



## Entrance and Camping Fee Increase Frequently Asked Questions

### Entrance Fees

What are the new rates for entrance fees?

Starting on March 1, 2015, entrance fees will increase to the following:

Type of Fee	Effective 3/1/2015	Effective 1/1/2016
Per Vehicle Entrance, 7-day pass	March \$25 April - October \$30 November - December \$25	January - March \$25 April - October \$30 November - December \$25
Individual Entrance	\$15	
Motorcycle Entrance	\$15 per motorcycle	\$20 per motorcycle
Yosemite National Park Annual Pass	\$60	

**Why does it cost less to visit the park in the winter than in the summer?**

The park is experimenting with a slightly lower entrance fee of \$25 to encourage more visitors to experience the park during the winter months.

**Why are the rates different from the ones that were proposed during the public comment period?**

During the 30-day public comment period, the park received over 3,000 comments, with a majority of the comments expressing support for the fee increase. The new fee structure includes changes to the park's original proposal that were made in order to respond to the needs and requests of the public. The winter rates and the phased-in motorcycle rate were both developed in response to public comments.

**Why is Yosemite National Park raising the entrance fee?**

This fee increase is part of a larger National Park Service initiative to standardize fees in similar parks across the country. Yosemite National Park was classified with parks of comparable size and visitation and given the corresponding fee schedule. Yosemite's previous entrance fees have been in place since 1997, when a seven-day pass was increased from \$5 to \$20 per vehicle. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, \$20 in 1997 is equivalent to \$29.64 in 2014. This fee change allows Yosemite to maintain consistent revenue while adjusting accordingly for inflation.

**How were the entrance fees calculated?**

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# Yosemite National Park

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The NPS fee structure is a tiered approach that classifies Yosemite National Park with parks of comparable size and visitation. The NPS analysis of fees is based on relevant academic studies, private and public sector benchmarks, and existing NPS data, and seeks to provide fair, equitable and consistent fees to the public across the National Park System. Yosemite is part of Group 4, which generally includes larger parks with higher operating costs due to high levels of visitation and infrastructure, such as Grand Canyon, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Yellowstone.

## **What do the fees pay for?**

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of 2005 authorized 100% of the revenue generated by charging fees to be returned to the National Park Service, with 80% remaining at the site where it is collected and 20% to be used servicewide to fund programs and parks that don't collect fees. These funds are to be used in the park for projects that directly benefit visitors. Funds generated by the fees are used to accomplish projects the park has been unable to fund through annual Congressional allocations. Examples of recent park projects funded with fee revenue include projects to reconfigure Yosemite's South Entrance Station, upgrade the water system that serves the Crane Flat Campground, and to improve accessibility by providing an American Sign Language interpreter and converting campsites into accessible sites.

## **What will the increased revenue be used for?**

Forecasted revenue from proposed entrance fee increases is approximately \$4–5 million annually. The new revenue from the fee increases will be used to provide enhanced visitor services such as expanded campgrounds, improved parking, meadow and river restoration, emergency services, parkwide accessibility projects, and expanded education programs for youth. Fee revenue will also be used to provide enhanced shuttle service in Yosemite Valley and from adjacent communities.

## **Are commercial fees changing?**

Commercial fees are not changing at this time.

# Yosemite National Park



## Camping Fees

What are the new campground fees?

Campsite type	Location	Rate effective March 1, 2015
Reservation Family site	Upper, Lower and North Pines, Wawona, Crane Flat, Hodgdon Meadow, Tuolumne Meadows	\$26 a night per site
Reservation Stock camps	Tuolumne Meadows, Bridalveil Creek, Wawona	\$30 a night per site
Reservation Double sites	Lower Pines, Hodgdon Meadow	\$36 a night per site
Reservation Group sites	Hodgdon Meadow, Wawona, Bridalveil Creek, Tuolumne Meadows	\$50 a night per site
First-come, first serve, drive-in sites (potable water/flush toilets)	Bridalveil Creek, White Wolf, Hodgdon (when fcfs), Wawona (when fcfs)	\$18 a night per site
Primitive first-come, first-serve, drive-in sites (no potable water/vault toilets)	Tamarack Flat, Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek	\$12 a night per site
Walk-in and Backpackers sites	Camp 4 and Backpacker sites	\$6 a night per person

### How are campground fees calculated?

Campground fees are set based on comparability studies. For the current study, park staff identified over 50 campgrounds with a level of service, size, and amenities matching Yosemite campgrounds including walk-in, primitive, non-reservation/unstaffed drive-in, staffed reservation drive-in, stock and group sites. Staff also chose campgrounds nearby that represent multiple agencies, including USDA Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management, as well as state, county, and privately owned facilities.

### Why did the park raise campground fees?

The previous campground rates had been in place since 2001 for group and stock sites and 2006 for all other campsites. As a result of inflation, the revenue from the campgrounds has not kept pace with the costs of operating them.



## **What do the campground fees pay for?**

Campground fees pay for reservation services and operational costs.

## **What will the additional campground fee revenues be used for?**

The additional income from the rate increase for campgrounds will continue to be used to cover reservation services (including technology improvements) and operational costs. Revenue from campgrounds had remained flat since 2006 while the cost to operate campgrounds had increased.

## **How do these campground fees compare to other national park sites?**

The recent comparability study revealed that Yosemite National Park was charging less than other campgrounds in our surrounding area and in other national parks. Even with the increase, camping in Yosemite remains one of the least expensive and greatest experiences that visitors in our area can enjoy.

## **When was the last time the park raised the campground fee?**

The previous campground rates had been in place since 2001 for group and stock sites and 2006 for all other campsites.