

Yosemite Guide

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

February 18 - April 14, 2009

Half Dome. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Feb. - April 2009

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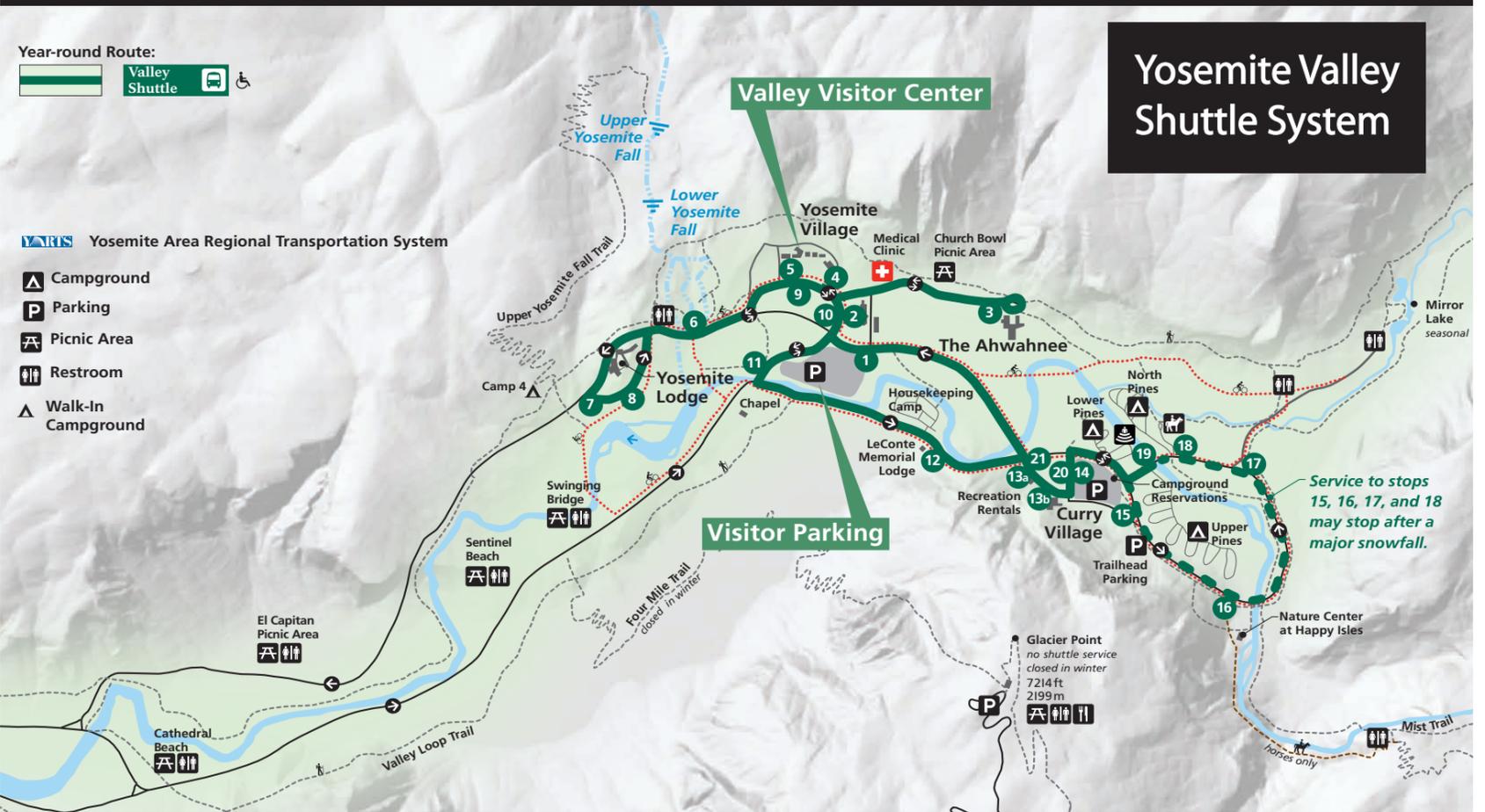


Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Vol. 34, Issue No. 2

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide February 18 - April 14, 2009



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	Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	Degnan's Deli	13a	Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5	Valley Visitor Center	21	Curry Village		
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	13b	Curry Village Parking		
7	Camp 4	14	Upper Pines Campground		
		15			

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

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National Park Service
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Things to Do

Keep this Guide with you to get the most out of your visit



Illustration by Lawrence W. Duke

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours. But to give you some ideas, park rangers made a list of possibilities for winter and early spring.

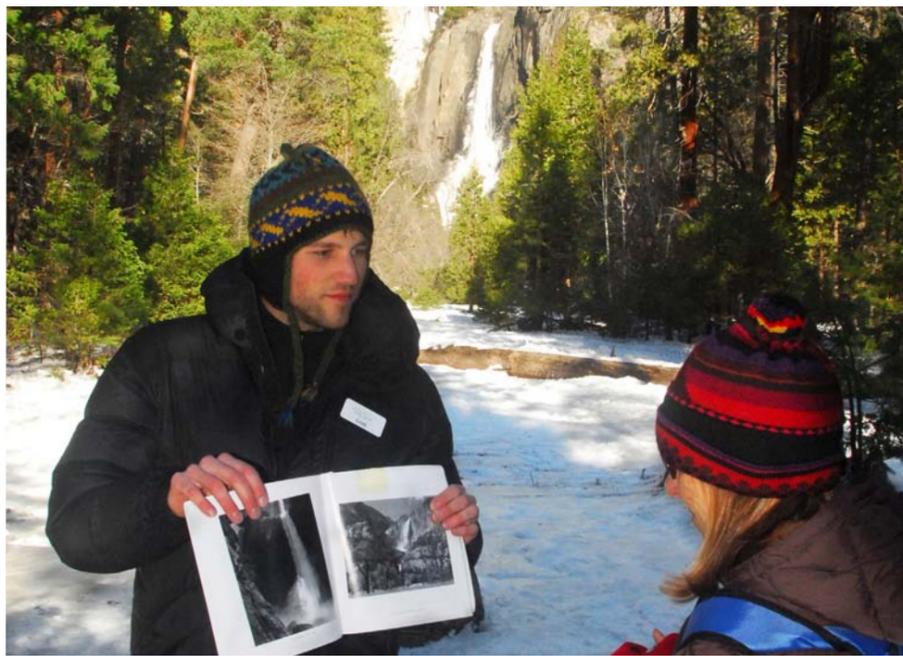
In no particular order, here are 10 popular activities for a day in Yosemite National Park.

Walk to a Waterfall

The Valley is famous for its awe-inspiring waterfalls. As distinct as the granite cliffs they dive over, taking a walk to the base of a waterfall is well worth it. Yosemite Falls is a short walk from Yosemite Lodge and Yosemite Village. You can also venture farther to Happy Isles, where the trail to Vernal Fall and Nevada Fall begins. (See the Valley map on the back of this Guide.)

Explore a Sequoia Grove

Meet the most massive living trees on earth as you explore a sequoia grove. Yosemite is home to three groves—each



A photography workshop is one of many options open to visitors. Photo by Christine White Loberg

How to Use Your Yosemite Guide

The list on this page offers 10 popular things to do. The table of contents (“What’s Inside...”) at lower right shows where you can turn for more information. A detailed listing of program information can be found on page 3.

within walking distance of a road. Skis or snowshoes are recommended when the trail is snow covered. (See map on page 2.)

Visit the Yosemite Museum

Learn about Yosemite Indians by exploring a museum collection that includes remarkable woven baskets and traditional dress. Tour the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. The Yosemite

Museum is located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 6.)

Take a Photography Class

Learn how to best capture the landscape of Yosemite by joining a photography expert from the Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Some have fees, some are free. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery located in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 3.)

Hike to Mirror Lake

Situated at the base of Half Dome, Mirror Lake frames reflections of Yosemite’s most iconic cliff. The quiet trail is gentle and follows Tenaya Creek as it winds its way through the eastern Valley. The trail starts at shuttle stop #17. (See Valley map on the back of this Guide.)

Ice Skate at Curry Village

The outdoor ice rink at Curry Village is nestled among the dramatic scenery of Yosemite Valley. Rent equipment for skating, sit by the fire pit, or enjoy the warming hut at the Curry Village ice rink, which operates through March 8, conditions permitting. (See page 4 for hours.)

Tour The Ahwahnee

Step back to an earlier era of history as you explore the National Historic Landmark that opened in 1927. Notable for its architecture and artful décor, the hotel provides a cozy atmosphere to relax and enjoy a warm drink in. (“Food & Beverage,” page 7.)

Drive to Tunnel View

One of the most famous views of Yosemite Valley, Tunnel View has captivated visitors for over 75 years. Newly rehabilitated, it offers expansive views of El Capitan, Clouds Rest, Half Dome, and Bridalveil Fall. (See map, page 2.)

Snowshoe with a Ranger

Learn about the wonders of winter on a ranger-guided snowshoe stroll. Programs are offered daily at Badger Pass Ski Area through March 29th, conditions permitting. A free shuttle from Yosemite Valley to Badger Pass is available. (See page 3.)

See Half Dome at Sunset

Towering more than 4,000 feet above the eastern end of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome compels eyes to gaze on it. Sunset lights up the cliff face, creating a dramatic and colorful scene. Witness the effect from Sentinel Bridge or one of the meadows near Yosemite Village or Curry Village. (See the Valley map on the back of this Guide.)



Acorn woodpecker. By Lauren Hamilton

Welcome, and Be Prepared



Get ready for a wild experience. Yosemite is a place of moving beauty—and unpredictable forces. Be attentive to the rules in place to protect the park (page 9) and your safety (page 8).

Fire – Police – Medical Emergency: Dial 911

Website: www.nps.gov/yose/

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

Access for People With Disabilities

The *Yosemite Accessibility Guide* is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and on-line 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.

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.

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. You can find the latest on NOAA Weather Radio station KAD-94 at 162.450 MHz. 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 road information.

What’s Inside:

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Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

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.

Reservations

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

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

Regional Info

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

West Highway 120
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
800/446-1333
www.thegreatunfenced.com

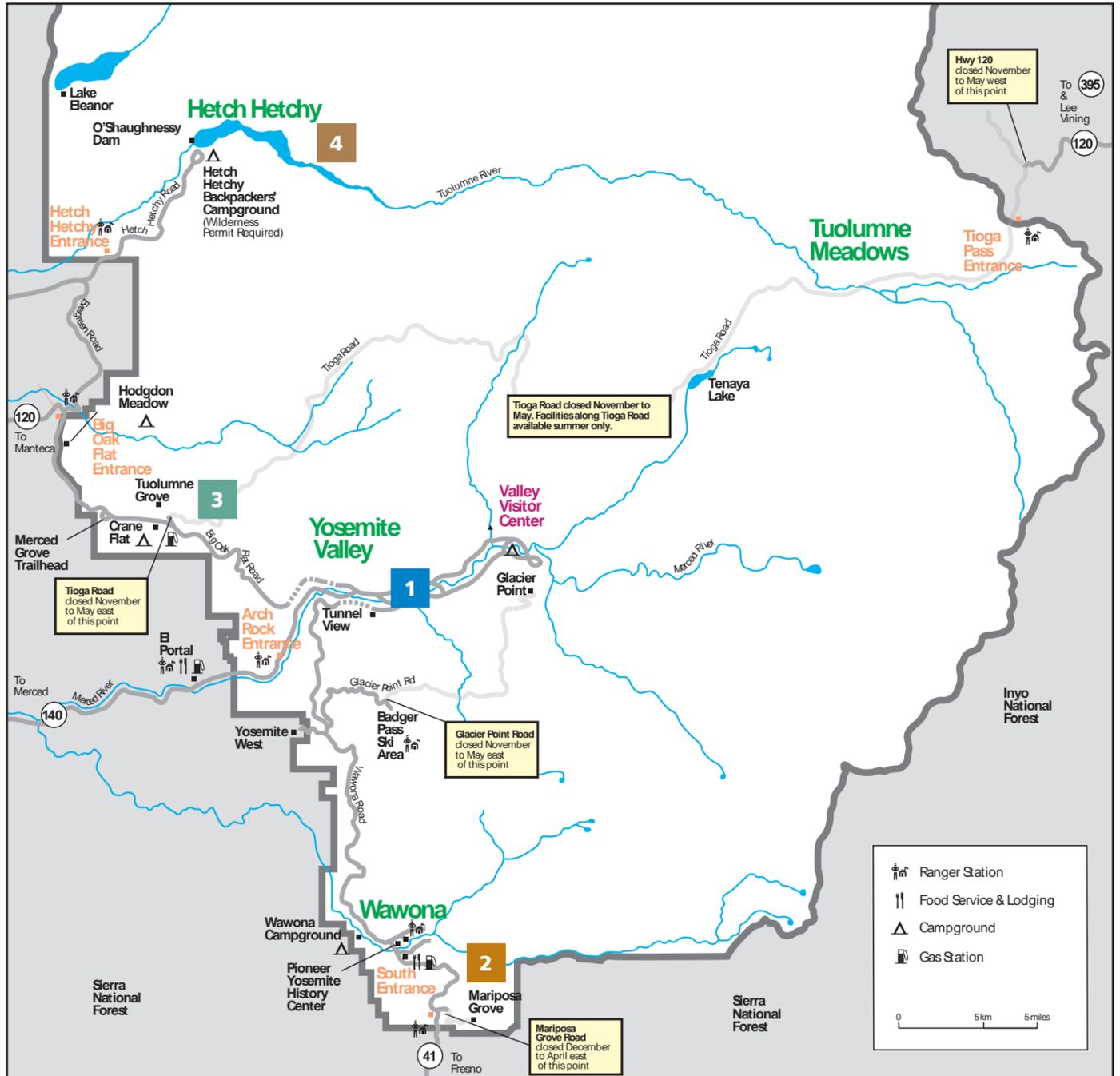
Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/683-4636
www.yosemitethisyear.com

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



Yosemite Valley

1 Even if you've been here before, the Valley is packed with wonders to keep you exploring. Snow occasionally blankets the 4,000-foot floor, but it is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 west from Manteca. Here you will find the park's main visitor center—a base for further exploration.

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 to cars 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 and early spring, 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. April hours are 7 am through 8 pm.

Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	BADGER PASS	WAWONA
Sunday	9:00am WEE WILD ONES (Except March 29 and April 12) ¾ hr. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC)	8:30am Adventure Hike—Snowshoe to Dewey Point (Except April 5 and 12) Conditions permitting. 6 ½ hours. Meet at nordic center. Tickets/info at any park tour desk. (YMS) \$	
	1:00pm Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk (Except March 29, April 5 and 12) 3 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up/tickets at any tour desk. (DNC) \$	10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through March 29) 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)	
Monday	2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Yosemite's First People 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS)	7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 8 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$	
	4:00pm Winter Twilight Stroll (Except March 30) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Patio (DNC)	10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through March 23) Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Dress warm; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS)	
Tuesday	7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS)	7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 9 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$	
	9:00am Photography Walk 2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)	10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through March 24) 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)	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (Starts April 7) 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)
Wednesday	12:00pm Yosemite Forum (March 10 and April 14 only) 1 hr. Selected lectures by scientists working in the park. East Auditorium (NPS)	7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 10 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$	
	1:00pm Using Your Digital Camera Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$	9:00am Adventure Hike - Snowshoe to Dewey Point (Except April 1 and 8) 6 ½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center. Tickets/ info at any tour desk (YMS) \$	
Thursday	2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Trees (Except Tuesday, April 14) 1 ½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, Shuttle Stop #3 (NPS)	10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through March 25) 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)	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (Starts April 8) 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)
	7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (DNC)	7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 11 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$	
Friday	9:00am WEE WILD ONES (Except March 11 and April 1) ¾ hr. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC)	10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through March 26) 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)	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (Starts April 9) 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)
	1:00pm Open House (Feb. 25 only) 3 hrs. Come learn about park improvement efforts. Valley Visitor Center Auditorium. (NPS)	7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 12 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$	
Saturday	2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Geology 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS)	10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through March 27) 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)	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (Starts April 10) 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)
	7:00pm Film - Ansel Adams 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (AAG)	7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 13 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$	
Sunday	9:00am Photography Walk 2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)	10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through March 28) 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)	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (Starts April 11) 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)
	1:00pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with Your Camera 4 hrs. Limited space. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$	7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 14 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$	
Monday	2:00pm Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk (Except March 28 and April 4 and 11) 3 hrs. No experience required. Advance sign up/tickets at any tour desk. (DNC) \$		
	3:00pm SPRING FAMILY WALK (April 11 only) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee patio. (DNC)		
Tuesday	7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS)		
	9:00am Photography Walk 2 hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)		
Wednesday	1:00pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with Your Camera 4 hrs. Limited space. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$		
	2:00pm Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk (Except March 28 and April 4 and 11) 3 hrs. No experience required. Advance sign up/tickets at any tour desk. (DNC) \$		
Thursday	3:00pm Fine Print Viewing 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up in advance at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG)		
	7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS)		

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.

Exploring Yosemite

Spectacular vistas and quiet corners of the park



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.

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 3, 6, and 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.

El Capitan, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit at the west end of the Valley.

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. Shuttles 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.

Ice skating sessions take place daily, weather permitting, at Curry Village, through March 8.

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 about ice skating: 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.

A Valley sightseeing tour is offered in Yosemite throughout the year. The Valley Floor Tour is a 26-mile, two-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. An open-top tram is used during warmer weather.

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: Valley Visitor Center mall at Yosemite Village. NPS photo by Erik Skindrud

Above: Upper Yosemite Fall rainbow. Photo by Christine White Loberg

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 April, 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. April hours are 7 am to 8 pm. 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." Hetch Hetchy is located along the Tuolumne River in the northern part of the park and now contains a large reservoir. 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 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. To check conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit www.dot.ca.gov for California highways.

Badger Pass

A free shuttle serves Badger Pass Ski Area through its planned closing date of Sunday, March 29. Two buses pick up each morning. Departure times are 8 and 10:30 am at Curry Village, 8:10 and 10:40 am at Yosemite Village, 8:15 and 10:45 am at The Ahwahnee, and 8:30 and 11 am at Yosemite Lodge.

The ski area is about an hour by road from Yosemite Valley and is located a short distance from Wawona Road and Chinquapin on Glacier Point Road.

(Glacier Point 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.

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. Nordic rentals are available.



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. 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.

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 (outside of Yosemite).

Online Information

A summary of chain control rules can be found on the park website at www.nps.gov/yoise/planyourvisit/chains.htm

Top: Chair lift at Badger Pass Ski Area.
Photo by Kenny Karst

Bottom: Badger Pass Ski Area lodge, 1940s.
NPS photo

Valley Focus

Dates, times, and places



Throughout Yosemite National Park

Winter and early spring is a time of special beauty and offers unique opportunities for sport and 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 library, south of 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 RENAISSANCE ART SHOW

Yosemite Renaissance opens on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. The opening is preceded by a ceremony at 5:30 pm on Feb. 27 at the Gallery. The exhibit ends May 3.

Yosemite Renaissance is an annual exhibit, now in its 24th year, that encourages diverse interpretations of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. For this year's show there are 43 paintings, graphics, photographs, and three-dimensional pieces by artists from across the U.S.



An example of Yosemite Renaissance artwork. Image courtesy of Bob Woolard

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

Open Thurs.-Sun. 9 am to 5 pm. The store opens daily March 12. It offers traditional American Indian arts and crafts, and books on related subjects.

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 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 10 am to 5 pm through March 16. After that date it will open from 9 am to 5 pm. 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

ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY EXHIBITS

Through Feb. 25 Yosemite in Winter Group Show. Color and black and white images of Yosemite National Park in winter by photographers the Gallery represents.

Feb. 26 - April 18 William Neill - Yosemite Classics. William Neill's photographs, from sweeping vistas to intimate studies of natural phenomena, strongly convey Yosemite's exceptional qualities. The collection is powerful, inspired from 18 years of Neill's working in the park. A reception for the artist will be held on Feb. 27 from 3-5 pm.

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

Top center: Skating at Curry Village, 1935. NPS photo.

Top left: The Ahwahnee dining room. Photo by Kenny Karst

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
 10am to 5pm (9am as of March 16)
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
 Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
 8am to 5pm

SKIING

Badger Pass Ski Area
 9am to 4pm daily through March 29, 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
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 2pm
Dinner: 5pm-7:30pm (Sun.-Thurs.)
5pm-8:00pm (Fri.-Sat.)

Mountain Room Lounge

4:30pm - 11pm (Mon.-Fri.)
Noon - 11pm (Sat.-Sun.)

Mountain Room Restaurant

5:30pm to 9pm (Fri.-Sat.)
5:30pm to 8:30pm (Sun.-Thurs.)

Curry Village

Pizza Parlor

5-9pm (Fri.-Sat. through March 27)
5-9pm (Mon.-Fri. starting March. 27)
Noon-9pm (Sat.-Sun. starts March 28)

Coffee Corner

7 to 11am (Sat.-Sun. through March 22, daily starting March 28)

Wawona

Wawona Hotel Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
Easter Brunch April 12:
10:30am to 1:30pm
Wawona Hotel is open weekends only through through April 3.
Reservations taken for 6 or more.
209/375-1425

GROCERIES

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery
8am to 7pm
8am to 9pm (starting April 3)

Yosemite Village

Village Store
8am to 8pm
8am to 9pm (starting April 11)
Degnan's Delicatessen
7am to 5pm

Curry Village

Gift/Grocery
9am to 7pm;
8am to 8pm (starting April 11)
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 5pm

Crane Flat Store

9am to 5pm (starting March 27)

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

8am to 6pm
Diesel & propane. 24 hours

Crane Flat

Pay at the pump 24 hours.

SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

Curry Village

Showers
Open 24 hours

Housekeeping Camp

Laundromat
8am to 10pm

ICE SKATING

Curry Village Ice Rink

Through March 8
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

Locations and hours across the park

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.

Wawona Information Station

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 closed in 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 May, 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.

- Feb. 20-21** Photographing the "Firefall." Water and light with John Sencer.
- Feb. 28** Peregoy Snow Survey. Measure the season with Ranger Mark Fincher.
- March 7** Moonlight snowshoe 3. A bright night with Kendra Kurihara.
- March 14** Snowshoe Explorations with a Naturalist 2. With Emily Jacobs.
- March 21** Equinox at the Edge. Snowshoe to Dewey Point with Nicky Dunbar.
- March 27** A Hard Road on Gold Mountain. Chinese history with Yenyen Chan.
- March 29** Flowers After the Fire. Spring at lower elevations with Michael Ross.
- April 3-4** Leave No Trace (LNT) training with Pete Devine.
- April 11** Springtime Flowers. Colors and life on display with Michael Ross.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

WEEKLY WORSHIP/YOSEMITE VALLEY CHAPEL
Sunday 9:15am, 6:30pm
Thurs.: 7:00pm; Tuesday Bible Studies
Call 209/372-4831 for information
EASTER WEEK SERVICES
7:00pm Maunday Thursday (April 9th)
12:15pm and 7:00pm Good Friday (April 10th)
Easter Sunday (April 12th)
7:00am Sunrise Service Lower Pines Camp
9:15am Chapel Service (child care provided)
11:00am Chapel Service

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater
Sunday Mass: 10:00am

CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

El Portal Chapel/Worship: Sunday 11am
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
7:30pm 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.

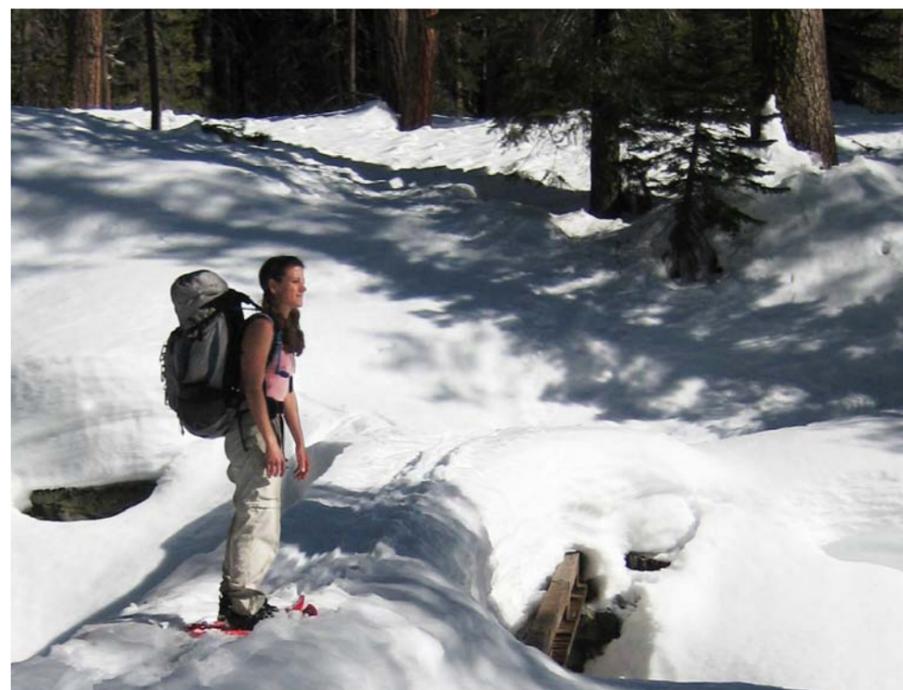
Effects of Altitude

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.



Overnight on snowshoes. Photo by Pam Meierding

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.

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.

Water Quality

- 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.

Protect Yosemite's Wilderness

- Free wilderness permits are required for all wilderness trips.
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Use gas stoves, not wood fires.
- Camp in an existing campsite at least 100 feet from water and trail. You must camp four trail miles from any populated area and one mile from any road.
- To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.
- Maximum group is 15 people for on-trail and eight for off-trail travel.

Wilderness Permits

Free permits are 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. Info: 209/372-0200.

More Information

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

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

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 after-

wards 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.

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.

Struggles in the Snow

Feature article



Visitor Bruce Jensen of San Lorenzo, Calif. captured this coyote pouncing in Ahwahnee Meadow in January 2008. Photo by Bruce Jensen.

a mouse in its jaws. Each hunt is not always successful and a coyote may only catch a face covered in snow. What may look like a comical winter dance is the coyote's way of securing a bit of protein to stave off the scarcity of winter.

Cold weather opportunities

Coyotes are opportunists and mice and voles are not their only means of subsistence. A coyote may be alerted to another chance at a snack by the distinctive "crock, crock" of a pair of ravens. Sitting on a snowy branch above a road, these large black birds defend against chilly temperatures by wearing a warm jacket of feathers. Their intelligence also serves them in winter. Ravens realize that animals get killed by cars and they spend time near roads waiting for opportunities. A grey squirrel struck by a car, although upsetting to us, is the cause of the ravens' celebration because they now have a meal. They swoop down within seconds and use their large beaks as utensils. But the coyote is hungry too and abandons the meadow for this easier feast. Ignoring the ravens, it quickly grabs the squirrel in its jaws and runs off with dinner.

Seasonal struggles

This drama may play out in only a matter of moments and is possible to see here in Yosemite because a large natural area is protected where these battles for life take place. Your exploration of Yosemite presents a chance to grasp the ingenuity of plants and animals surviving the stresses of winter. Although people are more detached from the outside world in winter than coyotes and mice, we can learn from the animals that stay outside. Humans have become so well adapted that, for most people, winter is not a life or death experience; for many plants and animals, it is. Discover the beauty and struggle in the snow and consider what winter means to you.

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

The snow-covered landscape presents opportunities to animals that have special food-gathering strategies. Pay attention and you may see these specialists at work as you visit the park.

Like humans, many Yosemite residents are active in winter.

By Ranger Karen Kanes

Winter can mean many things. To people living in Alaska it can mean surviving sub-zero temperatures and only a few precious hours of daylight. To people living in Arizona it can mean wearing sweaters when it is 70 degrees F. What nearly everyone has in common is that we all live indoors. Because of this, people are detached from winter.

Look and listen

Imagine life outdoors in the winter where you can't crank up the heater and enjoy a warm drink or turn on a light when it gets dark. What would winter mean if staying warm, fed and sheltered was a constant struggle? A visit to Yosemite in winter and early spring may mean peace and quiet, but there are subtle details that whisper about life in the cold. Take a closer look and you will discover how species fight to endure this difficult season. Take a walk past a meadow blanketed with snow. At

a glance, what appears to be a peaceful winter scene is also one filled with quiet battles for survival. For instance, the shrubs sparkling with ice crystals on the meadow's edge use complex processes to resist freezing. In late summer, plants began acclimating to colder temperatures by undergoing metabolic changes. When the first hard frost occurred in fall, plants had reached their full resistance against freezing.

Subnivean adaptation

By mid-winter, plants are further protected by the snow cover. Snow acts like a blanket, trapping the heat from the ground to maintain a constant temperature near freezing. It may not seem like a cozy spot to spend winter, but the snow protects plants, small mammals and insects from the more frigid temperatures and fluctuations occurring above. This world beneath the snow is called the subnivean. Hidden from the human eye, mice, voles and shrews stay active in the subnivean realm throughout the winter. Many survive on food cached in tunnels made in the snow, others hunt insects. Mice and voles live communally in winter. As we might depend on a loved one or pet to help keep us warm at night, these animals depend on each other as they huddle together.

Snow can protect

Small mammals that take shelter in the subnivean are not only hidden from human eyes, but also from the eyes of hungry predators. In winter, a predator like a coyote will hunt for mice by relying on its sharp hearing, rather than its keen eyesight. A coyote moves slowly when hunting, cocking its head while listening and taking one careful step at a time. Then, it freezes. Suddenly, the coyote will jump into the air and land front paws first, as if pinning something down. Almost immediately the coyote will bury its face in the snow and if its senses have guided it well, it will have



Ravens survive in winter by using intelligence to locate food. Photo by Dustin Nelson

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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Yosemite Association

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The Yosemite Fund

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THE YOSEMITE FUND®
Providing for Yosemite's Future

Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg