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August-Sept. 2009

Paintbrush blooms over the Valley. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

August 5 – September 8, 2009

Yosemite Guide

Things to Do

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

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 adventure. In no particular order, here are 12 popular activities for a day in Yosemite National Park.

Bike Yosemite Valley

With over twelve miles of bike trails in Yosemite Valley, exploring by bike provides opportunities for awesome views of the granite cliffs that surround the Valley. Bikes are available for rent at the Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village recreation center. Please help us protect fragile plant communities by biking only on paved surfaces and have a blast!

Explore a Sequoia Grove

Meet the most massive living things on earth as you explore a giant sequoia grove. Yosemite is home to three groves—the Mariposa Grove, which contains hundreds of sequoias, and the Tuolumne and Merced Groves, which each hold dozens. (See page 2 for a map of the park.)

See Sunset from Glacier Point

Glacier Point provides a superb view of Half Dome, towering more than 3,000 feet above Yosemite Valley. Witness the sunset, as it lights up the cliff face, from Glacier Point or other points in Yosemite Valley. Listen in on a sunset talk with a ranger at Glacier Point. Expect a half-hour delay on the Glacier Point Road Monday through Friday. (See page 2 for a park map and road delay info.)

Visit the other valley, Hetch Hetchy

“Almost an exact counterpart of the Yosemite. . . a visit to its counterpart may be recommended, if it be only to see how curiously nature has repeated herself.”
-Josiah D. Whitney. Hetch Hetchy provides spectacular vistas, waterfalls and



Explore the Valley's paved trail network by bicycle. You can rent at Curry Village or Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. See page 15 for more on park cycling rules and rental shop hours. *NPS photo by Erik Skindrud*

How to Use Your Yosemite Guide

The list on this page offers 12 popular things to do. The table of contents (“What’s Inside...”) at lower right shows where you can turn for more information. Program listings (by park district) are on pages 6, 7, 9, and 11.

early season hiking. (See page 2 for a park map and area info.)

Drive to Olmsted Point

Take in the spectacular panoramic view from this scenic turnout on the Tioga Road: Tenaya Canyon, granite peaks and domes, and Tenaya Lake with Mt. Conness in the background. Bring your binoculars to see hikers ascend the Half Dome cables! (See page 2 for a park map and area info.)

Travel Back in Time

Visit Wawona’s Pioneer Yosemite History Center and join “Buckshot” for a horse-drawn stage ride! These 10-minute rides introduce you to an early chapter in Yosemite’s history. Fun for the whole family. (See pages 8 and 9 for

history center and other program info.)

Stroll with a Ranger

Learn about the wonders of the park on a ranger-guided stroll. Programs are offered daily throughout the park on a variety of topics including waterfalls, trees, bears, geology, Yosemite Indians and more. (See regional program grids on pages 6, 7, 9, and 11.)

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. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 6 and 7 for times and meeting places.)

Discover the Night Sky

Attend “Starry Skies Over Yosemite Valley,” “Starry Skies Over Wawona,” “Starry, Starry Night” (White Wolf and Crane Flat), or “Stars Over Yosemite” (Glacier Point) to learn about the constellations, planets, and meteors in the sky over the park. (See pages 7, 9, and 11.)

Go to the Theater

Yosemite Theatre LIVE offers entertainment and inspiration through a variety of live theater performances that bring Yosemite’s history to life. Discover the world of John Muir and other characters from the park’s rich history. (See page 7 for shows and starting times.)

Have Fun with the Family

Learn about Yosemite, meet a park ranger, and have a blast by becoming a Yosemite Junior Ranger or Yosemite Little Cub. Check in with any visitor center to find out how. Stop by the Nature Center at Happy Isles for another great place to explore with the family. (See page 12 for the Jr. Ranger Page.)

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 5 for museum hours and a list of gallery events and features.)



Western tanager. *By Lauren Hamilton*

Welcome, and Be Prepared 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 online at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm. 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 signs.

An American Sign Language interpreter is available for Deaf and hard of hearing



visitors. Call 209/372-0296 (V/TTY) or 209/372-4726 (TTY) to request an interpreter. Assisted listening devices are available upon request. Inquire at 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.

Road Information

Construction may cause short delays or detours on some park roads. Call 209/372-0200 for road information.

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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

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

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

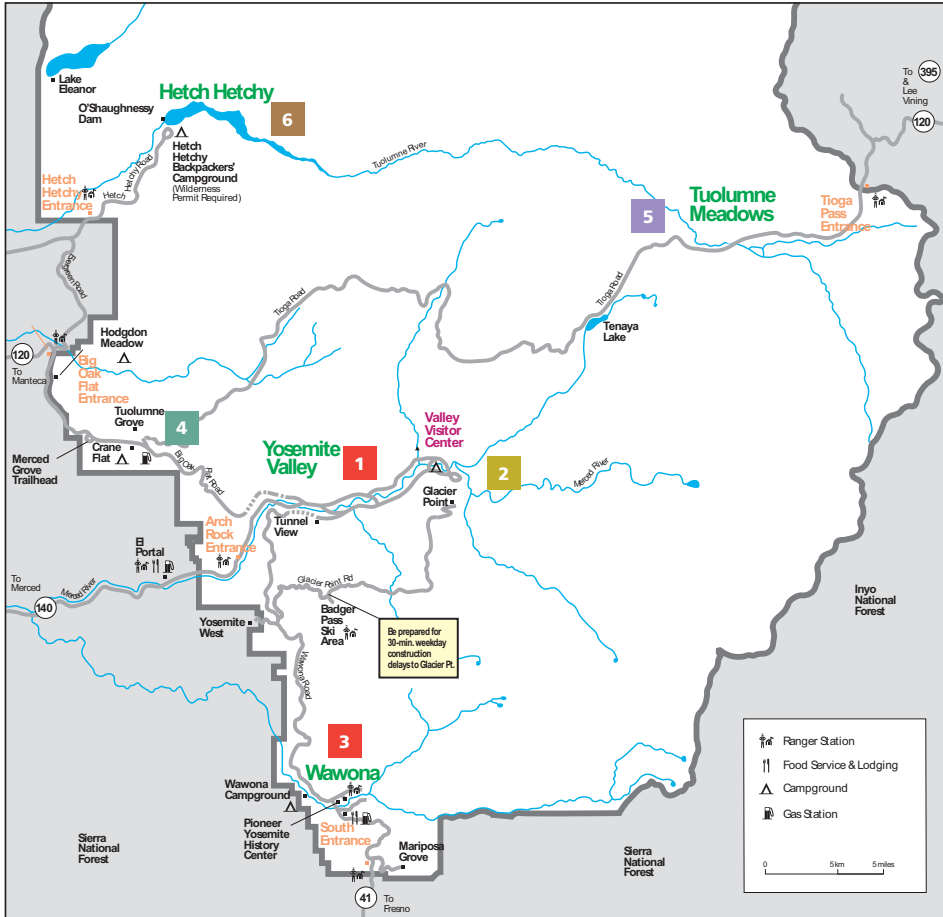
Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/683-4636
www.yosemitethisyear.com

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

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



Yosemite Valley

1 Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 west from Manteca and via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. Yosemite Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, its plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and its attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls slows to trickle by August, a moderate hike will bring you to impressive Vernal and Nevada Falls. While it is dry this time of year, walk to the site of Mirror Lake, where you can gaze straight up at Half Dome. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, bike, car, on horseback, or tour, you will behold scenery that will leave you breathless and eager to see what's around the next corner.



Ranger programs are offered daily throughout the park. See pages 6-11 for times and places. Photo by Ray Santos

Glacier Point

2 Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Yosemite's high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road. Glacier Point Road is open through sometime in November. Motorists should be prepared for 30-minute construction delays during the work week, however. At Glacier Point, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating, some might say unnerving, view 3,214 feet down to Yosemite Valley below.

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

3 The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 ¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's South Entrance station. 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. Enjoy a horse-drawn stage ride, learn an old trade at the blacksmith shop, or hike one of the scenic trails. For more information, visit the newly-designed Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio, adjacent to the historic Wawona Hotel. This was once a painting studio for the 19th-century artist Thomas Hill. The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is a short drive or help reduce congestion by taking the free shuttle from the Wawona Store. A portion of the Wawona Road is subject to 30-minute delays Monday through Friday.

Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

4 Crane Flat is a forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. A number of hikes through pleasant meadows are available. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk two steep miles down to this small grove. These groves north of Yosemite Valley are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off-limits to vehicles. Remember that the walk down is easier than the walk back up.

Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

5 The Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. It is generally open from late May or early June through sometime in November. The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. Tuolumne Meadows embodies the high-country of the Sierra Nevada. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by even higher granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. Stop at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center for information about hiking to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Dog Lake, Lembert Dome, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon. Take advantage of the free shuttle service in Tuolumne Meadows or the Tuolumne Meadows Tour and Hikers' Bus from Yosemite Valley.

Hetch Hetchy

6 Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area has high summer temperatures, and visitors should travel with sufficient water. Due to its use as a municipal water supply, no fishing or swimming is permitted. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 7 am to 9 pm May 1 through Labor Day, with reduced hours during the rest of the year. The road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is a 1 hour and 15 minute drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.



The Mariposa Grove Museum. Photo by Pam Meierding



Tenaya Lake (along Tioga Road) offers cool diversions. Photo: Kenny Karst / DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite, Inc



Bridge over the Tuolumne River at Tuolumne Meadows. Photo by John Sun



Wilderness Travel Basics

Yosemite's Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude in a beautiful setting. In order to avoid overcrowding and reduce impacts, the park has a trailhead quota system limiting the number of backpackers entering a trailhead on a given day. Of each daily quota for a trailhead, 60 percent can be reserved ahead of time, while the remaining 40 percent is available on a first-come, first-served basis one day prior to, or the same day as, the beginning of your hike. See page 14 for more information about wilderness permits and wilderness permit reservations.

Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas and the heart of the park



The Incomparable Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley embraces one of the world's most outstanding concentrations of waterfalls, granite walls, meadows, wildflowers, and trees. The Valley also harbors a rich collection of human stories, from American Indian lore to the birth of the National Park movement.

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, 6, and 7 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

El Capitan, the massive granite monolith and rock climbers' challenge, 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. You can park at Curry Village and walk too. It takes about 15 minutes to get there.

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. Please observe warning signs along the trail, and always pack your trash out.

The base of **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. (The fall slows to a trickle by August, however.) Bicycle paths offer an alternate way to access the trailhead. The hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired when the path is clear. More adventurous hikers can switchback up to the top of Upper Yosemite Fall.

Bridalveil Fall is another waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley. This fall flows more consistently into the autumn season.

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.

Daily sightseeing **tours** are 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. Summer coach tours are also offered daily to Glacier Point, with a daily Grand Tour covering the Valley, Glacier Point, and the Mariposa Grove. An experienced guide narrates each tour. The Valley tour uses an open-top tram, except during poor weather.

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

You can experience the Valley by **bike** by bringing your own, or by renting at Curry Village or Yosemite Lodge. Rental facilities are open 8:30 am to 8 pm.

VALLEY SERVICES

POST OFFICES

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

GROCERY, BOOKS, & GIFTS

Yosemite Village

The Ansel Adams Gallery

9am to 6pm

Yosemite Art & Education Center

9:30am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm,
Wednesday through Saturday

Yosemite Bookstore - Visitor Center

9am to 7:30pm

Yosemite Museum Store

9am to 5pm (May close for lunch)

Village Store Gift/Grocery

8am to 10pm

Habitat Yosemite

11am to 5pm

Sport Shop

10am to 6pm

Tour Desk - Village Store

7:30am to 3pm

The Ahwahnee

The Ahwahnee Gift Shop

8am to 10pm

The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop

7am to 10pm

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery

8am to 10pm; 8am-8pm as of Sept. 8

Nature Shop

10am to 8pm; 10am-6pm as of Sept. 8

Tour Desk

7:30am to 7pm

Curry Village

Mountain Shop

8am to 8pm

Gift/Grocery

8am to 10pm; 8am-8pm as of Sept. 8

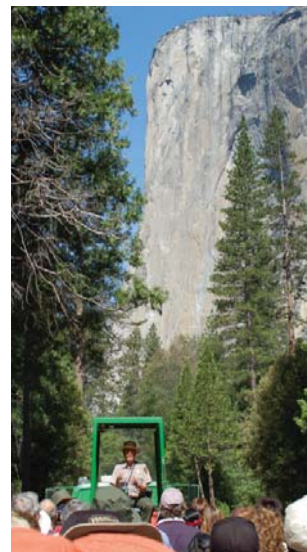
Tour Desk

7:30am to 3pm

Housekeeping Camp

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm; 8am-5pm as of Sept. 8



Top: Tunnel View is a top spot for Valley photos. Photo by Dustin Nelson
Above: Valley Floor Tour. Photo by Pam Meierding

Yosemite Valley

Dates, times, and places



The Heart of Yosemite National Park

The height of summer offers special opportunities for learning and adventure. Services are open longer and additional lectures, classes, and programs are available.

Yosemite Valley

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 7:30 pm. The center is just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The facility offers information, maps, and books, in the attached bookstore. Explore the exhibits and learn how Yosemite's 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 5:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 5:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE EXHIBIT

An exhibition of selected artists-in-residence who have worked in Yosemite over the last 20 years is ongoing at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. Participants include John Barnett, Jane Culp, Tom Killion, Bruce Klein, Hearne Pardee, Bonnie Peterson, and Gina Werfel. The exhibit continues through November 8.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Open 9 am to 5 pm. Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite's Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

Open daily from 9 am to 5 pm. The store offers books and traditional American Indian arts, crafts, jewelry, and books.

Ansel Adams Gallery

In Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9 am to 6 pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, other photographers and artists, camera walks, workshops, and classes. Activities are listed on the front porch. Call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com

At the Gallery Through August 19

"First Light: Five Photographers Explore Yosemite's Backcountry," with Charles Cramer, Karl Kroeber, Scot Miller, Mike Osborne, and Keith S. Walklet.

Starting August 20

"Color and Light: Photography by Michael Frye." Frye is author of Photographer's Guide to Yosemite. A reception and book signing will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 pm on Friday, Aug. 28.

Wednesday Night Art in the Village

Each Wednesday, hosted by The Ansel Adams Gallery and the Yosemite Association Art & Education Center. Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm at the gallery. Art nights end Sept. 2.

Wilderness Center

The Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village adjacent to the post office. Hours are 7:30 am to 5 pm. Visit the center to learn about wilderness safety, plan trips, obtain wilderness permits and maps, and rent bear canisters.

Yosemite Art & Education Center

The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers free art classes. The center's hours are 9:30 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm Wednesday through Saturday. Please register for classes in advance at the center, located south of the Village Store. For artist seminars, see pages 6 and 7.

Parking Info Station

Yosemite Association volunteers staff an information station at Visitor Parking (see map on back of this Guide). Yurt station hours are 10 am to 4 pm daily.

Nature Center at Happy Isles

Open 9:30 am to 5 pm daily. Designed for nature-exploring children and their families, the center offers natural-history exhibits and a bookstore. The center is a short walk from shuttle stop # 16.

Internet Access

Fee-based terminals are at Degnan's Deli. Wireless access is offered at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village. Free access is available at the Mariposa County library, south of the Yosemite Cemetery at Yosemite Village (hours vary).

Horse or Mule Rides

Horse or mule rides begin at the stable near North Pines Campground. Stable hours are 7:30 am to 5 pm daily. Information: 209/372-8348.

Top right: Rangers with visitors. NPS photo by Erik Skindrud
Top center: Pine flower.
Top left: Summer fun along the Merced.
Photos by Bethany Gediman

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Yosemite Village

Degnan's Loft

M-F 5pm to 9pm / S-S Noon-9pm

Degnan's Delicatessen

7am to 5pm

Degnan's Cafe

11am to 6pm; closes Sept. 8

Village Grill

11am to 5pm

The Ahwahnee

Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am

Lunch: 11:30am to 3pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm

Reservations recommended for all meals, required for dinner.

209/372-1489

The Ahwahnee Bar

11am to 11pm

Yosemite Lodge

Food Court

Daily 6:30am to 8:30pm

Mountain Room Lounge

4:30pm to 11pm M-F

Noon to 11pm Sat.-Sun.

Mountain Room Restaurant

5:30pm to 9:30pm Reservations

for 8 or more: 209/372-1281

Cone Stand at the Pool

Open daily through Sept. 7

Curry Village

Guest Lounge

8am to 10pm

Coffee Corner

6am to 10pm

Curry Village Bar

Noon to 10pm

Pavilion Buffet

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm

Pizza Deck

Noon to 10pm

Taqueria

11am to 5pm

Happy Isles Snack Stand

11am to 7pm

MEDICAL & DENTAL

Yosemite Medical Clinic

Emergency care: 24 hours daily
Drop-in and urgent care: 8am to 7pm. Appointments: 8am to 5pm, M-F. (Also: Mountain Crisis Services for victims of domestic violence.) Located on Ahwahnee Drive. Call 209/372-4637.

Dental Services

Next to Yosemite Medical Clinic. Call 209/372-4200 or 209/372-4637.

SCHEDULED EVENTS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

August 5 - September 8, 2009



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

Outdoor Adventures and Custom Adventures

For more on Yosemite Association's field seminars, pick up a catalog at any park visitor center, call 209/379-2321, or visit www.yosemite.org. The Yosemite Association also offers individualized Custom Adventures for groups and families. Call ahead at least two weeks to arrange your own naturalist guide who will meet your interests and schedule.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Aug. 6-9 Half Dome the Easy Way with Suzanne Swedo; Tuolumne Meadows en Plein Air with Chuck Waldman | Aug. 20-23 Tuolumne Elite Summits with Pete Devine |
| Aug. 8-11 Family Camping Jamboree 3 with Dave Wyman | Aug. 28 Tuolumne Meadows Geology with Michael Ross |
| Aug. 13-16 Family Camping Jamboree 4 with Dave Wyman | Aug. 29 Tuolumne Meadows Birding with Michael Ross |
| Aug. 17-22 Advanced Backpack Southbound with Dick Ewart | Aug. 30 Tuolumne Meadows Botany with Michael Ross |
| | Sept. 5 Into the Gaylor Basin with Suzanne Swedo |
| | Sept. 6 Clouds Rest Day Hike with Suzanne Swedo |
| | Sept. 7 Tenaya Peak Climb with Suzanne Swedo |

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite

Fridays, 9 am to noon, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

Join NPS restoration efforts. Get your hands dirty and help preserve one of America's natural wonders. Volunteers will work on restoration projects and learn about efforts to help restore the Valley. Wear long pants and closed-toe boots. Long sleeves, water, snacks, and sunblock are recommended. Groups larger than ten are required to pre-register. To learn more, phone 209/379-1850, email YOSE_volunteers@nps.gov, or visit <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hapy.htm>.

Yosemite Mountaineering School

YMS offers rock climbing classes, guided climbs, custom backcountry trips, and daily hikes. YMS is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. Experience the park with a professional guide: 209/372-8344.

Free Art Classes

The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers free classes Wednesday through Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Be prepared for a short walk and bring something to sit on. Please register in advance.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| August 5-8 | David Deyell: Have Fun With Watercolor |
| August 12-15 | Midge Hyde: Water and Acrylic Painting, Mixed Media |
| August 19-22 | Carol Earle: Landscapes, the Easy Way |
| August 26-29 | Jan Schafir: Impressions of Yosemite in Watercolor |
| September 2-5 | Osamu Saito: The Fun of Watercolor |

LeConte Memorial Lodge

The Lodge is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm, with evening programs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, and some Thursday evenings during July and August. Evening programs are scheduled for 8:00. Programs are free. Open house hours begin at 7:30 pm when scheduled. The Lodge is located at bus stop #12. The season ends September 13.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Valley Chapel, Sunday 9:15am, 11am, & 6:30pm; Thursday 7pm; Tuesday Bible studies
Vacation Bible School: Aug. 17-21
Info: 209/372-4831

ROMAN CATHOLIC
Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater
Mass: 7:30pm Saturdays; 10am Sundays

CHURCH OF CHRIST
El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am
Info: 209/379-2100

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
Saturday 9:45am music, 11am worship: Lower River Amphitheater. Info: 209/586-4325

LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Sacrament meetings. Sunday 1pm.
June - Labor Day, Yosemite Chapel.

A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IN THE NATIONAL PARKS
9am Sunday at Lower Pines, Wawona, and Tuolumne Meadows campgrounds.

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
7:30pm Tuesday, Tuesday, & Thursday
DNC General Office Bldg. Yosemite Village.

AL-ANON
Al-Anon meetings are not currently taking place. Help / advice: Dave M., 209/765-1266.

LIONS CLUB
First and third Thursday of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4475.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
Thursday at noon at The Ahwahnee. Visiting Rotarians and guests welcome. Reservations / information: 209/372-8459.

MORNING		
Sunday	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
	8:30am	Photography Walk 1 ½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
	9:00am	CHILDREN'S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED'S BIG ADVENTURE! 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater, free (DNC)
	9:30am	Discovery Hike—Vernal Fall Bridge 3 ½ hrs. Curry Village Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$
	10:00am	Ranger Stroll—Merced River 1 ½ hrs. Lower Yosemite Fall, shuttle stop #6 (NPS)
Monday	10:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK—TREES 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13. (NPS)
	11:00am	FREE ART CLASS—CRAFTS FOR KIDS 1 hr. Yosemite Art & Education Center at Yosemite Village. Register in advance; geared for children 9-12 (must be accompanied by an adult) (YA)
	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
	8:30am	Photography Walk at The Ahwahnee 1 ½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery. Meet at The Ahwahnee (conditions permitting) (AAG)
	9:00am	WEE WILD ONES ¾ hr. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under, Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)
Tuesday	9:30am	Bike to Hike Tour 2½ hrs. Curry Village bike stand Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$
	10:00am	Ranger Stroll—Yosemite's First Pioneer 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS)
	10:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK—BEARS 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13. (NPS)
	11:00am	KIDS' PHOTOGRAPHY WALK 1 hr. For kids and their parents. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG)
	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
Wednesday	9:00am	CHILDREN'S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED'S BIG ADVENTURE! 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater, free (DNC)
	9:30am	Bike to Hike Tour 2 ½ hrs. Curry Village bike stand Tickets at any tour desk (YMS) \$
	10:00am	Ranger Stroll—Geology 1 ½ hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS)
	10:30am	Free Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art & Education Center at Yosemite Village (YA)
	10:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK—WATER 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)
Thursday	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
	8:30am	Photography Walk 1 ½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting). (AAG)
	9:00am	CHILDREN'S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED'S BIG ADVENTURE! 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater, free (DNC)
	9:30am	WEE WILD ONES (except Aug. 13) ¾ hr. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under, Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)
	9:30am	Discovery Hike—Vernal Fall Bridge 3 ½ hrs. Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$
Friday	10:00am	Ranger Stroll—Wild About Wildlife 1 ½ hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS)
	10:30am	Free Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art & Education Center at Yosemite Village (YA)
	10:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK—SMALL WONDERS 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)
	11:00am	KIDS' PHOTOGRAPHY WALK 1 hr. For kids and their parents. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG)
	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
Saturday	9:00am	CHILDREN'S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED'S BIG ADVENTURE! 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater, free (DNC)
	9:30am	FAMILY SCAVENGER HUNT 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC)
	9:30am	HABITAT PROTECTORS OF YOSEMITE (HAPY) 3 hrs. Volunteer to help protect and restore native plant life. Meet at Valley Visitor Center. (NPS)
	10:00am	Adventure Hike—Vernal & Nevada Falls 6 hrs. Meet at Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$
	10:00am	Ranger Stroll—Chocoma, Wakulla, and other Indigenous Site Names 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS)
Saturday	10:30am	Free Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art & Education Center at Yosemite Village (YA)
	10:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK—WILDLIFE 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)
	10:30am	KIDS STORYTELLING: JOIN THE STORY OF LITTLE TYCOONY & THE BIG YOSEMITE RACE 1 hr. LeConte Memorial Lodge, Shuttle stop #12 (SC)
	8:00am	Coffee with a Ranger ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS)
	8:30am	Photography Walk 1 ½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)
Saturday	9:00am	CHILDREN'S THEATRE LIVE: RANGER NED'S BIG ADVENTURE! 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater, free (DNC)
	9:30am	Bike to Hike Tour 2 ½ hrs. Curry Village bike stand. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$
	10:00am	Stroll—Eight Women Who Changed Yosemite 1 ½ hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS)
	10:00am	Free Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art & Education Center at Yosemite Village (YA)
	10:30am	JUNIOR RANGER WALK—AHWAHNEECHEE 1 ½ hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16. Recommended for ages 7-13.

NPS National Park Service

DNC DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.

AAG The Ansel Adams Gallery

AAC American Alpine Club

SC Sierra Club

YA Yosemite Association

YMS Yosemite Mountaineering School

YF Yosemite Fund

\$ Programs offered for a fee



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



An American Sign Language interpreter is available for Deaf and hard of hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0296 (V/TTY) or 209/372-4726 (TTY) to request an interpreter.



Assisted listening devices are available upon request. Inquire at Visitor Center.

Wawona, Mariposa Grove and Glacier Point

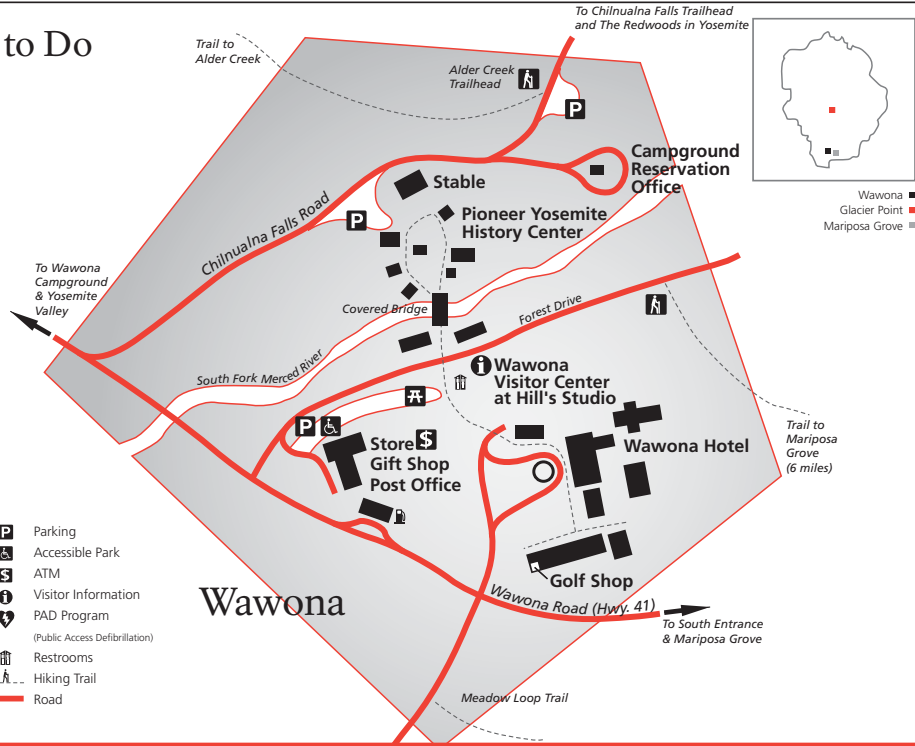
Where to Go & What to Do



Horse-drawn stage ride. NPS photo by Susan Michael

Explore History Discover Giant Trees Find Amazing Vistas

These park areas offer unique opportunities to visit historic and natural landmarks.



Wawona & the Mariposa Grove

Coffee with a Ranger

Grab your mug and join a ranger in the Wawona Campground Amphitheater for coffee, tea, and hot cocoa. Use this time to plan your day or get other questions answered. See page 9, at right, for dates and times.

Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio

Open 8:30 am to 5 pm, the visitor center offers information about park activities, wilderness permits, trail information,



Visitor Center at Hill's Studio. NPS photo by Vickie Mates

books, bear canister rentals, and maps. Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, Hill's Studio was the gallery and art studio of famous 19th-century landscape painter, Thomas Hill. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona Store parking area and follow the path up the hill. For more information call 209/375-9531.

Evening Programs at the Wawona Hotel

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 stories from Yosemite's past. Once or twice a week, he will present an hour-long interpretive program on the vintage songs of Yosemite, or on the history of Wawona, with slide or music accompaniment.

Also, you can join a Ranger in the cooling evening for an hour to explore the magic and wonders of Wawona every Monday and Friday at 6:00 pm. Meet at the Wawona Hotel Fountain.

Ranger Evening Programs

Join a ranger around a campfire for an hour of nature, history, and insight into Yosemite. Topics vary nightly. See page 9, at right, for dates, times, and locations.

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 always open, and interpretive signs and brochures are available.

Live Demonstrations

See page 9, at right, for dates and times.

EXPERIENCE HORSE-DRAWN TRAVEL

Travel into history by taking a 10-minute horse-drawn stage ride. Tickets may be purchased at the Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. \$3/ adults and \$2/child (ages 3-12).

BLACKSMITH SHOP Smell the burning coal, hear the ring of the hammer on the anvil, and watch a demonstration of the ancient art of blacksmithing.

Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 large mature sequoias. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area. Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area.

Getting to Mariposa Grove

Allow 1 ¼ hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot. The road may close due to limited parking, so use the free shuttle.

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

FREE MARIPOSA GROVE & WAWONA SHUTTLE

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

the last tour.

Please use this free bus service to help reduce congestion and parking delays.

BIG TREES TRAM TOUR

A 1 ¼-hr. tram tour of the grove is available 9 am to 5 pm. This audio tour is available in five languages and for the visually impaired. Call 209/375-1621 or stop at a tour desk for more information.

Mariposa Grove Museum & Trails

Open 10 am to 4 pm daily. Located in the Upper Mariposa Grove, the museum offers information, displays on giant sequoias, and a small bookstore. Interpretive signs provide a self-guiding tour. Translations are available in Spanish, German, French, and Japanese. No dogs or bikes.

Shuttle Service to Valley

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE BETWEEN WAWONA AND YOSEMITE VALLEY

The bus departs daily from the Wawona Hotel at 8:30 am and from the Wawona Store at 8:35 am. The return trip departs from Yosemite Lodge at 3:30 pm.

Aug. 19 Free Event

Patrick Cress weaves field recordings from alpine meadows, toads, and humans with saxophone and clarinet for a show at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, Aug. 19 at Wawona's Grey Barn. Includes a performance by Dandelion Dancetheater, supported by UC Merced's Sierra Nevada Research Institute and funded by the Japan Foundation.



Geology Hut. Photo courtesy Yosemite Research Library

Glacier Point

Evening Programs

Meet a ranger to enjoy the lengthening shadows in Yosemite Valley and the alpenglow (or moonrise) on the Sierra high country. Stargazing programs are offered, as well. Details at right.

Wawona Stable / Horse or Mule Rides

Horse or mule rides begin at the Wawona stable for a fee (see map at left). Hours are 7 am to 5 pm daily. Information: 209/375-6502.

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

Wawona

Wawona Hotel Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:00am to 10am
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
Saturday BBQ: 5-7pm

Golf Shop & Snack Stand

8am to 6pm

when golf course is open

Glacier Point

Snack Stand

9am to 4pm

GROCERIES

Wawona Store & Pioneer Shop
8am to 8pm; 8am-7pm as of Sept. 8

GIFTS & APPAREL

Wawona

Wawona Store & Pioneer Shop

8am to 8pm; 8am-7pm as of Sept. 8

Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio (Books and Information)

8:30am to 5pm

Glacier Point

Gift Shop

9am to 6pm

Mariposa Grove

Mariposa Grove Museum

10am to 4pm

Big Trees Gift Shop

9am to 6pm

POST OFFICE

Wawona Post Office

Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm

Saturday: 9am to noon

GAS STATION

Wawona Gas Station

9am to 6pm Diesel & propane available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

GOLF

Wawona Hotel Golf Course

8am to 6pm Weather and conditions permitting.

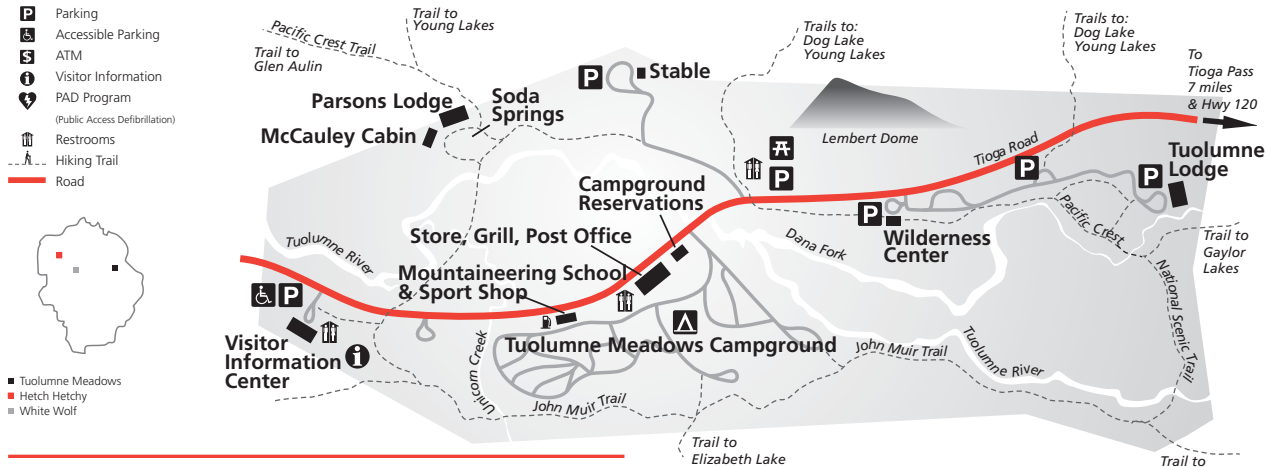
Nine-hole, par-35 course.

	WAWONA & MARIPOSA GROVE	GLACIER POINT
Sunday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¼ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞	10:00am A Short Walk to a Great View of El Capitan 1 ½ hrs. Easy. Meet in front of the Glacier Point Gift Shop (NPS)
	10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	6:30pm GLACIER POINT STARGAZING TOUR (Aug. 23, 30, & Sept. 6 only) 4 ½ hrs, tickets/info at any tour desk, program starts & ends in Yosemite Valley (DNC) \$ ☞
	10:00am - Noon / 2:00pm - 4:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) \$	7:00pm GLACIER POINT STARGAZING TOUR (Aug. 9 & 16 only) 4 ½ hrs, tickets/info at any tour desk, program starts & ends in Yosemite Valley (DNC) \$ ☞
	1:00pm - 1:00pm / 2:00pm - 5:00pm Blacksmith Demonstration Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) ☞	8:30pm Ranger Walk—Night Prowl 1 hr. Bring flashlight. Meet at Bridalveil Campground registration board. (NPS)
	1:00pm A Glimpse of the Wawona Miwuk Indians (Sept. 6 only) 1 hr. Meet at Mountaineer's cabin, Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) ☞	
	2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	
7:30pm Campfire Talk with a Ranger 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞		
Monday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¼ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞	2:00pm Ranger Walk—Cliffs and Domes 2 hrs. Meet at Taft Point/Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road. (NPS)
	10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	8:00pm Campfire Program 1 hr. Bridalveil Campground Loop C (NPS)
	11:00am - 3:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (Sept. 7 only) 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) \$	
	6:00pm Evening Stroll with a Ranger 1 hr. Wawona Hotel fountain (NPS)	
7:30pm Campfire Talk with a Ranger 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞		
Tuesday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¼ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞	8:30am Coffee With a Ranger 1 hr. Bridalveil Campground camp host site. Bring a mug (NPS)
	10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	10:00am Discover McGurk's Historic Cabin With a Ranger 2 hrs. Meet at phone booth at Bridalveil Campground (NPS)
	2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	7:00pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Sept. 1 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS) ☞
	5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist / singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ☞	7:15pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Aug. 18 & 25 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS) ☞
	7:00pm Evening Ranger Program 1 hr. Meeting Room next door to the office of The Redwoods in Yosemite on Chiuualna Falls Rd. (NPS) ☞	7:30pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Aug. 11 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS) ☞
	7:30pm Campfire Talk with a Ranger 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞	
Wednesday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¼ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞	10:00am A Short Walk to a Great View of El Capitan 1 ½ hrs. Easy. Meet in front of the Glacier Point Gift Shop (NPS)
	10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	6:30pm GLACIER POINT STARGAZING TOUR (Aug. 19, 26, & Sept. 2 only) 4 ½ hrs, tickets/info at any tour desk, program starts & ends in Yosemite Valley (DNC) \$ ☞
	2:00pm - 4:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (except Sept. 2) 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) \$	6:45pm Full Moon Hike to Sentinel Dome (Aug. 5 only) 2 hrs. Meet at Sentinel Dome parking area. (NPS)
	2:00pm - 5:00pm Blacksmith Demonstration Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) ☞	7:00pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Aug. 26 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS) ☞
	2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	7:15pm GLACIER POINT STARGAZING TOUR (August 5 & 12 only) 4 ½ hrs, tickets/info at any tour desk, program starts & ends in Yosemite Valley (DNC) \$ ☞
	5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist / singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ☞	7:30pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Aug. 12 & 19 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS) ☞
7:30pm Campfire Talk with a Ranger (except Aug. 5) 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞		
Thursday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¼ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞	2:00pm Ranger Walk—Cliffs and Domes 2 hrs. Meet at Taft Point/Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road. (NPS)
	10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	6:30pm GLACIER POINT STARGAZING TOUR (Aug. 20, 27 & Sept. 3 only) 4 ½ hrs, tickets/info at any tour desk, program starts & ends in Yosemite Valley (DNC) \$ ☞
	10:00am - Noon / 2:00pm - 4:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides (except Sept. 3) 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) \$	7:00pm GLACIER POINT STARGAZING TOUR (August 6 & 13 only) 4 ½ hrs, tickets/info at any tour desk, program starts & ends in Yosemite Valley (DNC) \$ ☞
	10:00am - 1:00pm / 2:00pm - 5:00pm Blacksmith Demonstration Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) ☞	8:00pm Campfire Program 1 hr. Bridalveil Campground Loop C (NPS) ☞
	2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	
	5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist / singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ☞	
7:30pm Campfire Talk with a Ranger 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞		
Friday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¼ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞	8:30am Coffee With a Ranger 1 hr. Bridalveil Campground camp host site. Bring a mug (NPS)
	10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	10:00am Discover McGurk's Historic Cabin With a Ranger 2 hrs. Meet at phone booth at Bridalveil Campground (NPS)
	10:00am - Noon / 2:00pm - 4:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) \$	4:00pm JUNIOR RANGERS 2 hrs. ages 7-12. Meet at phone booth at Bridalveil Campground (NPS)
	10:00am - 1:00pm / 2:00pm - 5:00pm Blacksmith Demonstration Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) ☞	7:00pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Aug. 28 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS) ☞
	2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	7:15pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Aug. 14 & 21 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS) ☞
	5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist / singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ☞	7:30pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Aug. 7 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS) ☞
6:00pm Evening Stroll with a Ranger 1 hr. Wawona Hotel fountain (NPS)	8:15pm Stars Over Yosemite (Except Aug. 7) Glacier Point amphitheater. Cancel if overcast (NPS) ☞	
7:30pm Campfire Talk with a Ranger 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞		
Saturday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger ¼ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞	2:00pm Ranger Walk—Cliffs and Domes 2 hrs. Meet at Taft Point/Sentinel Dome parking area on Glacier Point Road. (NPS)
	8:30am Explore Yosemite with a Ranger 2 hrs. Meet at Meeting Room, next door to the office of The Redwoods in Yosemite on Chiuualna Falls Rd. (NPS)	7:00pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Aug. 29 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley (NPS) ☞
	10:00am - Noon / 2:00pm - 4:00pm Horse-Drawn Stage Rides 10 min. each. Purchase tickets from Stage Office in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) \$	7:15pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Aug. 15 & 22) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS)
	10:00am - 1:00pm / 2:00pm - 5:00pm Blacksmith Demonstration Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) ☞	7:30pm Sunset Ranger Talk (Aug. 8 only) ½ hr. Glacier Point railing, overlooking the Valley. (NPS) ☞
	1:00pm A Glimpse of the Wawona Miwuk Indians (Aug. 8 & Sept. 5 only) 1 hr. Meet at Mountaineer's cabin, Pioneer Yosemite History Center (NPS) ☞	8:15pm Stars Over Yosemite (except Aug. 8) Glacier Point amphitheater. Canceled if overcast (NPS) ☞
	2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove 1 ½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)	
5:00pm WAWONA BARBEQUE FAMILY ACTIVITIES (except Aug. 29 & Sept. 5) 2 hrs. Wawona Hotel lawn. Free (DNC) ☞		
5:30pm Vintage Music 4 hrs. Live music & historical programs with pianist / singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30 pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ☞		
7:30pm Campfire Talk with a Ranger 1 hr. Wawona Campground Amphitheater (NPS) ☞		
9:00pm STARRY SKIES OVER WAWONA (Aug. 15 only) 1-1 ½ hrs, tickets/info at any tour desk (DNC) \$		

Programs in **CAPS & COLOR** are for **CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES**

Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, Crane Flat

Where to Go & What to Do



High Sierra Peaks and Quiet Corners of the Park

These areas offer amazing vistas and opportunities for solitude. Hiking, backpacking, and ranger-led programs are popular activities.

Tuolumne Meadows



Meadows, river, forest, and peaks. Photo by Calvin Liu

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center

Hours are 9 am to 6 pm. Park orientation, trail information, books, maps, and displays available. Phone 209/372-0263.

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs

Two trails, both flat and ¾-mile long, lead to this historic area accessible only by walking. Parsons Memorial Lodge is open from 10 am to 4 pm. Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs.

Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series (Free)

Most programs begin at 2 pm and last approximately one hour, unless otherwise noted. Allow 30 minutes walking time to Parsons Memorial Lodge from either Lembert Dome parking area or the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center.

Saturday, August 8 A Conservationist Manifesto

3 hrs. A talk and discussion with Scott Russell Sanders, Distinguished Professor of English at Indiana University—Bloomington.

Sunday, August 9

Living on the Edge:

Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep

3 hrs. View documentary Counting Sheep followed by an update and discussion with John Wehausen, Associate Research Scientist at the University of California's White Mountain Research Station.

Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16 13th Annual Tuolumne Meadows Poetry Festival

Poets Jane Hirshfield, Kay Ryan, Joseph Stroud, and musician Shira Kammen.

Saturday, August 15

10-11:30 am

Meadow, River, Stone: Poetry Workshop with Carol Blaney

2-2:30 pm

Featured poets and music

7:30-10 pm

Open reading and music

Sunday, August 16

10-11:30 am

Writing by the River: Poetry Workshop with Margaret Eissler

2-3:30 pm

Featured poets and music

This event is supported by Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from The James Irvine Foundation.

Saturday, August 22

A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir

3 hrs. A slide presentation and discussion with the author of the 2008 biography of John Muir. Donald Worster, Hall Distinguished Professor of American History, University of Kansas, is joined by Michael Cohen, author of *The Pathless Way: John Muir and American Wilderness*, and Jeff Pappas, a NPS ranger.

Saturday, August 29

First Light: Five Photographers Explore Yosemite's Backcountry

A slide presentation by Karl Kroeber and other featured photographers.

Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center

Hours are 7:30 am to 5 pm. The wilderness center is located just south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, at shuttle stop #3. The center offers maps, wilderness permits, bear canister rental, and guidebooks.

Just for Kids

Programs for children include Junior Rangers, a two-hour, ranger-led program for children (ages 7–12), and Campfire for Kids.

Ranger Walks

Join a ranger to explore new areas and learn about geology, birds, flowers, history, the Tuolumne River, and more. These walks range from one to eight hours and, except for the long walks, are fairly easy. On Friday you can end your day with a Music Walk. This easy stroll will inspire and delight.

Evening Activities

Come to a traditional, ranger-led campfire program for stories, songs, and insight into Yosemite. Program topics vary, and are posted at the campground, Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, and Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. End your day with a star program or night walk. Bring a pad to sit on for the Star Program and dress warmly. Sign up in advance for the Night Prowl at the

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center.

Horse or Mule Rides

Horse or mule rides begin at the Tuolumne Meadows stable. Stable hours are 7 am to 5 pm. Information: 209/372-8427.

Big Oak Flat

Big Oak Flat Information Station

Open 8 am to 5 pm. The station offers general park information, books, and maps. It also provides wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, and backpacking information.

Merced Grove

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

Tuolumne Grove

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. The path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The way down can seem much easier than the return to the parking lot. The trip is moderately strenuous on the uphill portion. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.

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

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows Grill
8am to 5pm
Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 9am
Dinner: 5:50pm to 8pm
Meals are served family style, and reservations are required. Call 209/372-8413

White Wolf

White Wolf Lodge
Breakfast: 7:30am to 9:30am
Take-out Lunch: noon to 2pm
Dinner: 6pm to 8pm
Reservations recommended. Call 209/372-8416.

GROCERIES

Tuolumne Meadows Store
8am to 8pm; 9am-5pm as of Sept. 8
Crane Flat Store
8am to 8pm

GIFTS & APPAREL

Tuolumne Meadows Mountaineering School and Sport Shop
8:30am to 6pm
Tuolumne Meadows Bookstore
9am to 6pm
Inside the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
Tuolumne Meadows Store
8am to 8pm; 9am-5pm as of Sept. 8
Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center
7:30am to 5pm daily

POST OFFICE

Tuolumne Meadows Post Office
Monday - Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to 1pm

GAS STATIONS

Tuolumne Meadows
Gas and propane available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

Crane Flat
8am to 8pm
Diesel & propane available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card.

FREE SHUTTLE BUS

Olmsted Pt. / Tuolumne / Tioga Pass
Free shuttle service is available along the Tioga Road from Olmsted Point to Tioga Pass. Due to limited trail-head parking, use of the free shuttle is encouraged.

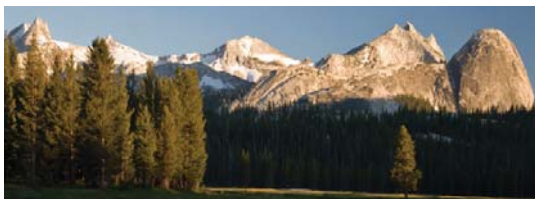
Shuttles travel between Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and Olmsted Point with stops along the Tioga Road, including Tuolumne Meadows Campground and the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. The shuttle also makes morning and afternoon runs to Tioga Pass.

Service begins at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge at 7 am. Shuttles arrive at approximately 30-minute intervals between 7 am and 7 pm. The last shuttle leaves Olmsted Point at 6 pm. Schedules are subject to change. Please check route maps at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center or shuttle stops for details.

	TUOLUMNE MEADOWS	WHITE WOLF	CRANE FLAT / HODGDON MEADOW / HETCH HETCHY
Sunday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup (NPS) ☺	9:00am Ranger Walk—Lukens Lake 3 hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)	2:00pm Ranger in the Grove 2 hrs. Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias for answers to your questions (NPS)
	10:00am Ranger Hike—Lembert Dome 3 hrs. Moderately strenuous. 3 miles. Dog Lake parking, shuttle stop #2. Bring snacks & water (NPS) FAMILY RANGER WALK AND ART PROJECT—CELEBRATE THE WILD & SCENIC TUOLUMNE RIVER! (Aug. 9 only) 2 hrs. Meet at bridge below Parsons Lodge. Allow 30 minutes to walk to bridge (NPS) Ranger Walk—Bennettville: Mining History and Geology 2 hrs. Moderate. Bring snacks & water. Meet at Junction Campground bridge off Saddlebag Road, east of Tioga Pass Entrance Station (NPS) Poetry Workshop—Writing by the River (Aug. 16 only) 1 ½ hrs. Parsons Lodge. Bring pen and paper. (NPS)	8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. White Wolf campfire circle (NPS)	8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat campfire circle (NPS)
	2:00pm Parsons Summer Series Program (Aug. 9 & 16 only) 1-3 hrs. See details on preceding page (NPS) Ranger Walk—Indians in the High Country (except Aug. 9 & 16) 2 hrs. Meet at Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)		
	8:00pm Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ☺		
8:30pm Campfire (except Sept. 6) 1 hr. Tuolumne Lodge Circle. Take path between cabins 28 and 29. (NPS)			
Monday	7:30am Photographing Tuolumne Meadows (Aug. 10 only) 2 hrs. Tuolumne Visitor Center porch (NPS)	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. White Wolf campfire circle (NPS)	9:00am JUNIOR RANGERS (Aug. 10 & 17 only) 1 ½ hrs. Crane Flat campground circle (NPS)
	10:00am Ranger Walk—Bears and Other Wildlife 2 hrs. Tuolumne Meadows Campground Reservation Office (NPS)		
	2:00pm Ranger Walk—Meadows 2 hrs. Pothole Dome shuttle stop #8, road marker T-29 (NPS) CAMPFIRE FOR KIDS (except Aug. 31) ¼ hr. Conness Circle, Loop C in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ☺	6:45pm Twilight Stroll 1 ½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)	
	7:00pm Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ☺		
8:00pm Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ☺			
9:15pm Ranger Walk—Night Prowl (except Aug. 24, 31, & Sept. 7) 1 ¼ hrs. Sign up at Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center 209/372-0263 (NPS)			
Tuesday	9:00am Ranger Hike—Tuolumne Fall (except Sept. 1) 6-8 hrs. Moderately strenuous. 8 mi. Meet at Lembert Dome picnic area. Bring lunch, water & raingear (NPS)	10:00am Ranger Walk—Bears 1 ½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)	2:00pm Ranger in the Grove 2 hrs. Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias for answers to your questions (NPS)
	10:00am Botanical Walks with Cathy Rose 2 hrs. (NPS) Aug. 11: Dana Gardens Meet just outside of Tioga Pass Entrance Station on north side of road. Aug. 18: Gaylor Ridge Meet just outside of Tioga Pass Entrance Station on north side of road (NPS)		
	2:00pm JUNIOR RANGERS—NATURE EXPLORATION 2 hrs. Ages 7-12. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)	7:00pm CAMPFIRE FOR KIDS (Aug. 11 & 18 only) ¼ hr. White Wolf campfire circle (NPS)	9:00pm Starry, Starry Night 1 ½ hrs. Crane Flat area. Limited to 30 people. Sign-up required. Call 209/379-1899 (NPS)
	7:00pm Ranger Walk—Sunset ¼ hr. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)		
8:00pm Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Campground (NPS) ☺			
8:30pm Campfire (except Sept. 8) 1 hr. Tuolumne Lodge. Take path between cabins 28 and 29. (NPS) Ranger Talk—Stars Over Mono (except Sept. 8) 2 hrs. Meet at South Tufa in Mono Basin. Bring pad to sit on and dress warmly. (NPS)			
Wednesday	7:30am Ranger Walk—Birds (except Aug. 26) 2 ½ hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area. Binoculars available (NPS)	7:30am Birding with a Ranger (Aug. 5 only) 2 hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance. Binoculars available (NPS)	10:30am Ranger Hike—Wilderness & Water 2 hrs. O'Shaughnessy Dam. Bring water (NPS)
	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup (NPS) ☺		
	10:00am Ranger Walk—Geology 2 hrs. Pothole Dome, shuttle stop #8, road marker T-29 (NPS) Ranger Walk—Along the River 2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS) CAMPFIRE FOR KIDS ¼ hr. Conness Circle, Loop C in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ☺	9:00pm Starry, Starry Night (except Aug. 5) 1 hr. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)	7:00pm CAMPFIRE FOR KIDS (Aug. 5, 12, & 19 only) ¼ hr. Crane Flat campfire circle (NPS)
	1:30pm Ranger Walk—Along the River 2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)		
7:00pm Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ☺			
8:00pm Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ☺			
9:30pm Ranger Talk—Stars 1 hr. Lembert Dome picnic area. Bring pad to sit on and dress warmly (NPS)			
Thursday	9:15am Ranger Hike—Mono Pass 6-8 hrs. Moderately strenuous. 8 miles. Meet at Mono Pass trailhead. Bring lunch, water, & raingear (NPS)	7:00am Photography Walk (Aug. 6 & 13 only) 2 hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)	2:00pm History & the Big Trees 2 hrs. Meet a ranger in the Merced Grove of Giant Sequoias for answers to your questions (NPS)
	10:00am Ranger Walk—History 2 hrs. Tuolumne Visitor Center porch (NPS)		
	2:00pm JUNIOR RANGERS—WILDLIFE IN THE HIGH COUNTRY 2 hrs. Ages 7-12 Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS) Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ☺	10:00am Ranger Stroll—Flowers & Trees 1 ½ hrs. White Wolf Campground entrance (NPS)	6:45pm Twilight Stroll 1 ½ hrs. Hodgdon Meadow group campground (NPS)
	8:00pm Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ☺		
8:30pm Campfire (except Sept. 3) 1 hr. Tuolumne Lodge Circle. Take path between cabins 28 and 29. (NPS)			
9:15pm Ranger Walk—Night Prowl (Aug. 27 & Sept. 3 only) 1 ¼ hrs. Sign up at Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center 209/372-0263 (NPS)			
Friday	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Bring questions and a cup (NPS) ☺	4:00pm JUNIOR RANGERS (except Aug. 28 and Sept. 4) 1 ½ hrs. White Wolf campfire circle (NPS)	2:00pm Ranger in the Grove 2 hrs. Meet in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias for answers to your questions (NPS)
	9:30am RANGER HIKE—TUOLUMNE HIKING CLUB FOR KIDS: LEMBERT DOME AND DOG LAKE 5 hrs. Ages 8-12. Moderately strenuous. 5 mi. Dog Lake parking, shuttle stop #2. Bring lunch, water & raingear (NPS)		
	2:00pm Ranger Walk—The Secret Life of Plants 2 hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)	8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. White Wolf campfire circle(NPS)	8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat campfire circle(NPS)
	6:30pm Ranger Walk—Music and Mountains (except Aug. 28) 1 ¼ hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS)		
8:00pm Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ☺			
Saturday	7:30am Ranger Walk—Birds 2 ½ hrs. Lembert Dome picnic area. Binoculars available (NPS)	8:00am Coffee with a Ranger 1 hr. White Wolf campfire circle (NPS)	10:00am Ranger Walk—Bears 1 ½ hrs. Crane Flat campground kiosk (NPS)
	9:00am Ranger Hike—Cathedral Lakes (except Aug. 22) 6-8 hrs. Moderately strenuous. 7 miles. Meet at Cathedral Lakes trailhead, shuttle stop #7. Bring lunch, water, & raingear (NPS)		
	10:00am JUNIOR RANGERS—DISCOVER THE RIVER 2 hrs. Age 7-12 Lembert Dome picnic area (NPS) Poetry Workshop—Meadow, River, Stone (Aug. 15 only) 1 ½ hrs. Parsons Lodge. Bring pen and paper. (NPS)	8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. White Wolf campfire circle (NPS)	8:00pm Ranger Campfire Program 1 hr. Crane Flat campfire circle (NPS)
	11:00am Tenaya Lake Walk and Clean-up with Climber Ron Kauk 1 ½ hrs. East end of Tenaya Lake, shuttle stop #9 (NPS)		
	2:00pm Parsons Summer Series Program (except Sept. 5) 1-3 hrs. See details on preceding page (NPS) Ranger Walk—Dana Gardens: Meadows, Moraines, and Memories 2 hrs. Meet just outside of Tioga Pass Entrance Station on north side of road (NPS)		
	8:00pm Campfire 1 hr. Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows Campground (NPS) ☺		
9:30pm Ranger Talk—Stars 1 hr. Lembert Dome picnic area. Bring pad to sit on and dress warmly (NPS)			

Programs printed in ALL CAPS and COLOR are for CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES

Right: Cathedral Peak to Fairview Dome. Photo by John Sun



Become a Junior Ranger



Ages 3 and up can earn a badge by exploring the park

Follow these steps to earn your Junior Ranger badge.

With an adult, pick a trail to walk. See page 17 of this Guide or stop by a visitor center to choose your trail. As you go, walk quietly, watch, listen, and think.

1. Write the name of the trail you walked. _____

2. Explore with your senses! Record the following.

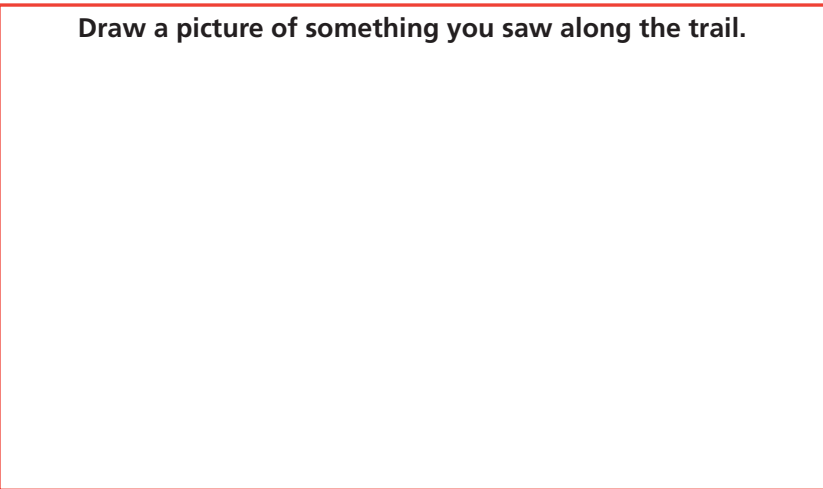
I see: _____

I hear: _____

I smell: _____

I touch: _____

Draw a picture of something you saw along the trail.



3. Learn to "leave no trace." If you see trash or rubbish, please pick it up. Be sure to recycle any recyclable materials you pick up or bring along.

4. Learn more. Go to a ranger-led program or visit with an Indian Cultural Demonstrator. Have the ranger or demonstrator sign below.

Signed by: _____

5. Write down something you learned from a ranger or Indian Cultural Demonstrator.

6. Think about this. Why do people work to protect national parks?

7. When you complete this page, take it to a visitor center. There you will take your oath and receive your Junior Ranger badge.

Be a naturalist. Look for these common Yosemite animals. If you see one, make a note by the animal's picture below. If you don't see the animal below, try to draw it in the box on this page. Where did you see it? What was it doing? Also, remember never to feed or approach an animal.



Marmot



Coyote



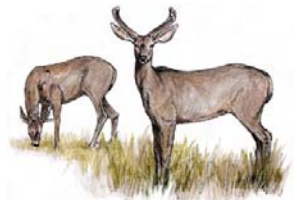
Clark's nutcracker



Black bear



Golden-mantled ground squirrel



Mule deer

Bears and Wildlife

Enjoying wildlife safely and responsibly



Sow and Cub. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Keeping Bears Wild

(While protecting yourself and your property)

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

1. Store Your Food Properly.

(See table below for details.) 4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, berries, acorns, and grubs—that's the typical daily diet of most bears. It's a lot easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling at grasses. Their incredible sense of smell allows them to detect things we can't, which helps them find food—a black bear can smell a dead deer three miles away. To top it off, bears have excellent vision and can see in color, so they recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.

2. If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.

You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away: Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear.

If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

3. Drive the speed limit.

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

Red Bear, Dead Bear

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

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

Backpackers: Save Your Food, Save A Bear

Bear resistant food canisters are 2.7-pound containers that can be used to store five or more days of backpacker food when meals are carefully planned. Canisters have an inset lid that bears are unable to open. When used correctly, bears learn that—although they smell like food—the canisters are not worth investigating.

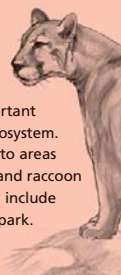
Bear canisters are available for \$5 per trip at the Valley Wilderness Center, the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio, Big Oak Flat Information Station, Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Canisters can be rented and returned at any of these locations.

Report Bear Sightings!

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

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

Mountain Lions



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

For your safety:

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

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

What should you do if you meet a mountain lion?

Never approach one, especially if it is with kittens. Most lions will avoid confrontation. Always give them a way to escape.

Don't run. Stay calm. Hold your ground, or back away slowly. Face the lion and stand upright. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up.

If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms, shout, and throw objects at it. The goal is to convince it that you may be dangerous. If attacked, fight back!

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

How to Store Food

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

LOCATION	FOOD STORAGE	WHY?
Your Vehicle	You may store food inside your car (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark: use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats.	Bears can smell food, even if it's sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles!
Your Campsite or Tent Cabin	You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed.	Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they're secured. Keep food lockers closed and latched at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin.
Picnic Areas & on the Trails	Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm's reach. Don't turn your back to your food.	Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.
Backpacking in the Wilderness	Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite.	In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food.

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



Protecting Yourself

Keep safety in mind as you explore the park



Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

There are many ways to experience the wildness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning, you can minimize the risks associated with many activities.

Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules: Please obey posted speed limits. Yosemite's roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park's scenery and wildlife.

Pack Water

Hydration is life. Avoid dehydration and heat exhaustion by carrying plenty of water. Filters or other treatment methods are essential. (See "Water Quality" at right.)

Effects of Altitude

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley's elevation is 4,000 feet). The risk of occurrence increases with age and with diseases of the heart and lungs.

Symptoms include headache, nausea, insomnia, irritability, shortness of breath, general malaise and fatigue. The best way to avoid it is to slowly acclimatize yourself to higher elevations, over the span of two to three days by gradually gaining elevation until you reach 10,000 feet (Tioga Pass). Avoid alcohol, sugar, and high-fat meals. Should altitude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

Hiking, Backpacking, Rock Climbing and Scrambling

- Be honest about your abilities and plan with the least experienced member of your group in mind. Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back. Carry a signal mirror and whistle. Solo activities require increased precautions.
- Stay on designated trails and routes. Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
- Avoid scrambling in steep terrain or off-trail. If new to climbing, take a class to learn critical safety and protection techniques. Never climb alone.
- Check weather forecasts. Storms can occur with little warning. Snow is possible year-round at higher elevations, and can make route finding 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.
- Don't depend on cell phone or GPS reception for your safety.

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 overnight trips. Permits are issued at Yosemite Valley, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station (opening times vary). You can reserve permits, but they must be picked up in person. Check the park's website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740 to reserve a permit.

More Information

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



Jr. Ranger Day 2009. NPS Photo by David Miyako

Top left: Taft Point overlook. Photo by Wendy Malone

Top right: Theresa Ho on belay. Kenny Karst / DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.

Water Safety

Protecting park resources, cycling, and pets in the park

The Water Ways

Not long ago, many areas along the Merced River showed signs of human trampling. Now, because of the careful actions of park staff and visitors, many of these areas have been restored to more natural conditions. The plants, birds, insects, and animals that depend on living in or near the water have been able to return to these once barren areas. You can help continue this progress by entering and exiting the river at designated launch and removal points. Packing out what you pack in will also help keep the river free from trash and prevent animals from swallowing harmful plastic or aluminum.

Please observe the following safety tips to protect Yosemite's river and lakeshore habitats and to safely enjoy water activities throughout the park.

Swimming

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

- Always supervise children closely.
- Avoid areas of whitewater, where streams flow over rocky obstructions.
- Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
- Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

River Crossings

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

- Stay away from river and creek banks during high water conditions and avoid rock hopping. Stream-polished rocks along the water's edge are slippery when wet or dry.
- If you choose to cross a stream without a bridge, avoid places where the water is either swift or over your knees. Use a stick or pole for balance and try to cross where there is a gravel bottom. Crossing on a natural bridge

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

Rafting

Conditions permitting, rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stone-man Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River in Wawona is open from 10 am to 6 pm daily to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device.

Raft Rentals

Raft rentals are available from 10 am to 4 pm at Curry Village Recreation Center.

- The entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher.
- You must wear or have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device immediately available.
- Fallen trees and other natural debris in the river create important habitat for fish and other wildlife. Be alert—they can also create hazards for rafters.

Fishing

Fishing in Yosemite is regulated under state law. A valid California sport-fishing license is required for those persons age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible by attaching it to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline.

- Trout season runs 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 wash hands with soap and water. Follow wilderness procedures in the backcountry.

Bicycling

Bike rentals at Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge are open 8:30 am to 8 pm. The last bike goes out at 6:45 pm and all bikes must be in by 7:45 pm.

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails.

Bikes are not allowed to travel off-trail. Mountain biking opportunities are available in designated areas outside of Yosemite National Park.

Help Guard Park Resources...

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park's most important guardians. With nearly 3.5 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be!

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and call the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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



Upper Yosemite Fall in springtime. NPS Photo

Pets

Kennels (open 8 am to 4 pm daily) are located at the Yosemite Valley Stable, should you need a place to board your dog (call 209/372-8348).

Keep in mind, in Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. Dogs or other pets are not allowed anywhere in the Mariposa, Tuolumne, or Merced sequoia groves. They are not allowed on trails, in wilderness areas, or where signs are posted.
- 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 tied to an object and left unattended.

Camping in Yosemite National Park

Planning your camping experience



Camping in Yosemite. Photo by Ray Santos

General Info...

Services

- All sites include picnic tables, firepits or grills, tent space, parking, and a food locker (33" d x 45" w x 18" h). See page 5 for food storage regulations.
- Toilet facilities are available in campgrounds; however, Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat contain non-flushing vault toilets only and no potable water.
- Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley.
- RVs over 24 feet are not recommended for Tamarack Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Porcupine Flat campgrounds, and RVs are not permitted in walk-in and group campsites. There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows.

Regulations

- Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.
- A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.
- Quiet hours are from 10 pm to 6 am.
- Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

Campfires

- In Yosemite Valley between May 1 and September 30, campfires are permitted between 5 pm and 10 pm. At other times of the year and in out-of-Valley campgrounds, fires are permitted at any time, as long as they are attended.
- Firewood collection (including pine cones and pine needles) is not permitted in Yosemite Valley; you may purchase firewood at stores near the campgrounds.

The overnight-outdoor experience

Yosemite National Park contains 13 popular campgrounds. Up to seven are on a reservation system, the rest are first-come, first-served. From April through September, reservations are essential and the first-come, first-served sites often fill by noon during these months.

Camping Reservations

Reservations are required year-round for campsites in Yosemite Valley's car campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served. Campground reservations are available up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month at 7 am Pacific time. Log onto the website or call as soon as possible as some campgrounds fill within several minutes of the opening period.

ARRIVAL DATE	FIRST DAY TO MAKE RESERVATIONS (7 AM PT)
Dec. 15 – Jan. 14	Aug. 15
Jan. 15 – Feb. 14	Sept. 15
Feb. 15 – Mar. 14	Oct. 15
Mar. 15 – Apr. 14	Nov. 15
Apr. 15 – May 14	Dec. 15
May 15 – Jun. 14	Jan. 15
Jun. 15 – Jul. 14	Feb. 15
Jul. 15 – Aug. 14	Mar. 15
Aug. 15 – Sep. 14	Apr. 15
Sep. 15 – Oct. 14	May 15
Oct. 15 – Nov. 14	Jun. 15
Nov. 15 – Dec. 14	Jul. 15

For campground reservations, visit www.recreation.gov (recommended) or call 877/444-6777 or TDD 877/833-6777 or 518/885-3639 from outside the US and Canada.

Hours:

7 am to 7 pm Pacific time (November through February)

7 am to 9 pm Pacific time (March through October)

Reservation centers in the park are located in the visitor parking area at Curry Village (shuttle bus stop #14), the Tuolumne Meadows Campground entrance, in Wawona off Chilnualna Falls Road, and at Big Oak Flat Information Station.

Yosemite Valley

There is a 30-day camping limit within Yosemite National Park in a calendar year; however, May 1 to September 15, the camping limit is 14 days and only seven of those days can be in Yosemite Valley or Wawona.

Camp 4 is a walk-in campground and is open all year on a first-come, first-served basis; these campsites are not wheelchair accessible. Sites are available

on a per-person basis, and six people will be placed in each campsite, regardless of number of people in your party. Camp 4 often fills before 9 am each day, May through September.

Camping in Areas Surrounding Yosemite

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates a variety of campgrounds on a seasonal basis near Yosemite. For additional information, contact Groveland Ranger Station at 209/962-7825; Mariposa Ranger Station at 209/966-3638; Mono Lake Ranger Station at 760/647-3044; or Oakhurst Ranger Station at 559/683-4636. For private campgrounds outside Yosemite, call the respective chamber of commerce or visitor bureau listed on page 10.

Group Campgrounds

There are group campsites at Tuolumne Meadows, Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, and Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds. Reservations can be made the same way as individual site reservations; 13 to 30 people are allowed in each group campsite. Tent camping only. Pets, RVs, and generators are not permitted in group sites.

Campgrounds in Yosemite National Park

CAMPGROUND	OPEN 2009 (APPROX)	MAX RV LENGTH	MAX TRAILER LENGTH	RESERVATIONS REQUIRED?	DAILY FEE	# OF SITES	PETS	WATER
YOSEMITE VALLEY								
Upper Pines	All year	35 ft	24 ft	March 15 - Nov 30	\$20	238	Yes	Tap
Lower Pines	April 4 – Nov 2	40 ft	35 ft	Yes	\$20	60	Yes	Tap
North Pines	April 1 – Oct 13	40 ft	35 ft	Yes	\$20	81	Yes	Tap
Camp 4	All year	No RVs/trailers	n/a	First-come, first-served	\$5/pers.	35	No	Tap
SOUTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY								
Wawona	All year	35 ft	35 ft	June 20 – Sep 28	\$20	93	Yes	Tap
Bridalveil Creek	July 1 – Sep 8	35 ft	24 ft	First-come, first-served	\$14	110	Yes	Tap
NORTH OF YOSEMITE VALLEY								
Hodgdon Meadow	All year	35 ft	27 ft	Apr 10 – Oct 13	\$20	105	Yes	Tap
Crane Flat	June 18 – Oct 13	35 ft	27 ft	50%	\$20	166	Yes	Tap
Tamarack Flat	June 23 – Oct 15	No RVs/trailers		First-come, first-served	\$10	52	No	Creek (boil)
White Wolf	Late June – Sep 15	27 ft	24 ft	First-come, first-served	\$14	74	Yes	Tap
Yosemite Creek	July – Sep 8	No RVs/trailers		First-come, first-served	\$10	40	Yes	Creek (boil)
Porcupine Flat	July – Oct 15	24 ft (limited)	20 ft	First-come, first-served	\$10	52	No	Creek (boil)
Tuolumne Meadows	Late June – Sep 28	35 ft	35 ft	50%	\$20	304	Yes	Tap

Hiking On the Trails

Discover an easy stroll or a challenging hike



Choose your adventure

With over 800 miles of hiking trails, what better way to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite than on foot? Ask a ranger at any visitor center for one of several free, day-hike handouts. Excellent maps and guidebooks are available at bookstores throughout the park.

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

TRAIL / DESTINATION	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE / TIME	DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION
Bridalveil Fall	Bridalveil Fall Parking Area	0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes	Easy
Lower Yosemite Fall	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes	Easy
Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock	Camp 4 Near Shuttle Stop #7	2 miles round-trip, 2-3 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Upper Yosemite Fall	Same as above	7.2 miles round-trip, 6-8 hours	Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain
Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake)	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17	2 miles round-trip, 1 hour	Easy
Vernal Fall Footbridge	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours	Moderate, 400-foot gain
Top of Vernal Fall	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Nevada Fall	same as above	5 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours	Strenuous 1,900-foot gain
Top of Half Dome	same as above	14 mi (via Mist Trail) or 16.3 mi (via John Muir Trail) round-trip, 10-12 hours	Extremely Strenuous, 4,800-foot gain
Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point	Southside Drive	4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours one-way	Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain
Valley Floor Loop	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop	Moderate

Day Hikes Outside of Yosemite Valley

TRAIL / DESTINATION	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE / TIME	DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION
WAWONA			
Wawona Meadow Loop	Wawona Hotel	3.5 miles round-trip, 1.5 hours	Easy
Chilnualna Falls Trail	Parking 2 mi. up Chilnualna Falls Rd.	8.2 miles round-trip, 5 hours	Strenuous 2,400-foot gain
GLACIER POINT ROAD			
Taft Point	Sentinel Dome Parking Area	2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours	Easy to Moderate
Sentinel Dome	Sentinel Dome Parking Area	2.2 miles round-trip, 2 hours	Moderate
TUOLUMNE MEADOWS AREA			
Soda Springs / Parsons Lodge	Lembert Dome Parking Area	1.5 miles round-trip, 1 hour	Easy
Lembert Dome	Lembert Dome Parking Area	4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours	Moderately Strenuous
John Muir Trail through Lyell Canyon	Dog Lake Parking Area	8 miles one-way, 3 to 4 hours	Easy, 200-foot gain
Elizabeth Lake	Tuolumne Meadows Group Campground	4.8 miles round trip, 4 to 5 hours	Moderate
TIOGA ROAD			
Lukens Lake	White Wolf ¹	5.4 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours	Moderate
Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek	Porcupine Creek ¹	7 miles one-way, 4 to 6 hours	Moderate, 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss
Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek	Lukens Lake Trailhead ¹	10.5 miles one-way, 5 to 9 hours	Moderately Strenuous 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss
Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest	Tenaya Lake ¹	19 miles one-way, 10 to 12 hours	Strenuous
HETCH HETCHY			
Wapama Falls	O'Shaughnessy Dam	5 miles round-trip, 3 to 4 hours	Easy to Moderate

¹These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers' Bus. Additionally, the Tuolumne Meadows free shuttle serves all Tuolumne Meadows hikes listed above.

Self-Guided Trails

A Changing Yosemite

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

Giant Sequoias

Two self-guiding trails in the Mariposa Grove, and one in the Tuolumne Grove, interpret the natural history and ecological dynamics of the giant sequoia community.

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

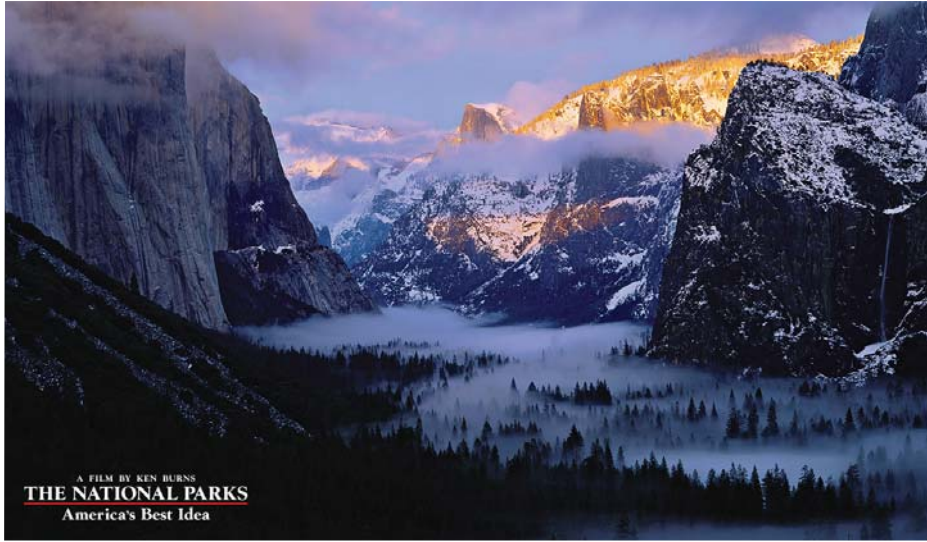
Masthead: Hikers. Illustration by Lawrence W. Duke

Top Left: Hikers. Photo by Bob Roney

Top Right: Hikers. Photo by Bob Roney

On the Road With Ken Burns

Feature article



A FILM BY KEN BURNS
THE NATIONAL PARKS
America's Best Idea

The star of Ken Burns' film is stunning imagery of America's national parks. Photo courtesy of QT Luong, terragalleria.com

National Parks are an American contribution to world culture as unique as baseball or jazz... something made in the U.S.A., and then copied throughout the world.

By Ranger Shelton Johnson

This year I've been privileged to participate in screening events across the country for *The National Parks, America's Best Idea*, an upcoming six-part documentary film by Ken Burns which will be broadcast nationwide on PBS beginning Sept. 27th.

This is the first film that tells the history of the national park idea, rather than focusing on any single national park. How did that idea come into being? What were the forces at work that led to that idea bearing fruit first in the United States? This idea has become so powerful that today practically every nation has a protected area that is either called a national park or functions as one if not in name.

National Parks are an American contribution to world culture as unique as baseball or jazz, but they've become so much a part of who we are as Americans that it's easy not to recognize that uniqueness. We imagine that there has always been a Yosemite or a Yellowstone or a Grand Canyon. We tend not to think of national parks as an invention, something made in the U.S.A., and then copied throughout the world.

What is the story of that invention and how did it evolve through time? What forces were at work that led to a foundation being built upon by which

we would "construct" the world's first national park? Was it Yellowstone or Yosemite? When was this idea born? What was its childhood like? Has it matured or is it still becoming?

For the answers to these questions you'll have to wait until Sept. 27th because the film is a fascinating exploration of the idea of national parks, and like any exploration, part of the wonder is experiencing it first hand.

I've worked as a park ranger for the National Park Service for over 22 years and began my career in Yellowstone National Park in 1987. I've been a Yosemite ranger since the winter of 1994. The roots of the park idea are deep, but in very few other places are they as deep as they are in the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada.

Every national park has a story full of interesting characters, intriguing plots, and great drama. We have the luxury of knowing how it all turns out. Or we think we do, but those stories never truly end. They're being written right now and everyone who's reading this article here in Yosemite is becoming part of the Yosemite story, which is a chapter in the history of the national park idea.

I have travelled across the country attending Ken Burns' events in Washington, D.C., the Santa Monica Mountains, San Francisco, Yosemite Valley, Miami,

Atlanta, Baltimore, and Telluride, Colo. At each event I observed that people want to know how their local national park figures into the main film, even though they know the film isn't about that park but about the idea of national parks.

Consequently, if you watch this film hoping for an in-depth depiction of your favorite national park, you will be disappointed. However, if you desire to better understand how this American invention came into being and evolved, well you definitely have something to look forward to in September. The national park film spotlights people who were, and are, protectors of the land; land that, were it not for their efforts, would most likely have been despoiled.

Americans devoted their lives to protect

areas which eventually became national parks, but despite their success, many of these heroes of the national park story are mostly forgotten.

*"My country tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing,"*

We mouth these words, we know the song, but we've forgotten the roots of the music. "The National Parks, America's Best Idea" is the biography of a now globally celebrated idea. Heretofore, the details of that idea had only been known to researchers, historians, and park employees. Why is that? Growing up in the '60s and '70s, I rarely heard in school about national parks or their significance. Sometimes, that which is most revolutionary is least perceptible, and consequently not appreciated, by the people of that time.

When the Yellowstone Act was signed on March 1, 1872, there was neither pomp nor circumstance. It had been just another bill before Congress, but what they started is still in motion. It moves us, and we move within it, whenever we walk in Yosemite Valley. This beautiful place, set aside by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, is the perfect setting to reflect on America's Best Idea, but this fall there will be another. How about your living room?

The great achievement of the upcoming documentary is that watching this film is a national park experience. We see, hear, and feel the story of Americans who created the national parks for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. And, in the telling of that story, what has been captured on film for all time, is not just what the national parks meant to them, or even to us, but hopefully what they will still mean to generations not yet born.

The National Parks: America's Best Idea debuts on PBS affiliates across the country in September. Learn more about the film at www.pbs.org/nationalparks/



Ken Burns (from left), with Ranger Shelton Johnson and QT Luong. Photo courtesy of QT Luong, terragalleria.com

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.yosemitenpartners.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 be 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.yosemitfund.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

PO Box 455
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-4413
209/372-4714 fax
www.anseladams.com

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

PO Box 578
Yosemite, CA 95389
801/559-5000
www.yosemitepark.com

Yosemite Association

PO Box 230
El Portal, CA 95318
209/379-2646
209/379-2486 fax
www.yosemite.org

The Yosemite Fund

155 Montgomery St. #1104
San Francisco, CA 94104
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www.yosemitfund.org

Yosemite Institute

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



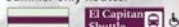
To Learn more about Park
**Planning and
Improvement Efforts**
visit online at
[www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/
planning](http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning)

Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

Year-round Route:



Summer-only Routes:



Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

Campground

Parking

Picnic Area

Restroom

Walk-In Campground



A portion of the trail past Mirror Lake is closed due to rockfall. Please observe posted signs.

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

Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am - 10:00pm. The El Capitan and Express Shuttles operate from 9:00am - 6:00pm. 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
1 P1	Visitor Parking	8	Yosemite Lodge
2 10	Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge
3	The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp
4	Degnan's Deli	13a, 21	Recreation Rentals
5 9 E1 P2	Valley Visitor Center	13b	Curry Village
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	14 20	Curry Village Parking
7 E2	Camp 4	15	Upper Pines Campground
		16	Happy Isles
		17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
		18	Stable
		19	Pines Campgrounds
		E3	El Capitan Picnic Area
		E4	El Capitan Bridge
		E5	Four Mile Trailhead