

Yosemite Essentials



Spring is a time of transition,

as Yosemite slowly awakens from its peaceful winter rest.

Spring arrives earliest in Yosemite Valley, while high-elevation areas of the park can remain blanketed in snow until May or June.

This is a great time to explore Yosemite Valley and the less-visited Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, as waterfalls roar and wildflowers begin to bloom. Giant sequoia groves are usually snowy in early spring but are among the next places to warm up. *Turn to pg 2 for places to go and things to do.*

Not all services, roads, and trails are open or accessible this time of year. *Check the Seasonal Closures information to the right.*



It's still winter in most of Yosemite.

Trails may be hazardously icy, covered in snow, or inaccessible due to seasonal road closures.

Even when the Yosemite Valley floor is warm and sunny, expect to find ice and snow as you hike up to higher elevations.

Ask a ranger about current trail conditions and closures before you go. *Turn to pg 10 & 11 for more information about hiking in Yosemite.*



Rivers, streams, and waterfalls are beautiful but deadly.

Waterfalls and other moving water are at peak flow during spring snowmelt. Avoid severe injury or drowning: stay out of closed areas and use extra caution around flowing water. Rocks at the base of waterfalls and along rivers can be extremely slippery. Flowing water is icy cold, and currents are much stronger than they appear. Do not enter the water, and watch children carefully.

Seasonal Closures

Information Centers The Yosemite Valley Welcome Center is open year-round (9 am – 5 pm.) Other locations open by late spring. *Turn to pg 4 & 5.*

Visitor Services are still very limited outside of Yosemite Valley. Pick up snacks and supplies before you go. *Turn to pg 4 & 5.*

Roads Glacier Point Road closes in winter and usually opens in early May. Tioga Road closes in winter and usually opens in late May or June. *Opening dates depend on snowpack and vary each year. Call 209/372-0200 (press 1, then 1) for current road status. NO pedestrian or bicycle access in spring during snow plowing.*

Campgrounds Most campgrounds are seasonal and open in spring or summer. *All campgrounds require a reservation starting Apr 15. For current information, visit go.nps.gov/campground*

Trails Sections of the Mist Trail & John Muir Trail close in winter and usually open by early May (detour available.) The upper section of the Four Mile Trail is usually closed until late May. *Turn to pg 10 & 11 for map of trails and closures.*

Mariposa Grove Shuttles begin operation in late April at the earliest. When shuttles aren't running, hike 2 mi (3.2 km) each way to the grove. *Turn to pg 3.*

Keep Bears Wild. Proper Food Storage is Required by Federal Law

Bears that frequently access human food* lose their fear of people and can become dangerous. Bears may have to be killed in order to protect people.

☀ During the Day

✓ **DO:** Keep your food* within arm's reach while hiking or picnicking.

✓ **DO:** Lock your vehicle and keep all windows closed when you are away. Keep food*, drinks, and coolers hidden from sight.

✗ **DON'T:** Leave food* unattended outside, in a truck bed, or strapped to the outside of a vehicle.

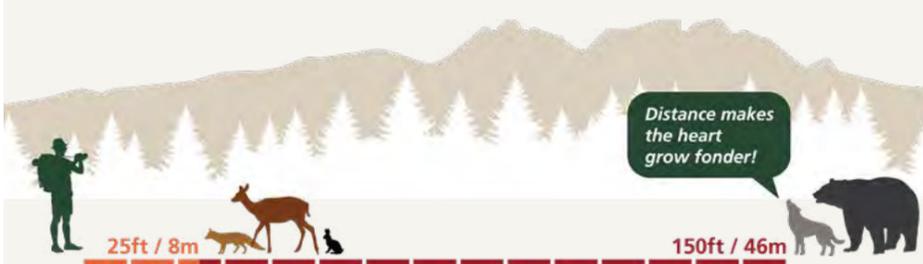
🌙 At Night

✓ **DO:** Remove food* from your vehicle at night. *Bears can easily break into vehicles in search of food.* Store food* inside a bear-proof locker, in a hotel room or hard-sided cabin, or in a hard-sided RV with all windows and doors closed.

✗ **Food*, trash, and other scented items may NOT be stored inside vehicles overnight.**

***To a bear, "food" includes trash, recycling, toiletries, soap, unwashed dishes, and anything else with a scent. All must be properly stored.**

If you see a bear in the park, email yose_bear_mgmt@nps.gov or call the Save-a-Bear hotline at 209/372-0322. To learn more about food storage and bears, visit KeepBearsWild.org.



DISTANCE FROM WILDLIFE: 150 feet = about four bus-lengths.

It's illegal to approach or feed any wild animal in Yosemite, including birds, squirrels, and deer.

Wildlife can cause injuries and transmit diseases. Human food is unhealthy for wild animals.

Stay at least 150 ft (46 m) from bears and coyotes.

Stay at least 25 ft (8 m) from other wildlife.

↗ * Park Map



Turn to pages 4 & 5 for visitor services hours & locations



Yosemite Falls, viewed from Cook's Meadow

YOSEMITE VALLEY

Turn to pg 10 & 11 for a detailed map of Yosemite Valley.

Yosemite Valley is famous for its waterfalls, towering granite walls, and iconic features like El Capitan and Half Dome.

GETTING HERE

All roads lead to Yosemite Valley! Drive 40 minutes from the Big Oak Flat Entrance, 20 minutes from the Arch Rock Entrance, or 1 hour from the South Entrance. Year-round bus service is also available from Merced/Mariposa/El Portal to Yosemite Valley (YARTS.com)

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION Park at Curry Village, Yosemite Village, or Yosemite Falls and walk, bike, or ride a free shuttle to your destination (turn to pg 7.)

VISITOR SERVICES

- Welcome Center** 9 am – 5 pm
Information, junior ranger booklets, lost & found, gifts, passport stamp. Located in Yosemite Village.
- Exploration Center, Theater, & Bookstore** 9 am – 5 pm
Exhibits, park film, books & gifts. Located in Yosemite Village.
- Yosemite Museum** 10 am – 4 pm
Indoor & outdoor exhibits, cultural demonstrations, gifts. Located in Yosemite Village.
- Happy Isles Art & Nature Center** 9 am – 4 pm, weekdays only, starting Apr 6. Use shuttle stop 16 or Curry Village Parking.
Turn to pg 4 for dining, shopping, recreation, & other services.

THINGS TO DO

- Explore by car** Enjoy the scenery from Tunnel View, Valley View, El Capitan Meadow, and other turnouts along Valley roads.
- Take a scenic walk or hike** Enjoy a relaxing stroll, or set off on a more challenging adventure. Turn to pg 10 & 11 for a map and trail information.
- Pedal Yosemite Valley** Rent a bike or bring your own. Yosemite Valley has over 11 miles of paved, scenic bike paths to explore! Turn to pg 6.
- Check out talks, tours, and classes** Learn more about the park or connect with your creative side! Turn to pg 8 for schedule.
- Learn about Yosemite** through exhibits at the Exploration Center and Museum in Yosemite Village (hours listed at left.)



The Grizzly Giant in the Mariposa Grove

WAWONA & MARIPOSA GROVE

Explore giant sequoias, meadows, and the South Fork Merced River near Yosemite's South Entrance.

GETTING HERE

From Yosemite Valley, drive about 30 mi/48 km/1 hour south on Wawona Road.

VISITOR SERVICES

- Wawona Visitor Center** (opens in April, if conditions allow) 9 am – 5 pm
- Mariposa Grove Depot** (opens March 14, if conditions allow) 9 am – 5 pm

For gas station, grocery & gifts, turn to page 5.

THINGS TO DO

- Yosemite History Center** Learn about the early days of tourism in Yosemite. Outdoor exhibits open daily.
- Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias** Visit Yosemite's largest sequoia grove and explore many miles of scenic trails. Shuttle service begins in late April at the earliest (conditions permitting.) When shuttles aren't running, the grove can only be reached by hiking 2 mi/3.2 km up the Mariposa Grove Road or the Washburn Trail (500 ft/150 m of elevation gain) from the parking area near South Entrance. **Pets are not allowed on the Mariposa Grove Road, on the Washburn Trail, or anywhere in the Mariposa Grove.**

TIOGA ROAD & TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

Tioga Road is closed to vehicles until late May or June. Call 209/372-0200 (1, 1) to hear current road information. NO pedestrian or bicycle access in spring during snow plowing.

The scenic Tioga Road traverses Yosemite's high country, crossing over the Sierra Nevada at Tioga Pass—almost 10,000 feet in elevation! From approximately May/June to November, visitors can access numerous trails, peaks, meadows, and lakes along this scenic drive. In winter, Yosemite's high country can only be reached by a strenuous ski or snowshoe trip.

When Tioga Road is closed, there is no direct route from Yosemite to the eastern Sierra and Highway 395. Drivers headed east must exit the park to the west or south and use an alternate route.

Like Tioga Road, many of the routes that cross over the crest of the Sierra Nevada are closed in winter, increasing travel time to the opposite side of the mountain range. To reach Hwy 395 and destinations to the east, use Hwy 50 or I-80 to the north, via Sacramento (to Lake Tahoe, Reno, Mammoth Lakes), or Route 58 to the south, via Bakersfield (to Death Valley, Las Vegas.) To check for road closures outside of Yosemite, visit the CalTrans website (roads.dot.ca.gov) or call 800/427-7623.

GLACIER POINT & BADGER PASS SKI AREA

Glacier Point Road is closed to vehicles until early May. Call 209/372-0200 (1, 1) to hear current road information. NO pedestrian or bicycle access in spring during snow plowing.



Hiking along the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir toward Wapama Falls.

HETCH HETCHY

Walk across the O'Shaughnessy Dam, hike along the reservoir, or access Yosemite's Wilderness. In spring, this quiet corner of Yosemite comes alive, with roaring waterfalls and blooming wildflowers!

Open sunrise to sunset only. There are no services in this remote area of the park. Swimming and boating are not permitted in the reservoir. Pets are not allowed on the dam or on any trails.

GETTING HERE

Located 38 mi/61 km/1.5 hours from Yosemite Valley. Take Big Oak Flat Road to the Big Oak Flat Entrance. Just after exiting the park, turn right on Evergreen Road. Follow signs to Hetch Hetchy entrance. **Vehicles and trailers over 25 ft long and 8 ft wide are not permitted on Hetch Hetchy Rd.**



Walk-through tunnel tree in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias.

CRANE FLAT

Hike to two quiet sequoia groves near the Big Oak Flat Entrance.

GETTING HERE

From Yosemite Valley, drive 16 mi/26 km/30 min on Big Oak Flat Rd.

VISITOR SERVICES

- Big Oak Flat Information Station** (opens March 28, if conditions allow) 9 am – 5 pm, Fri to Tues

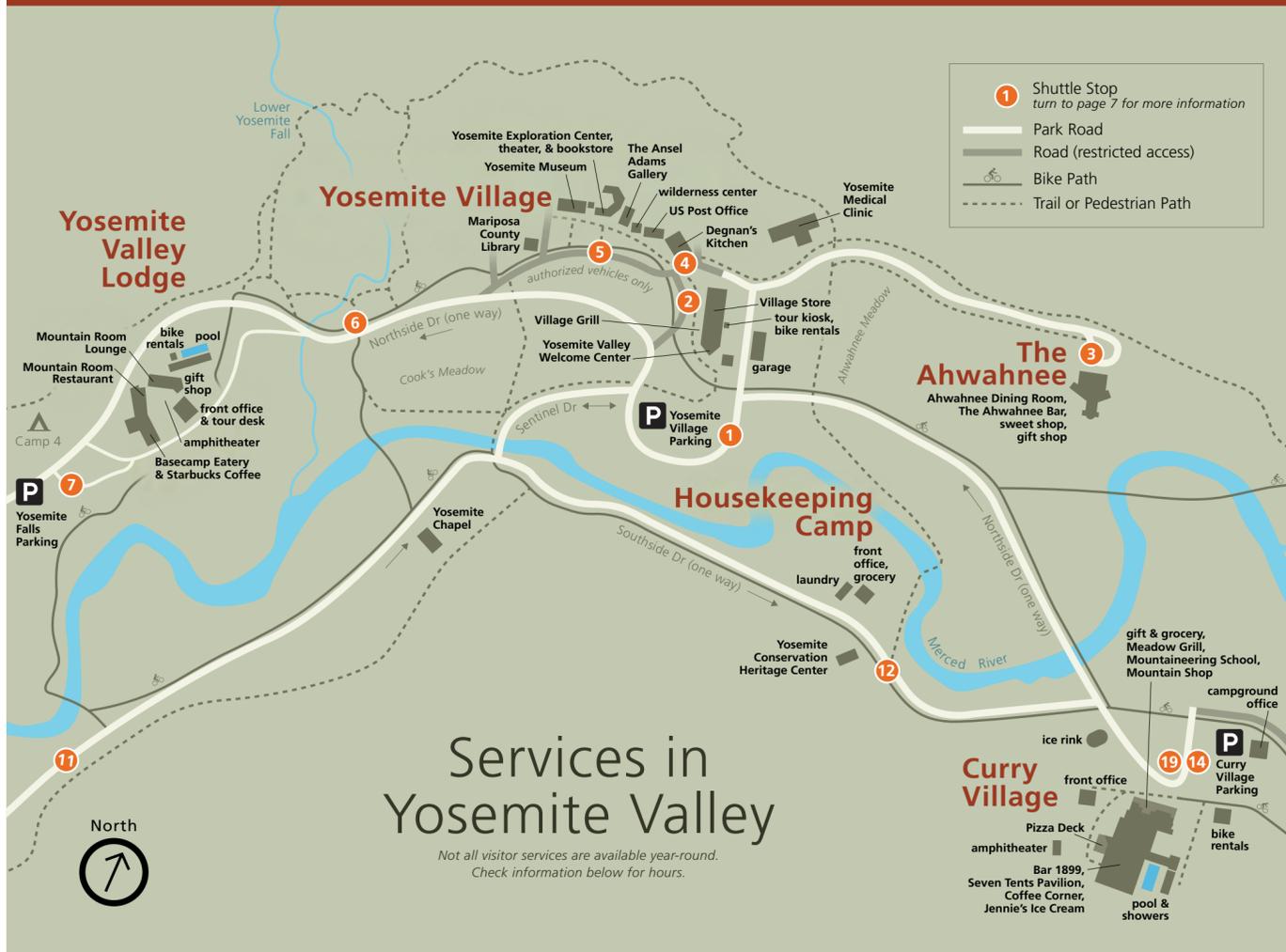
Gas is available year-round at Crane Flat. Turn to page 5.

THINGS TO DO

- Trails may icy or snowy in early spring.**
- Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias** Trailhead located on Tioga Rd, just north of Crane Flat. Hike 2 mi/3.2 km (roundtrip) to the grove. Add an optional 0.5-mi/0.8-km loop around the nature trail. Expect a steep climb of 500 ft/150 m on the return to the trailhead.
- Merced Grove of Giant Sequoias** A very small and quiet sequoia grove. From the trailhead on Big Oak Flat Rd, hike 3 mi/4.8 km (roundtrip) to the grove. Expect a steep climb of 520 ft/160 m on the return to the trailhead.

Glacier Point is an iconic overlook on the rim of Yosemite Valley, 3,200 feet above the Valley floor. From approximately May through November, this viewpoint can be reached by car or by a very strenuous hike from Yosemite Valley. In winter, Glacier Point can only be reached by a long ski or snowshoe trip from Badger Pass Ski Area.

BADGER PASS SKI AREA is open until mid- or late March, if conditions allow. For information, visit TravelYosemite.com or call 209/372-1000.



Services in Yosemite Valley

Not all visitor services are available year-round. Check information below for hours.

- visitor information
- food & beverage
- groceries & supplies
- gas station
- exhibits
- coffee bar
- gifts
- medical services
in an emergency, call or text 911

FREE WIFI

Yosemite Valley: Degnan's Kitchen, Mariposa County Library, Yosemite Valley Lodge/Curry Village/The Ahwahnee (registered hotel guests only)

El Portal: El Portal Market

Wawona: Mariposa County Library

CAMPING

First-come, first-served camping in Yosemite is very limited and only available before April 15 (Wawona Campground, Hodgdon Meadow Campground, Camp 4.) Visit go.nps.gov/campground for campground opening dates, reservation booking windows, and other details. Reservations can be made by visiting Recreation.gov or calling 877/444-6777.

Sleeping in a vehicle is ONLY allowed at a registered campsite. For backpacking and wilderness permits, turn to page 10.

LODGING

Visit TravelYosemite.com or call 888/413-8869 to book a stay at The Ahwahnee, Yosemite Valley Lodge, Curry Village, Housekeeping Camp (seasonal), and other park lodging. Reservations available one year in advance.

SPIRITUAL SERVICES

Yosemite Community Church (Yosemite Chapel) Sunday Service: 9:15 am. Good Friday Service (Apr 3): 12 pm & 7 pm. Easter Sunday (Apr 5): Sunrise Service (Lower Pines Campground) at 7 am & Chapel Service at 9:15 am & 11 am. Marriage Renewal Sunday (May 3): 9:15 am & 11 am. Pastor Brent Moore. Call 209/372-4831 or visit YosemiteValleyChapel.org.

Alcoholics Anonymous (Yosemite Chapel) Tues & Thurs: 6:30 pm

SERVICES IN OTHER AREAS

WAWONA & MARIPOSA GROVE

- Wawona Visitor Center & Bookstore** (opens in April, if conditions allow) 9 am – 5 pm
- Yosemite History Center open daily
- Mariposa Grove Depot** (opens March 14, if conditions allow) 8 am – 7 pm. Gifts & Mariposa Grove information.
- Wawona Hotel Dining Room** hotel closed for renovation
- Wawona Store** 8 am – 8 pm
- Golf Course & Golf Shop** closed for the season, opens May 8
- Stable** closed for the season, opens May 23
- US Post Office** Mon – Fri: 9 am – 1 pm, Sat: 9 am – 12 pm
- Wawona Gas Station** staffed 9 am – 6 pm (8 am – 5 pm starting May 1.) Gas & diesel. 24-hour pay-at-the-pump with card.

SERVICES IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

For restaurant menus, hotel availability, and more, visit TravelYosemite.com.

YOSEMITE VILLAGE 1 2 4 5

- Welcome Center** 9 am – 5 pm. Information, junior ranger booklets, lost & found, gifts, passport stamp.
- Exploration Center, Theater, & Bookstore** 9 am – 5 pm. Rotating exhibits, park film, books & gifts.
- Yosemite Museum** 10 am – 4 pm. Indoor & outdoor exhibits, cultural demonstrations, gifts. May close for lunch.
- Wilderness Center** closed for the season. Wilderness permit information on page 10.
- Degnan's Kitchen** 7 am – 6 pm. Limited service 11 – 11:30 am. Specialty coffee (Peet's), breakfast & dell sandwiches, & grab-and-go items. Indoor seating & WiFi.
- Village Grill** (opens Mar 27) 11 am – 6 pm. Burgers, sandwiches, hot dogs, & soft serve ice cream. Outdoor seating.
- The Ansel Adams Gallery** 10 am – 4 pm (9 am – 5 pm starting Apr 1.) Art, books, & gifts. Exhibitions & classes on pg 8 & 9.
- Village Store** 8 am – 9 pm (closes 10 pm starting Apr 17.) General store with park's largest selection of gifts & groceries.
- Bike Rentals & Tour Kiosk** (opens Apr 10) 8 am – 7 pm
- US Post Office** Mon – Fri: 8:30 am – 5 pm, Sat: 10 am – 12 pm
- Garage** 8 am – 12 pm, 1 pm – 5 pm
Propane. Roadside assistance. No gas in Yosemite Valley.
- Yosemite Medical Clinic**
The clinic is NOT an emergency room. In an emergency, call 911.
Urgent care walk-ins: Mon – Fri, 1 pm – 3:30 pm. 209/372-4637.

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE 7

- Base Camp Eatery** breakfast 6:30 am – 10:30 am, lunch & dinner 11 am – 9 pm. Fast casual breakfast, burgers, chicken, pasta, & more. Large indoor seating area.
- Starbucks Coffee** 6:30 am – 6:30 pm.
Specialty coffee, snacks, & light breakfast.
- Mountain Room Lounge** Mon to Fri: 4:30 pm – 10 pm, Sat & Sun: 12 pm – 10 pm. Beer, cocktails, & light entrees.
- Mountain Room Restaurant** 5 pm – 10 pm
Final seating 30 min before closing. Upscale casual steakhouse. Reservations recommended: OpenTable.com.
- Gift Shop** 8 am – 9 pm (closes 10 pm starting Apr 17)
Gifts, snacks, & drinks.
- Bike Rentals** (opens Apr 10) 8 am – 7 pm
- Front Desk & Tour Tickets** 24 hrs
- Pool** closed for the season

EL PORTAL

- El Portal Market** 9 am – 7 pm. Limited groceries & gifts. Wi-Fi.
- El Portal Gas Station** staffed 8 am – 5 pm. Propane available when staffed. Gas & diesel. 24-hour pay-at-the-pump with card.

GLACIER POINT

Glacier Point Gift Shop closed for the season

BADGER PASS SKI AREA

Badger Pass may be open until mid- or late March, if conditions allow. For ski area information, visit TravelYosemite.com, or call the Snow Phone at 209/372-1000.

THE AHWAHNEE 3

- The Ahwahnee Bar** 11:30 am – 11 pm. Upscale casual bar with craft cocktails, wine, appetizers, and lighter entrees.
- Dining Room** breakfast 7 am – 10 am, lunch 11:30 am – 3 pm, dinner 5:30 pm – 9 pm, Sunday brunch 7 am – 3 pm
Fine dining. Appropriate attire required for dinner. Dinner reservations strongly recommended: 209/372-1489 or OpenTable.com.
- Gift Shop** 8 am – 9 pm
- Sweet Shop** 7 am – 10 pm

CURRY VILLAGE 14 19

- Coffee Corner** 6 am – 2 pm
Specialty coffee (Peet's) & light breakfast.
- Bar 1899** 11:30 am – 10 pm
Craft beer, cocktails, & light entrees. Indoor/outdoor seating.
- Seven Tents Pavilion** breakfast 7 am – 10 am, dinner 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Hearty homestyle meals. Indoor seating.
- Pizza Deck** 11 am – 10 pm. Pizza (whole or by-the-slice), salads, & garlic bread. Outdoor seating.
- Taqueria @ Meadow Grill** (opens Apr 10) 11:30 am – 5:30 pm
Fast-casual tacos & burritos. Outdoor seating.
- Jennie's Ice Cream** closed for the season
- Gift & Grocery** 8 am – 9 pm (closes 10 pm starting Apr 17)
Gifts & grocery essentials.
- Yosemite Mountain Shop** 8 am – 8 pm
Hiking/climbing gear & apparel.
- Mountaineering School** (opens Apr 13) 8:30 am – 12 pm; 1 pm – 4:30 pm. Guided hikes & rock climbing classes. 209/372-8344
- Bike Rentals & Tour Kiosk** (opens Apr 10) 8 am – 7 pm
- Ice Rink & Raft Rentals** closed for the season
- Showers** 24 hours

HOUSEKEEPING CAMP 12

- Housekeeping Camp Store** (opens Apr 3) 8 am – 8 pm
- Housekeeping Camp Laundry** 8 am – 10 pm
- Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center** opens late May

HAPPY ISLES 16

- Happy Isles Art & Nature Center** (opens Apr 6) 9 am – 4 pm, weekdays only. May close for lunch. Classes on pg 8.

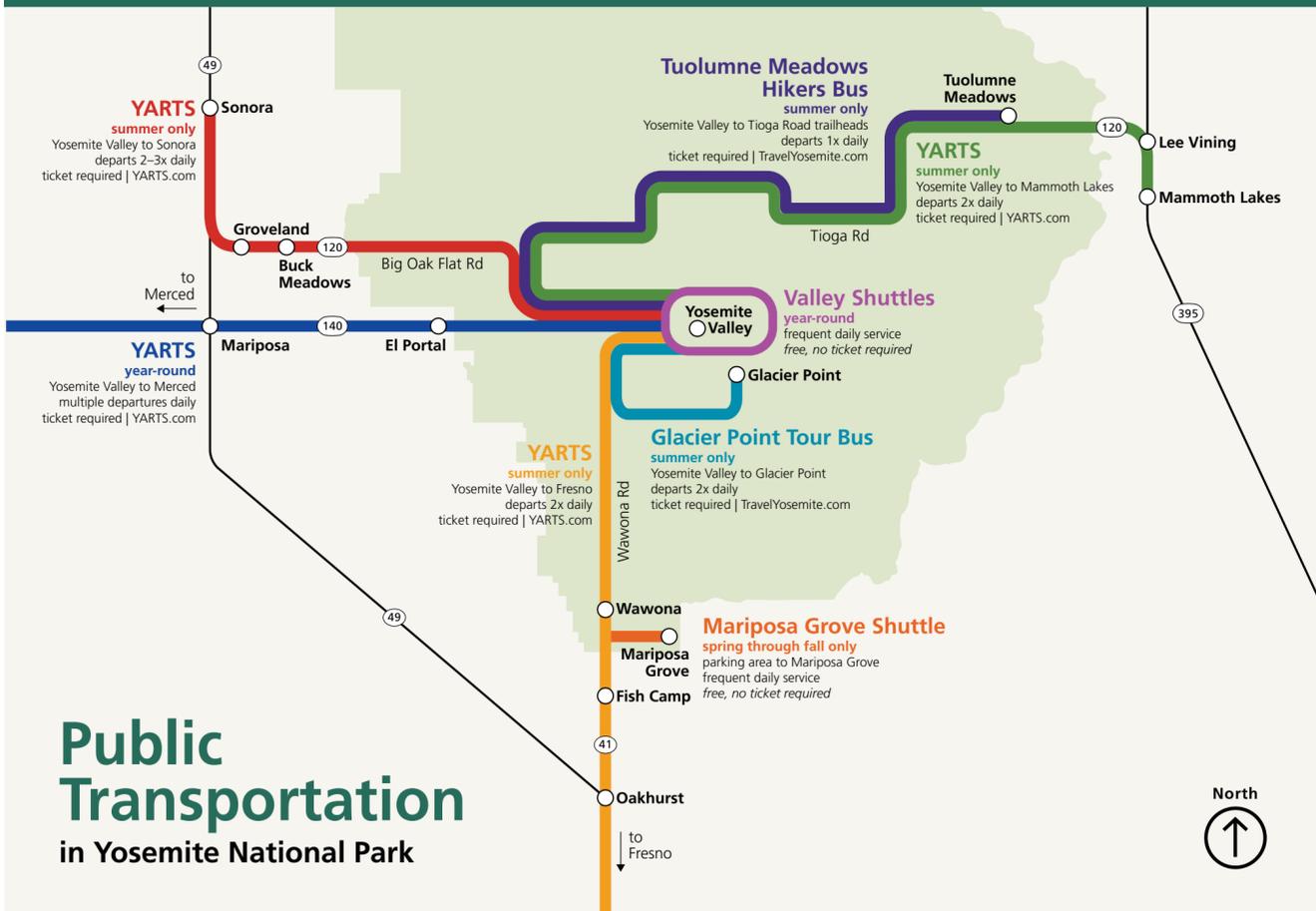
CRANE FLAT

- Big Oak Flat Information Station & Bookstore** (opens March 28, if conditions allow) 9 am – 5 pm, Fri to Tues
- Crane Flat Gas & Grocery** (store closed) Unstaffed until late May. Gas & diesel available year-round. 24-hour pay-at-the-pump with card.

TIOGA ROAD & TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

all services closed for the season

Transportation



Public Transportation in Yosemite National Park

Parking

In Yosemite Valley, use one of three main parking areas: **Curry Village** (14, 19), **Yosemite Village** (1), or **Yosemite Falls** (7). Parking can completely fill by late morning on weekends and holidays. Once you find a parking space, keep it. Walk, bike, or ride a shuttle to trailheads and other destinations.

Park only in designated parking spaces or in a paved turnout, pulled completely off the road. Vehicles parked on vegetation or blocking traffic are subject to citation and may be towed.

Roadside Assistance

24-hour roadside assistance:
call 209/372-1060

Electric Vehicle Charging

Level 2 EV charging is available in several locations throughout Yosemite.

Yosemite Valley Locations

- The Ahwahnee (6 chargers)
- Curry Village (20 chargers)
- Welcome Center (4 chargers)
- Yosemite Falls Parking (10 chargers)
- Yosemite Valley Lodge (8 chargers)

El Portal Locations

- Market & Gas Station (2 chargers)

Wawona Locations

- Wawona Store (24 chargers)

Tuolumne Meadows Locations

- when Tioga Rd is open
- near Tuolumne Meadows Store (4 chargers)

Gas Stations

There are **NO** gas stations in Yosemite Valley.

- **El Portal Gas Station** outside the park 15 mi from Yosemite Valley (downhill) on Highway 140.
- **Crane Flat Gas Station** 16.5 mi from Yosemite Valley (uphill) on Big Oak Flat Road.
- **Wawona Gas Station** 28 mi from Yosemite Valley (uphill) on Wawona Road.

Gas & diesel are available 24 hours with pay-at-the-pump (card only.) *Staffed hours on pg 5.*

Biking in Yosemite

Where to Ride Enjoy several miles of scenic, paved bike paths through Yosemite Valley. Bikes are also allowed on park roads (cyclists must obey traffic laws.) **Bikes are NOT allowed on hiking trails.** The speed limit on bike paths is 15 mph. Helmets are required by law for children under 18. *E-bikes with two or three wheels, fully operable pedals, and electric motors less than 750 watts (1 horsepower) are allowed everywhere bicycles are allowed.*

Rentals (starting Apr 10) Bicycles are available for full-day and half-day rentals (turn to pg 5 for hours and locations.) Standard adult & children's bikes are first-come, first-served. Bikes with trailers are available at Yosemite Valley Lodge and Curry Village. ADA bicycles are available by reservation: call 209/372-1208.

Yosemite Bike Share Bikes available late spring through fall for 1-2 hour rides from Yosemite Village and Camp 4 parking areas: goyose.org/bikeshare.

Bus & Shuttle Service

Travel to Yosemite via YARTS (\$)

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) is a public transit system that provides service into Yosemite. Enjoy year-round service from Merced and seasonal service from Sonora, Mammoth Lakes, and Fresno. Buses are air-conditioned, bike-friendly, wheelchair-accessible, and equipped for rider comfort. Save gas, save time, save money, by taking YARTS! For bus schedules and tickets, visit www.YARTS.com or call 877/989-2787.

Yosemite Valley Shuttles (free)

Daily, year-round service from 7 am to 10 pm. *Map and information on page 7.*

Mariposa Grove Shuttles (free)

Shuttle service tentatively begins in late April, if conditions allow. When shuttles are not running, the Mariposa Grove can only be reached by hiking up the road or the Washburn Trail from the parking area. The trip is 2 mi/3.2 km with 500 ft/150 m of elevation gain. *The road and trails may be snowy or icy in early spring.*

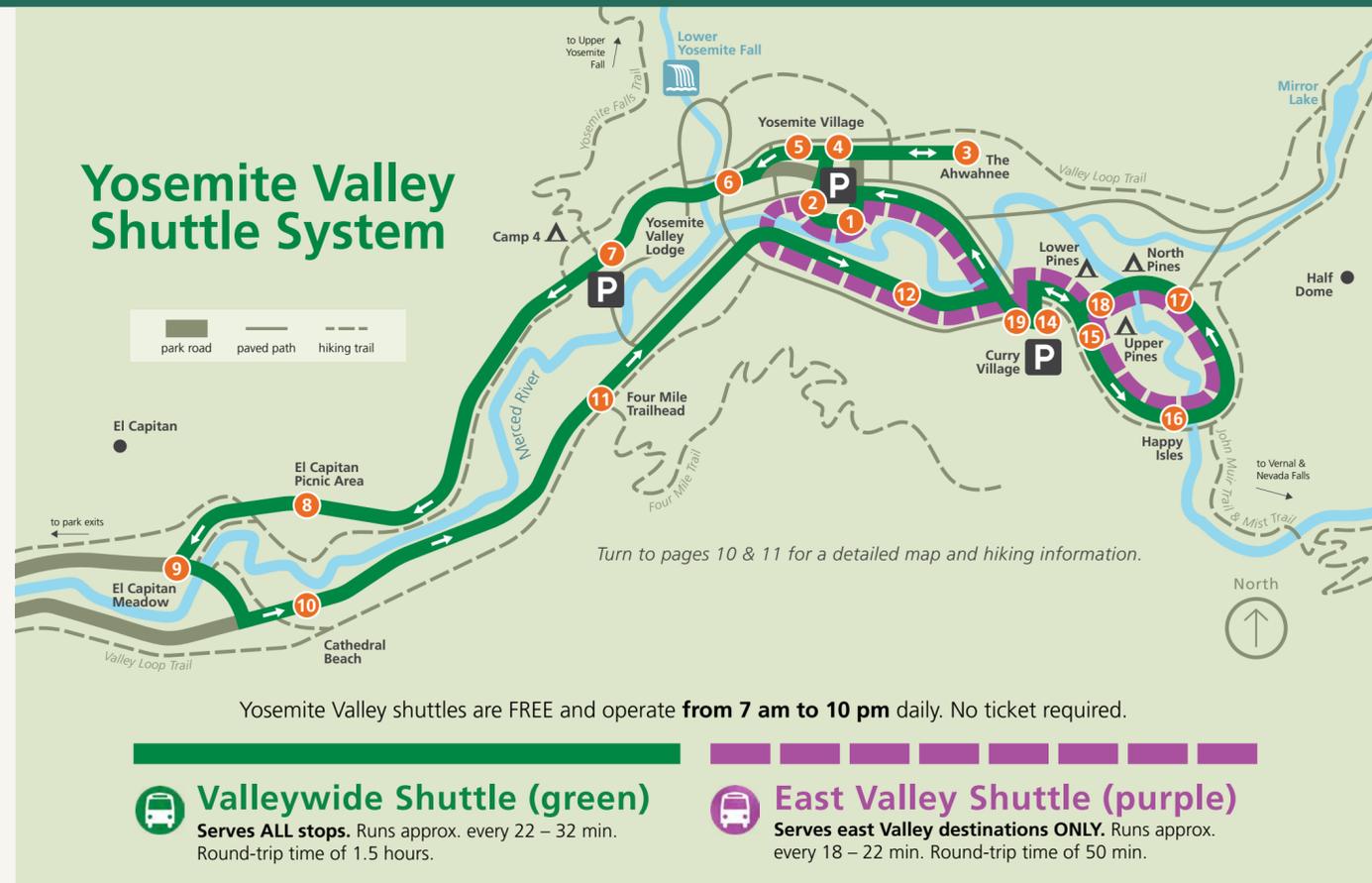
Tuolumne Meadows Hikers Bus (\$)

Not in Service. Summer only. More information at TravelYosemite.com.

Glacier Point Tour Bus (\$)

Not in Service. Late spring through fall. More information at TravelYosemite.com.

Yosemite Valley Shuttle System



Yosemite Valley Shuttle Stops

STOP	SHUTTLES	DESTINATION	AT THIS STOP
1	ALL Shuttles	Yosemite Village Parking	parking, Welcome Center
2	ALL Shuttles	Welcome Center	Welcome Center, food & beverage, groceries
3	Green Shuttle ONLY	The Ahwahnee	food & beverage
4	Green Shuttle ONLY	Degnan's Kitchen	Welcome Center, food & beverage, groceries
5	Green Shuttle ONLY	Exploration Center	Exploration Center, Museum, Wilderness Center
6	Green Shuttle ONLY	Lower Yosemite Fall	trailhead
7	Green Shuttle ONLY	Camp 4, Yosemite Valley Lodge, Yosemite Falls Parking	parking, food & beverage, Camp 4
8	Green Shuttle ONLY	El Capitan Picnic Area	picnic area
9	Green Shuttle ONLY	El Capitan Meadow	scenic area
10	Green Shuttle ONLY	Cathedral Beach	picnic area & river access
11	Green Shuttle ONLY	Four Mile Trailhead	trailhead
12	ALL Shuttles	Housekeeping Camp & Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center	exhibits (seasonal), laundry, river access
14	ALL Shuttles	Curry Village—eastbound	parking, food & beverage, groceries
15	ALL Shuttles	Upper Pines Campground	Pines campgrounds
16	ALL Shuttles	Happy Isles	trailhead, art & nature center (seasonal)
17	ALL Shuttles	Mirror Lake	trailhead
18	ALL Shuttles	Lower Pines Campground	Pines campgrounds
19	ALL Shuttles	Curry Village—westbound	parking, food & beverage, groceries



Pets are NOT allowed on shuttles.

Service dogs are legally permitted anywhere that visitors can go. Emotional support, therapy, and companion animals are subject to all pet regulations.

Programs



photo by Evan Russel

Additional programs may be offered: visit go.nps.gov/YosemiteCalendar to view the online calendar, or check listings at information centers. Program schedule is subject to change.

Yosemite Valley: Walks, Talks, & Tours

DAY & TIME	PROGRAM	HOST	FEE & REGISTRATION
multiple tours daily (2 hrs)	Valley Floor Tour Experience the highlights of Yosemite Valley on a guided bus tour. Book tickets at TravelYosemite.com or at the Yosemite Valley Lodge front desk.	YH	\$ tickets at TravelYosemite.com
8:30 am (2 hrs) M, W*	Birding in Yosemite Valley (*begins Mar 30) Listen, watch, and learn about Yosemite's birdlife while enjoying an easy paced walk with a Yosemite Conservancy naturalist. Register in advance at yosemite.org .	YC	\$ register at Yosemite.org
10:30 am (1 hr) Tu & W	Ranger Walk: Discovery Walk Join a ranger for an easy walk and learn more about what makes Yosemite special. Topics vary daily. Meet in front of the museum in Yosemite Village (use shuttle stop 5.)	NPS	free, drop-in only
1 pm (1 hr) Th	Ranger Walk: Discovery Walk Join a ranger for an easy walk and learn more about what makes Yosemite special. Topics vary daily. Meet in front of the museum in Yosemite Village (use shuttle stop 5.)	NPS	free, drop-in only
1 pm (2 hrs) M & W	Birding & Wildlife Walk (*begins Mar 30) Look for birds and other wildlife as well as the signs they leave behind with a Yosemite Conservancy naturalist. Register in advance at yosemite.org .	YC	\$ register at Yosemite.org
2 pm (15 min) daily	Family Ranger Talk Topics vary. Meet in front of the Yosemite Valley Welcome Center (use shuttle stop 2.)	NPS	free, drop-in only
2 pm (1 hr) daily	Historic Ahwahnee Hotel Tour Learn about the history behind Yosemite's famous luxury hotel on this complimentary one-hour tour. Meet on the hotel's back lawn.	YH	free, drop-in only
3:30 pm (1 hr) daily	Guided Nature Walk Join a naturalist for an easy guided walk of Yosemite's natural areas. Meet at The Ahwahnee Hotel on the back lawn (use shuttle stop 3.)	YH	free, drop-in only
5:30 pm (1.5 hrs) Th, F, Sa	Yosemite Valley Sunset Walk Join a Yosemite Conservancy naturalist on a sunset walk through Yosemite Valley and learn about the flora, fauna, and history of Yosemite National Park. Register in advance at yosemite.org .	YC	\$ register at Yosemite.org
7 pm (30 min) Th, F, Sa*	Evening Programs (*until Apr 1) Yosemite naturalists present a variety of topics. Meet at the Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room (between the lounge and gift shop. Use shuttle stop 7.)	YH	free, drop-in only
8:30 pm (1.5 hrs) nightly	Yosemite After Dark Grab a flashlight and join a Yosemite Naturalist for an interactive nature walk at night! Book tickets at TravelYosemite.com or at the Yosemite Valley Lodge front desk. <i>Recommended for kids 11 & up.</i>	YH	\$ tickets at TravelYosemite.com
9 pm (1 hr) Su, M, Tu, W	Walking Starry Skies Join a Yosemite Hospitality Guide for an unforgettable night of stargazing! Book tickets at TravelYosemite.com or at the Yosemite Valley Lodge front desk.	YH	\$ tickets at TravelYosemite.com
9 pm (1.5 hrs) Th, F, Sa	Explore Yosemite's Night Sky Join a Yosemite Conservancy naturalist for a guided stargazing experience under Yosemite's night sky. Learn about star science, constellations, cultural stories, and mythology. Your naturalist will use a laser pointer to highlight celestial objects—no telescopes are used. Register in advance at yosemite.org .	YC	\$ register at Yosemite.org

Yosemite Valley: Creative Classes

DAY & TIME	PROGRAM	HOST	FEE & REGISTRATION
9 am (1.5 hrs) Tu & Th	The Ansel Adams Gallery Photography Walk Join a staff photographer for a brief field lecture in Yosemite Valley. Limited space; registration required.	TAAG	free register at AnselAdams.com
9 am (3 hrs) W	In the Field: Creative Smartphone Photography Join a staff photographer to learn how to make better photographs with the camera you always carry.	TAAG	\$ register at AnselAdams.com
9 am (4 hrs) weekdays*	Art Class (*begins Apr 6) Slow down and connect with nature in a new way. Beginners welcome! Meet at the Happy Isles Art and Nature Center for art classes. Register in advance at yosemite.org/art . <i>No class May 1.</i>	YC	\$ register at Yosemite.org/art
10 am – 3 pm weekdays*	Kids' Open Art Studio (*begins Apr 6) Free kids art activities at the Happy Isles Art & Nature Center (shuttle stop 16.) Drop in anytime during studio hours!	YC	free, drop in during studio hours
1 pm (3 hrs) Sa	In the Field: Creative Smartphone Photography Join a staff photographer to learn how to make better photographs with the camera you always carry.	TAAG	\$ register at AnselAdams.com
1 pm (4 hrs) M & Th	In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams Join a staff photographer for a field class around Yosemite Valley.	TAAG	\$ register at AnselAdams.com
2 pm (2 hrs) F	Paint & Sip (*begins May 1) Learn the basics of watercolor and create an iconic Yosemite landscape step-by-step. Beginners welcome! Meet at the Mountain Room Lounge, register in advance at yosemite.org/art .	YC & YH	\$ register at Yosemite.org/art

Junior Ranger Program
Programs especially for kids! Kids must be accompanied by an adult.

Families Welcome!
Programs for all ages (good fit for most kids.)

Wheelchair-Accessible Program
Program is held in a wheelchair-accessible facility or uses wheelchair-accessible paths. Ask the program host about other disability accommodations.

NPS
National Park Service

YC
Yosemite Conservancy

YH
Yosemite Hospitality

TAAG
The Ansel Adams Gallery

YCHC
Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (Sierra Club)

Programs in Other Areas of the Park

Snowshoe Walks at Badger Pass

When Badger Pass Ski Area is open, check the online calendar (go.nps.gov/YosemiteCalendar) or program listings at the Yosemite Valley Welcome Center for scheduled snowshoe walks. These free, two-hour walks are led by a park ranger or volunteer and include snowshoes (space limited.) Recommended for kids ages 10 & up.

For general Badger Pass Ski Area information, visit TravelYosemite.com or call 209/372-1000.

More Ways to Connect With Yosemite



Yosemite Exploration Center & Theater

Open daily 9 am – 5 pm

Yosemite Village (use Yosemite Village Parking or shuttle stops 1, 2, 4, & 5)

Explore exhibits and watch the park film! *The Spirit of Yosemite* (23 min) runs on the hour and half-hour from 9:30 am to 4 pm. *Theater closed Apr 6, Apr 20, & May 4.*



Happy Isles Art & Nature Center

Open weekdays 9 am – 4 pm (starting April 6), may close for lunch

Happy Isles (use Curry Village Parking or shuttle stop 16)

Check out exhibits, nature trails, and free, drop-in art activities for kids (weekdays, 10 am – 3 pm.) Art classes for adults offered: register at Yosemite.org/art

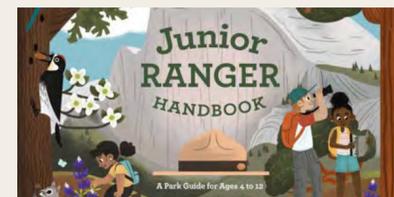


Yosemite Museum & Indian Village

Open daily 10 am – 4 pm, may close for lunch

Yosemite Village (use Yosemite Village Parking or shuttle stops 1, 2, 4, & 5)

Learn more about Yosemite's deep human connections through exhibits and cultural demonstrations.



Become a Yosemite Junior Ranger!

Pick up a free *Junior Ranger Handbook* at any open information center.

Complete the activities while you explore the park, then turn in your book to receive a junior ranger badge!

Park Partners

YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY

Yosemite Conservancy is a nonprofit dedicated to preserving Yosemite National Park's resources and providing enriching visitor experiences in the park.

Contact Yosemite.org

Locations Turn to pages 4 & 5 for seasonal hours

- Yosemite Exploration Center & Theater
- Happy Isles Art & Nature Center (spring through fall)
- Retail locations throughout the park (some open seasonally)

Outdoor Adventures

Check the calendar for guided hikes and backpacking trips: Yosemite.org/experience/outdoor-adventures
Advance registration is required for all Outdoor Adventures.

Custom Adventures

Plan a Custom Adventure with a naturalist: Yosemite.org/custom-adventures

Art Classes

- Watercolor Field Sketching with Fran Calvert: Apr 6 – 17
- Printmaking with Silvia Chenault: Apr 20 – 24
- Watercolor Nature Journaling with Silvia Chenault: Apr 27 – 30
- Watercolor Painting with Jim Kingwell: May 4 – 8

Learn more and sign up for art classes: Yosemite.org/art

YOSEMITE HOSPITALITY

Yosemite Hospitality operates lodging, dining, shopping, and other services throughout the park.

Contact TravelYosemite.com or 888/413-8869

Locations

Turn to pages 4 & 5 for hours

- Tour desks and recreation rentals at Yosemite Village, Curry Village, & Yosemite Valley Lodge (spring through fall)
- Yosemite Mountaineering School at Curry Village: guided hikes & rock climbing (spring through fall)
- Badger Pass Ski Area (winter)

THE ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY

Contact AnselAdams.com/photography-education or 209/372-4413

Location The Ansel Adams Gallery is located in Yosemite Village, open from 10 am – 4 pm daily (9 am – 5 pm starting Apr 1.) Experience a variety of fine arts, handcrafts, and a collection of Ansel Adams' original photographs. The gallery also offers half-day or full-day photography classes and private guided tours led by a resident staff photographer.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Silver Mirror: Daguerreotypes by Dr. Mike Robinson
March 8 – May 3
Artist Reception: Sunday, May 3 from 1 pm – 3 pm

Yosemite Awakenings: New Paintings by James McGrew
May 4 – June 20
Artist Reception: Saturday, May 16 from 1 pm – 3 pm

SIERRA CLUB

Contact SierraClub.org/yosemite-conservation-heritage-center or 209/372-4542

Location The Sierra Club's Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center is closed for the season. We look forward to welcoming you back in May 2026!

NATUREBRIDGE

Bring your school to NatureBridge for multi-day, immersive environmental science programs that ignite curiosity and foster deep connections with nature. As the largest education partner of the National Park Service since 1971, NatureBridge provides transformative, hands-on learning experiences in the country's most iconic national parks. Our nonprofit organization is dedicated to inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards. Discover more and plan your school's adventure at naturebridge.org.

Valley Trails

Backpacking Yosemite

A wilderness permit is required year-round for all overnight trips into Yosemite's Wilderness. Visit go.nps.gov/WildPermits for information.

Wilderness centers open in spring. If a permit reservation is required but the appropriate wilderness center is not open, find instructions for permit pickup at go.nps.gov/wildconditions

Come prepared with your own allowed bear canister—or rent one. Until Apr 23: rentals at Yosemite Valley Welcome Center (open 9 am – 5 pm). Starting Apr 24: rentals at any open wilderness center (hours and locations below.)

Wilderness Centers & Permit Pickup

• **Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center (opens Apr 24):** 8 am – 5 pm. Before Apr 24, self-register for (Valley trailheads ONLY) outside the Welcome Center.

• **Wawona Visitor Center (closed):** Self-register on the front porch for Wawona trailheads ONLY.

• **Big Oak Flat Information Station (opens Apr 24):**

8 am – 5 pm. Before Apr 24, self-register on the front porch for Crane Flat & Tioga Road trailheads ONLY.

• **Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station (pick up permit at Big Oak Flat or Yosemite Valley starting Apr 24)**

Before Apr 24, self-register for Hetch Hetchy trailheads ONLY at the entrance station kiosk.

• **Big Wall Climbing Permits (for overnight climbs)**

Self-register at kiosk near shuttle stop 9.

Half Dome Permits

Half Dome cables are down for the season. Half Dome cables are up from approximately late May through early October (conditions permitting.) Permits are available by pre-season (March 1–31) and daily lotteries. Find more information at go.nps.gov/HDpermits

Trails Outside of Yosemite Valley

Stop by an open information center to pick up free trail maps and ask a ranger for recommendations. Hours & locations on pages 2 & 3.



Before You Go

Pets and bikes are NOT allowed on hiking trails.

Choose the right trail for your group's ability and experience level. Make sure you have enough time to finish the hike before dark.

Ask a ranger about trail conditions. Snow, ice, flooding, rockfall, hazardous stream crossings, and trail closures are possible.

Check the weather forecast for rain, snow, and thunderstorms. Stay off domes and other exposed places when there is a chance of lightning.

Remember to pack water (minimum 1 qt/L—per person—for every 2 hours on the trail), salty snacks (for hydration), a headlamp, a map, sturdy footwear, and warm and waterproof clothing layers.

On the Trail

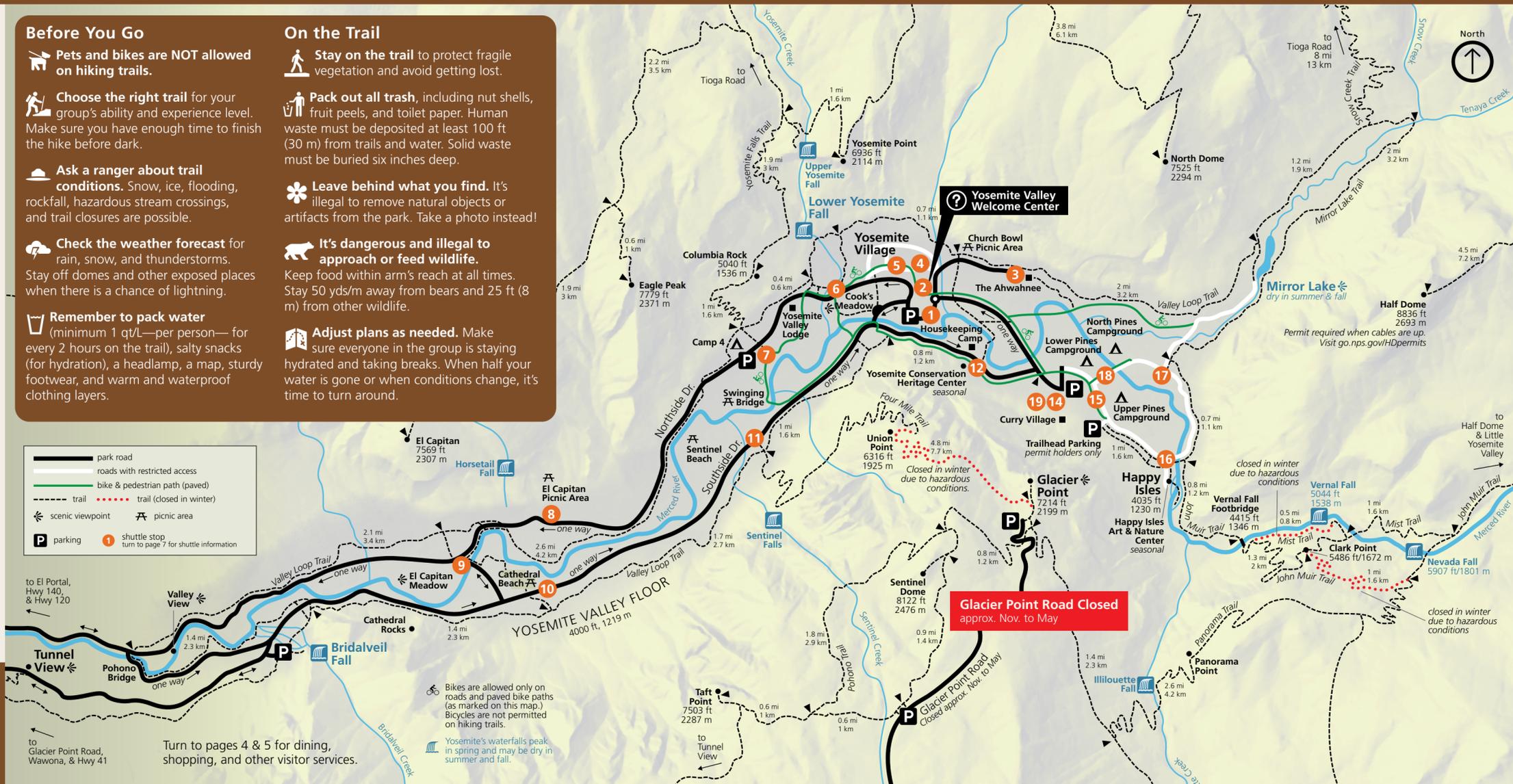
Stay on the trail to protect fragile vegetation and avoid getting lost.

Pack out all trash, including nut shells, fruit peels, and toilet paper. Human waste must be deposited at least 100 ft (30 m) from trails and water. Solid waste must be buried six inches deep.

Leave behind what you find. It's illegal to remove natural objects or artifacts from the park. Take a photo instead!

It's dangerous and illegal to approach or feed wildlife. Keep food within arm's reach at all times. Stay 50 yds/m away from bears and 25 ft (8 m) from other wildlife.

Adjust plans as needed. Make sure everyone in the group is staying hydrated and taking breaks. When half your water is gone or when conditions change, it's time to turn around.



Turn to pages 4 & 5 for dining, shopping, and other visitor services.

wheelchair-accessible path or boardwalk.

leashed pets welcome *pets are also allowed on paved bike paths, shown on the map in solid green.*

TRAIL	DISTANCE & ELEVATION GAIN	STARTING POINT
Shorter Walks <i>Scenic walks that usually take an hour or less</i>	<i>round-trip</i>	
BRIDALVEIL FALL Take a short stroll to the base of Bridalveil Fall. A gentle incline leads to a wheelchair-accessible viewing area, while a steeper path climbs closer to the base of the fall. <i>Stay behind barriers. Rocks at the base of the waterfall are very slick and dangerous.</i>	distance: 0.5 mi/0.8 km paved with gentle incline	Bridalveil Fall parking area or Southside Drive
LOWER YOSEMITE FALL A short but rewarding trail to the base of Yosemite Falls. The east side of the loop is wheelchair-accessible. Expect heavy spray in spring. <i>Stay behind barriers. Rocks at the base of the waterfall are very slick and dangerous.</i>	distance: 1 mi/1.6 km paved with gentle incline	Shuttle Stop 6
COOK'S MEADOW LOOP Take a relaxed stroll and enjoy views of Yosemite Falls, Half Dome, and the Merced River. Look and listen for birds and other wildlife in early morning and around dusk.	distance: 1 mi/1.6 km flat pavement/boardwalk	Shuttle Stop 6
MIRROR LAKE (dry in summer & fall) Take a short walk on a paved road to the front of the lake, at the base of Half Dome. Continue on the unpaved hiking trail for a 4.5-mile loop. Pets are allowed only on the paved road. <i>Vehicles with a valid disability placard may drive the paved road to the front of Mirror Lake.</i>	distance: 2 mi/3.2 km elev. gain: 100 ft/30 m	Shuttle Stop 17
Choose Your Own Adventure	<i>round-trip</i>	

YOSEMITE VALLEY LOOP TRAIL **Pets and bicycles NOT allowed.** Enjoy a scenic loop around the Valley floor on this quiet, less-traveled trail. Hike a short section, or spend a day exploring the entire trail. Use the map above to plan your hike. *Sections of trail may be flooded or muddy in spring.*

distance: up to 11.5 mi/18.5 km. Mostly flat, some gentle incline. Uneven terrain.

Most shuttle stops; refer to map

TRAIL	DISTANCE & ELEVATION GAIN	STARTING POINT
Hiking to Vernal Fall & Nevada Fall <i>Some sections of trail are closed in winter and early spring due to very hazardous conditions (see map above.) Open trails can be snowy or icy, even in spring.</i>	<i>round-trip (to and from Happy Isles)</i>	
SHORTEST: VERNAL FALL FOOTBRIDGE 1–1.5 hrs. Hike the short but very steep first section of the John Muir Trail to the footbridge for a view of Vernal Fall. Retrace your steps to return to Happy Isles. <i>This section of trail is paved, but pets are NOT allowed.</i>	distance: 1.6 mi/2.6 km elev. gain: 380 ft/115 m	Happy Isles; Shuttle Stop 16
LONGER: TOP OF VERNAL FALL (WINTER ROUTE) 3–5 hours. Hike to the Vernal Fall Footbridge (listed above.) Past the footbridge, continue up the John Muir Trail to Clark Point, climbing over 1000 ft (325 m). Descend to the top of Vernal Fall. Retrace your steps to return to Happy Isles.	distance: 5 mi/8 km elev. gain: 1900 ft/580 m	Happy Isles; Shuttle Stop 16
LONGEST: TOP OF NEVADA FALL (WINTER ROUTE) 5–7 hours. Hike to the top of Vernal Fall (listed above.) From Vernal Fall, continue up the steep Mist Trail another 860 ft (260 m) to the top of Nevada Fall. Retrace your steps to return to Happy Isles.	distance: 7.4 mi/12 km elev. gain: 2750 ft/840 m	Happy Isles; Shuttle Stop 16

Even More Challenging Hikes

Some sections of trail are closed in winter due to very hazardous conditions (see map above.)

round-trip

YOSEMITE FALLS TRAIL 6–8 hrs. An all-day hike to the top of Upper Yosemite Fall. This steep, rugged trail has dozens of switchbacks. Hike the first steep mile to Columbia Rock (about 1000 ft/325 m up) for stunning valley views. If conditions allow, continue to the top of Yosemite Falls; return the same way. *The upper half of the trail may be snowy or icy, even in spring.*

distance: 7.2 mi/11.6 km
elev. gain: 2,700 ft/820 m

Camp 4 & Shuttle Stop 7

FOUR MILE TRAIL TO GLACIER POINT 6–8 hrs. **Upper section closed in winter (with no access to Glacier Point.)** An all-day hike from the Yosemite Valley floor to Glacier Point, 3,200 ft above on the Valley rim. This challenging trail offers spectacular views of Yosemite Valley. *No return transportation to Yosemite Valley; plan to hike round-trip.*

distance: 9.6 mi/15.4 km
elev. gain: 3,200 ft/975 m

Shuttle Stop 11

6 **Transportation**  Valley Shuttle Map

8 **Programs**  Talks, Tours, & Classes

10 **Valley Trails**  Trail Map & Hiking Information

1 **Yosemite Essentials** 

2 **Park Map**  Places to Go & Things to Do

4 **Services**  Dining, Shopping, & Recreation

Keep this Guide with you while you explore the park! Here's what's inside:

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir

Yosemite Guide



27 bears were hit by vehicles in Yosemite last year.



You are driving in wildlife habitat.

Follow posted speed limits, drive carefully, and watch for animals crossing the road.

"Red Bear, Dead Bear" signs on park roads mark places where bears have been hit.

Park Regulations

The National Park Service is dedicated to protecting Yosemite for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. Regulations are in place to protect both the park and visitors.

Prohibited activities include:

- Using drones
- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants and animals
- Hunting animals
- 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



Pets are NOT allowed on hiking trails, on shuttles, or inside park buildings.

Pets must be leashed at all times. Properly dispose of pet waste. Turn to page 10 for pet-friendly walks in Yosemite Valley.

Service dogs are allowed anywhere that visitors can go. A service dog is trained to perform a specific task to assist a person with a disability. Emotional support, therapy, and companion animals are all subject to pet regulations.

Finding Help

In an Emergency: Call or Text 911

General Park Information
209/372-0200

Road Conditions (Recorded)
209/372-0200 (press 1, then 1)

24-hour Roadside Assistance
209/372-1060

Yosemite Medical Clinic
209/372-4637

Lost & Found
Check the nearest information center or hotel front desk. Visit go.nps.gov/lost to report a lost item.

Accessibility
Download an Accessibility Guide: go.nps.gov/AccessYosemite

Yosemite Online

National Park Service app
Take maps and information with you while you explore the park. Available for iOS and Android. 

Yosemite National Park website
www.nps.gov/yose

Social Media
  @YosemiteNPS

Enjoy Your National Park!