

Yosemite Guide

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

October 13 - December 14, 2010

October - December 2010

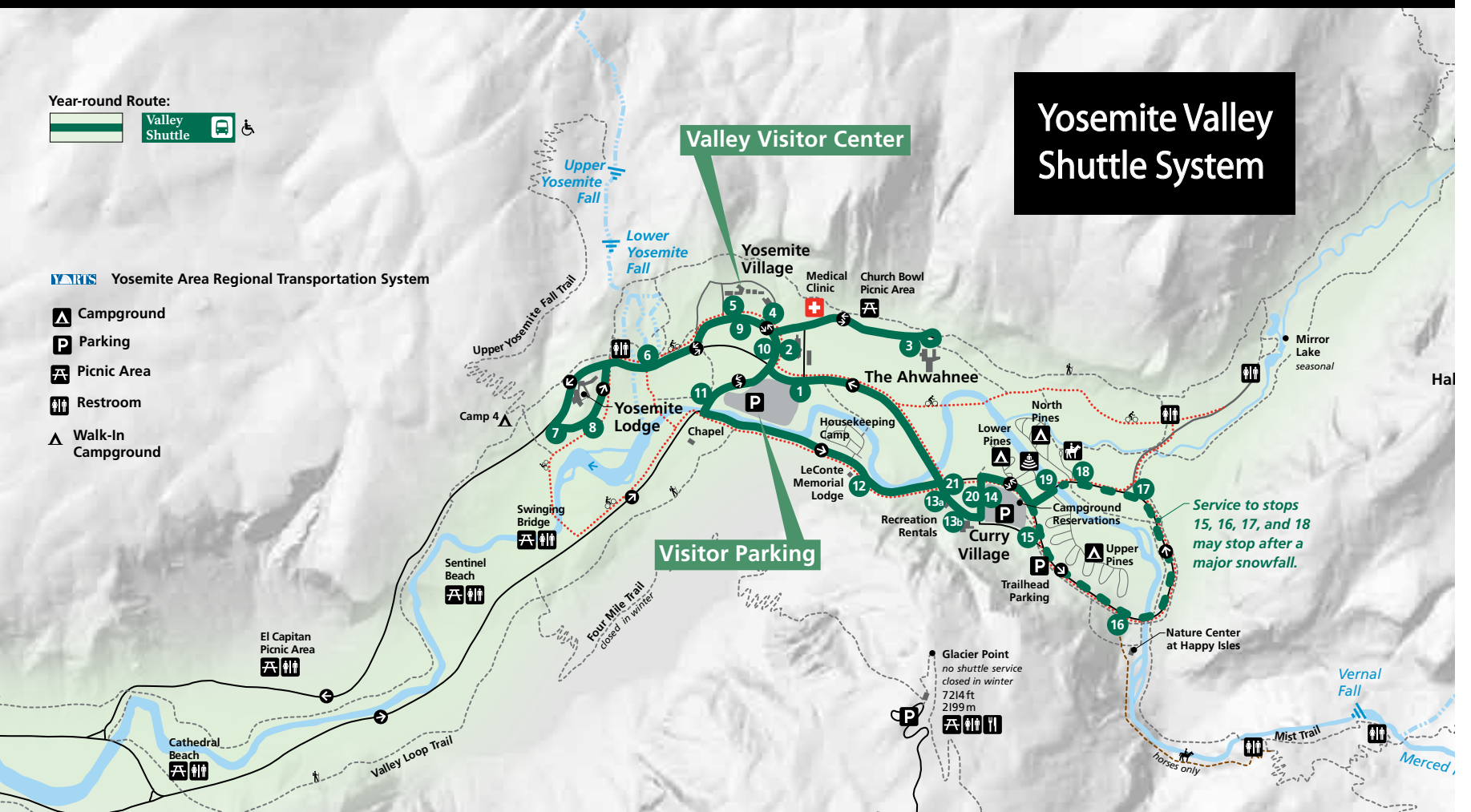


Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Vol. 35, Issue No. 8

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Yosemite Guide October 13 - December 14, 2010



Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am - 10:00pm and serves stops in numerical order. The El Capitan and Express shuttles operate from 9 am to 6 pm. Service may be affected by construction projects. Check shuttle stops for more information.

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

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Things to Do

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

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours. Here are some popular activities for a day in Yosemite National Park.

Take the Bus!

Free shuttles, including some environmentally-friendly electric/diesel hybrids, are available in Yosemite Valley year-round. Park your car and let an expert drive you to some of the most scenic and historic points in the park. Not only will you be doing your part to cut down on traffic congestion and vehicle pollutants, you'll also have both hands free for that perfect shot of Half Dome.

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 within walking distance of a road. Skis or snowshoes are recommended if the trail is snow covered. (See map on page 2 and info on page 7.)

Enjoy the Fall Colors!

Yosemite Valley is a great place to see spectacular fall colors. While each year is different, the end of October through mid-November are often good times to watch the seasons change around you. Trees like dogwood, maple, oak, and alder and plants like Indian hemp and goldenrod help give the Valley a golden glow during the fall. Ask at a Visitor Center to find out where the best seasonal show is happening during your visit!

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 in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 5 and 6.)

Hike to Mirror Meadow

Situated at the base of Half Dome, the site of Mirror Lake frames reflections of Yosemite's most iconic cliff. (The lake itself is dry until the first significant precipitation of the season, however.) The quiet trail is gentle and follows Tenaya Creek as it winds its way



Autumn reflection, Valley View. NPS Photo

Whether you're looking for a cold-weather adventure, a warm fireplace, or a little of both, Yosemite is a magical place in fall and winter!

through the eastern Valley. The trail starts at shuttle stop #17. (See Valley map on the back of this Guide.)

Visit the Other Valley: Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Valley and its reservoir are located about 40 miles north of Yosemite Valley. The contours of Hetch Hetchy are much like its southern neighbor—with precipitous cliffs and waterfalls. Hiking opportunities abound. (See page 3 for specifics on visiting Hetch Hetchy.)

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 park wonders on a ranger-guided walk. Programs are offered daily in Yosemite Valley focusing on bears,

geology, trees, and other topics. (See page 5 for times and places.)

See Half Dome at Sunset

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

Go Bike Riding or Ice Skating

Rentals at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village are both open 9 am to 6 pm. Curry Village bike rentals close on Oct. 25. Yosemite Lodge bike rentals close on Nov. 15. Given safe conditions, you can always ride your own bike on paved paths in the Valley, however. Call 209/372-8319 for more information on bike rentals. Ice skating at the Curry Village Ice Rink opens on Nov. 20, weather conditions permitting.

Take a Twilight Stroll with a Naturalist

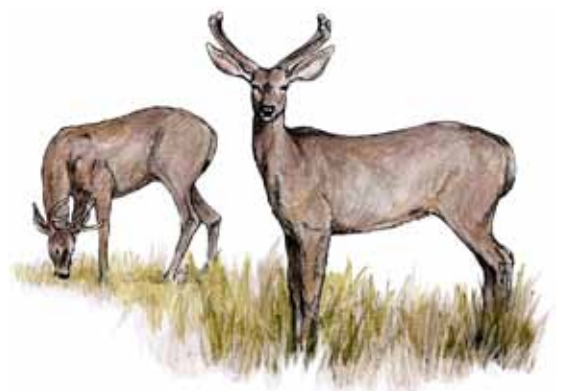
On selected early evenings, take a one-hour leisurely walk with a naturalist through the meadows and forests surrounding The Ahwahnee. Enjoy vivid alpenglow views, glimpses of passing wildlife, and stories of Yosemite's deep human history during this peaceful way to get up-close and personal with Yosemite. Check the Scheduled Events in Yosemite Valley on page 5 of this newspaper or local listings for exact meeting times and locations.

Tour The Ahwahnee...

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

... or Curl Up in Front of a Fireplace!

The Ahwahnee has three oversized fireplaces that match the proportion of the structure and that have always provided heat during the year's cooler months. Bring a book, a warm drink, or at least a pair of frosty hands for a good warm-up in front of the flames.



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Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove Roads are closed each year from after the first significant snowfall to about late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storm periods. Motorists are advised to always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel. Icy and wet roadways can exist throughout the park! To check conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit www.dot.ca.gov for highways connecting to Yosemite.

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/day.

Vehicle \$20
Valid for 7 days

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

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

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

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

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

Reservations

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

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

Regional Info

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

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

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

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

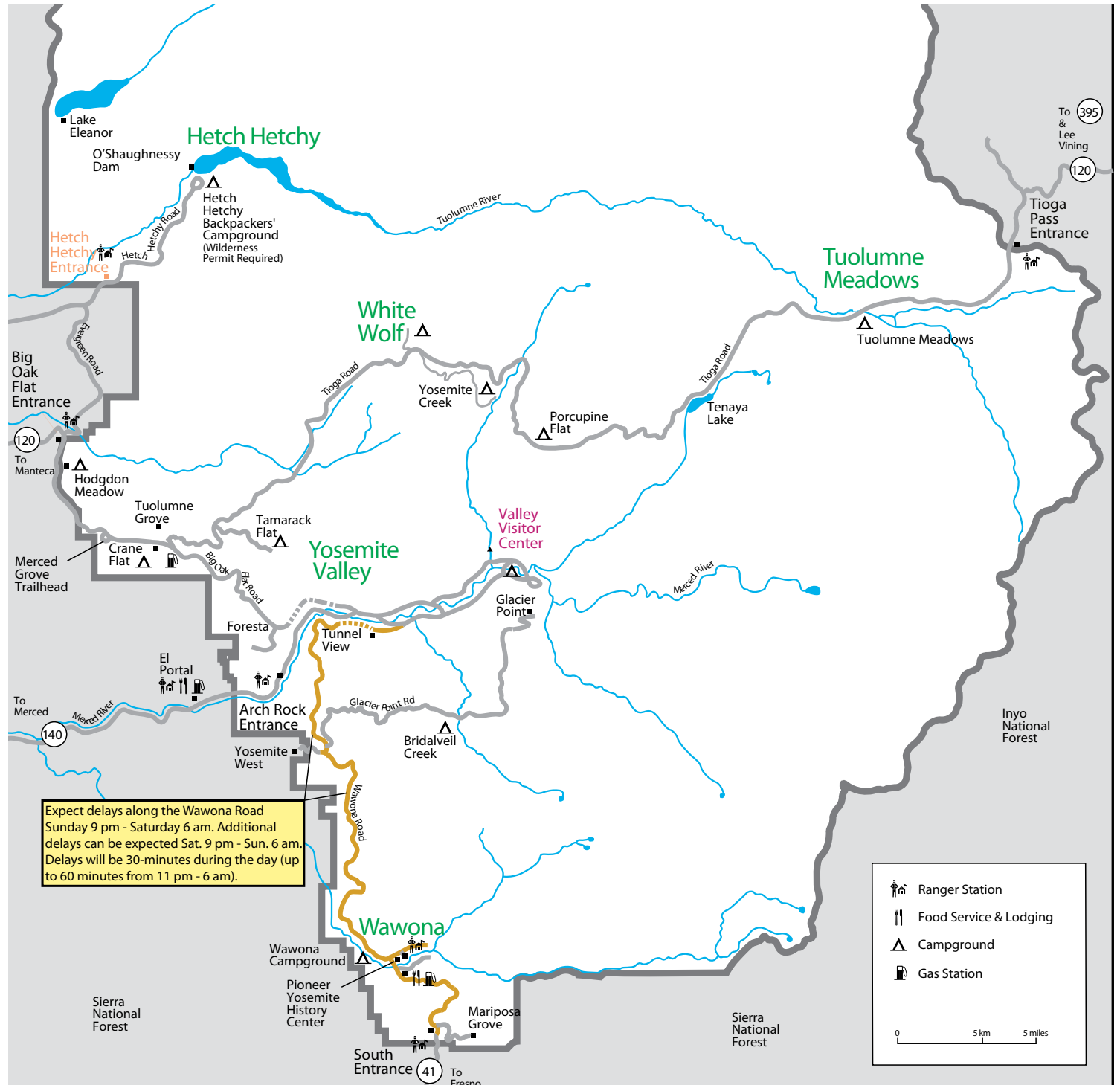
Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/878-3074

Highway 140/49
Mariposa County Visitor Center
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081

Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau
209/742-4567
www.homeofyosemite.com

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

Calif. Welcome Center, Merced
800/446-5353 or 209/724-8104
www.yosemite-gateway.org



Expect delays along the Wawona Road Sunday 9 pm - Saturday 6 am. Additional delays can be expected Sat. 9 pm - Sun. 6 am. Delays will be 30-minutes during the day (up to 60 minutes from 11 pm - 6 am).

Yosemite Valley

1 Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 west from Manteca, and via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, its plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and its attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow recharge it, a moderate hike will take you to Vernal and Nevada Falls. Yosemite's meadows are great places to see wildlife and to photograph fall colors. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, bike, car, or with a tour, the scenery will leave you breathless and eager to see what's around the next corner.



Granite, the Merced River, trees, and meadows compose the Valley's unique blend. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Glacier Point Road

2 Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Yosemite's high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. **The road stays open as weather permits, although overnight parking along it ends on Oct. 15.** When snow covers the road and conditions permit, a system of cross-country ski tracks is maintained on it. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating, some might say unnerving, view 3,214 feet down to Yosemite Valley.

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

3 The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 ¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's South Entrance station. When weather permits, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is a short drive from Wawona. Help reduce congestion by taking the free shuttle from the Wawona Store, available weekends from 9am to 6pm as weather permits. The road to the grove is closed to vehicles after the first big snowstorm, making it a peaceful hike or snowshoe for winter adventurers. See page 7 for Mariposa Grove hiking details. 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. Expect delays along the Wawona Road Sunday 9 pm - Saturday 6 am. Additional delays can be expected Sat. 9 pm - Sun. 6 am. Delays will be 30-minutes during the day (up to 60 minutes from 11 pm - 6 am). Call 209/372-0200 for updated road conditions.

Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

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

Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

5 The Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. **The road closes after the first big snowfall, but overnight parking ends on October 15.** The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. Tuolumne Meadows embodies the high-country of the Sierra Nevada. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. In winter, Tuolumne Meadows is often reached by skiers via the Snow Creek Trail from the Mirror Lake trailhead, a short distance east of Yosemite Valley.

Hetch Hetchy

6 Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area's low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. Hetch Hetchy Road is open limited hours: 8 am to 7 pm through Oct. 31; then 8 am to 5 pm through March 31. The road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is a 1 hour and 15 minute drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

Did you know?

Yosemite has almost 3,000 meadows that make up only 3% of the park, or a little more than 21,000 total acres. These meadows are clustered into a few "hotspots" of large and connected habitat.



The view from Washburn Point. Photo by Ken Watson



Snow at Wawona's covered bridge. Photo by Christine White Loberg



Tuolumne Meadows deep freeze. Photo by Wendy Malone



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. NPS photo by Erik Skindrud

Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas in the heart of the park



Upper Yosemite Fall in Winter, NPS Photo

The Incomparable Yosemite Valley

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

Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 5-6 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

The base of **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. (Both Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow return.) This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired. Although Yosemite Falls dries up by the end of the summer,

Bridalveil Fall is a year-round waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds swirling about the cliff lift and blow the falling water in a delicate free-fall.

El Capitan, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan. *Note: Please park on the paved road*

shoulder next to El Capitan Meadow. Delicate meadows are easily damaged by trampling, so please stay on footpaths.

Half Dome, Yosemite's most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook's Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story.

Shuttle buses may not travel to stop #16 when the road is snow-covered or icy.

For a strenuous day hike, you can use this trailhead to reach Vernal Fall footbridge (¾ miles) and Nevada Fall (2.7 miles) via the Mist Trail. Winter sports get underway in November and

December. Badger Pass Ski Area is tentatively scheduled to open on Dec. 17. The ice rink at Curry Village is scheduled to open on Nov. 20. To learn more: 209/372-8341.

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

To experience the Valley on foot, stop by a visitor center for a trail map and the most current trail conditions, or see page 9 for a list of popular Valley day hikes.

To experience the Valley by bike, bring or rent a bike. Weather permitting, rentals at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village are both open 9 am to 6 pm. Curry Village bike rentals close on Oct. 24. Yosemite Lodge bike rentals close on Nov. 19. Call 209/372-8319 for more information on bike rentals.

Weather permitting, several motor coach sightseeing tours are available in Yosemite.

To experience the Valley with a guide, take the Valley Floor Tour. This 2-hour tour departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. During warm fall days, an open-air tram is used. When weather turns colder, tours travel by motor-coach.

The Glacier Point Tour is a four-hour round trip from Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, which departs daily from Yosemite Lodge. The Glacier Point Tour also offers a one-way ticket for adventurers to hike back down to Yosemite Valley.

The Grand Tour is an eight-hour combination of Big Trees and Glacier Point tours and departs daily from Yosemite Lodge. **Both tours end when snow closes Glacier Point Road.**

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

Self-Guiding Trails

A Changing Yosemite

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

Mirror Lake

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

Indian Village

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

Curry Village

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

See page 9 of this Guide for a list of popular Valley day hikes.

Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	WAWONA
Sunday	<p>2:00pm Ranger Walk – A Changing Yosemite 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </p> <p>7:30pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic (DNC) </p>	
Monday	<p>8:30am Camera Walk 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at The Ahwahnee Hotel.</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Yosemite’s First People 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) </p> <p>2:30pm History of Bracebridge Dinner Talk (December 13 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) </p> <p>7:30pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) </p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Programs listed in ALL CAPS are especially for children and their families</p> </div>
Tuesday	<p>8:30am Camera Walk 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.</p> <p>10:00am Art Workshop (October 19 only) 4 hrs. See schedule of artists, page 4 (YAEC)</p> <p>12:00pm Yosemite Forum (November 9 only) 1 hr. Homsey and Patri (Esherick, Homsey, Dodge, and Davis Architecture) Sense of Place: Design Guidelines for Yosemite, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS)</p> <p>Yosemite Forum (December 14 only) 1 hr. Dr. Steve Martin (Humboldt State University) Updating the Yosemite Overnight Wilderness Visitor Travel Simulation Model Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS)</p> <p>1:30pm “Using Your Digital Camera” Class 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG)</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk –Trees 1 ½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (NPS)</p> <p>2:30pm History of Bracebridge Dinner Talk (December 14 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) </p> <p>7:30pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Check local listings for venue/topic (DNC) </p>	
Wednesday	<p>10:00am Art Workshop (October 13 and 20 only) 4 hrs. See schedule of artists, page 4 (YAEC)</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Wild About Wildlife 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </p> <p>3:00pm Fine Print Tour 1hrs. Very limited space. Sign up at The Ansel Adams Gallery</p> <p>4:30pm Twilight Stroll (except October 13, October 27, & November 17) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) </p> <p>7:30pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) </p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music Of Yosemite (on evenings when the hotel is open) 4 hrs. Live music & 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 & ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) </p>
Thursday	<p>8:30 am Camera Walk 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.</p> <p>10:00am Art Workshop (October 14 and 21 only) 4 hrs. See schedule of artists, page 4 (YAEC)</p> <p>11:00am Children’s Photo Walk 1hr. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.</p> <p>1:00pm FAMILY STROLL (November 25 only) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) </p> <p>1:30pm “In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with your Camera” 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Yosemite’s Legacy 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </p> <p>3:00pm STORYTIME (November 25 only) ½ hr, Yosemite Lodge. Check local listings for venue (DNC) </p> <p>7:30pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic (DNC) </p> <p>8:00pm FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES (October 21, October 28, November 11, & December 9 only) 1 hr, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) </p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music Of Yosemite (on evenings when the hotel is open) 4 hrs. Live music & 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 & ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) </p>
Friday	<p>10:00am Art Workshop (October 15 and 22 only) 4 hrs. See schedule of artists, page 4 (YAEC)</p> <p>STORYTIME (November 26 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) </p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Geology 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) </p> <p>3:00pm FAMILY STROLL (November 26 only) 1 hr, The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) </p> <p>7:30pm Film: Ansel Adams (Except October 29) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater Check local listings for venue. (AAG) </p> <p>Ranger Evening Program (October 29 only) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) </p> <p>HALLOWEEN HISTORY STROLL (October 29 only) 1¼ hr, Walk through the Yosemite Cemetery, meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center with flashlights (DNC) </p> <p>8:30pm NIGHT PROWL (October 22 & October 29 only) 1 ½ hrs, Explore Yosemite at Night! Tickets/info at any tour desk (DNC) \$ </p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music Of Yosemite (on evenings when the hotel is open) 4 hrs. Live music & 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 & ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) </p>
Saturday	<p>8:30am Camera Walk 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.</p> <p>9:00am WEE WILD ONES (except October 16, October 30, & November 6) 45 min, Stories & activities for kids 6 & under, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) </p> <p>10:00am Art Workshop (October 16 and 23 only) 4 hrs. See schedule of artists, page 4 (YAEC)</p> <p>1:30pm “Using Your Digital Camera” Class 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Bears 1 ½ hrs. Lower Yosemite Fall, shuttle stop #6 (NPS) </p> <p>4:00pm CHILDREN’S STORYTIME 1/2 hour. Meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. No sign up necessary. (TAAG)</p> <p>6:30pm HALLOWEEN FAMILY NIGHT (October 30 only) 2 ½ hrs, Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (DNC/NPS) </p> <p>7:30pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) </p> <p>Film: Ansel Adams (October 30 only) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater Check local listings for venue. (AAG) </p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music Of Yosemite (on evenings when the hotel is open) 4 hrs. Live music & 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 & ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) </p>

<p>NPS National Park Service</p> <p>DNC DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.</p> <p>AAG The Ansel Adams Gallery</p> <p>YC Yosemite Conservancy</p> <p>YAEC Yosemite Art Education Center</p> <p>\$ Programs offered for a fee</p>	<p> Access for People with Disabilities</p> <p>Accessible parking, lodging, tours, and activities are available throughout the park.</p> <p>For a complete list of accessible services, recreational opportunities, and exhibits, pick up an updated Yosemite Accessibility Guide which is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm.</p> <p>Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.</p>	<p>To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue and white signs.</p> <p> A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0296 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of at least 2 weeks is requested.</p> <p> Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.</p>
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Yosemite Valley



Half Dome, NPS Photo

Even when it's cold outside, Yosemite Valley offers great activities and programs for the whole family.

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 5 pm, just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The center offers information, maps, and books in the attached bookstore. Explore the new exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite's spectacular landscape was formed, how people have interacted with it through the centuries, how wildlife adapts and survives, and how your national park continues to evolve.

FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

This inspiring visitor-orientation film is shown every 30 minutes, Monday - Saturday between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 4:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Wilderness Permits

The Valley Wilderness Center is open from 8 am to 4:30 pm through Oct. 24. After that date, permits are available by self-registration at the Valley Visitor Center. Bear canister rentals are available at the visitor center after Oct. 24. See page 8 for other locations to obtain wilderness permits.

Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center. Open 9am to 5pm, may close for lunch.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite's Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present.

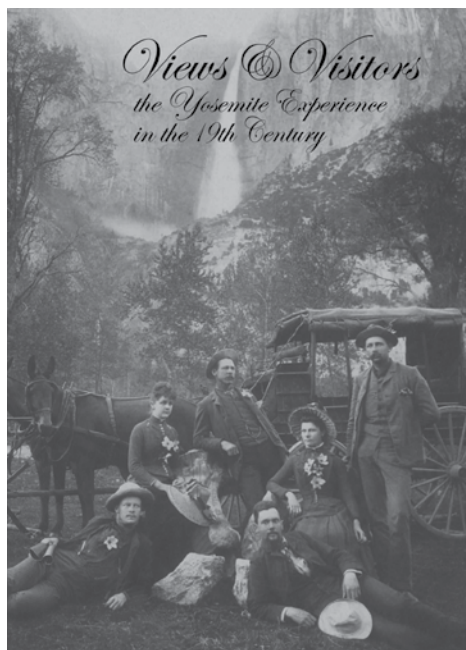
YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

Open daily from 9 am to 5 pm. (May close for lunch) The store offers books and traditional American Indian arts, crafts, jewelry, and books.

VIEWS & VISITORS: THE YOSEMITE EXPERIENCE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

This exhibit features paintings, prints,

artifacts, and ephemera from Yosemite's early years. Historic hotel registers and the Grand Register of the Cosmopolitan are also on view. The exhibit includes an interactive kiosk related to the Grand Register and a digital slide show of historic visitors and hotels, and is open daily through October 31. Hours are from 10-12 and 1-4. The exhibit is made possible by a grant from the Yosemite Conservancy.



Yosemite Cemetery

This historic cemetery is located just west of the Yosemite Museum, across the street. *Guide to the Yosemite Cemetery* is available at the Valley Visitor Center.

Ansel Adams Gallery

The gallery is located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center and is open daily. Hours are 9 am to 5 pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. See page 5 for photo walk and other event times. For more information, call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

Yosemite Art & Education Center

The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers art workshops from 10 am to 2 pm Tuesday through Saturday through October. Register for classes at the Center in advance, or by calling 209/372-1442 (suggested donation of \$5, cost of supplies variable). Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Be prepared to work outdoors.

Oct 12-Oct 16: Marcy Wheeler, Impressive/ Expressive Yosemite w. Acrylics

October 19-Oct 23: Raymond Otis, Plein Air Painting- bring your digital camera

Halloween Family Night

October 30, 2010 6:30pm to 9pm
Nature Center at Happy Isles

Join park interpretive staff at the nature Center at happy Isles for an evening of SUPER natural fun for the whole family! Stations will be set up investigating some of Yosemite's nightlife such as spiders, scorpions, bats, and owls.

You can also go out on a night walk and enjoy a story finale to the evening with goodies and hot drinks for those attending. The Nature Center is a short walk from Shuttle Stop #16, and shuttle service will continue out to Happy Isles until 9:30pm.

Halloween History Stroll

October 29, 2010 7:30pm to 8:45pm
Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

Join a naturalist in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for a short walk to the Yosemite Cemetery where we will piece together the story of some of the residents there. Bring a flashlight! Not a scary event.

POST OFFICE

Yosemite Village

Main Office

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

Yosemite Lodge

Post Office

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

El Portal

Post Office

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

Wawona Post Office

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

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

Yosemite Village

The Ansel Adams Gallery

9am to 5pm

Yosemite Bookstore

Inside Yosemite Visitor Center

9am to 5pm

Yosemite Museum Store

9am to 5pm, may close for lunch

Village Store

8am to 8pm

Habitat Yosemite

11am to 4pm Thurs.-Sun. only

Sport Shop

10am to 4pm

The Ahwahnee

The Ahwahnee Gift Shop

8am to 8pm

The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop

7am to 10pm

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery

8am to 7pm

Nature Shop

11am to 7pm

Curry Village

Mountain Shop

9am to 5pm

Curry Village Gift/Grocery

9am-7pm

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 6pm

WINTER SPORTS

Badger Pass Ski Area and Sport Shop
Scheduled to open December 17,
weather and conditions
permitting.

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

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Yosemite Village

Degnan's Delicatessen
7am to 5pm

The Ahwahnee

Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am
Lunch: 11:30am to 3pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm
Appropriate attire respectfully requested for dinner.
Reservations recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch:
209/372-1489.

The Ahwahnee Bar 11am to 11pm
The Coffee Bar 7am to 10:30am

Yosemite Lodge

Food Court
Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am
Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm
Dinner: 5pm-8pm
Mountain Room Lounge
4:30pm to 11pm (Mon.-Fri.)
Noon - 11pm (Sat.-Sun.)
Mountain Room Restaurant
Sunday - Thursday 5:00pm to 8:30pm
Friday - Saturday 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Reservations taken for 8 or more.
209/372-1281

Curry Village

Pizza Deck
Noon-9pm through Oct. 18
5pm-9pm Monday-Friday beginning Oct. 19
Noon-9pm Sat.-Sun.as of Oct. 17; closes for season on Nov. 27.

Coffee Corner
7 to 11am, closes for season Nov. 29

Curry Village Bar
5pm - 10pm Monday-Friday
Noon-10pm Saturday-Sunday
closes for season on Oct. 30

Pavilion Buffet

Breakfast: 7am to 10am,
closes for season on Oct. 31
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm,
closes for season on Oct. 30

Wawona

Wawona Hotel Dining Room
Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm
Reservations taken for 6 or more.
209/375-1425
Lounge Service: 5pm-9:30pm

GROCERIES

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery
8am to 7pm

Yosemite Village

Village Store
8am to 8pm
Degnan's Delicatessen
7am to 5pm

Curry Village

Gift/Grocery
9am to 7pm

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 6pm

Crane Flat

Store 10am-4pm

GAS STATION

Gas outside Yosemite Valley

El Portal
9am to noon, 1pm to 5pm
Diesel available. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

Wawona Gas Station

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

Crane Flat

10am-4pm. Diesel available. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

Tuolumne Meadows

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card until road closes.

GOLF

Wawona Hotel Golf Course

9am to 5pm weather and conditions permitting. Nine-hole, par-35 course. Closes for season on Oct. 31.

Visitor Services

Beyond Yosemite Valley

Wawona

Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio

The visitor center bookstore is open 9:30am to 4pm Friday through Sunday through November 7th. May close for lunch!

Pioneer Yosemite History Center

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

Evening Programs

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

Wilderness Permits

Visitors can obtain wilderness permits at a self-service kiosk on the porch of the Wawona Visitor Center at 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. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area. Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area. The road to the Grove closes in November or December and opens sometime in April.

Visitors can walk, ski, or snowshoe when the road is closed to vehicles.

Getting to Mariposa Grove

Allow 1½ hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot.

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

MARIPOSA GROVE & WAWONA SHUTTLE

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

BIG TREES TRAM TOUR

A 1¼-hr. tour of the grove is available if weather permits through Oct. 31. The audio tour is available in five languages and for the visually impaired. Call 209/375-1621 or stop at a tour desk for hours and availability.

Walking through the Grove



Giant sequoias. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Trails into the grove extend uphill from the trailhead at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the California Tree provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations are available at the trailhead in Spanish, German, French, and Japanese. When snow covers the ground, access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski.

Dogs or bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.

Big Oak Flat (Hwy 120)

Big Oak Flat Information Station

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

Merced Grove

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees accessible only on foot. 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). Located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance, 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 at the intersection of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. Now closed to cars, this path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip (you can walk, ski, or snowshoe) is moderately strenuous uphill. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.

SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

Curry Village

Showers
Open 24 hours
Housekeeping Camp
Laundromat
8am to 10pm

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH
9:15 AM (Sunday School and Nursery available).
6:30 P.M. Sunday Evening Service/Bible

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Bible 7:00 PM call chapel for location
Men's Bible Study - Chapel 6:30 PM

THURSDAY MIDWEEK SERVICE

Thursday Evening Service 7:00
Thanksgiving Service at 10:00 A.M.(No evening service on Thanksgiving) Pastor Brent Moore, 209-372-4831

ROMAN CATHOLIC

SUNDAY MASS CELEBRATIONS:

Saturday, 6:00 pm. Rectory, 9006 Cedar Ct., 200 yds west of Shuttle Stop # 5

Sunday, 10:00 am Visitor Center Theater, Shuttle Stop # 5 or 9

Sunday, 6:00pm (Spanish), Cedar Lodge, El Portal
DAILY MASS CELEBRATIONS: Call for times, 209-372-4729

CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

El Portal Chapel/Worship: Sunday 11 am
Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane
Information: 209/379-2100

GENERAL SERVICES

Village Garage

NO GAS AVAILABLE IN YOSEMITE VALLEY
8am to 5pm Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4pm. 209/372-8320

Dental Services

Adjacent to Yosemite Medical Clinic. For hours, call 209/372-4200. If no answer, call 209/372-4637

Yosemite Medical Clinic

Emergency care: 24 hours daily.
Drop-in and urgent care: 8am to 7pm.
Appointments: 8am to 5pm Mon. through Fri.
Located on Ahwahnee Drive in Yosemite Valley, the clinic provides routine and emergency medical

care, 24-hour paramedic/ambulance services, limited pharmacy, lab, x-ray, physical therapy, and Mountain Crisis Services for victims of domestic violence. 209/372-4637

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

AL-ANON

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

Call Dave M. at 209/765-1266. or Janet G. at 916-346-9547 for more information or if you need to speak to someone.

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...



Autumn leaves, NPS Photo

Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

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

Around Ice and Water

- Stay off of frozen lakes, rivers and streams and away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards.
- Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
- Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

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 to shelter overnight 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.

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.

Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by

observing the following simple rules: Please obey posted speed limits. Yosemite's roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park's scenery and wildlife.

Effects of Altitude

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley's elevation is 4,000 feet). Should altitude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

There are no scheduled winter patrols, so be prepared. Be honest about your abilities and plan with the least experienced member of your group in mind. Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back.

- Be prepared for icy travel before conditions arise. Bring crampons, ice axe, climbing skins, and other traction devices.
- Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
- Check weather forecasts. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult.
- Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food.
- Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.
- Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

Wilderness Permit Details

Free wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Permits are issued at Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows (road

closed after first big snow), 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 during snowy months. At Tuolumne Meadows after Oct. 15, permits are available at a self-service kiosk at the Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Station. Big Oak Flat Information Station and Wawona's Hill's Studio both have self-registration permits beginning October 15th on their porches. The Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center closes for the season on Oct. 24. After October 24th, permits are available at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (9 to 5). Call the park's main phone line for backcountry information: 209/372-0200.

For summer trips, reservations are taken from 24 weeks to two days in advance of the start of your trip. A processing fee of \$5 per permit plus \$5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. Check the park's website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740 (starting on Jan. 5).

More Information

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

Weather in Yosemite

Dressing in layers and bringing plenty of water (even during cooler months!) will help you stay safe through Yosemite's changing weather conditions.

As is true of all mountainous regions, weather in the Sierra Nevada can change rapidly in any season of the year. Elevation plays a major role in temperature and precipitation variability, and Yosemite ranges in elevation from 2,000 feet to more than 13,000 feet above sea level.

Temperatures in winter can range well below freezing up into the 60s during the day. Shady spots on trails and roads can remain icy even during the warmth of the day.

...and Yosemite



Keeping Bears Wild

(While protecting yourself and your property)

Keep Yosemite's Black Bears Wild and Alive:

1. Store Your Food Properly.

(See table below for details.)

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

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

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

figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

3. Drive the speed limit.

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

Red Bear, Dead Bear

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

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

Backpackers: Save Your Food, Save A Bear

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

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

Report Bear Sightings!

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

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

Never leave unattended food strapped to the outside of a vehicle or in a pickup truck bed.

Yosemite Guardians

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park's most important guardians. With nearly 4 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be!

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

- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items, such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Biking off of paved roads
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons inside federal facilities

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

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

Restoring a Meadow



Wawona Meadow from the Wawona Road, 1935, NPS Photo

By Elizabeth Munding
Yosemite Writer-Editor



Nearly one-third of Yosemite’s plant species occur in its meadows which still harbor unexplored wonders. Covering just 3% of the park’s land, Yosemite’s biologically rich meadows are the focus of a great deal of scientific attention.

When Euro-American settlers first set their eyes on Yosemite’s meadows in the 1850s, they saw large meadow complexes surrounded by open forests that were home to a huge variety of animals and plants.

As settlers modified the landscape, conditions in some meadows changed. For example, by the mid to late 1800’s, large herds of sheep, cattle, and horses grazed in the meadows, and more palatable grasses and crops were planted. Ditches were dug to channel water or drain the meadows.

In Wawona Meadow, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) dug two

mile-long ditches on the sides of the meadow in 1936.

A walk in Wawona Meadow today reveals how these ditches, now deepened to ten feet in some places, have altered meadow hydrology by diverting surface flow, draining groundwater, drying out the landscape, and altering plant communities. Although the lower portion of Wawona Meadow was developed into a golf course in 1918, the upper 165 acres still provide valuable lower montane meadow habitat. Current restoration efforts, which began in September, will fill the diversion ditches with native soil and replant the area with local vegetation. This 2010 restoration of Wawona Meadow is part of a larger effort to keep the park’s meadows healthy.

In simple terms, what defines a meadow? Hydrology, vegetation, and soil characteristics. Meadows are sponges, soaking up water as snow-pack melts and holding that water like an underground water tower. Interestingly, the word “meadow” is not so much a technical term as a cultural term. Sierra Nevada scientists who work on meadows have agreed on a definition:

- A meadow is an ecosystem type composed of one or more plant communities dominated by herbaceous species.
- Meadows support plants that use surface water and/or shallow ground

water (generally at depths of less than one meter).

- Woody vegetation, such as trees or shrubs, may occur and be locally dense but are not dominant.

Some types of wetlands, namely wet meadows and fens, form what are referred to as meadows in the Sierra Nevada. Yosemite, especially known for its meadow complexes in Wawona, Tuolumne, and Yosemite Valley, supports 3,000 meadows that range in elevation from 3,300 to 12,000 feet and above. Visualize meadows, perhaps, as “islands” of high diversity in a network of habitat patches. Plants, animals and people benefit from Yosemite’s meadows—typically made up of a complex mosaic of wet, moist, and dry areas that support distinctly different communities. For plants, meadows provide sufficient moisture during the late-growing season to nurture them through the critical reproductive stage. Animals -- birds like willow

flycatchers and small mammals like Belding’s ground squirrels and pocket gophers -- depend on meadows to feed or breed. People rely on meadows and other wetlands to preserve water quality and for protection from floods.

What can you do while you are here to protect Yosemite’s meadows? Wherever you go in Yosemite, stay on designated trails, and tread lightly!

Due to the current restoration efforts in the Wawona Meadow, the southside of the Wawona Meadow Loop is closed to hikers from 7:00am to 5:30pm Monday through Friday. This closure is expected to be in place through mid-November, 2010.



Above: CCC Workers Constructing Ditches in the Wawona Meadow, 1936, NPS Photo
Top left, Gully with exposed concrete weir in Wawona Meadow, NPS Photo

Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

Enhance the Visitor's Experience

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

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

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates the arts and the natural grandeur of our environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world by offering visitors a unique variety of literature and art, as well as programs that inspire creativity. Visit online at www.anseladamsgallery.com



DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite (DNC) operates hotels, restaurants, sightseeing tours, recreational activities, interpretive programs, stores, shuttles and service stations in the park under contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior. DNC encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure. For more information and employment opportunities with DNC at Yosemite, visit online at www.YosemitePark.com



Yosemite 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 Conservancy

Yosemite Conservancy is the new nonprofit formed by a merger of the Yosemite Association and The Yosemite Fund. The Conservancy has a long history in Yosemite with over 100 years of combined experience supporting the park. Yosemite Conservancy can make the difference you see around you because we are the only philanthropic organization that is dedicated exclusively to Yosemite.

Our mission remains the same: Providing for Yosemite's future is our passion. We inspire people to support projects and programs that preserve and protect Yosemite National Park's resources and enrich the visitor experience.

The Yosemite Conservancy has funded over 300 projects through \$55 million in grants to help preserve and protect the park. The work of the Conservancy can be found in every aspect of the visitor experience from trail restoration, bear-proof lockers and canisters, habitat restoration, outdoor education and so much more. Annually the Yosemite Conservancy recruits over 400 volunteers to work in the park to repair trails, remove invasive species, and provide visitor information.

For more information, visit park bookstores or online at yosemiteconservancy.org



Contact Us

The Ansel Adams Gallery
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DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite
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www.yosemitepark.com

Yosemite Conservancy
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Yosemite Institute
PO Box 487
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www.yni.org

Want to get involved?

Yosemite National Park is busy planning for the future. **Visit us at one of our regular Open Houses on October 27 or December 1, 2010 from 1pm to 4pm at the Valley Visitor Center Auditorium.** Park entrance fees are waived for Open House participants.

Sign up for our mailing list and receive emails about current and upcoming plans and projects on our website:

<http://www.nps.gov/yose/park-mgmt/planning.htm>

Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg