209/375-1425

**GROCERIES**

**Yosemite Lodge**

**Gift/Grocery**  
8am to 7pm

**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 6pm  
Diesel & propane. 24 hours

**Crane Flat**

*closed for remodeling*

**SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY**

**Curry Village**

**Showers**  
Open 24 hours

**Housekeeping Camp**

**Laundromat**  
8am to 10pm

**ICE SKATING**

**Curry Village Ice Rink**

3:30-6pm and 7-9:30pm weekdays;  
8:30-11am, 12-2:30pm, 3:30-6pm,  
and 7-9:30pm weekends/holidays.

# 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, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and tells 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. 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 an hour's driving time to reach the grove's access road from the Valley. A locked gate prevents vehicles from entering the closure area. Limited parking is available near the gate.

#### Snow Travel to the Grove

Skiers and snowshoers can follow the snow-covered road into the grove. Trails within the grove are marked by yellow flags attached to trees above ground level. When snow covers the ground here, access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski.

**Dogs or bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.**

### Distance & Elevation

**Distances below do not include the 2-mile approach from the locked gate near the park's south entrance.**

#### 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

## Big Oak Flat (Hwy 120)

#### Big Oak Flat Information Station

The station is closed until spring, but 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. 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). 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. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. The path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip is moderately strenuous.

## Outdoor Adventures

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

- Jan. 10** Moonlight Snowshoe 1 – a night of magic lighting with Karen Amstutz
- Jan. 17** Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist – a day on snowshoes
- Jan. 20-22** Winter Natural History at Ostrander Hut – learn at a cozy hut
- Jan. 22-25** Winter Landscape Photography – capture the light with John Senser
- Jan. 24** Dewey Point Snowshoe Trek – Kendra Kurihara at the edge
- Jan. 31** Discovering the Winter World – with the master of Badger, Dick Ewart
- Feb. 7** Moonlight Snowshoe 2 – Emily Jacobs in black and white
- Feb. 14** For the Love of Winter – a fine day for romance with Kendra Kurihara

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

**YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
(NONDENOMINATIONAL)

**WORSHIP SERVICE/YOSEMITE VALLEY CHAPEL**  
Sunday 9:15am and 11am  
Thurs.: 7 pm; Tuesday Bible Studies  
Christmas Eve: 4pm candlelight service  
New Year's Eve: 10pm prayer service;  
communion at 12 midnight  
Call 209/372-4831 for information

**ROMAN CATHOLIC**  
Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater  
Sunday Mass: 10 am  
Christmas Mass: Dec. 25, 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 reservations 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. 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 trips. Permits are issued at Yosemite Valley, 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. Call the park's main phone line for backcountry information: 209/372-0200.

### More Information

[www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm)  
Leave No Trace [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)  
Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue [www.friendofyosar.org](http://www.friendofyosar.org)

## Vehicle Chain Requirements

When you are visiting from November through March, expect chain requirements to be in effect, even if you only plan to park in the Valley and ride the shuttle bus. Any time chain controls are in effect, all vehicles must have chains or cable chains ready for use. Not having them could subject you to an expensive citation.

### Changes in Elevation

Because higher elevation roads receive more snow, chains are required on the Wawona Road (Highway 41), Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 west), and Badger Pass Road more often than on the El Portal Road (Highway 140), roads within Yosemite Valley, and the Hetch Hetchy Road.

### Check by Phone

Call 209/372-0200 (press 1 then 1) for updated road information inside the park. This recording is updated whenever road conditions change and is the same way in which park staff gets road information. This recording includes information about current chain requirements. Remember that conditions can change rapidly.

You can also call 800/427-7623 for road conditions throughout California (these links and phone number do not provide information about roads within Yosemite).

### Online Information

A summary of chain control rules can be found on the park website at [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/chains.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/chains.htm)

Top left: Badger Pass Ski Area lodge. Photo by Wendy Malone

Top right: Snow play. Photo by Bethany Gediman

# 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

Trout season in Yosemite does not open until April. 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, camp-

grounds, 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](http://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.

## 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!

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.

# Lincoln's Yosemite Role

## Feature Article



Photography by Carleton Watkins in the early 1860s showed Congress, President Lincoln, and other Americans that Yosemite was a special place worth protecting. Photo: Carleton Watkins/Library of Congress

## February 2009 marks the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. In 1864, the president signed a bill that would ultimately create Yosemite National Park.

### Park's creation was bright spot in midst of Civil War conflict.

By Ranger Sarah Dunham

Few visitors probably link the author of the Gettysburg Address with Yosemite, but Abraham Lincoln is an important figure in the park's history. On June 30, 1864, in the midst of the American Civil War, Lincoln signed the Yosemite park act, which protected the Mariposa Grove and Yosemite Valley from logging and other forms of exploitation. These plots would form the core of one of America's natural treasures, Yosemite National Park.

#### Photographer's role

Today, people come to Yosemite National Park from all over the world seeking the waterfalls that seem to fall from the sky and the monolithic cliffs that soar up to the horizon. But Abraham Lincoln never saw Yosemite. Instead Yosemite came to him in photographs taken by Carleton Watkins and the passionate voices of people such as Captain Israel Ward Raymond

and U.S. Senator John Conness.

Carleton Watkins was the first photographer to utilize large-format "mammoth-plate" photographs to capture the magnitude and splendor of Yosemite's rugged landscape and the apparent absence of human habitation even though people had been living in the area for thousands of years.

#### An escape from war

Watkins' photographs sharply contrasted with images of the Eastern landscape at the time that depicted scenes of battle and fields littered with the bodies of fallen Civil War soldiers. To many people, Watkins' photographs depicted a place so remote it offered a chance to escape the political and social unrest of the time. Watkins' photographs also offered a setting and context for the discussion of the preservation of natural landscapes.

Discussion among preservationists and politicians reflected American's changing lifestyles. In the middle and late 1800s many people were moving from rural to urban settings where manicured public parks and gardens were replacing wild natural landscapes. Some Americans became nostalgic for a more peaceful and preindustrial era and

took it upon themselves to ensure that some natural landscapes would be preserved for generations to come. Captain Israel Ward Raymond was one of those individuals. He came to Yosemite and was struck by its remarkable beauty and majesty. Raymond was also concerned by the trend toward private development in Yosemite Valley and the discussion of harvesting giant sequoias.

On February 20, 1864 Captain Raymond authored a persuasive letter to US Senator John Conness urging congress to protect "that cleft or Gorge in the granite peak of the Sierra Nevada...known as the Yo Semite Valley...to prevent occupation and especially to preserve the trees."

#### Team effort succeeds

Much of the language in Captain Raymond's letter became the language of a bill introduced in the Senate by Senator John Conness stating that "the [Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias and Yosemite Valley] shall be held for public use, resort, and recreation; shall be inalienable for all time." This bill passed in the Senate and passed unanimously in the House of Representatives.

The next day Abraham Lincoln signed the bill setting aside the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoia and Yosemite Valley, to be administered the state of California. In 1890, President Benjamin Harrison signed a bill creating Yosemite National Park. The Valley and the Mariposa Grove were added to the national park in 1906. "Yosemite was in fact the first national park," historian Alfred Runte would later write.

#### Significance of act

At the time the Yosemite park act was signed, it did not invite much attention because America was in the midst of a Civil War. Only later did the significance become clear; Yosemite was the first land in American history to be preserved for public use simply because it was beautiful. The Yosemite Grant became legal precedent and began a world movement toward land conservation.

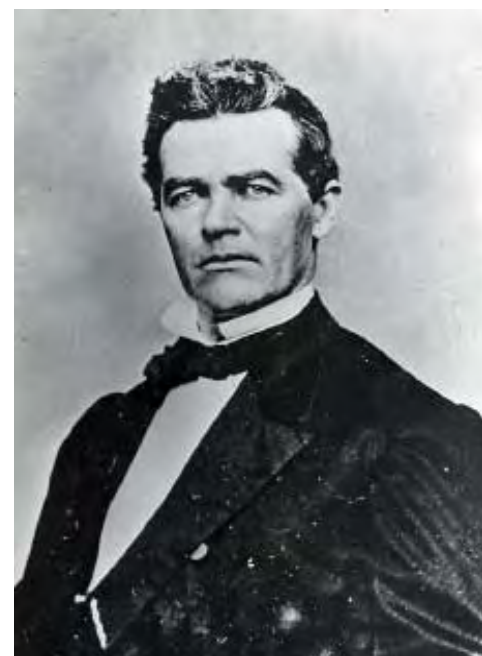
Abraham Lincoln gave California the gift of expansive valleys, rugged mountains, waterfalls that jump from the sky, and monolithic cliffs that soar up to the horizon; he gave California Yosemite. Ultimately, Yosemite is a gift to all of us. As visitors to national parks it is our privilege to explore all the wonders and surprises woven into the natural landscape. As the owners and caretakers of national parks it is our duty to care for them for the generations to come.



President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite park act into law on June 30, 1864. Photo: Library of Congress



Israel Ward Raymond was a California representative of a New York steamship company who took an early interest in Yosemite. In February 1864, he wrote Sen. John Conness to urge the area's preservation. Photo: Yosemite Research Library



California Sen. John Conness stressed the importance of preserving giant sequoia trees of the Mariposa Grove in a speech to the U.S. Senate Committee on Public Lands in 1864. Today, a mountain and glacier bear his name near the park's eastern edge. Photo: Yosemite Research Library

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.yni.org/yi).

## Contact Us...

### The Ansel Adams Gallery

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### DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

PO Box 578  
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[www.yosemitepark.com](http://www.yosemitepark.com)

### Yosemite Association

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209/379-2486 fax  
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### The Yosemite Fund

155 Montgomery St. #1104  
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800/469-7275 or 415/434-1782  
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### Yosemite Institute

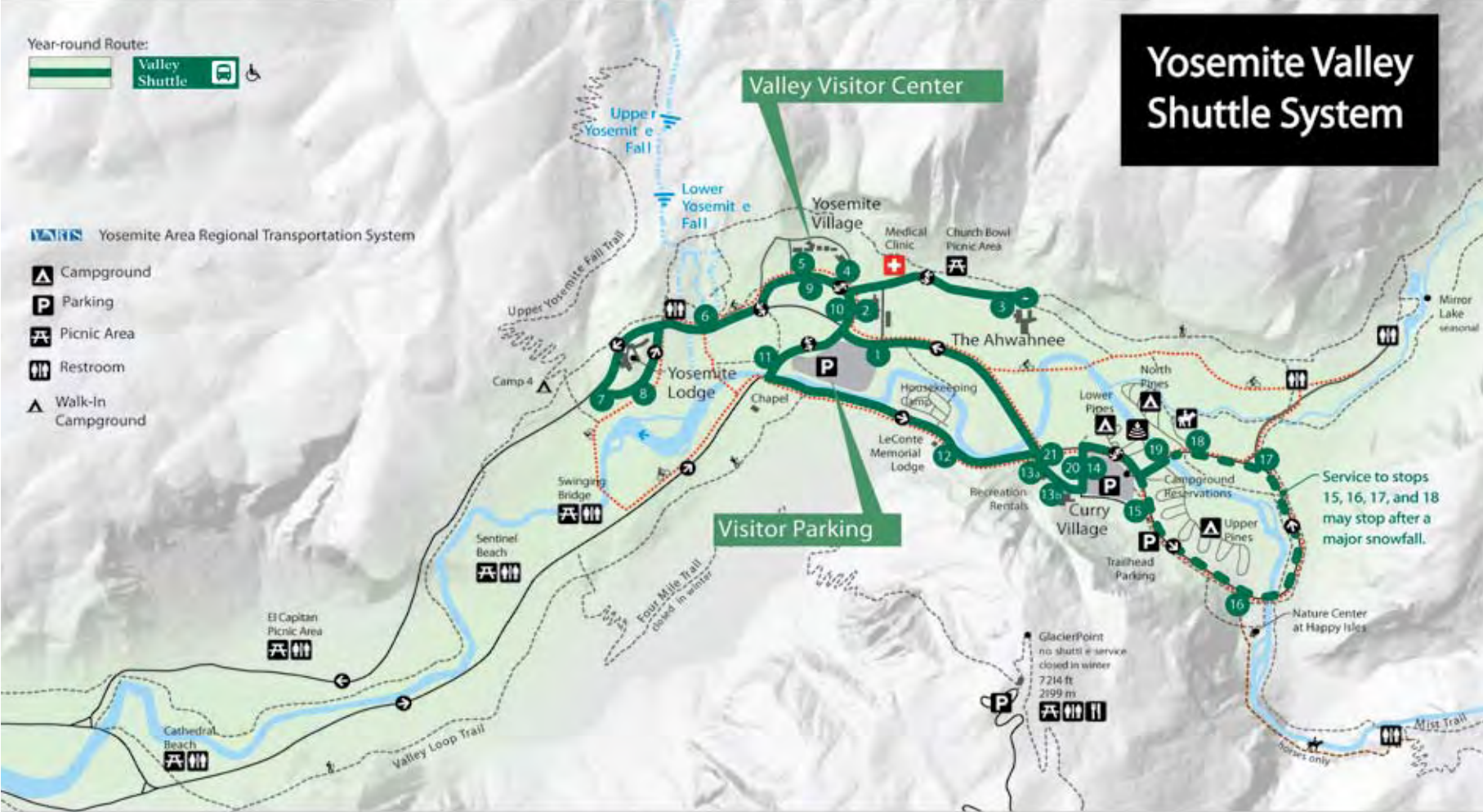
PO Box 487  
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**THE YOSEMITE FUND®**  
*Providing for Yosemite's Future*

Above right: El Capitan. Photo: Christine White Loberg

# Yosemite Valley Shuttle System



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 YARTS The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	4 Degnan's Deli	13, 21	Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5	5 9 Valley Visitor Center	13b	3 YARTS Curry Village		
6	6 Lower Yosemite Fall	14	20 Curry Village Parking		
7	7 Camp 4	15	15 Upper Pines Campground		

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