



Yosemite Guide

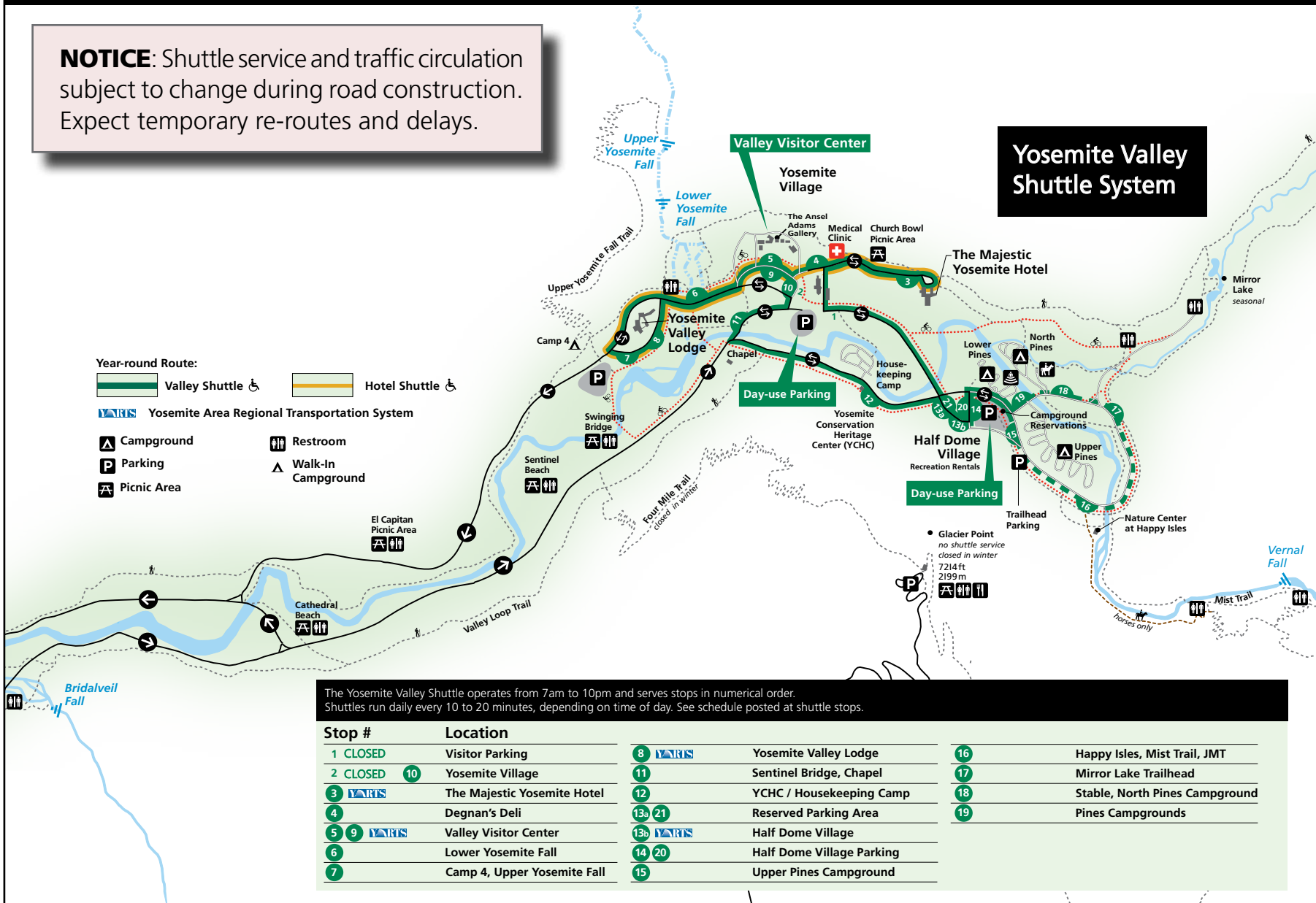
February-April, 2017



Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide February 8, 2017- April 4, 2017

NOTICE: Shuttle service and traffic circulation subject to change during road construction. Expect temporary re-routes and delays.



Things to Do

Winter Activities: Exploring Yosemite in Winter



Winter Sports

CRANE FLAT SNOW PLAY AREA

A snow play area is open at Crane Flat Campground in winter when enough snow is present. Please do not sled in or onto roadways!

YOSEMITE SKI AND SNOWBOARD AREA

The Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area (YSSA) opens on December 15, weather and conditions permitting. Live information on winter sports is available by calling 209/372-8444; recorded information is available at 209/372-1000.

Lift Tickets - 8:30am to 4pm

Lift Operations - 9am to 4pm

Ski School Desk - 8:30am to 4pm

Tubing - 11:30am to 1:30pm and 2pm to 4pm

Rental Shop - 8:30am to 4:30pm

Cross Country Ski Center - 8:30am to 4pm

Skiers Grill - 8am to 4pm

Snowflake Room - 8am to 4pm,

Friday to Sunday and holidays only

Sports Shop - 9am to 4pm

YSSA A-FRAME

Open 9am to 4pm, seven days a week when the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area (YSSA) is open, beginning December 15, weather and road conditions permitting. Wilderness permits for the Glacier Point area, Ostrander Ski Hut check-in and cross-country ski trail information available. It's also the starting point for ranger led snowshoe walks.

YSSA SHUTTLE (Free)

The free shuttle service to and from the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area (YSSA) begins December 15, weather and road conditions permitting. The YSSA shuttle arrival and departure times are subject to change due to traffic and weather conditions.

YSSA SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

Yosemite Valley to YSSA:

Half Dome Village - 8am and 10:30am

Yosemite Village - 8:10am and 10:40am

Majestic Hotel - 8:15am and 10:45am

Yosemite Valley Lodge - 8:30am and 11am

YSSA to Yosemite Valley:

2pm and 4pm

ICE RINK AT HALF DOME VILLAGE

Take the shuttle to Half Dome Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. The ice rink will be open daily beginning December 16, conditions permitting, from 12pm to 2:30pm, 3:30pm to 6pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm. On weekends and holidays, the ice rink is open from 8:30am to 11am, in addition to the daily hours. (Closes March 5).

WALKING AND HIKING

Yosemite Valley has a wide range of walking and hiking possibilities. Stop by Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for trail maps and current trail conditions, or see page 7 for a list of popular Yosemite Valley day hikes.

Programs and Guided Adventures

TOURS

The **Valley Floor Tour** is a 26-mile, two-hour, guided tour of Yosemite Valley. It departs several times daily from Yosemite Valley Lodge, weather permitting. Call 209/372-1240 or inquire at the Tour and Activity Desk in the Yosemite Valley Lodge between 7:30am and 3pm.

NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Naturalists give walks and talks about Yosemite's natural and cultural history, every day. *See page 5 for scheduled walks, talks, and evening programs.*

YOSEMITE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

Provides outdoor adventures for people of all experience levels. We are here to help you enjoy Yosemite outdoor sports safely, and responsibly. Join one of our group cross country skiing 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, and rock climbing (depending on weather). Reservations required for most activities, please call 209/372-8344 or email yms@aramark.com.

YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY OUTDOOR ADVENTURES (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy's year-round, naturalist-led Outdoor Adventures offer something for every park explorer. Upcoming outings include:

March 4 and March 18

Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas atop Dewey Point Snowshoe to spectacular views, no experience required.

March 24

Yosemite Exploration: Mysteries of Yosemite Valley's West End: Natural history and hiking on the Valley Loop Trail.

March 26

Day Hike through Spring Canyon

Wildflowers: An expert-led look at Yosemite flowers along the Merced River.

Pre-registration is required.

Visit: yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures or call 209/379-3217 x10 to learn more, sign up, and see our full calendar. Registration includes park entry (as needed) and camping; other lodging options are available. Custom Adventures can be arranged (please contact us for details). Proceeds from all our programs help preserve and protect the park.

TAKE A PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS

Enjoy the beauty of Winter Light in Yosemite. Join a photography expert from The Ansel Adams Gallery and learn how to best capture the landscape. Several classes are offered weekly. Custom photography guides available upon request. Learn more and sign up at The Ansel Adams Gallery.

Other Winter Adventures

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.

TUOLUMNE GROVE

The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 sequoias is near the Big Oak Flat and Tioga road intersection 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.

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 1.5 miles, making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water 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.

Great Things Are Happening In The Mariposa Grove!

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

The Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project is now underway! A temporary closure of the grove is expected to remain in place during Summer, 2017. 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 due to restoration, including bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Hiking trails within the grove are also closed.



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)

Vehicle Valid for 7 days
\$30/Vehicle

Motorcycle Valid for 7 days
\$25/motorcycle

Individual Valid for 7 days
\$15, (In a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse)

Yosemite Park Pass \$60
Valid for one year in Yosemite.

Interagency Annual Pass \$80
Valid for 1 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
888/413-8869
www.travelyosemite.com
Group Sales Office: 888/339-3481

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

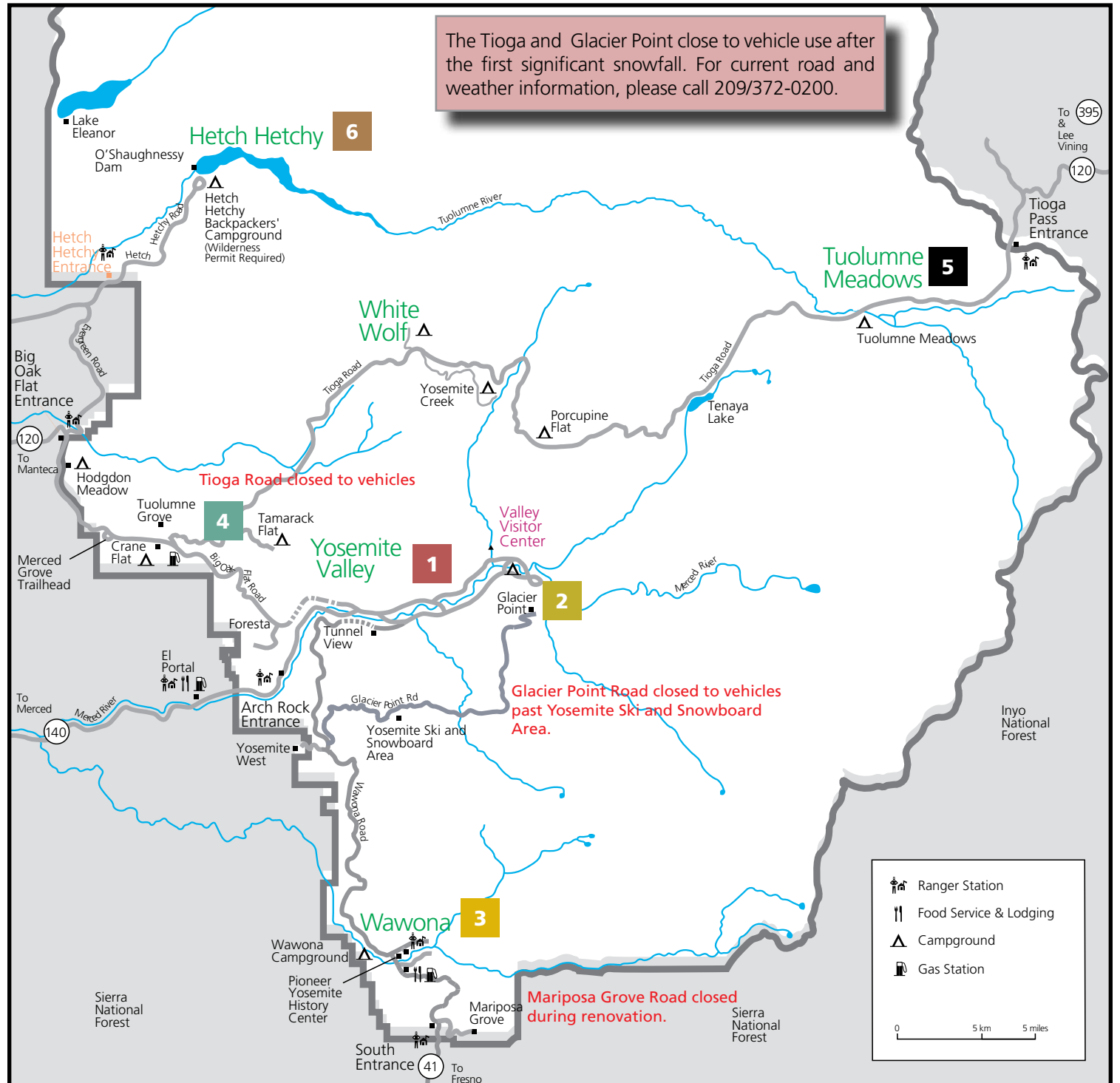
Highway 132/49
Coulterville Visitor Center
209/878-3329

Highway 140/49
California 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



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 available upon request. Contact Deaf Services at 209/379-5250 (v/txt), VP: 209/222-3944, or at yose_deaf_services@nps.gov. Two weeks advance notice preferred. Assistive Listening Devices 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 (closed until Summer 2017). Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

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 late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storms. 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.

Chain Control Information:

You must have tire chains or cables in your possession when entering a designated chain control area, **even if you're driving a four-wheel drive or rental vehicle.**

- R1** - Chains Required, unless you are driving a car, pickup truck, or SUV weighing less than 6,000 pounds AND your auto or pickup has mud/snow tires installed. (look for "M+S" on the wall of the tire)
- R2** - Chains Required, unless you are driving a car, pickup truck, or SUV weighing less than 6,500 pounds AND your car has snow tires installed on all four wheels AND has four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive engaged.
- R3** - Chains Required, on ALL vehicles (chains on 2 wheels of a 4-wheel drive).

Yosemite Valley

1 ...is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and can be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 West from Manteca, and via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining in summer. 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 and 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

2 Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and Yosemite's high country, is located 30 miles (1 hour) from Yosemite Valley. The road stays open as weather permits, however, overnight parking along it ends October 15. *Glacier Point Road closes beyond the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area after the first significant snow fall.* 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.

Wawona and The Mariposa Grove

3 The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's south entrance station. *The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is currently closed for restoration, see page 1 for more details.* The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite.

Crane Flat Area

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.

Tioga Road and Tuolumne Meadows

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 feet 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 (1¼ hour) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 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.



Yosemite Valley in Snow. Photo by Christine Loberg



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 in Winter. Photo by Kyle Strand

Yosemite Valley

Information, Art, and Exhibits



Sierra Juniper, by Kathy Barnhart, Photograph, on display at Yosemite Renaissance 32 Exhibition

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.

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*.

MUSEUM EXHIBIT Yosemite Renaissance 32 Art Exhibit

February 25-April 30

The official opening and award ceremony will be held from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Friday, February 24 at the Museum Gallery. The public is cordially invited to attend this event. Yosemite Renaissance is an annual exhibit that presents diverse artistic interpretations of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada, creating a continuum of artworks inspired by the region from historical times to the present. Yosemite Renaissance seeks to excite a new generation of people to preserve and protect our wild lands and natural places. Incoming executive director, Jonathan Bock, wants to encourage artists to share new interpretations of the region, explore current issues, and celebrate the environment through art.

This year, 65 works were selected from 846 entries. The exhibit includes paintings, textiles, photographs and 3-dimensional works by artists from across the country. The Museum Gallery is open 10am to noon and 1pm to 4pm daily.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery is open daily from 10am to 5pm. Beginning March 12, 2017, the hours of operation will be from 9am to 5pm. The Gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other artists. For more information call 209/372-4413 or visit www.anseladams.com. *See page 5 for photo walks and other event times.*

GALLERY EXHIBIT

January 8 - March 4

Statements of Sanctum: Photographs from Winter

Tapestried by acute and unassumingly vibrant light, the landscape in winter yields ripe opportunities to black & white and color photographers alike. Too often associated with the inhospitably of conditions, winter and its weather sculpt scenes of romantic rarity that indulge the gamut of artists -- whether it be the minimalist, those in search of whimsy, or anyone in between. It is truly a season of sanctum for us all.

In honor of this time of year, The Ansel Adams Gallery will be hosting "Statements of Sanctum" between January 7th and March 4th, featuring fine art photographs by Ansel Adams, Bob Kolbrener, John Sexton, Keith Walklet, Michael Frye, Christopher Burkett and more that showcase winter in all of its glory.

March 5 - April 15

Trees - Photographs by Jeffery Conley

Throughout history, the trees have given us solace. From the Transcendentalists to John Muir and Ansel Adams to many more today, there is an air of tranquility and comfort that we find in the forest, and an elegance which we continue to translate and share through our photography. Jeffrey Conley has been actively photographing in Yosemite, California and Oregon for many years, and within these arenas, has used The Tree as a constant milieu in his work, highlighting the modern patterns and organic rhythms of his subject. Beginning

on March 5th and running through April 15th, 2017, Mr. Conley's dedicated tribute to this muse will be on display at The Ansel Adams Gallery on the upper gallery walls. We hope to see you there during your visit.

Yosemite Art Center (YC)

Enjoy a hands-on creative experience at the Art Center in Yosemite Village! We're kicking off the 2017 art season with a day of kids' activities on Saturday, March 25, before diving into our regular schedule. Join one of our upcoming expert-led classes (Monday-Saturday, 10am-2pm):

March 27-April 1

Atmospheric Watercolor with Frank Eber

April 3-8

Painting Color and Light: Acrylic with Sparkle Taylor

Advanced registration for workshops is strongly encouraged. See the full schedule and sign up at yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-art-center, or register by phone (209-372-4207) or email (artcenter@yosemiteconservancy.org). Walk-ins are welcome if space is available. Workshops are typically held outside (weather and media permitting). Registration is \$15 per person per day, and art supplies are available for purchase.

Looking for an art activity for the whole family? Our daily drop-in crafting programs are a fun way for kids and families to create art inspired by the park. Stop by between 10am and 3pm to choose a craft kit and make a Yosemite keepsake. Suggested donation: \$10 per family, plus cost of kit.

Events and Programs

Schedule

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	GLACIER POINT
Sunday	9:00am Day Hike through Spring Canyon Wildflowers (March 26 only) 8 hrs. Join a naturalist guide to discover flowers along the Merced River. Pre-registration required: 209-379-2317 x10 or yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures. See pg. 1 for details. (YC) \$	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)
	9:30am Adventure Hike - Snowshoe Hike to Dewey Point 7 hrs. Tickets/info at any tour desk. Yosemite Cross Country Ski Center at YSSA. (YH) \$	
	10:00am FAMILY CRAFTS (March 26 and April 2 only) 5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Bring the whole family to create a Yosemite-themed craft. Drop-in program, \$10 suggested donation. See pg. 4 for details. (YC)	
	10:00am CRAFTS FOR KIDS (March 26 and April 2 only) 5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Drop-in crafting program for children (ages 7 and up). \$10 suggested donation. See pg. 4 for details. (YC)	
	10:00am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿	
	2:00pm Ranger Walk– Wild About Bears Explore the biology and history of Yosemite's black bears. 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5. (NPS) ♿	
	2:00pm Historic Majestic Hotel Tour 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿	
	7:00pm Evening Program (Except March 12) 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿	
7:00pm FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE (March 12 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$	Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families.	
8:30pm NIGHT PROWL 1 hr. (March 26 and April 2 only) Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$ ♿		
8:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Except March 12) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$ ♿		
9:00am Camera Walk Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel 1.5 hrs. (TAAG) ♿		
9:45am Guest Artist Workshop (March 27 and April 3 only) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Pre-registration encouraged: yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-art-center. See pg. 4 for details. (YC) \$		
10:00am FAMILY CRAFTS (March 27 and April 3 only) 5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Bring the whole family to create a Yosemite-themed craft. Drop-in program, \$10 suggested donation. See pg. 4 for details. (YC)		
10:00am CRAFTS FOR KIDS (March 27 and April 3 only) 5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Drop-in crafting program for children (ages 7 and up). \$10 suggested donation. See pg. 4 for details. (YC)		
1:00pm Ansel Adams' Legacy and Your Digital Camera photography class (Starting March 6) 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$		
2:00pm Ranger Walk – Yosemite's First People 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿		
2:00pm Historic Majestic Hotel Tour 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (Except April 3) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿		
8:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$ ♿		
9:00am Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) ♿		
9:45am Guest Artist Workshop (March 28 and April 4 only) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Pre-registration encouraged: yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-art-center. See pg. 4 for details. (YC) \$		
10:00am FAMILY CRAFTS (March 28 and April 4 only) 5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Bring the whole family to create a Yosemite-themed craft. Drop-in program, \$10 suggested donation. See pg. 4 for details. (YC)		
10:00am CRAFTS FOR KIDS (March 28 and April 4 only) 5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Drop-in crafting program for children (ages 7 and up). \$10 suggested donation. See pg. 4 for details. (YC)		
1:00pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams photography class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$		
2:00pm Ranger Walk – Geology Uncover the geologic stories of Yosemite's granite walls. 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter (Except April 4) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
8:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Except March 7) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$ ♿		
9:30am Adventure Hike - Snowshoe Hike to Dewey Point 7 hrs. Tickets/info at any tour desk. Yosemite Cross Country Ski Center at YSSA (YH) \$		
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10:00am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 min. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS)		
2:00pm Ranger Walk – Inspiring Generations Learn how Yosemite helped inspire conservation. 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿		
1:00pm Ansel Adams' Legacy and Your Digital Camera photography class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
7:00pm FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE (Feb 8 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$		
7:00pm Ranger Program Various topics. 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge. (NPS) ♿		
8:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Except Feb 8, March 1 and 8) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$ ♿		
9:00am Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) ♿		
9:45am Guest Artist Workshop (March 30 only) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Pre-registration encouraged: yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-art-center. See pg. 4 for details. (YC) \$		
10:00am FAMILY CRAFTS (March 30 only) 5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Bring the whole family to create a Yosemite-themed craft. Drop-in program, \$10 suggested donation. See pg. 4 for details. (YC)		
10:00am CRAFTS FOR KIDS (March 30 only) 5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Drop-in crafting program for children (ages 7 and up). \$10 suggested donation. See pg. 6 for details. (YC)		
1:00pm Using Your Digital Camera 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
2:00pm Ranger Walk – Trees Learn about the trees that grow in Yosemite Valley. 1.5 hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3 (NPS) ♿		
3:30pm Naturalist Stroll 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH) ♿		
7:00pm FIRESIDE STORYTELLING (Except Feb 9) 1 hr. Gather by the fire and listen to the stories of Yosemite's past and present! The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. (YH) ♿		
7:00pm FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE (Feb 9 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$		
8:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Except Feb 9) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$ ♿		
9:00am Yosemite Exploration: Mysteries of Yosemite Valley's West End (March 24 only) 6 hrs. Guided day hike with Yosemite Conservancy's resident naturalist. Pre-registration required: 209-379-2317 x10 or yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures. See pg. 1 for details. (YC) \$		
9:45am Guest Artist Workshop (March 31 only) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Pre-registration encouraged: yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-art-center. See pg. 4 for details. (YC) \$		
10:00am FAMILY CRAFTS (March 31 only) 5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Bring the whole family to create a Yosemite-themed craft. Drop-in program, \$10 suggested donation. See pg. 4 for details. (YC)	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
10:00am CRAFTS FOR KIDS (March 31 only) 5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Drop-in crafting program for children (ages 7 and up). \$10 suggested donation. See pg. 4 for details. (YC)		
2:00pm Ranger Walk – Wildlife Experience a variety of wildlife habitats and learn about the animals that live in Yosemite. 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿		
2:00pm Historic Majestic Hotel Tour 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿		
3:30pm Naturalist Stroll 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH) ♿		
7:00pm FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE (Feb 10 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$		
7:30pm Film - Ansel Adams 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge, check local listing for venue (TAAG) ♿		
8:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Except Feb 10) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$ ♿		
8:00am Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas atop Dewey Point (March 4 and March 18 only) 8 hrs. Join us for a guided snowshoe walk to Dewey Point. Pre-registration required: 209-379-2317 x10 or yosemiteconservancy.org/outdoor-adventures. See pg. 1 for details. (YC) \$	10:30am Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of the winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
9:00am KIDS' DAY AT YOSEMITE ART CENTER (March 25 only) 7 hrs. A day of children's activities at the Yosemite Art Center (drop-in). (YC)		
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 min. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿		
10:00am Guest Artist Workshop (April 1 only) 4 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Pre-registration encouraged: yosemiteconservancy.org/yosemite-art-center. See pg. 4 for details. (YC) \$		
10:00am FAMILY CRAFTS (April 1 only) 5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Bring the whole family to create a Yosemite-themed craft. Drop-in program, \$10 suggested donation. See pg. 4 for details. (YC)		
10:00am CRAFTS FOR KIDS (April 1 only) 5 hrs. Yosemite Art Center. Drop-in crafting program for children (ages 7 and up). \$10 suggested donation. See pg. 6 for details. (YC)		
2:00pm Ranger Walk – Ahwahneechee Stories and Games Learn about the culture of Yosemite's First People. 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿		
1:00pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams photography class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$		
2:00pm Historic Majestic Hotel Tour 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Sign up at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿		
3:00pm Fine Print Viewing 1 hr. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. Very limited space (TAAG) ♿		
7:00pm Evening Program (Except March 11) 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿		
7:00pm FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE (March 11 only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$		
8:30pm NIGHT PROWL 1 hr. (April 1 only) Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$ ♿		
8:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Except March 11) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$ ♿		

Services in Yosemite



Hours listed are core hours and may be extended during periods of peak visitation.

Food and Drink

YOSEMITE VILLAGE

Degnan's Deli

Closed for Renovation

Village Grill OPEN MAR 25

THE MAJESTIC YOSEMITE HOTEL

Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm

Open until 3pm beginning Mar 10

Afternoon Tea Service: 4pm to 5pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Open until 9pm beginning Mar 10

Sunday Brunch: 7am to 2pm

Open until 3pm beginning Mar 10

Appropriate attire required for dinner.

Reservations recommended for dinner

and Sunday Brunch, 209/372-1489.

The Coffee Bar 7am to 10:30am

The Majestic Bar 11:30am to 10pm

Open until 11pm beginning Mar 31

Room Service 7am to 11pm

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Food Court

Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am

Lunch: 11am to 4:30pm

Dinner: 4:30pm to 8pm

Open until 10pm beginning Mar 10

Mountain Room Bar

Monday-Friday: 5pm to 10pm

Saturday/Sunday: 12pm to 11pm

Mountain Room Restaurant

Sunday Brunch: 9am to 1pm

Subject to closure for private events.

Dinner: 5pm to 9pm

Open until 10pm beginning Mar 10

Reservations taken for 8 or more.

209/372-1281

HALF DOME VILLAGE

Pavillion OPEN Mar 18

7am to 11am

5pm to 8:30pm

Pizza Deck

Friday: 5pm to 10pm

Saturday: noon to 10pm

Open 12pm to 10pm daily beginning

Mar 18

Coffee Corner

Sat/Sun: 7am to 11am

Open 7am to 11am daily beginning Mar

18

Village Bar OPEN Mar 25

11am to 10pm

WAWONA AREA

Big Trees Lodge OPENS MAR 17

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 3pm

Dinner: 5pm to 9pm

Saturday Barbecue

Begins Mar 18, weather permitting

5pm to 7pm

Call 209/375-1425 for dinner

reservations

Lounge Service: 5pm to 9:30pm

Groceries

YOSEMITE VILLAGE

Village Store

8am to 8pm

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

HALF DOME VILLAGE

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

WAWONA

Big Trees Lodge Store and Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 7pm

CRANE FLAT

Gift/Grocery

OPENS MAR 25

8am to 7pm, conditions permitting

Gas Stations

EL PORTAL

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

BIG TREES LODGE SERVICE STATION

8am to 5pm. Diesel & propane.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

CRANE FLAT

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

NO GAS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

Post Offices

YOSEMITE VILLAGE

Main Office

Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm

Saturday: 10am to noon

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Monday - Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm

EL PORTAL

Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm

Closed for lunch from 12:30pm to

1:30pm

WAWONA

Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm

Saturday: 9am to noon

Books, Gifts, and Apparel

YOSEMITE VILLAGE

Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore

at Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

9am to 5pm

Yosemite Art Center

OPENS MAR 25

9am to 4pm, (closed for lunch)

Yosemite Museum Store

9am to 5pm

The Ansel Adams Gallery

10am to 5pm

9am to 5pm beginning Mar 12

Village Store

8am to 8pm

THE MAJESTIC YOSEMITE HOTEL

Gift Shop

8am to 8pm

Open until 10pm beginning Mar 10

Sweet Shop

7am to 10pm

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

HALF DOME VILLAGE

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

Mountain Shop

9am to 6:30pm

Open 8am to 8pm beginning Mar 18

YOSEMITE SKI AND SNOWBOARD

AREA

Sport Shop

9am to 4pm, conditions permitting

WAWONA

Big Trees Lodge Store and Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 7pm

CRANE FLAT

Gift/Grocery

OPENS MAR 25

8am to 7pm, conditions permitting

General Services

Yosemite Village Garage

8am to 5pm, Towing available 24 hours.

Propane available until 4:30pm.

Medical Clinic (Yosemite Valley)

Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm

Closed weekends and federal holidays.

For emergency care after 5pm, call

9-1-1.

Medical Clinic Phone: 209/372-4637

Tour and Activity Desks

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

7:30am to 3pm (after hours service

available at Front Desk)

Recreation

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Bike Rentals

Open conditions permitting

HALF DOME VILLAGE

Yosemite Mountaineering School

OPENS MAR 24

8:30am to noon, 1pm to 5pm

Ice Skating Rink see page 1.

YOSEMITE SKI AND SNOWBOARD

AREA

See page 1

WAWONA

Stables OPENS MAR 17

7am to 5pm

Golf Course OPENS MAR 26

8am to 6pm, conditions permitting

Golf Shop and Snack Stand

8am to 6pm, conditions permitting

Golf Course: 209/375-6572

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CHURCH OF CHRIST (Non-denominational)

El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am

Info: 209/379-2100

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Brent Moore - Resident Minister

209/372-4831 • www.YosemiteValleyChapel.org

www.yosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org

SUNDAY SERVICES IN THE YOSEMITE CHAPEL:

9:15am - Sunday School and Nursery Available

6:30pm - Evening Service/Bible Study in Chapel

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

7pm, Call for location

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK SERVICE

7pm, at the Chapel

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

Sunday, 10am, East Auditorium behind Yosemite

Valley Visitor Center, shuttle stops #5/#9.

Rectory Phone: 209/372-4729

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Yosemite Valley Chapel

Sunday: 8pm to 9pm

Tuesday and Thursday: 7:30pm to 8:30pm

LIONS CLUB

First and third Thursday of each month at noon,

The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Call 209/372-4475

Permit Information

Winter Camping, Hiking, and Wilderness Use



Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness, even in winter. 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 to check trailhead availability and for more information on how to make a reservation. Reservations can be made by fax, phone or mail starting November 14, 2016. To make a reservation by phone, call 209/372-0740, Mon-Fri from 8:30am to 4:30pm. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm, the Leave No Trace website at www.lnt.org, or the Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue website at www.friendofyosar.org

YOSEMITE VALLEY

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

BIG OAK FLAT

Wilderness permits valid for the Crane Flat area and Tioga Road only, 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.

GLACIER POINT

Self-registration wilderness permits are available at the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger Station and are valid only for the Glacier Point Road trailheads. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

WAWONA & MARIPOSA GROVE

Self-registration wilderness permits are available on the front porch of Hill's Studio are valid only for the Wawona trailheads. Please come prepared with your own bear canister. Hill's Studio is located on the grounds of the Big Trees Lodge; walk from the hotel or park at the store and follow the path uphill.

HALF DOME PERMIT INFORMATION

The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be put back up May 26, 2017, conditions permitting. Permits are required 7 days a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2017 permits begins March 1, 2017, and ends March 31, 2017.

To apply for permits visit www.recreation.gov or you can call 877/444-6777. More information about the Half Dome permit process is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm>.



Camping

Upper Pines, Camp 4, Wawona, and Hodgdon Meadow are open year-round.

CAMPING RESERVATIONS

In Yosemite Valley's car campgrounds, reservations are recommended December through February, and required March through November. Outside the valley, reservations are required summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served. Campground reservations are available up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month at 7 am Pacific time. Log onto the website or call as soon as possible as some campgrounds fill within a few minutes of the opening period. For campground reservations, visit www.recreation.gov (recommended) or call 877/444-6777 or TDD 877/833-6777 or 518/885-3639 from outside the US and Canada.

Call Center Hours:

7 am to 7 pm Pacific time
(November through February)
7 am to 9 pm Pacific time (March through October)

Campground offices in the park are located in the visitor parking area at Half Dome Village (shuttle bus stop #14), the Tuolumne Meadows Campground entrance, in Wawona off Chilnualna Falls Road, and at Big Oak Flat Information Station.

General Camping Information

Services

- All sites include picnic tables, firepits with grills, and a food locker (33" d x 45" w x 18" h). See page 9 for food storage regulations.
- Shower and laundry facilities are available year-round in Yosemite Valley.
- There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows.

Regulations

- Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.
- A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.
- Quiet hours are from 10 pm to 6 am.
- Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.

Campfires

- In Yosemite Valley between May 1 and September 30, campfires are permitted between 5 pm and 10 pm. At other times of the year and in out-of-Valley campgrounds, fires are permitted at any time, as long as they are attended.
- Firewood collection (including pine cones and pine needles) is not permitted in Yosemite Valley; you may purchase firewood at stores near the campgrounds.

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

*Trails may be closed due to unsafe conditions. Ask a ranger for current conditions and heed all warning and closure signs!

Protecting yourself...



NPS Photo

Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

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

A Season of Transition

What will Yosemite's weather be like this time of year? The short answer is: no one knows! This is a season of transition so you can experience several weather extremes in just one day. In other words, be prepared for wide ranging temperatures, rain, snow, and sunshine at any elevation. No matter the weather, this is an exciting season at Yosemite as we begin to witness our long winter finally surrendering to the spring. In order to enjoy Yosemite safely, a little planning is important. Your starting point is acknowledging that you are responsible for your safety. Following are a few tips to ensure that your Yosemite visit is safe and fun!

SUNLIGHT

The days are finally growing longer. Nevertheless, always carry a flashlight or headlamp and spare batteries when you take to the trail in the event of a longer than anticipated return.

WEATHER

Temperatures are generally warming but do not be fooled. Snow can accumulate even at Valley locations into late spring.

Your best approach to the weather: check the latest forecast but always be prepared for all extremes but cold nights are almost guaranteed. Dress in layers so that you can adjust to weather changes.

Weather in mountainous climates, like Yosemite, varies drastically depending on elevation with temperatures cooling by as much as five degrees for every 1,000 feet of elevation gain; a moderate rain in the Valley can be a white-out blizzard with just a short drive or hike.



All issue illustrations by Tom Whitworth

NAVIGATION

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

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Rain and melting snow fill our rivers and streams so flow velocity is high. It is beautiful to witness but moving water is deceptive and deadly. Currents are too forceful for the strongest swimmers to survive even a shallow water plunge. Waters that appear still and green can have powerful unseen currents. In short, stay away from streambanks where a simple slip can have disastrous consequences and never attempt a water crossing except in safe and designated areas.

YOSEMITE'S ROADS

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+1 for current conditions and restrictions. Be aware of changing conditions such as moisture freezing on the road surface or remaining frozen in shadows even while other surfaces have thawed. Carry tire chains – they may be required on short notice.

YOSEMITE'S TRAILS

Know before you go! Some trails and trail segments may be closed due to weather or other hazards- check ahead with a visitor center during business hours and obey all signage. All trails can be icy or wet—use tools that are helpful to you! Trekking poles, crampons or other footwear traction can help with preventing a serious fall. Check the latest weather forecast to stay prepared.

FOR ALL SEASONS

- Let someone know – always leave your travel and hiking plan, including your intended route and estimated time of return, with a trusted person.
- Stay on established trails – do not take shortcuts.
- River, streams and lakes can be hazardous all year. Maintain awareness and crossing water should only be attempted where it is safe.
- regardless of season you still need to stay hydrated and snack frequently! 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).

HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases 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. 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 animals, including humans.

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

Early symptoms of plague may include fever, chills, nausea, 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.

WILDERNESS ETIQUETTE: USING YOUR BACKWOODS BATHROOM

When nature calls, make sure you are at least 200 feet away from any water source. Dig a hole in dirt at least 6 inches deep so you're able to bury your waste—your toilet paper gets packed out with you. Don't bury it! If you are in snow and can't dig a hole to soil—you are expected to pack out your waste as well.



...and Yosemite



Black bear logging in Photo by Karen Amstutz

Keep 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, acorns, and grubs. It's easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling on 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 see in color, so they recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.

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.**

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.

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
- Possessing or using marijuana, including medical marijuana
- Operating an unmanned aircraft system ("drone")

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 NATIONAL PARK ZERO LANDFILL INITIATIVE

Be a steward of Yosemite by helping make Yosemite the first Zero Landfill park in the country. Through the Zero Landfill Initiative, Yosemite National Park is reducing the amount of trash that goes to the landfill every year. In partnership with Yosemite Hospitality, we are making it easier for visitors and staff to participate by adding more recycling containers with better labels. We are also working to reduce the amount of waste we generate in park management operations.

Here are 3 things you can do to help:

1. Get rid of excess packaging by repacking food in reuseable containers before you leave home.
2. Use refillables! Bring a refillable water bottle and travel mug. Camping? Use refillable propane canisters.
3. Put trash and recycling in the right containers.



Winter in Yosemite

By Ranger Karen Amstutz



Yosemite Valley snow. Photo by Karen Amstutz

Low-angle winter sun creeps along the south rim of Yosemite Valley, bathing the landscape in soft, glinting light. Visiting the park this time of year, your footsteps crunching in the snow may be the only sound you hear. Most deciduous trees are reduced to bare branches decked in rime ice crystals, with a blanket of decaying leaves covering the ground below. Clumps of grasses, decorated with ice and hoarfrost crystals, line the edges of open water in the meadows. The ledges and pinnacles on the cliffs of The Valley may be highlighted with snow while the Merced River quietly carries her waters beneath a layer of ice. Cold, calm days of winter beckon us. Put on our parkas and boots, hats and mittens and get out for a walk to witness the transformed scenery! What unseen struggles for survival are going on behind the scenes? With our awareness peaked by the insulated world around us we notice subtleties and wonder, what tiny birds might be calling in the tops of the towering pines on the coldest of days? Who made those zig zagging tracks in the snow through the forest? What is that coyote hunting for in the snow-covered meadow? When did these countless ladybugs arrive in Yosemite Valley? Where are the bears now? How can these creatures survive the harsh conditions of winter in the mountains? As you walk the wintry trails, engage all your senses to explore and look for clues as to how plants and animals tolerate the cold temperatures and scarcity of food and water winter season.

Birds Adaptations

Of all the birds that move through Yosemite through the year, only around a quarter are present in winter. Scarcity of food and life-threatening cold drive most species to lower

elevations or latitudes until spring. Those tiny, noisy birds in the tree tops are most likely mountain chickadees foraging together with other small birds such as brown creepers, red-breasted nuthatches and kinglets. The chattering you hear is vital to their survival--they chatter to each other to keeping the flock together (as they move through the branches?). Travelling together lets them feed on frozen insects while more eyes look out for predators. On extremely cold nights, these little birds might huddle together to keep warm, though mountain chickadees usually take shelter alone under a flake of bark or a clump of needles. Chickadees have a half inch covering of feathers on their bodies; a genuine down jacket! During below freezing nights, chickadees enter into minihibernation or torpor where their body temperature lowers to just above freezing, the heart rate slows, and they maintain a minimal body temperature to stay alive by burning all their fat. They must replace that fat each winter day to survive. A chickadee weighs in at half an ounce and must consume 10 calories a day to maintain body weight.

Subnivean world

The cold blanket of snow on the ground actually traps heat, maintaining a constant temperature near freezing. It may seem like a chilly place hang out in winter, but the layer of snow protects plants, small mammals and insects from the widely fluctuating temperatures above. This layer beneath the snow is called the subnivean. Invisible to humans, mice, voles and shrews stay active in the subnivean world throughout the winter. Most survive on food cached in underground

pantries or tunnels in the snow. Some hunt insects. Mice and voles live communally in winter, huddled together through the coldest nights, or sometimes for days at a time.

Snow can protect

While invisible to the human eye, small overwintering mammals in the subnivean are still vulnerable to predators. A predator like a coyote will stalk the meadow using keen hearing and sense of smell to hunt for mice and voles. Perhaps you will be fortunate enough to see a coyote hunting, moving slowly with ears cocked, head low, nose twitching hesitating every minute or so. Suddenly, coyote stops, leaps into the air and lands, plunging her snout deep into the snow. A successful coyote will throw her head back and reveal a mouse in her jaws. All this effort may only land the coyote a face full of snow, so the coyote must perform this act many times a day to secure enough protein to make it through the cold winter days.

Conserving Energy

Many mammals who are active through winter, like tree squirrels, rabbits, mice, bobcats, weasels and coyotes, grow thicker coats of fur for the cold season. The mule deer has hollow hair shafts for trapping air and warming it. Most predators are active in winter and are solitary, relying more on thick fur and body shape and taking nightly shelter to retain heat. Another way to get through the frigid season is to become inactive in a state, either hibernation or torpor. Not many animals in Yosemite truly hibernate. Amphibians, reptiles, some insects, ground squirrels and marmots are among those that do. Hibernation is long term dormancy. Torpor is short term.

Yosemite's black bears are seldom seen in winter but if there is a period of warm weather they may appear around campgrounds or housing areas, famished! They have been in a state of torpor, or short-term dormancy, with body temperature lowered and metabolism slowed. This is a great way for a big mammal to save energy during winter's famine, but when a bear emerges from a den after torpor, the need to find calories is immediate. Coming out when winter is still covering the mountains in snow means food is scarce and the bear will have to work hard to survive. This is a dangerous time for a bear.

Some animals, like ladybugs, seek out higher elevations in winter. The colder temperatures inspire their bodies to go dormant, slowing metabolism and lowering body temperature. To keep their cells from freezing they synthesize glycerol; the same ingredient we use in our car antifreeze. Pretty clever!

As you walk, ski or snow shoe along the quiet trails of Yosemite, tune in to tracks left by wildlife the night before. Try to unfold the mystery left in those signs, and what happened there. As you head to your warm place for the night, feel the cold air and ponder the challenges of life for the animals who are surviving in the never-ending cycle of seasons in the mountains.

Want to get out there and learn more? See page 5 of this Guide for a schedule of guided interpretive walks and snowshoe trips.

Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

Enhance the Visitor Experience

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

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



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.

Yosemite Hospitality LLC



Yosemite Hospitality, a division of Aramark, operates lodging, food and beverage, retail, recreational activities, tours, interpretive programs, transportation, and service stations under contract with the U.S. Department of Interior with a focus on delivering authentic and memorable guest experiences. Yosemite Hospitality encourages employees to immerse themselves in the Park and all of the experiences offered

For more information on employment opportunities with Yosemite Hospitality at Yosemite National Park visit www.yosemitehospitalityjobs.com.

NatureBridge



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

Yosemite Conservancy



Providing For Yosemite's Future

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. Work funded by the Conservancy is visible throughout the park, in trail rehabilitation, wildlife protection and habitat restoration. The Conservancy is also dedicated to enhancing the visitor experience and providing a deeper connection to the park through outdoor programs, volunteering, wilderness services and its bookstores. Thanks to dedicated supporters, the Conservancy has provided more than \$113 million in grants to Yosemite National Park. Learn more at www.yosemiteconservancy.org or call 415/434-1782.

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Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

Over 10,800 volunteers donated more than 186,000 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 or call the volunteer office at 209/379- 1850.



Yosemite Name Changes

The names of the following facilities in Yosemite have changed.

The changed names are:

- Half Dome Village (formerly Curry Village)
- Yosemite Valley Lodge (formerly Yosemite Lodge)
- The Majestic Yosemite Hotel (formerly The Ahwahnee)
- Big Trees Lodge (formerly Wawona Hotel)
- Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area (formerly Badger Pass Ski Area)
- Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge)

Lose Something in Yosemite?

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, call 209/379-1001 or email yose_lostandfound@nps.gov



Raven, Photo by Karen Kroner Amstutz