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Yosemite's
Wildflowers

April-May 2010

Dogwood Blossoms. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

April 14 - May 25, 2010

Yosemite Guide

Things to Do

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

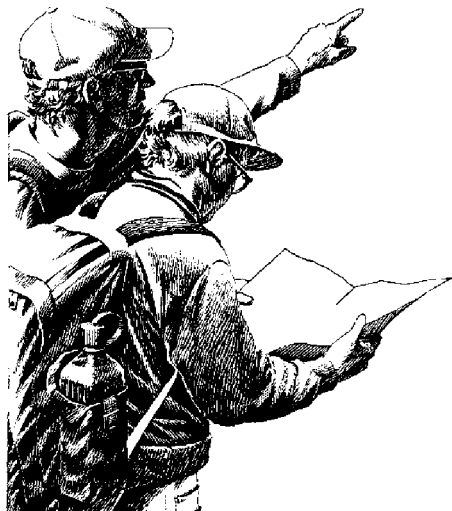


Illustration by Lawrence W. Duke

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 springtime adventure.

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 distinct 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



Junior Ranger program. See page 3 for times and meeting places. NPS photo by Greg Nespor

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. (Map on page 2; program listings page 3.)

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.)



Doe and Fawn. 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.) Portions of trail closed due to rockfall.

Meander Through a Meadow

Behold some of Yosemite’s majestic waterfalls and massive cliffs. Enjoy wildflowers and wildlife in one of the park’s lush meadows. Enjoy these wetlands while preserving their fragile nature by staying on established paths and boardwalks.

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 cold 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.)

Stroll with a Ranger

Learn about the wonders of the park on a ranger-guided stroll. Programs are offered daily in Yosemite Valley on a variety of topics including waterfalls, bears, geology, trees, Yosemite Indians and more. Check the program guide for locations and topics. (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.

What’s Inside:

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Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Entrance Fees

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

Vehicle \$20
Valid for 7 days

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

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

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

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

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

Reservations

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

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

Regional Info

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

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

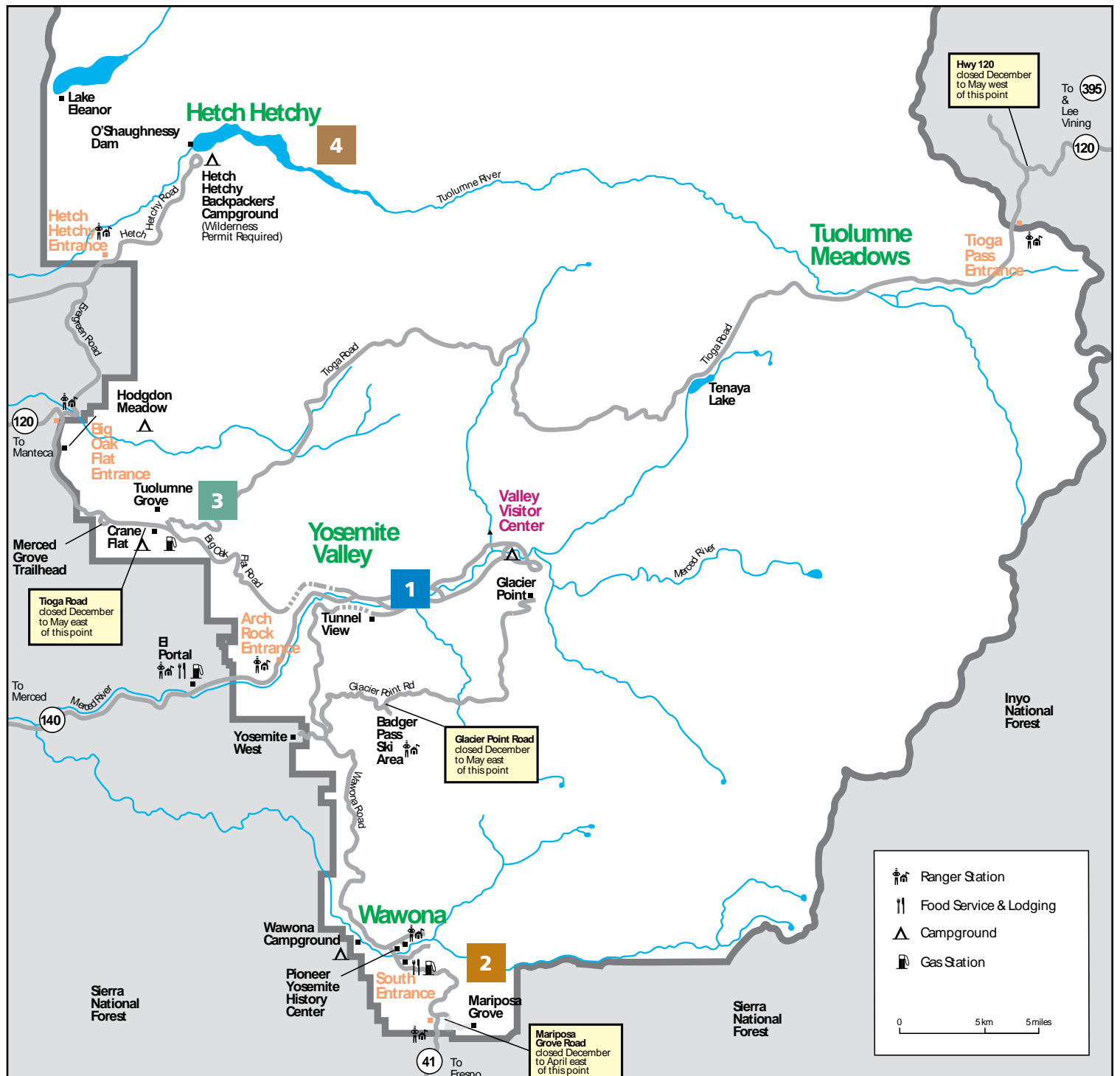
Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/683-4636
www.yosemitethisyear.com

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

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

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

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



Yosemite Valley

1 Even if you've been here before, the Valley is packed with wonders to keep you exploring. The Valley is open every day and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 west from Manteca. Here you will find the park's main visitor center—a base for further exploration. Be aware that first-come/first-served campground reservations are very limited.

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 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.

Crane Flat

3 Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area, and walk 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.

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 7 am through 8 pm through April 30. Hours extend to 7 am to 9 pm as of May 1.

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

Key to Events and Programs

- 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 209/372-0645 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 weeks is requested.



Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request.

Events and Programs

YOSEMITE VALLEY

WAWONA / MARIPOSA GROVE

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	WAWONA / MARIPOSA GROVE
Sunday	<p>9:00am Photography Walk 1½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)</p> <p>10:00am Ranger Stroll - Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Lower Yosemite Fall, shuttle stop #6 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm Fine Print Tour 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up and meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG)</p> <p>6:00pm WEE WILD ONES ¾ hr. Stories & activities for kids 6 and under. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: "This is America", a film by Ken Burns (May 2, 9 only) 1½ hrs. Hosted by Ranger Shelton Johnson. Valley Visitor Center Theater. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center bookstore (9am-5pm) or any tour desk. (YA) \$ ♿</p> <p>8:00pm LeConte Memorial Lodge 1 hr. Shuttle stop #12 (May 2 only) John Muir & Teddy Roosevelt in Yosemite, 1903; (May 9 only) Glacier Bay, Grizzly Bears, Tongass National Forest; (May 23 only) Nature's Beloved Son: Evening with John Muir's Flowers</p> <p>8:30pm Ranger Program (Except April 18 & 25) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC/NPS) ♿</p> <p>Evening Program (May 23 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (Except April 18, 25, & May 2) ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove (Except April 18, 25, & May 2) 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)</p> <p>2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove (Except April 18, 25, & May 2) 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)</p>
Monday	<p>8:00am Springtime Bird Walk 2 hrs. Meet at Art and Education Center. (YA) \$</p> <p>9:00am Photography Walk 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance at the Ansel Adams Gallery. Meet at The Ahwahnee (AAG) ♿</p> <p>10:00am Ranger Stroll - Yosemite's First People 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: Vintage Songs of Yosemite (May 3, 10, 17, 24 only) 1½ hrs. Yosemite entertainer Tom Bopp sings live to historic images and films including the Fire Fall. Valley Visitor Center Theater. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center bookstore (9am-5pm) or any tour desk. (YA) \$ ♿</p> <p>8:30pm Ranger Program (Except April 19) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC/NPS) ♿</p> <p>Evening Program (May 24 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) ♿</p>	
Tuesday	<p>9:00am Photography Walk 1½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)</p> <p>10:00am Ranger Stroll - Trees 1½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop # 3 (NPS)</p> <p>Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center, Yosemite Village. See page 6 for details. (YA)</p> <p>12:00pm Yosemite Forum (May 12 only) 1 hr. Selected lectures by scientists working in the park. Auditorium (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm Using Your Digital Camera Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$</p> <p>5:30pm Spring Twilight Stroll 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: Conversations With a Tramp: A Evening With John Muir (May 4, 11, 18, 25 only) 1½ hrs. A live performance featuring Lee Stetson. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center bookstore (9am-5pm) or any tour desk. (YA) \$ ♿</p> <p>8:30pm Ranger Program (Except April 20) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC/NPS) ♿</p> <p>Evening Program (May 25 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) ♿</p>	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿
Wednesday	<p>10:00am Ranger Stroll - Wild About Wildlife (Except April 21) 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS)</p> <p>Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center, Yosemite Village. See page 6 for details. (YA)</p> <p>1:00pm Open House (April 28 only) 3 hrs. Come learn about park improvement efforts. Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm Wildflower Walk (April 28 only) ¾ hr. Join Yosemite's Resources Management & Science staff on a walk through Cook's Meadow. Meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center. (NPS)</p> <p>6:00pm WEE WILD ONES ¾ hr. Stories and activities for kids 6 and under. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: John Muir Among the Animals (May 5, 12, 16, 19) 1½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center bookstore (9am-5pm) or any tour desk. (YA) \$ ♿</p> <p>8:30pm Ranger Program (Except April 14 & 21) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC/NPS) ♿</p>	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music and interpretive programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿
Thursday	<p>8:00am Springtime Bird Walk 2 hrs. Meet at Art and Education Center. (YA) \$</p> <p>9:00am Photography Walk 1½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)</p> <p>Earth Day Stewardship Project (April 22 only) 2 hrs. Join Yosemite's Resource Management & Science staff for an Earth Day work party. Meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center. Closed-toe shoes required. (NPS)</p> <p>10:00am Ranger Stroll - Yosemite's Legacy 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center, Yosemite Village. See page 6 for details. (YA)</p> <p>2:00pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with Your Camera 4 hrs. Limited space. Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$</p> <p>EARTH DAY BIKE RIDE (April 22 only) 3 hrs. Join park staff for this fun and educational bike ride on Earth Day! Advance reservations required. Tickets/info at any tour desk. \$</p> <p>5:30pm Spring Twilight Stroll 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: The Spirit of John Muir (May 6, 13 only) 1½ hr. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center bookstore (9am-5pm) or any tour desk. (YA) \$ ♿</p> <p>8:30pm Ranger Program (Except April 15 & 22) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC/NPS) ♿</p>	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿
Friday	<p>10:00am Ranger Stroll - Geology 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center, Yosemite Village. See page 6 for details. (YA)</p> <p>6:00pm WEE WILD ONES (Except April 16) ¾ hr. Stories and activities for kids 6 and under. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm EARTH DAY FAMILY NIGHT (April 16 only) 1½ hrs. Launch Earth Day with song and entertainment. Yosemite Lodge ♿</p> <p>Yosemite Theater LIVE: Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey (May 7, 14, 21 only) 1½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center bookstore (9am-5pm) or any tour desk. (YA) \$ ♿</p> <p>8:00pm LeConte Memorial Lodge 1 hr. Shuttle stop #12 (May 7 only) AMERICAN INDIAN STORYTELLING & FLUTE; (May 14 only) Galen Clark: Guardian of Yosemite; (May 21 only) Nature and Spirit: Poetry Reading.</p> <p>8:30pm Ranger Program (Except April 16, 23) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS/AAG) ♿</p> <p>NIGHT PROWL (Except April 16) 1½ hrs. Explore Yosemite at night. Tickets/info at any tour desk (DNC) \$ ♿</p> <p>Film: Ansel Adams (Except April 16) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue and topic. (AAG) ♿</p>	<p>2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove (Except April 16, 23, 30) 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)</p> <p>5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Drop by the piano and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
Saturday	<p>9:00am Bike to Hike Tour 2½ hrs. Curry Village bike stand. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>Photography Walk 1½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)</p> <p>10:00am Ranger Stroll - Bears 1½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>Art Class 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center, Yosemite Village. See page 6 for details. (YA)</p> <p>10:30am Earth Day Village Celebration (April 17 only) Walks, talks, and activities. See local listings in Yosemite Village. ♿</p> <p>11:00am Junior Ranger Walk (April 24 only) 1 hr. All ages welcome! Happy Isles Nature Center. See pg. 5 for info. (NPS/DNC)</p> <p>12:00pm Exploration Fair (April 24 only) 4 hrs. Drop-in activities. Happy Isles Nature Center. See pg. 5 for info. (NPS/DNC)</p> <p>1:00pm Kids Photography Walk (April 24 only) 1 hr. Happy Isles Nature Center. See pg. 5 for info. (NPS/DNC).</p> <p>2:00pm Learn and Serve (April 24 only) 2 hrs. Recommended for ages 7-13. Happy Isles Nature Center. See pg. 5 for info. (NPS/DNC)</p> <p>Wee Wild Ones (April 24 only) 1 hr. Recommended ages 6 & under. Happy Isles Nature Center. See pg. 5 (NPS/DNC)</p> <p>Discovery Hike - Vernal Falls Bridge 3½ hrs. Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS)</p> <p>Using Your Digital Camera Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG)</p> <p>Junior Ranger Day Stewardship Project (April 24 only) 2 hrs. Join Yosemite Resources Management & Science staff for a Junior Ranger Day work party. Closed-toe shoes required. Happy Isles Nature Center, shuttle stop #16 (NPS)</p> <p>5:30pm Spring Twilight Stroll 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE: Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey (April 17, 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22 only) 1½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center bookstore or any tour desk. (YA) \$ ♿</p> <p>7:30 pm INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY PROGRAM (April 24 only) 1-1½ hrs. Tickets/info at any tour desk (DNC) \$ ♿</p> <p>8:00pm LeConte Memorial Lodge 1 hr. Shuttle stop #12 (May 1 only) Hiking Half Dome; (May 8 only) Yosemite Update: History, Architecture, Landscape; (May 15 only) Evening of Mountain Music: Nature Inspires Music; (May 22 only) Yosemite History and the John Muir Papers.</p> <p>8:30pm The Spirit of John Muir (April 17 only) 1 hr. Earth Day weekend with Muir. Free. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) ♿</p> <p>Ranger Program (Except April 17 & 24) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #19 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>Evening Program (Except April 17) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC/NPS/AAC) ♿</p> <p>Evening Program (May 22 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) ♿</p> <p>NIGHT PROWL (Except April 17, 24) 1½ hrs. Explore Yosemite at night. Tickets/info at any tour desk (DNC) \$ ♿</p>	<p>8:00am Coffee with a Ranger (Except April 17, 24, & May 1) ¾ hr. Bring a mug. Wawona Campground Amphitheater. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>10:00am Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove (Except April 17, 24, & May 1) 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)</p> <p>2:00pm Nature Walk in the Mariposa Grove (Except April 17, 24, & May 1) 1½ hrs. Lower Grove trailhead (NPS)</p> <p>5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. Drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details. Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>

Exploring Yosemite

Spectacular vistas and quiet corners of the park



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. Bicycle trails 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 spend several hours switchbacking to an area near 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.

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. Cross the footbridge to the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story. It's easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. You can also park at Curry Village and walk. 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. This portion of the trail is closed when ice or high water makes the route hazardous. Please observe warning signs along the trail, and always pack your trash out.

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 open-air tram. An experienced guide narrates the tour. An enclosed motor-coach is used in poor weather.

A variety of other **bus and open-top tram tours** are offered each week. Call 209/372-1240 for reservations. You can also inquire at the tour and transportation or desks at Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee (open 7:30-7pm), or Curry Village and the Village Store parking lot which open May 7.

You can experience **the Valley by bike** by bringing your own, or by renting at Curry Village or Yosemite Lodge. Rental offices are open 10 am to 5:30 pm; closed 1:30 to 2 pm for lunch.

Yosemite Mountaineering School (located in the Mountain Shop at Curry Village) offers group hikes, backpacking excursions, climbing instruction, and guided climbing. Call 209/372-8344 for more information.

Self-Guiding Trails

A Changing Yosemite

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

Mirror Lake

Mirror Lake interpretive trail is closed past Mirror Lake due to rockfall. You can hike to Mirror Lake, however. To reach the start of the trail, walk one mile from shuttle stop #17 to the disabled parking spaces near the lake.

Indian Village

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

Curry Village

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



Top: Yosemite Falls, Dogwood. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Bridalveil 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 Chilmualna Falls, one of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley.

Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is Yosemite's largest stand of giant sequoias (about 500 trees). You can park near the grove and walk in or take an open-air tram tour. There is a free shuttle to the grove on weekends, beginning April 24; daily operations begin on May 7 (weather permitting).

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 7 am to 8 pm through April 30. The road is open until 9 pm starting May 1. 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. Its relatively low elevation gives the area one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite National Park.

Glacier Point

The Glacier Point Road is anticipated to open for visitor traffic sometime in May. You can get the latest road-closure info at the Valley Visitor Center or by calling 209/372-0200. At Glacier Point, you can go to the railing's edge and catch your breath at an exhilarating view, looking down 3,214 feet to the Valley floor.

Tuolumne Meadows

Tioga Road, which links east and west segments of California Hwy 120, will likely open in late June. Although Tuolumne Meadows is only a 1.5 hour drive (55 miles) from Yosemite Valley, it is a world apart. Moving through elevations 6,200 to almost 10,000 feet at Tioga Pass, the road gives access to high country hiking and climbing. As the snow melts, hiking options increase. Campgrounds are expected to open in June. Wilderness permits will be available at the Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center once the road opens.



April 24: National Junior Ranger Day

Join rangers and DNC staff for guided and drop-in activities. Meet at the Nature Center at Happy Isles. Adult accompaniment REQUIRED for all events.

11:00am **Junior Ranger Walk** 1 hr. All ages welcome!
 12:00pm **Exploration Fair** 4 hrs. Drop-in activities.
 1:00pm **Kids Photography Walk** 1 hr..
 2:00pm **Learn and Serve** 2 hrs. Recommended for ages 7-13. Resource Stewardship project. Closed-toe shoes required.
Wee Wild Ones 1 hr. Recommended for ages 6 and under.
 7:30pm **International Astronomy Day Activities** See page 3 for information.
 8:30pm **National Parks in the Sky** Ranger Slide presentation at Yosemite Lodge.

Wawona: Pines & Golf at 4,000 ft.

Opened in 1918, the fairways at Wawona make up the first regulation golf course in In the Sierra Nevada. The 9-hole course is open from 9 am to 5 pm daily, conditions permitting. Wawona greens are the first in California to be maintained by wholly organic means (no synthetic pesticides or fertilizer), and the course is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.



Earth Day Events April 16-22

Earth Day is Thursday, April 22. But the park celebration will spread across the week.

Earth Day Family Night

7pm on Friday, April 16. Song, dance, & entertainment. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater.

Village Celebration

10:30am on Saturday, April 17. Displays and activities on the Village Mall, in front of the Valley Visitor Center.

Poetry and Parks: A walk and Reading

5:30pm on Saturday, April 17. Meet on the lawn behind The Ahwahnee.

Earth Day Stewardship Project

9am on Thursday, April 22. Join park staff for a Earth Day work party! Closed-toe shoes required.

Pedal, Play, and Protect

2pm on Thursday, April 22. Tickets for educational bike ride can be purchased at tour desks.

Top: Giant Sequoias.
 Photo by Christine White Loberg
 Bottom: Golf course and hotel at Wawona.
 Photo: DNC Parks & Resorts, Inc.

Yosemite Valley

Dates, times, and places



Right: Rangers with visitors. NPS photo by Erik Skindrud. Center: Leidig Meadow, Spring. Photo by Christine White Loberg. Left: Ranger-led program on Valley trees. Photo by Ray Santos

Throughout Yosemite National Park

Spring is a time of dramatic growth and motion and offers special opportunities for adventure and photography. 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. 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. Bear canisters and permits will be available here until the Wilderness Center opens May 1

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

FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

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

Internet Access

Fee-based terminals are open at Degnan's Deli during business hours. 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 is reserved for guest use only.

Yurt Info Station

Starting May 1, Yosemite Association volunteers will staff an information station at Visitor Parking (see map on

back of this Guide). Yurt Information Station hours are 10 am to 4 pm daily.

Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

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 RENAISSANCE ART SHOW

Yosemite Renaissance is an exhibit of contemporary art at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. The exhibit ends May 2.



Winter Shadows. Alan Work

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

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

Nature Center at Happy Isles

Designed for nature-exploring families, the center offers natural-history exhibits and a bookstore (Open Friday-Sunday through May 25). The center is a short walk from shuttle stop # 16. Exhibits will be open 9:30 am to 5 pm April 24 & 25 only. Beginning April 30th their hours will be Mon.-Thur. 10am-4pm, and 9:30-5, Fri. -Sun. The bookstore will be open Fri. - Sun.

Free Art Classes

The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers free art classes. Please register in advance at the center, located south of the Village Store. \$5 suggested donation per day. For times, see page 3.

April 20-24 Steve Curl, watercolor

April 27-May 1 Annie Lawrence, block printing

May 4-8 Carolyn Fitz, Sumi-e Ink Painting

May 10-15 Fealing Lin, watercolor

May 18-22 Sonja Hamilton, watercolor

May 25-29 Linda Nadel, watercolor

Wilderness Center

The Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village and opens May 1. Hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm. Wilderness permits, info, and bear canister rentals are available. Phone: 209/372-0745.

Ansel Adams Gallery

In Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm through May 3. After May 3 it's open 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

April 14 - May 25 New work from celebrated local Yosemite artist, Penny Otwell. A reception will be held for the artist on April 15 from 4-6pm.

LeConte Memorial Lodge

The Lodge is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm, with free evening programs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings. Programs are scheduled for 8 pm. The Lodge is located at shuttle stop #12.

POST OFFICE

Yosemite Village

Main Office

Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm

Saturday: 10am to noon

Yosemite Lodge

Post Office

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

El Portal

Post Office

Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm

closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30

Wawona Post Office

Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm

Saturday: 9am to noon

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

Yosemite Village

The Ansel Adams Gallery

9am to 5pm (to 6pm as of May 9)

Yosemite Art & Education Center

Opening April 4, 9:00am to 12 pm and

1 to 5pm. Art classes offered Tuesday-

Saturday 10am to 2pm.

Yosemite Bookstore

Inside Yosemite Visitor Center

9am to 5pm

Yosemite Museum Store

9am to 5pm (May close for lunch)

Village Store

8am to 9pm

Habitat Yosemite/Green Store

11am to 4pm

Thursday-Sunday only

Sport Shop

10am to 5pm

The Ahwahnee

The Ahwahnee Gift Shop

8am to 9pm

The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop

7am to 10pm

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

Nature Shop

10am to 7pm

Curry Village

Mountain Shop

8am to 6pm

Yosemite Mountaineering School

8am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm

Curry Village Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

Wawona

Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 6pm

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

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Yosemite Village

Degnan's Delicatessen

7am to 5pm daily

Degnan's Loft

5pm to 9pm (Starting April 1)

Village Grill

11am to 5pm (Starting March 31)

The Ahwahnee

Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am

Lunch: 11:30am to 3pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm

Appropriate attire requested for

dinner. Reservations recommended for

dinner and Sunday Brunch and required

for Mother's Day brunch. Call

801/559-4935.

The Ahwahnee Bar 11am to 11pm

Yosemite Lodge

Food Court

Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am

Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm

Dinner: 5pm-8:00pm

Mountain Room Lounge

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

Noon - 11pm (Sat.-Sun.)

Mountain Room Restaurant

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

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

Curry Village

Pavillion Buffet

Breakfast 7-10am daily

Dinner 5:30-8pm daily

Pizza Deck

5-9pm Mon.-Fri.; Noon-10pm Sat.-Sun.

Noon-10pm (Daily starting May 3)

Coffee Corner

7am to 11am daily

6am to 10pm (Daily starting May 15)

Taqueria

11am to 5pm (Daily starting April 17)

Happy Isles Snack Stand

Opens April 17

11am to 5pm (Daily through May 21)

11am to 7pm (Daily starting May 22)

Wawona

Wawona Hotel Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

Easter & Mother's Day Sunday Brunch,

April 4 and May 9 daily

10:30am to 1:30pm

Brunch reservations recommended.

Daily reservations taken for 6 or more.

209/375-1425

Saturday BBQs 5pm-7pm beginning

May 16.

GROCERIES

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

Yosemite Village

Village Store

8am to 9pm

Degnan's Delicatessen

7am to 5pm

Curry Village

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm;

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 6pm

Crane Flat Store

9am to 5pm

GAS STATION

Gas outside Yosemite Valley

El Portal

9am to noon, 1pm to 5pm

Diesel available. Pay at the pump 24

hours with credit or debit card

Wawona Gas Station

9am to 6pm (Propane when open)

Pay at the pump 24 hours

Crane Flat

9am to 5pm

Pay at the pump 24 hours

SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

Curry Village

Showers Open 24 hours

Housekeeping Camp

Laundromat 8am to 10pm

Showers 7am to 10pm

Visitor Services

Locations and hours across the park

Wawona

Pioneer Yosemite History Center

Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explains how Yosemite inspired 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 Visitor Center at Hill's Studio



Come visit the newly renovated lobby and exhibit hall, featuring full-scale reproductions of Thomas Hill's paintings. The exhibit tells the story of the artist, and the impact of landscape painting on the park preservation movement.

Open 8:30 am to 5 pm beginning May 7. Offers wilderness permits, trail information, books, and an exhibit on Thomas Hill. Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona Store and follow the path up the hill. More info: 209/375-9531.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH

(NONDENOMINATIONAL)

WEEKLY WORSHIP / YOSEMITE VALLEY CHAPEL

Sunday 9:15am (Sunday School at this

service only); 6:30pm Evening Service/Bible

Study (No Child Care); Thursday 7:00pm

Tuesday Bible Studies: Women's - 6:30pm,

call chapel for location. Men's - 6:30pm at

the chapel.

Marriage Renewal Sunday: May 2, 9:15am

and 11:00am. Info: 209/372-4831

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Saturday Mass: 6:00pm Lower Pines Camp-

ground Amphitheater

Sunday Mass: 10:00am Yosemite Valley Visi-

tor Center Theater; 6:00pm Cedar Lodge,

El Portal (bi-lingual)

Daily Mass: Wednesday & Friday 6:30pm at

the Rectory, 9006 Cedar Ct.

For information call 209/372-4729

CHURCH OF CHRIST

(NONDENOMINATIONAL)

El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am

Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane

Info: 209/379-2100

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 is expected open by May.

Getting to Mariposa Grove

Allow an hour's driving time to reach the grove's access road from the Valley.

Dogs and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.

Crane Flat & Hetch Hetchy

Big Oak Flat and North Entrance

The route enters the park on California Hwy 120. Yosemite's north region is often uncrowded, and offers lesser-known gems including the giant sequoia groves near Crane Flat, and the trails and waterfalls of Hetch Hetchy. The Big Oak Flat information station opens May 14, 8am - 4:30pm. The facility offers information, wilderness permits, bear canisters, books, and maps. Wilderness permits are available by self-registration until May 13.

Merced Grove

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees. It's a four-mile round-trip hike from Big Oak Flat Road.

Tuolumne Grove

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat. The path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip is moderately strenuous.

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center

Opening date pending.

When open, hours are 9 am to 5 pm. 📍

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs

Two trails, both flat and 3/4 mi. long, lead to this historic area.

Tuolumne Meadows

Wilderness Center

The center is scheduled to open along with Tioga Road. Hours will be 8 am to 4:30pm, with a daily closure for lunch. Wilderness permits, bear canisters, information, books, and maps are available. The center is located just as you turn onto the Tuolumne Lodge Road.

Outdoor Adventures

Yosemite Association Seminars

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

- April 27** Moonbow Photography, a camera quest for the mythical lunar arc.
- May 15-16** Merced Grove Overnight, a night in a historic cabin in the sequoias.
- May 20-23** Yosemite Valley Pastels, a weekend of artistic creativity in the park.

YA Custom Adventures

The Yosemite Association also offers individualized Custom Adventures for groups and families. Led by naturalists, the option lets you focus on your own area of interest.

Info: 209/379-2321, ext. 12.

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

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

7:30pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday DNC General Office Building(Employee Training Center) Yosemite Village

AL-ANON

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

LIONS CLUB

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

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

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

Protecting Yourself

Experience Yosemite—Keep yourself safe while exploring your park



Half Dome Cables NPS Photo by Mark Fincher

Are You Hiking to Half Dome?

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 has instituted an **interim permit program** to access the Half Dome cables on **Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays** starting in May 2010. Permits became available March 1, 2010 for May and June; April 1, for July and August; and will be available 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. A non-refundable service charge of \$1.50 will apply for each permit obtained.

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, 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. (See “Water Quality” at right.)
- 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.

- 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, Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows, Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station (opening times vary), and the Big Oak Flat Information Station (open May 14, 8am-4:30pm). 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.friendofyosar.org

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.

Water Safety

- Stay 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. 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.

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 opens the last Saturday in April. A valid California sport-fishing license is required for anglers 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

- 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, wash, camp, and bury human waste (6 inches deep) at least 100 feet from water or trail.

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

Pets

Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. Keep in mind, in Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:

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

Bicycling

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

Permits and Other Rules

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

lag behind on the trail. Teach children what to do if they see a lion. Never approach a lion, especially if it is with kittens. Most lions will avoid confrontation. Always give them a way to escape. Don't run. Hold your ground, or back away slowly.

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

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

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.



MountainLion Sketch by Tom Whitworth

Keeping Bears Wild

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

1. Store Your Food Properly.

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

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

You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away. Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). 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 Wildflowers

Feature article



Spider Lupine. Photo by Christine White Lobeg

Rich Yosemite Flora Blossoms With 1,450 Species!

By Elizabeth Munding, Writer/Editor

Yosemite is a wildflower enthusiast's paradise, where blossoms are found most of the year. The park's 11,000-foot range in elevation—from 2,000 feet on the west to 13,000 on the east—provides a phenomenal variety of growing conditions.

The park's location in the central Sierra Nevada makes it a crossroads for plant species that have migrated over the millennia from the Pacific coast, Great Basin, southern deserts, and northern mountains. The result of this mix of migrants is an extremely rich flora of 1,450 species, with 25 percent of California's native plants represented in the park. Yosemite is home to flowers common in other places, such as the rosy sedum—a small succulent found across the northern parts of the world—and to uncommon flora, such as the Yosemite woolly sunflower found only in the park's region. No matter where you go in the park, different species of lupines, paintbrushes, buckwheats, and other genera are to be found.

Spring in the Lower Elevations

In March, spring blossoms open at the west edge of the park in the Merced River canyon (especially the Hite Cove trail seven miles outside the park). Look for fields of tufted poppies, spider lupines, fiddlenecks, popcorn flowers, owl's clover and rebuds. By mid-May, shooting stars, showy milkweed, cow parsnip, western azalea, pine violets, evening primrose, seep-spring monkey-

flower, Applegate's paintbrush, baby blue eyes, bird's eyes, larkspur and dogwood burst into bloom in Yosemite. These first wildflowers are followed by goldenrod, Sierra lessingia, sneezeweed, and woolly mule-ears. In particular, search for pussy paws growing in sandy areas. This low growing plant raises its flower stems each morning and lowers them in the evening, but why it does this is a mystery.

Popular Trails at these lower elevations include Cook's Meadow Loop in the Valley, Wawona Meadow Loop in Wawona, and Wapama Falls in Hetch Hetchy.

Spring in the Higher Elevations

Another set of wildflowers emerge before the snows completely melt in the higher forests and meadows along the Glacier Point Road, which climbs to more than 7,000 feet in elevation. The unusual looking snow plant pops out through thin layers of the remaining snow. The snow plant lacks any green because it doesn't photosynthesize, instead it feeds off soil fungi. Its red color attracts hummingbirds, which feed from its bell shaped flowers.

In granitic gravels, look for mountain pride, spreading phlox, sulfur buckwheat, mouse-tail, mountain pennyroyal, sandwort, monkeyflowers (in yellow and red hues), Sierra forget-me-nots, and pretty face.

In wet meadows and along stream banks, hunt for corn lily, monkshood,

shooting stars, arrow leaf groundsel, leopard lily, rein orchids, marsh marigold, and great red paintbrush. Note that red paintbrushes also attract hummingbirds. Most of the red color is found actually on the plant's colored bracts and sepals, not on the petals.

In forested zones, keep your eye out for groundsel, lupines, red columbine, wallflower, coralroot orchid, dogbane, mariposa lily, and wild strawberry.

Popular trails in the higher elevations include McGurk Meadow, Taft Point, and Sentinel Dome; all located along the Glacier Point Road. The first part of the McGurk meadow trail leads through forests where you'll see a variety of woodland flowers. In less than a mile, the trail reaches the flower gardens of the meadow. Both the Taft Point and Sentinel Dome trails offer a wide array of flowers in the first half mile.



California Poppies Photo by Christine White Lobeg

Plan to Take Your Time

In Yosemite, there are many opportunities to join other wildflower enthusiasts. Stop by the visitor center in Yosemite Valley for information on great wildflower walks. You can also register for a Yosemite Association wildflower hike, led by an expert botanist who visits the park's best wildflower spots. When on a wildflower walk, plan to take your time because flower enthusiasts typically take it slow to examine plants. To prepare for a wildflower walk, bring along a Sierra Nevada wildflower guide and a magnifying lens. The Yosemite Association sells guides online and at the park's visitor centers.

Join a Wildflower Walk

Spend time with Yosemite's vegetation specialists as they lead a 45-minute wildflower walk through Cook's Meadow, Wednesday April 28, at 2:30. Meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center.

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 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 Association

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

The Yosemite Fund

The Fund provides broad-based private funding from 27,000 donors 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
800/469-7275 or 415/434-1782
www.yosemitfund.org

Yosemite Institute

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

The Yosemite Fund and Yosemite Association have Merged!

We are 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 organizations website.

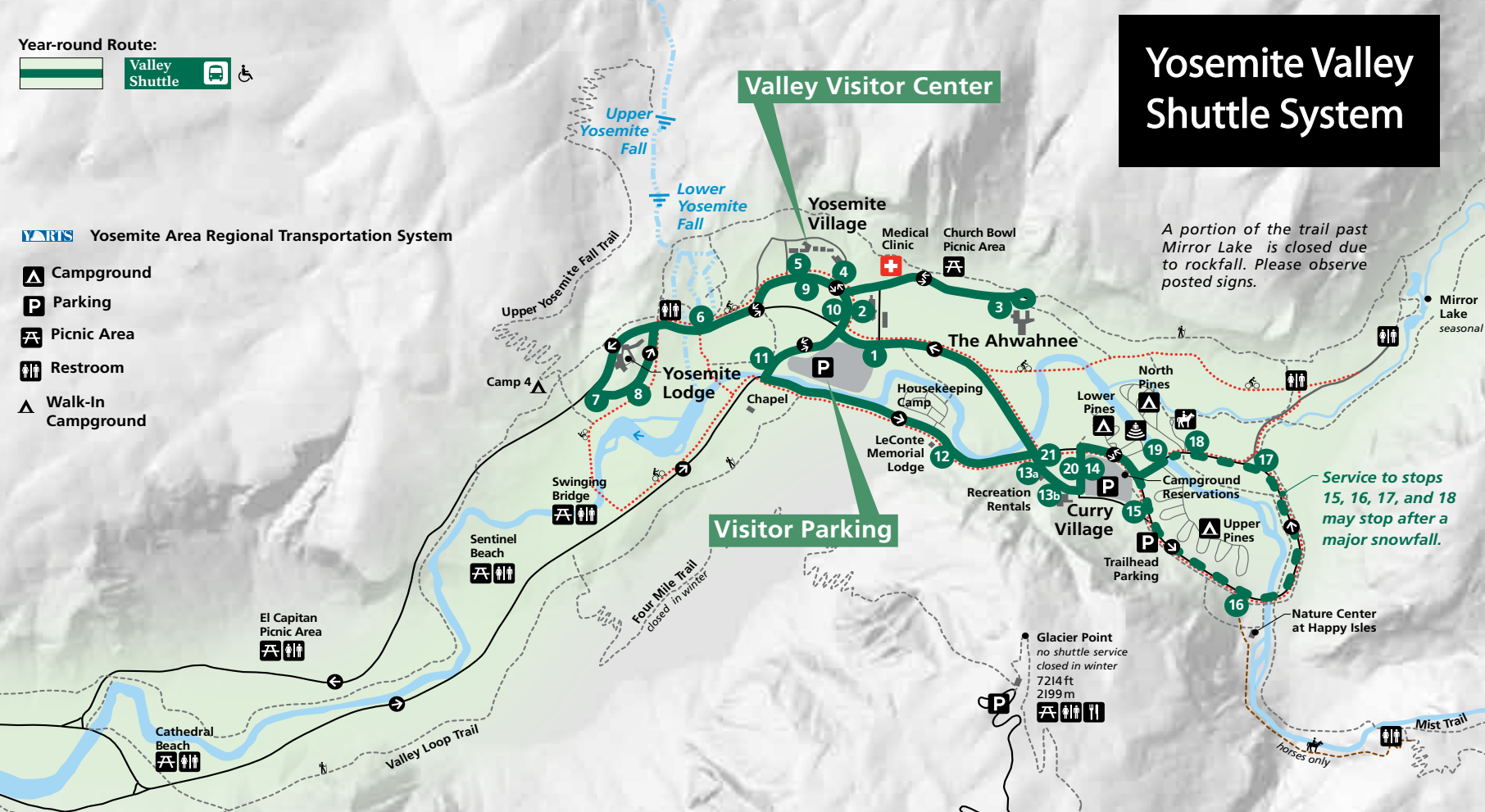


THE YOSEMITE FUND®

Providing for Yosemite's Future



Yosemite Valley Shuttle System



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

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