



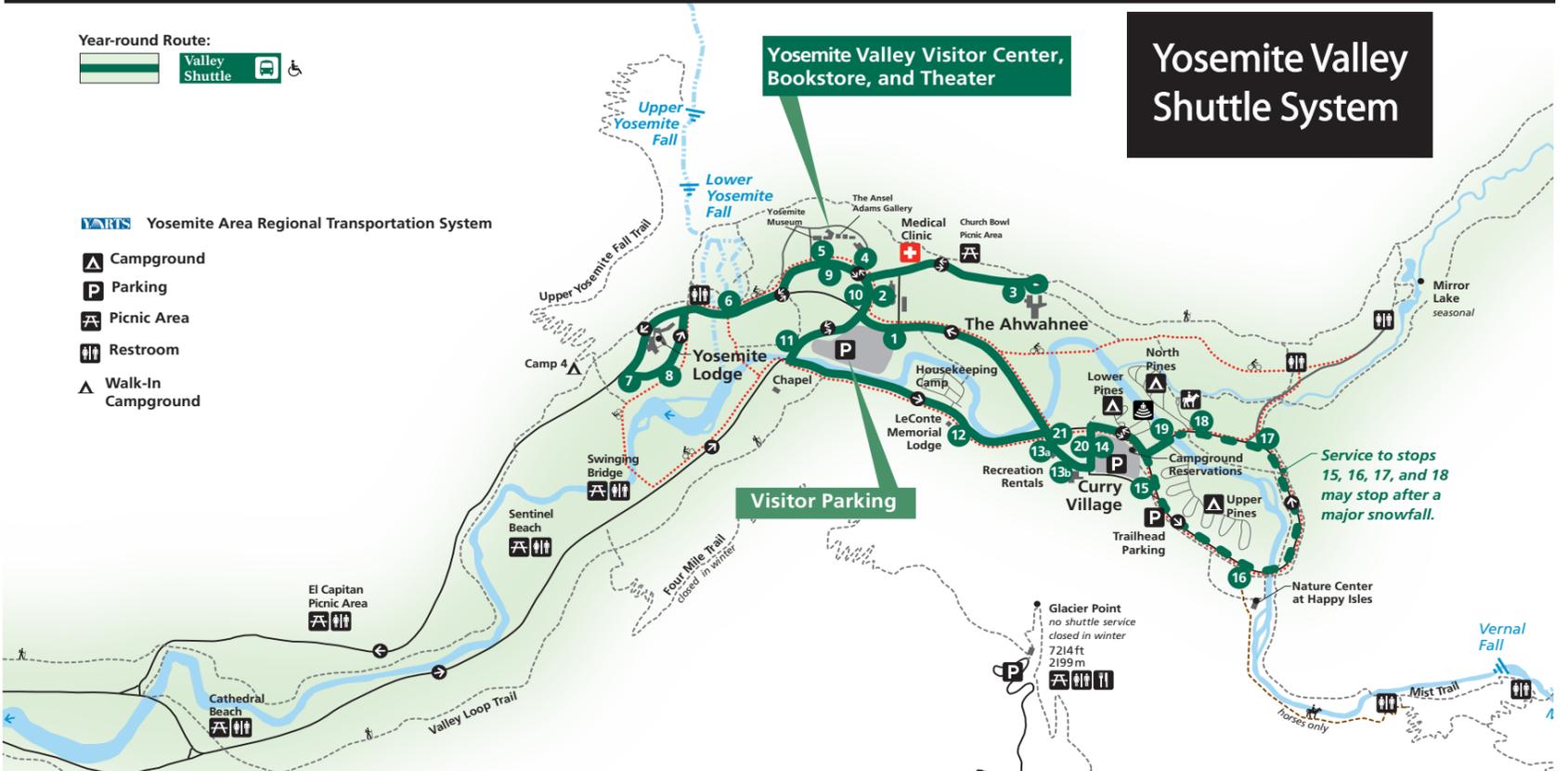
Yosemite Guide



Bighorn Sheep, Yosemite National Park. Photo by Steve Yeager, used with permission.

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide December 10, 2014 - February 10, 2015



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

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	Yosemite Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2	Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	Degnan's Deli	13a	Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5	Valley Visitor Center	13b	Curry Village		
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	14	Curry Village Parking		
7	Camp 4	15	Upper Pines Campground		

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

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Seasonal Highlights

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

Winter in Yosemite National Park can be a magical time. The heat and noise of summer fade into the past, and well-prepared travelers are treated to a whole new set of discoveries!

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 beginning December 12, 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.

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.

Take the Bus

Free shuttles, which are environment-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 your hands free and able to capture that perfect photo of Half Dome.

Reserve Ostrander Ski Hut For an Epic Winter Adventure!

Ostrander Ski Hut, managed by Yosemite Conservancy, is accepting reservations for the 2014 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.

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



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!

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, Mirror Lake frames reflections of Yosemite's most iconic cliff. (The lake itself is dry until the first significant precipitation of the season.) 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. Spend a weekend observing the lives of birds or summit Half Dome with an expert leading you every step of the way. Looking for a

custom Yosemite experience? Contact us to plan a Custom Adventure for your family or group. Visit yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures or 209/379-2317 ext. 10 to find your adventure today.

Enjoy Winter on Snowshoes

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.)

Tour The Ahwahnee...

Step back to an earlier era of history as you explore this 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.

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

The Ahwahnee has three grand fireplaces that have always provided heat to offset the year's most frigid temperatures. Bring a book and a warm drink and find a cozy niche in front of the fire, the perfect place to warm your hands and toes.

Lose something in Yosemite?

File a lost report by sending an email to yose_lostandfound@nps.gov. To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite's restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses or tour services, call 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, email yose_lostandfound@nps.gov.

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 road 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, outside the park.

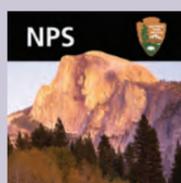
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Want the Guide on your Apple or Android device?

Get the App!

Search **NPS-Yosemite** in app stores or at nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit to download the official park app for up-to-date listings of programs, 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.

Please note: Fees in Yosemite NP are currently being reevaluated. Please check nps.gov/yose for potential changes in fees.

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

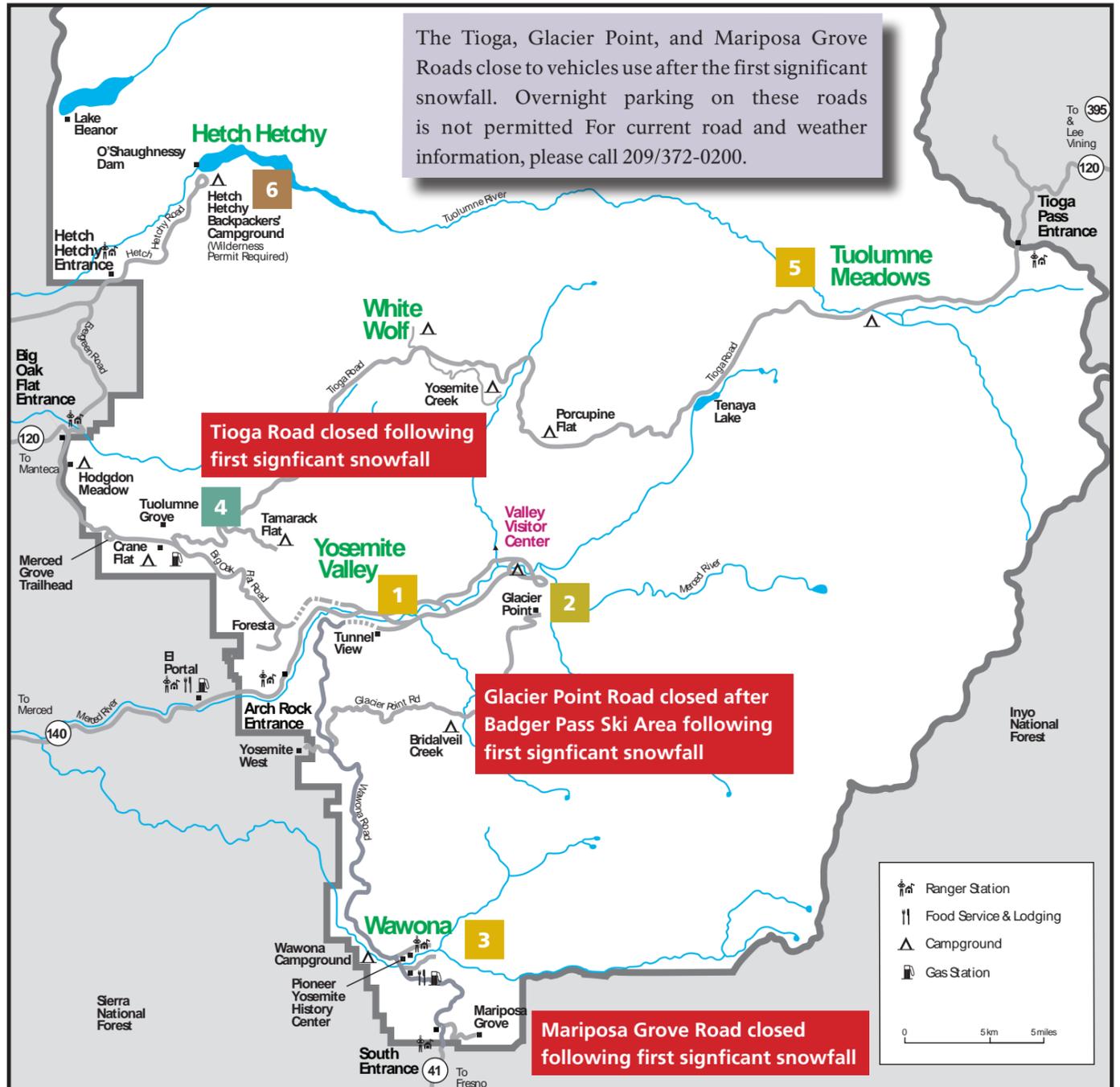
Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/878-3074

Highway 140/49
Calif. Welcome Center, Merced
800/446-5353 or 209/724-8104
www.yosemite-gateway.org

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



The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove Roads close to vehicles use after the first significant snowfall. Overnight parking on these roads is not permitted. For current road and weather information, please call 209/372-0200.

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 in awe 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 Yosemite's high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. **The road stays open as weather permits, however, overnight parking along it ends October 15.** When the road is snow-covered and conditions permit, a system of cross-country ski tracks are 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 view looking down 3,214 feet into Yosemite Valley.



The view from Glacier Point. Photo by Jessica Cole

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. Parking is also available at the Wawona Store and a free shuttle bus, which runs daily through October 26, from 9am to 6pm, then weekends only until November 16, as weather permits, accesses the grove. The grove road 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.



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

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 (see page 7 for parking lot closure dates) 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 deep freeze. Photo by Wendy Malone

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.



Cathedral Peak. Photo by Christine White Loberg

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. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles (1 hour 15 minutes) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 8am to 7pm through October 31, then 8am to 5pm through March 31. Vehicles and/or trailers over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not permitted on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. NPS photo by Erik Skindrud

DID YOU KNOW:

- The Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep is the only species in Yosemite National Park that has been declared endangered by both the federal and state governments
- Because of hunting and diseases, Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep were extirpated from Yosemite National Park in 1914
- Approximately 40 bighorn sheep currently inhabit the eastern margins of Yosemite National Park
- Bighorn sheep (*Ovis Canadensis*) are one of two species of mountain sheep in North America. The other species is the Dall sheep (*Ovis dallii*), which is native to Canada and Alaska.
- There are three genetically distinct subspecies of bighorn sheep: Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and desert bighorn sheep
- John Muir devoted an entire chapter to bighorn sheep in his influential book, "The Mountains of California", which was published in 1894

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.

Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and bookstore are open from 9am to 5pm. They are located west of the main post office, near shuttle stops #5 and #9. The facility offers information, maps, and books. Explore the exhibits and learn how Yosemite's landscape formed and how people interact with it.

YOSEMITE FILMS

Two films are shown daily, every half hour beginning at 9:30am (except on Sundays, when the first showing is at noon). The last film is at 4:30pm. "Ken Burns' Yosemite - A Gathering of Spirit" plays on the hour and "The Spirit of Yosemite" plays on the half hour, in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits are required year-round. Permits and bear canisters are available at the Valley Visitor Center daily from 9am to 5pm

For more information on wilderness travel and safety please see page 8 of this Guide.

Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center. The museum is open daily from 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. The Indian Cultural Museum is open from 9am to 5pm (may close for lunch).

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

The store offers books and traditional American Indian arts, crafts and jewelry. Open daily from 9am to 5pm (may close for lunch).

YOSEMITE MUSEUM GALLERY EXHIBIT

Rooms with a View: Three Decades of Yosemite Artists-in-Residence Exhibition

October 31, 2014 - January 19, 2015

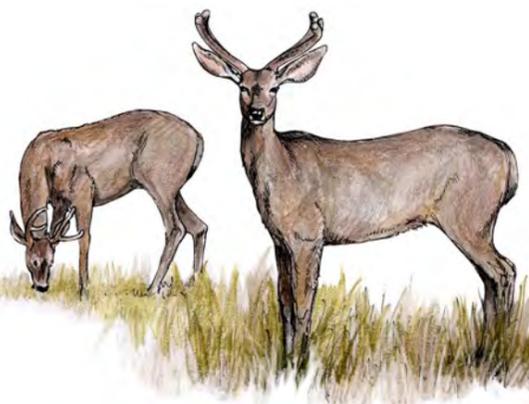
This exhibit includes 50 paintings, photographs, sculptures and kinetic art pieces by artists from throughout the country. The works were all produced by artists who were selected for the Yosemite Artists-in-Residence Program (initially sponsored by the National Park Service and later by Yosemite Renaissance) The Program

provided up to a month of lodging in or near Yosemite for artists to work.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

During the rehabilitation of the Gallery building, The Ansel Adams Gallery services will be temporarily offered from the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center in Yosemite Village. It is open daily from 10am to 5pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other artists. See page 5 for photo walk and other event times. *Closed December 25.*

For more information call 209/372-4211 or visit www.anseladams.com.



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 12:30pm to 1:30pm
 Wawona Post Office
 Monday - Friday: 9am to 5pm
 Saturday: 9am to noon

BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

Yosemite Village
The Ansel Adams Gallery
 10am to 5pm, *closed December 25*
Yosemite Bookstore
Inside Yosemite Visitor Center
 9am to 5pm
Yosemite Museum Store
 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*
Village Store
 8am to 8pm
 The Ahwahnee
The Ahwahnee Gift Shop
 8am to 8pm
The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop
 7am to 10pm
 Yosemite Lodge
Gift/Grocery
 8am to 7pm
Nature Shop
 11am to 7pm
 Curry Village
Mountain Shop
 9am to 5pm
Curry Village Gift/Grocery
 9am to 7pm
 Wawona Area
Wawona Store and Pioneer Gift Shop
 8am to 5pm

Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	WAWONA
Sunday	8:30am Beginner Backcountry Lesson- Ski to Tempo Dome 5 hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, tickets/info at any tour and activity desk. (YMS) \$ 9:00am Adventure Hike-Snowshoe to Dewey Point 6.5 hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, tickets/info at any tour and activity desk. (YMS) \$ 10:00am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿ 10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families. </div>
	1:00pm Discovery Snowshoe Hike 3 hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, tickets/info at any tour and activity desk (YMS) \$ 2:00pm Ranger Walk-Bears 1.5 hrs. Shuttle stop #6. (NPS) ♿ 2:00pm History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 14 only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) ♿ 2:00pm FAMILY WALK (Dec 28 only) 1.5 hrs. Bring along the family to explore nature together! Ahwahnee back lawn. (DN) ♿ 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Jan 4 & Feb 1 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$ 7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for topic & venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (DN) ♿ 8:30pm Starry Skies over Yosemite (except Feb 8) 1 hr. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$ ♿	
Monday	9:00am Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel (TAAG) ♿ 10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 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 First People 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿ 2:00pm History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 22 only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) ♿ 2:30pm WEE WILD ONES (Dec 15 only) 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 6 & under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge. (DN) ♿ 4:00pm Naturalist Stroll 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DN) ♿ 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb 2 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$ 7:00pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for topic & venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (NPS) ♿ 8:30pm Starry Skies over Yosemite (Except Feb 2 & 9) 1 hr. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$	
Tuesday	9:00am Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) ♿ 10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (Dec 23 & 30 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Specific programs are available upon request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) ♿
	12:30pm 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 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿ 2:00pm History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 16 only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) ♿ 2:30pm WEE WILD ONES (Except Dec 16 & 23) 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 6 & under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge. (DN) ♿ 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Feb 3 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$ 7:00pm Ranger Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for topic & venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (NPS) ♿	
Wednesday	9:00am Adventure Hike- Snowshoe to Dewey Point 6 ½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Tickets/info at any tour and activity desk (YMS) \$ 10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (Except Dec 10) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (Dec 24 & 31 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Specific programs are available upon request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) ♿
	2:00pm Ranger Walk-Inspiring Generations 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿ 2:00pm History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 24 only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) ♿ 4:00pm Naturalist Stroll (Except Dec 10 & 31) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DN) ♿ 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Dec 31 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$ 7:00pm Ranger Evening Program (Except Dec 31) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic & venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (NPS) ♿ 8:30pm Night Prowl (Except Dec 31) 1 hr. Explore Yosemite at night! Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$ ♿	
Thursday	9:00am Camera Walk (Except Dec 25) 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) ♿ 10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (Except Dec 11) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (Dec 25 & Jan 1 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Specific programs are available upon request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) ♿
	12:30pm Using your Digital Camera (Except Dec 25) 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$ 2:00pm Ranger Walk-Trees 1.5 hrs. The Ahwahnee shuttle stop #3 (NPS) 2:00pm History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 18 & 25 only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) ♿ 7:00pm FIRESIDE STORYTELLING 1 hr. For children and adults. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge. (DN) ♿ 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Jan 1 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$ 7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Check local listings for topic & venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (DN) ♿ 8:30pm Night Prowl 1 hr. Explore Yosemite at night! Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$ ♿	
Friday	10:00am FAMILY WALK (Dec 26 only) 1.5 hrs Bring along the family to explore nature together! Ahwahnee back lawn. (DN) ♿ 10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (Dec 19, 26 & Jan 2 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Specific programs are available upon request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) ♿
	2:00pm Ranger Walk- Wild About Wildlife 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿ 2:30pm WEE WILD ONES (Except Feb 6) 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 6 & under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge. (DN) ♿ 4:00pm Naturalist Stroll (Except Jan 2) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DN) ♿ 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Jan 2 & 30 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$ 7:00pm Film - Ansel Adams (Except Dec 26) 1hr. Check local listing for venue (TAAG) ♿ 7:30pm Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow (Dec 26 only) 1 hr, tickets at any tour desk or at door, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room (DN) \$ ♿ 8:30pm Starry Skies over Yosemite (except Jan 23 & Feb 6) 1 hr. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$ ♿	
Saturday	8:30am Adventure Hike- Snowshoe in Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias 5 hrs. Meet at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls, Badger Pass Nordic Center Tickets/info at any tour and activity desk (YMS) \$ 9:00am Snowshoe Yosemite: Magic in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias (Jan 10 & Feb 7 only) 7 hrs. See giant sequoias in a way that few visitors have on this stout day of hiking into the Mariposa Grove. Camping is included if needed. Lodging reserved for an extra fee if needed. Requires advanced reservation, please call 209/379-2317 ext. 10 (YC) \$	5:30pm Vintage Music of Yosemite (Dec 20, 27 & Jan 3 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Specific programs are available upon request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening and ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) ♿
	9:00am Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) ♿ 10:00am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿ 10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter Conditions permitting, 2 hrs. Meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
	12:30pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$ 1:00pm Discovery Snowshoe Hike 3 hours, Badger Pass Nordic Center, Tickets/info at any tour and activity desk (YMS) \$ 2:00pm Ranger Walk-Ahwahneechee Stories and Games 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5/9. (NPS) ♿ 2:00pm History of Bracebridge Talk (Dec 13 & 20 only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) ♿ 2:30pm WEE WILD ONES (Except Dec 13 & 20) 45 mins. Stories and activities for kids 6 & under. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge. (DN) ♿ 4:00pm Naturalist Stroll 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DN) ♿ 6:30pm Full Moon Snowshoe Walk (Jan 3 & 31 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$ 7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. (Except Dec 27) Check local listings for topic & venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (DN) ♿ 7:30pm Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow (Dec 27 only) 1 hr, tickets at any tour desk or at door, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Cliff Room (DN) \$ ♿ 8:30pm Night Prowl (Except Jan 3, 31 & Feb 7) 1 hr. Explore Yosemite at night! Tickets and info at any tour desk. (DN) \$ ♿	



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, 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
- DN** Delaware North
- TAAG** The Ansel Adams Gallery
- YC** Yosemite Conservancy
- \$** Programs offered for a fee

Things to Do

Yosemite Valley and Beyond



Badger Pass A-frame/ NPS Photo

Yosemite in Winter

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite National Park. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery. See page 6 for more information on park programs and visitor services available.

Naturalist Programs

Naturalists give walks and talks every day about Yosemite's natural and cultural history. See pages 6 and 7 for scheduled walks, talks, and evening programs.

Walking and Hiking

Yosemite Valley has a wide range of walking and hiking possibilities. 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.

Sightseeing

Some of the famous landmarks in Yosemite Valley include:

- **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy 30-minute loop trail starting 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.
- **Bridalveil Fall** is a year-round waterfall that can be visited on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds swirling about the cliff blow the wispy water into a delicate free-fall.
- **El Capitan** is a massive granite monolith that 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 stay on foot paths to avoid damaging delicate meadows.

- **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 iconic feature into what we see today. Cook's Meadow, Sentinel Bridge and Glacier Point all provide stunning views of Half Dome.
- **Happy Isles** is easily reached by the free shuttle bus at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story. *Shuttle buses may not go to stop #16 when road is snow-covered or icy.*
- **Tunnel View**, along the Wawona Road (Hwy 41), provides a view that showcases Yosemite Valley. Capture breathtaking views of El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall and Half Dome. It is particularly spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.

Tours

Tours listed depart from Yosemite Lodge, weather permitting. Check Tour and Activity Desk for times.

The Valley Floor Tour is a 26-mile, two-hour, guided tour of Yosemite Valley. It departs several times daily. Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at the Tour and Activity Desk in the Yosemite Lodge, 7:30am to 7pm.

Yosemite 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.

January 7-13

Yosemite Photography: Winter Wonderland Workshop with James Corwin Johnson

January 10

Snowshoe Yosemite: Magic in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Trip 1 with Dick Ewart

February 7

Snowshoe Yosemite: Magic in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Trip 2 with Shirley Spencer

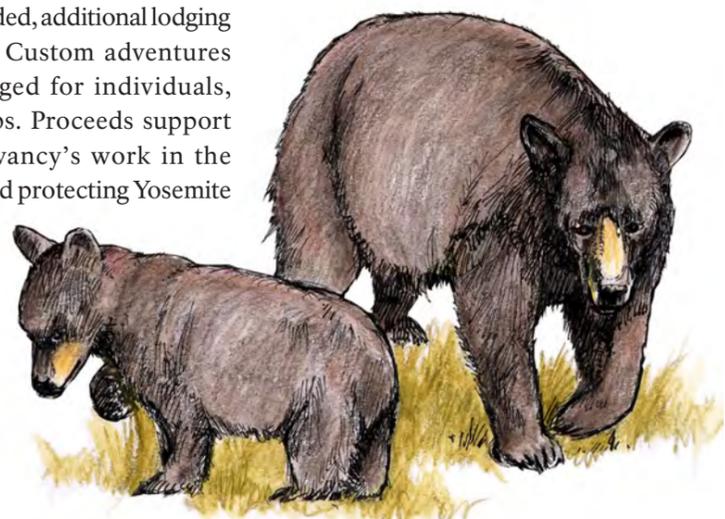
Find more information about these programs at www.yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures or call 209/379-2317, ext. 10. Camping (if needed) and park entry are included, additional lodging options available. Custom adventures can also be arranged for individuals, families and groups. Proceeds support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

Winter Sports

Badger Pass Ski Area opens on December 12, conditions permitting, and the ice rink at Curry Village is open through March, conditions permitting. Live information on winter sports is available by calling 209/372-8340, or recorded information is available at 209/372-1000.

Badger Pass A-Frame

Open 9:00am to 4:00pm 7 days a week when Badger Ski Area is open. Wilderness permits, Ostrander Ski Hut check-in and cross-country ski trail information available. Starting point for ranger led snowshoe walks.



All issue illustrations by Tom Whitworth

Hours listed are core hours for facilities and may be extended during periods of peak visitation. Check local postings for changes to hours of operation.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Yosemite Village

Degnan's Delicatessen 7am to 5pm

The Ahwahnee

Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm

Dinner: 5pm to 8:30pm

No a la carte service on Dec. 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 or 25

Sunday Brunch: 7am to 2pm

Appropriate attire required for dinner.

Reservations recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch. 209/372-1489.

The Coffee Bar 7am to 10am

The Ahwahnee Bar 2pm to 11pm

Yosemite Lodge

Food Court

Breakfast: 7am to 11am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm

Dinner: 5pm to 8pm weekdays

5pm to 8:30pm Fri & Sat

*last 30 minutes are grab and go only

Mountain Room Lounge

Monday - Friday, 4:30pm to 11pm

Saturday - Sunday, noon to 11pm

Dec 24 - Jan 1, noon to 11pm

Dec 31 noon-1am

Mountain Room Restaurant

Sunday -Thursday 5pm -8pm

Friday & Sat 5pm- 8:30pm

Dec 25 4pm - 9pm

Dec 31 5pm- 10:30pm

Reservations taken for 8 or more.

209/372-1281

Curry Village

Pizza Deck

5pm to 9pm

Open 5 - 9pm Dec 20

noon - 9pm December 23 thru Jan 1,

5 - 9pm Jan 2-4

Open Fridays 5pm to 9pm and Noon to

9pm Saturdays in January and February.

Also open Noon to 9pm on Sundays of

holiday weekends.

Coffee Corner

7 - 11am, beginning Saturday, Dec 21st

through Sunday, January 5th. Then 7 -

11am Saturdays and Sunday in January

and February, and Mondays on holiday

weekends.

Wawona

The Wawona Hotel and Dining Room are

open from Dec 19 - January 4 ONLY

Wawona Hotel Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

Reservations taken for 6 or more,

209/375-1425

Lounge Service: 5pm to 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

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 5pm

GAS STATIONS

Gas outside Yosemite Valley

El Portal

Diesel available

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

Wawona

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 & Mariposa Grove Visitor Center

Open Friday to Sunday from 9am to 4pm.

Closed for the season starting December 28.

Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits are available by self-registration on the front porch of Hill's Studio. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

Evening Programs

Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30pm to 9:30pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening to ask Tom or stop by the front desk. *Through January 3 only.*

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 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. The access road to the grove may close intermittently due to limited parking.

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 the ground is snow-covered, 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

Wilderness permits are available by self-registration on the front porch of the information station. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

Merced Grove

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of approximately 20 big trees accessible only on foot. It's a three-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe into the grove. The trail drops down 1.5 miles, making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10.

Tuolumne Grove

The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 sequoias is near the intersection of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga roads at Crane Flat. The moderately strenuous trail leads downhill from the parking area into the grove and drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you.



GENERAL SERVICES

VILLAGE GARAGE

8am to 5pm Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4:30pm. 209/372-1160

YOSEMITE MEDICAL CLINIC

The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm and is closed on Saturday and Sunday. 24-hour emergency ambulance service continues to be available. For emergency care after 5pm, call 9-1-1. For more information call 209/372-4637.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH
(Yosemite Chapel) 209/372-4831

Pastor Brent Moore - Resident Minister
YosemiteValleyChapel.org

SUNDAY SERVICES:
9:15am (Sunday School Available)
11am (Memorial Day through Labor Day ONLY)
6:30pm Evening chapel service

TUESDAY 7pm Bible Study

THURSDAY MID-WEEK SERVICE
7pm in the chapel

CHRISTMAS EVE CHAPEL SERVICE
4pm Candlelight Chapel Service

NEW YEARS EVE CHAPEL SERVICE 10pm-midnight

ROMAN CATHOLIC

SUNDAY MASS CELEBRATIONS:
Sunday, 10am, Theater behind Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, 209/372-4729

CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)
El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am
Info: 209/379-2100

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
7:30pm 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. 209/372-4475.

Protecting yourself...



Winter landscape, Photo by Michael Freeman

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 swift waters. Keep children from wandering near these natural hazards. Never swim or wade upstream from a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas. Mountain water is very cold, no matter what time of year it is. Yosemite's rivers are fed by melted snow, and even expert swimmers can quickly lose their strength in the icy water. Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.

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 set up emergency shelter 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
- Avoid dehydration; carry and drink plenty of water at least three liters of water per person, and bring high-energy food.

Water Quality

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

Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by obeying 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.

Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

It is starting to get dark early, which means temperatures will drop fast. Prepare yourself with a headlamp and extra layers, even on day hikes. Also, trails may be closed after the first winter storm, due to either ice or rockfall hazards. For your safety, please respect these closures and do not bypass them. Here are a few more reminders before you hit the trails.

- Tell someone your plan and when you hope to return.
- Be prepared for icy travel before conditions arise. Bring crampons, ice axe, climbing skins, and other traction devices.
- Carry a map and compass and know where you are at all times, with a planned route.
- Altitude sickness can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet. Descend to a lower elevation should it develop.
- Know the weather and prepare for changes. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult.
- Avoid dehydration; 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.
- Bring a flashlight in case you need to stay on the trail longer than expected.
- Admire wildlife from a distance to prevent injury to you or animals.

Stay Safe

Many accidents occur because visitors leave a trail or pathway. Off trail travel can be extremely dangerous, especially next to

waterways where rocks have been polished. Scrambling on boulders, wading across streams or rivers, and traveling beyond railings or other barriers may put you one slip away from a fatal accident. Avoid shortcuts. Visitors commonly get "ledged out" after cutting across trails.

Wilderness Permit Details

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Please see 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. Go to www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits for trailhead availability and more information on how to make a reservation. Reservations can be made by fax, phone or mail starting December 1. To make a reservation by phone, call (209) 372-0740 Mon-Fri from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Information about Half Dome permits is available on our website at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.

More Information

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

Half Dome Permit Information

The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be put back up May 22, 2015 conditions permitting. Permits are required 7 days a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2015 permits begins March 1, 2015 and ends March 31, 2015. To apply for permits visit recreation.gov or call 877/444-6777. More information about the Half Dome permit process is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm>.

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 to humans via the droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. In California, deer mice are the primary carrier of the virus that causes HPS. You may come into close proximity to rodents during your visit, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS. HPS risk is greater inside of buildings or other enclosures where deer mice are present.

If staying in guest lodging, please tell the housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your accommodations. Do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors to guest lodging shut and do not bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. If you are camping and backpacking, do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings. HPS often begins with flu-like symptoms such as aches, fever, and chills one to seven weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and difficulty in breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms, and mention any potential rodent exposures to your physician. For more information on hantavirus and other environmental safety hazards visit: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm>

Avoid contact with wildlife and keep food and trash stored properly.

Wild animals in Yosemite can transmit numerous diseases, including plague, rabies, and hantavirus. Keeping your distance and your food from wildlife not only protects them, it also protects you from injury and exposure to diseases.

If you encounter a mammal, particularly a raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, or bat, that is behaving erratically, don't touch the animal. Instead, report the sick animal to a park employee. In addition to keeping bears away, storing your food properly also reduces your exposure to rodents and their fleas, which may carry plague.

...and Yosemite



Coyote in snow/Photo by Caitlin Lee-Roney

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

Returning Bighorn Sheep to Yosemite's Wilderness

Story by Sarah Stock



Bighorn sheep herd, Photo by Steve Yeager, used with permission

Rocks tumble, hooves clatter, and massive horns emerge from a swirl of dust. The golden-brown figure of a Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep is suddenly prominent at the top of the ridge. This animal belongs here in Yosemite National Park, as integral to the alpine landscape as the sheer precipices, the rocky talus fields, and the wind-scoured ridge tops. For thousands of years, bighorn sheep have inhabited Yosemite's rugged alpine environment, enduring severe winter storms, snow avalanches, and lengthy droughts. It's no wonder John Muir wrote about bighorn sheep with such admiration.

"The wild sheep ranks highest among the animal mountaineers of the Sierra. Possessed of keen sight and scent, and strong limbs, he dwells secure amid the loftiest summits, leaping unscathed from crag to crag, up and down the fronts of giddy precipices, crossing foaming torrents and slopes of frozen snow, exposed to the wildest storms, yet maintaining a brave, warm life, and developing from generation to generation in perfect strength and beauty".

—John Muir, 1894

In spite of the bighorns' heartiness and endurance, these vigorous animals were no match for early settlers with their guns and disease-carrying domestic sheep. Beginning with the gold rush in 1849 and continuing well into the twentieth century, unregulated hunting and fatal livestock diseases eliminated entire herds from across the bighorns' range in the Sierra, including all remaining bighorn sheep in Yosemite. For nearly a century, bighorn were absent from the Yosemite landscape.

Bighorn were first reintroduced along the margins of the park in 1986. These small herds still persist, and can sometimes be seen summering along the Sierra crest, on such peaks as Mount Dana and Mount Gibbs. However, the areas inhabited today represent only a fraction of the bighorn sheep's former range, and until a more robust population is established, one of Yosemite's greatest wilderness emblems will remain at risk.

Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep are well known for their large size, strength, and ability to negotiate precipitous terrain. Adult males, called rams, stand over three feet tall at the shoulder and weigh up to 220 pounds; females, called ewes, weigh up to 155 pounds. Both rams and ewes have permanent horns; rams' horns are massive and coiled, whereas ewes' horns are shorter with less curvature. Bighorn

sheep display a range of body coloration, from dark brown to almost white, and have a large white rump patch and a short, dark tail. Rams live to be 10 to 12 years old, and ewes live to be 12 to 17 years old. Prior to breeding (during the rut), bighorn rams compete for their right to mate with ewes. Dominance behavior includes kicking, butting, neck wrestling, and dramatic horn clashes that sound like thunder. Breeding generally takes place in November. Starting at two years old, ewes give birth to one lamb between mid-May and mid-June. Mothers typically wean their lambs by five months of age. The lambs become independent of their mothers when they are about one year old.

The Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep is the only federally endangered mammal in Yosemite. The listing occurred in 2000 after the range-wide population plunged to a low of about 125 individuals. The population has since increased to over 500, which marks an important milestone toward recovery. Prior to unregulated hunting and diseases, bighorn sheep probably numbered in the thousands.

To help restore the population, the National Park Service, along with many partners and with funding from Yosemite Conservancy, plans to reintroduce a new herd into their native habitat in the Cathedral Range. Yosemite's Cathedral

Range has numerous historical detections of bighorn sheep. One such detection occurred in 1933 when park naturalists discovered a mummified ram melting out of the Lyell Glacier. Park naturalist, Bert Harwell, theorized at the time that the ram had been feeding on plants growing on Mount Lyell, and had accidentally fallen into a crevasse near the top of the glacier. Harwell suspected that the ram had been preserved in the ice and snow for a long time, perhaps centuries.

Such historical accounts set the stage for envisioning the bighorn sheep's return. The Cathedral Range offers bighorn sheep superb habitat with steep cliffs and rocky outcrops for evading predators and lush vegetation for remaining healthy and strong. It also has the advantage of providing geographic separation from disease-carrying domestic sheep, and potential connectivity with existing herds. The return of this long-absent wilderness icon to the heart of Yosemite will restore the alpine ecosystem and provide more opportunities for backcountry hikers to view bighorn sheep in their native habitat.

Sarah Stock is a Wildlife Biologist at Yosemite National Park. She has been overseeing the park's Terrestrial Biodiversity Program since 2006.

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Providing for Yosemite's Future

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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.



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For more information and employment opportunities with Delaware North visit online at www.YosemitePark.com



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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

Through the support of donors, Yosemite Conservancy provides grants and support to Yosemite National Park to help preserve and protect Yosemite today and for future generations. The work funded by Yosemite Conservancy is visible throughout the park, from trail rehabilitation to wildlife protection and habitat restoration. The Conservancy is dedicated to enhancing the visitor experience and providing a deeper connection to the park through outdoor programs, volunteering and wilderness services. Thanks to dedicated supporters, the Conservancy has provided more than \$81 million in grants to Yosemite National Park. Donate now or learn more at www.yosemiteconservancy.org or call 800/469-7275.



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