



# Yosemite Guide

Water returns to Yosemite Falls with first couple of winter storms. NPS Photo



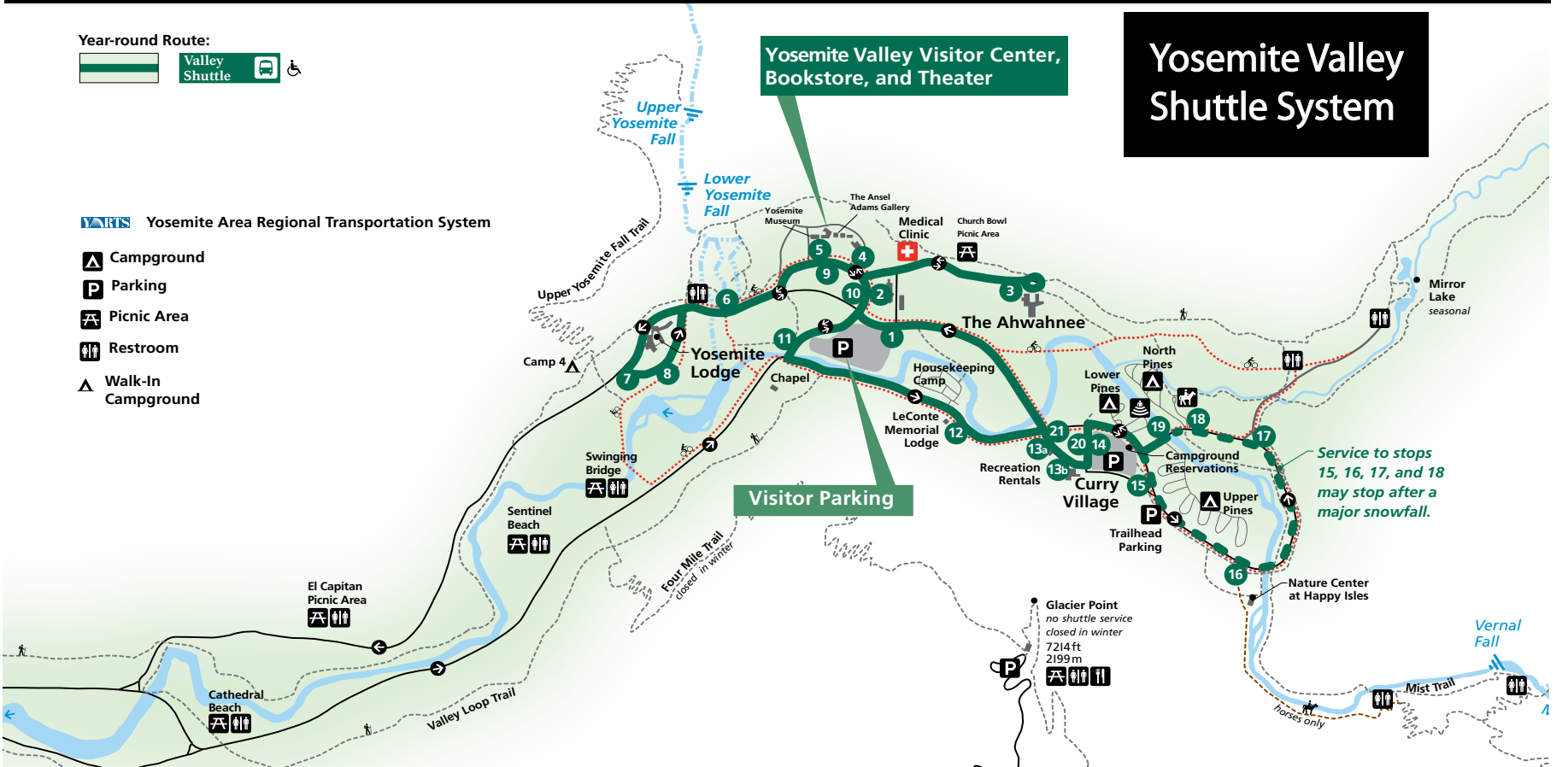
## Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide December 9, 2015 - February 9, 2016

**Year-round Route:**  
 Valley Shuttle

**YARS** Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

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



## Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

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

## Celebrating 100 Years of Service

The National Park Service will turn 100-years old on August 25, 2016! Take part in the centennial celebration by engaging in opportunities to learn, explore, and have fun, in Yosemite or one of your other national parks. Visit [www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary](http://www.nps.gov/yose/anniversary) or [www.FindYourPark.com](http://www.FindYourPark.com) to find more information about events happening in Yosemite throughout the year.

## Yosemite's 125th Birthday!

On October 1, 2015, the park commemorated the 125th anniversary of the establishment of Yosemite National Park. President Benjamin Harrison signed the legislation, thereby creating the nation's third National Park. The establishment of Yosemite National Park preserved over 1,500 square miles of land including Tuolumne Meadows, the park's high country, Hetch Hetchy, and lands surrounding Yosemite Valley.

## 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 experienced ski instructors, 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 11, weather and conditions permitting. Downhill ski lifts operate from 9am to 4pm. Call 209/372-1000 for current snow conditions. Equipment rentals and lift tickets are available from 8:30am to 4pm. See how you can take a free shuttle to Badger Pass on page 6.

## 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. On weekends and holidays there are four sessions available per day, 8:30am to 11am, noon to 2:30 pm, 3:30pm to 6pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm. Monday through Friday, there are two sessions available from 3:30pm to 6pm and 7pm to 9:30pm.

## Reserve Ostrander Ski Hut For an Epic Winter Adventure!

Ostrander Ski Hut, managed by Yosemite Conservancy, is accepting reservations for the 2015-2016 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](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/ostrander).



View of Upper Yosemite Falls in winter. NPS Photo

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

### 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 require fees. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 4 and 5)

### Hike to Mirror Meadow

Situated at the base of Half Dome, Mirror Lake frames reflections of Yosemite's most iconic cliff. (The lake 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

Are you looking for a memorable way to experience Yosemite, tailored to your interests and ability? Our expert naturalist-guides will enhance your understanding of the park as you walk among Yosemite's famous cliffs, trees and waterfalls. Whether you want to explore the park's flora and fauna while taking a gentle saunter along the river or learn about Yosemite's geology during an exhilarating hike, we'll help you create the perfect outdoor experience. Contact us to plan a Custom Adventure for your family or group. Visit [yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures) or 209/379-2317 x10 to find your adventure today.

### 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 in which to relax and enjoy a warm drink.

### ... 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](mailto: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](mailto:yose_lostandfound@nps.gov).

### Yosemite Mountaineering School

Provides outdoor adventures for people of all experience levels. We are here to help you learn how to enjoy the woods safely and responsibly. Give us a call to join one of our group classes or schedule a custom outing designed specifically for your group. We offer professional guides for cross country skiing and snowshoeing, as well

as hiking, backpacking and rock climbing. Reservations recommended, please call 209-372-8344 or email [yms@dncinc.com](mailto:yms@dncinc.com)



### Every Kid In A Park

Fourth graders, grab your family and go enjoy your national parks for FREE! The Every Kid In A Park initiative was recently launched to help the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates create positive attitudes towards public lands and to give every child the chance to explore America's great outdoors and unique history. Visit [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov) for more information.

### FREE Interagency 4th Grade Pass

A free, annual pass for 4th grade students and their families to have free access to any federal land or water, during your fourth graders school year from September 1 to August 30. Families must present a paper voucher at any park entrance to obtain the pass. Visit [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov) for details.

## 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](http://www.dot.ca.gov) for highways connecting to Yosemite, outside the park.

## What's Inside:

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# Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

## Entrance Fees

**Non-commercial car, pickup truck, RV, or van with 15 or fewer passenger seats** - Valid for 7 days

(No per-person fee)

\$30/vehicle April through October

\$25/vehicle November through March

**Motorcycle** Valid for 7 days

\$15/motorcycle through December 31, 2015

\$20/motorcycle beginning January 1, 2016

**Individual** Valid for 7 days

\$15, (In a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse)

**Yosemite Pass**

\$60, Valid for one year in Yosemite.

**Interagency Annual Pass** \$80

Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.

**Interagency Senior Pass** \$10

(Lifetime) For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

**Interagency Access Pass (Free)**

(Lifetime) For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

**Interagency Military Pass (Free)**

(Annual) For active duty U.S. military and dependents

**Interagency 4th Grade Pass (Free)**

(Annual) For fourth graders and their families. Must present paper voucher.

## 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**

209/878-3329

**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

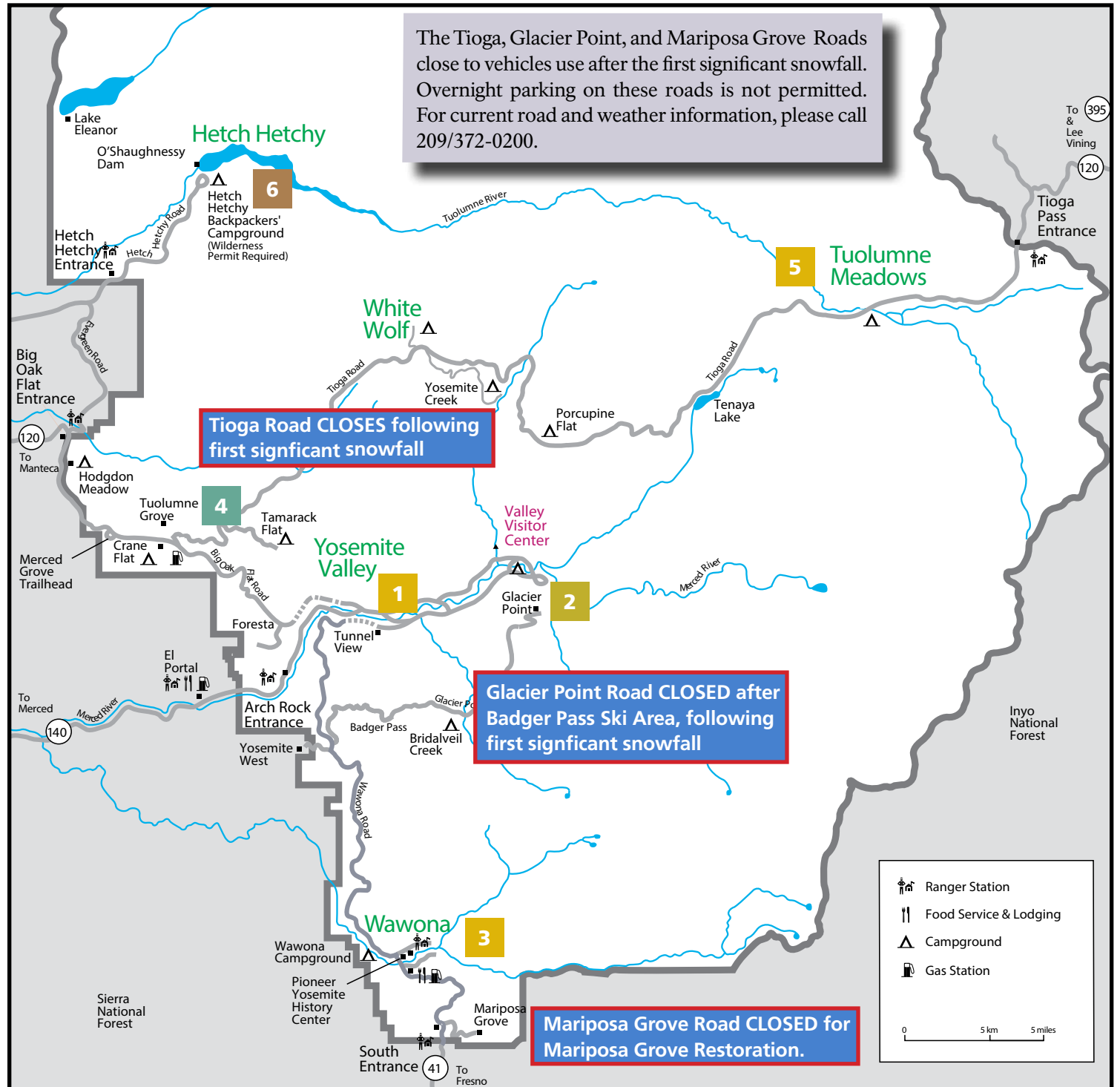
**Highway 120 East**

**Lee Vining Chamber of**

**Commerce and Mono Lake**

**Visitor Center, 760/647-6629**

www.leevining.com



## 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 the winter scenery. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, car or with a tour, the scenery will leave you in awe and eager to see what's around the next corner.



## Glacier Point Road

**2** Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and 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, when the road is open, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating view looking down 3,214 feet into Yosemite Valley. *Glacier Point Road closes beyond the Badger Pass Ski area after the first significant snow fall.*

## Wawona and Mariposa Grove

**3** The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's south entrance station. **As of July 6, 2015, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is closed for restoration, see page 7 for 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. For more information about hiking trails in the Wawona area, visit the Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio, adjacent to the historic Wawona Hotel. This was once a painting studio for the 19th-century artist Thomas Hill.

## 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. 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. Wilderness permits and bear canisters are available while the road is open. 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.

### DID YOU KNOW:

- The idea for doing guided "nature walks," which eventually became the interpretive programs National Park Service Rangers are famous for, originally came from Switzerland. It was brought to the United States through the efforts of Stephen Mather, the first director of the National Park Service.
- About 20 percent of Yosemite's visitors every year come from other countries – about 33 different countries in fact. Yosemite's International Affairs program helps the park to better understand our international visitors, allows Yosemite to share its expertise, and opens the door to learning new ways to manage and protect natural and cultural resources.
- Established in 1932 as the world's first International Peace Park, Glacier National Park in Montana and Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta, Canada became the very first sister parks in the National Park System. Yosemite's first and second sister park agreements with China's Haungshan and Jiuzhaigou national parks were signed in 2006.
- Across the entire National Park System, 31 U.S. National Parks have international sister park relationships in more than 50 different countries, but not yet on every continent. Yosemite hopes to add the first sister park in Australia sometime in 2016. Antarctica is the only continent with no national parks or protected areas, but is managed under an international treaty that includes protection of the environment as a goal.



The view from Glacier Point. NPS Photo



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

Want the Guide on your Apple or Android device?

## Get the App!

Search **NPS-Yosemite** in app stores or at [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit](https://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

# Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas in the heart of the park



Yosemite Valley in winter. Photo by Sheree Peshlakai

## 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 Visitor Center and Bookstore

The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Conservancy 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 Theater behind the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

### RANGER PROGRAM – YOSEMITE INSIDE

Join a ranger in an indoor venue for an in-depth look into a Yosemite topic. Topics will vary from Yosemite wildlife, to climbing, to Yosemite artists. See page 5 for schedule and visit the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for specific topics.

### WILDERNESS PERMITS

Wilderness permits are required year-round. Permits and bear canisters are available at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center daily from 9am to 5pm. For more information on wilderness travel and safety please see page 8.

### 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*.

### The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery is open daily from 9am to 5pm. Starting January 1, 2016, the hours of operation will be 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. For more information call 209/372-4211 or visit [www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com). *Closed December 25.*

### EXHIBIT

#### Sierra Impression: Works on Paper and Canvas

November 8, 2015 - January 3, 2016

With an origin story committed to the art of painting, The Ansel Adams Gallery is excited to present *Sierra Impressions: Works on Canvas and Paper*. The exhibit is sure to entice, with pieces ranging from atmospheric, en plein air landscapes in the vein of original gallery proprietor Harry Best, to intricate watercolors and bold abstracts, as well as woodblocks that owe an aesthetic debt to traditional Japanese style. This show will encompass a diverse range of styles and viewpoints. The exhibit will open on November 8, 2015 and run through January 3, 2016. All exhibited works will be available for purchase with shipping options available. Featured artists will include, Annie Barrett Casher, Jane Culp, Tom Killion, James McGrew, Penny Otwell and Sally Owens.

### NEW EXHIBIT

#### Wild Winter

January 4, 2016 - March 5, 2016

Of all seasons, the unpredictability and invigorating light of winter seems to inspire the artist's mind. The iconic Ansel Adams photograph, *Clearing Winter Storm*, stands as precedent. From January 4, 2016 through March 5, 2016, The Ansel Adams Gallery will exhibit *Wild Winter*, featuring photographic works from our distinguished collective of photographers. We hope you have a chance to stop by to enjoy the show. All exhibited works will be available for purchase with shipping options available.

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

This is a day to give back and be a citizen in action! On January 18 there will be a service event to help Yosemite stay beautiful and prepare for the summer season. Contact the VIP office for more information at (209) 379-1850 or [yose\\_volunteers@nps.gov](mailto:yose_volunteers@nps.gov).



Yosemite Chapel, built in 1879. NPS Photo

### 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

9am to 5pm, *closed December 25*

10am to 5pm, beginning January 1, 2016

##### Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore

Inside Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

9am to 5pm

##### Yosemite Museum Store

9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*

##### Village Store

8am to 8pm

##### Sport Shop

10am to 4pm, *Closes for the season January 4*

#### 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 to 7pm

#### Wawona Area

##### Wawona Store and Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 5pm

### SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

#### Curry Village Showers

Open 24 hours

#### Housekeeping Camp Laundromat




8am to 10pm

# Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	WAWONA
<b>Sunday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Adventure Snowshoe Hike - Dewey Point</b> 7 hrs. Tickets/Info at any tour desk. Badger Pass Cross Country Center. (DN) \$</p> <p>10:00am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except December 13) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Bears</b> 1.5 hrs. Shuttle stop #6. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (December 13 and 20 Only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for topic and room; Yosemite Lodge. (DN) ♿</p>	<p>Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families.</p>
<b>Monday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter</b> 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Yosemite's First People</b> 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (December 14 Only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Film</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Cliff Room. (DN) ♿</p>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter</b> 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)</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 - Geology</b> 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (December 22 Only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Film</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Cliff Room. (DN) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (December 22 and 29 Only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Historical programs are available by request, 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. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) ♿</p>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Adventure Snowshoe Hike - Dewey point</b> 7 hrs. Tickets/Info at any tour desk. Badger Pass Cross Country Center. (DN) \$</p> <p>10:00am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except December 9) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Ansel Adams' Legacy and Your Digital Camera Photography Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Inspiring Generations</b> 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (December 16 Only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Program</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for topic and venue. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls. (NPS) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (December 23 and 30 Only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Historical programs are available by request, 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. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) ♿</p>
<b>Thursday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except December 10) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Using Your Digital Camera</b> (Except December 24) 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Trees</b> 1.5 hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (December 24 Only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Film</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Cliff Room. (DN) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (December 24 and 31 Only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Historical programs are available by request, 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. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) ♿</p>
<b>Friday</b>	<p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except December 11) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>10:30am <b>Ranger Program - Yosemite Inside</b> 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. Yosemite Valley Auditorium, behind Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Wildlife</b> 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (December 18 and 25 Only) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room. (DN) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Film</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Cliff Room. (DN/TAAG) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Film - Ansel Adams</b> 1 hr. Check local listing for venue. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>8:30pm <b>YOSEMITE LODGE NIGHT PROWL</b> (December 11 Only) 1 hr. Explore the night sky! Tickets and information available at any tour desk. (DN) \$ ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (December 18, 25 and January 1 Only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Historical programs are available by request, 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. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) ♿</p>
<b>Saturday</b>	<p>8:00am <b>Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas Atop Dewey Point</b> (February 6 Only) 8 hrs. Requires advanced reservation, please call 209/379-2317 x10. (YC) \$</p> <p>8:30am <b>Tuolumne Sequoia Grove Adventure Hike</b> 5-7 hrs. Tickets/Info at any tour desk (includes transportation). Yosemite Lodge at the Falls front desk. (DN) \$</p> <p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>10:00am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Except December 12) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Badger Pass office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>10:30am <b>Ranger Program - Yosemite Inside</b> (Except January 16) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. Yosemite Valley Auditorium, behind Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. (NPS) ♿</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 - Ahwahneechee Stories and Games</b> 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stops #5/#9. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> (December 12 Only) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn. (DN) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Film</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Cliff Room. (DN/TAAG) ♿</p> <p>8:30pm <b>STARRY SKIES OVER YOSEMITE</b> (December 12 Only) 1 hr. Explore the night sky! Tickets and information available at any tour desk. (DN) \$ ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (December 19, 26 and January 2 Only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Historical programs are available by request, 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. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DN) ♿</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/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm), or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at 209/379-1035 for more information.
- Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue and white signs.
-  Sign Language interpreting is available upon request. Contact Deaf Services at 209/379-5250 (v/txt). Two weeks advance notice is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request, inquire at a visitor center.
-  Audio tours are available for the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

- NPS** National Park Service
- 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 5 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 page 5 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, 7am to 7pm.

#### Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing the wonders of Yosemite through our year-round Outdoor Adventures. From

backpacking to botany and birding, our wide range of programs offers something for every Yosemite adventurer.

**February 6, 2016**

*Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas Atop Dewey Point*

Find detailed information and register for your adventure at [yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures](http://yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures) or call 209/379-2317 x10. Camping and park entry are included; additional lodging options are 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 11, weather and 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 9am to 4pm, seven days a week when Badger Pass Ski Area is open. Wilderness permits, Ostrander Ski Hut check-in and cross-country ski trail information available. It's also the starting point for ranger led snowshoe walks.

#### BADGER PASS SHUTTLE (FREE)

The free shuttle service to and from Badger Pass begins Friday, December 11, weather and conditions permitting. *(Actual arrival and departure times are subject to traffic and weather conditions.)*

#### BADGER PASS SHUTTLE SCHEDULE:

**Yosemite Valley to Badger Pass**  
 Curry Village - 8am and 10:30am  
 Yosemite Village - 8:10am and 10:40am  
 Ahwahnee Hotel - 8:15am and 10:45am  
 Yosemite Lodge - 8:30am and 11am

**Badger Pass to Yosemite Valley**  
 2pm and 4pm

#### YOSEMITE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

Provides outdoor adventures for people of all experience levels. We are here to help you learn how to enjoy the woods safely and responsibly. Give us a call to join one of our group classes or schedule a custom outing designed specifically for your group. We offer professional guides for cross country skiing and snowshoeing, as well as hiking, backpacking and rock climbing. Reservations recommended, please call 209-372-8344 or email [yms@dncinc.com](mailto:yms@dncinc.com).

#### PUBLIC SCOPING FOR YOSEMITE WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PLAN OPENS

Yosemite National Park has opened public scoping for planning and environmental impact analysis for the Yosemite Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Public scoping comments will be accepted starting November 16, 2015 through January 29, 2016. Yosemite's Wilderness is currently managed under the 1989 Wilderness Management Plan. The park needs to update this plan to incorporate current information about visitor use patterns, methods of managing visitor use, techniques for trail design and construction, and concepts for managing stock in wilderness. For more information, please visit our webpage at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yosewild>

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 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Dec 12 Dinner: 5:30 to 8pm

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 10:30am, Starting Jan 4 - Bar closed for remodel, Alternate Coffee Bar, 7am to 10:30am inside dining room.

**The Ahwahnee Bar** 11:30am to 10pm Starting Jan 4 - Bar closed for remodel, Alternate Beverage Service, 11:30am to 10pm, inside dining room.

##### Yosemite Lodge

###### Food Court

Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm

Dinner: 5pm to 8pm

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 to 1am

###### Mountain Room Restaurant

Dinner: 5pm to 8pm

Dec 25, 4pm to 9pm

Dec 31, 5pm to 9pm

Reservations taken for 8 or more.

209/372-1281

##### Curry Village

###### Pizza Deck

Holiday hours from Dec 18 to Jan 2:

Monday - Friday, 5pm to 9pm

Saturday & Sunday, noon to 9pm

January and February Hours:

Friday, 5pm to 9pm

Saturday, noon to 9pm

Sundays of holiday weekends, noon to 9pm

###### Coffee Corner

holiday hours from Dec 19 to Jan 3:

7am to 11am

January and February Hours:

Saturday & Sunday, 7am to 11am

Open Mondays on holiday weekends.

##### Wawona

The Wawona Hotel and Dining Room are

open from Dec 18 - Jan 3 ONLY.

The Dining Room will open for Dinner on Dec 18 and close after breakfast on Jan 3.

###### Wawona Hotel Dining Room

Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm

New Year's Day Brunch: call for reservations

Holiday Reservations taken for 6 or more, please call 801/559-4935.

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 5pm. Diesel & propane.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

##### Crane Flat

Diesel available.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

# Visitor Services

## Beyond Yosemite Valley



## Wawona & Mariposa Grove

### Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits for Wawona trailheads 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. *December 18 through January 2 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 the year.

## Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees.

### GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE MARIPOSA GROVE

The Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project is now underway! On July 6, 2015, a temporary closure of the grove for up to 24 months began. The restoration project will improve the habitat and restore the hydrology of the Mariposa Grove and improve visitors' experience and enjoyment of the grove. Trails will be improved providing universal access along with improved restrooms.

*The Mariposa Grove Road is closed to all public access, including bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Hiking trails within the grove are also closed.*

## Big Oak Flat

### BIG OAK FLAT INFORMATION STATION

Wilderness permits for Big Oak Flat Road trailheads are available by self-registration on the front porch of the information station. Please come prepared with your own bear canister. The center is located just inside the park entrance on Hwy 120W.

## 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

##### YOSEMITE VILLAGE GARAGE

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

##### MEDICAL CLINIC (Yosemite Valley)

Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm  
Closed weekends and federal holidays.  
For emergency care after 5pm, call 9-1-1.  
For more information call 209/372-4637.

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

##### CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)

El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am  
Info: 209/379-2100

##### YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Brent Moore - Resident Minister  
209/372-4831 • www.YosemiteValleyChapel.org  
Wedding information on website

##### SUNDAY SERVICES IN YOSEMITE CHAPEL:

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

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY - 7pm,  
Call for location

THURSDAY MID-WEEK SERVICE - 7pm, chapel

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - 4pm,  
in Chapel

NEW YEARS EVE CHAPEL SERVICE - 10pm-12am

##### ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS  
Sunday, 10am, Theater behind Yosemite Valley  
Visitor Center, shuttle stops #5/#9.  
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 10am, Yosemite Chapel  
Rectory Phone: 209/372-4729

#### SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

##### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

7:30pm - Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday  
DN General Office Building, Yosemite Village

##### LIONS CLUB

Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. 209/372-1464.



# Protecting yourself...



Winter landscape, NPS File 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.

### ENJOYING YOSEMITE'S WINTER

Winter in Yosemite National Park is often defined by weather extremes and its contrasts to other seasons. In addition to recreational opportunities, winter is a favorite time for viewing wildlife. Photographers and other artists often discover very unique aspects of Yosemite's beauty, calling out to be captured on film or canvas. With a little planning, preparation, and awareness, your winter visit to Yosemite National Park can be pleasantly rewarded.

### SUNLIGHT

Daylight is short; carrying a headlamp or flashlight and extra batteries can be a lifesaver if you find yourself with a later-than-anticipated return to your vehicle or shelter.

### WEATHER

Weather is unpredictable. Therefore, prepare for inclement weather. Avoid hypothermia, a life-threatening cooling of your body temperature, and hike in comfort and warmth by adding or reducing layers as follows:

- **Base Layer** – synthetics, wool, or silk, never cotton. This layer is meant to pull moisture away from your skin to keep you feeling dry.
- **Mid Layer** – insulation to keep you warm. Many outdoor enthusiasts prefer fleece or wool.
- **Shell or Outer Layer** – protects you from outside moisture, i.e., rain and snow. Newer materials are designed to “breathe” to reduce sweat while keeping water out.
- **Hat** – A good knit hat can make a big difference and should keep your head warm and dry and be long enough to cover your ears. Some people also find that warm scarves and neck gaiters promote warmth.
- **Shoes** – wear sturdy boots that protect your feet from rain, snow, and slush. Your boots should never be tight or you will lose circulation which will make your feet cold. Thick wool or synthetic socks help keep your feet warm and dry. Carry extra socks.
- **Gloves** – have an extra pair in case your first pair gets wet.

Weather varies drastically in the park, depending on elevation, with temperatures cooling by as much as five degrees for every 1,000 feet of elevation gain. At night, the opposite can occur, with colder air sinking to the valley floor. Always check the latest weather forecast and prepare for changing temperatures, rain, snow, and ice.

### NAVIGATION

Snow blanketed terrain can quickly cause disorientation. Winter specific trails are marked with blaze. Always keep at least one marker in sight. Carry a good map and compass (or GPS) and know your location at all times.

### SNOW PLAY

Hopefully, we'll enjoy a good snowpack in the Sierra this winter. Snow will open up exciting winter recreational opportunities at Badger Pass and elsewhere around the Park. To keep the fun in your recreation, be realistic about your physical limits and stay within them.

### YOSEMITE ROADS

As mentioned above, weather is unpredictable and changes quickly and this affects our Park's roads. Plan for all potential road conditions; call ahead to our recorded number (209) 372-0200 +1 for current road conditions and restrictions. Be aware of changing conditions such as icy roads, which may remain frozen in shadowed areas, even while other surfaces have thawed.

### FOR ALL SEASONS

- Stay on established trails – do not take shortcuts.
- Rivers, streams, and lakes are hazardous year round. Crossing water should only be attempted where it is safe.
- Rock scrambling – leave this to the critters.
- Water and food – make it a point to stay hydrated and to snack frequently; make sure you have plenty of food and water. If you are sweating, replace lost salts with salty, easy-to-digest snacks.
- “10 hiking essentials” – including sunglasses, sunscreen, and a signaling method (mirror and whistle).
- Let someone know – always leave your travel and hiking plan, including your intended route and estimated time of return, with a trusted person.

### WILDERNESS PERMIT DETAILS

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Please see pages 4 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](http://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 November 16, 2015. To make a reservation by phone, call (209) 372-0740 Mon-Fri from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

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)

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)

### HALF DOME PERMIT INFORMATION

The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be put back up May 27, 2016 conditions permitting. Permits are required 7 days a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2016 permits begins March 1, 2016 and ends March 31, 2016. To apply for permits visit [recreation.gov](http://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>.

### PLAGUE

Plague is an infectious bacterial disease that is carried by squirrels, chipmunks and other wild rodents and their fleas. When an infected rodent becomes sick and dies, its fleas can carry the infection to other warm-blooded animals including humans.

To protect yourself from plague, never feed wildlife, avoid dropping food scraps that attract rodents when eating outside, avoid pitching a tent near or disturbing rodent burrows, wear insect repellent with DEET, and tell a park ranger immediately if you see a dead animal.

Early symptoms of plague may include high fever, chills, nausea, weakness, painful swelling at the site of an insect bite or lymph node, and other flu-like symptoms. If you develop any of these symptoms within 6 days of visiting an area at risk for plague in the park, see your doctor and inform them you may have been exposed. Plague is treatable with antibiotics if given in time.

### 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



Black bears in a Yosemite meadow. NPS Photo

## Keeping Bears Wild

Yosemite bears may still be active during the winter months. Please, keep Yosemite's black bears wild and alive, while protecting yourself and your property.

### Store Your Food Properly.

The typical daily diet of most bears may consist of 4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, berries, acorns, and grubs. 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 are 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

# Beyond Our Borders:

## Yosemite's International Affairs Program by Jodi Bailey & Mike Gauthier



The new entrance station sign for Lake Hovsgol National Park, Mongolia, was designed and made in Yosemite's sign shop. *NPS Photo*

**A**s you enjoy the vistas and splendor of Yosemite National Park, you are likely to overhear the accents and languages of visitors from other countries: Chinese, Spanish, German, Russian, Korean, Japanese, Hindi, or Italian, to name just a few. More than 20 percent of Yosemite National Park's visitors travel to California from outside the United States.

All over the world, Yosemite is known for its magnificent landscapes as well as the important role it played in the creation of the National Park System. Over the last decade, Yosemite has begun to highlight its status as a conservation landmark. Building on the park's historical importance in the conservation movement, Yosemite's International Affairs Program embraces the park's role as a leader in park and protected area management. The Yosemite International Affairs program consists of sister park relationships, technical exchanges with other park and protected areas, hosting delegations, and support of the World Heritage Fellowship program. The program is run through the voluntary participation of staff from all of Yosemite's different divisions and at all stages in their careers, from first year seasonals to long-term senior managers.

### SISTER PARKS

Yosemite's original sister parks are Huangshan and Jiuzhaigou national parks in China, which established formal relationships with us in 2006. Torres del Paine National Park in Chile followed as our next sister in 2007. Since 2013, several new sister parks have been added, expanding the park's relationships around the world. Berchtesgaden National Park in Germany's Bavarian Alps signed a sister park arrangement in 2014. Four parks in Mongolia are Yosemite's newest sisters: Lake Hovsgol and Tengis-Shishged national

parks, and Horidal-Saridag and Ulaan Taiga strictly protected areas. They became sisters through an agreement signed in July with Mongolia's Ministry of Environment. Sister parks in Mexico, Nepal, and Tanzania will join Yosemite's "family" in 2016.

The connections between Yosemite and our sister parks have come about through some combination of serendipity and the personal commitment and passion of individual staff members. Yosemite's Traffic Program Manager, Dave Henderson, grew up in Germany and as a result, speaks German. When the call went out to nominate sister parks in Europe, Dave prepared the foundational materials to help Yosemite establish a sister park with Berchtesgaden National Park -- which is noted as the location for the classic movie, *The Sound of Music*. Berchtesgaden and Yosemite share many physical similarities such as glacially carved landscapes and alpine meadows and lakes. What is most important, however, is that Berchtesgaden has committed to protecting, conserving, and interpreting its truly special and unique qualities as a park. These are qualities that all Yosemite sister parks have, a commitment to preserving the best of our world's natural and cultural heritage for all generations to come.

### TECHNICAL EXCHANGES

Technical exchanges are another way Yosemite participates in the global park management dialogue. Often short-term and focused, these assignments and trainings are designed to share first hand experience and knowledge. In early November 2015, Yosemite hosted two representatives from Kinabalu Park in Malaysia. Kinabalu Park is located on the Island of Borneo and includes the island's highest peak, Mount Kinabalu, which is over 12,000 feet tall. Mt. Kinabalu is a little like Yosemite's Half Dome. It's an arduous day hike, but manageable for fit,

adventurous visitors -- some 50,000 climbers attempt the peak every year.

In early June 2015, an earthquake triggered large rock falls on Mt. Kinabalu. These rock falls killed 18 people on the mountain and stranded many others. This rock fall was the first ever recorded in Kinabalu, so no one on the park's staff had expertise managing risk from geologic hazards. In Yosemite, with the near-vertical granite cliffs that form Yosemite Valley, rock falls are common place and the park's staff includes not only a geologist, but one with special expertise related to rock falls. Park staff from Kinabalu spent several days in the field with Yosemite's geologist as well as with Search and Rescue staff who provided training as well as the kind of practical insights that only another park professionals could offer.

### VISITING DELEGATIONS

Each year, representatives and delegations from other national parks and protected areas from around the globe visit Yosemite to learn more about contemporary park management.

Yosemite is one of the oldest and most complex national parks in the United States and has a lot to offer such delegations. In August, a team from Shaanxi Province in China visited Yosemite to learn about park management. They are creating a brand new national park, called Qinling National Botanical Garden. Over a jam-packed day of meetings and tours, the group from China learned about Yosemite's restoration projects, youth education, volunteer programs, and much more.

### YOSEMITE IS AN INTERNATIONAL ICON

Yosemite represents one of America's finest gifts to future generations. It inspires the world and its magnificence will likely charm you. Make indelible memories while exploring the park, and remember that citizens from around the globe also admire the sites and experiences you are enjoying. So when you hear other accents and languages as you tour the park, know that Yosemite also embraces its role as an icon to conservation and protection of the world's best natural and cultural resources.



Tom Medema explains the meaning of the National Park Service's (NPS) arrowhead, the official symbol found on all NPS employee's uniforms. Recently, the Mongolian rangers Yosemite NP works with have asked for help in designing a uniform that gives them their own distinct look. *NPS Photo*

# 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.



Half Dome, Christine White Loberg

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

### Delaware North at Yosemite



Delaware North at Yosemite 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. Delaware North encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure.

For more information and employment opportunities with Delaware North 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



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 \$92 million in grants to Yosemite National Park. Learn more at [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org) or call 800/469-7275.

## Contact Us

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

#### The Ansel Adams Gallery

PO Box 455  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/372-4413  
209/372-4714 fax  
[www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com)

#### Delaware North

PO Box 578  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
801/559-5000  
[www.yosemitepark.com](http://www.yosemitepark.com)

#### Yosemite Conservancy

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#### NatureBridge

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

## Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

Over 10,400 volunteers donated more than 163,000 hours of service to Yosemite last year, restoring native habitat, working in visitor centers, serving as camp hosts, studying wildlife, cleaning up litter and more. Would you like to serve? We have group and individual volunteer opportunities, both short term and long term. Learn more at: [www.nps.gov/yose/getinvolved/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/getinvolved/volunteer.htm) or call the volunteer office at 209/379- 1850.



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Raven, Karen Kroner Amstutz