



Yosemite Guide

February 13, 2013 - April 9, 2013

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Hoarstrost, Photo by Rob Pilewski



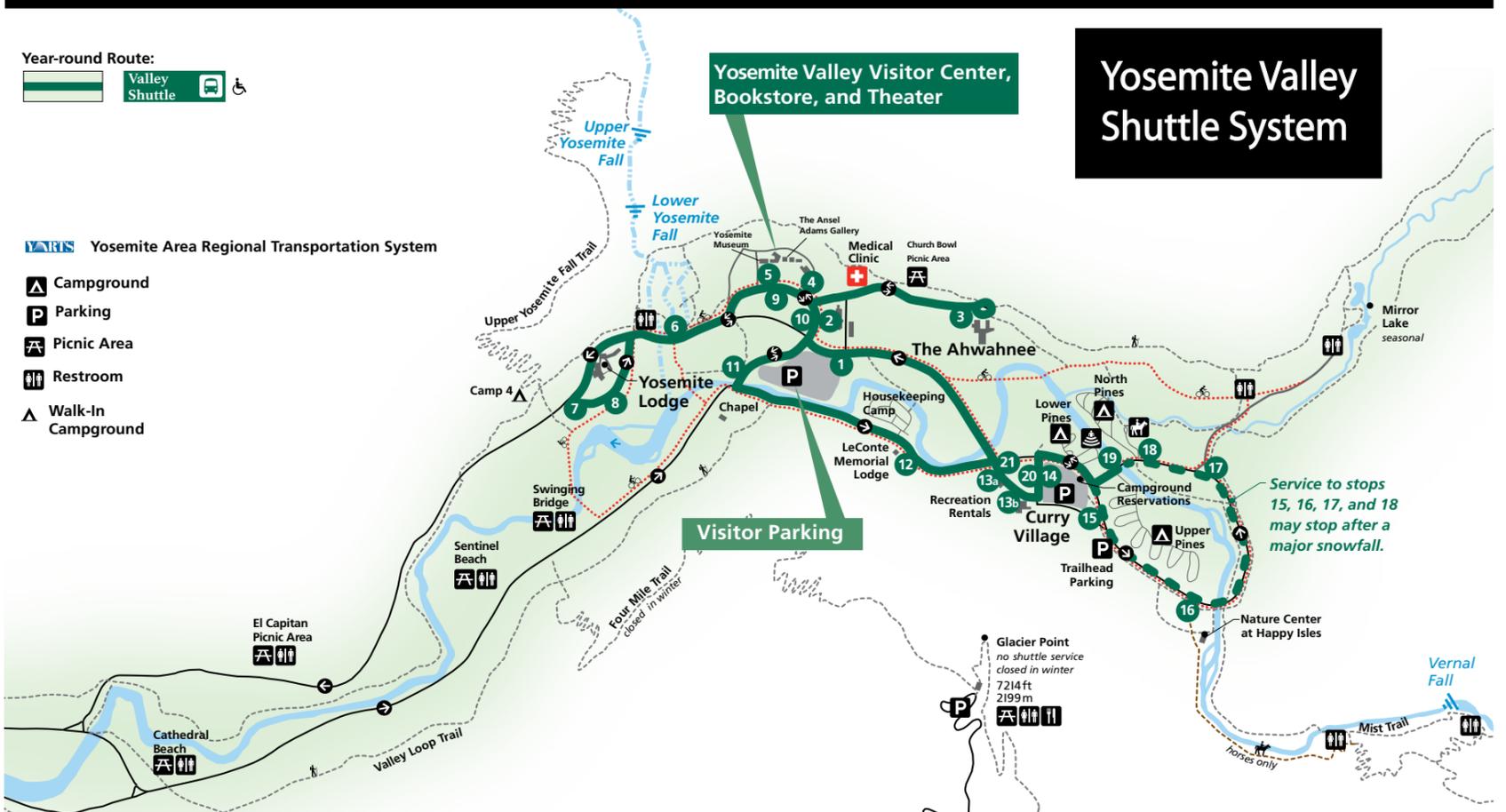
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Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

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Yosemite Guide February 13, 2013 - April 9, 2013

US Department of the Interior
National Park Service
PO Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389



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

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	YARS Yosemite Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2	10 Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	YARS The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	Degnan's Deli	13a	21 Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5	9 YARS Valley Visitor Center	13b	YARS Curry Village		
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	14	20 Curry Village Parking		

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Seasonal Highlights

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

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

Love Yosemite? Leave a Legacy!

Yosemite National Park is planning for the future. As part of our efforts to ensure that the park is protected for future generations, we are seeking comments on draft management plans for both the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers. We encourage you to help us leave a legacy for future generations by learning about the plans and providing feedback. We are accepting comments on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement through March 18, 2013. The Merced Wild and Scenic River Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement will be open for comment through April 18, 2013. Visit Yosemite's planning webpage to find out more about the draft plans and opportunities for public input: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm>

Enjoy Winter Fun at Badger Pass

California's original ski resort, Badger Pass Ski Area is a perfect place for visitors of all ages and skill levels to play in the snow. Learn to ski with one of our lessons, get some practice in on 10 runs, or catch some air in one of two terrain parks. You can also set-out on an easy, guided snowshoe hike or embark on a cross-country skiing adventure from the Nordic center. Badger Pass is open everyday, weather and conditions permitting. Downhill ski lifts operate from 9am to 4pm. Call 209/372-1000 for current snow conditions. Equipment rentals and lift tickets are available from 8:30am to 4pm. Badger Pass Ski Area is scheduled to close on March 31.

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. The Ice Rink is scheduled to close on March 3.

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.)



Half Dome in Winter, NPS Photo

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

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.)

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.)

Take a Photography Class

Learn how to best capture the landscape of Yosemite by joining a photography expert from The Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Some have fees, some are free. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 5 and 6.)

Hike to Mirror Meadow

Situated at the base of Half Dome, the site of Mirror Lake frames reflections of Yosemite's most iconic cliff. (The lake itself is dry until the first significant precipitation of the season, however.) The quiet trail is gentle and follows Tenaya Creek as it winds its way through the eastern Valley. The trail starts at shuttle stop #17.

Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

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

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

Reserve Ostrander Ski Hut For an Epic Winter Adventure!

Ostrander Ski Hut, managed by Yosemite Conservancy, is accepting reservations for the 2012-2013 season. The hut operates from early December through March and is located 10 miles from the Badger Pass Ski Area. Trips to Ostrander require advanced snowshoe or cross country skiing experience. Reservations can be booked by calling 209/379-5161. Information, equipment lists and more can be found at www.yosemiteconservancy.org/ostrander.

Get on the trail with Yosemite Conservancy

Join a Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures photographer for a chance to capture natural light and magic with your camera or sign up for a snowshoe adventure to explore a true wonderland of winter. Looking for an extra special experience? Contact us to plan a custom adventure for your family or group. Visit www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures or 209/379-2646, ext. 10 to plan your adventure.

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.

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.

Interagency Military Pass (Free) (Annual) For active duty U.S. military and dependents.

Reservations

Campground Reservations
877/444-6777
www.recreation.gov

Lodging Reservations
801/559-5000
www.yosemitepark.com

Regional Info

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)
www.yarts.com

Highway 120 West
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429

Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau
800/446-1333
www.tcvb.com

Highway 41
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
559/683-4636
www.yosemitethisyear.com

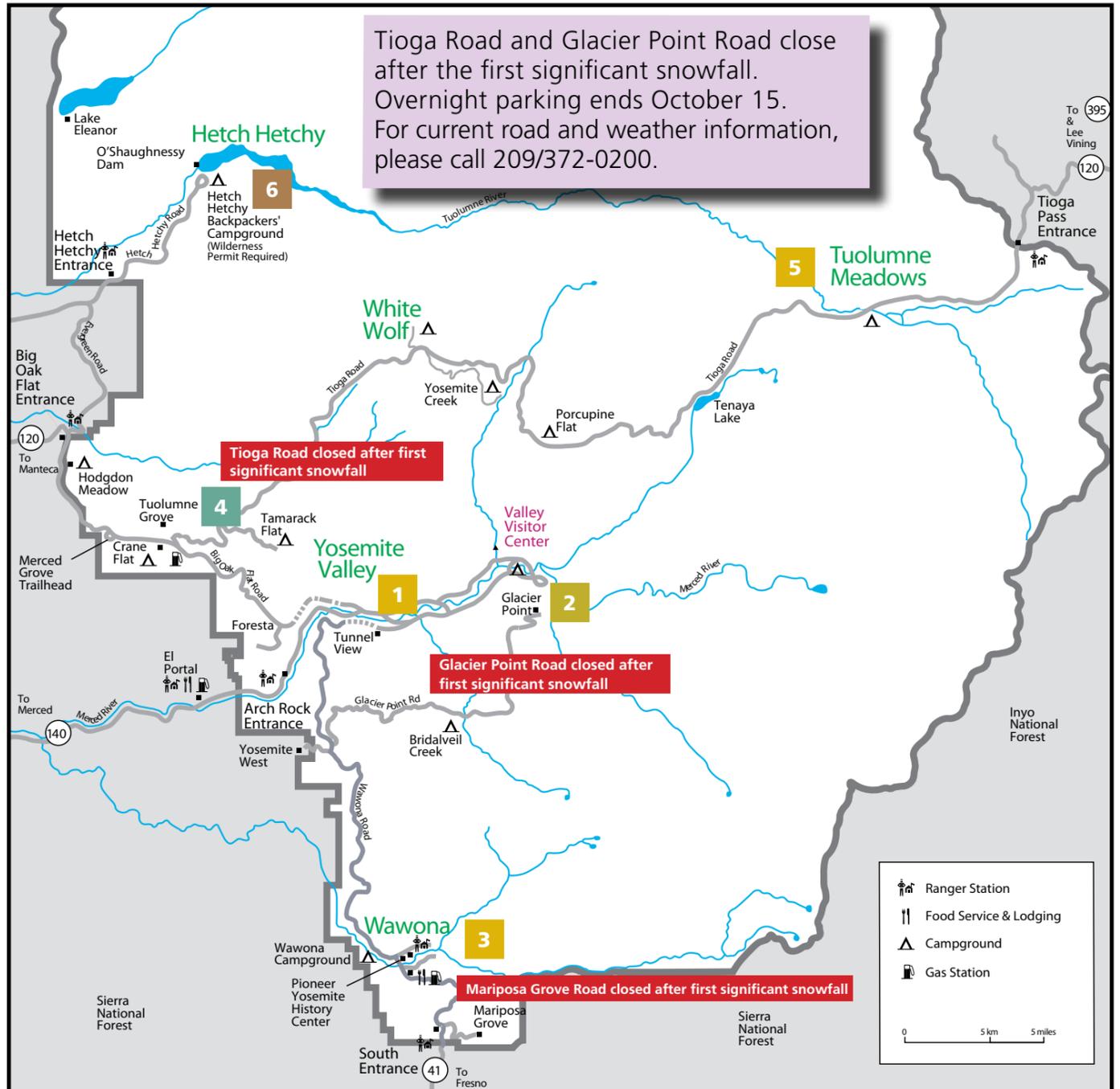
Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/878-3074

Highway 140/49
Mariposa County Visitor Center
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081

Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau
209/742-4567
www.homeofyosemite.com

Highway 120 East
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center, 760/647-6629
www.leevining.com

Calif. Welcome Center, Merced
800/446-5353 or 209/724-8104
www.yosemite-gateway.org



Yosemite Valley

1 Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 west from Manteca, and via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, its plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and its attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow recharge it, a moderate hike will take you to Vernal and Nevada Falls. Yosemite's meadows are great places to see wildlife and to photograph fall colors. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, bike, car, or with a tour, the scenery will leave you breathless and eager to see what's around the next corner.



Granite, the Merced River, trees, and meadows compose the Valley's unique blend. Photo by Christine White Loberg

Glacier Point Road

2 Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Yosemite's high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. **The road stays open as weather permits, although overnight parking along it ends on Oct. 15.** When snow covers the road and conditions permit, a system of cross-country ski tracks is maintained on it. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating, some might say unnerving, view 3,214 feet down to Yosemite Valley.

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

3 The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 ¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's South Entrance station. When weather permits, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is a short drive from Wawona. Help reduce congestion by taking the free shuttle from the Wawona Store, available weekends from 9am to 6pm as weather permits. The road to the grove is closed to vehicles after the first big snowstorm, making it a peaceful hike or snowshoe for winter adventurers. See page 7 for Mariposa Grove hiking details. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite.

Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

4 Crane Flat is located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. A number of hikes through pleasant meadows are available—when snow covers the ground these turn into delightful ski and snowshoe tracks. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk two steep miles down to this small grove. These groves north of Yosemite Valley are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off-limits to vehicles. Remember that the walk down is easier than the walk back up.

Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

5 The Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. **The road closes after the first big snowfall, and overnight parking ends on October 15.** The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 to just under 10,000 feet. Tuolumne Meadows embodies the high-country of the Sierra Nevada. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. In winter, Tuolumne Meadows is often reached by skiers via the Snow Creek Trail from the Mirror Lake trailhead, a short distance east of Yosemite Valley.

Hetch Hetchy

6 Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area's low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. Hetch Hetchy Road is open limited hours: 8 am to 7 pm through Oct. 31; then 8 am to 5 pm through March 31. The road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is a 1 hour and 15 minute drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

Did You Know?

Yosemite participates in the California Cooperative Snow Surveys, which measure the amount of water held in the Sierra snowpack. This information is vitally important for predicting the water resources that will be available for the State. There are 13 sampling locations in the park. Some of these locations have been sampled in pretty much the same way since the late 1920s.



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. This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired. Although Yosemite Falls dries up by the end of the summer, **Bridalveil Fall** is a year-round waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds swirling about the cliff lift and blow the falling water in a delicate free-fall.

El Capitan, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan. *Note: Please park on the paved road shoulder next to El Capitan Meadow. Delicate meadows are easily damaged by trampling, so please stay on footpaths.*

Half Dome, Yosemite's most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion

from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook's Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story.

Shuttle buses may not travel to stop #16 when the road is snow-covered or icy.

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 page 9 for a list of popular Valley day hikes.

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

Winter Sports

Badger Pass Ski Area is scheduled to close for the season March 31, conditions permitting. When open, lifts operate daily from 9am to 4pm. Call 209-372-8430 for more information.

Free shuttle bus to Badger Pass: Departs Curry Village 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. / Departs Yosemite Village 8:10 a.m., 10:40 a.m. / Departs Ahwahnee 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. / Departs Yosemite Lodge 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. // Returns to Valley from Badger Pass 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.

Curry Village Ice Skating Rink: Weekends/Holidays - four sessions - 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. / noon - 2:30 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. / 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mon - Fri - two sessions - 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. / 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. To learn more: 209/372-8341. Closes for the season on March 3.

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
10am to 5pm, 9am to 5pm beginning March 11.

Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore Inside Yosemite Visitor Center
9am to 5pm

Yosemite Conservancy Museum Store 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 4pm

Curry Village Gift/Grocery
Closed through March 20th, open 9am-7pm beginning March 21st.

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

WINTER SPORTS

Badger Pass Ski Area and Sport Shop, 9am to 4pm. Closes for the season March 31, conditions permitting.

Camping in Yosemite

Camping is available on a first come, first served basis in Yosemite Valley at Upper Pines until March 15 and Camp 4 year round. Lower Pines and North Pines are available by advance reservations beginning in late March and early April.

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

Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

YOSEMITE VALLEY AND BEYOND!

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

Sunday	9:00am	Adventure Hike-Snowshoe to Dewey Point. 6½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center. Tickets/Info at any tour desk. (YMS)	
	9:00am	Spring Canyon Flowers (March 24 only) 7 hr. Explore the diverse and colorful wildflowers of the Merced River Canyon. Requires advanced reservation, please call 209/379-2317 ext. 10. (YC) \$	
	9:30am	EASTER WEE WILD ONES (March 31 only) 45 mins. Stories and activities for children 6 & under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge (DNC) ♿	
	10:00am	JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿	
	10:30am	Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except April 7) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
	1:00pm	Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk 3 hrs. Conditions permitting. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Crane Flat Gas Station (DNC) \$	
	2:00pm	Ranger Walk – Bears 1 ½ hrs. shuttle stop #6 (NPS) ♿	
	2:30pm	SPRING FAMILY WALK (March 31 only) 1 hr. Family-friendly games and activities. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿	
	6:30pm	Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb. 24 only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$	
	7:00pm	Evening Program 1hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC) ♿	
7:30pm	Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Mar. 24 only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$		
Monday	8:30am	Adventure Hike- Snowshoe in Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias (Except Feb. 25th and April 4) 5 hrs. Meet at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$	
	8:30am	Beginner Backcountry Lesson- ski to Tempo Dome (Except Feb. 25 and April 1 & 8) 5 Hours, Meet at Badger Pass Nordic Center, Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS)\$	
	9:00am	Camera Walk - Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel 1 1/2 hrs. (TAAG) ♿	
	10:00am	Art Workshop (April 8th only) 4hrs. Art workshop at the Yosemite Art Center, see page 6 for more details (YC) \$	
	10:30am	Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except April 1 & 8) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
	1:00pm	Using Your Digital Camera 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)\$	
	2:00pm	Ranger Walk - Yosemite's First People 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) ♿	
	6:30pm	Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb. 25 only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$	
	7:00pm	Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Check local postings for venue/topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (NPS) ♿	
	7:30pm	Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Mar. 25 only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$	
Tuesday	9:00am	Camera Walk - Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery 1 1/2 hrs. (TAAG) ♿	
	10:00am	Art Workshop (April 9th only) 4hrs. Art workshop at the Yosemite Art Center, see page 6 for more details (YC) \$	
	10:30am	Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except April 2 & 9) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
	12:00pm	Yosemite Forum "Floral evolution of Yosemite's Monkeyflowers" (March 12 only) 1 hr. Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS)	
	12:00pm	Yosemite Forum "Recreation ecology applications in National Parks: Examples from Yosemite, Rocky Mountain and Glacier Bay" (April 9 only) 1 hr. Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS)	
	1:00pm	In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams photography class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)\$	
	2:00pm	Ranger Walk – Geology 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿	
	4:00pm	Naturalist Stroll (Through March 5) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿	
	4:30pm	Naturalist Stroll (March 12-April 9) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿	
	7:00pm	Evening Program 1hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC) ♿	
7:30pm	Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Mar. 26 only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$		
Wednesday	9:00am	Adventure Hike- Snowshoe to Dewey Point 6 ½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$	
	10:30am	Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except March 6 and April 3) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
	2:00pm	Ranger Walk – Yosemite's Legacy (Except March 6) 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿	
	7:00pm	Ranger Evening Program (except February 20) 1 hr. Check local postings for venue/topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (NPS) ♿	
	7:00pm	In Ansel's Backyard: The Art (and Fun) of Living and Photographing in Yosemite National Park (only February 20th) 1 hr. Check local listing for venue (TAAG) ♿	
	7:30pm	Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Mar. 27 only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$	
	Thursday	9:00am	Camera Walk - Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery 1 1/2 hrs. (TAAG) ♿
		10:30am	Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (Except April 4) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)
		1:00pm	Using Your Digital Camera 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The AnselAdams Gallery (TAAG)\$
		2:00pm	Ranger Walk – Trees 1 ½ hrs. The Ahwahnee shuttle stop #3 (NPS)
6:30pm		Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb. 21 only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$	
7:00pm		Evening Program 1hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC) ♿	
8:00pm		FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge (DNC) ♿	
Friday		8:30am	Beginner Backcountry Lesson-"Off-piste" ski to Tempo Dome (Except Feb. 22 and April 5) 5 Hrs. Meet at Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$
		9:00am	WEE WILD ONES (Except Feb. 22) 45 mins. Stories and activities for children 6 & under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge (DNC) ♿
		10:00am	Secrets of the West Valley (March 22 only) 6 hr. Discover the cultural and natural history of the West Valley. Requires advanced reservation, please call 209/379-2317 ext. 10. (YC) \$
	10:30am	Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (Except April 5) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
	2:00pm	Ranger Walk – Wild About Wildlife 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿	
	6:30pm	Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb. 22 only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$	
	7:00pm	Film - Ansel Adams 1hr. Check local listing for venue (TAAG) ♿	
	7:00pm	Yosemite Theater LIVE! (April 5th only) Ron Kauk and <i>Return to Balance</i> at the Yosemite Theater, see page 6 for more details (YC) \$	
	Saturday	8:00am	Trek to the Edge: Dewey Point Snowshoe 2 (March 16 only) 8 hr. Naturalist-led snowshoe trek to Dewey Point. Snowshoes provided. Requires advanced reservation, please call 209/379-2317 ext. 10. (YC) \$
		8:30am	Adventure Hike- Snowshoe in Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias (Except Feb.23 and April 6) 5 Hrs. Meet at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$
9:00am		Camera Walk - Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery 1 1/2 hrs. (TAAG) ♿	
9:00am		Snowshoes & Sequoias: Explore Mariposa Grove inWinter (March 9 only) 7 hr. Naturalist-led snowshoe trek in Mariposa Grove. Snowshoes provided. Requires advanced reservation, please call 209/379-2317 ext. 10. (YC) \$	
10:00am		JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿	
10:30am		Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (except April 6) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
1:00pm		Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk 3 hrs. Conditions permitting. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Crane Flat Gas Station (DNC) \$	
1:00pm		In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams photography class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)\$	
2:00pm		Ranger Walk – Merced Meanders 1 ½ hrs. Lower Yosemite Fall, shuttle stop #6 (NPS) ♿	
3:00pm		Fine Print Tour - Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery 1 hr. Very limited space (TAAG) ♿	
6:30pm	Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb. 23 only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$		
7:00pm	Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Check local postings for venue/topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (NPS) ♿		
7:00pm	Yosemite Theater LIVE! (April 6th only) Ron Kauk and <i>Return to Balance</i> at the Yosemite Theater, see page 6 for more details (YC) \$		
7:30pm	Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Mar. 23 only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$		

Access for People with Disabilities



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, or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at 209/379-1035 for more information.

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.



Sign Language interpreting is available upon request. Contact Deaf Services at 209/379-5250 (v/txt) Two weeks advance notice is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.



Audio tours are available for the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

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

Yosemite Valley



Reeds and Cloud Reflection Photo by Michael Frye
From the Yosemite Renaissance XXVIII Exhibition, see below for details

Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite 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

Spirit of Yosemite Hours: shown every 30 minutes, Monday through Saturday between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm, Sunday between noon and 4:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits and bear canisters can be obtained at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center daily 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 CONSERVANCY 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 XXVIII Exhibition

The Yosemite Renaissance XXVIII exhibition opens on Feb.23 at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. The exhibit continues through May 5. The official opening will be preceded by a reception and awards ceremony from 5:30 to 7:30pm on Feb. 22 at the Gallery. The public is cordially invited to attend this reception. Yosemite Renaissance is an annual exhibit, now in its twenty-eighth 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 nearly 600 entries, resulting in an exhibit of 46 paintings, graphics, photographs and 3-dimensional pieces by artists throughout the country.

The 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, 9am to 5pm beginning March 11. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. See page 5 for photo walk and other event times. For more information, call 209/372-4413, or visit www.anseladams.com.

New Exhibit:

Jan 8-March 2

Yosemite Meditations Featuring new and classic Yosemite images by Michael Frye. Reception, Saturday, Feb 16th from 12-2pm-- early enough for photographers to attend the reception and still have time to photograph Horsetail Fall afterward.

March 3th - April 17th

Carol Henry: Floral Work. Reception March 30, 3-5pm

February 20th

In Ansel's Backyard: The Art (and Fun) of Living and Photographing in Yosemite National Park.

What is the best approach to photographing Yosemite? Live there. From George Fiske to Ansel Adams to the intrepid unknowns working today, spontaneous access to their big backyard has always come in handy. On what would have been Ansel's 111th birthday, join our staff photographers for one night only as they share some of Ansel's images as well as their own experiences, adventures, serendipity and photos made along the way.

Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures

Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing the wonders of Yosemite through our Outdoor Adventure programs. Join one of the many year-round programs available and explore everything Yosemite has to offer.

February 22-23

Photographing the "Firefall" Capture a natural Yosemite phenomenon with photographer John Senser

March 9

Snowshoes & Sequoias: Explore Mariposa Grove in Winter Snowshoe among giants with naturalist Shirley Spencer

March 16

Trek to the Edge: Dewey Point Snowshoe 2 Snowshoe to Dewey Point with naturalist Karen Amstutz

March 22

Secrets of the West Valley Explore the hidden historical treasures of the West Valley with Pete Devine

March 24

Spring Canyon Flowers Discover incredible floral diversity with author Michael Ross

April 5-6

Leave No Trace (LNT) Trainer Gain minimum impact training and receive certification with Pete Devine

Find detailed information about these programs at www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures or call 209/379-2646, ext. 10. Camping and park entry are included, and lodging options are available. Custom tours with park experts can also be arranged for individuals, families and groups. Proceeds support Yosemite Conservancy, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and preserving Yosemite.

Yosemite Art Center

Yosemite Conservancy invites you to participate in one of our hands-on art workshops held Monday through Saturday beginning April 8th at the Yosemite Art Center. Registration is \$10 for each daily session; art supplies available for purchase.

April 9th-15th

Paint Yosemite's Light with Watercolor Find your inspiration with professional artist Steve Curl

The Yosemite Art Center is located in Yosemite Village next to the Village Store. Open daily 9am-4:30pm (closed for lunch). To register for workshops in advance call 209/372-1442.

Yosemite Theater LIVE!

Yosemite Conservancy kicks off the Yosemite Theater LIVE! Season on Friday, April 5th and Saturday April 6th at 7pm, with legendary rock-climber, Ron Kauk, who will personally introduce his film, *Return to Balance*. Ron will host a Q&A session after the film. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids, 4-12. Tickets can be purchased at the Valley Visitor Center Bookstore or at the door.

Visitor Services

Beyond Yosemite Valley

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, beginning April 6

The Ahwahnee

Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm

Dinner Sun - Thurs 5:30pm to 8:30pm & Fri & Sat 5:30pm to 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: 5pm - 8pm

Mountain Room Lounge

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

12pm to 11pm

Mountain Room Restaurant

Fri & Sat 5pm to 8:30pm; Sun - Thurs 5 to 8pm

Reservations taken for 8 or more.

209/372-1281

Curry Village

Coffee Corner

Sat & Sun (and Mon, Feb 18) 7am to 11am; daily 7am to 11am beginning

March 23.

Pizza Deck Fri 5pm to 9pm and Sat (and Sun 2/18) 12pm to 9pm; Mon - Fri 5pm to 9pm; Sat & Sun 12pm to 9pm beginning

March 22.

Wawona

Wawona Hotel Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am Breakfast complimentary for hotel guests, beginning

March 30

Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm, beginning

March 30

Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm, Sunday-Thursday, 5pm-9pm Friday-Saturday, beginning

March 29

For dinner reservations for 6 or more

persons, call 209/375-1425 -

Lounge Service: 5pm-9:30pm, beginning

March 29.

GROCERIES

Yosemite Lodge

Gift/Grocery

8am to 7pm

Yosemite Village

Village Store

8am to 8pm

Curry Village

Gift/Grocery

Closed through March 20. Open 9am to

7pm beginning March 21.

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 5pm

Crane Flat

Store 10am-4pm, weather permitting

GAS STATIONS

Gas outside Yosemite Valley

El Portal

Diesel available

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

Wawona Gas Station

8am to 6pm. Diesel & propane.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

Crane Flat

10am-4pm, weather permitting. 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



Western Bluebird NPS Photo

Wawona

Visitor Center

Closed for season. Wilderness permits can be obtained by self registration on the front 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 explores Yosemite's history and explains how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and around the world. The center is open throughout the year.

Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area. Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area. The road to the Grove typically

closes in November or December. Visitors can walk, ski, or snowshoe when the road is closed to vehicles.

GETTING TO MARIPOSA GROVE

Allow 1½ hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot.

Trailers are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road. Private vehicles longer than 25 feet are not permitted.

WALKING THROUGH THE GROVE

Trails into the grove extend uphill from the trailhead at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the California Tree provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations are available at the trailhead in Spanish, German, French, and Japanese. When snow covers the ground, access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski.

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

Big Oak Flat

Big Oak Flat Information Station

Closed for the season.

Wilderness permits can be obtained by self registration on the front porch of the information station.

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) 209-372-4831

Pastor Brent Moore Resident Minister

www.yosemitevalleychapel.org

Wedding information on our website.

MAUNDY THURSDAY Service, March 28 7:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY Service, March 29 12-1pm and 7-8pm

EASTER SUNDAY, 7am Upper Pines Amphitheater 9:15am and 11am Chapel Service ((Children's Church available 9:15am only)

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:15am (Sunday School available).

6:30pm Sunday Evening Service/Bible Study

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES, Women's and Men's Bible Studies 7pm, call chapel for location

THURSDAY MIDWEEK SERVICE, 7pm

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC

SUNDAY MASS CELEBRATIONS:

209-372-4729

Sunday, 10:00 am Visitor Center Theater, Shuttle Stop # 5 or 9

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

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...



Ski lift at Badger Pass 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.

Avoid Hypothermia

Sierra winters are comparatively mild, but temperatures can drop into dangerous territory with little warning. Winter sports require a high degree of preparation and training. Be prepared to shelter overnight even when out just for the day. Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

Avoid the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Know symptoms of hypothermia. Carry emergency fire-starting materials and food. Avoid dehydration; carry and drink plenty of water and carry emergency high-energy food.

Water Quality

To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking. Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier. To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available, and always wash hands afterwards with soap and water. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash, camp, and bury human waste (6 inches deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules: Please obey posted speed limits. Yosemite's roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park's scenery and wildlife.

Effects of Altitude

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley's elevation is 4,000 feet). Should altitude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

There are no scheduled winter patrols, so be prepared. Be honest about your abilities and plan with the least experienced member of your group in mind. Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back.

•Be prepared for icy travel before conditions arise. Bring crampons, ice axe, climbing skins, and other traction devices.

•Carry and know how to use a map and compass.

•Check weather forecasts. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult.

•Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food.

•Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.

•Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

Wilderness Permit Details

Free wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Please see Wilderness Permit Information on pages 6 and 7 of this Guide for more information about obtaining Wilderness Permits.

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

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

More Information

•www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm
 •Leave No Trace www.lnt.org
 •Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue www.friendofyosar.org

HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases that are harmful to humans. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread in the droppings and saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. You can be in close proximity to park rodents, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS.

Tell housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your tent or cabin and do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors shut and do not eat or bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. Do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings. HPS begins with aches, fever, and chills 1- 8 weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and difficulty breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms.

For more information on rodent-borne diseases and other environmental safety hazards visit: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm>

...and Yosemite



Keeping Bears Wild

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

Store Your Food Properly.

4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, berries, acorns, and grubs—that's the typical daily diet of most bears. It's a lot easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling at grasses. Their incredible sense of smell allows them to detect things we can't, which helps them find food—a black bear can smell a dead deer three miles away. To top it off, bears have excellent vision and can see in color, so they recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.

If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.

You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away: Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will

be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed.

Drive the speed limit.

The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Slow down! Driving too fast is almost always the cause of these accidental deaths.

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

Yosemite Guardians

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

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

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

How to Store Food

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

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

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

TRAIL / DESTINATION	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE / TIME	DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION
Bridalveil Fall	Bridalveil Fall Parking Area	0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes	Easy
Lower Yosemite Fall	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes	Easy
Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock	Camp 4 Near Shuttle Stop #7	2 miles round-trip, 2–3 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Upper Yosemite Fall	Same as above	7.2 miles round-trip, 6–8 hours	Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain
Mirror Lake (A seasonal lake)	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17	2 miles round-trip, 1 hour	Easy
Vernal Fall Footbridge	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

Another Yosemite

By Brian Whitehead



Hoarfrost Photo by Bob Roney

A trip to Yosemite in winter can provide many unique experiences:

The uncommon silence of the high-country forest, the startling boom of ice falling off Upper Yosemite Falls, watching cotton-ball-sized clumps of snow falling and the ethereal sight of the moon shining on the snow covered Valley. Even putting tire chains on may be a unique experience for most of our winter visitors.

The winter visit itself is almost a unique idea, less than one quarter of the park's annual visitation occurs during the six months from November through April. Visitors that do arrive during that time are treated to another Yosemite, one seemingly full of majesty and mystery. As Pete Devine, resident naturalist for the Yosemite Conservancy says, "There's Yosemite and then there's Yosemite in winter. It's a different national park and a different experience to get out and explore it in the snow."

Something you may notice as you explore the park this winter is the snow sparkling as if a thousand diamonds were strewn across a white blanket. This glittering is not just the snow in the sun but frost crystals that have formed on the surface. This frost is known as "surface hoar" or "hoarfrost".

A beautiful phenomenon with a funny name, "hoar" comes from Old English and means "grayish white" or "gray-haired with age". This type of frost forms large white crystals on

"There's Yosemite and then there's Yosemite in winter. It's a different national park and a different experience to get out and explore it in the snow." Pete Devine, Yosemite Conservancy Naturalist

cold surfaces. It is easy to see how the feathery crystals can make things look hoary!

Frost is not just frozen dew. Ice crystals grow when water vapor in the air transitions directly from a gas to a solid in a process called *deposition*. Large crystals can form on cold clear nights when there is little wind and still plenty of water vapor in the air. The open skies allow surfaces to radiate heat and when their temperature drops below freezing, frost can form. The size of the crystals depends largely on the amount of water vapor available, so near meadows and open water are among the best places to look.

Another great place to look for hoarfrost? Under Maclure Glacier! The lack of sunlight and wind, along with high humidity, allow for the formation of large galleries of gorgeous hoarfrost crystals. Of course, right now the glacier is buried under snow along with the rest of the high country so you may want to stick to looking near the snow covered trails, low plants, and fence rows of the more easily accessed parts of the park. Don't wait though; the morning is the best time to find evidence of hoarfrost occurring throughout the park because the fragile crystals melt quickly in the sunlight.

Earlier this winter, I was walking on the south side of the Valley and spotted some fantastic hoarfrost crystals growing on some old milkweed stems at the edge of a meadow. I couldn't help myself and with a mischievous smile, I touched a few of them to my tongue only to feel them instantly disappear.

Another unique experience in the other Yosemite: Yosemite in winter.

Brian Whitehead is a volunteer interpretive ranger at Yosemite National Park. He graduated from Southeast Missouri State University, achieving both a B.S. in environmental science and an M.S. in biology. Brian was presented with the park's 2012 Individual Volunteer of the Year Award for his work



Hoarfrost under the Maclure Glacier Photo by Brian Whitehead

Did You Know?

Bright and beautiful hoarfrost crystals have a dark side when it comes to winter wilderness safety. When these delicate crystals are buried intact, they form a weak layer in the snowpack. Put them on a steep enough slope with a heavy enough snowpack, and you have the recipe for disaster. Weak hoarfrost layers are a major contributing factor to an increased avalanche danger. Ski patrollers and wilderness users routinely dig snowpits to look at the layers in the snowpack and evaluate the risk.

Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

Enhance the Visitor Experience

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

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



The Ansel Adams Gallery

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



Contact Us

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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 only philanthropic organization that is dedicated exclusively to the protection and preservation of Yosemite National Park and enhancement of the visitor experience. Through the support of our donors, we have provided over \$70 million in grants to Yosemite. The Conservancy works to restore trails, protect wildlife through scientific research and habitat restoration, and offers outdoor programs that provide visitors with unique ways to connect with 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, volunteer opportunities, and the production of award-winning books and DVDs. Join us today to preserve your park at www.yosemiteconservancy.org or call 800-469-7275.



Providing For Yosemite's Future

Park Planning Updates

Yosemite National Park is planning for the future. As part of our efforts to ensure that the park is protected for future generations, we are seeking comments on draft management plans for both the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers. We encourage you to help us leave a legacy for future generations by learning about the plans and providing feedback. We are accepting comments on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement through March 18, 2013. The Merced Wild and Scenic River Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement will be open for comment through April 18, 2013.

Visit Yosemite's planning webpage to find out more about the draft plans and opportunities for public input: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm>

Monthly Public Open House

Join park and partner staff to learn about the draft plans for the Merced and Tuolumne Rivers at a free monthly public open house! An open house will be held on February 27 and March 27, 2013, from 1-4pm in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium. *Park entrance fees will be waived for those attending the open houses!*



Bottom right: Common Raven. Photo by Karen Amstutz Above right: Half Dome. Photo by Christine White Loberg