



Yosemite Guide

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

December 14, 2011 - February 14, 2012



Parks in Focus

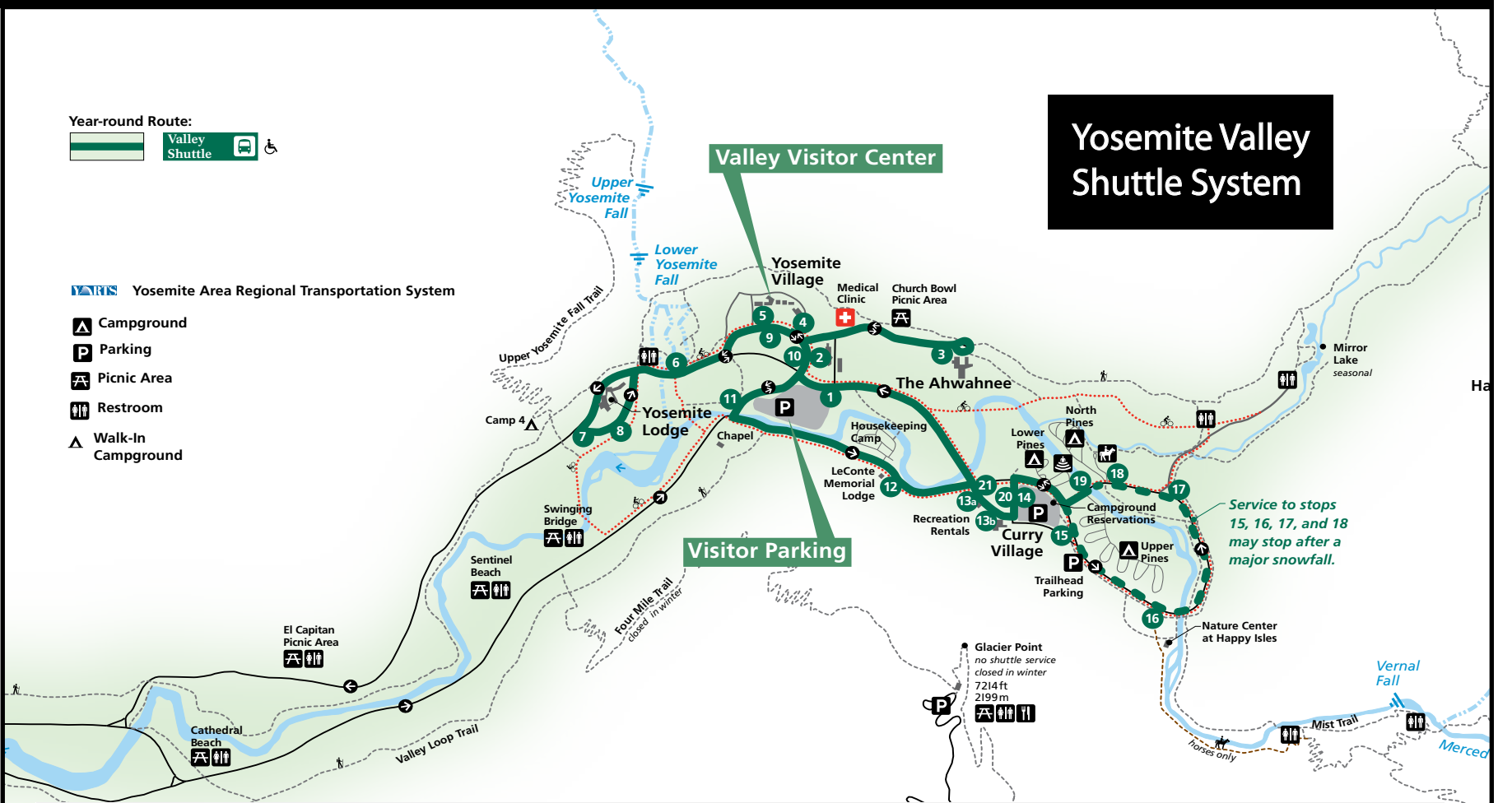
December - February

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Volume 37, Issue 1

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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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Seasonal Highlights

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

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

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 check 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.)

Visit the Ice Rink at Curry Village

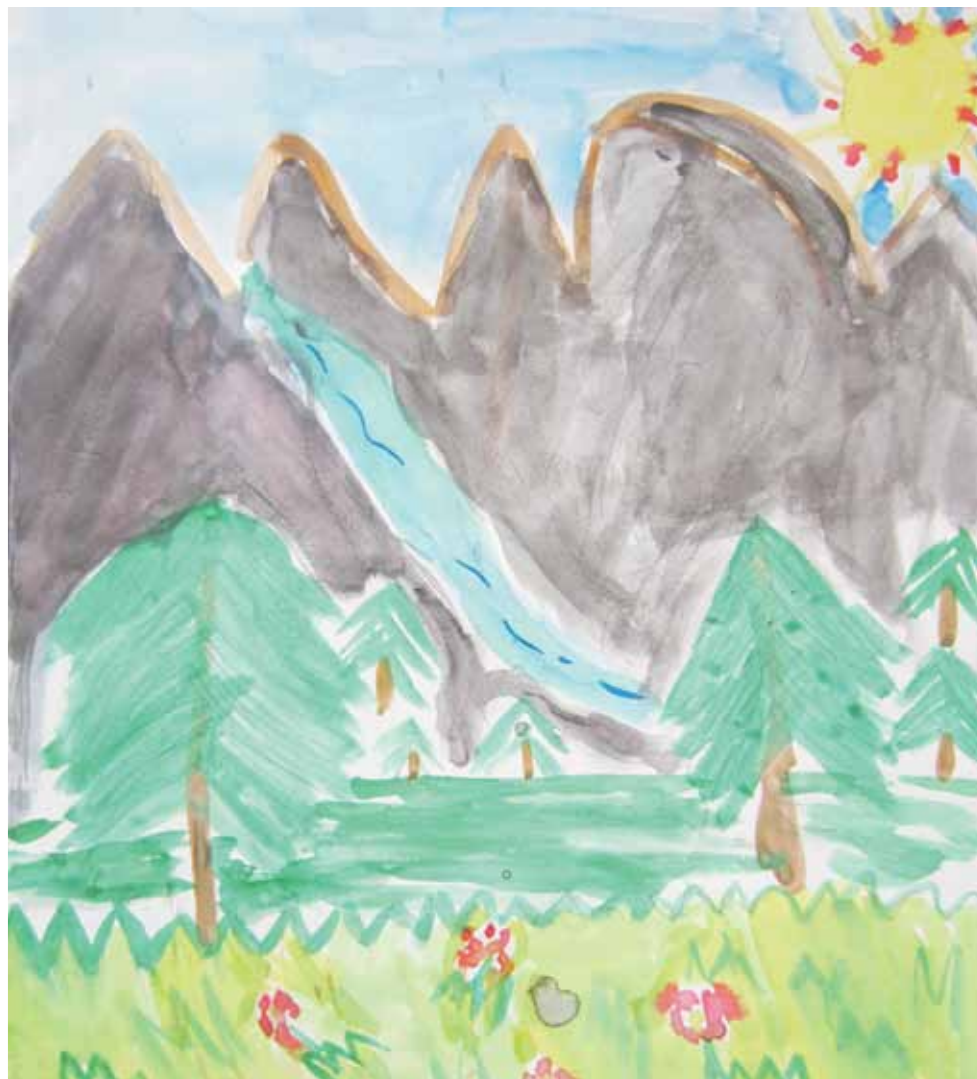
Take the shuttle to Curry Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. Four sessions are available on weekends and holidays: 8:30am to 11:00am, noon to 2:30 pm, 3:30pm to 6:00pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm. Monday through Friday, two sessions are available from 3:30pm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

Take 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.)



By: Danielle Marquez, Gateway Expressions Participant

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

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.)

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.)

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.

Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove Roads are closed each year from after the first significant snowfall to about late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storm periods. Motorists are advised to always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel.

Icy and wet roadways can exist throughout the park! To check conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit www.dot.ca.gov for highways connecting to Yosemite.

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.

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.)

Artwork in this issue provided by participants in Yosemite's varied and numerous youth programs. To learn more, please read our Feature Story on page 10.

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

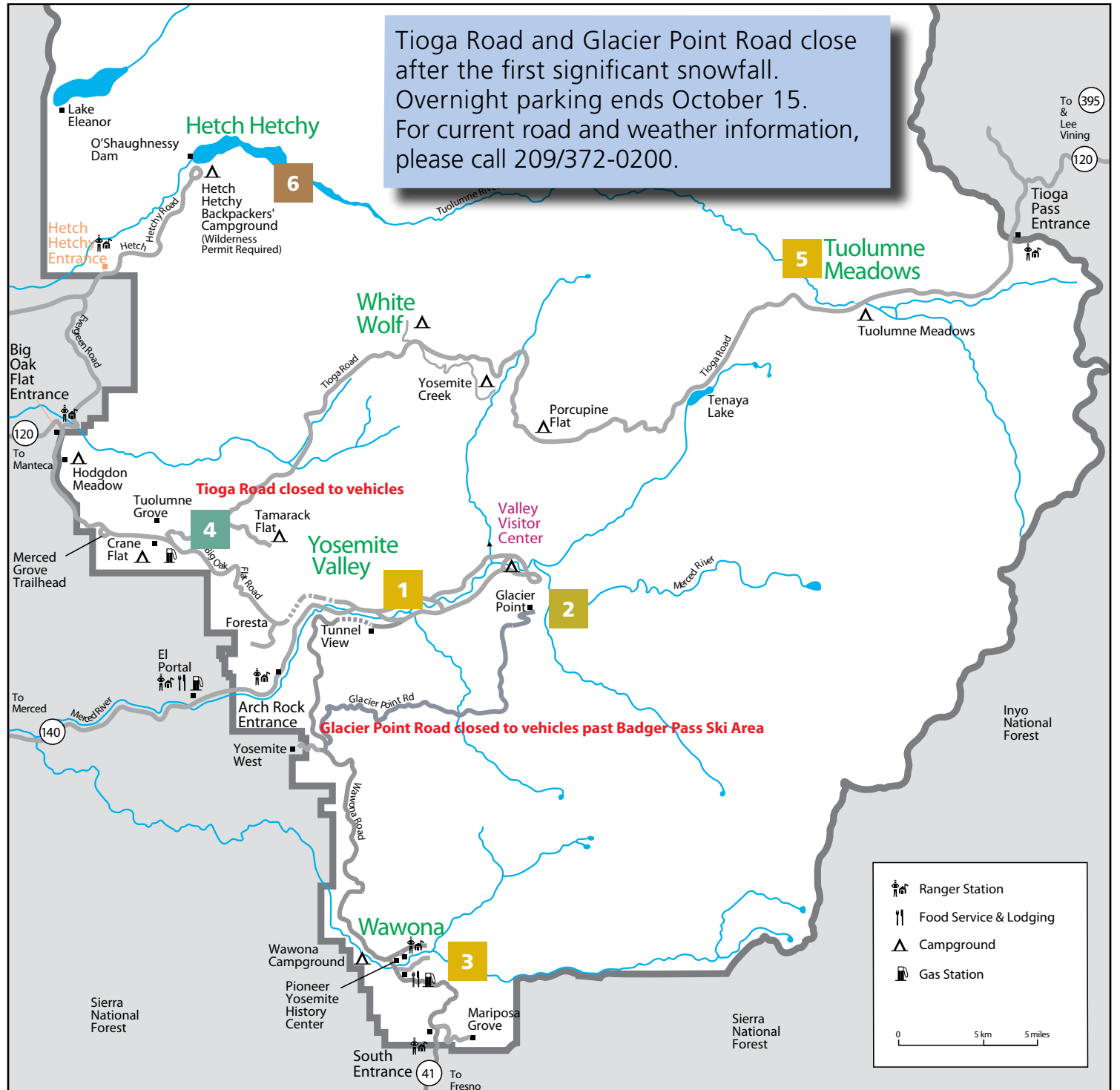
Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/878-3074

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



Tioga Road and Glacier Point Road close after the first significant snowfall. Overnight parking ends October 15. For current road and weather information, please call 209/372-0200.

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

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 16, 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.

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.

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 from either Yosemite Valley Trailheads or the east entrance of the park by ways of Lee Vining Canyon.

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 5 pm through March 31. The road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is a 1 hour and 15 minute drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

Did You Know?

Yosemite National Park features an amazing array of youth and education programs designed to meet the learning objectives of educators, inspire participants, and create meaningful connections to national parks and all public lands while supporting the development of a life-long stewardship ethic. Yosemite features programs for youth beginning at age 4 and continuing up to young adults, age 25.

For more information on youth and education programs offered within Yosemite National Park, as well as other inspiring ways for youth to connect to the park, please contact the Education Branch at 209/375-9503 or email yose_education@nps.gov.



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: 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, and the ice rink at Curry Village is open daily! To learn more: 209/372-8341.

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

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

Weather permitting, a motor coach tours is 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.

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) <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



By Jesus Dolores, Yosemite Leadership Program Intern

Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

	YOSEMITE VALLEY AND BADGER PASS	WAWONA
Sunday	<p>9:00am Adventure Hike- Snowshoe to Dewey Point 6 ½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>11:30am History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 25 only), 1/2 hour, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>1:00pm Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk (Jan 15 only) 3 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Bears 1 ½ hrs. Lower Yosemite Fall, shuttle stop #6 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 18 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Jan 8 & Feb 5 only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr, Check local listings for venue & topic (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow (Feb 19 only) 1 hr, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room, tickets at any tour desk or at door, if available (DNC) \$ ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music (Dec 25 only) 4 hrs, Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, check the holiday schedule for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
Monday	<p>9:00am Camera Walk 1 ½ hours. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel (TAAG)</p> <p>10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>12:30pm "In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams" Class (Dec. 13-Jan.1 only) 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery \$ (TAAG)</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Yosemite's Legacy 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS)</p> <p>4:00pm Winter Twilight Stroll (Starts in January) 1 hr, The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Jan 9 & Feb 6 only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music (Dec 20 only) Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, check the holiday schedule for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) & ♿</p>
Tuesday	<p>9:00am Camera Walk 1 ½ hours. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel (TAAG)</p> <p>10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>12:00pm Yosemite Forum (Jan 10 only) 1 hr. "If not unimpaired, then what? Thoughts about the future of national parks" Presentation by author Bill Tweed. Yosemite Valley Auditorium</p> <p>12:00pm Yosemite Forum (Feb 14 only) 1 hr. "Computer modeling of rockfalls in Yosemite Valley: From back-analyses to runout prediction" Sandra Melzner. Yosemite Valley Auditorium</p> <p>12:30pm "Using your Digital Camera" Class 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery \$ (TAAG)</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Geology 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 20 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK TIME (Dec 27 only) ½ hr, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb 7 only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr, Check local listings for venue & topic (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow (Dec 27 only) 1 hr, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room, tickets at any tour desk or at door, if available (DNC) \$ ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music (Dec. 21 & 28 only) Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, check the holiday schedule for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
Wednesday	<p>9:00am WEE WILD ONES (except Dec 14 and Jan 25) 45 min, stories & activities for kids 6 & under, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>9:00am Adventure Hike- Snowshoe to Dewey Point 6 ½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except December 14) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Wild About Wildlife 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 14 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK TIME (Dec 28 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow (Dec 28 only) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room, tickets at any tour desk or at door, if available (DNC) \$ ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music (Dec. 22 & 29 only) Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, check the holiday schedule for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
Thursday	<p>9:00am Camera Walk 1 ½ hours. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel (TAAG)</p> <p>10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except December 15) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>12:30pm "In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams" Class 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery \$ (TAAG)</p> <p>1:00pm Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk (Starts in January) 3 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Yosemite's First People 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 22 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Jan 5 only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow (Dec 22 only) 1 hr, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room, tickets at any tour desk or at door, if available (DNC) \$ ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr, Check local listings for venue & topic (DNC) ♿</p> <p>8:00pm FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES (Dec 29 only) 1 hr, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music (Dec 16, 23 & 30 only) Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, check the holiday schedule for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) & ♿</p>
Friday	<p>9:00am WEE WILD ONES (except Dec 16 & Jan 13) 45 min, stories & activities for kids 6 & under, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except December 16) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk –Trees 1 ½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (NPS)</p> <p>2:30pm History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 16 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Jan 6 & Feb 3 only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm Film: Ansel Adams 1 hr, Check local listings for venue & topic (TAAG)</p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music (Dec 17, 2 & 31 only) Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, check the holiday schedule for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
Saturday	<p>9:00am Camera Walk 1 ½ hours. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)</p> <p>10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except December 17) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>11:30am History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 24 only) ½ hr, The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>12:30pm "Using your Digital Camera" Class 4hrs. (Except Dec. 24) (Dec. 13- Jan. 1 only) Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$</p> <p>12:30pm "In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams" Class (Offered after Jan. 1st) 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$</p> <p>1:00pm Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk (Starts in January) 3 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk – Winter Ecology 1 ½ hrs. Yosemite Lodge, shuttle stop #8 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm Fine Print Tour (Except Dec. 24) 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)</p> <p>6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Jan 7 & Feb 4 only) 2 hrs, No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow (Feb 18 only) 1 hr, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room, tickets at any tour desk or at door, if available (DNC) \$ ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Ranger Evening Program (except December 24 and 31) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music (Dec 17, 2 & 31 only) Live music & historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, check the holiday schedule for details, Wawona Hotel lounge (DNC) ♿</p>

Programs listed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families

<p>NPS National Park Service</p> <p>DNC DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.</p> <p>AAG The Ansel Adams Gallery</p> <p>YC Yosemite Conservancy</p> <p>\$ Programs offered for a fee</p>	<p>Access for People with Disabilities</p> <p> Accessible parking, lodging, tours, and activities are available throughout the park.</p> <p>For a complete list of accessible services, recreational opportunities, and exhibits, pick up an updated Yosemite Accessibility Guide which is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm.</p>	<p>Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue and white signs.</p> <p> A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0645 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of at least 2 weeks is requested.</p> <p> Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.</p>
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Yosemite Valley



Half Dome, NPS Photo

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

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 5 pm, just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The center offers information, maps, and books in the attached bookstore. Explore the 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. *Please note, on December 25 the Spirit of Yosemite will be shown at 9:30, 10 and 10:30, then every half hour between 2:00-4:30.*

Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits and bear canisters are required year-round for Wilderness travel. They 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.

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.

Starting January 1: Hours of operation 10am -5 pm. *Christmas Eve hours: 9-3 pm*
Closed Christmas Day

The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. See page 5 for photo walk and other event times.

Staff Show:

January 3rd – February 17th (Reception Saturday January 14, 2-4 pm) For more information, call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

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.

January 7, Mariposa Grove Snowshoe Trek
Big tree magic with Ranger Ewart

January 19-22, Winter Landscape Photography
Capture winter's light with John Senser

February 11, Sequoias and Snowshoes
Shirley Spencer heads into Mariposa Grove

Find all the details at 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.

Camping in Yosemite

Camping is available on a first come, first served basis in Yosemite Valley at Upper Pines and Camp 4.

Reservations are required March 15 through November for Yosemite Valley's car campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. Campground reservations are available in blocks of one month at a time, up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month at 7 am Pacific time. Be aware that nearly all reservations for the months of May through September and for some other weekends are filled the first day they become available, usually within seconds or minutes after 7 am!.

To make reservations, visit www.recreation.gov (recommended) or call 877/444-6777

Winter Theater LIVE

The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow

Come travel along with John Muir on some of his famous chilly winter adventures and learn what drove him to his spirited defense of wilderness. Actor Lee Stetson's vibrant portrayal of John Muir has enthralled Yosemite visitors for over 25 years. Show lasts approximately 60 minutes. Tickets and more info available in advance at the Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Tour Desk or at the door. See page 6 for details.



By Jesus Dolores, Yosemite Leadership Program Intern

POST OFFICE

Yosemite Village Main Office
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
Saturday: 10am to noon

Yosemite Lodge Post Office
Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm

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

Wawona Post Office
Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm
Saturday: 9am to noon

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

Yosemite Village The Ansel Adams Gallery
9am to 5pm

Yosemite Bookstore Inside Yosemite Visitor Center
9am to 5pm

Yosemite Museum Store
9am to 5pm, may close for lunch

Village Store
8am to 8pm

Habitat Yosemite
11am to 4pm Thurs.-Sun. only

Sport Shop
10am to 4pm

The Ahwahnee The Ahwahnee Gift Shop
8am to 8pm

The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop
7am to 10pm

Yosemite Lodge Gift/Grocery
8am to 7pm

Nature Shop
11am to 7pm

Curry Village Mountain Shop
9am to 5pm

Curry Village Gift/Grocery
9am-7pm

Wawona Area Wawona Store and Pioneer Gift Shop
8am to 5pm

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
The Ahwahnee
Dining Room
 Breakfast: 7am to 10am
 Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm
 Dinner:
 Sunday through Thursday: 5:30pm - 8:30pm & Friday and Saturday: 5pm - 9pm
 No a la carte service on Bracebridge nights: Dec. 13/14/16/18/20/22/24/25.
 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 8:00pm
Mountain Room Lounge
 Mon-Fri 4:30 pm - 11 pm / Sat & Sun Noon - 11pm / Dec 24-Jan 1 Noon - 11 pm/ New Year's Eve Noon - 1 am
Mountain Room Restaurant
 Sun-Thu 5 pm -8:00 pm / Fri & Sat 5 pm-8:30 pm/ Christmas 4 pm - 9 pm /New Year's Eve 5 pm- 10:30 pm *Reservations taken for 8 or more.* 209/372-1281
Curry Village
Pizza Deck
 Open 5 - 9 pm beginning Friday, December 17, noon - 9 pm beginning Friday December 23 thru Sunday, January 1st. Then 5 - 9 pm Monday thru Friday (2nd - 6th) Noon to 9 pm Saturday (7th). Open Fridays 5pm to 9pm and Noon to 9pm Saturdays in January and February. Also open 12-9pm on Sundays of MLK and Presidents weekends.
Wawona
The Wawona Hotel opens for the holiday season on Friday, December 16th and closes for the season January 1, 2012
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 5pm
Crane Flat
Store 10am-4pm

GAS STATIONS

No Gas Available in Yosemite Valley or El Portal
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

SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

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

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. See page 5 for program details.

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. 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. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area. Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area. The road to the Grove closes in November or December and opens sometime in April.

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

Getting to Mariposa Grove

Allow 1½ hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot. Trailers are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road. Private vehicles longer than 25 feet are not permitted.

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 Grove.

Big Oak Flat

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.

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 P.M. 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

Christmas Eve Service
 December 24, 4:00 PM

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC
SUNDAY MASS CELEBRATIONS:
 Sunday, 10:00 am Visitor Center Theater, Shuttle Stop # 5 or 9, except December 25. Mass will be at noon on Christmas Day.

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.



Parks in Focus

Protecting yourself...



Yosemite Leadership Program participants, Photo by Jaime Hussain

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, 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

Information about Half Dome permits is available on our website at www.nps.gov/yose.

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 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 .

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



Keep Wildlife Wild!

Black bears, coyote, deer, and grey squirrels are just a few of the many animal species in the park that are active year round. Learn how to help protect Yosemite's wildlife.

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.

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.

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).

Coyotes

Watching a coyote hunting for mice in one of Yosemite's many meadows can be an amazing wildlife experience. Coyotes are opportunistic carnivores that primarily prey on small mammals. Like bears, their diets change throughout the year with food availability.

Unfortunately, coyotes sometimes change their natural behavior to try to obtain human food. Approaching, and/or feeding coyotes can cause them to lose their natural fear of humans. Please do not stop to feed coyotes that you see along the sides of the roads. This encourages them to frequent roadsides to beg for food, endangering both coyotes and drivers.



Yosemite Guardians

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

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

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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?
Your Vehicle	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!
Your Campsite or Tent Cabin	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.
Picnic Areas & on the Trails	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.
Backpacking in the Wilderness	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... the Ultimate Classroom

By Shauna Potocky



By Cedar Dobson, Gateway Expressions Participant

“Yosemite helped me experience a whole new world I was not aware of—Yosemite allowed me to reflect, write in a journal, and helped me experience who I really am.”

Jesus Angel Dolores, a University of California Merced student and participant in the Yosemite Leadership Program

Yosemite changes lives and often it does so through remarkable opportunities. Today, there is an amazing and inspiring array of youth and education programs offered within Yosemite National Park that do change lives—in fact, there is no shortage of transformational moments when you talk to students and teachers who participate in some of Yosemite’s programs.

Yosemite is well known for its inspiring geology, waterfalls and wildlife—yet, what may be less known is that Yosemite, with all of its incomparable features, also serves as the ultimate classroom to thousands of students and young adults.

Nearly thirty different youth programs, serve participants age 4 to 25, through a variety of engaging opportunities—from Junior Ranger programs, environmental education and field opportunities, college internships, professional development, to the Youth Conservation Corps and California Conservation Corps. Each year the park serves over 26,000 students through education programs and more than 24,000 youth in Junior Ranger and other field based programs.

It is no wonder the opportunities are so diverse, since nearly every subject can be taught in Yosemite—from ecology, geology, wildlife biology, natural and cultural history to art, literacy and leadership. Youth and education programs connect students to the environment, stewardship and public lands in deep and profound ways that are exciting as well as transformational.

From innovative programs such as Adventure Risk Challenge, a rigorous academic program that focuses on literacy and leadership to Parks in Focus, a program that utilizes photography as a teaching tool for learning natural history, ecology, stewardship and the legacy of public lands, there are great ways to connect youth to Yosemite.

For those seeking ranger-led curriculum based programs, Parks As Classrooms, are designed for visiting youth and school groups grades Kindergarten through college. Topics range from climate change, park management, watershed science, wildlife, Indian Cultural Programs and much more. These programs allow students to have a hands-on learning experience right here in the park. For groups who cannot travel to the park, the education team has a solution for that—Parks As Classrooms programs can be delivered via Skype right into a classroom environment!

“Students all over the country read about and study National Parks for classroom projects, and Skype gives Yosemite the chance to make student studies come alive,” shares

ranger Sharon Miyako. “Education rangers have Skyped with schools in California, and across the United States, answering questions about wildlife, land management, and careers. It’s exciting to see students making positive connections with a place they’ve never stepped foot in.”

And the opportunities do not end there!

NatureBridge, one of the parks’ education partners, offers an exciting array of programs for students—from 2 to 5 day residential programs as well as summer field courses. Students hike through the dramatic landscapes of Yosemite, explore ancient groves of giant sequoias, ski across snowy meadows, and challenge themselves to reach the tops of waterfalls. Through active student engagement, NatureBridge faculty teach science, history, and the arts and give these subjects context through personal experience.

For youth interested in obtaining an internship, the Student Conservation Association commonly features internship opportunities in Yosemite and for some college student’s, their school may have already established a connection with the park, such as Stanford University and the University of California Merced.

For example, a dynamic collaboration between U.C. Merced and Yosemite National Park, led to the development of the Yosemite Leadership Program, which provides U.C. Merced students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills through on-campus

and in-park programs that include outdoor education, stewardship projects and professional development. Participants build valuable skills, which serve both their academic and professional careers. In addition, some students also participate in a 12-week internship in which they live and work in Yosemite National Park.

“The Yosemite Leadership Program helps students link theoretical concepts learned in the classroom to real world, practical and professional opportunities by teaching students how to move from theory to action,” shares Jesse Chakrin, director of the on-campus program, “We are helping to develop the next generation of environmental leaders and stewards for Parks, public lands and most importantly, communities.”

With a wide variety of programs, serving various ages and learning objectives, there is just about something for everyone—and the best way to experience what Yosemite has to offer is to explore the options or get involved. Start now and explore some of the opportunities in Yosemite for the youth in your life and help them become connected to their national park—Yosemite, because when you learn in the ultimate classroom, it just might be transformational.

For a full list of Youth In Yosemite programs and contact information, please contact the Education Branch at (209) 375-9503 or via email at yose_education@nps.gov. We look forward to helping connect you to an array of inspiring programs!

The Yosemite Conservancy is a generous supporter of many Youth in Yosemite programs.

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 to learn more about helping these organizations provide for the future of Yosemite National Park.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

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

www.anseladamsgallery.com.



DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

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

For more information and employment opportunities with

DNC at Yosemite, visit online at: www.YosemitePark.com



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



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



Providing For Yosemite's Future

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Get Involved!

Yosemite National Park is busy planning for the future. **Visit us at one of our regular Open Houses on January 25, 2012 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/parkmgmt/planning.htm>



Photos: Center, NatureBridge, above right, Half Dome, by Christine White Loberg