



Yosemite Guide

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

April 11, 2012 - May 22, 2012

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, NPS Photo



Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Volume 37, Issue 3

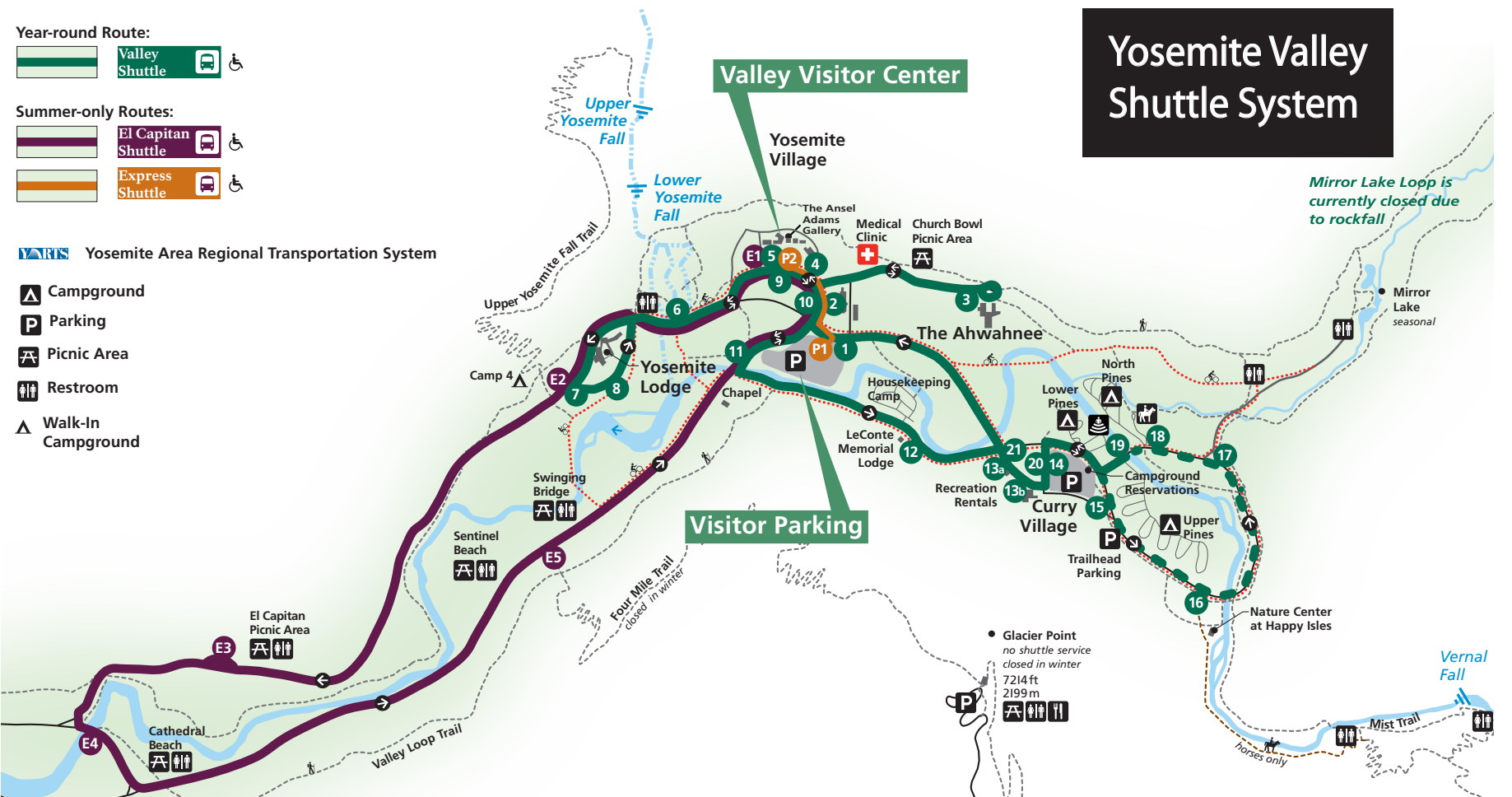
Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide April 11, 2012 - May 22, 2012

- Year-round Route:**
- Valley Shuttle
- Summer-only Routes:**
- El Capitan Shuttle
 - Express Shuttle

YARS Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

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



Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7 am to 10 pm and serves stops in numerical order. Shuttles run daily every 10 to 20 minutes, depending on time of day.
 The El Capitan Shuttle operates from 9 am to 6 pm. Shuttles run daily during summer every 30 minutes.
 The Express Shuttle operates from 9 am to 6 pm. Shuttles run daily during summer every 20 minutes.

El Capitan and Express Shuttles begin on May 19

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	Yosemite Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2 10	Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	Degnan's Deli	13a 21	Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5 9 E1	Valley Visitor Center	13b	Curry Village	E3	El Capitan Picnic Area
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	14 20	Curry Village Parking	E4	El Capitan Bridge
7 E2	Camp 4	15	Upper Pines Campground	E5	Four Mile Trailhead

US Department of the Interior
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Special Events Calendar

Please see page 5 of the *Yosemite Guide* for regularly scheduled programs

FRIDAY, April 20th

2-5pm Earth Day Family Bike Ride
Roll along and discover the Park's environmental ethic in practice! \$5/person, which includes bike rental (free if you bring your own bike). Advance tickets required. Info/tickets at any tour desk.

7-8:30pm Earth Day Family Night
Family friendly event of song, entertainment and theater, including a dramatization of *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (Cliff Room in inclement weather).

SATURDAY, April 21st

Earth Day and Jr. Ranger Exploration Fair! 10:30am - 2:00pm Wander between the Village Store and the Visitor Center where games, interactive activities and demonstrations allow you to experience how the park and its partners are implementing sustainability practices. Explore with the National Park Service, DNC Parks and Resorts in Yosemite, Balanced Rock, NatureBridge, Yosemite Conservancy and more! Talk with a cultural demonstrator to learn about Ahwahneechee traditions. Get to know the park's search and rescue team, rangers on horseback, wilderness rangers, and more! *Adult accompaniment required for all activities.*

9-10:30am Photo Walk: Ansel Adams and the Yosemite Landscape Learn about Ansel's contributions to the environmental movement. All ages, bring your camera, meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.

9am Stewardship Project (1-3 hours.) Meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center. Join park resource staff for an Earth Day restoration celebration. Help preserve and protect native habitat in Yosemite Valley and learn about the park's resources management program. Help keep Yosemite's ecosystem healthy and intact for the enjoyment of future generations! Volunteers must wear long sleeves, long pants, and sturdy shoes or boots. Gloves and tools will be provided.

11am-noon. National Junior Ranger Day Walks (One in English and one in Spanish!) Join a naturalist to explore the outdoor world of Yosemite and become a Jr. Ranger! Explore some of the habitats in Yosemite Valley, learn about some of the things that live here, and discover how to protect them. In front of the Indian Cultural Museum.

11am-12pm Camino de Guardaparques Jovenes. Donde: Reunirse al frente del Museo Cultural (Indian Cultural Museum)

3:30-4:30pm National Junior Ranger Day Walk, all ages welcome

11:30am-1:30pm Sustainable Salad Bar Tasting Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNC) has a company-wide initiative to incorporate sustainable practices into all business decisions. Come by the tables in front of the Indian Cultural Museum to sample some of the organic and sustainable foods used in DNC's kitchens.

12-4pm Universal Waste Collection Stop by to the Village Recycling Center to drop off that old TV set, computer or spent fluorescent lamps. In addition, learn a bit more about universal and electronic waste.

1-1:30pm Earth Day Cake & Lemonade Enjoy Earth Day cake in front of the Indian Cultural Museum!

1-2pm National Volunteer Day Trash Pick-Up Meet a park staff member in front of the



Merced River dogwoods, NPS Photo

There's a lot going on! Celebrate National Park Week, National Junior Ranger Day, Earth Week, Save The Frogs Day, and National Volunteer Day in Yosemite.

Visitor Center to do your part and make the park a cleaner place to celebrate Earth Day.

2:30pm-3:30pm Camino Cultural con un Guardaparque. Donde: Reunirse al frente del Museo Cultural (Indian Cultural Museum)

3-4pm Fine Print Tour Spend an hour with our gallery curator viewing some of the Ansel Adams original photographs in our inventory. In the spirit of Earth Day, curator Evan Russel will discuss Ansel's early approach to photography and how it evolved into a conservation tool and an expression of Mr. Adams' love of Nature. History of both The Ansel Adams Gallery and photography in the park will also be discussed, with time to answer questions throughout. Extremely limited space.

3:30-4:30pm National Junior Ranger Day Walk (in English) Join a naturalist to explore the outdoor world of Yosemite and become a Jr. Ranger! Explore some of the habitats in Yosemite Valley, learn about some of the things that live here, and discover how to protect them. In front of the Indian Cultural Museum.

5:30-6:45pm Spring Twilight Stroll: Poetry and Parks, A Walk and Reading Ranger Margaret Eissler will take visitors on an easy stroll. Meet on the lawn behind The Ahwahnee.

8-9pm Meet Your Rangers! Who are the many people that make Yosemite run? What brought them to the park and why do they stay? What is it really like to call Yosemite home? Kick off National Park Week, celebrate Earth Day, and John Muir's birthday by meeting three special Yosemite employees and hearing about their own legacies of conservation. These three employees will also be available for a question and answer session with program participants. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater (Cliff Room in inclement weather).

8:30pm-10pm Every Day is Earth Day Join Tom Bopp for a celebration of Earth Day while exploring the roles of John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt in Yosemite. Wawona Hotel Lounge.

SUNDAY April 22nd, Earth Day 2012!

9-10:30am Photo Walk: Ansel Adams and

the Yosemite Landscape Join The Ansel Adams Gallery for an interpretive walk to learn more about Ansel's contributions to the environmental movement. Open to all levels, bring your camera! Meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.

2-6pm Photography Class: In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photographer Ansel Adams immortalized Yosemite National Park through his classic black & white images that pushed the popularity of landscape photography while helping to motivate the American environmental movement. Through the course of the class, you will visit a number of locations from where Ansel composed some of his most famous images. You will receive insight into Ansel's life, photography and philosophies as well as basic lessons in photographic technique. Sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery. \$

1:30pm Earth Day Volunteer Project Project will take roughly 1.5 hours. Meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center. Bring water and dress appropriately for a 2 hour walk/ project. Celebrate Earth Day by taking care of our most precious places. We will be walking to different areas and collecting trash. Be ready to get some exercise, see some amazing views, and feel good about yourself.

3-4pm Fine Print Tour Spend an hour with our gallery curator viewing some of the Ansel Adams original photographs in our inventory. In the spirit of Earth Day, curator Evan Russel will discuss Ansel's early approach to photography and how it evolved into a conservation tool and an expression of Mr. Adams' love of nature. History of both The Ansel Adams Gallery and photography in the park will also be discussed, with time for answering questions throughout. Extremely limited space.

7-9pm Evening Program, EarthDance Film Festival Celebrate Earth Day with the return of the EarthDance Film Festival to Yosemite! Short, new films celebrating the planet through drama, documentary, and humor will be shown. Donations appreciated; Yosemite Valley Theater. Sponsored by the Yosemite Conservancy.

MONDAY April 23rd

8-9pm National Parks in the Sky Although the national park idea began in the United States, today there are thousands of national

parks around the world. But all of today's national parks are still on planet Earth! Where might our future national parks be located? Join Ranger Matt on a journey to explore canyons, volcanoes, caves, sand dunes, and geysers on the other planets and moons of our solar system. (Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater)

TUESDAY April 24th

8:00-9:00pm Go With the Flow: Tracing the Merced River The Merced River has drawn people to Yosemite for hundreds of years. Water flowing through it comes from the high mountain peaks, tumbles off waterfalls, flows through Yosemite Valley, and then to...where? Come meet a NatureBridge instructor who has walked with the Merced from beginning to end, and experience the Merced's journey. (Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater)

WEDNESDAY April 25th

8:00-9:00pm Chinese History in Yosemite Did you know that early Chinese immigrants played an important role in shaping the Yosemite that we know today? Join Park Ranger Yenyen Chan on an exploration of this impressive and surprising history. (Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater)

THURSDAY April 26th

8-9pm Primeval Ponderings, A Meander Through the Wilderness Take a wander on the wild side and celebrate the legacy of wilderness in the National Park Service and Yosemite. See what wilderness really is, and learn about its importance from a Yosemite wilderness ranger. (Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater)

FRIDAY April 27th

8-9pm The National Parks Idea Started... Here Did you know that the roots of the national park idea are found in Yosemite? Nearly 150 years ago, on June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act, thereby setting aside Mariposa Grove and Yosemite Valley as the first tracts of wild land preserved for future generations. Join us to learn about how this first piece of legislation has inspired generations of people throughout the world. (Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater)

SATURDAY April 28th

Valley Visitor Center, 10am to 4pm It's not easy being green! Join us for a celebration of the 4th annual international **Save The Frogs Day** with frog walks and talks, a frog poster contest, free frog pins, bracelets and other stuff, a showing of the PBS film, *Frogs: The Thin Green Line*, and special appearances by Ranger Rick. The National Park Service has teamed up with Save The Frogs, the National Wildlife Federation, and DNC Parks and Resorts in Yosemite to bring you this special event. See page 11 of the Guide for more details and to learn more about Yosemite frogs.

8-9pm Frogs: The Thin Green Line

Yosemite is home to many special species, including the unique Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. What makes these amphibians that national parks across the world protect unique? Find out about the status of amphibians across the world in this PBS Nature episode. (Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater)

SUNDAY April 29th

8-9pm This is America Join Shelton Johnson for this special showing of Ken Burns' movie "This is America." Explore the story of the National Park Service through many varied perspectives, and then meet with Ranger Shelton afterwards for a question and answer time. (Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater)

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

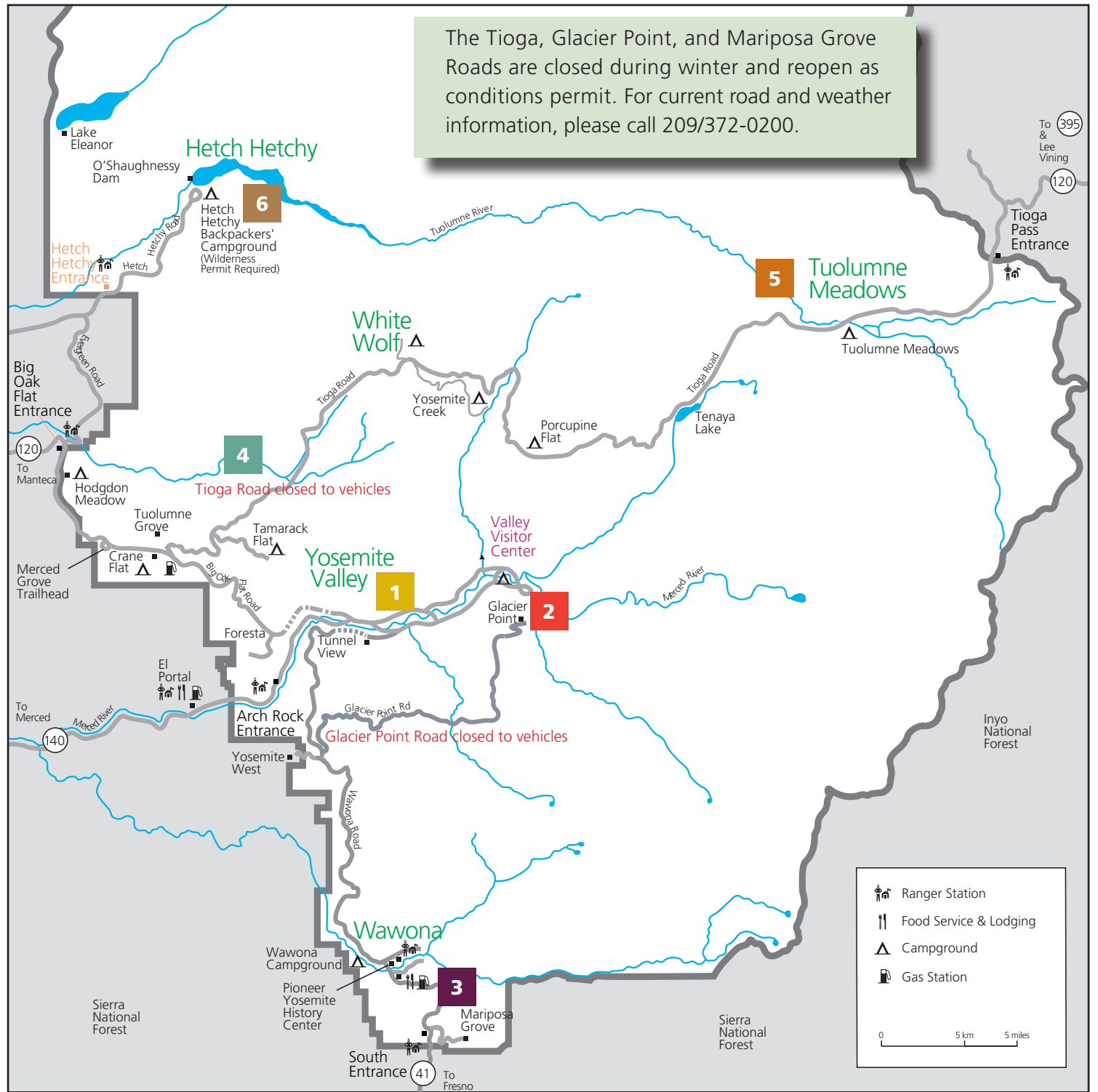
Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/878-3074

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



The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove Roads are closed during winter and reopen as conditions permit. 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, bike, car, or with a tour, the scenery will leave you breathless and eager to see what's around the next corner.



Tunnel View, Spring. Photo by Katie Wallace

Glacier Point Road

2 Towering 3,214 feet above the Valley floor, Glacier Point offers spectacular views of the Merced River Canyon, including icons like Vernal and Nevada Falls and Half Dome. The Glacier Point Road, and campgrounds along the road, will open as conditions permit. You can get the latest road opening info at the Valley Visitor Center or by calling 209/372-0200.

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 from 8am to 7pm through April 30, then 7am to 9pm through Labor Day. 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.

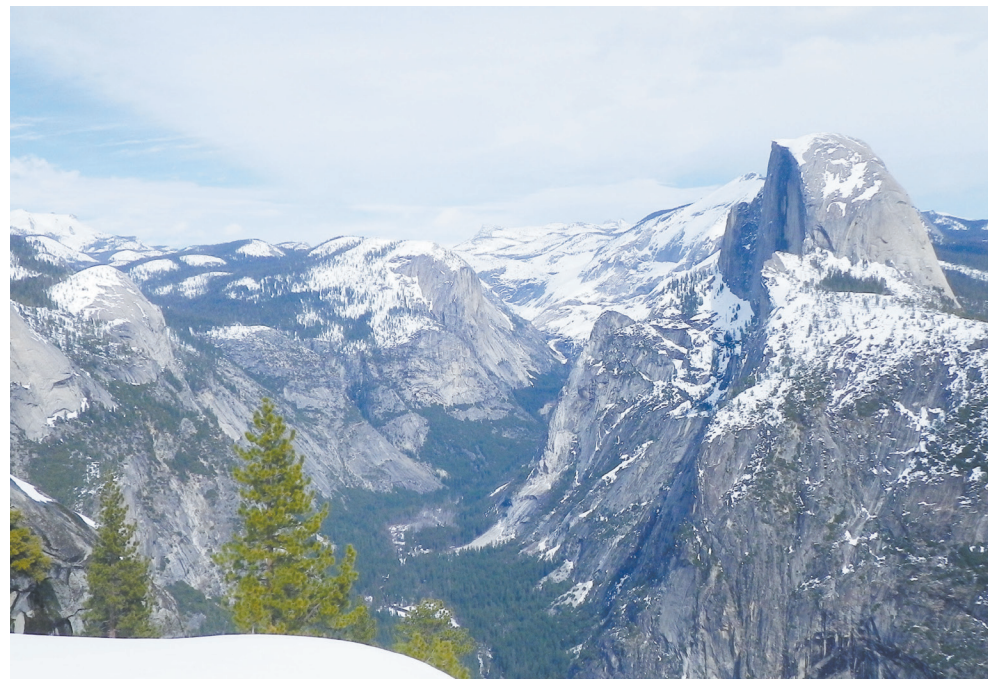
Did You Know?

- The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog lacks the vocal sacs that many other frogs use to produce calls, but are able to make a relatively loud call nonetheless. The call is rarely heard by humans because it is produced under water.
- The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog was once one of the most abundant vertebrates in the Sierra Nevada
- Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog's tadpoles take up to four years to develop into juvenile frogs
- Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs play a pivotal role in high-elevation food webs; they are a top aquatic predator and important prey for predators like the western terrestrial garter snake.

Want to know more? Read our Feature Story on page 11 of the Yosemite Guide.

April 28, 2012 is the 4th annual international Save The Frogs Day!

This day is dedicated to educating people about the plight of frogs around the world. Join us for a Frog Fair from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.



Half Dome and the Merced River Canyon from Glacier Point, Photo by Jeremy Day



Giant sequoias. Photo by Christine White Loberg



Sunset on the Sierra Crest Photo by David Jaffe



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. NPS photo

Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas in the heart of the park



Upper Yosemite Fall in spring, Photo by Jeffrey Trust

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 many 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.

(A permit is required to hike to the summit of Half Dome. See page 8 for details.)

Nature Center at 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.

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.

To experience Yosemite with a guide, visit any tour desk. Tours of Yosemite Valley depart several times daily, and half- and full-day tours to Glacier Point and the Mariposa Grove area available when conditions permit.

Feel like biking? Several miles of bicycle paths wind through Yosemite Valley. You can use your own bicycle or rent one from Yosemite Lodge or Curry Village, open daily 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (closed 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. for lunch), weather permitting. Bikes are only allowed on paved bicycle paths.

How about a trail ride? Horse or mule rides begin at the stable near North Pines Campground. Opening April 20, conditions permitting. Stable hours are 8am to 5pm, with 2 hour rides at 9:00 am, noon, and 3:00pm. Information: 209/372-8348 (reservations strongly recommended).

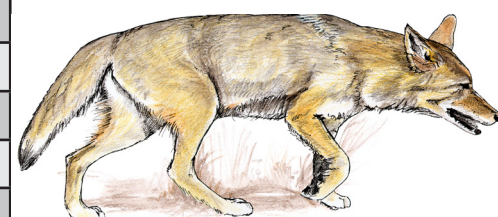
Camping in Yosemite

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

Some first-come, first served camping is available in Yosemite Valley at Camp 4, and outside the Valley, conditions permitting.

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) back of loop closed temporarily due to rockfall	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17	2 miles round-trip, 1 hour	Easy
Vernal Fall Footbridge, winter route	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	1.4 miles round-trip, 1-2 hours	Moderate, 400-foot gain
Top of Vernal Fall, winter route	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Nevada Fall, winter route	same as above	5 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours	Strenuous 1,900-foot gain
Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point (Closed in winter past Union Point)	Southside Drive	4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours one-way	Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain
Valley Floor Loop	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop	Moderate



Coyote, illustration by Tom Whitworth


Events and Programs

There's lots more! Be sure to look throughout *the Guide* for special seasonal event schedules in addition to those listed here..

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	WAWONA
Sunday	<p>9:00am HABITAT PROTECTORS OF YOSEMITE (HaPY) Starting May 6. Up to 3 hrs. Volunteer service project cleaning up habitat in Yosemite Valley. Meet in front of the Valley Visitor Center. Wear closed toe shoes and long pants; bring water and snacks. (starting May 6) (NPS)</p> <p>10:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)</p> <p>6:30pm WEE WILD ONES 45 min. Stories and activities for kids 6 & under, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Evening Program, EarthDance Film Festival (April 22nd only) 2 hrs. Yosemite Valley Theater</p> <p>8:00pm Evening Program, Sierra Club. 1 hr. Le Conte Memorial Lodge (Shuttle Stop #12) (SC) Tom Bopp, Yosemite Historian "John Muir & Teddy Roosevelt in Yosemite" (May 6 only) Larry Simon, CA Coastal Commission & Historian "Joseph Nisbet LeConte: Exploring, Mapping & Photographing the High Sierra" (May 13 only) Sarah Stock, YNP Ornithologist "Hawks & Owls" (May 20 only)</p> <p>8:00pm Evening Program (Except April 22) 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. (DNC/NPS) ♿</p>	
Monday	<p>8:00am Springtime Bird Walk 2 hours Yosemite Art Center, (YC) \$</p> <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>10:00am Ranger Walk – Rivers and Waterfalls 1½ hrs. Shuttle stop #6 (NPS)</p> <p>1:30pm Beginners Art Class 2 hrs. at the Yosemite Art Center \$10 (YC)</p> <p>3:00pm Ranger Walk – Bears (May 14 and 21 only) 1½ hrs. Curry Village Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #13/21 (NPS)</p> <p>5:30pm Spring Twilight Stroll 1 hour The Ahwahnee back lawn (YC)</p> <p>8:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. (DNC/NPS) ♿</p>	<p>Programs printed in ALL CAPS and in color are especially for children and their families!</p>
Tuesday	<p>9:00am Camera Walk 1 ½ hours. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)</p> <p>10:00am Ranger Walk – Geology 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS)</p> <p>10:00am Art Workshop 4 Hrs at the Yosemite Art Center \$ (YC) For more information see Page 6</p> <p>12:00pm Yosemite Forum (May 8 only)1 hr. "From Catastrophic Birth: The Civil War Origins of Yosemite Park" Presented by: David Hickman, PhD, Adjunct Professor, UC Davis. Visitor Center Auditorium. (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm "Using your Digital Camera" Class 4 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery \$. (TAAG)</p> <p>5:30pm Spring Twilight Stroll (except May 1) 1 hr. See local listings for title, The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm WEE WILD ONES (Except May 1) 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 6 & under, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>8:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. (DNC/NPS) ♿</p>	
Wednesday	<p>10:00am Ranger Walk – Trees 1½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (NPS)</p> <p>10:00am Art Workshop 4 Hrs at the Yosemite Art Center \$ (YC) For more information see Page 6</p> <p>3:00pm Ranger Walk – Bears (May 16 only) 1½ hrs. Curry Village Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #13/21 (NPS)</p> <p>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE "Spirit of John Muir" performed by Lee Stetson. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</p> <p>8:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. (DNC/NPS) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs, Live music and historical interpretive programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
Thursday	<p>8:00am Springtime Bird Walk 2 hours Yosemite Art Center, (YC) \$</p> <p>9:00am Camera Walk 1 ½ hours. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)</p> <p>10:00am Ranger Walk – Yosemite's First People 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS)</p> <p>10:00am Art Workshop 4 Hrs at the Yosemite Art Center \$ (YC) For more information see Page 6.</p> <p>1:00pm "In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams" Class 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery \$. (TAAG)</p> <p>3:00pm Ranger Walk – Bears (May 17 only) 1½ hrs. Curry Village Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #13/21 (NPS)</p> <p>5:30pm Spring Twilight Stroll (except May 17) 1 hr. See local listings for title, The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm WEE WILD ONES (except May 17) 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 6 & under, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE "Conversations with a Tramp" performed by Lee Stetson. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</p> <p>8:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. (DNC/NPS) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs, Live music and historical interpretive programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom for details, Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
Friday	<p>10:00am Ranger Walk – Yosemite's Legacy 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS)</p> <p>10:00am Art Workshop 4 Hrs at the Yosemite Art Center \$ (YC) For more information see Page 6</p> <p>3:00pm Ranger Walk – Bears (May 11 and 18 only) 1½ hrs. Curry Village Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #13/21 (NPS)</p> <p>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE "Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey" followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk, featured in the film. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm EARTH DAY FAMILY NIGHT (April 20th only), Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Amphitheater. See page 1 for details.</p> <p>8:00pm Evening Program, Sierra Club 1 hr Le Conte Memorial Lodge (Shuttle bus stop #12) (SC) John Dill, YNP Search & Rescue Ranger "Search & Rescue in Yosemite" (May 4 only) Christine Loberg, Instructor of Photography AAG "Inspiration for Yosemite Preservation: History of Yosemite Artists" (May 11 only) Ben Cunningham-Summerfield, CA Tribal Member "AMERICAN INDIAN STORYTELLING & FLUTE" (May 18 only)</p> <p>8:00pm Evening Program (Except April 20) 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>8:30pm NIGHT PROWL (except April 20) 1.5 hrs. Explore Yosemite at night! Tickets/info at any tour desk (DNC) ♿ \$</p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs, Live music and historical interpretive programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom 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>10:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK (except April 21 and 28) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)</p> <p>10:00am JUNIOR RANGER WALK – FROGS (April 28 only) 1 hr. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS)</p> <p>10:00am Art Workshop 4 Hrs at the Yosemite Art Center \$ (YC) For more information see Page 6</p> <p>10:00am SAVE THE FROGS DAY! (April 28 only) 6 hr. Walks and presentations at Valley Visitor Center, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm "In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams" Class 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery \$. (TAAG)</p> <p>3:00pm Fine Print Tour 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)</p> <p>3:00pm JUNIOR RANGER WALK – FROGS (April 28 only) 1 hr. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS)</p> <p>3:00pm Ranger Walk – Bears (May 12 and 19 only) 1½ hrs. Curry Village Amphitheater, near shuttle stop #13/21 (NPS)</p> <p>5:30pm Spring Twilight Stroll (except April 28) 1 hr. See local listings for title, The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DNC/NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Yosemite Theater LIVE "Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey" followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk, featured in the film. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Valley Visitor Center or any tour desk. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YC) \$</p> <p>8:00pm Evening Program, Sierra Club 1 hr. Le Conte Memorial Lodge (Shuttle bus stop #12) (SC) Stephen Joseph, Landscape Photographer "Visit to Muir Woods" (May 5 only) John Dill, YNP Search & Rescue Ranger "Search & Rescue in Yosemite" (May 12 only) Jeff Sullivan, Travel Photographer "The Range of Light & Beyond: Legacy of Yosemite" (May 19 only)</p> <p>8:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. (DNC/NPS)</p> <p>8:30pm STARRY SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (April 28 only) 1.5 hrs. Celebrate International Astronomy Day and explore the night sky! Tickets/info at any tour desk. (DNC) ♿ \$</p>	<p>5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite 4 hrs, Live music and historical interpretive programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp, programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm, drop by the piano early in the evening and 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.

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.

Visitor Services

Yosemite Valley



Dogwoods, Yosemite Valley, NPS Photo

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

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

FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

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

Wilderness Permits

The Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center will open May 4th and the hours will be 8am to 5pm. Wilderness permits, bear canisters, and a variety of maps and books are available. Until May 4th, wilderness permits and bear canisters can be obtained at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center seven days a week 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 is open at the Yosemite Museum Gallery through May 6.

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.

Ansel Adams Gallery

In Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9am to 5pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, other photographers and artists, camera walks, workshops, and classes. Activities are listed on the front porch. Call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

April 1st-May 10th: "Unfiltered"

Photographs by Jeff Grandy. Reception April 21st 3-5 p.m.

May 12, 5-7pm Silent Auction

On May 12th the Ansel Adams Gallery will host a silent art auction to benefit the Yosemite Climbing Association. The Yosemite Climbing Association is a non-profit that gathers Yosemite climbing history and sponsors the Yosemite Facelift which is the biggest volunteer cleanup event in the Park. The artwork will be up for three days and the auction will start at 5:00 pm and bidding will end promptly at 7:00 pm on May 12th. Wine and Hors D'Oeuvres will be served. This is Yosemite Climbing Association's biggest fundraiser.

May 19, 11am-2pm, Book Signing

Please join us on the front porch of The Ansel Adams Gallery for a book signing with Mike Graf, author of "Harrowing Ascent of Half Dome" and check out the other books in the series "Adventures with the Parkers".

May 14- July 1st, "Photo-Graphic Thinking"

Photographs by Workshop Instructors and Assistant. Reception May 19, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Yosemite Art Center

The Yosemite Art Center is open every day from 9am-4:30pm (closed for lunch). Art workshops are held Tuesday through Saturday. 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.

The Yosemite Art Center is located in Yosemite Village next to the Village Store. 209/372-1442.

April 10th-14th, Steve Curl

Catching the Light in Watercolor

April 17th-21st, Natalie Chan

Charcoal/ graphite Drawing

April 24th-28th, Bob Magnuson

Drawing What You See

May 1st-5th, Heather Burton

Painting Plein Air Acrylic

May 8th-12th, Carolyn Fitz

Sumi-E Ink Painting

May 15th-19th, Fealing Lin

Watercolor Fresh and Loose

May 22nd-26th, Sonja Hamilton

Watercolor; Waterfalls and Dogwoods

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.

April 21 A Saunter with John Muir Stroll

Muir's neighborhood with a descendant.

May 5 Photographing the "Moonbow"

Capture an elusive nighttime spectacle.

May 17-20 Spring Light Photography

Dave Wyman, waterfalls and dogwoods.

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.

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY)

Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY). Sundays starting May 6, 9am, up to 3 hrs. Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Join Yosemite Facilities Management staff to help keep Yosemite clean! Participants of all ages will pick up litter and debris throughout the Valley, protecting wildlife and keeping our park beautiful. Volunteers must wear long pants and closed toe shoes. Bring water and snacks. Tools will be provided, and volunteers may participate for one to three hours. For more information, call 209/379-1850.

Happy Isles Nature Center

(Shuttle stop #16) Happy Isles Bookstore/ Exhibits will be open Saturday-Sunday April 21/22 & April 28/29, from 9:30am to 5pm. Starting May 2nd, the exhibits will be open Monday - Friday, from 10am to 4pm (may close for lunch), and the bookstore and exhibits will be open Saturday-Sunday from 9:30am to 5pm.

LeConte Memorial Lodge

LeConte Memorial Lodge is open through September 30, Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm, with evening programs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, and some Thursday evenings. The Lodge has a library, children's corner, and a climate change exhibit. The Lodge is located at shuttle stop #12.

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 - 5pm

Yosemite Bookstore

Inside Yosemite Visitor Center

9am to 5pm

Yosemite Museum Store

9am to 5pm

Village Store

8am to 9pm

Habitat Yosemite

11am to 4pm Thurs.-Sun. only

Sport Shop

10am to 5pm

The Ahwahnee

The Ahwahnee Gift Shop

8am to 9pm

The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop

7am to 10pm

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

Nature Shop

10am to 7pm

Curry Village

Mountain Shop

8am to 6pm

Curry Village Gift/Grocery

8am-8pm

Housekeeping Camp Grocery

Open 12-6 April 19, weather permitting, then 8am to 6pm.

Wawona and the Mariposa Grove

Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 6pm

Big Trees Gift Shop

Opens April 13, conditions permitting, open 9am to 5pm

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, 11am to 5pm
Degnan's Loft, 5pm to 9pm

The Ahwahnee

Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10:00am
 Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm
 Dinner: 5:30-8:30pm Sundays - Thursdays, 5:30-9pm Fridays and Saturdays Sunday
 Grand Brunch: 7am to 2pm
 Appropriate attire respectfully requested for dinner. Reservations recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch, required for Mother's Day Brunch (May 8): 801-559-4935
The Ahwahnee Bar 11:30am to 11pm
The Coffee Bar 7am to 10:00am

Yosemite Lodge

Food Court

Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am
 Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm
 Dinner: Sunday - Thursday, 5-8:30pm. Friday and Saturday, 5-9pm, after 8 pm Grab and Go available only.
Mountain Room Lounge 4:30pm to 11pm (Mon.-Fri.), noon - 11pm (Sat.-Sun.)
Mountain Room Restaurant Sunday - Thursday 5:00-8:30pm, Fridays and Saturdays 5-9pm, reservations taken for parties of 8 or more. 209/372-1403
BRUNCH 10:30am-1:30pm, Mothers Day (May 13th) only. Reservations recommended, 1-801-559-4935

Curry Village

Pavilion Buffet

Breakfast: 7am-10am
 Dinner: 5:30pm to 8pm
Pizza Deck open 5-9pm Monday through Friday, noon to 9pm Saturday and Sunday. Beginning April 28 open daily Noon-10pm
Coffee Corner open daily 7 to 11am. Open daily from 6am to 10pm with ice cream service beginning May 12.
Bar open 5-10pm Monday through Friday, Noon to 10pm Saturday and Sunday. Beginning May 5 open daily noon-10pm.

Wawona

Wawona Hotel Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am
 Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm
 Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm, Reservations taken for parties of 6 or more.
 Sunday Brunch: 10:30-2pm, Mother's Day (May 13) only, reservations recommended, 209/375-1425
 Lounge Service: 5pm-9:30pm

GROCERIES

Yosemite Lodge
Gift/Grocery
 8am to 8pm
 Yosemite Village
Village Store
 8am to 9pm
Degnan's Delicatessen
 7am to 5pm
 Curry Village
Gift/Grocery
 8am to 8pm
 Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
 8am to 6pm
Crane Flat Store
 9am to 5pm

GAS STATIONS

Wawona Gas Station

8am to 6pm. Diesel & propane.
 Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

Crane Flat

9am to 5pm. Diesel and propane.
 Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

OTHER SERVICES

Happy Isles Snack Stand

Open daily 11am-5pm beginning April 24, weather permitting

Wawona Golf Course

9am-5pm. Opens for the season May 12, weather and conditions permitting.

Wawona Golf Shop and Snack Stand

9am to 5pm when Golf Course is open

Visitor Services

Beyond Yosemite Valley

Wawona

The Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio opens Friday, May 11, 2012 and will be open daily from 8:30am to 5pm, offering visitor information, wilderness permits, bear canisters rentals, and a variety of books and maps. Until May 11th, wilderness permits can be obtained by self registration on the porch of Hill's Studio and bear canisters are available for rent at the Wawona Store.

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 explains how Yosemite inspired national parks across America and around the world. The center is open throughout the year.

Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. The road to the Grove will open when weather permits.

Getting to the Mariposa Grove

Allow an hour's driving time to reach the grove's access road from Yosemite Valley. A free shuttle is available from the Wawona Store to the Mariposa Grove on weekends beginning April 21, daily beginning May 4, weather permitting

Dogs and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.

Crane Flat & Hetch Hetchy

Big Oak Flat and North Entrance

The route enters the park on California Hwy 120. Yosemite's north region is often uncrowded, and offers lesser-known gems including the giant sequoia groves near Crane Flat, and the trails and waterfalls of Hetch Hetchy.

The Information Station opens Friday, May 11, 2012 and will be open daily from 8am to 5pm, offering visitor information, wilderness permits, bear canisters rentals, and a variety of books and maps. Until May 11th, wilderness permits can be obtained by self

registration on the porch of the Big Oak Flat Information Station. 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. It's a four-mile round-trip hike from the Big Oak Flat Road.

Tuolumne Grove

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat. The path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip is moderately strenuous.

Tuolumne Meadows

Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center

Opening date pending. When open, hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs

Two trails, both flat and 3/4 mi. long, lead to this historic area.

Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center

The center is scheduled to open along with the Tioga Road. Please check the website for hours of operation. Wilderness permits, bear canisters, information, books, and maps are available. The center is located just as you turn onto the Tuolumne Lodge Road.



Giant Sequoias, Photo by Christine White Loberg

SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

Curry Village
Showers
 Open 24 hours
 Housekeeping Camp
Showers
 Open at noon on April 19, then open 7am to 10pm daily
Laundromat
 8am to 10pm

GENERAL SERVICES

Village Garage
 NO GAS AVAILABLE IN YOSEMITE VALLEY
 8am to 5pm Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4:30pm. 209/372-8320

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

Dental Services

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

ANNUAL MARRIAGE RENEWAL SUNDAY
 Sunday May 6, 2012, 9:15am, 11am

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:15 A.M. (Sunday School available).
 11:00 A.M. (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 P.M. call chapel for location
 Men's Bible 7:00 P.M. call chapel for location

THURSDAY MIDWEEK SERVICE

Thursday Evening Service 7:00 P.M.

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC

SUNDAY LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS:

Saturday, 6:00 pm, (beginning April 30)
 Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater

Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Visitor Center Theater
 Sunday, 6:00 p.m. (Spanish), Cedar Lodge, El Portal
 For Information call 209-372-4729, email olsyos@gmail.com

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

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

LIONS CLUB

Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4475.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Meets Thursdays for lunch at noon in The Ahwahnee Mural Room. Visiting Rotarian families and guests welcome. For meeting reservations or information, call 209/372-8459.

Protecting yourself...



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

Spring temperatures can drop into dangerous territory with little warning, and 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.

Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

While a trail may start out snow free be prepared for patches of snow or for the snow to become continuous. Summer trails are not marked for winter use. Hikers may lose the trail when crossing a stretch of snow and subsequently become disoriented while searching for the trail. Stay oriented by using landmarks and a map.

- Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back.
- 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.
- Thoroughly check snow bridges for integrity before crossing streams.
- During spring months rising air temperatures can quickly melt snow creating fast flowing creeks that become a barrier to the entry or exit of certain areas.

Wilderness Permit Information

Wilderness permits are required year round for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Permits are issued and bear canisters are available for rent in Yosemite Valley (see page 6) and at the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station during hours of operation. Wilderness permits are also available at the Hill's Studio in Wawona and at the Big Oak Flat Information Station (see page 7).

Self registration permits are available at the Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Station until the Tioga Road opens for the season. Call the park's 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.

Half Dome Permit Information

Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are required seven days per week when the Cables are up for 2012, May 25 to October 8, conditions permitting. This interim measure increases safety along the cables while the park develops a long-term plan to manage use on the Half Dome Trail. In addition to the 300 permits per day released during the preseason lottery, approximately 50 permits will be available each day by lottery during the hiking season. These permits will be available based on the estimated rate of use and cancellations of permits (the exact number may change through the summer). The daily lotteries will have an application period two days prior to the hiking date with a notification late that night. To apply for a permit, visit Recreation.gov or call 877/444-6777. An application fee applies to all and a use fee applies to winning applicants. Backpackers with an appropriate wilderness permit can receive a Half Dome permit when they pick up their wilderness permit (use fee applies). Rock climbers who reach the top of Half Dome without entering the subdome area can descend on the Half Dome Trail without a permit.

More information is available at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.

...and Yosemite



Coyote, Yosemite Valley Photo by Caitlin Lee-Roney

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.

Backpackers:

Save Your Food, Save A Bear

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

Report Bear Sightings!

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

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

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.

If you see a coyote during your visit to Yosemite, consider yourself lucky. Spend some time watching its natural behavior from a distance (at least 50 yards).

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.

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.

Saving The Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog

By Heather McKenny, Aquatic Ecologist



Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Photo by Devin Edmonds, USGS.

The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog was once the most abundant vertebrate found in Yosemite's high country.

In Grinnell and Storer's 1924 book *Animal Life in the Yosemite*, they described the frog as

“...the commonest frog in most parts of the Yosemite section.”

Visitors to mountain lakes used to find hundreds of frogs sitting quietly on rocks basking in the sun or hunting for insects in the grass. People walking along shorelines would have their progress announced by a series of plops as the frogs leapt back into the water. In 1959, David Wake reported finding so many Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs along the shoreline of an alpine lake that “it was difficult to walk without stepping on them”, by the late-1980s the frogs were completely gone from this site.

Today the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is one of the world's most critically endangered amphibians; over 93% of their populations have disappeared and we continue to lose populations at an alarming rate. Because of their dramatic decline, the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is a Candidate Species for listing under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and it is a Threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act.

Why is this?

Highly aquatic amphibian species, such as the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, are particularly vulnerable to predation by non-native trout. Trout prey on all of the frog's life stages and they compete with the frogs for food. As early as the 1920s, scientist noted that the introduction of fish caused the frog's populations to plummet and, often times, disappear. Interestingly, most fish found in Yosemite are not native to the area; they descended from the over 33 million non-native trout released

in Yosemite between 1877 and 1990. Native fish were only found in the lower elevations of the Merced River into Yosemite Valley; waterfalls prevented further colonization upstream after the last glaciers retreated. As a result, the majority of Yosemite's lakes, ponds, and rivers are naturally fishless, and the aquatic wildlife, including the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, that colonized these water bodies evolved over thousands of years without predatory fish.

Other issues affecting the frogs include disease, loss of habitat, pesticide use, air

pollution, and climate change.

What can I do to Save the Frogs?

Get educated! Visit the Yosemite National Park website and learn more about ways the park works to protect this vulnerable species. And remember that the choices you make at home ultimately affect the animals and plants living both near you and here in the park. Protecting our natural resources makes a healthier future for us and the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs.

Celebrate Save the Frogs Day! April 28, 2012

Frogs are fascinating creatures that have lived for over 200 million years. But it's not easy being green (or brown, or yellow, or blue, or even purple). Did you know that frog populations have been declining worldwide at unprecedented rates, and nearly one-third of the world's amphibian species are threatened with extinction? Here in Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada, the mountain yellow-legged frog is on the verge of disappearing forever.

Discover more about these remarkable animals—and learn how you can help protect them as well—during Yosemite's celebration of the 4th annual international Save the Frogs Day. Come browse the “frog fair” from 10 am to 4:00 pm with displays on frog research and education in the park, participate in the fun frog-focused walks and talks, and watch a screening of the PBS documentary, *Frogs: The Thin Green Line*. Kids of all ages can participate in a Save the Frogs poster contest. Enjoy the free pins, bracelets, and postcards (while supplies last) and see Belle the Balloon Girl make some incredible balloon frogs. Ranger Rick will also be making special appearances throughout the day.

The National Park Service has teamed up with Save The Frogs, the National Wildlife Federation, and Delaware North Parks and Resorts to bring you this special event. Valley Visitor Center, 10 am to 4 pm.



Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

Enhance the Visitor's Experience

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

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



The Ansel Adams Gallery

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

www.anseladamsgallery.com.



DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

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

For more information and employment opportunities with

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



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

Contact Us

Yosemite National Park
PO Box 577
9039 Village Drive
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-0200
<http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm>

The Ansel Adams Gallery
PO Box 455
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-4413
209/372-4714 fax
www.anseladams.com

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite
PO Box 578
Yosemite, CA 95389
801/559-5000
www.yosemitepark.com

Yosemite Conservancy
155 Montgomery Street, St. 1104
San Francisco, CA 94104
800/469-7275
415/434-0745 fax
www.yosemiteconservancy.org

Yosemite Institute
PO Box 487
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/379-9511
209/379-9510 fax
www.yni.org

Want to Get Involved?

Merced River Plan Alternative Concepts Workshops

Please join us for our spring 2012 Merced River Plan alternative concepts workshops. We invite you to attend one of the remaining public meetings or an online webinar that will detail a number of alternative ways to responsibly manage the Merced Wild and Scenic River Corridor. The Merced River Plan will guide future management of the corridor's restoration, user capacity, and land use for the next 20 years. Public meetings include optional site visits to tour pertinent locations addressed in the alternative concepts.

April 11 Online: 6:30-8:30 p.m. by registering at yose.webex.com.

April 12 El Portal: 2-4 p.m. site visit and 5:30-8 p.m. workshop. Meet at the El Portal Community Hall.

April 13 Wawona: 10 a.m.-Noon site visit and 1-3:30 p.m. workshop. Meet at the Wawona Community Hall.

Access the spring 2012 *Alternative Concepts Workbook* online at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/mrp.htm. Workbook copies will be distributed at the public meetings. The MRP comment period is open through April 20 on PEPC at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/MRPAalternatives>. Call 209/379-1110 with questions.