Yosemite National Park

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior



YOSEMITE ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE 2022

Welcome to Yosemite National Park! This guide outlines accessible services, facilities, and activities available in Yosemite. It describes ways people with sight, hearing, and mobility impairments can enjoy Yosemite.

Conditions change regularly in Yosemite for many reasons, including weather, traffic, construction, and road conditions. These changes can impact all visitors, but especially visitors with disabilities. Before your visit, we suggest you check the park website or contact the park accessibility coordinator for current updates.

The <u>Yosemite Accessibility Guide</u> is available at entrance stations, visitor centers and online. For general park information and descriptions of services, programs, and activities, see the <u>Yosemite Guide</u>, available at entrance stations, visitor centers and online.

The Park strives for full and equal participation for all visitors, and periodically upgrades facilities, programs, and services to improve accessibility. We welcome your comments and suggestions on ways to improve accessibility for visitors to Yosemite National Park. Discrimination based on disability in federally conducted programs or activities of the U.S. Department of the Interior is prohibited.

Contact Information: Accessibility Coordinator 209/379-1035 yose_accessibility@nps.gov



Accessibility Guide Yosemite National Park

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Yosemite National Park, set aside in 1890, embraces spectacular mountain and valley scenery in the Sierra Nevada. Park highlights include Yosemite Valley's high cliffs and waterfalls; Wawona's history center and historic hotel; the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias; Glacier Point's spectacular view of Yosemite Valley and the high country (summer through fall); Tuolumne Meadows, a large subalpine meadow surrounded by high mountain peaks (summer through fall); and Hetch Hetchy, a secluded valley with a reservoir formed by a dam on the Tuolumne River. Yosemite offers unparalleled natural views and soundscapes, and natural objects for tactile exploration. These opportunities are available in all areas of the park.

PEAK-HOURS ENTRANCE RESERVATIONS

A reservation will be required to drive into Yosemite National Park from May 20 through September 30, 2022, for those driving into or through the park between 6 am and 4 pm. Visitors entering the park outside of the peak hours are not required to have a reservation. Visitors who have a reservation for in-park camping or lodging, a Half Dome permit, a wilderness permit, a reservation with a tour company or a YARTS bus ticket do not need to acquire a reservation.

The temporary reservation system will help manage congestion and provide a quality visitor experience while numerous key visitor attractions are closed for infrastructure repairs.

Reservations will be required for all visitors entering by car, including Access Pass holders. The non-refundable reservation fee is \$2. This does not include the \$35-per-car park entrance fee (which is waived if you have an Access Pass).

Each reservation is valid for three days. Seventy percent of reservations will be available on <u>Recreation.gov</u> on March 23. Thirty percent of reservations will be available seven days before arrival date (e.g., make a reservation for an arrival date of July 30 on July 23).

Reservations are available each day at 8 am Pacific daylight time. **Reservations are taken almost immediately. Be sure to have an account and be logged in and ready to get a reservation promptly at 8 am Pacific daylight time.** If you don't have computer access or require an alternative accommodation, call 877/444-6777 in advance of the sale to request a call service representative to apply on your behalf at 8 a.m. See the <u>park's website</u> (nps.gov/yose) for more information.



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ACCESS PASS

U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are permanently disabled are eligible for the Interagency Access Pass. This **free**, lifetime admission pass is valid at National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites. It provides the pass owner and accompanying passengers in a private vehicle free admission to Yosemite National Park and a 50 percent% discount on camping fees. Visitors must supply their Access Pass number when making a campground reservation.

The Access Pass is available at no charge when obtained in person at designated locations or for a \$10 processing fee online with proof of eligibility. The pass is nontransferable and does not cover or reduce recreation permit fees (such as wilderness permits) or fees charged by concessioners but does waive the entrance fee. In Yosemite, the Access Pass is available at all park entrance stations and visitor centers. Amenities and restrictions may be different at other locations. Find more information about the Access Pass or download an application (go.nps.gov/passes).



TEMPORARY DISABILITY PLACARD



For visitors who are **temporarily disabled or do not have their permanent accessible parking placard with them**, a temporary placard is available at park entrance stations and visitor centers.

When displayed on a vehicle dashboard, the placard allows parking in designated accessible spaces and driving on some paved roads closed to other private-vehicle traffic such as the Happy Isles Loop Road, the Mirror Lake Road, and the access road to the Grizzly Giant in the Mariposa Grove. Pedestrians, bicyclists, and shuttle buses share these roads, therefore, hazard lights must be used and driving speeds must stay below 15 miles per hour.



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PARKING

Designated accessible stalls are marked with the international access symbol and are reserved for vehicles displaying a disability placard or license plate. A map with accessible parking locations, picnic areas, restrooms and campgrounds for Yosemite Valley is attached to this guide.

In Yosemite Valley, there are three, large day use lots for those that prefer to ride the shuttle bus, plus many smaller parking areas with accessible spaces for more direct building access, such as the Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Museum, the post office, Yosemite Valley Lodge, the Village Store, The Ahwahnee, Curry Village, and Happy Isles.

YOSEMITE VILLAGE

The parking on the southeast corner of Yosemite Village, near the Valley Visitor Center, has accessible parking stalls, an accessible restroom with family restrooms and a drinking fountain. Visitors can park and take the free shuttle bus, which has wheelchair lifts and tie-downs, to various destinations in Yosemite Valley, including the Valley Visitor Center. Yosemite Conservancy has an information desk (summer only) in this lot. The walk to the Valley Visitor Center is nearly a half mile.

YOSEMITE FALLS

This parking lot is on the west end of Yosemite Valley Lodge. This lot is unpaved and has accessible parking stalls and accessible, portable toilets. Visitors can park and take the free shuttle bus. Yosemite Conservancy has an information desk in this lot (summer only).

CURRY VILLAGE

This parking area extends through out a large portion of Curry Village and the paved portion of the parking area has accessible parking stalls at the entrance to Curry Village. The portion that is unpaved may be uneven and have some barriers. The unpaved portion also has free, shared food lockers for overnight food storage. A restroom is not available in the parking area, but restrooms are available inside Curry Village. Visitors can park and take the free shuttle bus.

SERVICE ANIMALS

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with post-traumatic stress disorder during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties.



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Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals and must abide by all pet regulations.

Service animals are allowed in park facilities and on shuttle buses if they meet the <u>legal definition</u> <u>of a service animal</u> (www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm).

Service animals must be leashed at all times (unless the service the dog must perform requires them to be unleashed), must not disturb wildlife, must not be excessively noisy, and their excrement must be disposed of properly for the area in which they are. It is common for other visitors to ask questions, make unwanted remarks, or to report service animals to law enforcement officers if they are not aware the dog is a service animal and allowed to be in locations where pets are generally not allowed. For this reason, it is recommended—but not required—that service animals wear a visible identification vest while in the park. Park officials are legally allowed to ask if an animal is a service animal and what service it performs.

Service-dogs-in-training are not service animals. They are pets and therefore must abide by the Yosemite <u>pet regulations</u> (go.nps.gov/pet).

PARK POLICY FOR WHEELCHAIRS AND OTHER-POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICES (OPDMDS)

Only individuals with disabilities may use OPDMDs in the park, however, they are prohibited in undeveloped and designated wilderness areas. OPDMD users retain the right of way and duties applicable to any pedestrian, however, OPDMD users must yield to pedestrians. The only exception to this is entering or exiting elevators, where OPDMD users have the right of way. E-bikes are allowed anywhere bicycles are allowed.

OPDMD's may be used under the following conditions:

- Operators must be 16 years or older
- The OPDMD displays a universal accessibility decal (available at visitor centers)
- OPDMD must be a zero-emissions vehicle
- The OPDMD is no greater than 36 inches in width at its widest point
- OPDMD speeds may not exceed 5 miles per hour
- Group size is limited to no more than four OPDMDs



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OPDMDs must be equipped with the following safety mechanisms:

- Front, rear and side reflectors
- A system that enables the operator to bring the device to a controlled stop
- If operating an OPDMD between half an hour after sunset to half an hour before dawn, a lamp emitting a white light that is visible from 300 feet in front of the OPDMD is required while the OPDMD is in motion
- A sound emitting device that can be activated from time to time by the operator, to alert nearby persons, as appropriate.



These restrictions are necessary due to safety considerations regarding the lack of a paved shoulder, bicycle lane, or the presence of fog lines. The use of OPDMD's by able bodied persons is prohibited in the park because they meet the definition of a motor vehicle and off-road travel is prohibited, the only exception being those for individuals who meet the criteria of a disabled person as defined by the Disabilities Act.

WHEELCHAIR, OPDMD, AND BICYCLE RENTAL

Standard bicycles, two manual wheelchairs and two OPDMDs/electric mobility scooters, called Rascals, are available for rent. The mobility scooters hold a 24-hour battery charge. A tandem bicycle (for visitors with sight and other impairments) and a hand-cranked bicycle are also available. Reservations are suggested.

Accessibility equipment are available for rent at the Yosemite Valley Lodge bike stand during summer and times of safe weather at 209/372-1208. Call for pricing.

Wheelchairs are available year-round at the Yosemite Valley Lodge front desk, 209/372-1274.

Bicycle rental stands are at Curry Village, Yosemite Valley Lodge and the Village Store during summer and times of safe weather. Bicycle trail maps are available at the Valley Visitor Center and bicycle rental stands.





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YOSEMITE BIKE SHARE PROGRAM

Yosemite Conservancy has a summer <u>bike share program</u> (yosemite.org/yosemite-bike-share) that allows visitors to borrow a bike for up to two hours. Bike share pick up locations are in Yosemite Village and near the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Check the <u>bike share website</u> for updates on the status of the bike share program this summer.

MULTI-USE PAVED TRAILS

Several miles of paved, two-lane trails for bicyclists and pedestrians wind through forests and along the Merced River in Yosemite Valley. Bicycle-rental stands at Curry Village and Yosemite Valley Lodge have bicycle trail maps; to reserve a bicycle, call 209/372-8319; additional trail maps are available at the Valley Visitor Center.

Almost all of these trails are an accessible grade; however, Superintendent's Bridge (opposite the historic Yosemite Chapel) has steps, and a section near Housekeeping Camp is steep.



SHUTTLE BUSES

Free shuttle buses operate in several areas of the park. All buses are accessible with wheelchair lifts and tie-downs. Maximum size for wheelchairs on shuttle buses and tour buses is 24 inches wide x 46 inches long with a weight limit on tour buses of 750 pounds. Bus drivers will help passengers on and off buses or notify them of stops. If you need assistance, ask the bus driver. The shuttle bus may accommodate OPDMDs that meet the size limitation and are suitable for use in indoor pedestrian areas. Shuttle bus service is available in the following locations:



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- Yosemite Valley: throughout Yosemite Valley (year-round).
- **Wawona:** Mariposa Grove Welcome Plaza to the Mariposa Grove Arrival Area (approximately May 27 through November 30, 2022, conditions permitting.)
- **Tuolumne Meadows**: from Olmsted Point to Tioga Pass (summer only; not available all years; service may not be available in 2022.

Learn more about <u>public transportation in Yosemite and check operating status</u> (go.nps.gov/transpo).

YARTS – BUS SERVICE TO YOSEMITE

<u>YARTS, the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Service</u> (yarts.com) is the only public transportation service that provides regularly scheduled daily service to Yosemite National Park. All the primary YARTS buses are equipped with lifts. However, YARTS requests that you contact them at least 48 hours ahead of your planned trip to ensure that a lift-equipped bus is available to you. Contact YARTS at 877/989-2787.

TELEPHONES, VIDEO PHONES, AND ACCESSIBILITY KITS

Cell phone signal strength is variable in most of Yosemite. There is a public video phone for Deaf users located in the lobby of Yosemite Valley Lodge.

Free accessibility kits are available for guests to take to their rooms at park lodging and include smoke alarm, light flasher doorbell, and shake-awake alarm.

DEAF SERVICES PROGRAM

Yosemite's Deaf Services Program provides trip planning and interpreting services for all park programs, including tours, ranger programs, and theater presentations, as well as providing emergency interpreting, as needed. <u>Additional information and sign language videos on the Yosemite's Deaf Services Program</u> (go.nps.gov/deaf) and other topics is available online.

TRIP PLANNING IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

The deaf services coordinator is available in ASL on videophone, by email or phone to help deaf visitors plan their trip in advance. Once in the park, Deaf visitors can request to meet with the coordinator at visitor centers or hotel front desks to look at maps and plan the day.



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REQUESTING A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION

Interpreter requests are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so two weeks' notice is recommended, but not necessarily required. To request an interpreter, contact us by email (yose_deaf_services@nps.gov) or 209/379-5250 (voice/text).

Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)

Assistive listening devices, handheld amplifiers for users who have some hearing loss, are available at all visitor centers, public amphitheaters and for any park program. Telecoil

neckloop couplers are also available for those that wish to send the signal directly to their hearing aids. Advance notice is requested to ensure use of the equipment. For programs offered by Yosemite Hospitality, inform your booking agent when reserving your tour at 209/372-1240. Otherwise, contact <u>contact Deaf Services by email</u> (yose_deaf_services@nps.gov) or 209/379-5250 (voice/text).

CAPTIONING

Captions are available on video presentations throughout the park and on the website.

SIGN LANGUAGE VIDEOS

Yosemite has created several informational sign language videos. Topics include requesting an interpreter, how and where to access the public video phone, how to obtain an Access Pass, Yosemite seasons, interpreted activities and driving in the park. You can view these <u>ASL videos</u> on the park website (go.nps.gov/deaf).

SERVICES

GAS

Gas stations are located in El Portal, Wawona, and Crane Flat. There are no gas stations in Yosemite Valley or Tuolumne Meadows. Pay-at-the-pump service is available with a debit or credit card 24 hours a day. Attendants can assist with fuel service during business hours. Check <u>Yosemite Guide</u> (go.nps.gov/guide) for more details.

ELECTRICAL VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING



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EV charging is available in Yosemite National Park at no cost, courtesy of Yosemite Hospitality. Other charging stations are available outside the park. Use the <u>Alternative Fuels Data Center</u> https://go.usa.gov/xuEsf) to view locations of EV charging stations in the area.

TOURS

Fee-based, Valley Floor Tours run within the Valley all year (on buses during winter and open-air trams during summer). During the summer, fee-based enclosed buses are offered from Yosemite Valley to Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point, and the Grand Tour (includes the Valley, Glacier Point, and the Mariposa Grove). Tours depart from Yosemite Valley Lodge. An accessible tour vehicle for the above trips can be made available by calling at least 24 hours in advance.



Yosemite Hospitality tours schedule and fare

information (www.travelyosemite.com/things-to-do/guided-bus-tours) is available on their website or call 209/372-1240.

TRAIL RIDES (SEASONAL)

The stable in Wawona offers trail rides during summer. They may be able to tailor rides to specific needs; call at least 24 hours in advance: 209/375-6502 or check the <u>Wawona Stable web page</u> (www.travelyosemite.com/things-to-do/horseback-mule-riding) for more information.

SIGHTSEEING BY CAR

Many of Yosemite's scenic vistas, waterfalls, and other points of interest are visible from park roads and overlooks. Sightseeing guidebooks, maps, and other information are available at park visitor centers and retail outlets, or purchased online from the <u>Yosemite Conservancy store</u> (shop.yosemite.org).

POST OFFICES

Post offices are located at Yosemite Village, El Portal,

Wawona, and (summer only) at the Tuolumne Meadows Store. The main post office (located in





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Yosemite Village) has accessible parking and a letter drop-box behind the building. Enter from the service road just north of the Degnan's Kitchen off Village Drive.

RESTAURANT AND FOOD SERVICE

Food service facilities in Yosemite are wheelchair-accessible except Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, which has two steps and no accessible restroom.

HEALTH CONCERNS & MEDICAL FACILITIES

TEMPERATURE AND WEATHER

Temperatures in Yosemite vary widely depending on season, elevation, and time of day; they can change rapidly and unexpectedly. Summer daytime temperatures usually range from the 90s in Yosemite Valley and Wawona to the 70s in Tuolumne Meadows; nighttime lows usually range from the 50s in Yosemite Valley and Wawona to the 30s in Tuolumne Meadows. Snowy, rainy, or even sunny days are possible in winter, with daytime highs in Yosemite Valley and Wawona ranging from the 30s to 50s and lows in the upper 20s.

Pay attention to the weather and be aware of extreme temperatures. Temperatures in direct sunlight can feel 10-15 degrees warmer than in the shade. Trails can be long, without shade and far from stores or drinking fountains. Dress appropriately for the season (in layers, if possible) and bring rain gear. Carry and drink plenty of water and take rest breaks during physical activity.

ELEVATION

Yosemite Valley is 4,000 feet above sea level. Outside the Valley, elevations along roads range from 2,000 feet to nearly 10,000 feet above sea level. In southern Yosemite, Glacier Point is at 7,214 feet; Wawona is at 4,000 feet; and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias range from 5,600 feet to 6,600 feet. At elevations at or above 8,000 feet, you may experience fatigue or even headaches due to the decreased oxygen.

MAXIMUM ELEVATION ON ROADS ENTERING YOSEMITE VALLEY

Approaching from the south on Wawona Road via Hwy 41: 6,039 feet at Chinquapin. Approaching from the west on Big Oak Flat Road via Hwy 120: 6,192 feet at Crane Flat. Approaching from the west on El Portal Road via Hwy 140: 4,000 feet at Yosemite Valley. Approaching from the east (May – Nov) on Tioga Road via Hwy 120: 9,945 feet at Tioga Pass.

Smoke & Fire



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In Yosemite, fire is natural and important for maintaining healthy forests; smoky skies are possible all year. When wildfires are ignited by lightning, they may be managed by fire crews in order to allow this natural process to continue to shape the landscape. Trained fire crews use prescribed burns to clear unnatural build-up of plant material in developed areas. Fires in and around Yosemite, and even elsewhere in California, can cause smoky conditions in all areas of the park which may negatively affect air quality.

Campgrounds can be very smoky. To improve air quality in Yosemite Valley and Hodgdon Meadow during high visitation months, campfires are limited to the hours between 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm, May 1 through September 30. There are no time restrictions during the rest of the year, however, campfires must always be attended.

The park's website has <u>fire information</u> (go.nps.gov/fireinfo) and current <u>air quality information</u> (go.nps.gov/aq). Visitors with respiratory conditions can also call the park's accessibility coordinator for fire and air quality updates.

YOSEMITE MEDICAL CLINIC

The Yosemite Medical Clinic is in Yosemite Village. Services include a limited pharmacy and X-ray services. Hours of operation vary seasonally, but a paramedic ambulance is available 24 hours a day. The rear emergency entrance is accessible to wheelchairs. For clinic hours, see the *Yosemite Guide* or call 209/372-4637. In case of emergency, call 911.



MEDICAL FACILITIES OUTSIDE YOSEMITE WITH A RANGE OF SERVICES INCLUDE:

MARIPOSA AND MERCED (HIGHWAY 140)

- John C. Fremont Hospital (jcf-hospital.com), 5189 Hospital Road, Mariposa, CA 95338, 209/966-3631
- <u>Mercy Medical Center</u> (dignityhealth.org), 333 Mercy Avenue, Merced, CA 95340, 209/564-5000

OAKHURST AND FRESNO (HIGHWAY 41)

• <u>Adventist Health</u> (adventhealth.org) (Urgent Care), 48677 Victoria Lane, Oakhurst, CA 93644, 559/683-2711



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- <u>Valley Children's Hospital</u> (valleychildrens.org), 9300 Valley Children's Pl, Madera, CA 93638, 559/353-5150,
- <u>St. Agnes Medical Center</u> (samc.org), 1313 E Herndon Ave, Fresno, CA 93720, 559/450-3205
- <u>Community Regional Medical Center</u> (communitymedical.org), 2823 Fresno St., Fresno, CA 93721, 559/459-6000

SONORA (OFF OF HIGHWAY 120 WEST OF YOSEMITE)

 <u>Adventist Health</u> (adventhealth.org), 1000 Greenly Road, Sonora, CA 95370, 209/536-5000

MAMMOTH LAKES AND BISHOP (HIGHWAY 120 EAST OF YOSEMITE - SUMMER ONLY)

- <u>Mammoth Hospital</u> (mammothhospital.org), 185 Sierra Park Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, 760/934-3311,
- Northern Inyo Hospital (nih.org) 150 Pioneer Lane, Bishop, CA 93514, 760/873-5811,

LEARNING ABOUT YOSEMITE

There are four visitor centers or information stations in Yosemite, at Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows, Big Oak Flat, and Yosemite Valley. Rangers in the park's visitor centers, wilderness centers, nature centers, and museums are knowledgeable about Yosemite and are there to assist visitors. While at the visitor center, explore exhibits and learn about Yosemite's landscapes, wildlife, history, natural resources, and how Yosemite has evolved through the centuries.

FREE FILMS ABOUT YOSEMITE AT THE VALLEY VISITOR CENTER

While schedules may vary, *Spirit of Yosemite* and *Yosemite: A Gathering of Spirit*, are normally shown on the hour and half hour. They are free, short films about Yosemite. *Yosemite: A Gathering of Spirit* is shown every hour on the hour and *Spirit of Yosemite* is shown on the half hour in the Theater behind the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Both films are open captioned. Audio description and/or assistive listening is available for films shown in the theater; ask for a listening device at the visitor center's information desk.

SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

The film offers a superb introduction to the scenery, natural history, and cultural heritage of Yosemite National Park along with information on the historical influences that helped create it.

YOSEMITE: A GATHERING OF SPIRIT



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In honor of the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Yosemite Grant, filmmakers Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan bring you the story of the birth of the national park idea and the individuals who dedicated their lives to creating our national parks.

ONLINE INFORMATION, RESOURCES, VIDEOS & WEB CAMS

The Yosemite National Park website has information to assist you in planning your visit and providing information on what you can expect during your stay here. Here are some helpful links.

- <u>Yosemite Homepage</u> (nps.gov/yose)
- <u>Plan Your Visit</u> (nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit)
- <u>Things to Do</u> (nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/things2do.htm)
- <u>Camping in Yosemite</u> (nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/camping.htm)
- <u>Hiking in Yosemite</u> (nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hiking.htm)
- <u>**Biking in Yosemite</u>** (nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/biking.htm)</u>
- <u>Seasons in Yosemite</u> (nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hours.htm)
- **<u>Deaf Services</u>** (nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/deafservices.htm)
- <u>Videos about Yosemite</u> (nps.gov/yose/learn/photosmultimedia)
- <u>Webcams</u> (nps.gov/yose/learn/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm)

PUBLICATIONS

Online publications can be found on the park website to be read with a screen reader or read with a larger font size to improve readability for those needing large-print materials.

- The <u>Yosemite Guide</u> (go.nps.gov/guide) provides information on activities, services and programs that are offered in Yosemite. There is a symbol next to the program or activity to indicate if it is accessible, however, some programs or activities can be modified to meet your needs. Please contact the provider of the program or the accessibility coordinator for more information. Advance notice is required for some activities.
- <u>Yosemite Accessibility Guide</u> (this document)
- <u>Aphasia Guide</u> (nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/upload/aphasia-guide.pdf)
- An audio description of the <u>park brochure</u> (nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm) is available using the UniDescription app, available for iOS and Android devices. The park brochure is also available by braille, large format and tactile maps at visitor centers throughout the park or by request to the accessibility email for a copy by mail.
- Other publications about Yosemite, including books, maps, and other media, are available at visitor centers, lodging facilities and retail outlets throughout the park, or at the <u>Yosemite Conservancy store</u> (shop.yosemite.org).



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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The National Park Service and our park partners offer a variety of environmental education programs for children and adults and welcome visitors with disabilities.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Educational programs in Yosemite are accessible to students with disabilities. Yosemite staff members work with teachers and school districts to ensure that every student can be included in field trips, camping trips, and other educational park activities. For more information, <u>email</u> the park's Education Branch (yose_education@nps.gov) or call at 209/375-9505.

NATUREBRIDGE

Residential field-science programs for groups of children and adults can be tailored to accommodate specific needs. For more information, contact <u>NatureBridge</u> (naturebridge.org/yosemite) at 209/379-9511.

YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY

Contact <u>Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures</u> (yosemite.org) regarding activities, classes and custom Outdoor Adventures for visitors with disabilities. For more information, call 209/379-2317 x10 or visit their website.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS & GUIDED ACTIVITIES

See the *Yosemite Guide* for a complete list of seasonal interpretive activities led by park rangers as well as park partner organizations. Activities range from campfire programs and all-day hikes to talks about Yosemite topics. Visitors with disabilities will be accommodated. Advance notice is requested. For the activities schedule, ask at any visitor center for details, visit check the <u>Yosemite</u> <u>Guide</u> (go.nps.gov/guide) or contact the organization directly.



- National Park Service ranger guided programs 209/379-1035.
- The Ansel Adams Gallery photography classes or group activities 209/372-4413.
- Yosemite Conservancy guided public or private walks and adventures 209/379-2317.
- Yosemite Mountaineering School classes or group activities such as climbing, hiking, skiing or backpacking, call 209/372-8344.



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 Sierra Club Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center presentations (summer only) – 209/347-7300.

LODGING, CAMPING, AND PICNIC FACILITIES

LODGING INFORMATION

<u>Yosemite Hospitality provides lodging</u> (travelyosemite.com). Reservations are strongly recommended and are available online or by calling 888/413-8869. Be sure to describe specific accessibility needs, so that an appropriate room may be offered. Bring a headlamp to assist you at night, as paths can be uneven and/or poorly lit.

LODGING IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

THE AHWAHNEE

The Ahwahnee, a National Historic Landmark, has two accessible hotel rooms, two accessible junior suites, and two accessible cottages, all with grab-bars and roll up sinks. The ground floor of the hotel has an accessible dining room, bar, gift shop, patio, and drinking fountain. There is an accessible women's restroom, telephone and unisex/family restroom located on the mezzanine that can be reached by elevator. The accessible men's restroom in located on the ground floor. Valet parking and six designated accessible parking spaces are available. An accessible path connects the hotel with the cabins.

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Yosemite Valley Lodge has 10 accessible hotel rooms with accessible bathrooms and showers. If you have mobility issues, but don't need an accessible room, make sure to request a room on the ground floor, as the hotel does not have elevators. There are 16 accessible parking spaces (10 of which are van accessible). The front lobby and tour desk, Mountain Room Bar, Mountain Room Restaurant, Basecamp Eatery, and gift shop are all accessible. There are three public, accessible restrooms in the front desk lobby (24 hours), in the Mountain Room Lobby (24 hours) and at the Basecamp Eatery (open during business hours). An outdoor accessible amphitheater may offer evening programs spring through fall. Most walkways are paved and accessible with designated parking spaces available near the registration building and accessible hotel rooms. A video phone is available for Deaf visitors.

CURRY VILLAGE

Curry Village has two accessible cabins with bathrooms, one accessible hotel-standard room, and 14 accessible, heated canvas tent cabins. Accessible shower and restroom facilities are located in the 500 section. They have two, standalone accessible restrooms, each with showers, for



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accommodations that do not have private bathrooms. Accessible paths of travel (many dirt and some paved) connect to all major services. The dining pavilion, grocery/gift shop, pizza patio, bar, and the Mountain Shop are accessible. The dining pavilion has one accessible men's stall, one accessible women's stall, and one accessible shower stall each in the women's and men's areas. An accessible, but unpaved, outdoor amphitheater offers evening programs spring through fall. Designated accessible parking spaces for 12 cars and eight vans are available near the registration office, restaurants, shopping and designated accessible accommodations.

HOUSEKEEPING CAMP

Housekeeping Camp offers three-sided concrete structures with canvas roofs that have cots, a place to prepare meals, and a concrete patio with a picnic table. Linens are not provided but can be rented and laundry facilities are available. Walkway surfaces include asphalt and dirt. There are two accessible parking spaces by the front desk. Accessible sites have an accessible table on the patio, a food locker nearby, firepit for cooking, and a bedroom separated by a curtain.

There are a total of 22 accessible restroom stalls around the camp. Each section of Housekeeping Camp has an accessible stall in the public restroom, in addition to the shower house with a roll in shower room and an unpadded permanent bench as well as a portable, backless one. This room could be used to change an adult in a wheelchair. Ask for access at the front desk.

In Section H, four units have pavement access to units and accessible parking spaces that can fit a van. In Section E, there is one accessible parking space, however, there is no pavement access from the parking to the accessible unit. There is pavement access from the unit to the restroom.

LODGING OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY

WAWONA HOTEL

Wawona Hotel is a National Historic Landmark. Access to the main floor of the hotel is located on the north side of the building, which leads into the accessible dining room. There is an accessible restroom via this route. It has accessible parking that can accommodate vans. An accessible (shared) restroom and shower are available in the Annex Building. Due to its historic nature, the property does not have accessible guest rooms with private roll-in showers, however, there are rooms that may meet your specific accommodation needs, such as semi-accessible rooms in the Annex Building with grab bars near bathtubs. Please inquire at 209/375-6556.

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS LODGE

Tuolumne Meadows Lodge currently has no accessible lodging. Tuolumne Meadows Lodge does have a tent (tent 66) wide enough to accommodate some wheelchairs but is up a few stairs. Paths



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in the camp are unpaved and not flat. The Tuolumne Meadows Lodge office/market/restaurant has a small step to enter the building.

WHITE WOLF LODGE

Due to recent upgrades, the White Wolf Lodge building is accessible, along with one accessible hard sided cabin, nearby accessible bathroom, accessible paths and an accessible parking space.

LODGING OUTSIDE YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

The nearest communities with lodging outside of Yosemite are Fish Camp and Oakhurst to the south on Highway 41; El Portal and Mariposa to the west on Highway 140; Groveland to the west on Highway 120; and Lee Vining, June Lake, and Mammoth Lakes to the east on Highway 395 when Tioga Road is open (approximately late May through sometime in November). Accessibility at specific locations varies, however, many of the hotels in the area have accessible accommodations. Visit the park's website for information about <u>lodging outside the park</u> (go.nps.gov/sleeping).

CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS

Many of Yosemite's 13 campgrounds are on a reservation system with reservations available five months in advance, on the 15th of each month.

Campsites may be reserved via <u>Recreation.gov</u> or by calling 877/444-6777 in the United States and Canada or 518/885-3639 from outside the United States and Canada. Reservations may be made using Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover cards. For current campground status, call 209/372-0266.

The free Access Pass provides a 50% discount on campsites, but not special access to reservations. Reservations fill quickly, so visitors with disabilities are encouraged to reserve any site, make an accessibility request online, then call the campground office at 209/372-8502 or go to the campground office upon arrival to see if an accessible site can be arranged. For those that can't reserve online, visitors can call shortly before the reservation period and request the call center staff attempt to make the reservation. Pass holders must give their number when making a reservation and present their card upon check-in.

The Valley campground reservation office near Curry Village is accessible but does not have a designated accessible parking space. The office is located at the northeast corner of the Curry Village dirt parking lot. Visit the park's website for information about <u>camping outside the park</u> (go.nps.gov/sleeping).



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CAMPING IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

LOWER PINES, UPPER PINES, AND NORTH PINES

There are three campgrounds in Yosemite Valley that offer designated accessible campsites, suitable for wheelchairs, Lower Pines, Upper Pines, and North Pines. Some of the campsites have a raised tent pad. All accessible sites have paved trails to the restrooms, level pads, accessible fire rings and picnic tables with extended tops. Electric power to charge a wheelchair is available at Lower Pines accessible sites #7 and #14. (Continuous electrical service is not guaranteed: this electrical outlet is not recommended for medical appliance use such as a CPAP machine. You must bring your own extension cord and request to access the outlet.)

Самр 4

Camp 4 sites are available from May 20 through September 30, 2022, by daily lottery, one day in advance, online via <u>Recreation.gov</u>. The lottery is open from midnight to 4 pm Pacific time each day, with results emailed shortly after 4 pm. Applicants can apply for up to seven nights. Average success rate is 10%. There is a non-refundable lottery fee of \$10 per application (up to six people.) The camping fee (only charged with a successful lottery application) is \$10 per person per night. Visitors with an Access Pass only need to pay 50%. The park's website has more information about <u>Camp 4</u> (nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/camp4.htm).

Camp 4 has recently been expanded and has accessible pathways, five accessible parking spaces, two of which are van accessible spots, and sites all suitable for wheelchairs. The accessible sites (50 & 51) have all the aforementioned accessories, including paved access to the accessible restroom and showers.

CAMPING ELSEWHERE IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Bridalveil Creek, Tuolumne Meadows, and Crane Flat Campgrounds are closed for upgrades in 2022. Tuolumne Meadows Campground will be closed in 2023. The project in Tuolumne Meadows Campground will update all eight restrooms to be accessible. The trail to the campfire circle will be accessible and the circle will have companion seating installed. All other campgrounds outside of Yosemite Valley have accessible campsites, pathways, and restrooms.





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CAMPING OUTSIDE YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Campgrounds, some of which might be accessible, are available in areas outside Yosemite. For more information, go to or call <u>Recreation.gov</u> at 877-444-6777.

PICNIC AREAS

Yosemite Valley and Wawona have several accessible picnic areas described below. Sites feature accessible picnic tables with extended tops, accessible restrooms, and, at those locations that have grills, the grills are accessible.

YOSEMITE VALLEY

Picnic areas are available on a first-come, first-served basis (reservations are not available) from dawn to dusk.

LOWER YOSEMITE FALL PICNIC AREA

Lower Yosemite Fall has an accessible picnic area and restrooms. Because no parking is available, use the accessible shuttle bus or walk from Yosemite Valley Lodge.

EL CAPITAN PICNIC AREA

El Capitan Picnic Area has two designated parking spaces, one of which is van accessible, with immediate paved access to a level, paved site with a picnic table with an extended tabletop and an accessible vault toilet.

SENTINEL BEACH AND SWINGING BRIDGE PICNIC AREAS

Sentinel Beach and Swinging Bridge have accessible picnic sites and accessible vault toilets. Much of the parking area is uneven and Sentinel Beach does not have designated accessible spots.

CHURCH BOWL PICNIC AREA

Church Bowl Picnic Area has accessible parking, picnic facilities and accessible restrooms.

THE CASCADES AND ARCH ROCK ENTRANCE

The Cascades and Arch Rock Entrance have accessible picnic areas, restrooms, and parking.

WAWONA

YOSEMITE HISTORY CENTER

Across from the entrance to the Yosemite History Center is a paved picnic area, accessible table and paved path to an accessible restroom. Although there is accessible parking, closer parking is at the end of the lot, near the paved picnic area.



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SOLDIER FLAT

Soldier Flat, north of Wawona and south of the Wawona Campground, has picnic tables, grills, and a toilet that is accessible.

FAMILY RESTROOMS:

YOSEMITE VILLAGE PARKING, LOWER YOSEMITE FALL, AND CAMP 4

Yosemite Village Parking, Lower Yosemite Fall, and Camp 4 all have private, family restrooms.

HOUSEKEEPING CAMP

Housekeeping Camp has a private restroom/shower room with a built-in seat that could be used by a caretaker to change an adult. Ask for access at the Housekeeping Camp front desk.

BRIDALVEIL FALL

The new restrooms at Bridalveil Fall are currently under construction and will have family restrooms (available in fall 2022). All vault toilets along the Tioga Road are large enough to accommodate a caregiver and user in a wheelchair.

PLACES OF INTEREST IN YOSEMITE

YOSEMITE VALLEY - ELEVATION 4,000 FEET

Known as the "Incomparable Valley," Yosemite Valley is seven miles long and one mile across at its widest point. Formed by glacial erosion over millions of years, Yosemite Valley is famous for its waterfalls and rock formations (including Half Dome and El Capitan). The Valley is the mostvisited place in Yosemite, and it offers a variety of educational and recreational opportunities year-round.

YOSEMITE VALLEY VISITOR CENTER – SHUTTLE STOPS #5 AND #9

The Valley Visitor Center has an information desk, exhibits about the park, and a bookstore. An auditorium and a theater behind the visitor center offer presentations and films (see Learning about Yosemite section).

The main exhibit hall is fully accessible with tactile exhibits, including the geologic and historic stories of Yosemite Valley. A tactile relief map of Yosemite Valley is at the entrance.





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The visitor center has accessible power-assisted doors at front and rear entrances. Access to the theater and auditorium is through the front doors: proceed directly through the lobby and out the rear doors to the ramp (on the left). Accessible restrooms are in the building to the west of the visitor center.

To reach the theater when the visitor center is closed, use the sidewalk to the left of the visitor center's front entrance, pass the restrooms, and go up the concrete path on the left of the auditorium. An additional accessible path of travel is located behind the museum to the west of the auditorium.

A few accessible parking spaces are available just west of the visitor center. To reach these parking spaces, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Just after the Yosemite Chapel, turn left onto Sentinel Drive. Continue left onto Northside Drive and turn right onto Village Drive; pass the "Do Not Enter" sign. Stay on Village Drive until reaching the "Do Not Enter" sign marking the shuttle bus route straight ahead. Turn left at the intersection. Accessible parking spaces are visible immediately on the right just before the Yosemite Museum.

The walk from the Yosemite Village parking lot to the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center is nearly a half mile. There is an accessible restroom in the lot, which has family restrooms, and a drinking fountain.

YOSEMITE MUSEUM – SHUTTLE STOPS #5 AND #9

The Yosemite Museum has an art gallery with changing exhibits and the Indian Cultural Exhibit. The Indian Cultural Exhibit offers displays and demonstrations relating to the culture and lives of the native people who call Yosemite Valley home. In front of the museum is a cross-section of a giant sequoia tree that visitors can touch and a recreation of an umacha, a Miwok and Paiute cedar bark house. A tactile map of the entire park is located against the wall behind the Indian Museum to the right of the back doors. It is not fully accessible by wheelchair. Interpretive rangers are available to provide additional information.



INDIAN VILLAGE OF AHWAHNEE – SHUTTLE STOPS #5 AND #9



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Behind the museum and the visitor center is the reconstructed Indian Village of Ahwahnee, which offers outdoor displays about the culture and lives of the native inhabitants of Yosemite Valley.

A short, partially paved loop trail winding through the village has displays that incorporate audio buttons; they do not include a text component. The village's central area is unpaved, consisting of level, packed dirt. The village is a collection of cedar bark homes to touch and/or enter.

THE ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY – SHUTTLE STOPS #5 AND #9

Showcasing the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists, the gallery is open daily. For more information, visit <u>The Ansel Adams Gallery website</u> (anseladams.com) or call 209/372-4413. The gallery's main floor is accessible by ramp at the front.

LOWER YOSEMITE FALL – SHUTTLE STOP #6

From the shuttle stop, visitors can see the world's fifth tallest waterfall (the tallest in North America), one of the most sought-after views in the park. This waterfall often dries up by late summer and resumes flowing in late fall. Yosemite Falls is 2,425 feet high and consists of three segments: Upper Yosemite Fall, the Middle Cascade, and Lower Yosemite Fall. No parking is available for any vehicles. A visitor in a wheelchair could be dropped off by car at the trailhead.

PAVED LOOP TRAIL

A paved loop trail, just over a mile in length, extends east and west from shuttle stop #6 to Lower Yosemite Fall, which plummets 320 feet to the rocks below. In spring, mist reaches out to the viewing area and beyond. Watch your step: the path and bridge may be wet.

Along the loop trail are seating areas, orientation maps, and educational exhibits. The exhibits have tactile features. A bronze relief map near the base of the western trail depicts the watershed that drains into Yosemite Falls. Huge granite boulders—some as big as a house—can be seen and touched just steps away from the paved trail leading to the base of Lower Yosemite Fall.



THE EASTERN PART OF THE LOOP



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The eastern part of the loop (0.6 mile from shuttle stop 6) is accessible to wheelchairs and crosses several braided streams before reaching the Lower Yosemite Fall viewing area, which has transferable seating to granite boulders at wheelchair height.

THE WESTERN TRAIL

The western trail (0.5 mile) is wide enough for several people and is mostly accessible; however, a short, steep grade near the viewing area (the last 180 feet include a slope of 13.8%) may make assistance necessary for some visitors. An accessible restroom is located near the trailhead, across the street from Yosemite Valley Lodge.

RIDE THE FREE ACCESSIBLE SHUTTLE BUSES

HAPPY ISLES – SHUTTLE STOP #16

Happy Isles offers a drinking fountain and restroom, accessible art and nature center (summer only, see below) and a nature trail, access to the Merced River and the trailhead for the Vernal and Nevada Falls, Half Dome, and John Muir Trails.

The trailhead for Vernal and Nevada Falls is also the start of the trail to Half Dome, John Muir Trail, and Pacific Crest Trail; this trail is also known as the Mist Trail. This famous trail is not accessible. It travels beside the river for its length, many portions without guardrails. The start of the trail is flat, packed dirt. Soon thereafter, the trail climbs, traveling one mile and 400 feet to the Vernal Fall Footbridge. The trail surface is a mix of rocks, stairs, dirt and pavement, and can be crowded and quite slippery. There is a non-accessible bathroom and potable water at the far end of the bridge. Beyond this point, the trail becomes even more steep and exposed.

HAPPY ISLES BY PRIVATE VEHICLE

Happy Isles Loop Road, in eastern Yosemite Valley, is closed to private vehicles, but vehicles with disability placards may enter. To enter the loop, follow signs to the campgrounds and trailhead parking, then drive east beyond the "Authorized Vehicles Only" sign with hazard lights on. Speed limit is 15 mph. At shuttle stop #16, turn right on the paved road. Two designated parking spaces are located behind the accessible restroom, and two more are further down the same road at the Happy Isles Art and Nature Center.

HAPPY ISLES ART AND NATURE CENTER (SUMMER ONLY)

The art and nature center, about 100 yards from the shuttle stop, is geared to children and their families and is open daily in summer. The center offers nature exhibits and interactive, tactile displays on Yosemite's natural history. The art center, operated by Yosemite Conservancy, offers art classes during the summer and fall. For information and a schedule of classes, call 209/372-



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1442 or 209/379-2646. The class schedule is also available in the *Yosemite Guide* and the NPS app. Request an accessible class location in advance.

Visitors can take a short walk out to the Happy Isles in the Merced River, listening to the roar of the river over huge boulders and/or feeling the rumble of the river passing underneath the footbridge in spring. During the summer, a volunteer at the art and nature center is available to assist with narrating the outdoor exhibits. Benches are available along the paved trail.

MIRROR LAKE (SEASONAL LAKE) – SHUTTLE STOP #17

Mirror Lake is a seasonal lake on Tenaya Creek, in the shadow of Half Dome. Wayside exhibits explain the natural and cultural features of the area. A one-mile road, from shuttle stop #17, leads to the lake and is easy to walk due to its paved surface. The last 1,000 feet of the trail up to the lake is on a slope from 6.6 percent to 10.6 percent.

MIRROR LAKE BY PRIVATE VEHICLE

The road to Mirror Lake, in eastern Yosemite Valley, is closed to private vehicle traffic, but vehicles with disability placards may enter, driving 15 mph with hazard lights flashing. Be watchful for people and bicycles in the road. Mirror Lake has accessible parking available.

To drive to Mirror Lake, take the bus/service road toward Happy Isles. Turn right onto the Happy Isles Loop Road and drive one mile. Turn right onto the walking path/service road just beside the Mirror Lake shuttle stop (#17) and proceed very slowly to the lake. The road is narrow, and you will encounter people on foot and on bicycles.

BRIDALVEIL FALL – (NO SHUTTLE SERVICE)

Bridalveil Fall parking lot and trail will be closed for upgrades in 2022. Bridalveil Fall can still be seen from numerous locations.

This spectacular, year-round waterfall (albeit a trickle in late summer and fall) has an automobileonly (no RV) parking area accessible from the north end of Wawona road, just before it merges with Southside Drive in Yosemite Valley. This parking area features accessible parking spots and accessible restrooms with adjacent family restrooms.

From the parking area, an accessible trail with periodic stone seating takes visitors towards a viewing area of the waterfall. An extremely steep and sometimes icy spur trail takes visitors to a slightly higher vantage point.



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A second, accessible trail, one of the original carriage roads, links the trail to the Bridalveil Fall viewing area and parking area with the extended vehicle parking along Southside Drive, just east of where Wawona Road merges with Southside Drive. This area includes limited RV parking.

NORTHERN YOSEMITE - ELEVATION 3,800 TO 9,945 FEET

This area of the park includes locations along Tioga Road, Big Oak Flat Road, and the Hetch Hetchy area.

There is a variety of picnic areas, campground facilities, and scenic overlooks as well as trailheads for entry into the wilderness. The Tioga Road is open approximately May or June to sometime in November. The Tioga Road is closed during winter. *Tioga Road will have traffic delays throughout 2022 due to construction projects.*



BIG OAK FLAT – ELEVATION 4,872 FEET

The Big Oak Flat Information Station is open in summer. Check *Yosemite Guide* for hours of operation. The station has an accessible information desk, campground reservation desk, wilderness center, and restrooms. Accessible exhibits are located inside and on the deck.

HETCH HETCHY - ELEVATION 3,813 FEET

O'Shaughnessy Dam, built between 1919 and 1923, impounds the Tuolumne River, forming Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. In summer, the area lacks shade and can be extremely hot. The road to Hetch Hetchy has a 25-foot restriction on vehicle length and is closed to vehicles at night. Due to the excessive cross-slope of the main parking area, no designated accessible parking spaces are available.

An accessible restroom, with designated accessible parking, is located at the backpackers campground parking lot.

TIOGA ROAD – ELEVATION 6,192 TO 9,945 (MAY OR JUNE TO NOVEMBER)

This spectacular National Scenic Byway crosses Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada, offering several roadside exhibits at vista points. Tioga Road is closed in winter, typically from November through May or June; no access is available to Highway 395 from Yosemite when Tioga Road is closed.



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Accessible vault toilets are located (from west to east) at the Tuolumne Grove parking lot, Sunrise Lakes Trailhead at Tenaya Lake, Murphy Creek Picnic Area at Tenaya Lake, Tenaya Lake (east end), and Lembert Dome Picnic Area at Tuolumne Meadows. Accessible restroom facilities are available at the Tuolumne Meadows Store. *Tioga Road will have traffic delays throughout 2022 due to construction projects.*

HALF DOME VIEW AND MERCED CANYON OVERLOOK - 4700 FEET

This pullout on the Big Oak Flat Road south of Crane Flat features a stunning view of El Capitan and Half Dome along with a bronze tactile map of Half Dome.

Merced Grove of Giant Sequoias – Elevation 6,000 Feet at trailhead

The Merced Grove is the smallest of Yosemite's three giant sequoia groves with approximately 20 giant sequoias. The trailhead is located four miles east of Big Oak Flat Entrance or 3.8 miles west of the Crane Flat gas station on the Big Oak Flat Road. There are picnic tables at the trailhead, but no restroom.

The hike to the grove is about three miles roundtrip, downhill on the way there and uphill on the way back, with a 600-foot elevation change. The path is a steep, unpaved road of packed dirt. There is no vehicle access to the Merced Grove. See page 25 for alternative accessible options.

TUOLUMNE GROVE OF GIANT SEQUOIAS - ELEVATION 6,200 FEET AT TRAILHEAD

The Tuolumne Grove is a cluster of about 25 giant sequoias that can be reached from a parking area at Crane Flat, about a half mile east of the gas station. The paved path into the grove is open year-round but not plowed in winter. This path is the former route of the Big Oak Flat Road, now closed to vehicles; it has a 7.5% grade for about a mile, where the first sequoias are visible as is made of packed dirt. A short distance from the parking lot is an accessible restroom. Just beyond it is a cross-section of a giant sequoia tree, which has transferable seating at wheelchair height and tactile features.

The hike to the grove is about 2.5 miles roundtrip, downhill on the way to the grove and uphill on the return. There is a 400-foot elevation change. There is no vehicle access to the Tuolumne Grove and the path to the grove is not accessible. See page 25 for accessible options.

WHITE WOLF - ELEVATION 7,758 FEET (SUMMER ONLY)

This area has lush meadows dotted with wildflowers in summer. White Wolf has an accessible lodge, restroom, and campsites.

OLMSTED POINT - ELEVATION 8,400 FEET (SUMMER THROUGH FALL)



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This stunning spot overlooks Half Dome, Clouds Rest, Tenaya Lake, and the Sierra crest. Viewing area and exhibits are fully accessible with a bronze, tactile map of Half Dome.

TENAYA LAKE - ELEVATION 8,150 FEET (MAY OR JUNE TO NOVEMBER)

This large, glacier-carved lake along Tioga Road nestles among granite domes and peaks, just west of Tuolumne Meadows.

Some portions of the viewing area along the northern side of Tenaya Lake have a paved sidewalk. The access route to the Tenaya Lake picnic area and beach is not accessible to wheelchairs because it is along a soil trail.



TUOLUMNE MEADOWS – ELEVATION 8,600 FEET (MAY OR JUNE TO NOVEMBER)

Subalpine meadows, the Tuolumne River, and spectacular domes and peaks dominate the landscape in this gateway to the Sierra high country. See *Yosemite Guide* for facilities and interpretive programs.

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS VISITOR CENTER (JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER)

The visitor center has an information desk, a bookstore, and exhibits about the Tuolumne Meadows area. A designated accessible parking space and entrance are available. From the main parking lot, drive up the service road to the right of the visitor center. Park in the designated space and follow the paved path in front of the visitor center to the rear entrance. Accessible restrooms are adjacent to the main parking lot.

SOUTHERN YOSEMITE – ELEVATION 4,012 TO 7,888

The southern area of Yosemite includes Glacier Point that overlooks Yosemite Valley, the Wawona area and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. The Mariposa Grove is the largest of the three groves of giant sequoias in the park and the most visited. Badger Pass Ski Area, located midway on the Glacier Point Road, is open only from late December through March (conditions permitting).

GLACIER POINT – ELEVATION 7,214 FEET (MAY OR JUNE TO NOVEMBER)



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Glacier Point will be closed in 2022 due to construction. This world-renowned overlook gives visitors a grand view of Yosemite Valley from above and a captivating vista of the park's high peaks. The overlook is accessible via two different trails. One is more direct and the other is a 300-yard, switchback trail from the main parking lot. Although both trails are paved, they are steeper than an accessible grade in some sections. Restrooms, snack bar, and a gift shop are accessible. A bronze, three-dimensional model (on the terrace below the gift shop) identifies geologic features.

BADGER PASS SKI AREA – ELEVATION 7,245 FEET (LATE DECEMBER THROUGH MARCH)

California's oldest operating ski area offers downhill and cross-country skiing, snow tubing, and snowshoeing. The ski area is approximately 45 minutes from Yosemite Valley.

Sit-ski lessons and rentals are offered by reservation and adaptive ski lessons can be accommodated with advance notice. Call 209/372-8430. On the first floor of the Badger Pass Lodge, the food-service area, deck, and restrooms are accessible. There are three designated parking spaces.

WASHBURN POINT - ELEVATION 7,591 FEET (MAY OR JUNE TO NOVEMBER)

Washburn Point will be closed due to construction in 2022. This overlook, just south of Glacier Point, provides beautiful views of Half Dome and the eastern crest of the Sierra Nevada. From this vantage point, visitors can take in the view of Nevada and Vernal Falls as well as Illilouette Fall. Washburn Point lacks designated parking spaces and curb cuts for wheelchair access.



WAWONA - ELEVATION 4,012 FEET

Facilities in Wawona include a year-round gas station (attendant available during business hours) and a grocery/gift shop. A golf course, golf shop, stage rides, and stable are available seasonally.

WAWONA HOTEL

This beautiful complex of buildings is the oldest Victorian-style hotel in the west, with the oldest building dating to 1876. A piano player may offer nightly summer renditions of turn-of-the-century songs.



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Designated parking spaces are located on the north side (rear) of Hill's Studio (brown structure). The hotel dining room, lobby, and restrooms are accessible. Additionally, there are two accessible guest rooms available. Other rooms may meet specific accessibility requirements. Call the hotel to discuss at 209/372-6556.

WAWONA VISITOR CENTER AT HILL'S STUDIO (MAY TO OCTOBER)

Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, Hill's Studio was the gallery and art studio of famous 19th-century landscape painter Thomas Hill. Today it serves as a visitor center with exhibits depicting life during the 19th -century in Wawona. Two accessible parking spaces and a mechanical lift are available at the rear of the studio. Use intercom to request assistance from staff for operation of the lift.

YOSEMITE HISTORY CENTER

The Yosemite History Center allows visitors to explore Yosemite's 19th-and early 20th-century past, offering glimpses into the original, historic cabins, a stable, and a historic covered bridge. Written displays about the buildings are available year-round. Stage rides (not accessible) and blacksmith demonstrations are offered in July and August.

Paths within the complex have a dirt surface. Some buildings are up a dirt slope or require one or more steps to look inside the windows. An accessible restroom is located near the parking lot. There is no designated accessible parking. Parking near the Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop provides the best access, but the paved route includes a portion with an 8.1% slope. The path from the gift shop travels through the covered bridge. The bridge's floor is made of uneven wooden boards, some with spaces that might catch the wheels of a wheelchair. Entrance is also possible from the north, near the stable that offers horseback riding.

MARIPOSA GROVE OF GIANT SEQUOIAS – ELEVATION 5,606 TO 6,461 FEET

Yosemite's largest stand of giant sequoias, the Mariposa Grove, also has the park's largest and most impressive individual trees, with about 500 mature giant sequoias. Giant sequoias are perhaps the largest living things on Earth. There are many giant sequoias in the lower grove area. This area was restored in 2018 with a focus on accessibility.

There is no shuttle service between Wawona and the Mariposa Grove. The Mariposa Grove Road, Welcome Plaza, Arrival Area and Mariposa Grove is open seasonally from around mid-April through November, conditions permitting.

MARIPOSA GROVE WELCOME PLAZA



Yosemite National Park

The welcome plaza is the closest parking near the South Entrance. It has about 300 parking spaces, including 16 large vehicle spaces (two of which are accessible RV spaces) and 24 accessible spots. It may fill up by late morning. The plaza includes a small bookstore, interpretive displays, a cast-bronze displays, water, and an accessible restroom.

A free, accessible shuttle provides service from the Mariposa Grove Welcome Plaza to the Mariposa Grove Arrival Area every 10–15 minutes. *The road and shuttle service usually open around April 1, but in 2022, will not open before Memorial Day weekend (May 27), and will close on or before November 30.* When the two-mile road to the Mariposa Grove Arrival Area is closed due to snow, visitors may walk up the road or the Washburn Trail. Snow and/or ice may be present. The elevation gain is 500 feet.

MARIPOSA GROVE ARRIVAL AREA

An alternative to taking the shuttle (when they are operating), allows visitors with a disability placard to drive to the Mariposa Grove Arrival Area. Access is through a gate with a pushbutton to open it at the bottom of the road. The gate typically a traffic ranger attendant during business hours. Limited parking of 4 spots is available for cars at the Mariposa Grove Arrival Area. Non-placarded vehicles in accessible parking will be towed.

The arrival area includes interpretive displays, a cross-section of a giant sequoia, a cast-bronze replica of the grove and trails, drinking water and an accessible restroom. *The restroom was closed in 2021 due to damage from a windstorm, but should be open by Memorial Day weekend, May 27, 2022. Check the website for the status of the restroom before your visit.*

BIG TREES LOOP TRAIL (0.3 MILE/ 0.5 KM)

This wide, level, accessible trail begins at the Mariposa Grove Arrival Area. The boardwalk winds through a forest with many giant sequoias and features the Fallen Monarch. The trail includes numerous benches and interpretive panels on the life and ecology of giant sequoias, as well as animal displays in cast bronze. *The Loop Trail boardwalk was closed in 2021, due to damage from a windstorm. Check the website for the status of the Loop Trail before your visit.*

GRIZZLY GIANT ROAD, PARKING AREA, AND TRAIL

In addition to visiting the Mariposa Grove Arrival Area, persons with a disability placard can drive beyond the Mariposa Grove Arrival Area, up a service road to park at the accessible parking lot near the Grizzly Giant. There are seven accessible spots at this small lot. There is an accessible restroom at the lot. From the Grizzly Giant accessible parking area, it is a 0.1 mi (0.16 km) oneway walk on a compressed dirt trail to access the Grizzly Giant, the park's largest tree and California Tunnel Tree, which one can walk through.



Yosemite National Park

Use of the service road by vehicular traffic was temporarily discontinued in 2021. The hiking trail from the Mariposa Grove Arrival Area to the Grizzly Giant was damaged from a windstorm. Until the hiking path is restored, hikers have been rerouted to hike on the service road. Due to amount of foot traffic, it is not safe to allow vehicles with the accessibility placard to share this road with pedestrians. The hiking distance from the Mariposa Arrival Area to the Grizzly Giant is 1.5 miles, 2.4 km, and very steep in sections. When the boardwalk reopens the service road will again open to vehicles with an accessibility placard. Before your visit, call the accessibility coordinator to check on the status of the use of the Grizzly Giant Road by automobiles with a disability placard.

GIANT SEQUOIA GROVES OUTSIDE OF YOSEMITE

SEQUOIA KINGS AND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

To the south of Yosemite, Sequoia Kings and Canyon National Park have numerous large groves of giant sequoias, including the General Sherman Tree, the largest tree in the world; the Giant Forest; and Grant Grove. The Giant Forest Museum provides visitors the opportunity to learn the story of the giant sequoias. The paved Big Trees Trail is wheelchair accessible. For more information on accessibility in Sequoia Kings Canyon and the Giant Sequoias visit their <u>website</u> or contact the parks by email at seki_interpretation@nps.gov.

CALAVERAS BIG TREES STATE PARK

To the north of Yosemite, Calaveras Big Trees State Park has the North Grove of Giant Sequoias and offers accessible camping, picnicking and trails. The park offers accessible trails to view giant sequoias, a visitor center, and interpretive programs. For more information on accessibility in <u>Calaveras Big Trees State Park</u> (parks.ca.gov/?page_id=551) visit their website or contact them at 209/795-2334.

QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?

For questions or suggestions about accessibility in Yosemite, <u>contact the accessibility coordinator</u> <u>by email</u> (yose_accessibility@nps.gov), by phone at 209/379-1035, or by mail c/o the National Park Service, P.O. Box 700-W, El Portal, CA 95318.

The <u>National Park Service website has more information regarding accessibility</u> (www.nps.gov/subjects/accessibility). For concerns or complaints regarding accessibility, write to: EEO Program Manager, U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, org code 0008, Washington, DC 20240.



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