



# Yosemite Guide

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

February 15, 2012 - April 10, 2012

Hetch Hetchy. Photo by Christine White Loberg

# February - April, 2012

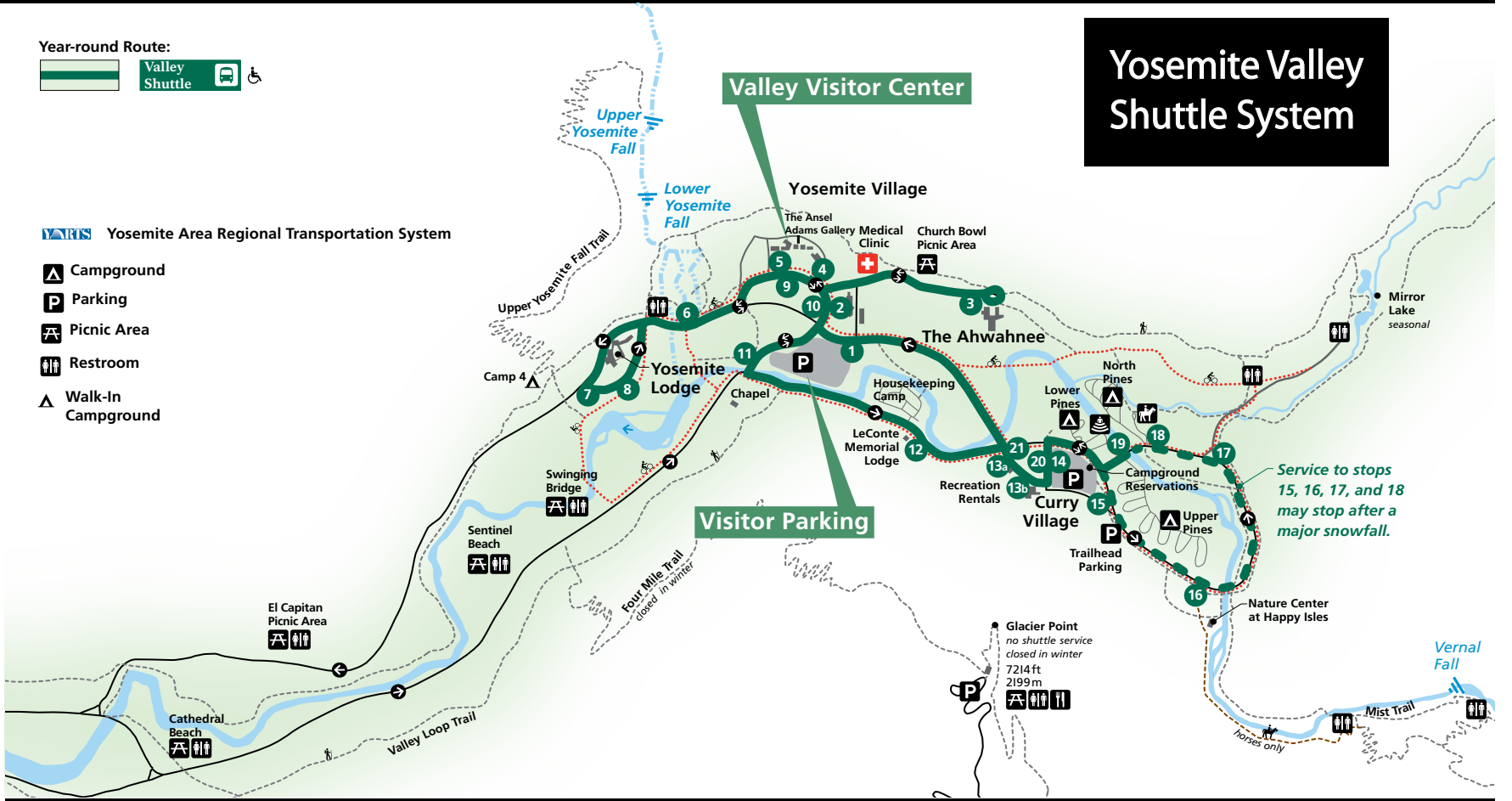


Volume 37, Issue 2

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

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Yosemite Guide February 15, 2012 - April 10, 2012



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

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

**Visit the other valley, Hetch Hetchy**  
*“Almost an exact counterpart of the Yosemite... a visit to its counterpart may be recommended, if it be only to see how curiously nature has repeated herself.”*  
 -Josiah D. Whitney.

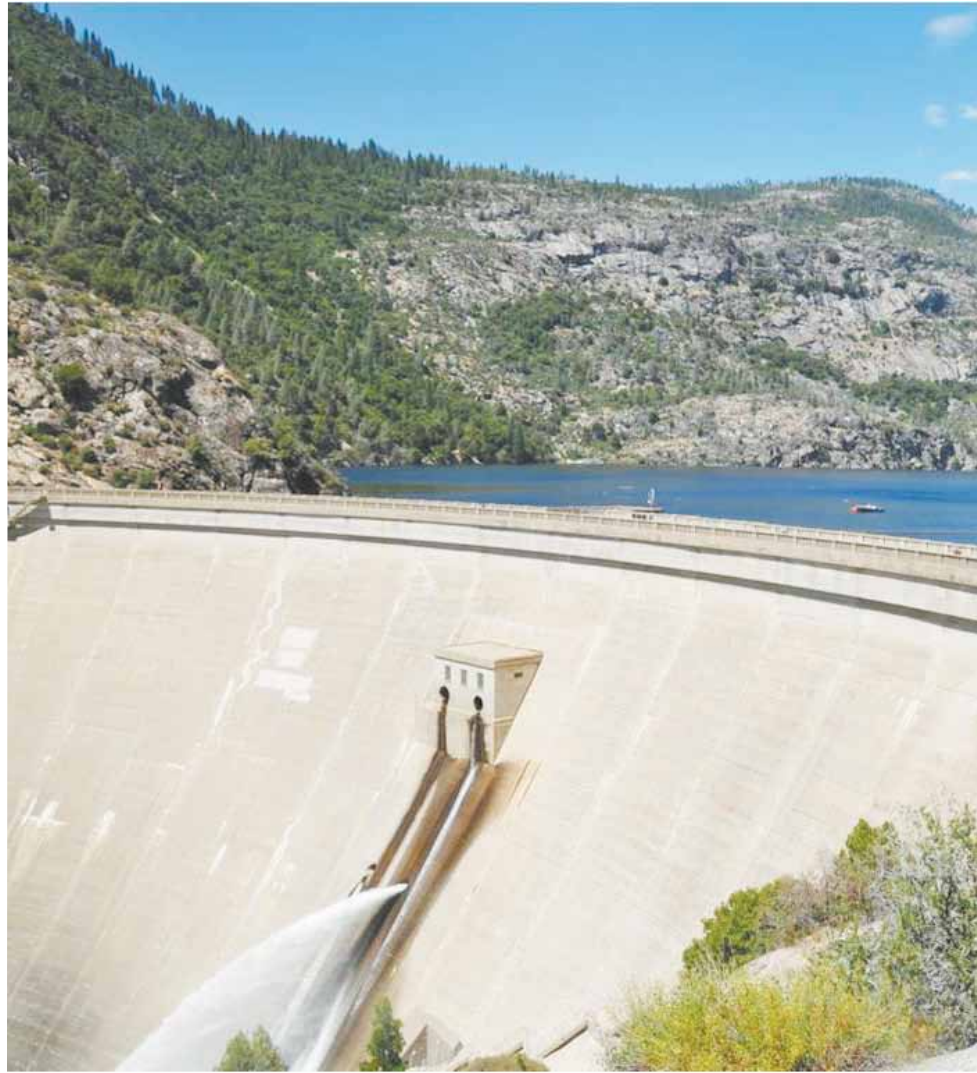
Hetch Hetchy road is open daily, conditions permitting, and provides spectacular vistas, waterfalls, and hiking. Call 209/372-0200 for current road hours and conditions and read our Feature Story on page 10 of the Guide to learn more about Hetch Hetchy.

**Enjoy Winter Fun at Badger Pass!**  
*Badger Pass is open everyday through April 1, weather and conditions permitting.*  
 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. 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 4)

**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



O'Shaughnessy Dam, Hetch Hetchy. Photo by Christine White Loberg

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

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.)

**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

## Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove Roads are closed 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. **Please drive with caution. Park roads can be wet and icy.** 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.

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.

### 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.)

## 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

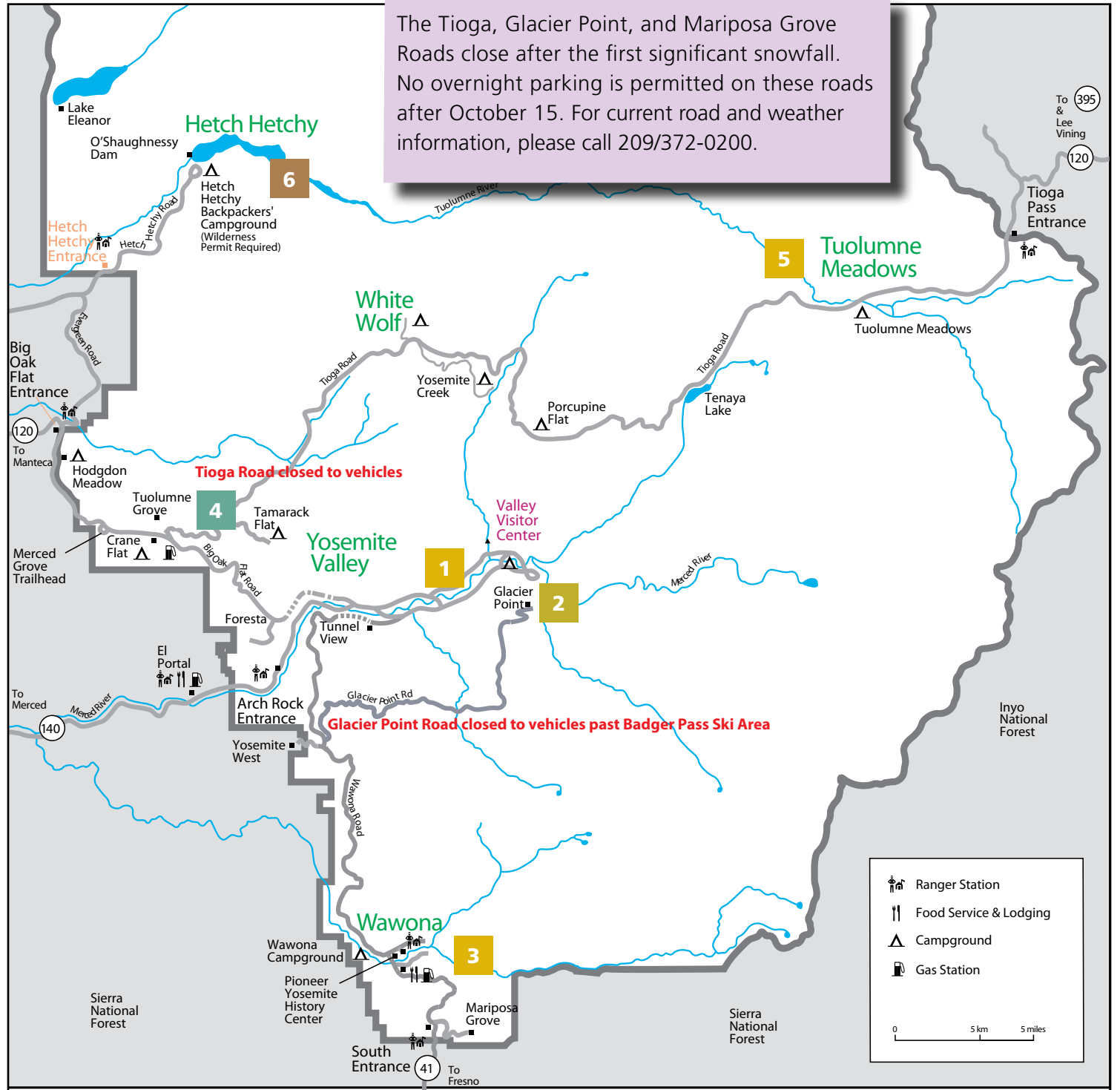
**Highway 132/49**  
Coulterville Visitor Center  
209/878-3074

**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** 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.





## 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 as conditions permit) 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?

- Hetch Hetchy reservoir is eight miles long and has a capacity of 360,000 acre feet, which is defined as the volume of one acre of surface area to a depth of one foot.
- Hetch Hetchy is home to the largest North American bat, the western mastiff. This large bat is one of only two bats in Yosemite whose echolocation can be heard by the human ear.
- You can fish in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir with a valid California fishing license, but you cannot swim or boat. Bodily contact with the water is prohibited by law to protect this source of drinking water.



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 as conditions permit. 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.

### Camping in Yosemite

Camping is available on a first come, first served basis in Yosemite Valley at Upper Pines and Camp 4 and at Wawona and Hodgdon Meadow outside of the Valley. 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](http://www.recreation.gov) (recommended) or call 877/444-6777

## 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




# Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

	YOSEMITE VALLEY and BADGER PASS	WAWONA and the MARIPOSA GROVE
<b>Sunday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> (except Feb 26, Mar 4 &amp; 18) 45 min. Stories and activities for kids 6 &amp; under, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>9:00am <b>Adventure Hike- Snowshoe to Dewey Point</b> (Except April 8) 6 ½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>10:30am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 min. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except April 8) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</b> (Feb 19 only) 3 hrs, no experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Yosemite's First People</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>SPRING FAMILY WALK</b> (April 8 only) 1.5 hr, family friendly games and activities, The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Winter Theater Live!</b> The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow (Feb 19 only) 1 hr, tickets at any tour desk or at door, Yosemite Lodge Cliff Room (DNC) \$</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (March 4 only) 2 hrs, no experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr, check local listings for venue and topic (DNC) ♿</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Programs listed in <b>ALL CAPS AND COLOR</b> are especially for children and their families</p> </div>
<b>Monday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1 ½ hours. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel. (TAAG)</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except April 2 and 9) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>1:30pm <b>Beginners Art Class</b> 2 hrs. at the Yosemite Art Center (\$10) For more information see page 5. (YAC)</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk –Trees</b> 1 ½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (March 5 only) 2 hrs, no experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> (Except Feb. 20) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> (Feb 20 only) Program details available at the Ansel Adams Gallery or by calling 209/372-4413. (TAAG)</p>	<p>8:45am <b>Adventure Hike- Snowshoe in the Mariposa Grove</b> (Feb. 20 only) 6 ½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1 ½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.(TAAG)</p> <p>10:00am <b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. at the Yosemite Art Center (\$10) For more information see page 5. (YAC)</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except April 3 and 10) 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 <b>Yosemite Forum</b> (March 13 only) 1 hr. Presentation by professor Roland Knapp: "Reversing the Decline of Yosemite's Mountain Legged Frogs" Valley Visitor Center Auditorium. (NPS)</p> <p>12:00pm <b>Yosemite Forum</b> (April 10 only) 1 hr. Presentation by Debra Schlaffmann and Rebecca Fris: "California Landscape Conservation Cooperative's projects at Yosemite" Valley Visitor Center Auditorium. (NPS)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>"Using your Digital Camera" Class</b> 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery \$. <i>Starting March 13 classes will begin at 1:00pm</i> (TAAG)</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Geology</b> (Except February 21) 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>4:00pm <b>Spring Twilight Stroll</b> (Feb 28 &amp; Mar 6 only) 1 hr, The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>4:30pm <b>Spring Twilight Stroll</b> (Mar 13, April 3 &amp; 10 only) 1 hr, The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (March 6 only) 2 hrs, no experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. check local listings for venue and topic (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music</b> (April only), live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening &amp; ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> (except Feb 22 &amp; Mar 28) 45 mins, stories and activities for kids 6 &amp; under, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>9:00am <b>Adventure Hike- Snowshoe to Dewey Point</b> (Except April 8) 6 ½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>10:00am <b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. at the Yosemite Art Center (\$10) For more information see page 5. (YAC)</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except April 4 or April 11) 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 <b>Ranger Walk – Yosemite's Legacy</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (March 7 only) 2 hrs, no experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music</b> (April only), live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening &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> 4 hrs. at the Yosemite Art Center (\$10) For more information see page 5. (YAC)</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except April 5) 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 <b>"In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams" Class</b> 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery \$. <i>Starting March 13 classes will begin at 1:00pm</i> (TAAG)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk.</b> 3 hrs, no experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Bears</b> 1 ½ hrs. Lower Yosemite Fall, shuttle stop #6 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>4:00pm <b>Spring Twilight Stroll</b> (Mar 1 &amp; 8 only) 1 hr, The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>4:30pm <b>Spring Twilight Stroll</b> (starts Mar 15) 1 hr, The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (March 8 only) 2 hrs, no experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk, Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. check local listings for venue and topic (DNC) ♿</p> <p>8:00pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES</b> (except Feb 23) 1 hr, The Ahwahnee Underlounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music</b> (April only), live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening &amp; ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Friday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> 45 min. stories and activities for kids 6 &amp; under, The Ahwahnee Great Lounge Fireplace (DNC) ♿</p> <p>10:00am <b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. at the Yosemite Art Center (\$10) For more information see page 5. (YAC)</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except April 6) 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 <b>Ranger Walk – Wild About Wildlife</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Film: Ansel Adams</b> 1 hr. check local listings for venue (TAAG) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music</b> (starts Mar 30), live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening &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>10:00am <b>Art Workshop</b> 4 hrs. at the Yosemite Art Center (\$10) For more information see page 5. (YAC)</p> <p>10:30am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 min. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except April 7) 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 <b>"In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams" Class</b> 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery \$. <i>Starting March 13 classes will begin at 1:00pm.</i> (TAAG)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</b> (except Mar 17) 3 hrs, no experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls</b> 1 ½ hrs. Lower Yosemite Fall, shuttle stop #6 (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>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1hr. Yosemite Lodge. Check local postings for venue/topic. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Winter Theater Live!</b> The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow (Feb 18 only) 1 hr. Tickets at any tour desk or at door. Yosemite Lodge Cliff Room (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Yosemite Theater LIVE!</b> "Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey" Followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk, featured in the film. Shows on March 17, 24, 31 and April 7. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music</b> (starts Mar 31), live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening &amp; ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>

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

### Access for People with Disabilities

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

For a complete list of accessible services, recreational opportunities, and exhibits, pick up an updated Yosemite Accessibility Guide which is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm).

Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue and white signs.



A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0645 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



Birch Lake, near Hetch Hetchy. Stephen Curl watercolor from Yosemite Renaissance XXVII Exhibit

**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

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.

### YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE XXVII EXHIBITION

The Yosemite Renaissance XXVII exhibition opens on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. The exhibit continues through May 6. The official opening will be preceded by a reception and awards ceremony from 5:30 to 7:30 PM on Friday, Feb. 24 at the Gallery. The public is cordially invited to attend this reception.

Yosemite Renaissance is an annual exhibit, now in its twenty-seventh year, that encourages diverse interpretations of Yosemite and the environment of the Sierra Nevada. Its goals are to bring together the works of serious contemporary artists that do not simply duplicate traditional representations; to establish a continuum with past generations of Yosemite artists; and to help re-establish visual art as a major interpretive medium of the landscape and a stimulus to the protection of the environment. For this year's competitive exhibit there were a record number (nearly 700) of entries, resulting in an exhibit of 48 paintings, graphics, photographs and 3-dimensional pieces by artists throughout the country.

## Ansel Adams Gallery

The gallery is located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center and is open daily. Hours are 10am to 5pm.

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

**Exhibit: Bob Kolbrener, "When the Meadows Turn White"**, February 18th - April 1st. Artist reception Saturday, February 18, 12-2 p.m.

**Exhibit: Jeff Grandy, "Unfiltered,"** April 2nd - May 13th. Artist reception Saturday, April 21st, 3-5 p.m.

## Yosemite Art Center

(Opens March 25th)

Art workshops are held Tuesday through Saturday beginning March 27th. There is a requested donation, supplies are available for purchase. The Yosemite Art Center offers original art, cards or gifts as well as art supplies and is located in Yosemite Village next to the Village Store.

### Yosemite Art Center Hours

- Daily 9am-4:30pm (closed for lunch)
- Art Workshop hours Tuesday-Saturday 10am to 2pm
- Beginners Art (minimum age 8) Monday 1:30-3:30pm

**March 27th-31st** Mariko Lofink Yosemite's Spirit in Watercolor

**April 3rd-7th** Douglas Castleman Early Spring Watercolor

### POST OFFICES

**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**  
10am 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
- Badger Pass Ski Shop**  
9am to 4pm closes for season 1pm April 1

**April 10th-14th** Steve Curl  
Catching the Light in Watercolor

## 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.

**February 17-18** Photographing the "Firefall"  
Sunlight and water magic with John Senser

**March 10** Trek to the Edge: Dewey Point Snowshoe  
To the rim with Karen Amstutz

**March 16-18** Introduction to Winter Camping... Comfort in the snow with Scott Borden

**March 30** Secrets of the West Valley  
Pete Devine with mysteries beyond El Capitan

**April 1** Spring Canyon Flowers... A colorful exploration with Michael Ross

**April 6-7** Leave No Trace Trainer  
Minimum impacts for the backcountry leader

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).



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

**Village Grill** (opens April 2, weather permitting) 11am to 5pm

**Degnan's Loft** (opens April 2, weather permitting) 5pm to 9pm

##### 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

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 10:30am

##### Yosemite Lodge

###### Food Court

Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm

Dinner: Sun-Thurs 5pm to 8:00pm, Fri&Sat

5pm to 8:30pm

###### Mountain Room Lounge

Mon-Fri 4:30-11 pm / Sat& Sun Noon -

11pm

###### Mountain Room Restaurant

Sun-Thu 5-8pm / Fri & Sat 5 pm- 8:30 pm

*Reservations taken for 8 or more. 209/372-*

*1281*

##### Curry Village

###### Pizza Deck

Fridays 5 -9pm and Saturdays (and Sunday

2/19/12) Noon to 9pm. Open Monday thru

Friday 5 to 9pm and Saturdays and Sundays

Noon to 9pm beginning March 23.

###### Pavilion Buffet

Breakfast: 7 to 10am, opens March 24

Dinner : 5:30pm to 8pm, opens March 24

**Coffee Corner:** Saturdays and Sundays (and

Monday Feb. 20) 7 to 11am, open daily 7 to

11am beginning March 23

**Curry Village Bar:** 5-10pm Mon-Fri and

Noon-10pm on Saturdays and Sundays, opens

March 25

##### Wawona

*Opens for the season on March 30th*

###### Wawona Hotel Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm *Reservations taken*

*for 6 or more,*

209/375-1425

Lounge Service: 5-9pm

#### 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

8am to 6pm. Diesel & propane.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

##### Crane Flat

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.

### 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 after the first significant snow and opens sometime in April.

Visitors can walk, ski, or snowshoe into the Grove 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](http://www.yosemitevalleychapel.org), Wedding information on our website.

##### SUNDAY SERVICES

9:15 AM (Sunday School available).

11:00 AM (Memorial Day-Labor Day ONLY, no Sunday School)

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

##### ROMAN CATHOLIC

##### SUNDAY MASS CELEBRATIONS:

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 209/372-0282.



# Protecting yourself...



Half Dome, 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 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](http://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](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm) for additional information.

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

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

## 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.



# Hetch Hetchy Valley's Enduring Legacy

By Jennifer Treutelaar



Hetch Hetchy, Photo by Jennifer Treutelaar

I first learned about the Hetch Hetchy valley as a student in an environmental policy course, but the area has been a site of national attention for over 100 years. In the early 1900s a great debate centered on the proper use of Hetch Hetchy, between preservationists, led by John Muir, and San Francisco leaders and visionaries.

In fact, Hetch Hetchy had been inhabited by American Indians long before its “discovery” by Euro-americans in the mid 1800s. The origin of the valley’s unusual name is believed to originate from American Indian language. One theory is that Hetch Hetchy is derived from the word hatchatchie, a grass with edible seeds that grew in the valley. Another story relates that hetchy means “tree” and the valley was named for two pines that guarded the entrance to the meadow.

City leaders hoped to make San Francisco into an economic and cultural center to rival New York City, but growth was limited by a chronic water and power shortage. As early as 1882, city leaders recognized that the Sierra Nevadas were a logical source and Hetch Hetchy valley’s pure water and narrow outlet made it perfect for a dam site. In 1906, the great San Francisco earthquake and fire devastated the city, adding urgency and public sympathy to the quest for an adequate water supply.

Preservationists wanted the valley to remain untouched for wilderness preservation. Muir first visited the site in 1871 and considered Hetch Hetchy valley to be “one of Nature’s rarest and most precious mountain temples.” He and his followers, including the Sierra Club, which was formed in 1892, launched a national campaign to prevent the valley’s destruction. This moment in history is considered the first grassroots environmental campaign.

In 1913, Congress passed the Raker Act, a law that allowed San Francisco to begin construction of a dam on the Tuolumne River to supply the city with drinking water and electricity. While the City won the battle, the debate served to awaken the nation to the conflict inherent in balancing wilderness and development.

Upon the passage of the Raker Act, hundreds of laborers were involved in constructing the water system under the guidance of San Francisco’s Chief Engineer, Michael O’Shaughnessy, for whom the dam is named. Because of the remote location, San Francisco first built a 68-mile-long railroad line to carry machines, materials, and workers between Oakdale and Hetch Hetchy. Workers toiled day and night for four years just to pour the concrete brought in by rail. Finally, in 1923, at a total cost of over \$100 million and the lives of more than 68 workers, the project was

complete. Construction in 1938 raised the dam another 85 feet to its present height of 312 feet.

Since the dam was completed, the water system has been providing some of the cleanest water in the nation to the population of San Francisco and some surrounding areas, currently about 2.5 million users. The system itself is a bit of a marvel. It is one of the few surface water sources in the U.S. that can be legally delivered unfiltered to customers, although it is disinfected prior to delivery for public health. Only four other major urban areas in the United States (Portland, Seattle, Boston, and New York City) do not have to filter their water.

Furthermore, the entire system is gravity fed. Thanks to the reservoir’s elevation at approximately 3800 feet above sea level, no pumping is needed to carry the water 160 miles down to the Bay area.

In recent years, the debate has continued. Should Hetch Hetchy valley be restored? That is a question individuals need to answer for themselves. In the meantime, Yosemite National Park takes pride in the enduring legacy of Hetch Hetchy and continues to care for the watershed for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

Have you ever seen Hetch Hetchy? You can visit this special place year-round, depending on winter road conditions. Hetch Hetchy’s relatively low elevation provides for one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite, and the varied trails provide something for everyone. Just be sure to carry plenty of water and avoid poison oak and rattlesnakes! You can say you saw a piece of American history.



Jennifer Treutelaar is the Hetch Hetchy Program Manager for Yosemite National Park. She received her Masters of Environmental Management degree from Duke University in 2001 and has been working at Yosemite since 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  
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801/559-5000  
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415/434-0745 fax  
[www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org)

## Want to Get Involved?

Yosemite National Park is busy planning for the future. **Visit us at one of our regular Open Houses on February 29 and March 28 from 1pm to 4pm at the Valley Visitor Center Auditorium.**

Currently, the **Half Dome Trail Stewardship Plan Draft Environmental Assessment** is available for review. Public comments on the plan will be accepted through Thursday, March 15, 2012. The Half Dome Trail Stewardship Plan was developed to address crowded conditions, visitor experience, and safety on the Half Dome Trail and encompasses the two mile section from the John Muir Trail to the summit of Half Dome. For more information and to comment on this plan: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/halfdome>

## MRP Alternative Concepts Workshops and Webinars

Join us for the spring 2012 Merced River Plan alternative concepts workshops. To get involved, we invite you to attend one of the park's four public meetings or two webinars that will detail a number of alternative ways to responsibly manage the Merced Wild and Scenic River Corridor. Included with most public meetings will be site visits to pertinent locations addressed in the alternative concepts.

- **Workshops:** *March 28:* Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium in Yosemite Valley *April 4:* Golden Gate Room in San Francisco's Fort Mason Center *April 12:* Community Hall in El Portal *April 13:* Community Hall in Wawona
- **Webinars:** *March 27 and April 4.* For specific event times, call Yosemite's Planning Division at 209/379-1110 or visit our website: [www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mrp.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mrp.htm).