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Feb. - April 2010

Valley Sunset, Fog. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

February 17 - April 13, 2010

Yosemite Guide

Things to Do

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



Illustration by Lawrence W. Duke

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

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

Walk to a Waterfall

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

Explore a Sequoia Grove

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



Ahwahnee Hotel. Photo by Christine White Loberg

How to Use Your Yosemite Guide

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

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

Visit the Yosemite Museum

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

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

Take a Photography Class

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



Photography walk. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Hike to Mirror Lake

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

Ice Skate at Curry Village

The outdoor ice rink at Curry Village is nestled among the dramatic scenery of Yosemite Valley. Rent equipment for skating, sit by the fire pit, or enjoy the warming hut at the Curry Village ice rink, which operates through March 7th, conditions permitting. (See page 4 for hours.)

Tour The Ahwahnee

Step back to an earlier era of history as you explore the National Historic Landmark that opened in 1927. Notable for its architecture and artful décor, the hotel provides a cozy atmosphere to relax and enjoy a warm drink. (See the Ahwahnee Concierge for information)

Drive to Tunnel View

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

Snowshoe with a Ranger

Learn about the wonders of winter on a ranger-guided snowshoe stroll. Programs are offered daily at Badger Pass Ski Area through April 4th, conditions permitting. A free shuttle from Yosemite Valley to Badger Pass is available. (See page 3.)

See Half Dome at Sunset

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

Welcome, and Be Prepared



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

Fire – Police – Medical Emergency: Dial 911

Website: www.nps.gov/yose/

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

Access for People With Disabilities

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

Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive.



Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue-and-white accessibility signs.

A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0645 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 weeks is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.

Lost and Found

To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite’s restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses, or tour services, call 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/379-1001.

Weather

Sudden changes in weather are common in the Sierra Nevada. Check at a park visitor center for the most up-to-date weather forecast. You can find the latest on NOAA Weather Radio station KAD-94 at 162.450 MHz. Reception may not be available in remote areas.

Road Information

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

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Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Entrance Fees

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

Vehicle \$20
Valid for 7 days

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

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

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

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

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

Reservations

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

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

Regional Info

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

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

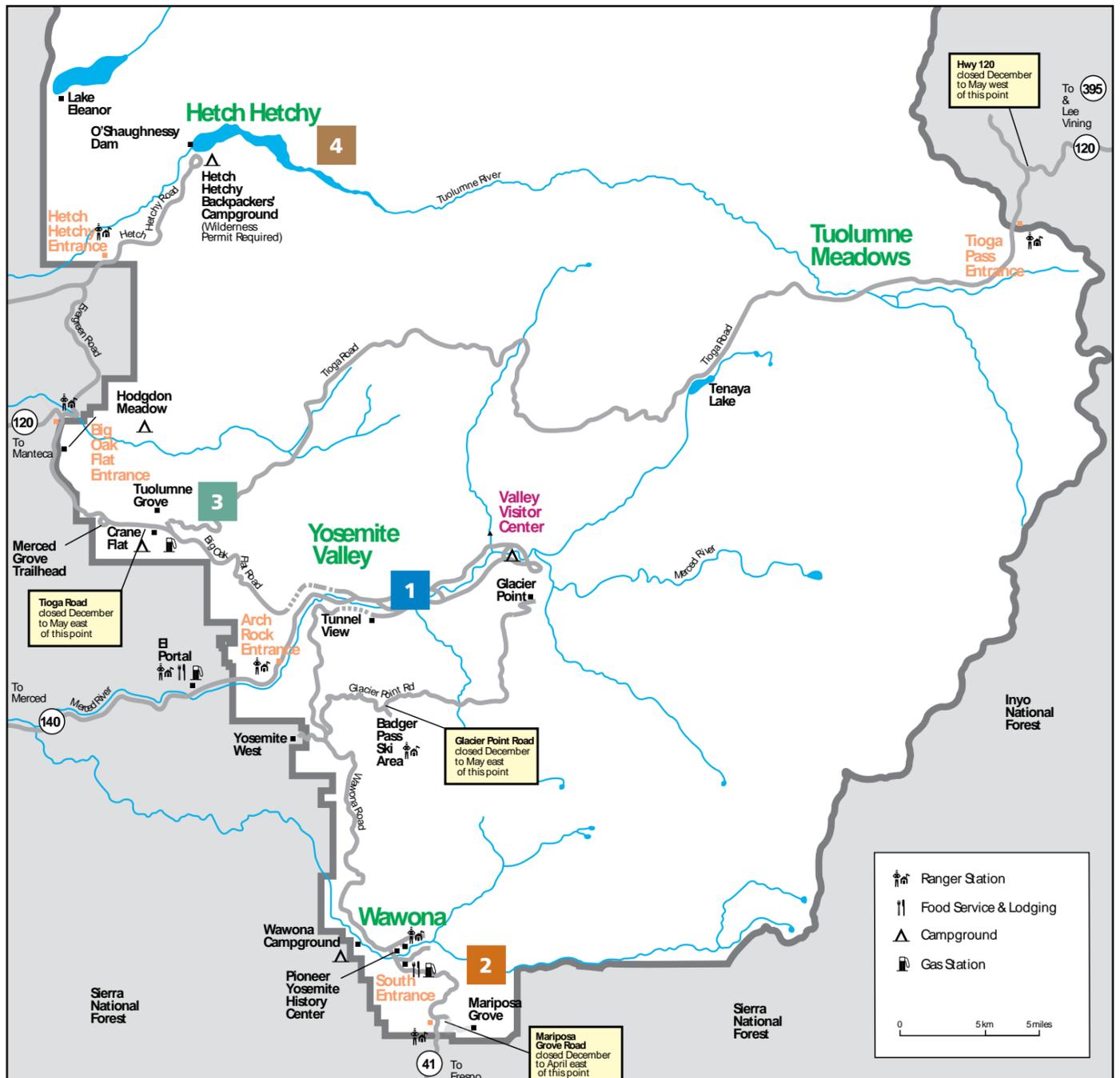
Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/683-4636
www.yosemitethisyear.com

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

Highway 140/49
Yosemite Mariposa Tourism Bureau
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081
www.homeofyosemite.com

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

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



Yosemite Valley

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

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

2 The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's South Entrance station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed to cars from sometime in December to April. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite.



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

Crane Flat

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

Hetch Hetchy

4 Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120, Evergreen Road, and Hetch Hetchy Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 8 am to 5 pm through March 31. April hours are 7 am through 8 pm.

Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

| | YOSEMITE VALLEY | BADGER PASS | WAWONA |
|-----------|--|---|--|
| Sunday | 9:00am WEE WILD ONES (Except March 28, April 4 and 11) ¾ hr. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) 1:00pm Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk (Except Feb. 21, April 4 and 11) 3 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up/tickets at any tour desk. (DNC) \$ 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Shuttle stop #6. (NPS) 3:00pm Fine Print Tours 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up in advance at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) 7:00pm Evening Program Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (DNC) | 9:00am Adventure Hike—Snowshoe to Dewey Point (Except April 4 and 11) 6½ hours. Meet at Badger Pass nordic center. Tickets/info at any park tour desk. (YMS) \$ 10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through April 4) Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS) 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb. 28 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$ 7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 28 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$ | |
| | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Programs printed in COLOR are specially designed for CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES </div> | | |
| Monday | 9:00am Photography Walk 1½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery & meet at Ahwahnee Hotel (conditions permitting) (AAG) 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Yosemite's First People 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) 4:00pm Twilight Stroll (Except March 29) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) 7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) | 10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through March 29) Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Dress warm; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS) 7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 29 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$ | |
| Tuesday | 9:00am Photography Walk 1½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG) 10:00am Art Classes 4hrs. Begins April 6. Artists vary, see Art Center posting. \$5 suggested donation. 12:00pm Yosemite Forum (March 9 and April 13 only) 1 hr. Selected lectures by scientists working in the park. Yosemite Valley Auditorium (NPS) 1:00pm Using Your Digital Camera Class 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$ 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Trees 1½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, Shuttle Stop #3 (NPS) 7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (DNC) | 10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through March 30) Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS) 7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 30 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$ | 5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (March 30, April 6 & 13 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) |
| Wednesday | 9:00am WEE WILD ONES (Except Feb. 17 and Feb. 24) ¾ hr. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) 10:00am Art Classes 4hrs. Begins April 6. Artists vary, see Art Center posting. \$5 suggested donation. 1:00pm Open House (Feb. 24 & March 31 only) 3 hrs. Come learn about park improvement efforts. Valley Visitor Center Auditorium. (NPS) 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Wild about Wildlife 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) 7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) | 9:00am Adventure Hike - Snowshoe to Dewey Point (Except April 7 and 14) 6½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center. Tickets/ info at any tour desk (YMS) \$ 10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through March 31) Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS) 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb. 24 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$ | 5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (March 31, April 7 only) 4 hrs. Live music and interpretive programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) |
| Thursday | 9:00am Photography Walk 1½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG) 10:00am Art Classes 4hrs. Begins April 6. Artists vary, see Art Center posting. \$5 suggested donation. 1:00pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with Your Camera 4 hrs. Limited space. Sign up in advance and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$ 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Yosemite's Legacy 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) 7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (DNC) 7:00pm FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) | 10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through April 1) Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS) 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb. 25 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$ | 5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (April 1 & 8 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) |
| Friday | 9:00am WEE WILD ONES (Except Feb. 26, March 26, and April 2) ¾ hr. Stories & activities for kids 6 & under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) 10:00am Art Classes 4hrs. Begins April 6. Artists vary, see Art Center posting. \$5 suggested donation. 1:00pm Open House (March 27 only) 3 hrs. Come learn about park improvement efforts. Valley Visitor Center Auditorium. (NPS) 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Geology 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) 7:00pm Film - Ansel Adams 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (Special showing of PBS series "Ansel Adams" directed by Rick Burns, in celebration of Ansel Adams birthday; Part 1 Feb. 19 only) (AAG) | 10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through April 2) Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS) 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb. 26 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$ 7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 26 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$ | 5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (March 26, April 2 & 9 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) |
| Saturday | 9:00am Photography Walk 1½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG) 10:00am Art Classes 4hrs. Begins April 6. Artists vary, see Art Center posting. \$5 suggested donation. 1:00pm Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk (Except April 3 & April 10) 3 hrs. No experience required. Advance sign up/tickets at any tour desk. (DNC)\$ 1:00pm Using Your Digital Camera Class 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$ 2:00pm Ranger Stroll - Bears 1½ hrs. shuttle stop #6 (NPS) 2:30pm SPRING FAMILY WALK (April 3 only) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DNC) 7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) (Special showing of PBS series "Ansel Adams" directed by Rick Burns, in celebration of Ansel Adams birthday; Part 2 Feb. 20 only) (AAG) | 10:30am Snowshoe Walk—Explore the Forest in Winter (Through April 3) Conditions permitting. 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5). (NPS) 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb. 27 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$ 7:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (March 27 only) 2 hrs. No experience required but snow dependent. Advance sign up at any tour desk. Meet at Badger Pass Lodge. (DNC) \$ | 5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (March 27, April 3 & 10 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) |

YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE XXV ART EXHIBIT

The Yosemite Renaissance is an annual art exhibit, now in its 25th year, that encourages diverse interpretations of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. Opening reception is 5:30 pm on Feb. 26 at the Gallery. Exhibit runs Feb. 27 - May 2. See page 6 for more information.

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

Facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs.



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



Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request.

Exploring Yosemite

Spectacular vistas and quiet corners of the park



Self-Guiding Trails

A Changing Yosemite

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

Mirror Lake

The Mirror Lake interpretive trail is a short loop adjacent to Mirror Lake, a seasonal lake on Tenaya Creek. Exhibits focus on the rich natural history of the area and American Indian use. To reach the start of the trail, walk one mile from shuttle stop #17 to the disabled parking spaces near the lake. The trail begins here.

Indian Village

This short loop winds through the Indian Village of Ahwahnee, a reconstructed Miwok-Paiute village. A booklet is available at the trailhead and in the Visitor Center. The trail begins behind the Yosemite Museum.

Curry Village

The *Legacy of Curry Village* is an easy stroll commemorating the early days of Camp Curry. Pick up a map and guide at the Curry Village front desk or tour desk.

The Incomparable Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park embraces one of the world's most outstanding concentrations of spectacular mountain-and-valley scenery. Its Sierran setting harbors a grand collection of high waterfalls and forests, including three groves of giant sequoias.

Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 3, 6, and 7 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

The base of **Lower Yosemite Fall** is usually an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. Be aware that snow and ice can make the walk more difficult. The hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired when the path is clear. **Bridalveil Fall** is another waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into, or out of, the Valley.

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

Half Dome, Yosemite's most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what

we see today. Cook's Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story. Shuttles may not travel to stop #16 when the road is snow-covered or icy.

For a strenuous day hike, you can use this trailhead to reach Vernal Fall footbridge (¾ miles) and Nevada Fall (2.7 miles) via the Mist Trail. Do not attempt this route when it is snow or ice-covered.

Ice skating sessions take place daily, weather permitting, at Curry Village, through March 7.

Weekdays:

3:30 to 6 pm and 7 to 9:30 pm

Weekends & Holidays:

8:30 to 11 am, 12 to 2:30 pm, 3:30 to 6 pm, and 7 to 9:30 pm.

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

Enjoy Yosemite by bike, if you've brought yours along, take a scenic ride along designated bike trails or paved roads. Bike rentals will open April 2 at Curry Village and Yosemite Lodge (weather permitting).

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

A Valley sightseeing tour is offered in Yosemite throughout the year. The Valley Floor Tour is a 19-mile, two-hour tour that departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. Tours travel by enclosed motorcoach. An experienced guide narrates the tour. Only very poor weather cancels it. Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at the tour and transportation desk at Yosemite Lodge.



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

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

Wawona

Located six miles from the park's South Entrance or a one-hour drive from the Valley, the Wawona area tells the story of Yosemite's human history and pioneer past. The charming 19th-century Wawona Hotel and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center are a history buff's delight. The center is a collection of historic buildings associated with the people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour. Also in Wawona, you will find hikes of varying difficulty to places like Wawona Meadow and Chilnualna Falls, one of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley.

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

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Valley is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road, Evergreen Road, and Hetch Hetchy Road; it is 40 miles from Yosemite Valley. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 8 am to 5 pm through March 31. April hours are 7 am to 8 pm. Call 209/372-0200 for the most up-to-date information. Vehicles over 25 ft. are prohibited on the narrow Hetch Hetchy Road. Once considered a twin to Yosemite Valley, this valley was described by John Muir as "a grand landscape garden." Hetch Hetchy is located along the Tuolumne River in the northern part of the park and now contains a large reservoir. Hetch Hetchy's relatively low elevation gives the area one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite National Park.

Glacier Point

The Glacier Point Road is open to snowshoeing and nordic skiing during the winter months. The trailhead for snow travel is at Badger Pass Ski Area. The snow-covered road takes you right to the brink of Yosemite Valley. Go to the railing's edge and catch your breath at the exhilarating view, looking down 3,214 feet to the Valley floor. For a trip to an overhanging lookout, choose the ski trail to Dewey Point for incredible views of the Valley. During winter the road is closed to vehicle traffic past Badger Pass Ski Area. It usually reopens for vehicles sometime in May.

Tioga Road

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



Winter Driving in Yosemite

Tioga Road, Glacier Point Road, and Mariposa Grove Road are closed each year from November to late May or early June. Other roads are plowed, but expect icy or snowy conditions. Roads may close briefly due to accidents or extreme conditions. To check conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit www.dot.ca.gov for California highways.

Badger Pass

Badger Pass Ski Area is the oldest continuously operating ski area in California. The lodge and original lift opened to the public in December 1935.

A free shuttle serves Badger Pass Ski Area through its planned closing date of Sunday, April 4. Two buses pick up each morning.

Departure times to Badger Pass:

Curry Village - 8 am and 10:30 am;
Yosemite Village (across the street from the Village Store parking, near Village

Garage) - 8:10 am and 10:40 am;
The Ahwahnee - 8:15 am and 10:45 am;
Yosemite Lodge - 8:30am and 11 am

Return from Badger: 2 pm and 4 pm

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

Nordic ski facilities in the area include close to 25 miles of machine-groomed track (depending on conditions) and the availability (with reservations and fee) of ski huts at Glacier Point and Ostrander Lake. Nordic rentals are available.



Vehicle Chain Requirements

When you are visiting from November through March, expect chain requirements to be in effect. When chain controls are in effect, all vehicles **must** have chains or cable chains ready for use. This is for everyone's safety, and it is a California State law. Violations could result in a citation.

Check by Phone

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

You can also call 800/427-7623 for road conditions throughout California (outside of Yosemite).

Online Information

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

Top: View from Dewey Point.
Photo by Tom Medema

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

Yosemite Valley

Dates, times, and places



Throughout Yosemite National Park, winter and early spring is a time of special beauty that offers unique opportunities for sport and adventure in the park. Note that some tours and roads familiar to summer visitors do not reopen until May or June.

Yosemite Valley

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

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

Explore the exhibit hall and learn about Yosemite's spectacular landscape, fascinating wildlife, and historic significance.

FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

This inspiring visitor-orientation film provides a stunning overview of Yosemite's splendor. It is shown every 30 minutes in the Valley Visitor Center Theater: Monday through Saturday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm; Sunday from noon to 4:30 pm.

Internet Access

Fee-based terminals are available at Degnan's Deli from 7am to 5pm. Free internet access is available at the Mariposa County library, south of the Yosemite Cemetery. Hours vary, ask at the Valley Visitor Center. WIFI access is available at the Yosemite Lodge on a pay-per-use basis. Go to the front desk for information. Access at the Ahwahnee Hotel is reserved for guest use only.

Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

The exhibit interprets the cultural history of Yosemite's native Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. Demonstrations of traditional skills are

presented. No food or drink. Open 9 am to 5 pm. May close for lunch.

YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE ART EXHIBIT

Yosemite Renaissance XXV opens on Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. The opening is preceded by a reception at 5:30 pm on Feb. 26 at the Gallery. The exhibit ends May 2.

The Yosemite Renaissance is an annual exhibit, now in its 25th year, that encourages diverse interpretations of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada. Its goals are to bring together the works of serious contemporary artists; establish a continuum with past generations of Yosemite artists; and reestablish visual art as a major stimulus to the protection of the environment.



Alan Work, Winter Shadows, serigraph from Yosemite Renaissance XXV exhibit.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

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

Village of Ahwahnee

Located behind the Yosemite Museum and open daily, the village offers a self-

guiding trail brochure and exhibits on Ahwahneechee life.

Yosemite Cemetery

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

Ansel Adams Gallery

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm through March 16. After that date, it will open from 9 am to 5 pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. It also offers camera walks, photography workshops, and classes. Scheduled activities are listed on the front porch. For more information, call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY EXHIBITS

Jan. 12 - Feb. 28 Yosemite in Winter Group Show. Color and black and white images of Yosemite National Park in winter.

March 1 - April 13 Staff Show

Yosemite Art and Education Center

Located next to the Village Store, the art center offers a selection of original art, as well as art supplies. Art classes are held Tuesday through Saturday, beginning April 6. Featured instructors are Donna Naes (April 6-10) and Bryon Spicer (April 13-17). A \$5 per day donation for each student is suggested. Students are welcome to bring their own art supplies, or they may be purchased at the Art Center. For more information call 209/379-1442.

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

Top center: Indian village. Photo: Pam Meierding

POST OFFICE

Yosemite Village

Main Office

Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 5pm
Saturday: 10am - noon

Yosemite Lodge

Post Office

Monday-Friday: 12:30pm - 2:45pm

El Portal

Post Office

Monday-Friday: 8:30am - 5pm
closed for lunch from 12:30 - 1:30

Wawona Post Office

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

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

Yosemite Village

The Ansel Adams Gallery

10am - 5pm (9am as of March 16)

Yosemite Art & Education Center

Opens April 6 9am - 4pm

Tuesday - Saturday only

Yosemite Bookstore

Inside Yosemite Visitor Center

9am - 5pm

Yosemite Museum Store

9am - 5pm Thurs.-Sun.

Closed Mon.-Wed.

9am - 5pm Sun.- Sat. starting March 12

Village Store

8am - 8pm

Habitat Yosemite

11am - 4pm; opens March 26

Thur.-Sunday only

Sport Shop

10am - 4pm

The Ahwahnee

The Ahwahnee Gift Shop

8am - 8pm

The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop

7am - 10pm

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery

8am - 7pm

Nature Shop

11am - 7pm

Curry Village

Mountain Shop

9am - 5pm

Curry Village Gift/Grocery

9am - 7pm

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am - 5pm

SKIING

Badger Pass Ski Area & Sport Shop

9am - 4pm daily through April 4
conditions permitting.

Visitor Services

Locations and hours across the park

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

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Yosemite Village

Degnan's Delicatessen

7am - 5pm

Village Grill

11am - 5pm (Opens April 3)

The Loft

5pm - 9pm (Opens April 1)

The Ahwahnee

Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am - 10:30am

Lunch: 11:30am - 3pm

Dinner: 5:30pm - 9pm

Sunday Brunch: 7am - 3pm

Appropriate attire requested for dinner. Reservations recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch:

209/372-1489.

The Ahwahnee Bar 11am - 11pm

Yosemite Lodge

Food Court

Breakfast: 6:30am - 11am

Lunch: 11:30am - 2pm

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

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

Mountain Room Lounge

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

Noon - 11pm (Sat.-Sun.)

Mountain Room Restaurant

5:30pm - 9pm (Fri. - Sat.)

5:30pm - 8:30pm (Sun. - Thurs.)

Curry Village

Pavilion Buffet

Breakfast 7am - 10am (Starts March 27)

Dinner 5:30pm - 8pm (Starts March 26)

Pizza Deck

5 - 9pm Fri.; Noon - 9pm Sat.

5 - 9pm (Mon. - Fri. starts March 26)

Noon-9pm (Sat. - Sun. starts March 27)

Coffee Corner

7 - 11am Sat. - Sun. through March 26

7 - 11am daily, starting March 27

Curry Village Bar (Starts March 26)

5 - 9pm Mon. - Fri.

Noon - 9pm Sat. - Sun.

Wawona

Wawona Hotel Dining Room

Opens for the Season March 26

Breakfast: 7:30am - 10am

Lunch: 11:30am - 1:30pm

Dinner: 5:30pm - 9pm

Lounge Service: 5pm - 9pm

Easter Brunch April 4; 10am - 2pm

Reservations taken for 6 or more.

209/375-1425

Golf Shop & Snack Stand opens

April 3, weather permitting.

GROCERIES

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery

8am - 7pm

Yosemite Village

Village Store

8am - 8pm

Degnan's Delicatessen

7am - 5pm

Curry Village

Gift/Grocery

9am - 7pm;

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am - 5pm

Crane Flat Store

10am - 4pm (Opens March 27)

GAS STATION

Gas outside Yosemite Valley

El Portal 9am - noon, 1pm - 5pm

Diesel available. Pay at pump 24 hrs.

Wawona Gas Station 8am - 6pm

Diesel & propane available. Pay at pump 24 hrs.

Crane Flat Gas Station

Pay at pump 24 hrs.

SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

Curry Village

Showers

Open 24 hrs

Housekeeping Camp

Laundromat 8am - 10pm

Wawona

Pioneer Yosemite History Center

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

Evening Programs

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

Wawona Information Station

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

Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. The road to the Grove closed in December and opens sometime in April. Visitors can walk, ski, or snowshoe when the road is closed to vehicles.

Getting to Mariposa Grove

Allow an hour's driving time to reach the grove's access road from the Valley. A locked gate prevents vehicles from entering the closure area. Limited parking is available near the gate.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

WEEKLY WORSHIP/YOSEMITE VALLEY CHAPEL

Sunday 9:15am (Sunday school and nursery available) and 11am (No Sunday school or nursery); 6:30pm service and Bible Study;

Thursday mid-week service: 7pm

Tuesday Bible Studies

Women's: 6:30pm. Call chapel for location.

Men's: 6:30pm at the chapel

Other weekday Bible Studies available. Call 209/372-4831 for information

EASTER WEEK SERVICES

7:00pm Maunday Thursday (April 1st)

12:00pm and 7:00pm Good Friday (April 2nd)

Easter Sunday (April 4th)

7:00am Sunrise Service Lower Pines Camp

Amphitheater

9:15am Chapel Service (with Sunday School)

11:00am Chapel Service (no Sunday School)

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater

Sunday Mass: 10:00am

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

Dogs and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.

Distance & Elevation

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

GRIZZLY GIANT

Distance from trailhead:

0.8 mile / 1.3km

Elevation Gain: 400ft / 122m

GROVE MUSEUM

Distance from trailhead:

2.1 miles / 3.5km

Elevation Gain: 800ft / 292m

FALLEN TUNNEL TREE

Distance from trailhead:

2.5 miles / 4.0km

Elevation Gain: 1,000ft / 305m

WAWONA POINT

Distance from trailhead:

3.0 miles / 4.8km

Elevation Gain: 1,200ft / 438m

Big Oak Flat (Hwy 120)

Big Oak Flat Information Station

The station is closed until May, but wilderness permits are available at a self-service, 24-hour kiosk throughout the winter season.

Easter Sunday Mass 8am and 10am.

Weekday Mass at the Rectory Wednesdays and Fridays at 6:30pm

Ash Wednesday and Holy Week service

information call 209/372-4729

CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

El Portal Chapel/Worship: Sunday 11am

Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane

GENERAL SERVICES

Village Garage

8am to 5pm. Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4pm. 209/372-8320

NO GAS AVAILABLE IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

Dental Services

Adjacent to Yosemite Medical Clinic.

For hours, call 209/372-4200.

If no answer, call 209/372-4637

Yosemite Medical Clinic

Emergency care: 24 hours daily.

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

Appointments: 8am to 5pm Mon. through Fri.

Located on Ahwahnee Drive in Yosemite Valley, the clinic provides routine and emergency medical care, 24-hour paramedic/ambulance services, limited pharmacy, lab,

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

Tuolumne Grove

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. The path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip is moderately strenuous.

Outdoor Adventures

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

- Feb. 19-20** Photographing the "Firefall." A rare water and light phenomenon.
- Feb. 27** Peregoy Snow Survey. Help rangers measure the snowpack.
- Feb. 27** Moonlight snowshoe. Badger Pass on a brightly lit night.
- March 12** Merced Canyon Flowers. Spring time's burst of color and life. A look off the snowy canyon rim.
- March 13** Dewey Point snowshoe trek. A look off the snowy canyon rim.
- March 26** The Unknown West End. Secret stories few visitors encounter.
- March 27** Moonlight Snowshoe. A bright world of black and white.
- March 28** Discovering the Winter World. A naturalist's day on snowshoes.
- April 2-3** Leave No Trace (LNT). For outdoor leaders and others.
- April 10** Exploring the Foresta Fire. Last summer's burn leaps back to life.

x-ray, physical therapy, and Mountain Crisis Services for victims of domestic violence. 209/372-4637

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

7:30pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday

DNC General Office Building

Yosemite Village

AL-ANON

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

LIONS CLUB

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

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

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

Protecting Yourself

Experience Yosemite—Keep yourself safe while exploring your park



Half Dome Cables Interim Permit System

Hiking to the top of Half Dome is one of the most popular hikes in Yosemite National Park. The popularity of the hike has increased dramatically in the last decade, particularly on weekends and holidays. This increase has resulted in significant safety concerns.

To address safety issues, the park will institute an interim permit program to access the cables on Half Dome on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays starting in May, 2010.

The Half Dome cable permits will be available starting March 1, 2010 for May and June; on April 1, for July and August; and on May 1, for September and October.

You can make reservations at www.recreation.gov or by calling 1/877-444-6777. Each person climbing the Half Dome cables will be required to have their own permit. Up to four permits may be obtained under one reservation. The permits are free, however, there is a non-refundable \$1.50 service charge for each permit obtained. Four hundred permits will be issued per day, 300 of these will be Day Use Permits and 100 will be included in wilderness permits.

These permits are required for the use of the trail from the base of the subdome to the summit of Half Dome and include the Half Dome cable route.

For detailed information visit our website at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits/htm.

Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

- There are no scheduled winter patrols, so be prepared. Be honest about your abilities and plan with the least experienced member of your group in mind. Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back.
- Be prepared for icy travel before conditions arise. Bring crampons, ice axe, climbing skins, and other traction devices.
- Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
- Check weather forecasts. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult.
- Temperature shifts are common.
- Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food.
- Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.

Protect Yosemite's Wilderness

- Free wilderness permits are required for all wilderness trips.
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper and

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, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Self-service permit kiosks are open during the autumn and winter, with an additional permit point open at Badger Pass. Info: 209/372-0200.

More Information

www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm

Leave No Trace www.lnt.org

Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue www.friendofyosar.org

Avoid Hypothermia

Sierra winters are comparatively mild, but temperatures can

drop into dangerous territory with little warning. Winter sports require a high degree of preparation and training. Be prepared for a bivouac even when out just for the day. Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

Avoid the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Know symptoms of hypothermia. Carry emergency fire-starting materials and food. Avoid dehydration; carry and drink plenty of water and carry emergency high-energy food.

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. Avoid alcohol, sugar, and high-fat meals. Should alti-

tude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

Around Ice and Water

- Stay off frozen lakes, ponds and streams and away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards.
- Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.

Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. Please obey posted speed limits.

Yosemite's roads are also used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and park wildlife, so be cautious. Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road, to take photos, consult the park map, or enjoy the park's scenery and wildlife.

Left: Half Dome Cables
NPS photo by Mark Fincher

Protecting Your Park

Enjoy park places, plants, and wildlife safely and responsibly



Sow and cub. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Fishing

Trout season in Yosemite does not open until April. A valid California sport-fishing license is required for those persons age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible by attaching it to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline.

- Trout season opens on the last Saturday in April and continues through November 15 (except Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, which opens June 15).
- Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the Foresta Bridge in El Portal. Within these reaches of the river, it is catch-and-release only for rainbow trout. Brown trout limits are five fish per day. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used.
- The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

Water Quality

To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking.

- Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier.
- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available, and always wash hands afterwards with soap and water. In natural

areas where facilities are not available, wash, camp, and bury human waste (6 inches deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

Pets

Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. While in the park, pet owners must abide by the following regulations:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. They are not allowed on other trails, or in wilderness areas.
- Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles.
- Pets are not allowed in any lodging facilities or other buildings within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.
- Pets may not be left unattended.

Bicycling

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails. They are not allowed to travel off-trail or on dirt paths or trails

Permits and Other Rules

To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit www.nps.gov/yose/plan_your_visit/your_safety.htm and find a copy of the Superintendent's Compendium. This document is

a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in applicable federal statutes and regulations.

As of February 22, 2010, a federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws, to legally possess firearms in Yosemite. It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering the park. Consult the park website for more information.

Reporting Violations

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

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

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.

is to convince it that you may be dangerous. If attacked, fight back! Report lion encounters at 209/372-0322.



Mountain Lion Sketch by Tom Whitworth

lag behind on the trail. Teach children what to do if they see a lion.

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

Face the lion and stand upright. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up. If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms, shout, and throw objects at it. The goal

Mountain Lions

Mountain lions are a normal and important part of the park ecosystem. They are attracted to areas with healthy deer and raccoon populations, which include many areas of the park.

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

Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or

Keeping Bears Wild

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

1. Store Your Food Properly.

"Food" includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats. Do not store food in your car after dark; you must use a food locker. If you are staying in a campsite or tent cabin, you must store all your food in food lockers. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed. Do not leave food unattended at picnic areas and along trails. When backpacking in the wilderness, bear resistant food containers are required.

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

You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away. Make noise and yell as loudly 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). Getting too close encourages bears to become less wary of humans, which promotes negative behaviors.

3. Drive the speed limit.

The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Please slow down!

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

Yosemite Panoramic Imaging Project

Feature article



This image of El Capitan and Three Brothers is one of 20 photographic panels knit together to create a full panoramic map of Yosemite Valley.

Artistically, this awe-inspiring image allows a viewer to see the full extent of the Valley's magnificent walls in unprecedented detail.

By Elizabeth Munding, Writer/Editor

The Yosemite Panoramic Imaging Project has stitched together a single image of Yosemite Valley by utilizing panoramic photography, LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) digital terrain modeling, and 3-D computer rendering.

This photographic map reveals the awe-inspiring grandeur of Yosemite Valley in one 50-foot wide photo. The project, a partnership between the National Park Service and Los Angeles-based xRez Studio, produced one of the world's largest photographic captures of a single area.

An Intricate Process

Executing this photographic process was an extremely complex procedure. Laser-mapping airplanes flew back and forth over the Valley, collecting LiDAR data, to create a digital topographic model of the land's surface. Then in May 2008, on a single day to ensure uniform lighting, photographic teams positioned themselves at multiple points around the Valley to shoot images simultaneously. From their vantage points, each team produced 500 overlapping shots. These images were assembled into 20 high-resolution panoramic panels which, when stitched together, produced the full photographic map.

The panoramic photos were then projected onto a 1-meter resolution

digital terrain model, produced from the LiDAR data, in 3-D software.

The final product gives a viewer the feeling of taking a soaring flight over the eight-mile length of Yosemite Valley.

Rockfall Study

At its inception, this project was initially devised to support scientists as they studied the dynamic geology of Yosemite Valley. Rockfalls regularly occur here, with more than 600 events documented in the last 150 years.

From a geologist's point of view, the image enhances the accuracy of rockfall monitoring through repeat-imaging (before and after) analysis. Prior to this imaging project, monitoring rockfall activity has been difficult. Geologists typically would gather the geologic data of rock faces by climbing cliffs, which poses obvious dangers.

"Every rockfall event begins with the basic documentation: Where was it, how big was it, and why did it happen? Geologists have asked these questions about rockfalls in Yosemite for the past 150 years, but now we're doing it with a precision that earlier scientists couldn't have dreamed of," said Greg Stock, Yosemite National Park geologist. "Sometimes these photos are the only way of ascertaining the location and size of the fall. I can immediately go to the photograph, zoom in on it, and see what

the mass of rock looked like before it failed. That can tell me a lot about why it failed."

Beyond Geology

While this project was initially designed to support geologic studies, the image shows the granitic complexity of Yosemite Valley's walls, while also capturing the artistic value of the rugged landscape beyond any scientific needs. The image has many applications, and will serve many purposes beyond the study of Yosemite's glaciated peaks.

For example, the park's wildlife biologists will use the panoramic photo to scout the Valley cliffs for potential nesting sites of the endangered peregrine falcon.

Yosemite's search-and-rescue personnel find the image's intricate portrayal of the Valley's cliffs and rocky terrain extremely useful. Before beginning a rescue operation they can study detailed images of the rescue site. This will allow them to do an in-depth inspection of the area to assess the potential risks to the rescue team and the injured party.

The elaborate detail available from this photo is a climbing enthusiast's delight. Using this bird's eye view, recreational climbers viewing the image can identify potential routes for a Sunday afternoon climb.

Artistically, this awe-inspiring image allows a viewer to see the full extent of the Valley's magnificent walls in unprecedented detail. It has turned a geology project into an artifact of lasting cultural heritage for both the park and its many visitors and enthusiasts.

See Full Image Online

The full panoramic map is best viewed online. To view the full image, go to the xRez site (http://www.xrez.com/yose_proj/Yose_result.html) to download and install the HD plug-in Silverlight to your browser.



This map marks some of the locations used by the photographic teams as they took their overlapping images.

Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's future

Enhancing the Visitor Experience

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

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



Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg

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 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.

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

The Yosemite Fund and Yosemite Association have Merged!

We're thrilled to announce a new era in support for Yosemite National Park! In December 2009, The Yosemite Fund and Yosemite Association agreed to form a unified nonprofit organization. By combining the proud histories of the two organizations, more programs and projects can be accomplished to protect Yosemite and inspire enduring connections for current and future generations. While a transition to a consolidated organization occurs, the Fund and Association will outwardly operate as they do now. More information about the merger is located on each organization's website. (yosemitefund.org and yosemite.org)

Contact Us...

The Ansel Adams Gallery

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209/372-4413
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DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

PO Box 578
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801/559-5000
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Yosemite Association

PO Box 230
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www.yosemite.org

The Yosemite Fund

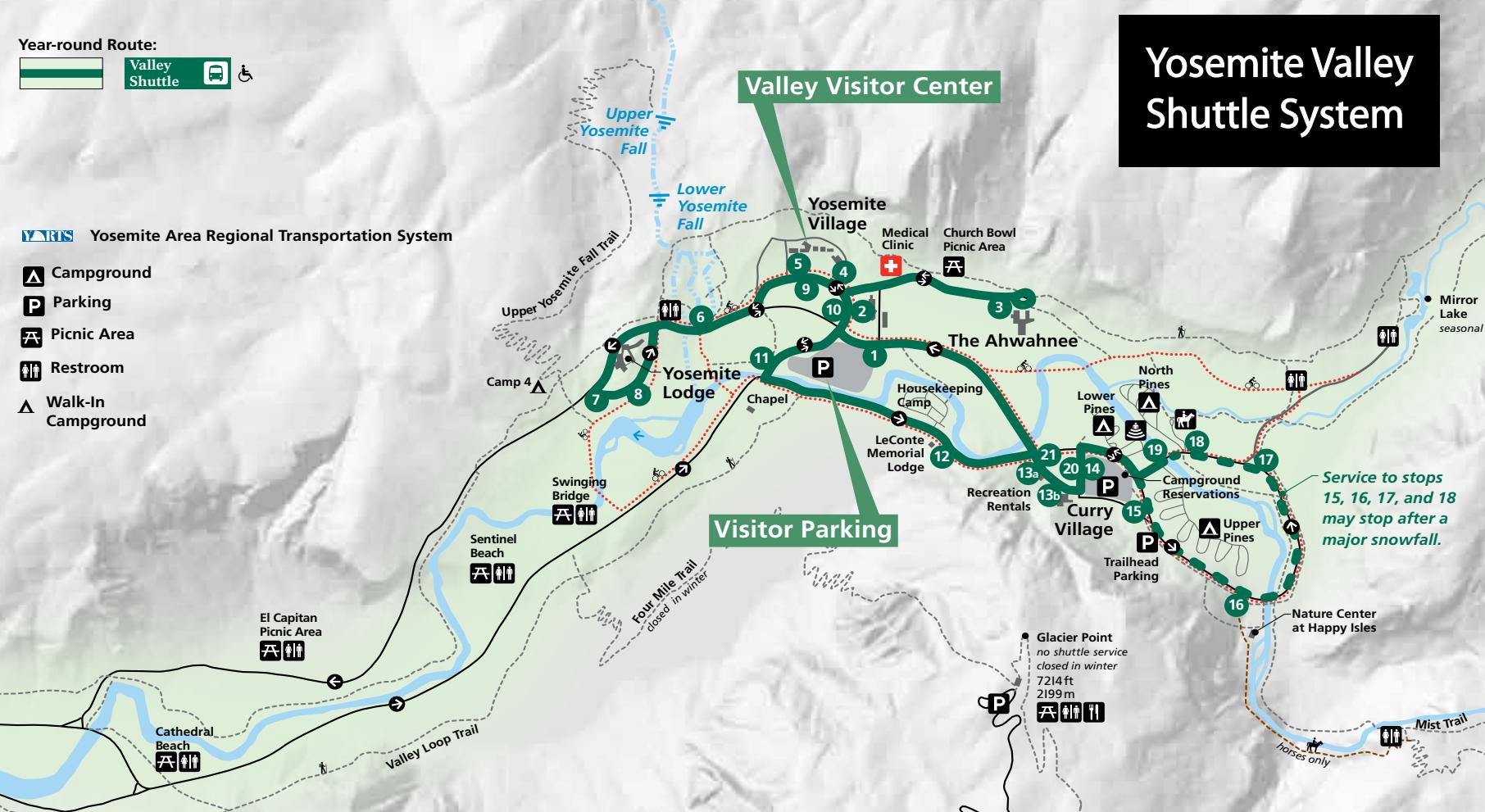
155 Montgomery St. #1104
San Francisco, CA 94104
800/469-7275 or 415/434-1782
www.yosemitefund.org

Yosemite Institute

PO Box 487
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/379-9511
209/379-9510 fax
www.yni.org



Yosemite Valley Shuttle System



Year-round Route:
 Valley Shuttle

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

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

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

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

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