

Official Map and Guide

From Glacier Point the scenery spreads out in all directions, giving you a breathtaking view no matter which way you look. Looking northeast, you see Half Dome.

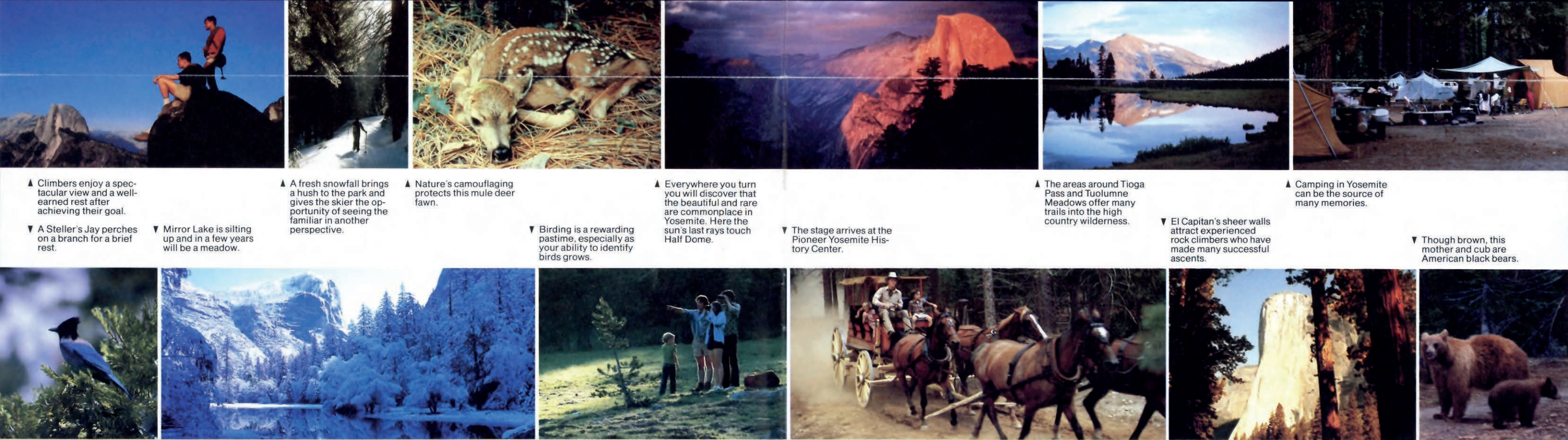
Yosemite National Park embraces a vast tract of scenic wildlands set aside in 1890 to preserve a portion of the Sierra Nevada that stretches along California's eastern flank. The park ranges from 2,000 feet above sea level to more than 13,000 feet and offers 3 major features; alpine wilderness, groves of Giant Sequoias, and Yosemite Valley. The 196 miles of roads give access to all of these features either by car or by free shuttle bus in some areas. To get to know the real Yosemite, however, you must leave your car and take a few steps on a trail. You don't have to

walk far to discover the grandeur that can be found here and the values this special place offers. Millions of people have come to Yosemite and left refreshed and relaxed and perhaps a bit more knowledgeable about what they want out of life. See what you can find.

The story of Yosemite began about 500 million years ago when the Sierra Nevada region lay beneath an ancient sea. Thick layers of sediment lay on the sea bed, which eventually was folded and twisted

and thrust above sea level. Simultaneously molten rock welled up from deep within the earth and cooled slowly beneath the layers of sediment to form granite. Erosion gradually wore away almost all the overlying rock and exposed the granite. Even as uplifts continued to form the Sierra, water and then glaciers went to work to carve the face of Yosemite. Weathering and erosion continue to shape it today.

Visiting the Park



Tuolumne Meadows and the High Country
This section of Yosemite has some of the most rugged, sublime scenery in the Sierra. In summer the meadows, lakes, and exposed granite slopes teem with life. Because of the short growing season, the plants and animals take maximum advantage of the warm days to grow, reproduce, and store food for the winter ahead.

The Tioga Road, State Route 120, crosses this area. This scenic highway, originally built as a mining road in 1882-83, was realigned and modernized in 1961. The road passes through an area of sparkling lakes, fragile meadows, domes, and lofty peaks that only 10,000 years ago lay under glacial ice. Overlooks along the road afford superb views. At Tioga Pass the road crosses the Sierra's crest at 9,945 feet, the highest automobile pass in California.

Tuolumne Meadows, at 8,600 feet, is the largest sub-alpine meadow in the Sierra. It is 55 miles from Yosemite Valley via the Tioga Road. Long a focal point of summer activity, it is growing in popularity as a winter mountaineering area. In the summer Tuolumne Meadows is a favorite starting point for backpacking trips and day hikes. The meadows are spectacular in early summer, abounding in wildflowers and wildlife.

Rangers at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center, open during the summer, can help you. Remember that Yosemite's meadows are fragile and are easily affected by foot traffic and are closed to bicycles and autos.

A trip into the high country can be rewarding. But remember that the elevation ranges from 7,000 to 13,000 feet, and the vigorous exercise can make even hardy visitors short of breath. Slow your pace, and take time to awaken your sense of wonder.

Glacier Point
Glacier Point is one of those rare places where the scenery is so vast that it overwhelms the viewer. Below, a sheer rock cliff about 3,200 feet straight down affords you a bird's eye view of the entire Yosemite Valley. Across the valley you can see the 2,425-foot drop of Yosemite Falls. Beyond, the panoramic expanse of the High Sierra stands out in awe-inspiring clarity. Signs identify major peaks. Sunset and full-moon nights are ideal times to visit the point. A full moon transforms the pastel granite landscape into a fairytale. In summer you can drive to Glacier Point, 32 miles from Yosemite Valley. In winter, when the road is closed at Badger Pass Ski Area, Glacier Point is a favorite destination for crosscountry skiers.

But no matter how you travel or when you go, Glacier Point offers what may be Yosemite's finest view.

Giant Sequoia Groves
The Mariposa Grove, 35 miles south of Yosemite Valley, is the largest of 3 sequoia groves in Yosemite. The Tuolumne and Merced Groves are near Crane Flat. Despite human pressures, these towering trees, largest of all living things, have endured for thousands of years. Only in recent years, have we begun to understand the giant sequoia environment. During the last 100 years protection has sometimes been inadequate and sometimes excessive. For example, in the late 1800s tunnels were cut through two trees in the Mariposa Grove. Conversely, good intentions created another problem; protection from fire has resulted in adverse effects.

Sequoias are wonderfully adapted to fire. The wood and bark are fire-resistant. Black scars on a number of large trees that are still prospering indicate they have survived many scorching fires. Sequoia reproduction also depends on fire. The tiny seeds require mineral soil for germination, and seedlings need sunlight. Historically, frequent natural fires opened the forest, thinned out competing plant species, and left rich mineral soil behind. But years of fire suppression

have allowed debris, such as fallen branches, to accumulate, stifling reproduction and allowing shade-tolerant trees to encroach. Prescribed fires, intended to simulate natural fires and improve the health of the forest, are now set by the National Park Service. For additional information on the parkwide fire management program, contact any park visitor center.

As you look at these trees, keep in mind that they have been here since the beginning of history in the western world. The Mariposa Grove's Grizzly Giant, 2,700 years old, is thought to be the oldest living sequoia. Private vehicles are not permitted beyond the parking area in the Mariposa Grove. You may ride the trams through the Grove from May until October. Trails are available year-round for hiking or cross-country skiing.

Wawona
Wawona was once an Indian encampment and, later, was the site of a wayside hotel built in 1857 by Galen Clark. Known as Clark's Station, it served as a stop for visitors in transit between Yosemite Valley and Mariposa. In 1864, when Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were set aside for protection, Clark became the first guardian of the area. In 1875, the year the original Wawona road opened, the Washburn brothers pur-

chased the area and built the Wawona Hotel that is still in operation today. Wawona focuses on Yosemite's human history. It is the setting of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, a collection of relocated historic buildings and horse-drawn coaches.

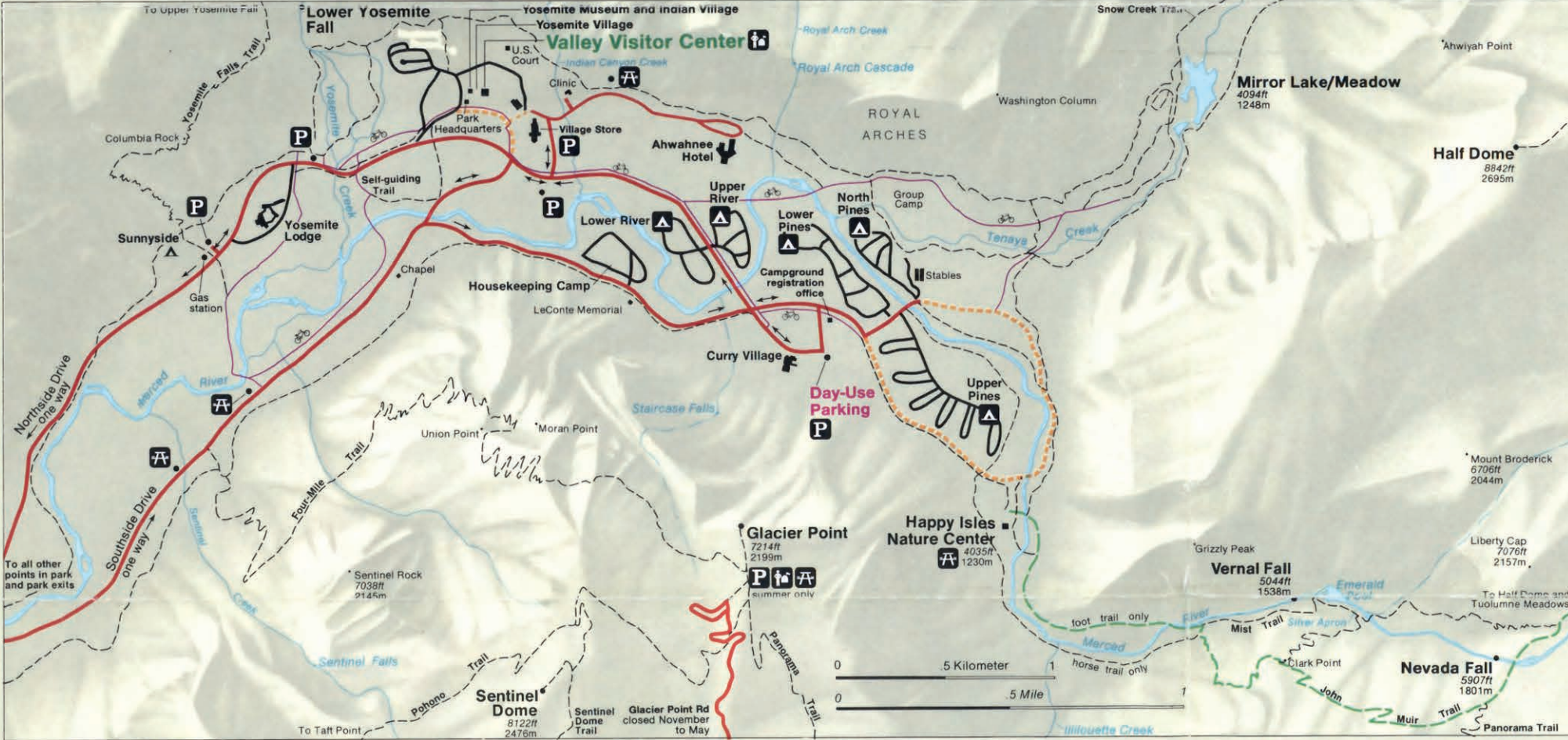
Wilderness
Yosemite's wilderness is varied and offers hiking and backpacking experiences for the seasoned hiker and the novice. About 800 miles of trails offer a variety of climate, elevation, and spectacular scenery. Near the crest of the Sierra Nevada you can take long and short trips at elevations above 9,000 feet. The higher regions offer a cool climate; lower elevations are warmer and drier.

To protect Yosemite's wilderness, free wilderness permits are required for overnight use. They are available at front country ranger stations and visitor centers. Maps and guide books are available at visitor centers to help you plan your trip. Be sure to read the information you receive with your permit and observe all regulations. Remember to keep your impact to a minimum. Please use appropriate equipment and good footgear.

In winter the wilderness is receiving increased mountaineering use. Crosscountry skiing and snowshoeing

have grown in popularity and open a new world for the wilderness user. The high country is a wonderland. Deep snow covers the land, and summer landmarks may be unrecognizable. Winter in the wilderness is more demanding than summer. Good equipment, warm clothing, and proper planning are essential for a safe and comfortable trip into the harsh Sierra Nevada winter environment. Backcountry travel, both summer and winter, can be gratifying. However, you are experiencing the mountains on their terms, and the mountains are not forgiving to the careless or unprepared.

When you get your wilderness permit, winter or summer, ask about trail conditions, weather forecasts, campfire regulations, and special precautions you should take in the area where you will be travelling. Double check your equipment and food, stay on established trails, don't shortcut switchbacks, and observe proper food storage regulations. If you hike alone, tell someone where you're going and when you will return. For stock use, check at any ranger station. Pets, bicycles, and firearms are not allowed in the wilderness.



Activities, Services, General Information
The *Yosemite Guide*, a free newspaper available at various park locations, provides current information and lists ranger talks, facilities, services, and phone numbers. For 24-hour road and weather conditions and recorded park information, call 209-372-0200. Visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/yose.

Campgrounds are located throughout the park; some are open all year. Utility hookups are not available, but all campgrounds have toilets and water (treat stream water before using). Reservations are required for most campgrounds. To reserve campsites through DESTINET write: DESTINET, 9450 Carrol Park, San Diego, CA 92121, or call 1-800-436-7275 in the United States and Canada. The number for international callers is 619-452-8787. Visit the website at www.destinet.com. DESTINET accepts campground reservations 4 months in advance, beginning on the 15th of each month. (For example, call on January 15 to make reservations

between May 15 and June 14.) For general campground information, call 209-372-0200. Eating facilities, stores, and lodging are available in Yosemite Valley, Wawona, and El Portal year-round, and at Tuolumne Meadows and White Wolf during the summer season. Reservations for accommodations are recommended. Write: Yosemite Park Lodging Reservations, 5410 East Home, Fresno, CA 93727; or call 209-252-4848. For information on High Sierra Camps, call 209-454-2002.

Printed information in Spanish, Japanese, German, and French is available on request. Publications about the park may be purchased in the park or by writing to Yosemite Association, Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318.

Accessibility
For visitors with disabilities an information packet and vehicle wheelchair-embell placards for special driv-

ing privileges are available at park entrances and information stations.

Protecting Yourself
Serious injuries and fatalities occur with frightening frequency and the loss of or damage to personal belongings is a common complaint. The causes of these incidents are varied, but they have a common denominator—the victims did not know the danger of what they were doing.

Speed limits in Yosemite nowhere exceed 45 miles per hour and are lower where posted. Most accidents occur because of excessive speed and careless driving. Drive only on the roads.

Bears are attracted to human food. In trying to obtain that food, bears cause hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to vehicles, foodstuffs, and camping equipment each year. Federal regulations, designed

to minimize the chance of bears obtaining human food, require that you store your food certain ways while in Yosemite. Use food storage lockers when available. If lockers are not available, all food and food containers must be stored either in the trunk of a vehicle or covered and out of sight in vehicles without trunks. Improper food storage is a violation subject to fine. A list of precautions you should take and additional information on bears is available at park entrances and campgrounds.

Mountain Lions live in this park. Avoid hiking or running alone, and watch your children closely. If you encounter a mountain lion, do not run or crouch down. Pick up little children. Wave, shout, and throw stones. If attacked, fight back.

Feeding wildlife, including birds and other animals, such as coyotes, deer, and squirrels, results in injuries to visitors and an unhealthy environment for wildlife.

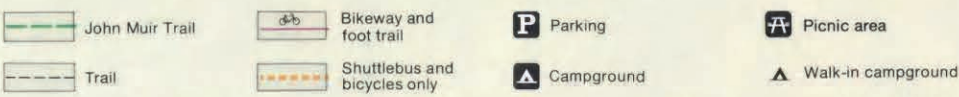
Yosemite Valley

"The Incomparable Valley," so it has been called, is probably the world's best known example of a glacier-carved canyon. Its leaping waterfalls, towering cliffs, rounded domes, and massive monoliths make it a preeminent natural marvel. These attributes have inspired poets, painters, photographers, John Muir, and millions of visitors for more than 100 years. Nowhere in Yosemite is the sense of scale so dramatic.

Yosemite Valley is characterized by sheer walls and a flat floor. Its evolution began when alpine glaciers lumbered through the canyon of the Merced River. The ice carved through weaker sections of granite, plucking and scouring rock but leaving intact harder portions, such as El Capitan and Cathedral Rocks. The glacier greatly enlarged the canyon that the Merced River had carved through successive uplifts of the Sierra. Finally the glacier began to melt and the terminal moraine left by the last glacial advance into the valley dammed the melting water to form ancient Lake Yosemite, which sat in the newly carved U-shaped valley. Sediment eventually filled in the lake, forming the flat valley floor you see today. This same process is now filling Mirror Lake at the base of Half Dome.

The valley is a mosaic of open meadows sprinkled

IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES CALL 911



Disturbing or feeding wildlife is a violation subject to fine.

Rivers, streams, and waterfalls can be treacherous at all times, but especially when water levels are high. Approach them cautiously and be alert for undercut banks and slippery rocks. Fast currents and cold water are deadly combinations. Do not swim above waterfalls or in swift water.

Do not drink untreated water from streams, lakes, or snow. To treat, boil for 3 minutes, use an iodine-based purifier, or use a Giardia-rated water filter.

Trails are the safest routes when travelling off roads. Straying off trails results in lost children and hikers as well as injuries caused by falls. Do not scramble up cliffs or over rocks—take the trail. Rock climbing is for the experienced. For safety reasons horses and mules have the right-of-way on trails; stand quietly at trailside

until they pass. While hiking in steep terrain, watch out for rock slides.

Valuables should not be left unattended. Store them securely and lock your vehicle when you leave it. If you camp, place lanterns, stoves, and other equipment inside your tent or vehicle when you leave your campsite. Report thefts promptly.

Bicycles are allowed only on established, paved public roads, in parking areas, and on designated paved bikeways. Pedestrians should use footpaths. Bicyclists must always exercise care to ensure the safety of pedestrians, other bicyclists, and wildlife. Keep to the right of the center line except to pass. Bicycles are not allowed on any park trails.

Yosemite

Caution. This map should not be used for hiking. Use appropriate USGS topographic maps.

John Muir Trail and Pacific Crest Trail
Trail

0 1 Kilometer
0 1 Mile

There are camping fees and limits on length of stay. Firewood gathering is prohibited in Yosemite Valley, Giant Sequoia Groves, and elevations above 9,600 feet. It is allowed in other parts of the park. Wood gathered must be down on the ground and dead. Cutting

standing trees or attached limbs, alive or dead, is prohibited. Campfires are permitted only at designated campsites and firesites. Check for local regulations when camping in Yosemite Valley. Burn only dry wood to minimize smoke pollution. Extinguish fires with

water before leaving. Smoldering campfires can burn down into the ground and then travel laterally for great distances. Where there is sufficient fuel, they may burn back to the surface. Report all wildfires to the nearest ranger station.

Pets must be kept on a

leash. They are not allowed on trails, beaches, in the backcountry, or in public buildings. Campers with pets are restricted to Bridalveil Creek, Crane Flat, Hodgdon Meadow, Tuolumne Meadows, Upper Pines, Wawona, White Wolf, and Yosemite Creek campgrounds. A boarding kennel is available at the

Yosemite Valley stables during the summer. Firearms. Hunting or discharging any kind of weapon is prohibited. Firearms must be unloaded and cased at all times within the park.

Fishing is permitted with

a California license, which can be purchased at the Village Store Sport Shop or Wawona Store in summer, or at the Curry Village Mountain Shop in winter. State rules apply on season and catch. Local regulations may apply in Yosemite Valley.

All park features are protected. Do not deface or remove any natural or historic features. Do not pick wildflowers or other plants, or kill, capture, feed, or molest wildlife.

Administration. Yosemite National Park is administered by the National Park Service, a part of the U.S.

Department of the Interior. For information write: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389-0577 USA.

Picnic area
Ranger station
Campground
Backpacker walk-in campground
Parking
Food service and lodging
High Sierra Camp (by reservation only)
Gas station

