

# Yosemite Guide

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

December 15, 2010 - February 15, 2011

Maclure Glacier, Photo by Andy Steele



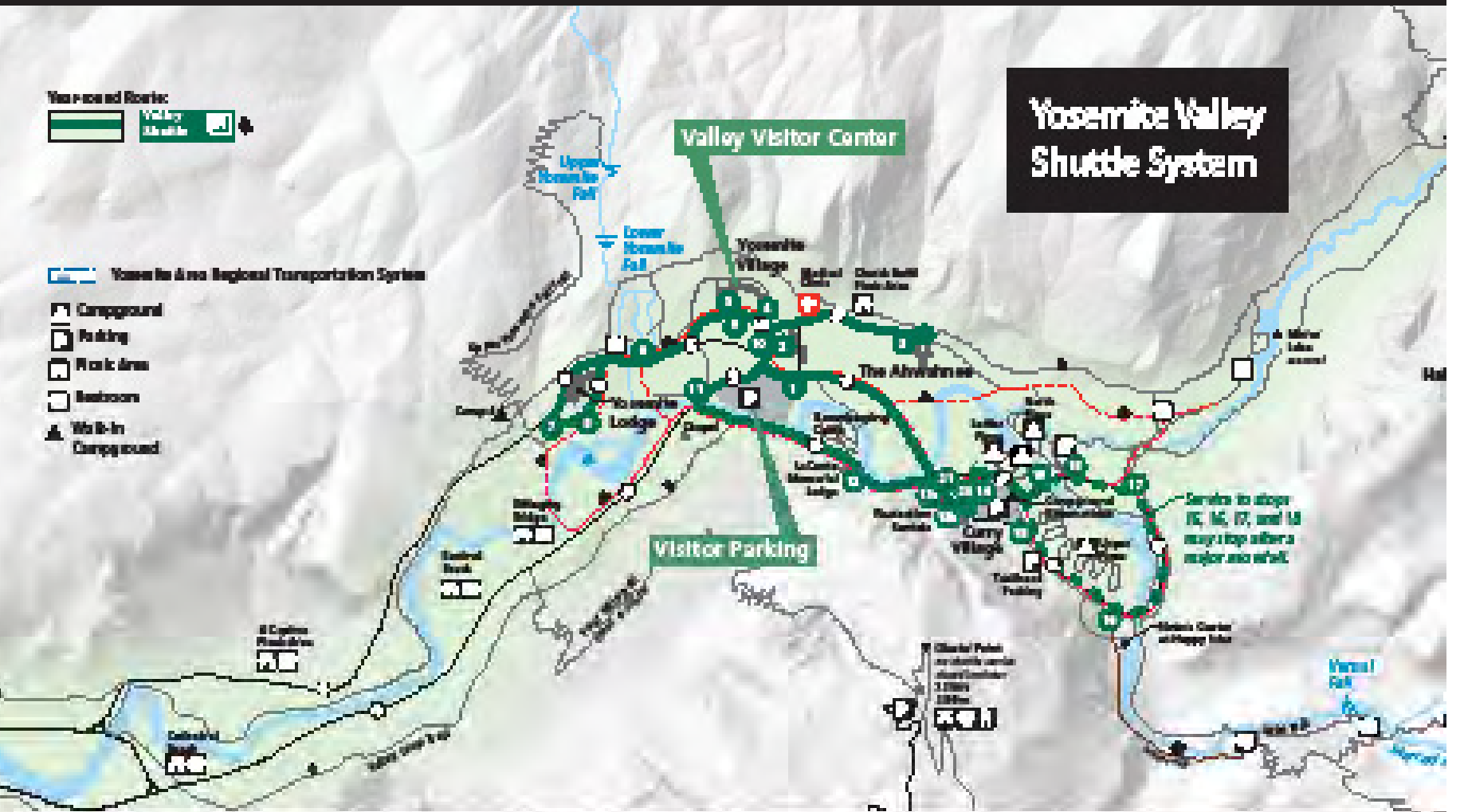
# December, 2010 - February, 2011

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Volume 36, Issue 1

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Yosemite Guide December 15, 2010- February 15, 2011



Shuttle bus daily runs 10 to 11 minutes depending on the time of day. The full route starts with stops 1 through 10 and ends with stops 11 through 18. The 10 stops are shown in the table below. The 10 stops are shown in the table below. The 10 stops are shown in the table below.

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	11	Yosemite Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2	Yosemite Village	12	Sentinel Ridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	The Ahwahnee	13	Lot/Courts / Housekeeping Camp	18	Yosemite Falls
4	Degnan's Dell	14	Recreation Services		
5	Valley Visitor Center	15	Curry Village		
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	16	Curry Village Parking		
7	Camp 4	17	Upper Pines Campground		

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# Things to Do

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

**W**hat 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.

## Enjoy Winter Fun at Badger Pass!

California's original ski resort, Badger Pass Ski Area is a perfect place for visitors of all ages and skill levels to play in the snow. Learn to ski with one of our lessons, get some practice in on 10 runs, or catch some air in one of two terrain parks. You can also set-out on an easy, guided snowshoe hike or embark on a cross-country skiing adventure from the Nordic center. Badger Pass is open everyday, weather and conditions permitting. Downhill ski lifts operate from 9am to 4pm. Call 209/372-1000 for current snow conditions. Equipment rentals and lift tickets are available from 8:30am to 4pm.

## Go on a Snowshoe Hike

Join a naturalist for a guided hike or rent or bring your own equipment for a fantastic winter experience. Be sure to weather and snow conditions before you go. Snowshoe rentals are available at Badger Pass Ski Area. The Rental Shop is open from 8:30am to 4pm. For weather conditions, please call 209/372-0200 or check at any visitor center. (See page 5 for guided hike schedule.)

## 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.)

## 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



Badger Pass A-Frame, 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 winter!

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, which dries in late summer, fills again after the first spring runoff.) 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.)

## 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 water-

falls. Take an easy stroll across the dam for a great view across the reservoir or, if conditions permit, walk to Wapama Fall. (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, offering expansive views of El Capitan, Clouds Rest, Half Dome, and Bridalveil Fall. (See map, page 2.)

## Walk with a Ranger

Learn about park wonders on a ranger-guided walk. Programs are offered daily in Yosemite Valley and focus on wildlife, 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 is one of the most recognizable features in the Valley. 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.)

## Visit the Ice Rink at Curry Village

Take the shuttle to Curry Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. Four sessions are available on weekends and holidays: 8:30am to 11:00am, noon to 2:30 pm, 3:30pm to 6:00pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm. Monday through Friday, two sessions are available from 3:30pm to 6:00pm and 7:00pm to 9:30pm. (Closes for season March 6)

## 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.

## 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.

## What's Inside

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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. For highways connecting to Yosemite, call 800/427-7623 or visit [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov).

# 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

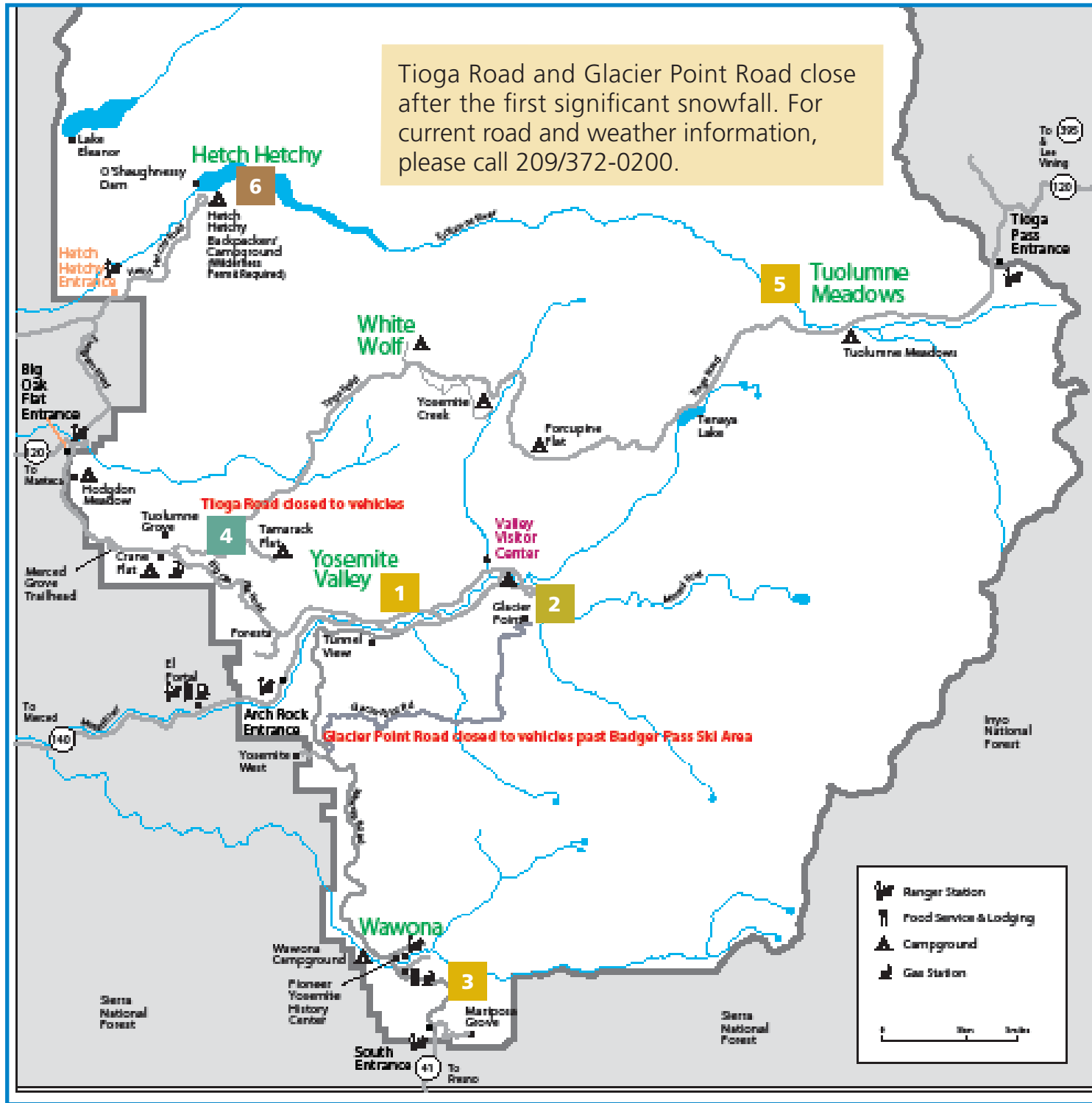
**Highway 132/49**  
Coulterville Visitor Center  
209/878-3074

**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



## Yosemite Valley

**1** Iconic Yosemite Valley is known around the world for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and can be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, and Highway 120 west from Manteca. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, and its plunging waterfalls including Yosemite Falls, the tallest waterfall in North America. Take an easy stroll to the base of Lower Yosemite Fall or, if you're looking for a bigger challenge, hike to Vernal and/or Nevada Falls. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, 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 and Badger Pass

**2** Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Yosemite's high country, is located 30 miles from Yosemite Valley. Although the road is closed to vehicles past the Badger Pass Ski Area in winter months, a system of cross-country ski tracks is maintained along the road, and numerous snowshoe and ski trails originate from it. Badger Pass Ski Area (open December 11, conditions permitting) offers downhill skiing, tubing, and ski instruction. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road.



Skiers along the Glacier Point Road, NPS Photo

## Wawona and Mariposa Grove

**3** 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 from sometime in December to April. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite.

## 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.



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

## Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

**5** Closed to vehicles in the winter, the Tioga Road offers winter adventurers a 39-mile scenic ski or snowshoe past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. 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.



Tuolumne Meadows deep freeze. Photo by Wendy Malone

## 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.



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. NPS photo by Erik Skindrud

### Glaciers: Did you know?

Learn more about glaciers in our feature story on page 10 of the Yosemite Guide

- A glacier is a mass of ice that develops from accumulated snowfall on the land over a period of years, and is sufficiently thick and heavy to begin moving under its own weight.
- The most recent glacier in Yosemite Valley reached its maximum size about 20,000 years ago. At that time, it extended down the Valley as far as Bridalveil Fall.
- The Lyell Glacier in Yosemite National Park is the second-largest glacier in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The largest glacier in the Sierra Nevada is the Palisade Glacier in the John Muir Wilderness of the Inyo National Forest.

# 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, including naturalist programs and hiking possibilities. See pages 5-6 for more information on program topics and visitor services available. **Many Yosemite Valley day hikes are accessible year-round, although some have special winter routes or closures for your safety.**

The base of **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired.

**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.

**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 wan-

der 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 ( $\frac{3}{4}$  miles) and Nevada Fall (2.7 miles) via the John Muir Trail. Tunnel View, along Wawona Road (Hwy 41)

### 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.

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 below for a list of popular Valley day hikes.

## 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, <i>winter route</i>	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours	Moderate, 400-foot gain
Top of Vernal Fall, <i>winter route</i>	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Nevada Fall, <i>winter route</i>	same as above	5 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours	Strenuous 1,900-foot gain
Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point (Closed in winter past Union Point)	Southside Drive	4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours one-way	Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain
Valley Floor Loop	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop	Moderate

# Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	BADGER PASS	WAWONA
<b>Sunday</b>	<p>12:30pm <b>JUNIOR SNOW RANGERS</b> (January 16, 23, 30 and February 6, 13 only) 1 hr. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Bring warm clothing; Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</b> (Starts in January, all Sundays except February 6) 3 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – A Changing Yosemite</b> 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>STORYTIME</b> (December 26 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>9:00am <b>Adventure Hike - Snowshoe to Dewey Point</b> 6½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (suggested donation \$5) (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (January 16 only) 2 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p>	
<b>Monday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at The Ahwahnee Hotel (AAG)</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Yosemite's First People</b> 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (December 20 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>4:00pm <b>Winter Twilight Stroll</b> (Except December 20 and 27) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (NPS) ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5) (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (January 17 and February 14 only) 2 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>"Using Your Digital Camera" Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Trees</b> 1½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (NPS)</p> <p>3:00pm <b>STORYTIME</b> (December 28 only) ½ hr. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5) (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (January 18 and February 15 only) 2 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music Of Yosemite</b> (on evenings when the hotel is open) 4 hrs. Live music &amp; 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 &amp; ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> (Except December 22 and 29, January 12, and February 9) 45 min. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace. Stories &amp; activities for kids 6 &amp; under (DNC) ♿</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Open House</b> 3 hrs. (January 26 only) Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium. Join park staff to learn about current and upcoming plans and projects (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Wild About Wildlife</b> 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (December 22 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (NPS) ♿</p> <p><b>Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow</b> (December 29 only) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room Tickets at any tour desk or at door, if available (DNC) \$ ♿</p>	<p>9:00am <b>Adventure Hike - Snowshoe to Dewey Point</b> (Except December 15th) 6½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School Tickets/info. at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except December 15) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5) (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (January 19 only) 2 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music Of Yosemite</b> (on evenings when the hotel is open) 4 hrs. Live music &amp; 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 &amp; ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Thursday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>"In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with your Camera"</b> 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Geology</b> (except December 23) 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p><b>Ranger Walk – Ahwahneechee Stories and Games</b> (December 23 only) 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (December 16 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (DNC) ♿</p> <p><b>Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow</b> (December 30 only) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room Tickets at any tour desk or at door, if available (DNC) \$ ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except December 16) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5) (NPS)</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music Of Yosemite</b> (on evenings when the hotel is open) 4 hrs. Live music &amp; 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 &amp; ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Friday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> 45 min. Stories and activities for kids 6 and under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>11:30am <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (December 24 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Yosemite's Legacy</b> 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Film: Ansel Adams</b> (Except December 24 and 31) 1 hr. Check local listings for venue (AAG) ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except December 17) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5) (NPS)</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music Of Yosemite</b> (on evenings when the hotel is open) 4 hrs. Live music &amp; 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 &amp; ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Saturday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>"Using Your Digital Camera" Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</b> (Starts in January) 3 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Winter Ecology</b> 1½ hrs. Yosemite Lodge, shuttle stop #8 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (December 18 and 25 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Fine Print Tour</b> 1 hr. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. Very limited space (AAG)</p> <p>4:00pm <b>CHILDREN'S STORY TIME</b> (December 18 and January 1 only) ½ hr. Meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (AAG)</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (NPS) ♿</p> <p><b>Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow</b> (January 15 only) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room Tickets at any tour desk or at door, if available (DNC) \$ ♿</p>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except December 18) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided (suggested donation \$5) (NPS)</p> <p>2:30pm <b>JUNIOR SNOW RANGERS</b> (January 15, 22, 29 and February 5, 12 only) Conditions permitting, 1 hr. Meet at ranger office A-frame. Bring warm clothing; Recommended ages 7-13 (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (January 15 only) 2 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music Of Yosemite</b> (on evenings when the hotel is open) 4 hrs. Live music &amp; 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 &amp; ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>

- NPS National Park Service
- DNC DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
- AAG The Ansel Adams Gallery
- YC Yosemite Conservancy
- YAEC Yosemite Art & Education Center
- YMS Yosemite Mountaineering School
- \$ Programs offered for a fee

**Access for People with Disabilities**



Accessible parking, lodging, tours, and activities are available throughout the park.

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](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm).

Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue and white signs.



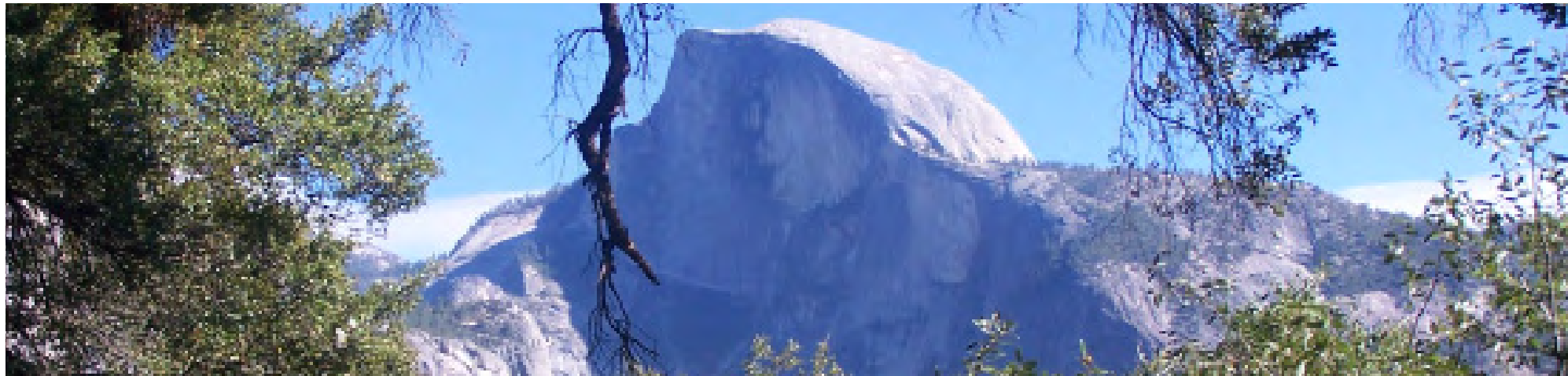
A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0296 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of at least 2 weeks is requested.



Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.

# Visitor Services

## 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.

### 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.

### Wilderness Permits

Permits are required year-round for overnight wilderness use. Wilderness permits can be obtained at the

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center seven days a week from 9am to 5pm. Bear canisters can be rented and a wide selection of maps and books are available for purchase.

### 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.

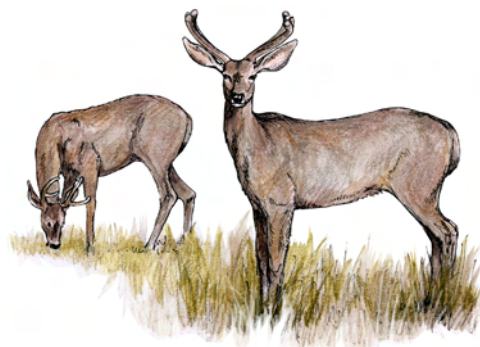
#### YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

Open daily December 15 - January 2, from 9 am to 5 pm. (May close for lunch) From January 3 to February 15 the store will be open Wednesday through Sunday, 9am to 5pm. Closed Monday and Tuesday. The store offers books and traditional American Indian arts, crafts, jewelry, and books.

### 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 through January 3, then 10am to 5pm. 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](http://www.anseladams.com). The Gallery will be closed from Monday, January 24, 2011- Thursday, February 11, 2011 for repairs. Please check for early opening.



### Tours

Motor coach sightseeing tours are available in Yosemite Valley year-round. To experience the Valley with a guide, take the Valley Floor Tour. This 2-hour tour departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. During winter, tours travel by motorcoach, while warm-weather tours are offered on open air trams. Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at tour/transportation desks at the Yosemite Lodge.

### 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, 10am-5pm after January 3

#### Yosemite Bookstore

Inside Yosemite Visitor Center

9am to 5pm

#### Yosemite Museum Store

May close for lunch

Dec 15 - Jan 2: 9am - 5pm, daily

Jan 3 - Feb 15: Wed - Sun, 9am - 5pm, Closed Mon./Tues.

#### Village Store

8am to 8pm

#### Habitat Yosemite

11am to 4pm Thurs.-Sat. 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, closes at 5pm Dec. 25

### Expand Your Yosemite Experience at Home!

**Yosemite Nature Notes** is a video podcast series that tells unique stories about the natural and human history of Yosemite National Park. Produced by the National Park Service, this series features park rangers, scientists, historians and park visitors as they discuss the diverse plants and animals that make Yosemite their home, as well as the towering cliffs, giant waterfalls and mountain peaks that are known throughout the world. In the most recent episode, videographer Steve Bumgardner joined Yosemite geologist Greg Stock and others for a trip to the Maclure Glacier. Here are his reflections about the trip.

*"The best part of shooting the glacier episode was actually roping up and rappelling down into the bergschrund, a large crevasse that forms at the top of the glacier. This is an area that is very dynamic, and it fills with snow and ice each year. As the glacier moves downslope, the bergschrund opens up and one can actually get down into it. Although it was cold and dark, it was very exciting to explore this part of these glaciers."*

*As a producer, your highest hopes for your work is that you'll inspire action. Whether we're showing frazil ice, or big trees or glaciers, I hope that folks will appreciate these amazing features and want to experience them for themselves."*

**Want to see more? Visit <http://www.nps.gov/yose/photosmultimedia/ynn.htm> to watch the episode. You can also subscribe to Yosemite Nature Notes on iTunes or on YouTube (in high definition).**

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, *no a la carte service during Bracebridge Dinner events.* Call for details.  
Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm  
Appropriate attire respectfully requested for dinner. Reservations recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch: 209/372-1489.  
**The Ahwahnee Bar** 11:30am 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-7:30pm  
**Mountain Room Lounge**  
4:30pm to 11pm (Mon.-Fri.)  
Noon - 11pm (Sat.-Sun.)  
*Holiday hours (December 24-January 1)*  
*Noon-11pm*  
*New Year's Eve hours noon - 1am*  
**Mountain Room Restaurant**  
Sunday - Thursday 5:00pm to 8:30pm  
Friday - Saturday 5:00pm to 9:00pm  
*Holiday hours*  
*December 25, 4pm to 9pm*  
*New Year's Eve, 5pm to 10:30pm*  
Reservations taken for 8 or more. 209/372-1281

Curry Village  
**Pizza Deck**  
5pm to 9pm beginning Friday, Dec. 17, noon- 9pm beginning Wednesday Dec. 22 through Sunday, Jan. 2nd. Open Fridays from 5pm to 9pm and Saturdays from noon to 9pm in January and February. Also open noon to 9pm on Sundays during holiday weekends.  
**Coffee Corner**  
7am-11am Saturday, Dec. 18 through Sunday, Jan. 2nd. 7am-11am Saturdays and Sunday in January and February, and Mondays on holiday weekends

Wawona  
*Closes for the season on January 2, 2011*  
**Wawona Hotel Dining Room**  
Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am  
*Complimentary breakfast offered for hotel guests*  
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, *closes at 5pm Dec. 25*  
Crane Flat  
**Store**  
10am to 4pm daily - Closed effective January 3 with exceptions of January 16-18, 2011 and February 13-15, 2011

#### GAS STATIONS

**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 to 4pm daily - Closed effective January 3 with exceptions of January 16-18, 2011 and February 13-15, 2011. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

# Visitor Services

## Beyond Yosemite Valley

## Wawona

### Pioneer Yosemite History Center

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

### 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. Please come prepared with your own allowed bear canisters. Bear canisters are available for rent at the Wawona Store.

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

### Snow Travel to the Grove

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

### Distance and Elevation

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

### Grizzly Giant

Distance from trailhead: 0.8 mile/1.3km  
Elevation gain: 400ft/122m

### Fallen Wawona Tunnel Tree

Distance from trailhead: 2.5 miles/4km  
Elevation gain: 1,000 ft/305m

**Dogs and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.**



Giant sequoias. Photo by Christine White Loberg

## Big Oak Flat

(Hwy 120)

### Big Oak Flat Information Station

The information station is closed until spring. Wilderness permits can be obtained on the Big Oak Flat Information Station porch via self registration. Please come prepared with your own allowed bear canister.

### 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**  
209-372-4831, [www.yosemitevalleychapel.org](http://www.yosemitevalleychapel.org)  
SUNDAY SERVICES

9:15 AM (Sunday School and Nursery available).  
11:00 AM (NO Sunday school or Nursery)  
6:30 P.M. Sunday Evening Service/Bible

#### TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES

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

**THURSDAY MIDWEEK SERVICE**  
Thursday Evening Service 7:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE**  
December 24 4:00 P.M.

**NEW YEARS EVE**  
December 31` 10:00 P.M.

Various Bible Studies during the week call for times and locations.

**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

Call Dave M. at 209/765-1266. 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...



Badger Pass Ski Area, Photo: DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite

## 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 prohibited in Emerald Pool (above Vernal Fall) and in the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

### 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 at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail, burying human waste six inches deep and pack out any toilet paper.

### 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, Back-country 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 and bear canisters are available for rent at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, the Badger Pass A Frame, and the Hetch Hetchy entrance during hours of operation. Wilderness permits are available via self registration at the Hill's Studio in Wawona, at the Ranger Station in Tuolumne Meadows, and on porch at the Big Oak Flat Information Station 24hrs a day. Call the parks main phone line at 209/372-0200, or check the web at [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm) for additional information.

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 .

### More Information

- [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm)
- Leave No Trace [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)
- Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue [www.friendofyosar.org](http://www.friendofyosar.org)



# ...and Yosemite



## Keeping Bears Wild

Black bears are active year-round! *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.

### 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](http://www.nps.gov/yose/bears)).



## 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](http://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.

## 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.

# Glaciers in Yosemite

By Andy Steele, Yosemite Park Ranger



Lyell Glacier, Yosemite National Park. Left, G.K. Gilbert of the USGS taken in 1903; Right, Hassan Basagic taken in 2004

Nearly 140 years ago, in October of 1871, John Muir was on one of his many saunters through the Yosemite high country. When he arrived at the base of Merced Peak (he called it Black Mountain), Muir was riveted by a small stream issuing from the foot of a massive, unstable boulder field. The water was running thick with a strange mud unlike anything Muir had ever seen. Upon rubbing the gritty sediment, known as “glacial flour,” between his fingers, Muir exclaimed, “Glacier mud -- mountain meal!” As an amateur geologist, Muir knew glacial evidence when he found it, and he soon set about documenting and measuring glaciers elsewhere in Yosemite.

Muir discovered and measured many glaciers in the Sierra Nevada. His methods for measuring glaciers may seem quaint and archaic to today’s digital-age readers. After placing a line of wooden stakes across the face of the Maclure Glacier, Muir returned 47 days later to measure their displacement, assuming that the stakes in the center of the glacier would travel farthest. Muir found that the Maclure glacier moved nearly four feet during his study. Regardless of his experiments’ elegant simplicity, Muir’s discovery of the Merced Peak Glacier, and his careful studies of other glaciers in Yosemite, proved the existence of living glaciers in the Sierra Nevada. It also initiated a profound rethinking of geologic processes in Yosemite

## A Glacial Struggle

Until the 1870s and Muir’s glacial revelation, Josiah Whitney, head of the California Geological Survey, was the most prominent voice among California geologists. Whitney believed that Yosemite Valley had been formed cataclysmically when great earthquakes caused the Valley floor to subside. In contrast, Muir contended that the small, isolated glaciers he saw in the high country had once been part of massive ice fields that flowed into Yosemite Valley, sculpting and transforming the landscape as they progressed.

While Whitney acknowledged the presence of glaciers near Yosemite’s highest peaks, he refused to assign them any role in the formation of Yosemite landmarks like Half Dome or El Capitan. Over time, Muir won converts from the scientific community, even while Whitney waged a decades-long war of words against that “ignorant shepherd” who lacked even a college degree.

Long-isolated from this historical controversy, today’s geologists can see how perceptive Muir was, but they also realize that he overestimated the role of glaciers in landscape formation throughout California. Muir also believed that his glaciers were the literal remnants of the last major ice age, which peaked about 20,000 years ago. Modern science, however, points to a much more recent origin for the ice that still remains in the Sierra Nevada.

## Measuring Glaciers Today

Dr. Greg Stock, Yosemite’s park geologist, continues a tradition of glacial study that extends directly back to John Muir. Every summer, Stock explores a few prominent Yosemite glaciers, primarily on Mounts Lyell and Maclure. When asked about measuring glaciers, he comments, half-jokingly, that surveying these frozen rivers still involves, “Hiking 12 miles into the wilderness and putting stakes in the ice.” The basic method is almost identical to that used by Muir nearly 140 years ago. Stock is, however, using lasers to map the progress of his stakes in the ice, giving him a degree of accuracy that Muir would have found incredible.

This year, Stock determined that the Maclure Glacier is still advancing at a rate similar to that Muir measured. But some of Muir’s ideas have been proven wrong; Stock says that these remaining glaciers are not ancient relics, but grew during a 500-year medieval cool period that ended around 1850. This means that early photographs of the Lyell Glacier probably show it at its maximum size, and its modern retreat is easily documented. When Yosemite rangers surveyed these glaciers in the 1930s and 1940s, they were well aware that the ice was shrinking; the rate of retreat has, if anything, accelerated since then.

The concern, as Stock sees it, is that most Sierra glaciers have shrunk by roughly 50% in the last century. There comes a point when a glacier, having

lost sufficient volume, ceases to move under its own weight, becoming a stagnant ice patch and eventually a mere snowfield. In some cases all that remains is bare bedrock.

## The Future of Yosemite’s Glaciers

The transition from glacier to snowfield has been documented at many locations in Yosemite. The Merced Peak Glacier that Muir discovered had disappeared by the 1970s. The list of these once-active glaciers reads like an obituary, with only the largest and highest-elevation ones still advancing downslope.

The loss of glaciers has potentially important implications for Yosemite and California. Glaciers provide highly specialized habitat for rare plant and animal species--habitat that is shrinking every year. The runoff from glaciers also provides a dependable water source to aquatic ecosystems in Yosemite, as well as to millions of Californians; uncertainty over water availability will provoke some challenging transitions.

But, sadly, we are also going to lose one of the features that defines Yosemite. At the current rate of retreat--and including the predicted shift in global temperatures--it is possible that Yosemite will lose all of its glaciers within the next several decades. When that happens, we will have lost more than habitat and clean water. These disappearing glaciers are a profound link to the natural world and how it has been studied, a tangible reminder of how the Yosemite landscape was formed.

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

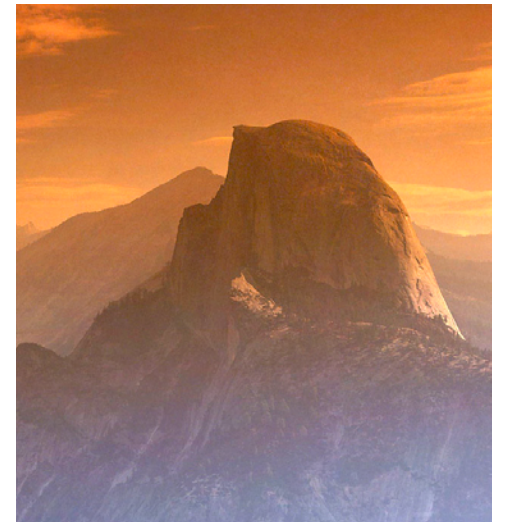
Our mission remains the same: Providing for Yosemite's future is our passion. We inspire people to support projects and programs that preserve and protect Yosemite National Park's resources and enrich the visitor experience.

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](http://yosemiteconservancy.org)



YOSEMITE  
CONSERVANCY



## Contact Us

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## Want to get involved?

Yosemite National Park is busy planning for the future. **Visit us at one of our regular Open Houses on January 26, 2011 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>