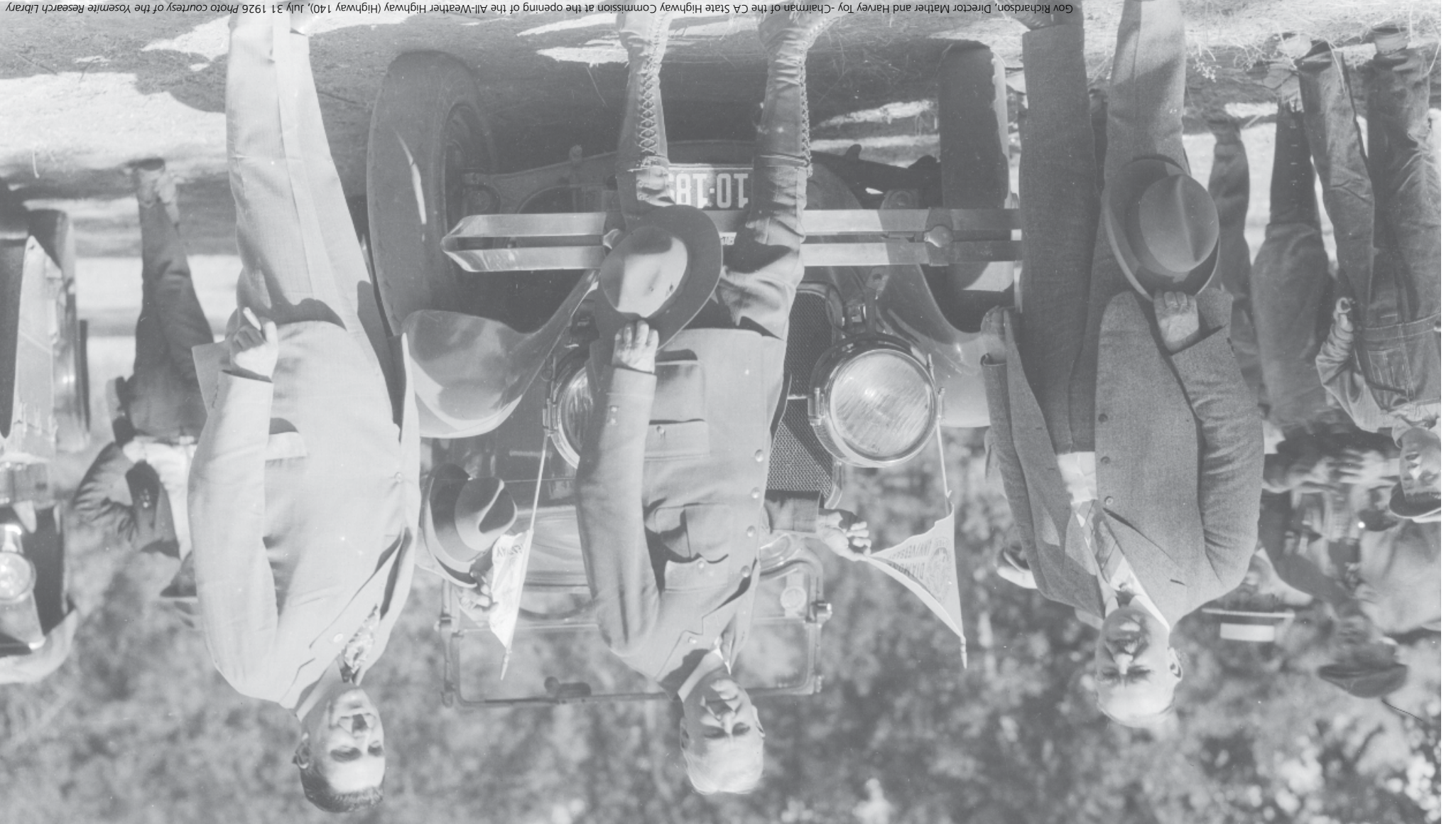




# Yosemite Guide

October 9, 2013 - December 10, 2013

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park



Gov. Richardson, Director Mather and Harvey Toy - Chairman of the CA State Highway Commission at the opening of the All-Weather Highway (Highway 140), July 31 1926. Photo courtesy of the Yosemite Research Library

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

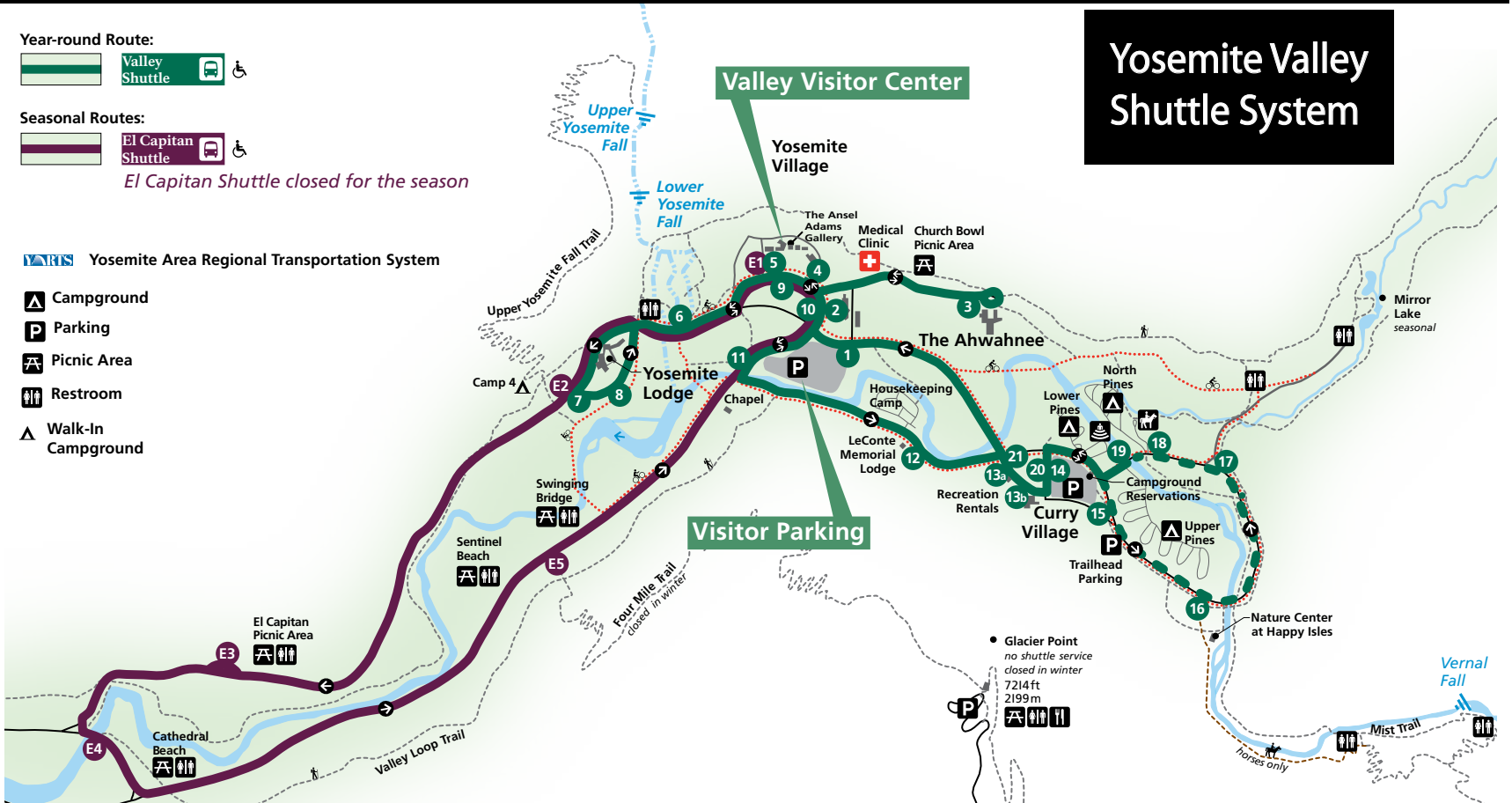
Volume 38, Issue 8

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide October 9 - December 10, 2013

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

## 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. *El Capitan Shuttle closed for the season*

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	Camp 4	15	Upper Pines Campground	E5	Four Mile Trailhead

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# Seasonal Highlights

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

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

## Take the Bus!

Free shuttles, including some environmentally-friendly electric/diesel hybrids, are available in Yosemite Valley year-round. Park your car and let an expert drive you to some of the most scenic and historic points in the park. Not only will you be doing your part to cut down on traffic congestion and vehicle pollutants, you'll also have both hands free for that perfect shot of Half Dome.

## Explore a Sequoia Grove

Meet the most massive living trees on earth as you explore a sequoia grove. Yosemite is home to three groves—each within walking distance of a road. Skis or snowshoes are recommended if the trail is snow covered. (See map on page 2 and info on page 7.)

## Visit the Yosemite Museum

Learn about Yosemite Indians by exploring a museum collection that includes remarkable woven baskets and traditional dress. Tour the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. The Yosemite Museum is located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 6.)

## Stroll with a Ranger

Learn about park wonders on a ranger-guided walk. Programs are offered daily in Yosemite Valley focusing on bears, geology, trees, and other topics. (See page 5 for times and places.)

## Take a Twilight Stroll with a Naturalist

On selected early evenings, take a one-hour leisurely walk with a naturalist through the meadows and forests surrounding The Ahwahnee Hotel. Enjoy vivid alpenglow views, glimpses of passing wildlife, and stories of Yosemite's deep human history during this peaceful way to get up-close and personal with Yosemite. Check the Scheduled Events in Yosemite Valley on page 5 of this newspaper or local listings for exact meeting times and locations.

## 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.)



Autumn reflection, Valley View. NPS Photo

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

### ... or Curl Up in Front of a Fireplace!

The Ahwahnee has three oversized fireplaces that match the proportion of the structure and that have always provided heat during the year's cooler months. Bring a book, a warm drink, or at least a pair of frosty hands for a good warm-up in front of the flames.

### Take a Photography Class

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

### Hike to Mirror Meadow

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

the eastern Valley. The trail starts at shuttle stop #17.

### Get Outdoors With Yosemite Conservancy

Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing Yosemite's wonders. Learn about Yosemite's eleven species of woodpeckers during a naturalist-led walk on Dec. 7. Looking for a custom Yosemite experience? Contact us to plan a custom adventure for your family or group. Visit [www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures) or 209/379-2317 ext. 10 to find your adventure today.

### Yosemite Theater

Yosemite Theater LIVE! presents compelling live performances in the Yosemite Theater, located behind the Valley Visitor Center. Legendary climber Ron Kauk presents the award-winning film *Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey* every Friday & Saturday. The last performance of the season will take place on Oct. 26. Purchase tickets at Yosemite Conservancy Bookstores or Tour & Activity Desks.

### Yosemite Art Center

Join us for a special exhibit 'From Our Point of View', an art show with contributions by Yosemite-area employees and residents. Exhibit opens November 4 and will be open Sunday through Thursday weekly. The Yosemite Art Center is located next to the Village Store

and is open daily 9am-4:30pm (closed at 12pm for lunch). Come browse our selection art supplies, gifts and original art. The Yosemite Art Center will close for the season on November 28th.

### Go Bike Riding or Ice Skating

The Yosemite Lodge Bike Stand is open from 10am to 4pm and closes for the season on November 10th, weather and conditions permitting. Call 209/372-8319 for more information on bike rentals. The Curry Village Ice Rink opens for the season on November 22nd, weather conditions permitting.

### Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove Roads are closed each year from after the first significant snowfall to about late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storm periods. Motorists are advised to always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel. Icy and wet roadways can exist throughout the park! To check conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov) for highways connecting to Yosemite.



## What's Inside

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All issue illustrations by Tom Whitworth

### Get the App!

Search "NPS Yosemite" in app stores to download the official park app for up-to-date listings of programs and services, an interactive map, and more.



iPhone/iPad

Android

# 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 dependants

## Reservations

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

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

## Regional Info

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

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

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

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

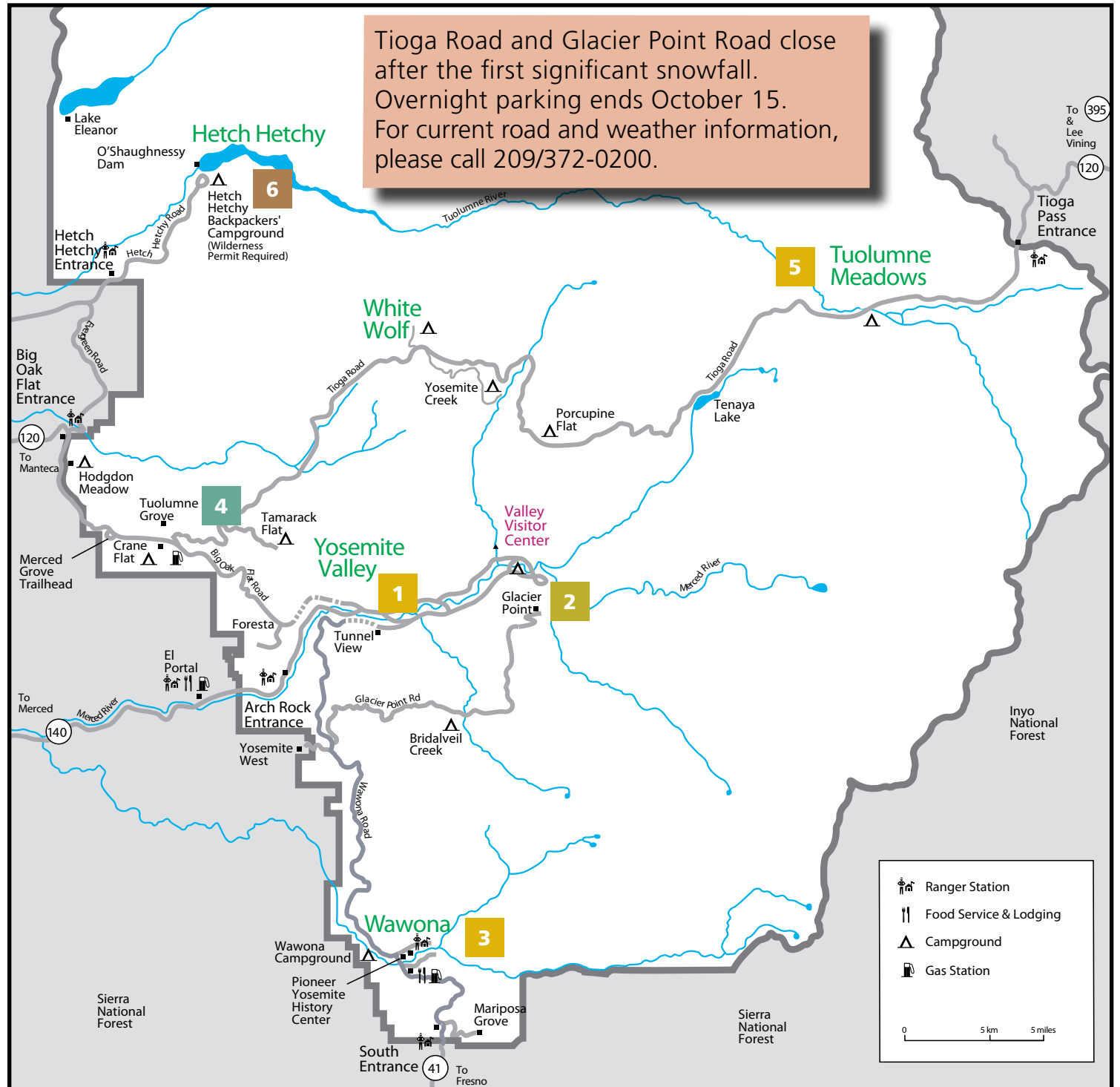
**Highway 132/49**  
Coulterville Visitor Center  
209/878-3074

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

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

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

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



## Yosemite Valley

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



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

## Glacier Point Road

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

## Wawona and Mariposa Grove

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

## Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

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

## Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

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

## Hetch Hetchy

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



The view from Washburn Point. Photo by Ken Watson



Snow at Wawona's covered bridge. Photo by Christine White Loberg



Tuolumne Meadows deep freeze. Photo by Wendy Malone



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. NPS photo by Erik Skindrud

# Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas in the heart of the park



Yosemite Valley in winter NPS Photo

## Experience the Incomparable Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley embraces one of the world's most outstanding concentrations of waterfalls, granite walls, meadows, wildflowers, and trees. The Valley also harbors a rich collection of human stories, from American Indian lore to the birth of the National Park movement.

### Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 5-6 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

The base of **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. (Both Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow return.) This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired. Although Yosemite Falls dries up by the end of the summer, **Bridalveil Fall** is a year-round waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds swirling about the cliff lift and blow the falling water in a delicate free-fall.

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

**Half Dome**, Yosemite's most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook's Meadow, Sentinel

Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

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

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

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

The Glacier Point Tour is a four-hour round trip from Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, which departs daily from Yosemite Lodge. The Glacier Point Tour also offers a one-way ticket for adventurers to hike back down to Yosemite Valley.

The Grand Tour is an eight-hour combination of Big Trees and Glacier Point tours and departs daily from Yosemite Lodge.

**Both tours end when snow closes Glacier Point Road.**

Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at tour/transportation desks at the Yosemite Lodge, open 7:30am to 5pm.

**Winter sports** get underway in November and December. Badger Pass Ski Area is tentatively scheduled to open on December 13. The ice rink at Curry Village is scheduled to open on Nov. 22, conditions permitting. Live information on winter sports is available by calling 209/372-8340, or recorded information is available at 209/372-1000.

#### POST OFFICE

Yosemite Village  
**Main Office**  
 Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm  
 Saturday: 10am to noon  
 Yosemite Lodge  
**Post Office**  
 Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm  
 El Portal  
**Post Office**  
 Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm  
*closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30*  
 Wawona Post Office  
 Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm  
 Saturday: 9am to noon

#### BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

Yosemite Village  
**The Ansel Adams Gallery**  
 9am to 5pm  
**Yosemite Bookstore**  
**Inside Yosemite Visitor Center**  
 9am to 5pm  
**Yosemite Museum Store**  
 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*  
**Village Store**  
 8am to 8pm  
**Habitat Yosemite**  
 11am to 4pm Thurs.-Sun. only  
**Sport Shop**  
 10am to 4pm, *closes for the season Nov 3.*  
 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 6pm  
 Curry Village  
**Mountain Shop**  
 9am to 5pm  
**Curry Village Gift/Grocery**  
 9am-7pm  
 Wawona Area  
**Wawona Store and Pioneer Gift Shop**  
 8am to 6pm  
**Big Trees Gift Shop**  
 9am to 5pm, *closes for the season Nov 3, weather permitting.*

# Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

YOSEMITE VALLEY	
Sunday	<p>10:00am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 min. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>1:30pm <b>Beginner's Watercolor</b> 2hrs. (Oct. 13, 20, 27 only) Experience Yosemite through art with a professional artist. Supplies available for purchase. Yosemite Art Center (YC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk-Bears</b> 1 1/2hrs. Shuttle stop #6. (bear sightings unlikely) (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> (Except Oct 20) 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 6 &amp; under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for topic &amp; venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>8:30pm <b>NIGHT PROWL</b> (except Oct. 20) 1.5 hrs. Conditions permitting. Explore Yosemite at night! Tickets and information available at any tour &amp; activity desk. (DNC) ♿ \$</p>
Monday	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel 1 1/2 hrs. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>9:00am <b>Using the Digital Darkroom: Landscapes and Lightroom</b> 4hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Using Your Digital Camera</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Historic Ahwahnee Tour</b> (Except Nov 11, 18 &amp; Dec 2) 1 hr. Sign-up required at The Ahwahnee Concierge Desk. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk-Yosemite's First People</b> (Except Dec 9) 1 1/2hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>4:00pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES</b> (Except Nov 11) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (NPS) ♿</p> <p>8:00pm <b>STARRY SKIES OVER YOSEMITE WALK</b> 1 hr. Conditions permitting. Tickets and information available at any tour &amp; activity desk. (DNC) ♿ \$</p>
Tuesday	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>1:00pm <b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams photography class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk-Legacy</b> 1 1/2hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (NPS) ♿</p>
Wednesday	<p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk-Geology</b> 1 1/2hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for venue and topic, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:30pm <b>Halloween Cemetery Tour</b> (Oct 30 only) 1.5 hr. Walking tour of the Yosemite Cemetery. Meet in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center with a flashlight (DNC) ♿</p>
Thursday	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Using Your Digital Camera</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk-Trees</b> 1 1/2hrs. The Ahwahnee shuttle stop #3. (NPS)</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for topic &amp; venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:30pm <b>Halloween Cemetery Tour</b> (Oct 31 only) 1.5 hr. Walking tour of the Yosemite Cemetery. Meet in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center with a flashlight (DNC) ♿</p> <p>8:30pm <b>NIGHT PROWL</b> 1.5 hrs. Conditions permitting. Explore Yosemite at night! Tickets and information available at any tour &amp; activity desk. (DNC) ♿ \$</p>
Friday	<p>1:00pm <b>Historic Ahwahnee Tour</b> (Except Oct.18) 1 hr. Sign-up required at The Ahwahnee Concierge Desk. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk-Wild about Wildlife</b> 1 1/2hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>Why They Climb... and What it Takes</b> (Except Oct.18) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting. Tickets and information available at any tour &amp; activity desk. (DNC) \$</p> <p>6:30pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES</b> (Except Oct.18) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Film - Ansel Adams</b> 1hr. Check local listing for venue (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Yosemite Theater LIVE!</b> Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey, followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk, featured in the film. (Final show Oct. 25) 1.5 hrs. Advance tickets at Yosemite Conservancy bookstores &amp; DNC Tour Desks. Valley Visitor Center Theater. (YC) \$</p> <p>8:00pm <b>STARRY SKIES OVER YOSEMITE WALK</b> (Except Oct.18) 1 hr. Conditions permitting. Tickets and information available at any tour &amp; activity desk. (DNC) ♿ \$</p>
Saturday	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>9:00am <b>The Day of the Woodpecker</b> 7 hrs. (Dec. 7 only) Did you know there are eleven species of woodpeckers found in Yosemite—more than any comparable area in the U.S.? Here is your chance to spend a day with an expert naturalist not just watching these industrious birds, but learning about their diverse habitats and behaviors. Camping included. Lodging reserved for an extra fee. Requires advanced reservation, please call 209/379-2317 ext. 10 (YC) \$</p> <p>10:00am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 min. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>1:00pm <b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams</b> photography class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Historic Ahwahnee Tour</b> (Except Oct 19, Nov 9, 23 &amp; 30) 1 hr. Sign-up required at The Ahwahnee Concierge Desk. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk – Ahwahneechee Stories and Games</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5/9</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Fine Print Viewing</b> Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery 1hr. Very limited space (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> (Except Oct.19) 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 6 &amp; under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>4:00pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> (Except Oct.19) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for topic &amp; venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:30pm <b>Halloween Cemetery Tour</b> (Oct 26 only) 1.5 hr. Walking tour of the Yosemite Cemetery. Meet in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center with a flashlight (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Yosemite Theater LIVE!</b> Return to Balance: a Climber's Journey followed by discussion with climber Ron Kauk, featured in the film. (Final Show Oct. 26) 1.5 hrs. Advance tickets at Yosemite Conservancy bookstores &amp; DNC Tour Desks. Valley Visitor Center Theater. (YC) \$</p> <p>8:30pm <b>NIGHT PROWL</b> (Except Oct.19) 1.5 hrs. Conditions permitting. Explore Yosemite at night! Tickets and information available at any tour &amp; activity desk. (DNC) ♿ \$</p>



## 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/playourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/playourvisit/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



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

## Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

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

### FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

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

Open 8 am to 5 pm. Visit the wilderness center to learn about wilderness safety, plan trips, obtain wilderness permits and maps, and rent bear canisters. The Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village in between the post office and the Ansel Adams Gallery. The center will close for the season on October 20 and then permits and bear canisters will be available 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 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 MUSEUM GALLERY EXHIBIT

**Sharing Traditions: Celebrating Native Basketry Demonstrations in Yosemite 1929-1980** This Yosemite Museum exhibit focuses on the weavers in the Indian Cultural Program, who have connected with hundreds of thousands of park visitors through their basket-weaving demonstrations. The work of Maggie Howard, Lucy Telles and Julia Parker will be featured, as well as the contributions of Alice Wilson and Craig Bates. In addition to the baskets, paintings, ephemera and archeological artifacts on display, historic film footage and photographs will be shown. This project was made possible through the generous support of Yosemite Conservancy donors. The Yosemite Museum Gallery is open daily 10 to 12 and 1 to 4 through October 31.

## The Ansel Adams Gallery

The gallery is located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center and is open daily. Hours are 9am to 5pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. See page 7 for photo walk and other event times. For more information, call 209/372-4413, or visit [www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com)

### EXHIBITS

**September 15 - November 13**

"Along Those Lines", The Paintings of Penny Otwell.

**November 14-16**

"Gateway Expressions" Gateway Expressions Student Art and Poetry Contest is open to all students, grades K-12 attending a school or youth program associated with the gateway community school districts of Yosemite National Park. Selected student artwork and poetry will be featured in an exhibit at The Ansel Adams Gallery, and students will be acknowledged at a special awards ceremony on Saturday, November 16, 2013.

**November 17 - December 28**

"Ansel Adams: In Pursuit of Latitude". Ansel Adams worked and lived the majority of his life in California, but his dedication to photography took him beyond the boundaries of his backyard of Yosemite, on travels far and wide. On these journeys, his eye frequently focused on the terrestrial forms before him -- for which he is now well known. However, he did not limit his vision strictly to the grand earth gestures, sometimes turning the camera on the man-made or even man himself. For the first time in over ten years, The Ansel Adams Gallery is hosting an exhibition devoted solely to the work of its namesake. "In Pursuit of Latitude" intends to share with visitors a wide variety of original photographs taken throughout Ansel's time in Yosemite, on the trail in the Sierra, and on the road -- including rare early prints, portraits, and icons -- which together give perspective to his life's work.

## Yosemite Renaissance XXIX

Yosemite Renaissance is an all media, juried, fine art competition & exhibition on the theme of Yosemite and the environment of the Sierra Nevada. It

is open to all living artists. \$4,000 in awards. Entry is by digital files. \$15 per entry (maximum of 8 entries per artist). The exhibit begins at the Yosemite Museum Gallery, March 1, 2014. For a prospectus and entry form visit: <http://www.yosemiterenaissance.org>. Deadline: November 16, 2013. Yosemite Renaissance is a non-profit organization which encourages diverse interpretations of Yosemite in the visual arts.

## Yosemite Theater LIVE! (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy presents unforgettable live performances of historic heroes, daring rescues, and thrilling adventures at the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

### Fridays

*Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey* Discussion after led by climber Ron Kauk. (Final show Oct. 25)

### Saturdays

*Return to Balance: A Climber's Journey* Discussion after led by climber Ron Kauk. (Final Show Oct. 26)

Shows begin at 7:00pm. Purchase tickets at Yosemite Conservancy bookstores or DNC Tour Desks, \$8 Adults, \$4 children 4-12.

## Yosemite Art Center (YC)

Join us for a special exhibit 'From Our Point of View', an art show with contributions by Yosemite-area employees and residents. Exhibit opens November 4 and will be open Sunday through Thursday weekly. Awards for the top three artists will be awarded at a public reception on the evening of November 7 from 5:30pm-7:00pm. The Yosemite Art Center is located in Yosemite Village next to the Village Store. Yosemite Art Center Hours: Daily 9am-4:30pm (closed for lunch). The Yosemite Art Center will close for the season on November 28th.

## Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures (YC)

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.

**October 31-November 3**

Focusing on Nature Photograph the foliage and low-angled light of autumn

**December 7**

The Day of the Woodpecker Learn about their diverse habitats and behaviors.

Find detailed information about these programs at [www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures) or call 209/379-2317, ext. 10. Camping and park entry are included, additional lodging options available. Custom adventures can also be arranged for individuals, families and groups. Proceeds support Yosemite Conservancy's work in the park; preserving and protecting Yosemite for generations to come.

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, *closes for season on Oct 13.*

##### The Ahwahnee

###### Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10:00am  
Lunch: Please check with front desk for lunch hours.  
Dinner 5:30pm - 8:30pm Sunday through Thursday and 5:30pm - 9pm Friday and Saturday  
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** 5pm to 11pm

**The Coffee Bar** Monday- Friday 7am to 10am, Sat-Sun 7am to 10:30am

##### Yosemite Lodge

###### Food Court

Breakfast: 7am to 11am  
Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm  
Dinner: Sunday - Thursday 5pm - 8pm and Friday and Saturday 5pm-8:30pm (Grab and Go only after 8pm)

###### Mountain Room Lounge

Monday- Friday 4:30pm to 11pm  
Saturday-Sunday Noon - 11pm

###### Mountain Room Restaurant

Sunday - Thursday 5pm to 8pm and Friday and Saturday 5pm to 8:30pm  
*Reservations taken for 8 or more. 209/372-1281*

##### Curry Village

###### Pizza Deck

5pm-9pm *After Oct. 27, weekends and holidays only. Closes for the season on Nov. 30.*

###### Curry Village Bar

5pm - 10pm, *closes for the season Oct.26th*

##### Pavilion Buffet

Breakfast: 7am - 10am daily; *closes for the season October 27*  
Dinner: 5:30pm and 8pm, *closes for the season October 26*

##### Wawona

*The Wawona Hotel and Dining Room are closed from December 1 -19.*

###### Wawona Hotel Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am  
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm  
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm, Sunday-Thursday, 5pm-9pm Friday-Saturday  
*Reservations taken for 6 or more, 209/375-1425*  
Lounge Service: 5pm-9:30pm

#### GROCERIES

##### Yosemite Lodge

###### Gift/Grocery

8am to 7pm

##### Yosemite Village

###### Village Store

8am to 8pm

##### Curry Village

###### Gift/Grocery

9am to 7pm

##### Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 6pm

##### Crane Flat

**Store** 10am-4pm

#### GAS STATIONS

##### Gas outside Yosemite Valley

###### 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

Diesel available. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

#### SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

##### Curry Village Showers

Open 24 hours

##### Housekeeping Camp Laundromat

8am to 10pm

# Visitor Services

## Beyond Yosemite Valley

## Wawona

### Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio/Wilderness Permits

Open 8:30 am to 5 pm, the visitor center offers information about park activities, wilderness permits, trail information, books, bear canister rentals, and maps. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona store parking area and follow the path up the hill. October 15 through the end of October, the bookstore only will be open daily from 8:30 am to 5 pm. Wilderness permits will be available by self-registration on the front porch and bear canisters will be available for rent at the Wawona Store. Nov 1-Dec 1, the bookstore only will be open Friday through Sunday 9 am to 4 pm (may close for lunch).

### Pioneer Yosemite History Center

Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explores Yosemite's history and explains how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and around the world. The center is open throughout the year.

### Evening Programs

Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite's past.

### Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area. Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area. The road to the Grove typically closes in November or December. Visitors can walk, ski, or snowshoe when the road is closed to vehicles.

#### GETTING TO MARIPOSA GROVE

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

#### MARIPOSA GROVE & WAWONA SHUTTLE

A free shuttle stops at the Wawona Store, South Entrance, and Mariposa Grove. Visitors may park at the Wawona Store to board the bus. Operates 9am - 6pm weekends only. Closes October 30th or after the first snowfall.

#### BIG TREES TRAM TOUR

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

#### WALKING THROUGH THE GROVE

Trails into the grove extend uphill from the trailhead at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the California Tree provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations are available at the trailhead in Spanish, German, French, and Japanese. When snow covers the ground, access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski. Dogs and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Mariposa Grove.

## Big Oak Flat

### Big Oak Flat Information Station

Open 8 am to 5 pm. The information station offers general park information, books and maps. It also provides wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, trail, and backpacking information. The information station is located just inside the park entrance on Hwy 120W. October 15 through the end of October, the bookstore only will be open daily from 8 am to 5 pm (may close for lunch). Wilderness permits will be available by self-registration on the front porch and please come prepared with bear

canisters. The center will close for the season on October 31.

### Merced Grove

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees accessible only on foot. It's a four-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe (about three hours) into the grove from Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). Located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance, the trailhead is marked by a road sign and post labeled B-10.

### Tuolumne Grove

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. Now closed to cars, this path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip (you can walk, ski, or snowshoe) is moderately strenuous uphill. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.

## Tuolumne Meadows

### Wilderness Permits

Open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The wilderness center offers wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, visitor information, maps, and general park information. The Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center is located just south of Tioga Road, along the road to Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, across from shuttle stop #3. The center will close for the season on October 14 and wilderness permits will be available by self-registration at the Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Station. Please come prepared with bear canisters.

#### 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  
YosemiteValleyChapel.org  
Pastor Brent Moore-Resident Minister

#### SUNDAY SERVICES:

9:15 A.M. (Sunday School Available)  
6:30 P.M. Evening chapel service

#### THANKSGIVING SERVICE:

10:00 A.M. Thanksgiving Day (no evening service)

7:00 P.M. TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY (call for location)

#### THURSDAY MID-WEEK SERVICE

7:00 P.M. in the chapel

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC

##### SUNDAY MASS CELEBRATIONS:

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

DAILY MASS CELEBRATIONS: Call for times, 209-372-4729

#### CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

El Portal Chapel/Worship: Sunday 11 am  
Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane  
Information: 209/379-2100

#### SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

##### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

7:30 pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday  
DNC General Office Building  
(Employee Training Center) Yosemite Village

##### AL-ANON MEETINGS

Saturday mornings at 8 am in the Loft (above Degnan's).

##### LIONS CLUB

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

##### ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Meets Wednesdays 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...



Autumn leaves, NPS Photo

## Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

There are many ways to experience the wildness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning, you can minimize the risks associated with many activities.

### Around Ice and Water

- Stay off of frozen lakes, rivers and streams and away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards.

### Avoid Hypothermia

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

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

### Water Quality

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

### Traffic Safety

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

### Effects of Altitude

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

### Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Wilderness Permit Details

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

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

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

### More Information

- [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm)
- Leave No Trace [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)
- Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue [www.friendofyosar.org](http://www.friendofyosar.org)

### 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, visit:

- [go.nps.gov/hanta](http://go.nps.gov/hanta)

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

## How to Store Food

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

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

## Yosemite Valley Day Hikes

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

# Stephen T. Mather

By Katie Calder



Museum cornerstone being laid and New Village dedication. Nov 16, 1924 Photo courtesy of Yosemite Research Library

One year. That's all the time that Stephen Mather, the first director of the National Park Service, thought he would give to create the workforce designed to protect our national parks. The reality was that Mather spent his remaining years, 14 total, creating the National Park Service system that we see today. Without his enthusiasm, generosity, and hard work ethic, we would have quite a different national park experience, not only in Yosemite, but in all national parks across the country.

Mather made his fortune as an advertiser for borax, a laundry detergent, and developed the brand name "20 Mule Team" borax. In addition to his business endeavors, Mather was a philanthropist, mountain climber, and a member of the Sierra Club. His love of the outdoors prompted him to explore many western national parks where he developed an interest in their management and organization. In 1914, the Secretary of the Interior offered Mather a job to help create the National Park Service, an agency that would be solely responsible for protecting national parks. Initially, Mather was reluctant to take the job, due to "all of the government's red tape," but the opportunity offered a new challenge that he was ready to accept. He was 47 years old, and semi-retired. Horace Albright, who later became the superintendent at Yellowstone, was

appointed as Mather's assistant. Albright was also reluctant to take the job but Mather made an agreement with him saying, "Let's not make any promises now, but I'll consider giving a year to the national parks, if you'll consider keeping me out of jail." Albright agreed.

With both men on board, and Mather quite optimistic, he took over the already existing 13 national parks and 18 national monuments which had numerous and various needs. Transportation to and within the parks was incredibly difficult, and hotels, camps, and concessionaires needed vast improvements. In order to provide better visitor services, Mather needed funding from Congress and public support for national parks. He figured Congress would provide funding, but only if the public demanded it. Unless parks were accommodating and accessible, people would not want to visit.

To secure future funding and gain public support, Mather needed a project to draw some attention. That project was to repair the Tioga Road in Yosemite National Park. Tioga Road, at that time, was an unsafe, broken-down, old mining road running east to west 56 miles through the park's high country. Mather, and other donors, bought the road for \$15,000, repaired it, and donated it to the federal government.

Rebuilding the Tioga Road was not the first and only project that Mather would use his private funds for in Yosemite. While in the area, Mather heard about nature-study programs being given in Tahoe and wanted to bring this same type of interactive learning to the Yosemite visitors. Through funding provided mostly by Mather, Yosemite was able to hire its first naturalist who taught lectures on botany, cultural history, and geology. Mather's contributions continued when rangers in the park were short on housing. He paid for the construction of the Ranger's Club, a residence located in Yosemite Valley that continues to house rangers today.

In addition to improving the visitor experience by making transportation easier, and bringing educational programs to the park, he also set standards for concessions, greatly improving visitor services. Mather realized how important comfortable accommodations were for park visitors. He stated, "Scenery is a splendid thing when it is viewed by a man who is in a contented frame of mind. Give him a poor breakfast after he has had a bad night sleep, and he will not care how fine your scenery is. He is not going to enjoy it."

Mather travelled extensively to existing and potential national park sites throughout the country, bringing with him journalists, congressmen, and prominent community members. He observed what the parks needed to improve upon while garnering support from his travel companions. With increased public interest came more support for the protection of the parks. Albert Atwood, a journalist, said it best: "He filled me with so much enthusiasm that the first thing I knew I was on a trip with him to Sequoia Park, and then another to Yosemite. Mather had a wonderful incandescent enthusiasm for his subject – persistent, never discouraged, never gave up, but always tempered by good nature and good taste..." Mather's success was evident in the 7 new national parks and 15 national monument sites that he created while being the director.

Mather's initial one year commitment turned into a lifelong legacy that lives within the national parks and monuments that we enjoy today. He is honored by bronze plaques placed in various National Park Service sites throughout the country. These plaques honor Mather with a picture of his profile and the words, "...there will never come an end to the good that he has done." This simple phrase seems to perfectly summarize what Stephen Mather has given to our national parks.

# Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

## Enhance the Visitor Experience

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

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



### The Ansel Adams Gallery

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



### Contact Us

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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](http://www.anseladams.com)

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

**Yosemite Conservancy**  
101 Montgomery Street, Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
800/469-7275  
415/434-0745 fax  
[www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org)

**NatureBridge**  
PO Box 487  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/379-9511  
209/379-9510 fax  
[www.yni.org](http://www.yni.org)

### DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

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

For more information and employment opportunities with DNC at Yosemite, visit online at: [www.YosemitePark.com](http://www.YosemitePark.com)



### NatureBridge

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



### Yosemite Conservancy

Yosemite Conservancy is the only philanthropic organization that is dedicated exclusively to the protection and preservation of Yosemite National Park and enhancement of the visitor experience. In recent years we have provided over \$70 million in grants to Yosemite from the generous support from donors, volunteers and foundations. 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. It has funded projects in areas including trail and habitat restoration, wildlife protection, education, volunteering, and the production of award-winning books and DVDs. Learn more at [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org)



Providing For Yosemite's Future

### Yosemite Grant Act 1864-2014

*Yosemite has inspired generations of people for thousands of years. On June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act, establishing Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove as the first protected wild land for all time. In addition, this grant marked the first California State Park.*

Ways to get involved in the 150th anniversary:

You can participate in the anniversary while you are staying in or passing through one of our neighboring communities. Top five ways to get involved (from the many voices of our volunteer-based anniversary committee members):

- Attend one of over 100 anniversary activities
- Volunteer in the park
- Look for over 75 official merchandise items - like the Pendleton Blanket
- Share your Yosemite story
- Support an anniversary legacy project

Learn more about the Yosemite Grant 150th anniversary:

[www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary](http://www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary)

### Park Planning and Updates

Join park and partner staff to learn about projects and plans at a free monthly public Open House! Open Houses will be held on October 30 and December 4, from 1-4pm in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium.

*Park entrance fees will be waived for those attending the Open Houses!*



Lower right: Raven, Karen Kroner Amstutz; Top right: Half Dome, Christine White Loberg