

## FACILITIES

Toilets and a pay telephone are located in the parking area. The pay phone is located outside the gift shop, which is closed in winter. The Mariposa Grove Museum, located in the Upper Grove is closed during winter.

## TRAIL OPTIONS

Note that trail ratings are for average conditions. Icy or crusty conditions, or deep snow can make trails much more difficult.

- **Loop Road (8 mi., 12.8 km, round trip):** When the access road to the Mariposa Grove is closed due to snow, you may park at the South Entrance and ski into the grove. The distance is two miles, and skiers should be alert for snow removal equipment. Once you enter the grove, the easiest route is along the unplowed road. Several giant sequoias, including the Fallen Monarch and the California Tunnel Tree, are located along this route.
- **Trail MG-1 (.8 mi., 1.3 km, one way):** This trail leads to the largest tree in Yosemite, the Grizzly Giant, and passes the California Tunnel Tree. From the Grizzly Giant, the easiest route to the Upper Grove is along the unplowed road.
- ◆ **Trail MG-2 (.8 mi., 1.3 km, one way):** This trail departs the road at the Clothespin Tree, a burned-out, but living giant sequoia. This is a more difficult route to the Upper Grove.
- **Trail MG-3 (1/2 mi., .4 km, one way):** This route departs the road at the Galen Clark Tree and leads to Wawona Point, an overlook with views of the Wawona Basin and the Coast Range across the San Joaquin Valley.
- ◆ **Trail MG-4 (.4 mi., .6 km, one way):** This trail joins with MG-1 and MG-2 via a short section of the Loop Road. It is a more difficult route to the Upper Grove than the unplowed road.

Trail Rating Legend:

- **Easiest** ■ **More difficult** ◆ **Most difficult**

# Mariposa Grove Winter Trails

Yosemite National Park

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Skiers and snowshoers, please make and maintain separate, parallel trails. If you are walking, please stay off the ski trails. Footsteps create holes in the snow, which can make skiing difficult and create hazards.



## BEFORE YOU START

Ski or snowshoe touring in Yosemite can be a magnificent experience, or it can be a disaster if certain simple preparations are ignored. Park rangers have assembled a set of suggestions which, when observed, can help ensure a safe trip even if you encounter stormy weather or unforeseen problems.

**Plan your trip sensibly**, keeping in mind your experience and physical condition. Remember that winter days are short and you may not be able to travel as far as you expect.

Before you leave on a trip, let someone know where you're going and when you'll return.

Keep track of others in your party.

Always carry a map and compass and know how to use them. Unless you're an expert with map and compass, stay on trails, which are located by yellow markers. Consider carrying a GPS unit, if you know how to use one.

Get a weather forecast (209/372-0200)—then be prepared for the unexpected.

Even on short trips, carry proper gear and food for an unplanned bivouac. Always carry and drink plenty of water. If you are thirsty, you are already dehydrated.

Clothing and equipment suggestions: Wear wool, fleece, or polypropylene—a wool or synthetic hat is essential. These fabrics retain some warmth even when wet. Pack a waterproof jacket. Carry quick-energy food, water, waterproof matches, a flashlight, and protection from the sun.

If you become lost or must bivouac unexpectedly, THINK! Stop early to prepare for the night. Don't thrash around or panic; save your energy. Build a fire, if possible. Avoid wind and insulate your body from snow. Drink warm liquids, if possible; eat often and huddle together. Stay dry!

Keep an eye on members of your party. Hypothermia can be recognized by unusually slow movements, unintelligible speech, and peculiar behavior. If a member of your party appears hypothermic, take quick action to keep him or her as warm as possible.

If you have informed someone of your expected return and are overdue, remember that help probably is on the way. Maintain the attitude that you can and will survive.

If someone in your party needs ranger assistance and you can safely ski out, call 911 from the pay telephone in the grove parking area or South Entrance.

## KNOW THE RULES

**Certain National Park Service regulations must be observed** by winter backcountry users; these protect the park as well as visitors.

- Skiers planning overnight trips in the grove should be prepared for snow camping. Camping in the Mariposa Grove is allowed between December 1 and April 15, and only in the Upper Grove, above the Clothespin Tree. A wilderness permit, available at ranger stations, is required for any overnight trip.
- Camp no closer than 100 feet (30.5 m) to lakes, streams, and trails.
- To dispose of human waste, dig through snow and six inches into soil.
- Pack out all garbage, including toilet paper.
- Cutting tree limbs or pine boughs for shelter is not permitted.
- No pets permitted beyond plowed roads.
- No motorized vehicles are permitted.
- Skiers and snowshoers should make and maintain separate tracks.
- Wood fires are not allowed except for emergencies.

## GETTING INTO FOCUS

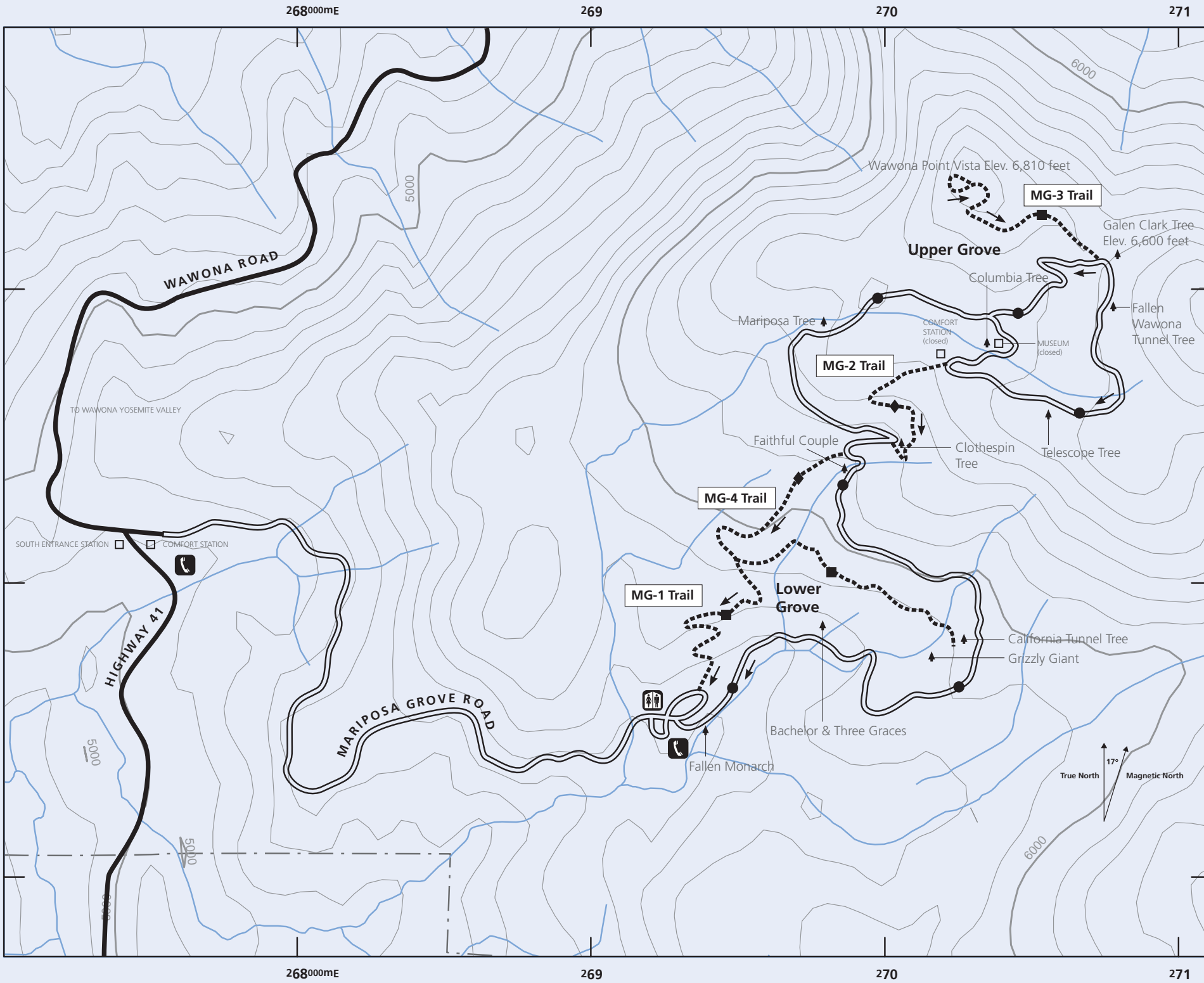
**The Mariposa Grove is one of 75 scattered groupings of giant sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada.** These impressive trees are the largest of living things; the Grizzly Giant in this grove measures 96 feet (31 m) in circumference and 27.6 feet (8.9 m) in diameter at its base.

The prevailing climate at 6,000 feet (1,800 m) in elevation—heavy snows, sunny days, mildly cold nights, and sufficient moisture—enable these trees to flourish.

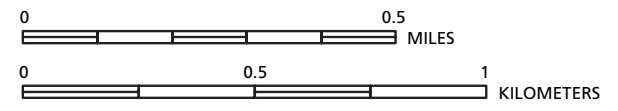
These trees are said by many to symbolize survival and serenity, and they alter one's perspective of time and the way we live. To the poet, Edwin Markham, these trees "belong to the silence and the millenniums. Many have seen more than one hundred of our human generations rise...they chide our pettiness... standing here among the transitory shapes of time."

For you they offer another dimension—beautiful skiing!

# MARIPOSA GROVE WINTER TRAILS



## Mileage scale



- Plowed road
- Unplowed road/ski trail (marked with orange snow stakes)
- Marked ski trail
- Downhill direction
- Structure
- Telephone
- Restroom
- Giant sequoia locations

Contour interval = 100 feet (30.5 m)

## Ski Trail Rating:\*

- Easiest
- More difficult
- ◆ Most difficult

\*Trail ratings are based upon ideal snow conditions and may change radically due to changes in weather or snow conditions.

**Skiers and snowshoers, please make and maintain separate, parallel trails.**

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