



# Yosemite Guide

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

October 12, 2011 - December 13, 2011

Autumn in Tuolumne Meadows, NPS Photo

# October - December 2011

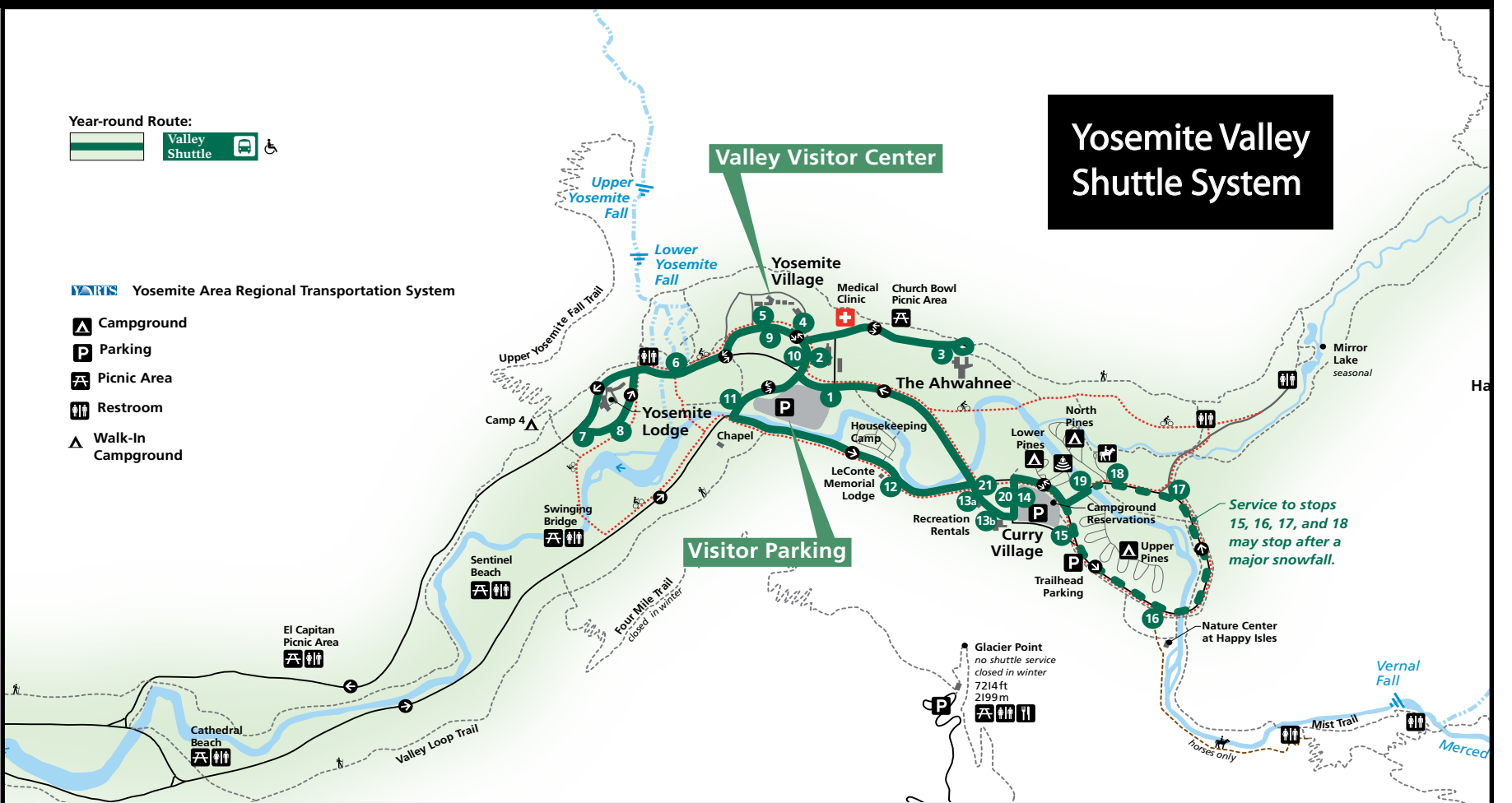


Volume 36, Issue 8

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

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Yosemite Guide October 12, 2011 - December 13, 2011



Year-round Route:  
 Valley Shuttle

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

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

## Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am - 10:00pm and serves stops in numerical order.

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

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 National Park Service  
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# Seasonal Highlights

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.

## 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.)

## Halloween History Stroll

October 29 & 31, 2011  
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.

## 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.)



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!

### 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.)

### Go Bike Riding or Ice Skating

Bike rentals are available at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village, open 9 am to 5 pm. Curry Village bike rentals close on Oct. 23. Yosemite Lodge bike rentals close on Nov. 20. 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. The skating rink opens for the season on November 19th, 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 Hotel. 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.

## 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](http://www.dot.ca.gov) for highways connecting to Yosemite.

## 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 through the eastern Valley. The trail starts at shuttle stop #17. (Please note, the back of the Mirror Lake Loop is currently closed due to rockslide. See Valley map on the back of this Guide.)

## Check out Yosemite Conservancy Evening Theater

Watch John Muir's dramatic battle for Hetch Hetchy Valley or tales his most thrilling wild adventures on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Presented by actor Lee Stetson, whose performances have enthralled Yosemite visitors for 29 years.

Stunning Yosemite rock climbing shots in a film that has been featured on PBS – Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey on Fridays and Saturdays. Yosemite climber Ron Kauk appears in person to share his view of rock climbing as a way of life. See page 5 for show dates. Tickets available at the Visitors Center Yosemite Conservancy Store and at Tour & Activity Desks.

## What's Inside

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# Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

## Entrance Fees

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

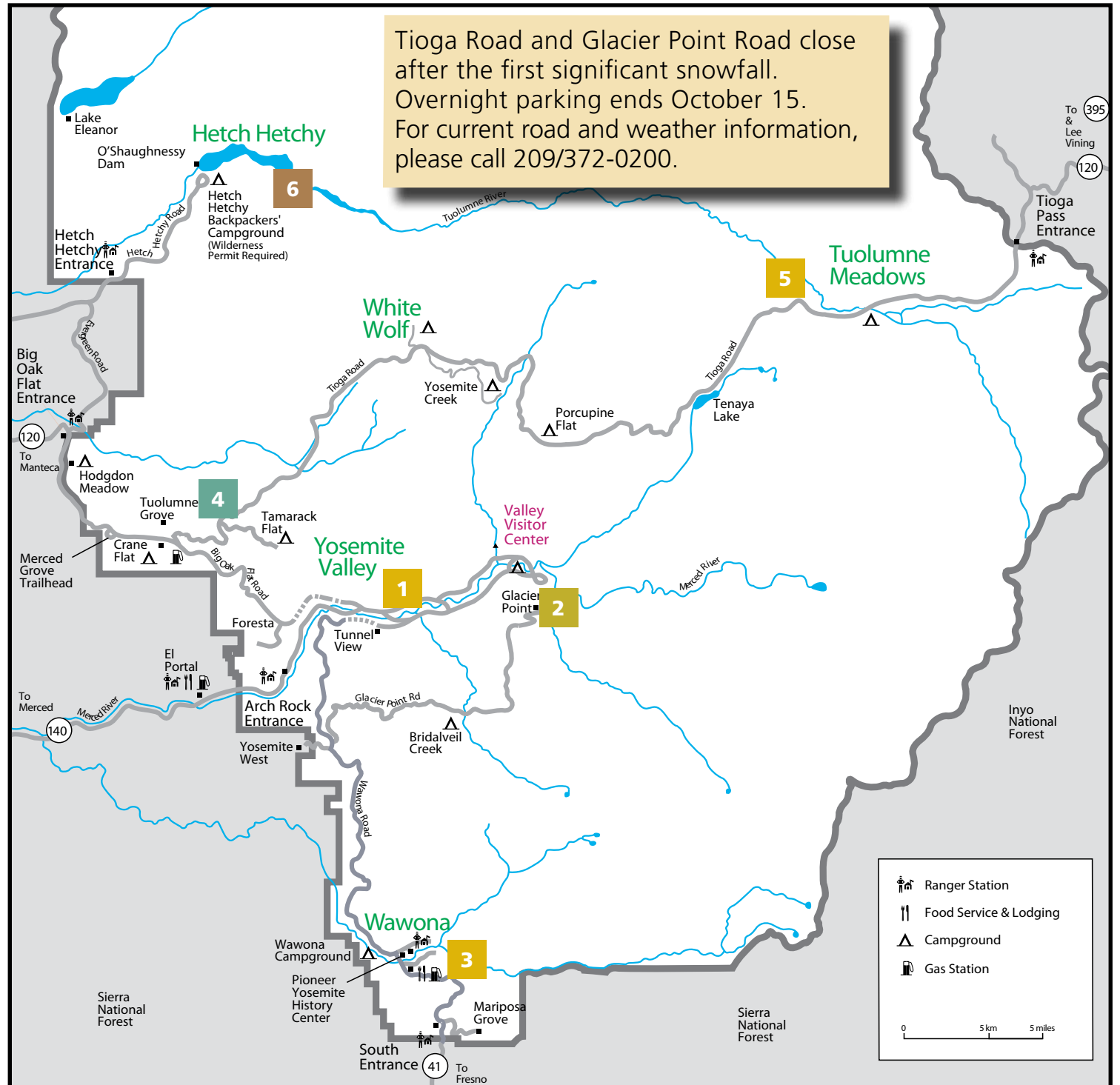
**Highway 132/49**  
Coulterville Visitor Center  
209/878-3074

**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** 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.

## 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, and 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.



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.*

**Winter sports** get underway in November and December. Badger Pass Ski Area is tentatively scheduled to open on Dec. 16. The ice rink at Curry Village is scheduled to open on Nov. 19. 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.

**Visit the Curry Village Stables** for a trail ride. Stable open as weather permits; closes for the season on Oct. 30.

**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 5 pm. Curry Village bike rentals close on Oct. 23. Yosemite Lodge bike rentals close on Nov. 20. Call 209/372-8319 for more information on bike rentals.

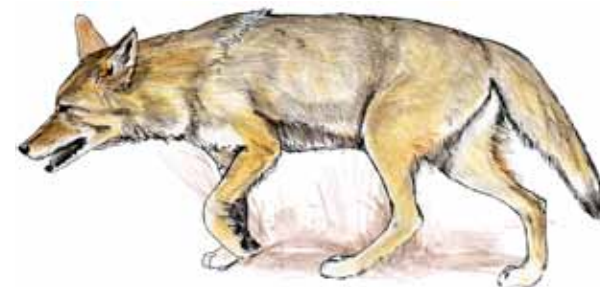
**Weather permitting, several motor coach sightseeing tours are available in Yosemite.** To experience the Valley with a guide, take the Valley Floor Tour. This 2-hour tour departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge.

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 the Yosemite Lodge, open 7:30am to 5pm.



Coyote. All issue illustrations by Tom Whitworth



# Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	WAWONA
<b>Sunday</b>	<p>10:00am <b>CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK TIME</b> (November 27 only) 1 hr, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> 1 ½ hrs. Lower Yosemite Fall, shuttle stop #6 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:30pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (DNC) ♿</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Programs listed in ALL CAPS are especially for children and their families</b></p> </div>
<b>Monday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel (TAAG)</p> <p>9:30pm <b>FAMILY CRAFT MORNING</b> (October 17 and 24 only) 1 ½ hrs. Yosemite Art Center (YC)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>“In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams” Class</b> 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery \$ (TAAG)</p> <p>1:30pm <b>BEGINNER'S PAINTING CLASS</b> (October 17 and 24 only) 1 ½ hrs. Yosemite Art Center \$ supply fee (YC) Ends October 23.</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Yosemite's First People</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:30pm <b>HALLOWEEN CEMETERY TOUR</b> (October 31 only) ¼ hr, Walk through the Yosemite Cemetery, meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center with flashlights (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:30pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) ♿</p>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1 ½ hours. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.</p> <p>10:00am <b>Art Workshop</b> (October 18 and 25 only) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center, details, page 6. \$5 (YC).</p> <p>12:00pm <b>Yosemite Forum</b> Dr. Martha Conklin - Groundwater Fluxes and Discharge in the Upper Merced River Basin (October 11 only) 1hr. Yosemite Valley Auditorium (NPS)</p> <p>12:00pm <b>Yosemite Forum</b> Jeff Rosenthal - Prehistoric Human Ecology of the Sierra Nevada: A View from Crane Flat (November 8 only) 1hr. Yosemite Valley Auditorium (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>“Using your Digital Camera” Class</b> 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – A Changing Yosemite</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Dinner Talk</b> (December 13 only) ½ hr. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:30pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (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>10:00am <b>Art Workshop</b> (October 12, 19 and 26 only) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center, details, page 6. \$5 (YC).</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Wild About Wildlife</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES</b> (November 23 only) 1 hr, Yosemite Lodge Mountain Room Lounge (DNC) ♿</p> <p>4:00pm <b>Twilight Stroll</b> (November 16, 30, and December 7 only) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>4:30pm <b>Twilight Stroll</b> (October 12, 19, 26 and November 2 only) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Yosemite Theater LIVE “Conversations with a Tramp”</b> performed by Lee Stetson. (October 19, 26, November 2, 9 &amp; 16) Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</p> <p>7:30pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (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>Thursday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1 ½ hours. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)</p> <p>10:00am <b>Art Workshop</b> (October 13, 20 and 27 only) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center, details, page 6. \$5 (YC)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>“In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams” Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery \$</p> <p>1:00pm <b>FAMILY STROLL</b> (November 24 only) 1 hr, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater (DNC) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Geology</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK TIME</b> (November 24 only) ½ hr, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Garden Terrace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Yosemite Theater LIVE “Spirit of John Muir”</b> performed by Lee Stetson. (October 20, 27, November 3, 10 &amp; 17) Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</p> <p>7:30pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue &amp; topic (DNC) ♿</p> <p>8:00pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES</b> (except November 24 and Dec 8) 1 hr, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (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>Friday</b>	<p>10:00am <b>Art Workshop</b> (October 14, 21 and 28 only) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center, details, page 6. \$5 (YC)</p> <p>10:00am <b>CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK TIME</b> (November 25 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk –Trees</b> 1 ½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (NPS)</p> <p>3:00pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES</b> (November 18 only) 1 hr, Yosemite Lodge Mountain Room Lounge (DNC) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>FAMILY STROLL</b> (November 25 only) 1 hr, The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Yosemite Theater LIVE “Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey”</b> Followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk, featured in the film. (October 14, 21, 28, November 11 &amp; 18) Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</p> <p>7:30pm <b>Film: Ansel Adams</b> 1hrs. Check Local listings for venue (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>8:30pm <b>NIGHT PROWL</b> (October 14, 21 &amp; 28 only) 1 ½ hrs, Explore Yosemite at night! Tickets/info at any tour desk (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>Saturday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1 ½ hours. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)</p> <p>9:00am <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> 45 min, stories &amp; activities for kids 6 &amp; under, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>10:00am <b>Art Workshop</b> (October 15, 22 and 29 only) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center, details, page 6. \$5 (YC).</p> <p>1:00pm <b>“Using your Digital Camera” Class</b> 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Yosemite's Legacy</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Fine Print Tour</b> 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Yosemite Theater LIVE “Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey”</b> Followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk, featured in the film. (October 15, 22 &amp; 29, November 12 &amp; 19) Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</p> <p>7:30pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:30pm <b>HALLOWEEN CEMETERY TOUR</b> (October 29 only) ¼ hr, Walk through the Yosemite Cemetery, meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center with flashlights (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  
**\$** 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.



# 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 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 located in Yosemite Village adjacent to the postoffice. Hours are 8 am to 5 pm through October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Visit the Wilderness Center to learn about wilderness safety, plan trips, obtain wilderness permits and maps, and rent bear canisters. After October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Wilderness permits and bear canisters can be obtained at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center from 9am to 5pm.

## 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.

### VIEWES & VISITORS: THE YOSEMITE EXPERIENCE IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

This summer the museum gallery exhibit focuses on the Yosemite visitor experience from 1900 to 1946, an era of great change for the park. Photographs, paintings, ephemera, and historic artifacts from that era will be exhibited. Oral histories, digital slide shows and film footage will supplement the artifacts on exhibit. The exhibit will be open daily from 10am to noon and 1pm to 4pm through October 31<sup>st</sup>.

### YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE EXHIBIT

The annual Yosemite Renaissance Art exhibit will open at the Yosemite Museum Gallery on February 25, 2012. Yosemite Renaissance is an all media, juried, fine art competition & exhibition on the theme of Yosemite and the environment of the Sierra Nevada. Entries to the competition are currently being accepted. For details visit: [www.yosemitem Renaissance.org](http://www.yosemitem Renaissance.org). Entry deadline for art submission: November 10, 2011.

*Yosemite Renaissance is a non-profit organization that encourages diverse interpretations of Yosemite in the visual arts*

## Ansel Adams Gallery

The gallery is located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center and is open daily. Hours are 9am 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).

Penny Otwell - Local Color, September 1st - October 26th

Kerik Kouklis: "Uncommon Views", October 27th - End of December (Reception, Saturday November 12. Hours TBA)



## Yosemite Art Center

Open Monday through Thursday from 9am until 4:30pm. (Closed for lunch.) The Yosemite Art 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.

October 11-15 Marcy Wheeler, Impressive, Expressive Yosemite: Acrylic

October 18-22 John Hewitt, Watercolor Landscape

October 25-29 Pam Pederson, Pen and Ink Sketching with Watercolor

### FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW

The Yosemite Art Center will be hosting an exhibit of art works by residents and employees of Yosemite National Park. This multimedia exhibit will be shown through November.

## Yosemite Outdoor Adventures

The non-profit Yosemite Conservancy sponsors this year-round series of fun, educational field programs; they're a great way to deepen your connection to our park.

October 16-19 Autumn Light Photography with Dave Wyman and Ken Rockwell

November 3-6 Focusing on Nature with Keith Walklet and Mike Osborne

December 3 The Day of the Woodpecker with Pete Devine and a diverse bird group

Find all the details at [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org), or call 209/379-2317, ext. 10. Park entry and camping are included, motel rooms have already been set aside for these programs. The Conservancy also arranges Custom Adventures for individuals, families and groups: [adventures@yosemiteconservancy.org](mailto:adventures@yosemiteconservancy.org).

### 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  
*May be subject to closures during October due to ongoing construction*  
**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 Area  
**Wawona Store and Pioneer Gift Shop**  
 8am to 6pm  
**Big Trees Gift Shop**  
 9am to 5pm, *closes for the season Nov. 6*

### GOLF

Wawona Hotel Golf Course  
 9am to 5pm, weather and conditions permitting. Nine-hole, par-35 course, *closes for the season Oct. 30*

### WINTER SPORTS

Badger Pass Ski Area and Sport Shop  
**Scheduled to open December 16, 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  
*May be subject to closures during October due to ongoing construction*  
**Degnan's Loft**, 5pm to 9pm, *closes for season on Oct. 16*  
**Village Grill**, 11am to 5pm, *closes for season on Oct. 26.*

##### The Ahwahnee

**Dining Room**  
Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am  
Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm  
Dinner: 5:00pm-9pm  
Sunday Brunch: 7am to 2pm  
*Appropriate attire required for dinner. Reservations recommended for all meals, strongly recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch. 209/372-1489.*  
**The Ahwahnee Bar** 11:30am to 11pm  
**The Coffee Bar** 7am to 10am Monday-Friday, 7am to 10:30am Saturday and Sunday

##### Yosemite Lodge

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

##### Curry Village

**Pizza Deck**  
5pm-9pm Monday-Friday,  
noon-9pm Sat.-Sun. *After Oct. 29, weekends and holidays only.*  
**Coffee Corner**  
Daily 7am to 11am. *Closes for the season Nov. 27*  
**Curry Village Bar**  
5pm - 10pm Monday-Friday  
Noon-10pm Saturday-Sunday, *closes for season on Oct. 30*  
**Pavilion Buffet**  
7am - 10am daily; *closes for the season October 30*  
5:30pm and 8pm, nightly; *closes for the season October 29*

##### Wawona

*The Wawona Hotel and Dining Room are closed from November 27-December 16*  
**Wawona Hotel Dining Room**  
Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am  
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm  
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm, Sunday-Thursday,  
5pm-9pm Friday-Saturday  
*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

##### Curry Village

**Gift/Grocery**  
9am to 7pm

##### Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 6pm

##### Crane Flat

**Store** 10am-4pm

#### GAS STATIONS

##### Gas outside Yosemite Valley

##### 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.

#### SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

##### Curry Village Showers

Open 24 hours

##### Housekeeping Camp Laundromat

8am to 10pm

# Visitor Services

## Beyond Yosemite Valley

## Wawona

### Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio

Open Friday - Sunday, 9:30 - 4:00 through November 27. (May close for lunch). The Wawona Visitor Center offers information about park activities, Wilderness permits, trail information, books, bear canister rentals, and maps. Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, Hill's Studio was the gallery and art studio of famous 19th-century landscape painter, Thomas Hill. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona Store parking area and follow the path up the hill. 209/375-9531

### 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

Wilderness permits can be obtained on the front porch of the Hill Studio via self registration. Bear canisters can be rented 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. 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 typically closes in November or December. 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. Operates 9am - 6pm weekends only. Closes October 30th or after the first snowfall.

#### BIG TREES TRAM TOUR

A 1¼-hr. tour of the grove is available if weather permits through Oct. 30 or after the first snow. The audio tour is available in five languages and for the visually impaired. Call 209/375-1621.

#### WALKING THROUGH THE GROVE

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 and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Mariposa Grove.

## Big Oak Flat

### Big Oak Flat Information Station

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

Open through October 14th.

### 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.

## Tuolumne Meadows

### Wilderness Permits

Open 8 am to 5 pm. The wilderness center offers wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, visitor information, maps, and guidebooks. The Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center is located just south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, at shuttle stop #3. The last day that the Tuolumne Wilderness Center will be open is the 14th of October. **The last day to park anywhere overnight along the Tioga Road (including the Tuolumne Meadows area) is the night of October 14th.**

#### GENERAL SERVICES

##### Village Garage

8am to 5pm Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4:30pm. 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

The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am and 5:00pm and is closed on Saturday and Sunday. 24 hour emergency ambulance service continues to be available. Emergency care: 24 hours daily. 209/372-4637

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

**YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH** (Yosemite Chapel)  
Pastor Brent Moore Resident Minister, 209-372-4831

www.yosemitevalleychapel.org, Wedding information on our website.

#### SUNDAY SERVICES

9:15 AM (Sunday School available).  
6:30 PM. Sunday Evening Service/Bible Study

#### TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Bible 7:00 PM call chapel for location  
Men's Bible 7:00 PM call chapel for location

#### THURSDAY MIDWEEK SERVICE

Thursday Evening Service 7:00 PM

#### THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thursday Nov 24 10:00 A.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

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

#### 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

#### 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. Please see Wilderness Permit Information on pages 6 and 7 of this Guide for more information about obtaining Wilderness Permits.

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).

Information about Half Dome permits is available on our website at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

### 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)

### 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

Keep Yosemite's Black Bears Wild and Alive, while protecting yourself and your property.

### Store Your Food Properly.

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.

### 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.

### 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.

**Please report bear sightings by calling 209/372-0322.**

## 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.

## How to Store Food

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

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

## 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 <b>Trail to Columbia Rock</b>	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) <i>back of loop closed temporarily due to rockfall</i>	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

## 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.



# Climate Change and Yosemite

By Park Ranger Matt Holly



Vogelsang Peak, Photo by Matt Holly

“Is Yosemite Falls still running?”  
 “Where can we see Half Dome?”  
 “I want to go to El Capitan!”  
 “How do we get to the giant sequoias?”

If you listen to a park ranger answer questions, you might notice that often the focus is on individual attractions at Yosemite National Park. A trip to Yosemite sometimes includes checking off a to-do list of each dramatic park icon.

Of course, Yosemite – like all national parks – is more than a series of individual features but instead contains continuous, self-contained ecosystems. Covering 1,200 square miles, the park is a living laboratory of plants and animals in a natural habitat. As human populations increase and spread across the globe, national parks like Yosemite

remain protected from sprawling development. This allows scientists and park managers to study how the natural world responds to outside changes.

## Is it warming?

There is one change you may have already noticed that is affecting parks and people around the world – the gradual warming of the Earth. Worldwide temperatures have steadily increased, affecting everything from the glaciers of Glacier National Park to the sea-level ecosystem of Florida’s Everglades. As of October 2011, global temperatures have been warmer than the 20th century average for every month since February 1985 – that’s 319 months in a row! It is certainly warmer now than when Yosemite was first protected in 1864.

It would be comforting to believe this is a natural change unrelated to humans; after all, Yosemite’s glacially-carved landscape attests to past climate changes. Unfortunately, today’s warming is occurring much faster than previous changes, pointing to a source that previously did not exist. Daily, our modern civilization removes carbon from the ground to put in the air as we heat our homes, drive our cars, and live our lives. Since carbon dioxide and other similar gasses are known to trap in the Sun’s heat, it is not surprising to observe rapid, human-caused warming.

## The Future

Future visitors to Yosemite may see a very different park than we do today. With warmer winter temperatures, some snowstorms may be replaced with rainstorms. Catastrophic winter floods – like the January 1997 flood that closed Yosemite Valley for over two months – occur during winter rainstorms and thus could become more common. Since Yosemite’s rivers and waterfalls are fed primarily by snowmelt, visitors might encounter waterfalls with less water that dry up sooner. Wildfires could increase, changing the composition of Yosemite’s forests and meadows. As vegetation changes, Yosemite’s animals will need to adapt or migrate to a better fitting home. In short, all aspects of the park’s ecosystems are facing major changes over the next few decades. Which of Yosemite’s species will survive?

Today’s changing climate is fueled in part by us, so this gives us the ability to choose our future. If we continue down our current path, we must realize we are choosing a world where national parks – and the rest of the planet – will look very different than what we see today. Or, we could instead choose to modify our habits and lifestyles to protect our natural world. In essence, today’s warming is an experiment we are conducting on the living laboratory of Yosemite – an experiment with an unknown result. We have only one Yosemite and one Earth; should we be experimenting on it? What will the visitors of the future see when they visit Yosemite?

For more information about how you can help the National Park Service respond to our warming planet, visit [www.nps.gov/climatechange/](http://www.nps.gov/climatechange/).

## How Can I Help?

You may feel like you can’t make a difference when it comes to climate change, but you can! Your actions will help to slow its progression, giving scientists and society more time to minimize the impacts on our world. Check out the list below for suggestions. Remember, the more you do, the more you can make a difference.

- Keep tires properly inflated and change air and oil filters regularly to improve your car’s mileage.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent or LED bulbs.
- Air dry your clothes on a clothesline instead of using an electric or gas dryer.
- Choose items that have recyclable packaging and are made from recycled materials.
- Avoid highly processed food. Creating and transporting it uses more energy than fresh foods.
- Compost food and yard waste to reduce the amount of garbage you send to landfills.



NPS Ranger Matt Holly currently works in Yosemite’s Public Information Office. After stints at Sequoia, Acadia, and Voyageurs National Parks, Matt is happy to be back at Yosemite, where he first started in 2005.



# Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

## Enhance the Visitor Experience

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

**This publication was made possible by the Yosemite Park Partners listed on this page.**

Read more below or visit [www.yosemitepartners.org](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)



### NatureBridge

NatureBridge provides residential field science programs for youth in the world's most spectacular classroom - Yosemite National Park. Through active student engagement, our faculty teaches science, history, and the arts and gives these subjects context through personal experience. A NatureBridge learning adventure strives to foster a life-long connection to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it. Find out more about our year-round programs for schools and summer programs for individual teens at [www.naturebridge.org/yosemite](http://www.naturebridge.org/yosemite)



### Yosemite Conservancy

Yosemite Conservancy is the non-profit 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 60 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, wilderness permits, wildlife preservation, 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 go online at: [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org)



*Providing For Yosemite's Future*

## Contact Us

**Yosemite National Park**  
9039 Village Drive  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/372-0200  
[www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose)

**The Ansel Adams Gallery**  
PO Box 455  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/372-4413  
209/372-4714 fax  
[www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com)

**DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite**  
PO Box 578  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
801/559-5000  
[www.yosemitepark.com](http://www.yosemitepark.com)

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PO Box 487  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
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[www.naturebridge.org](http://www.naturebridge.org)

**Yosemite Conservancy**  
155 Montgomery Street, St. 1104  
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800/469-7275  
415/434-0745 fax  
[www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org)

## Get Involved!

**Mariposa Grove Restoration EIS – Public Site Visit:** The National Park Service is embarking on a plan to restore giant sequoia habitat in the Mariposa Grove. We are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to develop and analyze site design alternatives and are looking for your input. Public scoping for this project began August 31, 2011 and will continue into the fall (date TBA). To learn more about this project, join park staff on Friday, October 14, 2011 in the Mariposa Grove. Meet at the Mariposa Grove Gift Shop at 9:30am for a 1½ hr. site visit. For more information about the Mariposa Grove Restoration EIS visit: [www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mgrove.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mgrove.htm)

**Merced River Plan –Fall Workshops:** Throughout the development of the Merced River Plan we have checked in with you to let you know where we are in the process, share what we've learned, and get your ideas. In the Spring 2011 Merced River Plan Workshops and Science Forum, we shared with you what we were learning about the condition of the river and its Outstandingly Remarkable Values. Since then, we've been working on developing options for addressing the concerns identified through the Draft Baseline Condition Report and public comments. The Fall Workshops will be an opportunity to help us start combining these options into feasible alternatives. For more information about the Merced River Plan visit [www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mrp.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mrp.htm). **Merced River Plan Fall Workshops are scheduled for:**

Oct. 27, 2011	5-8 pm	El Portal Community Center, El Portal, California
Oct. 28, 2011	1-5 pm	Wawona Community Center, Wawona, California
Oct. 29, 2011	10 am – 4 pm	Garden Terrace, Yosemite Lodge, Yosemite National Park
Nov. 7, 2011	10 am – 4 pm	Garden Terrace, Yosemite Lodge, Yosemite National Park
Nov. 9, 2011	5-8 pm	Fort Mason Conference Center, Golden Gate Room, San Francisco, California

**Open House:** Join park staff to learn about projects and plans at a free monthly public Open House! It will be held at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium on November 30, 2011.

Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg