

Yosemite Guide



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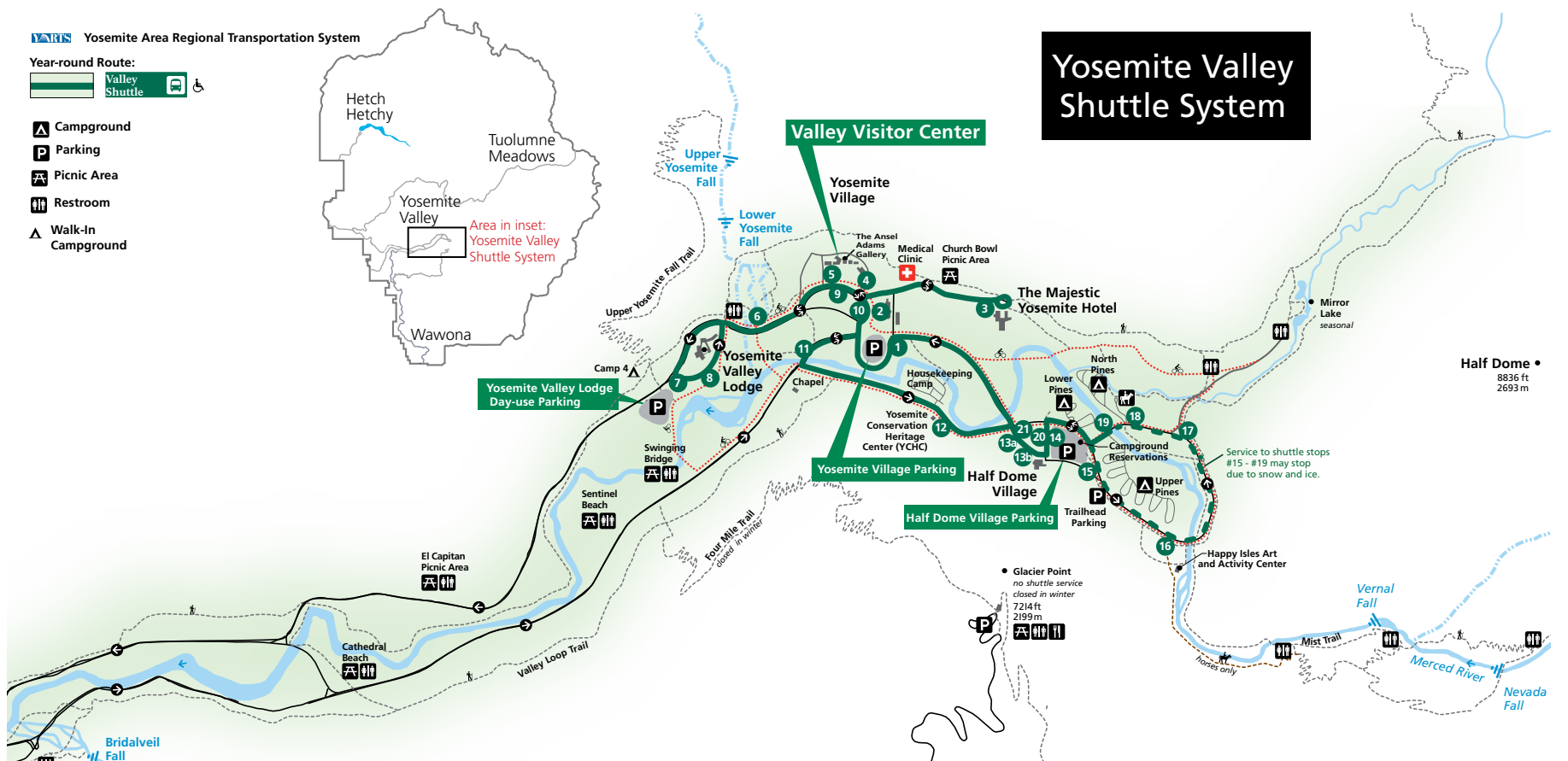
Photo by Sheree Peshlakai

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide February 6, 2019 - April 2, 2019

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The Yosemite Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7am to 10pm and serves stops in numerical order. Shuttles run daily every 10 to 20 minutes, depending on time of day. See schedule posted at shuttle stops. *In the event of snow and ice, buses may suspend service to shuttle stops #15 - #19.*

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Yosemite Village Parking	8	Yosemite Valley Lodge	15	Upper Pines Campground / Trailhead Parking
2	Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	16	Happy Isles / Mist Trail
3	The Majestic Yosemite Hotel	12	YCHC / Housekeeping Camp	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
4	Degnan's Kitchen	13a	Ice Rink (Until March 4 Only)	18	North Pines Campgrounds
5	Yosemite Valley Visitor Center	13b	Half Dome Village	19	Pines Campgrounds
6	Lower Yosemite Falls	14	Half Dome Village Parking		
7	Camp 4 / Yosemite Falls Parking				

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

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Things to Do

Winter in Yosemite



Photo by Kenny Karst

Winter Sports

CRANE FLAT SNOW PLAY AREA

A snow play area is open at Crane Flat Campground in winter when 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 14, conditions permitting. Live information on winter sports is available by calling (209) 372-8430; recorded information is available at (209) 372-1000. See pg. 6 for hours of operation.

YSSA A-FRAME

Open 9am to 4pm, seven days a week when the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area (YSSA) is open. 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. *Open as conditions permit.*

YSSA SHUTTLE (Free)

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

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

Departing Yosemite Valley to YSSA:
Half Dome Village - 8:05am & 10:35am
Yosemite Village - 8:10am & 10:40am
The Majestic Yosemite Hotel - 8:15am & 10:45am
Yosemite Valley Lodge - 8:30am & 11am

Departing YSSA to Yosemite Valley:
Depart YSSA at 2pm and 4:30pm

ICE SKATING

Take the shuttle to Half Dome Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience that includes a spectacular view of Half Dome. The ice rink hours, *conditions permitting*, are Monday through Friday, 3:30pm to 6pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm; weekends, noon to 2:30pm in addition to weekday hours. Holidays hours are from 8:30am to 11am, in addition to weekend hours. Private party rental are available during weekday mornings.

WALKING AND HIKING

Yosemite Valley has a wide range of walking and hiking possibilities throughout the year. Stop by Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for trail maps and more information about weather and current trail conditions.

Programs and Guided Adventures

NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Naturalists give walks and talks about Yosemite's natural and cultural history every day. See page 5 for schedule. Snowshoe walks are dependent on weather, road, and snow conditions. For additional information, check local listings at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and at any Tours & Activity Desks.

ADVENTURE OUT WITH YOSEMITE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

We provide outdoor adventures for people of all experience levels. We are here to help you learn how to enjoy Yosemite 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 Nordic skiers and snowshoe trips. Reservations required. Call (209) 372-8444 or email yms@aramark.com.

TAKE A PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS

Enjoy the beauty of winter 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.

YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY ART PROGRAMS

Join Yosemite Conservancy for a range of activities at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center. Learn from a professional artist, stop by family-friendly crafts and activities, browse supplies and original artwork, and more. The center is open daily, 9am to 4pm, starting March 31.

Daily art classes for ages 12 and up are taught by volunteer instructors, Monday through Saturday, 10am to 2pm (unless otherwise noted), and are typically held outside. Most workshops are \$20 per person, per class (materials and supplies not included). Upcoming classes include:

- Apr 1-6 *Nature Drawing for Beginners with Sean Edgerton*
- Apr 8-13 *Mosaic Making with Nancy Meyer*
- Apr 15-20 *Spring Watercolor for Beginners with Steve Curl*

We also offer a drop-in Art Table and Open Studio (daily, 11am to 3pm, starting March 31). To learn more and register for any of our art programs, visit yosemiteconservancy.org/art, contact us at (209) 372-0631 or artcenter@yosemiteconservancy.org, or visit Happy Isles!

YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY ADVENTURES

Experience the park in a new way with Yosemite Conservancy's naturalist guides! Upcoming outings include:

- Feb 9 *Snowshoe Yosemite: Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias*
- Feb 21-24 *Yosemite Photography: Horsetail Fall & Winter Landscapes*
- Mar 2 *Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas atop Dewey Point*
- Mar 9 *Snowshoe Yosemite: Wildlife in Mariposa Grove*
- Mar 16: *Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas atop Dewey Point*
- Mar 28-31 *Watercolor Weekend: Plein-Air Painting in Yosemite Valley*
- Mar 29 *Yosemite's Stage Coach Roads: Wawona & Big Oak Flat*
- Mar 31 *Merced River Canyon Wildflower Hike*
- Apr 12-13 *Leave No Trace Trainer Backpack*

To learn more and/or to sign up, visit yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures or call (209) 379-2317 ext. 10. Custom Adventures can be arranged for individuals and groups. Proceeds from all our programs help preserve and protect Yosemite.

Outside Yosemite Valley

PIONEER YOSEMITE HISTORY CENTER

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.

TUOLUMNE GROVE

The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 mature sequoias is near the Big Oak Flat and Tioga road intersection at Crane Flat. The moderately strenuous trail leads downhill, dropping 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. There is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail in the grove. There is no potable water in the area so bring drinking water with you.

MERCED GROVE

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of approximately 20 mature trees accessible only on foot. It's a three-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe. The trail drops 1.5 miles, making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water so bring drinking water. 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.

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, 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. Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

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 \$35/Vehicle

Motorcycle Valid for 7 days \$30/motorcycle

Individual Valid for 7 days \$20, (In a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse)

Yosemite Park Pass \$70 Valid for one year in Yosemite.

Interagency Annual Pass \$80 Valid for 1 year at all federal recreation sites.

Interagency Senior Pass \$80 (Lifetime) For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

Interagency Annual Senior Pass \$20 (Annual) 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

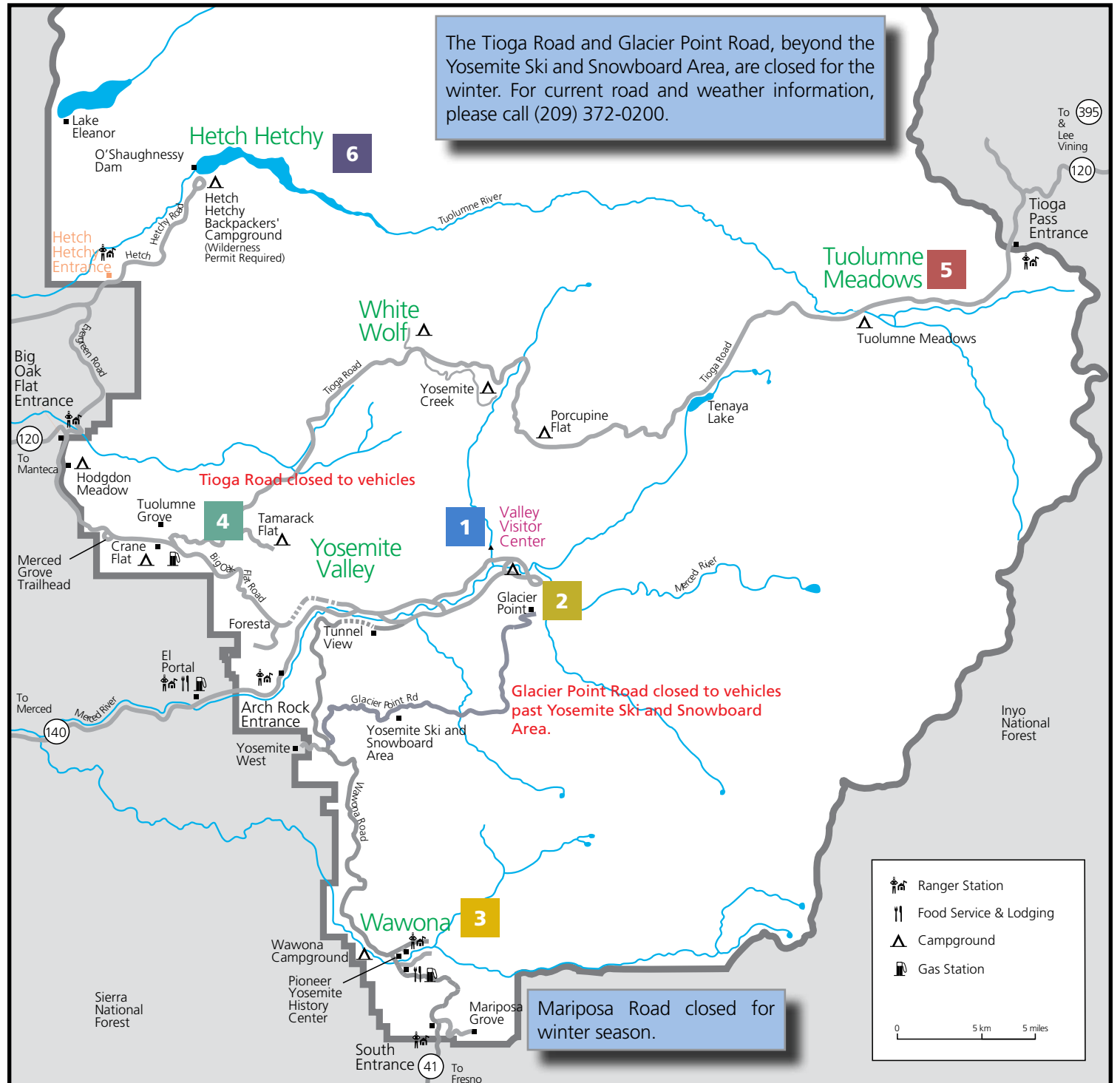
209/742-4567

www.homeofyosemite.com

HIGHWAY 120 EAST

Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center, 760/647-6629

www.leevining.com



Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

In the event of heavy rainfall, road conditions may become hazardous, especially in areas recently burned by the Ferguson Fire. The risk of rockfalls, debris flows, and mudslides increases after a fire, mainly because of vegetation loss and increased runoff. High-risk areas for rock falls and debris flows are located within burned areas along the Highway 140 and 41 corridors. Be aware, drive cautiously, and obey posted signs and closures.

Chain Control Information:

Winter road conditions through Yosemite National Park may require tire chains. It is possible that your route will take you from an elevation of 3,000 feet up to an elevation of 7,000 feet in just a few miles, and road conditions can vary widely with the terrain. For updated 24-hour road and weather conditions for Yosemite National Park, please call (209) 372-0200.

You are required to have and carry chains or traction devices in your vehicle any time you see a "Chains Required" sign. Speed limit is 25 MPH. Signs will indicate when chains must be installed on your tires. Here is a short explanation of chain control signs on Yosemite roads.



R1 - This sign indicates that all vehicles without mud and snow tires are required to install traction devices. Vehicles that have mud and snow tires do not need to have traction devices on but must carry chains. All vehicles towing trailers must have chains on one drive axle. Trailers with brakes must have chains on at least one trailer axle.



R2 - This sign indicates that chains or traction devices must be installed on ALL vehicles except 4-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicles with mud and snow tires. Four-wheel drive vehicles do not need traction devices installed but must have 4-wheel drive engaged.



R3 - This sign indicates that ALL vehicles are required to install traction devices, regardless of having mud and snow tires or 4-wheel/all-wheel drive capability, **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

*Mud and snow tires are commonly indicated by an "M+S" icon on the side of the tire.

*Be sure to install traction devices on the drive axle of your vehicle.

Yosemite Valley

1 Yosemite Valley 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 Road

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 snowfall.* When the road is snow-covered and conditions permit, a system of cross-country ski tracks are maintained on it. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail leads you to a stunning view looking into Yosemite Valley.

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. While the Mariposa Grove Road closes to cars in the winter, approximately from the end of November until mid-March, the road is open to hikers, snowshoers, and skiers, and all trails in the grove remain open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite.

Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

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

Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

5 The Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. *The road closes after the first big snowfall, and overnight parking ends on October 15.* The road's elevation ranges from 6,200 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 Winter. Photo by Christine White Loberg



The view from Glacier Point. NPS Photo



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



Tenaya Lake. NPS Photo



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. NPS Photo

Yosemite Valley

Information, Art, and Exhibits



Trowzers Akimbo, *The Otters are Back*, Oil Painting, Yosemite Renaissance 34

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 Yosemite Museum is open daily from 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*.

INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Explore the cultural history of Yosemite's Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. Visit with Indian Cultural Demonstrators and see demonstrations of traditional skills such as stone tool making, basket weaving, beadwork, flutes, etc. Open daily from 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

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

YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE 34 ART EXHIBIT

The Yosemite Renaissance competition and exhibit opens in February at the Yosemite Museum Gallery in the heart of Yosemite Valley, then travels to other art centers across California. Yosemite Renaissance 34 will be on display from February 23 through May 5, 2019.

The official opening and award ceremony will be held from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Friday, February 22 at the Museum Gallery. The public is cordially invited to attend this event.

The work selected for the exhibit presents creative interpretations of Yosemite and the California Sierra Nevada region, celebrates the environment, and inspires a new generation of people to understand, preserve and protect our parks, wild lands and natural places.

This year, 62 works were chosen by 60 artists from across the nation. The Museum Gallery is open 10am to Noon and 1pm to 4pm daily.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

Open daily from 10am to 5pm, *9am to 5pm beginning March 11*. The gallery offers works of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other artists. Call (209) 372-4413 or visit www.anseladams.com.

CURRENT EXHIBIT

January 6 – February 16, 2019

Apricity - Photographs by Keith Walklet
Winter so often is maligned for its bitterness, its cold, and darkness. For former Yosemite resident and photographer, Keith S. Walklet, those characteristics are the source of much of its beauty. Rather than dreading its arrival, Walklet feels the the season is one to celebrate for its atmospheric complexity, its stark beauty and the contrast between its warm light and cool temperatures.

Apricity (n.) the warmth of the winter sun will feature a diverse selection of iconic images by Mr. Walklet which capture the drama and energy of a winter storm, the details of delicate ice formations, and the creatures that thrive in frozen landscapes. The gallery will host a reception for the artist on February 9 from 1pm to 3pm. We hope to see you there.

NEW EXHIBIT

February 17 - March 31, 2019

Killion's High Sierra - Hand cut Woodblocks and Giclees by Tom Killion
It is a celebrated aspect of art in the

National Parks that, when successful, it evokes an emotional response and depicts a consequential interpretation of these majestic spaces. There is a caveat of this art which intends to help us see more literally the form that our parks like Yosemite have taken, while also guiding our imaginations to envision these places at their purest and most elemental structures. And this sentiment is on full display when looking at the Ukiyo-ë style woodblock prints of Tom Killion.

Each print is full of life – with playful lines, graphic designs and rich color or tone – but there is also sincerity to it in the way it promotes a nearly unadulterated landscape worthy of our social values and appreciation. Starting February 17 through March 30, The Ansel Adams Gallery will be hosting an exhibition of Mr. Killion's work, from giclees to his newest woodblocks of Yosemite, to some rare and old favorites. We will also be holding an artist's reception for Tom on Saturday, February 23 from 1pm to 3pm at the gallery in Yosemite Village.

FUTURE EXHIBIT

April 1 - June 9, 2019

A World of Alternatives - Photographs by Citret, Conley, Hutchins and Kouklis
Photography as an art form is not that old, and when we refer to Traditional Photography it is often in reference to the gelatin silver print — Ansel Adams' preferred medium. In reality, what we now know as Alternative Processes — e.g. platinum, carbon, gum, collodion — often predated the more popular gelatin silver method by decades. Each of these alternatives produces rich, textured prints of subtly and atmosphere. In actuality, the platinum print yields a fuller range of tones than that of its silver successor, where the deepest shadows reveal great detail, while the highlights remain radiant with hints of delicate spectral differences.

Between April 1 and June 29, 2019, The Ansel Adams Gallery will feature a rotating exhibit *A World of Alternatives* with original work by photographers Mark Citret, Jeffrey Conley, Vaughn Hutchins and Kerik Kouklis. A variety of alternative processes will be on display, including the more modern adaptation of Platinum over Pigment printing, where digital photography and old world forms merge to create pastel tinged works that harken back to the days of hand-tinted photographs. A reception for the artists with light refreshments will be held on Saturday, April 27 from 3pm to 5pm at The Ansel Adams Gallery, come join us and discover something new with *A World of Alternatives*.

Events and Programs

Schedule

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	WAWONA
SUNDAY	<p>9:00am Merced River Canyon Wildflower Hike (March 31 Only) 8 hrs. Celebrate the start of spring in the Sierra during an expert-led day hike along the Merced River. Register: yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures. (YC) \$</p> <p>10:00am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>11:00am ART TABLE (March 31 Only) Drop-in, collaborative Yosemite-themed table art for visitors of all ages at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center (shuttle stop #16). Daily, 11am to 3pm, starting March 31. (YC)</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk - Merced Meanders 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm Historic Majestic Hotel Tour 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿</p> <p>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) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE (Feb 17 Only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$</p> <p>8:30pm NIGHT PROWL 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$</p> <p>8:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Except Feb 17) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$</p>	<p>Check local listings for additional programs, at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and at any Tours & Activity Desks.</p>
MONDAY	<p>10:00am Art Workshop (April 1 Only) 4 hrs. Expert-led workshop at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center. Register online: yosemiteconservancy.org/art. Drop-ins welcome if space is available. Ages 12+. See page 1. (YC) \$</p> <p>11:00am ART TABLE (April 1 Only) Drop-in, collaborative Yosemite-themed table art for visitors of all ages at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center (shuttle stop #16). Daily, 11am to 3pm, starting March 31. (YC)</p> <p>1:00pm Ansel Adams' Legacy and Your Digital Camera Photography Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk - Yosemite's First People 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm Historic Majestic Hotel Tour 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿</p> <p>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) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Evening Program 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE (Feb 18 Only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$</p> <p>8:30pm NIGHT PROWL 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$</p> <p>8:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Except Feb 18) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$</p>	<p>Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families.</p>
TUESDAY	<p>9:00am Camera Walk 1.5 hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>10:00am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>10:00am Art Workshop (April 2 Only) 4 hrs. Expert-led workshop at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center. Register online: yosemiteconservancy.org/art. Drop-ins welcome if space is available. Ages 12+. See page 1. (YC) \$</p> <p>10:30am Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter (February 26 Only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing. Snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>11:00am ART TABLE (April 2 Only) Drop-in, collaborative Yosemite-themed table art for visitors of all ages at Happy Isles Art and Nature Center (shuttle stop #16). Daily, 11am to 3pm, starting March 31. (YC)</p> <p>1:00pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk - Geology 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm Historic Majestic Hotel Tour 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿</p> <p>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) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE (Feb 19 Only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$</p> <p>8:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Except Feb 19) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$</p>	
WEDNESDAY	<p>10:30am Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter (February 27 Only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing. Snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm Ansel Adams' Legacy and Your Digital Camera Photography Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk - Inspiring Generations 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm Historic Majestic Hotel Tour 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿</p> <p>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) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE (Feb 20 Only) 2 hrs. No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$</p> <p>8:30pm STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE (Except Feb 20) 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$</p>	
THURSDAY	<p>9:00am Camera Walk 1.5 hrs Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>10:30am Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter (February 28 only) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing. Snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm Using Your Digital Camera 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk - Trees 1.5 hrs. The Majestic Yosemite Hotel, shuttle stop #3 (NPS)</p> <p>2:00pm Historic Majestic Hotel Tour 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿</p> <p>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) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm FIRESIDE STORYTELLING 1 hr. Gather by the fire and listen to the stories of Yosemite's past and present! The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. (YH) ♿</p> <p>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) \$</p>	
FRIDAY	<p>9:00am Yosemite's Stage Coach Roads: Wawona & Big Oak Flat (March 29 Only) 7 hrs. Join an expert naturalist for a day of hiking and history in western Yosemite Valley. Register: yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures. (YC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk - Discover Yosemite 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm Historic Majestic Hotel Tour 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿</p> <p>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) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Film - Ansel Adams (Except Feb 8 and March 15) 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge, check local listing for venue. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>8:30pm NIGHT PROWL 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$</p> <p>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) \$</p>	
SATURDAY	<p>8:00am Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas atop Dewey Point (March 2 and 16 Only) 8 hrs. Enjoy winter views high above the Valley during an adventure with a naturalist guide. Register: yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures. (YC) \$</p> <p>9:00am Camera Walk 1.5 hrs Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>10:00am JUNIOR RANGER TALK 15 mins. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>1:00pm In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Photography Class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm Ranger Walk - Ahwahneechee Stories and Games 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm Historic Majestic Hotel Tour 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿</p> <p>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) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm Evening Program (Except Mar. 16) 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿</p> <p>8:30pm NIGHT PROWL 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$</p> <p>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) \$</p>	<p>9:00am Snowshoe Yosemite: Magic in the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias (Feb 9 Only) 7 hrs. Join an expert naturalist to learn about winter ecology and giant sequoias. Register: yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures. (YC) \$</p> <p>9:00am Snowshoe Yosemite: Wildlife in Mariposa Grove (March 9 Only) 7 hrs. Join an expert naturalist to learn about wildlife in an awe-inspiring setting. Register: yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures. (YC) \$</p>

Services in Yosemite



Tom Killion's *Yosemite Moonrise* will be on display as part of the *Killion's High Sierra* exhibit at The Ansel Adams Gallery from February 17 to March 31, 2019.

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

Food and Drink

YOSEMITE VILLAGE

Degnan's Kitchen

7am to 6pm

Village Grill

11am to 6pm, beginning March 23

THE MAJESTIC YOSEMITE HOTEL

Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm, 11:30am to 3pm, beginning March 14
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm 5:30pm to 9pm, beginning March 14
Sunday Brunch: 7am to 2pm, 7am to 3pm, beginning March 16
 Appropriate attire is respectfully requested for dinner. Reservations are strongly recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch: (209) 372-1489

The Coffee Bar

6am to 10:30am

The Majestic Bar

11:30am to 10pm, 11:30am to 11pm, beginning March 14

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Base Camp Eatery

Starbucks Coffee: 7am to 5pm, 6am to 6pm, beginning March 14
Breakfast: 7am to 11am
Lunch: 11am to 4:30pm
Dinner: 4:30pm to 9pm, 4:30pm to 9:30pm, beginning March 14

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Non-denominational)
 El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am
 Info: (209) 379-2100

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Resident Minister: Pastor Brent Moore
 Sunday Service: 9:15am
 Sunday Evening: 6:30pm
 Wednesday Midweek Chapel Service 7pm
 Thursday Bible Study (call chapel for location) 7pm
 YosemiteChapel@sbcglobal.net
 www.YosemiteValleyChapel.org
 Phone: 209-372-4831

Mountain Room Bar

Sunday - Thursday: 5pm to 10pm
 Friday - Saturday: Noon to 11pm, Beginning March 14:

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

Mountain Room Restaurant

Dinner: 5pm to 9pm
 Reservations taken for 8 or more: 209/372-1281

HALF DOME VILLAGE

Pavillion

Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Pizza Deck and Bar

Jan 4 to March 14:
 Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays only, 12pm to 9pm,
 Beginning March 15:
 11am to 10pm, daily

Coffee Corner

Jan 5 to March 14:
 Saturday and Sunday only, 6:30am to 11am,
 Beginning March 15:
 6am to 10pm, daily,
 Ice cream Service: 11am to 10pm

Grill

11am to 8pm, beginning March 15

WAWONA AREA

Big Trees Lodge

Beginning March 22:
 Breakfast: 7am to 10am

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

Catholic Mass
 Sunday 10:00 a.m. (year - round)
 Theater, behind the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, shuttle stops #5 and #9

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Yosemite Valley Chapel
 Tuesday and Thursday: 7:30pm
 Sunday: 8pm
 Oakhurst Hotline: (559) 683-1662

LIONS CLUB - First and third Thursday of each month at noon, The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Call (209) 372-4475

Lunch: 11am to 3pm
 Dinner: 5pm to 9pm
 For dinner reservations: (209) 375-1425
 Lounge Service: 5pm to 9:30pm

YOSEMITE SKI & SNOWBOARD AREA

Skiers Grill (downstairs): 8am to 4pm
Snowflake Room (upstairs): Friday-Sunday and holidays, 8am to 4pm

Groceries

YOSEMITE VILLAGE

Village Store

8am to 8pm,
 8am to 10pm, beginning March 14

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm,
 8am to 10pm, beginning March 14

HALF DOME VILLAGE

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm,
 8am to 10pm, beginning March 14

WAWONA

Big Trees Lodge Store

8am to 7pm
 8am to 8pm, beginning March 14

Gas Stations

EL PORTAL

8am to 5pm
 Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

BIG TREES LODGE SERVICE STATION

9am to 6pm. Diesel & propane.
 Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

CRANE FLAT

8am to 7pm, beginning March 14
 Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

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: 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 Museum Store

9am to 5pm (may close for lunch)

The Ansel Adams Gallery

10am to 5pm,
 9am to 5pm beginning March 11

Village Store

8am to 8pm,
 8am to 10pm, beginning March 14

Happy Isles Art and Nature Center

9am to 4pm, beginning March 31

THE MAJESTIC YOSEMITE HOTEL

Gift Shop

8am to 8pm,
 8am to 10pm, beginning March 14

Sweet Shop

7am to 10pm

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm,
 8am to 10pm, beginning March 14

HALF DOME VILLAGE

Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm,
 8am to 10pm, beginning March 14

Mountain Shop

8:30am to 6pm,
 8am to 8pm, beginning March 14

WAWONA

Big Trees Lodge Store

8am to 7pm,
 8am to 8pm, beginning March 14

MARIPOSA GROVE

The Yosemite Conservancy Depot at Mariposa Grove

9am to 5pm, beginning March (date TBD)

YOSEMITE SKI & SNOWBOARD AREA

Sport Shop 9am to 4pm

Tour & Activity Desks

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

7:30am to 3pm

VILLAGE STORE TOUR KIOSK

7:30am to 3:30pm, beginning March 27

Recreation

YOSEMITE SKI AND SNOWBOARD AREA

Lift Operation 9am to 4pm
 Lift Tickets 8:30am to 4pm
 Ski School Desk 8:30am to 4pm
 Tubing 11:30am to 1:30pm and 2pm to 4pm
 Cross Country Ski Center 8:30am to 4:30pm
 Alpine Rentals 8:30am to 4:30pm

HALF DOME VILLAGE - ICE SKATING

(Closes March 4, weather permitting) Daily, 12pm to 2:30pm, 3:30pm to 6pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm
 Weekends and holidays, 8:30am to 11am, in addition to daily hours,
 Private party rental available during weekday mornings.

GLACIER POINT

Ski Hut (Closes April 1)
 Open Friday at noon to 10am Tuesday, dinner at 6pm, conditions permitting

General Services

YOSEMITE VALLEY

Laundry (Housekeeping Camp)

8am to 10pm

Yosemite Village Garage

8am to noon, 1pm to 5pm,
 Towing available 24 hours.
 Propane available until 4:30pm.

Medical Clinic Yosemite Valley
 Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm, (209) 372-4637,
 Closed weekends and federal holidays.

For emergency care CALL 9-1-1.

Permit Information

Camping, Hiking, and Wilderness Use



Yosemite Valley Visitor Center in a snowstorm. Photo by Jamie Richards

Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits are required year round for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Permits are issued and bear canisters are available for rent in Yosemite Valley and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station during hours of operation. Self-registration permits are available at the Hill's Studio in Wawona and the Big Oak Flat Information Station. 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 online, by phone or mail. To make a reservation by phone, call (209) 372-0740, Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 4:30pm. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm, www.yosemiteconservancy.org, 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 for Yosemite Valley trailheads are available at the Visitor Center daily from 9am to 5pm. Bear canisters are also available for rent at the bookstore. For more information on wilderness travel and safety please see page 8.

WAWONA AND MARIPOSA GROVE

Self-registration wilderness permits for the Wawona and Glacier Point Road trailheads only are available on the front porch of Hill's Studio. 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.

BIG OAK FLAT

Self-registration wilderness permits for the Crane Flat area and Tioga Road trailheads only are available 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 for the Glacier Point Road trailheads only are available at the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area A-Frame.

HETCH HETCHY

Wilderness permits for the Hetch Hetchy trailheads only are available at the Entrance Station daily from 8am to 5pm. Bear canisters are also available for rent.

Half Dome Permit Information

The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be put back up May 24, 2019 conditions permitting. Permits are required 7 days a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2019 permits begins March 1, 2019 and ends March 31, 2019. To apply for permits visit recreation.gov or call (877) 444-6777. More information about the Half Dome permit process is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm>.

Camping

Upper Pines, Camp 4, Wawona, and Hodgdon Meadow are open year-round. For more information on campground opening dates, visit our website at nps.gov/yose. Call 209/372-0266 for same-day camping availability.

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:

7am to 7pm Pacific time
(November through February)
7am to 9pm 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 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 permitted within the boundaries of campgrounds in Yosemite Valley, and can otherwise be gathered anywhere in the park that is outside Yosemite Valley, below 9,600 feet, and not in a sequoia grove.

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...



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 the winter transition into 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

With winter comes shorter days; 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

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. 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.

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 travel and hiking plans, including intended routes and estimated time of return, with a trusted person.
- Stay on established trails
- 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 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, 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 or try to burn 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



Coyote in snow. Photo by Caitlin Lee-Roney

Keep Bears Wild

With warmer spring weather, bears emerge hungry from hibernation. 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. Report bear sightings and incidents to the Save-A-Bear hotline (209)372-0322 or by emailing yose_bear_mgmt@nps.gov. For more information about bears in Yosemite please visit www.keepbearswild.org.

How to Store Food "Food" includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This includes items you may not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed dishes.

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 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, 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, 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.

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.



Yosemite: Seasonal Transitions

A Ranger's Perspective



Photo by Christine Loberg

Spring Waters

Spring is here, and Yosemite is coming alive again. Grass that has lain under snow is growing, and warm breezes lap around us like gentle waves. And Yosemite Falls, arguably the most recognizable waterfall in our national park system, turns from a feeble trickle to a roaring flood. The water that flows this time of year—from rivers, to waterfalls, to flooded wetland meadows, is crucial to the health of the overall ecosystem and the life that it promotes is obvious everywhere. Red-winged blackbirds, perched noisily on cow parsnip, guard their nests buried deep in the grasses while black bears, still groggy from their winter sleep, start the year with the tender grass shoots, which deer use to conceal their spring-born fawns. As the warm weather returns and the rivers rise, the temptation becomes strong to catch a snooze in a sunny meadow and dip hot feet into the meandering river after a long day of hiking. It's at this time each year that Yosemite's search and rescue staff slide into their neoprene wetsuits and get ready for the inevitable: when unsuspecting visitors meet icy waterways. It's best to remain vigilant around water sources year round. - *Written by a Yosemite Valley Park Ranger*



Photo by Eric Smith

Animals of Summer

In summer, the varied habitats of Yosemite become nurseries for countless wild animals. Mother deer give birth to their spotted fawns and hide them in tall meadow grass while they forage. Peregrine falcons fledge young on cliffsides while the striking sparrow known as the Oregon Junco gathers insects to feed its nestlings beside a rock on the ground. Yosemite is a living neighborhood, and summer is precious time for young animals to grow and learn about their surroundings. Unfortunately, the highways running through this park present danger to all animal life. Summer is also the busiest time in Yosemite National Park. More cars drive these highways between the months of June and September than the rest of the year combined. No matter where you come from, it will most likely take great time and effort to make it here. Please, for the sake of all the animal residents of Yosemite, take your time once you arrive. And if you take your time, and take a good look around, you'll realize just how many furry residents live in Yosemite's neighborhood. - *Written by Park Ranger Eric Smith*



Photo by Ryan Alonzo

Autumn in Tuolumne Meadows

Although every year is different, I've noticed autumn arriving around the third weekend of August. You can hear the seasonal change. Wind blows through the tops of the lodgepole pines. The kingfishers arrive and make their rattling calls as they fly the river course. The Townsend's solitaire, a robin-like bird, sings endless warbling songs from the tops of trees, seemingly without taking a breath. The chickaree, also known as the Douglas tree squirrel, becomes more active and noisy as it makes last preparations for winter. The bilberry, a meadow ground cover, turns fiery orange and red. The days are noticeably shorter. Freezing nights frost the meadow grasses and sedges. There's an excitement in the air, a sense of urgency and anticipation. The bears are extra hungry. It could snow any time. A raven clicks and croaks in the tree just beyond my cabin door. Brewer's blackbirds flock together, "whirl in the autumn winds" as the poet says, and leave their many tracks in the snow. It's the end of September, time to pack up and move to lower elevations before the big snowstorms come. Some animals stay, but most leave for the long winter. - *Written by Retired Park Ranger Margaret Eissler*



Photo by Armand Williams

Winter in Yosemite Valley

Visiting the park in the winter, 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 your parkas and boots, hats and mittens and get out for a walk to witness the transformed scenery! 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? Where are the bears now? 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 in the winter season. - *Written by Park Ranger Karen Amstutz*

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 subsidiary 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 is committed to providing park stewardship in collaboration with the National Park Service in effort to protect and preserve the park for millions of park visitors to enjoy. Visit www.TravelYosemite.com for more information.

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



Yosemite Conservancy inspires people to support projects and programs that preserve Yosemite National Park and enrich the visitor experience. Thanks to generous donors, the Conservancy has provided \$125 million in grants to the park to restore trails and habitat, protect wildlife, provide educational programs, and more. The Conservancy's guided adventures, volunteer opportunities, wilderness services and bookstores help visitors of all ages connect with Yosemite. Learn more: yosemiteconservancy.org or (415) 434-1782.

Contact Us

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<http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm>

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Yosemite Hospitality L.L.C.

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NatureBridge

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Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

Over 10,374 volunteers donated more than 139,500 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