Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, visitor services and access may be affected. For the safety of other visitors and employees, please comply with social distancing protocol. Check local resources for service hours and trail/facility access. For details, visit www.nps.gov/yose.

We encourage you to follow CDC guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- Practice social distancing by maintaining 6 feet of distance between you and others.
- Wear a face covering when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Most importantly, stay home if you feel sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

The Yosemite Valley Shuttle System will not be operating during the 2020 season.
Things to Do

Keep this Guide with you to get the most out of your trip

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Observe wildlife rules … but with people!

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Stay home when sick.
- Avoid close contact with those [at risk] are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Still don’t use slower friends as bear bells.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue.

Yosemite Conservancy Programs

Yosemite Conservancy programs are canceled through at least June 30. We’ve been working on ways to help you connect with Yosemite through nature videos, online art demonstrations, fun reading activities for kids, and more. Visit us online (yosemite.org) and follow us on social media (@yosemiteconservancy on Facebook and Instagram, and @yosemiteconservancy on Twitter) to find the latest resources from our team, learn more about our organization, and check out our event calendar.

Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center
The Sierra Club’s Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (YCHC) is closed for the 2020 season due to COVID-19. We apologize for any inconvenience. In June or July we may have evening programs online. Please visit the YCHC website: sierraclub.org/yosemite-conservation-heritage-center.

OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY - WAWONA

Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explores Yosemite’s history and interpretive signs explain how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and around the world.

Mariposa Grove
Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees in the grove. Shuttles will not operate during the 2020 season, expect a two-mile, one-way walk to reach the grove. Interpretive signs provide a self-guiding tour once in the grove.

CRANE FLAT
Tuolumne Grove
The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 mature sequoias is near the Big Oak Flat and Tioga road intersection at Crane Flat. The moderately strenuous trail drops 900 feet (150 meters) in one mile. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. Bring drinking water.

Merced Grove
The Merced Grove, a group of about 20 mature trees, is a three-mile, round-trip hike. The trail drops 1.5 miles, making this a moderately-strenuous hike. Bring drinking water. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a roadside sign.

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

Scenic Drive / Hikes
The drive through Tuolumne Meadows provides a glimpse of the High Sierra. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through sub-alpine meadows surrounded by granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week.

Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs
Two trails, both flat and 3/4-mile long, lead to this historic area. Soda Springs are small, naturally-carbonated springs that attract birds and deer, especially at sunrise and sunset. Thank you for staying on the trail.

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide Summer 2020

COVID-19 Coronavirus

PARK UPDATE

Due to ongoing impacts of COVID-19, visitor services and access may be affected. For the safety of other visitors and employees, please comply with social distancing protocol. Facility and area access and hours may be limited, check local postings for updates. Information on closures can be found on www.nps.gov/yose.

WELCOME
Ask A Ranger

There will be contact stations available for visitor information in Yosemite Valley, Mariposa Grove, Big Oak Flat, and Tuolumne Meadows. Look for signs to direct you to locations.

IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

The Ansel Adams Gallery
Photography Excursions

Yosemite is one of the great wonders of the Earth and we are here to help you capture it. Sign up for a half-day photography class, private guided tour, or a camera walk led by a resident staff photographer. Classes and walks are scheduled most days at 9am and 1pm. Private guides are first-come first-serve and require advance reservations. Excursions have been modified to limit group size and accommodate social distancing for guest safety.

Walking and Hiking

From easy walks to Lower Yosemite Fall to strenuous hikes to the top of Yosemite Falls, Yosemite Valley has a wide range of walking and hiking possibilities. See page 5.

Bicycling

Experience several miles of bicycle paths that wind through Yosemite Valley. Use your own bicycle or rent one from Yosemite Valley Lodge or Curry Village, conditions permitting. See pg. 6 for hours. Bicycles are only allowed on paved roads and paved bike paths.

Yosemite Village Garage - Yosemite Village - Visitors Center. Contact an Accessibility Specialist for a complete list of accessible services, exhibits, and recreational opportunities, pick up a Yosemite Accessibility Guide at any park entrance station or visitor center, or view online at www.nps.gov/yose/youalyaparsecurity/accessibility.htm, or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at (209) 379-1035.

Sign Language interpreting is available upon request. Contact Dial Services at (209) 379-5250 (v/txt). Two weeks advance notice is requested.

Access for People with Disabilities

Visitors with special needs are welcome in Yosemite. For complete information on the services, exhibits, and recreational activities available in the park, visit www.nps.gov/yose/management/social-distancing/enable.htm

In the park:

- The Ansel Adams Gallery offers a variety of photography courses, events, and guided tours.
- The National Park Service is responsible for managing Yosemite National Park. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yose.

In the city:

- The Sierra Club’s Yosemite Conservancy provides conservation and heritage education. For more information, visit yosemiteconservancy.org.

In the community:

- The Yosemite Conservancy offers a variety of educational programs and activities for all ages. For more information, visit yosemite.org.

In the region:

- The Yosemite Area Natural History Association offers a variety of educational programs and activities for all ages. For more information, visit yosemitearea.org.

In the nation:

- The Yosemite Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting Yosemite National Park. For more information, visit yosemiteconservancy.org.

In the world:

- The Yosemite Conservancy is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. For more information, visit iucn.org.

In the future:

- The Yosemite Conservancy is planning a variety of educational programs and activities for all ages. For more information, visit yosemiteconservancy.org.

In the past:

- The Yosemite Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting Yosemite National Park. For more information, visit yosemiteconservancy.org.
Discover Yosemite

Experience Your America  Yosemite National Park

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Yosemite Travel Tips
The busy summer months have arrived! If you haven’t already, you’re likely to experience congestion, especially in Yosemite Valley. Be prepared for extended delays, especially in afternoons and on weekends. Plan accordingly and use restrooms when available.

If you’re visiting Yosemite Valley for the day, look for parking in three major parking lots: Yosemite Falls Parking Lot, Yosemite Village Parking Lot, and at Curry Village Parking. Free shuttle service to destinations throughout Yosemite Valley is available from each of these parking lots. If you have lodging or campground reservations, please park at your lodge or campsite.

Once you find a place to park, please leave your car parked. Parking fills to capacity throughout Yosemite by mid-morning. Don’t forget where you parked your car, as there are multiple parking areas throughout the Valley. Driving or parking on vegetation is prohibited.

Do not use or block the “Bus and Authorized Vehicles” lane while driving in Yosemite Valley. The bus lane ensures emergency vehicles can respond to incidents when traffic is backed up and provides preference for mass transit.

Yosemite Valley Map

Yosemite Travel Tips
The busy summer months have arrived! If you haven’t already, you’re likely to experience congestion, especially in Yosemite Valley. Be prepared for extended delays, especially in afternoons and on weekends. Plan accordingly and use restrooms when available.

If you’re visiting Yosemite Valley for the day, look for parking in three major parking lots: Yosemite Falls Parking Lot, Yosemite Village Parking Lot, and at Curry Village Parking. Free shuttle service to destinations throughout Yosemite Valley is available from each of these parking lots. If you have lodging or campground reservations, please park at your lodge or campsite.

Once you find a place to park, please leave your car parked. Parking fills to capacity throughout Yosemite by mid-morning. Don’t forget where you parked your car, as there are multiple parking areas throughout the Valley. Driving or parking on vegetation is prohibited.

Do not use or block the “Bus and Authorized Vehicles” lane while driving in Yosemite Valley. The bus lane ensures emergency vehicles can respond to incidents when traffic is backed up and provides preference for mass transit.

Yosemite Valley Map

Yosemite Travel Tips
The busy summer months have arrived! If you haven’t already, you’re likely to experience congestion, especially in Yosemite Valley. Be prepared for extended delays, especially in afternoons and on weekends. Plan accordingly and use restrooms when available.

If you’re visiting Yosemite Valley for the day, look for parking in three major parking lots: Yosemite Falls Parking Lot, Yosemite Village Parking Lot, and at Curry Village Parking. Free shuttle service to destinations throughout Yosemite Valley is available from each of these parking lots. If you have lodging or campground reservations, please park at your lodge or campsite.

Once you find a place to park, please leave your car parked. Parking fills to capacity throughout Yosemite by mid-morning. Don’t forget where you parked your car, as there are multiple parking areas throughout the Valley. Driving or parking on vegetation is prohibited.

Do not use or block the “Bus and Authorized Vehicles” lane while driving in Yosemite Valley. The bus lane ensures emergency vehicles can respond to incidents when traffic is backed up and provides preference for mass transit.

Yosemite Valley Map
Yosemite Valley

1 Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and can be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 West from Manteca, and via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 East) from Lee Vining in summer. The Valley is known for massive cliff faces like El Capitan and Half Dome, its plunging waterfalls including the tallest in North America, and its attractive meadows. While Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow recharge it, a moderate hike will take you to Vernal and Nevada Falls. Yosemite’s meadows are great places to see wildlife and to photograph fall and winter scenery. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot or car, the scenery will leave you in awe and eager to see what’s around the next corner.

Glacier Point Road

2 Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and Yosemite’s high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley or Wawona. To get there from either of these places, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41) to Chinquapin, then turn onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating—some might say unnerving—view 3,214 feet down to Yosemite Valley below.

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

3 The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 ¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park’s South Entrance. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite.

Tioga Road and Tuolumne Grove

4 Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. It is usually open from late May or early June through November. The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 feet to nearly 10,000 feet. The White Wolf area, midway across the park, is the starting point for day hikes to Lukens Lake and Harden Lake. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the grove. Or park at Merced Grove trailhead on Big Oak Flat Road and walk 1.5 steep miles down to the grove. These groves are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off-limits to vehicles. Remember, walking down is easier than walking back up.

Tuolumne Meadows

5 Tuolumne Meadows provides a glimpse of the High Sierra. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by even higher granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. Stop at the Tuolumne Meadows information center to find out about hikes to Cathedral Lakes, Elizabeth Lake, Lembert Dome, or along the Tuolumne River through Lyell Canyon.

Hetch Hetchy

6 Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area’s low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles (1 ¼ hour) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 7am to 9pm. Vehicles and/or trailers over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not permitted on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.
Welcome to Yosemite Valley!

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
A visitor contact station will be available outside Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for visitor information and updates. Located in Yosemite Village.

Yosemite National Park

Yosemite FILMS
Closed during the 2020 season.

Yosemite Museum
Closed during the 2020 season.

INDIAN CULTURAL VILLAGE
Walk through the reconstructed Indian Village of Abwahnee and learn about the structures the Ahwahneechee lived in and the plants they used for survival. Check out the interactive displays and see the ceremonial roundhouse, bark houses, and sweathouse members of the local tribes still actively use for ceremonies and special gatherings. Located behind the Yosemite Museum in Yosemite Village.

Yosemite Village
Yosemite Village is a place to see dramatic views of Half Dome, Glacier Point, and Bridalveil Fall, as well as the outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite’s natural processes at work. Wander through the nearby fen or experience the strenuous trail to its top, see page 5.

Yosemite Falls
A massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan. See if you can spot climbers on El Capitan and discover the thrill of the vertical wilderness on Yosemite’s big walls.

Yosemite Museum Store
Closed during the 2020 season.

Yosemite Renaissance
A CALL FOR ARTISTS
If you are an artist inspired by Yosemite and the California Sierra Nevada region, you can apply for Yosemite Renaissance 36! The call to artists begins July 1st 2020. Visit www.yosemiterenissance.org to learn more.

This year, 69 works were chosen by 66 artists from across the globe, selected to inspire a new generation of people to understand, preserve and protect our wild lands and natural places.

The Ansel Adams Gallery
Open daily from 10am to 3pm. The gallery offers works by Ansel Adams as well as contemporary photographers, painters, and printers. Call (209) 372-4413 or visit www.anseladams.com for more information. The Ansel Adams Gallery is located in Yosemite Village near shuttle stops #5 and #9.

EXHIBIT
May 24, 2020 – July 11, 2020
Vagabonds to Icons: Photographs of Yosemite’s Climbing Revolution

The Incomparable Yosemite Valley
Yosemite Valley embraces one of the world’s most outstanding concentrations of waterfalls, granite walls, and meadows. The Valley also harbors a rich collection of human stories, from American Indian lore to the birth of the national park movement.

Since the 1950’s, Yosemite has been the epicenter of several revolutions in rock climbing. There have been many climbing achievements in Yosemite’s history that have amazed people worldwide. Warren Harding’s first ascent of the Nose on El Capitan was, up until it happened, unfathomable. John Salathé and Yvon Chouinard innovated climbing safety gear to be more durable and sustainable in order to climb Yosemite’s big walls, which had an effect that spread across the globe. Even today, Yosemite still continues to be at the forefront. Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgenson recently completed the Dawn Wall of El Capitan, the most technically difficult successful climbing route to date. Alex Honnold recently completed the first free solo ascent of El Capitan. Rock climbing has made its way into the mainstream, and somewhat stigmatized method. We invite multiple artists working in this adventurous and somewhat stigmatized method. We invite you to come see how an image made with your phone can ‘develop’ into a work of art.

NEW EXHIBIT
July 12 - August 22, 2020
SMART: Photographs from Phone to Print
Ansel Adams was a witness to the exponential growth in photography; by the end of his life, photography had evolved into a fine art, becoming a popular mode of artistic expression, with what he called “electronic [digital] photography” on the horizon. Blending all three of these facets, smartphone photography has made its mark. In the Gallery’s continuing tradition of honoring the exploration of contemporary artist’s into new avenues of photography, we are thrilled to present our first exhibition dedicated entirely to images made with the smartphone as the inventive lens. Beginning on July 12 and running through August 22, SMART: Photographs from Phone to Print will showcase multiple artists working in this adventurous and somewhat stigmatized method. We invite you to come see how an image made with your phone can ‘develop’ into a work of art.

SIGHTSEEING
Yosemite Falls gives the Valley an extra touch of life when it’s flowing with spring runoff. You can walk to its base or take the strenuous trail to its top, see page 5.

Half Dome, Yosemite’s most distinctive monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Cook’s Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, and Glacier Point, are just a few locations that will grant you some stunning views of Half Dome.

El Capitan, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan. See if you can spot climbers on El Capitan and discover the thrill of the vertical wilderness on Yosemite’s big walls.

Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. Wander through the nearby fen or experience the outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite’s geologic story.

Tunnel View, along Wawona Road (Hwy 41) showcases the immensity of the granite walls that surround Yosemite Valley, providing a classic view of El Capitan, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridalveil Fall.

WANT THE GUIDE ON YOUR IPHONE OR ANDROID DEVICE?
Get the App!
Search NPS-Yosemite in app stores or at nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit to download the official park app for up-to-date listings of programs, services, an interactive map, and more!
Services in Yosemite

COVID-19 Coronavirus

All available operations and hours of operations are subject to change as a result of COVID-19 and Social Distancing guidelines.

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

Food and Drink

YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Degnan’s Kitchen
7am to 11am, 12pm to 6pm
The Loft at Degnan’s Kitchen
Closed for the 2020 season
Village Grill
11am to 5pm
THE AHWAHNEE
Dining Room
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm
Appropriate attire is respectfully requested for dinner. Reservations are strongly recommended. (209) 372-1489
The Ahwahnee Bar
strongly recommended: (209) 372-1489

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE
11am to 9pm
The Ahwahnee Bar
strongly recommended: (209) 372-1489

Base Camp Eatery
Starbucks Coffee: 7am to 3pm
Breakfast: 7am to 10am
Lunch: 11am to 2pm
Dinner: 5pm to 9pm
Appropriate attire is respectfully requested for dinner. Reservations are strongly recommended. (209) 372-1489

YOSEMITE VILLAGE LODGE
11am to 9pm
Mountain Room Restaurant
Closed for the 2020 season

CURRY VILLAGE
Meadow Grill
12pm to 8pm
Get-Yo Tacos Food Trucks
1pm to 9pm
Closes for lunch 12:30pm to 1:30pm

WAWONA
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop
Closed for the 2020 season

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH
(The Chapel)
Pastor Brent Moore: Resident Minister
(209) 372-4361 • www.yosemitevalleychapel.org
www.YosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org
SUNDAY SERVICES
Morning Services: 9:15am (Year-round)
El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am
El Portal Chapel / Worship: Saturday 7pm
WEDNESDAY EVENING MID-WEEK SERVICE - 7pm
THURSDAY EVENING (Non-denominational)
El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am
Info: 209/379-2100

RECREATION

Yosemite Valley Lodge Tour Desk
Closed for the Season
Yosemite Village Tour Desk
Closed for the Season
Curry Village Tour Activity Desk
Closed for the Season
CURRY VILLAGE
Bike Rentals
8am to 6pm, conditions permitting
Raft Rentals
Closed for the Season
Mountaineering School
Closed for the Season
YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE
Bike Rentals
8am to 6pm, conditions permitting

General Services

Medical Clinic - Yosemite Valley
(209) 372-4657
for emergency CALL 9-1-1
Monday - Friday: 9am to 5pm,
Closed weekends and federal holidays

YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Garage
6:30am to 5pm
Towing available 24 hours.

Books, Gifts, & Apparel

YOSEMITE VILLAGE
Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore
at Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
9am to 5pm (will be operating as an outdoor “to-go” store while visitor center is closed)

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE
Closed for the 2020 season
Choose your adventure

What better way to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite than on foot. Ask a ranger at any contact station for updated trail conditions and one of several free day-hike handouts. Excellent maps and guidebooks are also available for purchase at stores throughout the park.

Walking Yosemite Valley

We strongly recommend moving around the east end of Yosemite Valley on foot or bike if possible. On the map below, look for the large red circles that are connected by a red line. The numbers in the white circles show the average walking time between each destinations, represented by the red circles.

COVID-19 Coronavirus

PARK UPDATE

• Please practice social distancing while walking on trails.
• Expect trail closures.
• Some trails may be re-routed to accommodate social distancing protocol. Please comply with all posted signs.

Know Before You Go:

• Swimming is not permitted in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir or in Emerald Pool above Vernal Fall.
• Stay away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards. Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions.
• Always supervise children closely.
• Avoid areas of whitewater, where streams flow over rocky obstructions.
• Never swim or wade upstream from a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Nearly every year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.
Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Following adaptive management guidelines and the need to protect the health and safety of our visitors and employees, there will be no first come first serve (FCFS) permits issued in the park for 2020. The FCFS quota will be available through a rolling lottery using the advanced reservation system. Please go to www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits to check trailhead availability and for more information on how to apply for these permits. Reservations can be made online at yosemite.org/yosemite-wilderness-permit-request-form and by using our contact form at yosemite.org/contact-us-wilderness. A processing fee of $5 per permit plus $5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdwildpermits.htm. For backpackers more information is available at http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hppermits.htm. For Highland Lake, Wawona, and Half Dome permits attached to a wilderness permit will only be available through the current wilderness reservation system. Rock climbers who reach the top of Half Dome without entering the subdome area may descend on the Half Dome Trail without a permit. More information is available at http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm. For backpackers more information is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.

Camping

Upper Pines, Camp 4, Wawona, and Hodgdon Meadow are open year-round. For more information on campground opening dates, visit our website at go.nps.gov/campground. Call (209) 372-0266 for reservations. A non-refundable application fee applies to all submissions and a use fee applies to winning applicants. Finally, a daily quota of 75 Half Dome permits will be available to overnight users with an appropriate wilderness permit (use fee applies). For the 2020 season, Half Dome permits attached to a wilderness permit will only be available through the current wilderness reservation system. Rock climbers who reach the top of Half Dome without entering the subdome area may descend on the Half Dome Trail without a permit. More information is available at http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm. For backpackers more information is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.

Fire Prevention

- Prevent Wildfires: Follow all campfire rules and restrictions. A campfire should never be left unattended; it should be extinguished even if you are nearby in a tent. Always make sure your fire is dead out by pouring water on it, stirring with a tool, and feeling with your bare hand that it is cool to the touch. If it is too hot to touch it’s too hot to leave!
- Instead of lighting a campfire consider using a pressurized gas portable stove for cooking and wear warm clothing to stay warm.
- Smoke is inevitable throughout the year in different parts of the park, whether from campfires, natural wildlife in the back-country, or prescribed fire. The park may also experience smoke impacts from other areas throughout the region. To help plan your trip look up the air quality page on the park’s website.
- Campfire smoke will linger in valleys with daily atmospheric changes. That’s why it is always important to follow the posted campfire rules.

Camping Reservations

In Yosemite Valley’s campgrounds, reservations are recommended December through February, and required March through November. Outside the valley, reservations are required summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served. Campground reservations are available up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month at 7 am Pacific time. Log onto the website or call as soon as possible as some campgrounds fill within a few minutes of the opening period.

For campground reservations, visit www.recreation.gov (recommended) or call (877) 444-6777 or TDD (877) 833-6777 or (518) 885-6399 from outside the US and Canada.

General Camping Information

- Services All sites include picnic tables, firepits with grills, and a food locker (33" x 45" x 18" h). See page 9 for food storage regulations.
- Showers and laundry facilities are available in Yosemite Valley.
- There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all years), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows.

Regulations

- Proper food storage is required 24 hours a day.
- A maximum of six people (including children) and two vehicles are allowed per campsite.
- Quiet hours are from 10 pm to 6 am.
- Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.
- Campfires

  - In Yosemite Valley between May 1 and September 30, campfires are permitted between 5 pm and 10 pm.
  - Firewood collection is permitted within the boundaries of campgrounds in Yosemite Valley, and can otherwise be purchased anywhere in the park that is outside Yosemite Valley, below 9,600 feet, and not in a sequoia grove.

PARK UPDATE

- Camping during the 2020 season will be by reservation only.
- There will be no walk-up service, campground offices will be closed.
- Some campgrounds will be closed.

COVID-19 Coronavirus

- Webpage is www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits to check trailhead availability and for more information on how to apply for these permits. Reservations can be made online at yosemite.org/yosemite-wilderness-permit-request-form and by using our contact form at yosemite.org/contact-us-wilderness. A processing fee of $5 per permit plus $5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdwildpermits.htm. For backpackers more information is available at: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm.

Wilderness Permits

The Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center will have limited hours and services. Please check local sources or the park website or use fee applies! To apply, log onto the website or call as soon as possible as some campgrounds fill within a few minutes of the opening period. For campground reservations, visit www.recreation.gov (recommended) or call (877) 444-6777 or TDD (877) 833-6777 or (518) 885-6399 from outside the US and Canada.
Protecting yourself...

ENJOYING YOSEMITE

Summer is a popular time to visit Yosemite; daylight hours are long, the weather is warm, plant and animal life are vibrant, and waterfalls are full. However, summer conditions present unique challenges which you must be aware of to have a safe and enjoyable visit.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Rain and melting snow can cause rivers and streams to flow fast and high. As temperatures increase, rivers and streams maybe become tempting, however, one may forget that the water was snow a few hours before and is just above freezing. Yosemite’s water is deceptively dangerous and unforgiving. Visitors are strongly urged to enjoy moving or falling water from a safe distance. Also, granite rocks and boulders near rivers and waterfalls, wet or dry, are extremely slippery. To avoid injury, stay on designated trails.

WEATHER

Prevent dehydration by carrying more water than you need. Sip lots of water throughout the day and frequently eat salty, easy-to-digest snacks. Make sure your hike or outdoor activity is half over before your water is half gone.

Thunderstorm season is here. Remember, there is no safe place outside when you can hear thunder. Follow the saying, “when thunder roars, go indoors.” If you cannot reach a building or car (with a hard top), hike down and away from ridges and outcroppings. Do not be the tallest object or near a tall object.

BOATING / FLOATING

Before boating or floating, check the Park’s website at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/maxweight.htm for allowable locations and conditions. We urge you to wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD). Mishaps occur suddenly, you may not have time to put on your PFD.

YOSEMITE’S ROADS

Yosemite’s roads are as dangerous as the roads near your home, with additional hazards such as rock fall and abundant wildlife, including deer and bear. There are many sites to distract drivers. If you cannot devote 100% of your attention to your driving, please pull off the road into a designated pull-off or parking area. Buckle up! Park rangers enforce California’s Motor Vehicle Code on park roads.

YOSEMITE’S TRAILS

Yosemite’s 800 miles of trails pass through natural areas and endure all the forces of nature including flooding, fire, erosion, and slides. Trails may be damaged from weather and past fires. Snow can be present over higher elevations. Always carry a good topo map and compass (GPS optional) and know your location.

FOR ALL SEASONS

• Let someone know – always leave travel and hiking plans, including intended routes and estimated time of return, with a trusted person.

• Stay on established trails
  • River, streams and lakes can be hazardous all year. Maintain awareness and crossing water should only be attempted where it is safe.
  • Regardless of season you still need to stay hydrated and snack frequently! If you are sweating, replace lost salts with salty, easy-to-digest snacks.

• “10 hiking essentials” – including sunglasses, sunscreen, and a signaling method (mirror and whistle).

HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases harmful to humans. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread to humans via the droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents. You may come into close proximity to rodents during your visit, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS. If staying in guest lodging, please tell the housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your accommodations. Do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors to guest lodging shut and do not bring unsealed food into your cabin. If you are camping and backpacking, do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings. HPS often begins with flu-like symptoms such as aches, fever, and chills to one seven weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and difficulty in breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms and mention any potential rodent exposures to your physician. For more information on hantavirus and other environmental safety hazards visit: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yousafety.htm

PLAGUE

Plague is an infectious bacterial disease that is carried by squirrels, chipmunks and other wild rodents and their fleas. To protect yourself from plague, never feed wildlife, avoid dropping food when eating outside, avoid pitching a tent near or disturbing rodent burrows, wear insect repellent with DEET, and immediately tell a park ranger if you see a dead animal. Early symptoms of plague may include fever, chills, nausea, painful swelling at the site of an insect bite or lymph node, and other flu-like symptoms. If you develop any of these symptoms within 6 days of visiting an area at risk for plague, see your doctor and inform them you may have been exposed. Plague is treatable with antibiotics if given in time.

WILDERNESS ETIQUETTE: USING YOUR BACKCOUNTRY BATHROOM

When nature calls, make sure you are at least 200 feet away from any water source. Dig a hole in dirt at least 6 inches deep so you’re able to bury your waste—your toilet paper gets packed out with you. Don’t bury it or try to burn it! If you are in snow and can’t dig a hole to soil you are expected to pack out your waste as well.

BATHROOM

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Buckeye, CA 95620

www.nps.gov/yose

BATHROOM

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Buckeye, CA 95620

www.nps.gov/yose
**Keep Bears Wild**

With warmer spring weather, bears emerge hungry from hibernation. Please, keep Yosemite’s black bears wild and alive, while protecting yourself and your property.

**STORE YOUR FOOD PROPERLY**
The typical daily diet of most bears may consist of 4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, acorns, and grubs. It's easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling on grasses. Their incredible sense of smell allows them to detect things we can’t, which helps them find food—a black bear can smell a dead deer three miles away. To top it off, bears have excellent vision and see in color, so they recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.

**DRIVE THE SPEED LIMIT**
The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Slow down! Driving too fast is almost always the cause of these accidental deaths. Please report bear sightings by calling (209) 372-0322.

**IF YOU SEE A BEAR...**
...scare it away or keep your distance. You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away. Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there are more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed. Report bear sightings and incidents to the Save-A-Bear hotline (209) 372-0322 or by emailing yose_bear_mgmt@nps.gov. For more information about bears in Yosemite please visit www.keepbearswild.org.

**How to Store Food**

**LOCATION** | **FOOD STORAGE** | **WHY?**
---|---|---
Your Vehicle | You may store food in your car (with windows closed) only during daylight hours. Do not store food in your car after dark: use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats. | Bears can smell food, even if it’s sealed in the trunk or glove compartment, and they recognize boxes and bags as potential food sources. They can easily and quickly break into all kinds of vehicles.
Your Campsite or Tent Cabin | You must store all your food in food lockers—not in your tent or tent cabin. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed. | Bears may enter campgrounds when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and latch them at times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin.
Picnic Areas & on the Trail | Do not leave food unattended. Always keep food within arm’s reach. Don’t turn your back to your food. | Bears may investigate picnic areas or backpacks for food even when people are present, so be alert.
Backpacking in the Wilderness | Bear resistant food containers are required throughout the Yosemite Wilderness. Hanging food is prohibited in Yosemite. In Yosemite and the southern Sierra, bear canisters are the only effective and proven method of preventing bears from getting human food. | Bears may enter campsites when people are present, and some will even check food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and latch them at times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm and find a copy of the Superintendent’s Compendium. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions, in addition to what is contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7 and 34), and other applicable federal statutes and regulations.

---

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK ZERO LANDFILL INITIATIVE**

Be a steward of Yosemite by helping make Yosemite the first Zero Landfill park in the country. Through the Zero Landfill Initiative, Yosemite National Park is reducing the amount of trash that goes to the landfill every year. In partnership with Yosemite Hospitality, we are making it easier for visitors and staff to participate by adding more recycling containers with better labels. We are also working to reduce the amount of waste we generate in park management operations.

Here are 3 things you can do to help:
1. Get rid of excess packaging by repacking food in reusable containers before you leave home.
3. Put trash and recycling in the right containers.
F or many, the photographs of Ansel Adams are a portal to a different world. Through Ansel’s striking images, the outdoors are transformed from an abstract concept—a world beyond our suburban cul-de-sacs or crowded city streets—into a reality. Here, in his photographs, are our lonely mountains, here are our rugged cliffs, here are our rushing rivers. There is perhaps no photographer in American history who stood for the ethos of stewardship for our shared environment as much as Ansel Adams, who over the course of his decades-long career did more than just introduce Americans to their wild places, but encouraged them to protect them.

Ansel made his first trip to Yosemite in 1916, when he was just 14. After a San Francisco childhood spent playing in the dunes behind the Golden Gate and the wind-swept shoreline at Land’s End, the young Adams had a keen eye for the romance of nature. As Ansel later wrote of his first impression of Yosemite, after weeks of boyhood anticipation:

“That first impression of the valley—white water, azaleas, cool fir caverns, tall pines and solid oaks, cliffs rising to undreamed-of heights, the poignant sounds and smells of the Sierra... was a culmination of experience so intense as to be almost painful.”

From then on, Ansel returned to photograph Yosemite every summer of his life. In 1919, he took a job as the custodian of the Sierra Club’s LeConte Memorial Lodge in Yosemite Valley, where he would come back and work every summer until 1923. The custodian job, a dream for an outdoorsy teenager, left him plenty of time to explore the valley with the fervor and invincibility of youth. In a later interview with Backpacker magazine, Ansel recalled one rock-climbing trip in the high Sierra country, where he scrambled up rock faces with nothing more than a quarter inch-thick window sash cord to hold him. “In a sense,” he conceded, somewhat sheepishly, “it’s a miracle I’m alive.”

“I would like to think of all young people of today, with their health, vigor, and creativity striding the high hills as I did so many years ago, with the beauty and the wonder of the world opening before them.”

— Ansel Adams

But his youthful time at the Le Conte Lodge didn’t just instill in Ansel a love for adventure. It introduced him to the vision and the aspirations of conservation. In spite of its name, the Sierra Club’s lodge isn’t really a lodge in the conventional sense. Rather than serving as a bunkhouse for hikers on the way to Mirror Lake or Yosemite Falls, the Le Conte Lodge was opened in 1904 to provide a public reading room and information to visitors of Yosemite National Park. The lodge educates thousands of visitors every year on the importance of respect for the Park’s wilderness, and on the Sierra Club’s preservationist goals. As custodian, Ansel was introduced to the Sierra Club’s founding mission “to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth, and to educate humanity to do the same.

There was perhaps no more formative experience for Ansel, both artistically and personally, than his time spent as custodian. As David Brower, the first executive director of the Sierra Club, once wrote, “It is hard to tell which has shaped the other more—Ansel Adams or the Sierra Club.” Soon, Ansel began attending the High Trip, the Club’s annual outing of more than 200 people, then organizing the trips, and before long he was the Club’s official photographer. Gone was the teenager who bemoaned seeing others with him during his long summers in the park, thinking visitors to be “an intrusion or even trespass.” Instead, the artistic mission of Adams’ life became an educational one: to use his photography to introduce to others the joys of nature and the imperative need to protect it.

Throughout his long career, Ansel sought to make his art available to as many people as possible, knowing full well the emotional and transportive power of his photographs. When asked to speak in 1975 about the role of the artist in conservation, he said, somewhat wistfully, then an older man: “I would like to think of all young people of today, with their health, vigor, and creativity striding the high hills as I did so many years ago, with the beauty and the wonder of the world opening before them.” Through his photography, Ansel invited everyone to experience his wild and idyllic years among the cliffs and pines of Yosemite Valley. Through his photographs, all people can truly feel as he did: that they are striding through a vast and unknowable wilderness, watching its treasures reveal themselves just for them. Who, knowing Yosemite that way, wouldn’t fight to preserve it?

DID YOU KNOW?

• Ansel Adams served as a Director of the Sierra Club for nearly 50 years, from 1925 to 1971. His predecessor as Director was none other than his wife, Virginia Best, who retired from her post to take care of their baby son, Michael.

• In 1938, Ansel published a special limited-edition book of photographs, Sierra Nevada: The John Muir Trail, celebrating the beauty of the Kings River wilderness. The images were so striking that when the National Park Service gave a copy to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Roosevelt was inspired to preserve those lands as the Kings Canyon National Park.

• Ansel Adams returned to the LeConte Lodge in 1955 for a photographic exhibition, This is the American Earth, celebrating the beauty of the Kings River wilderness. The images were so striking that when the National Park Service gave a copy to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Roosevelt was inspired to preserve those lands as the Kings Canyon National Park.

• In 1980, President Jimmy Carter awarded Ansel the Presidential Medal of Freedom, for his “efforts to preserve this country’s wild and scenic areas, both on film and on earth.”
Supporting Your Park
Providing for Yosemite’s Future

Enhance the Visitor Experience
It takes a legion of people working together to protect this special park for you and future generations of visitors. You too can extend your connection to Yosemite well after you return home by getting involved with the organizations that partner to preserve Yosemite.

This publication was made possible by the Yosemite Park Partners listed on this page. Read more below or visit www.yosemitepartners.org to learn more about helping these organizations provide for the future of Yosemite National Park.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates the arts and the natural grandeur of our environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world by offering visitors a unique variety of literature and art, as well as programs that inspire creativity. Visit online at: www.anseladams.com.

Yosemite Hospitality LLC

Yosemite Hospitality, a subsidiary of Aramark, operates lodging, food and beverage, retail, recreational activities, tours, interpretive programs, transportation, and service stations under contract with the U.S. Department of Interior with a focus on delivering authentic and memorable guest experiences. Yosemite Hospitality is committed to providing park stewardship in collaboration with the National Park Service in effort to protect and preserve the park for millions of park visitors to enjoy. Visit www.TravelYosemite.com for more information.

NatureBridge

NatureBridge provides residential field science programs for youth in the world’s most spectacular classroom: Yosemite National Park. Through active student engagement, our faculty teaches science, history, and the arts and gives these subjects context through personal experience. A NatureBridge learning adventure strives to foster a lifelong connection to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it. Find out more about our year-round programs for schools and summer programs for individual teens at www.naturebridge.org/yosemite

Yosemite Conservancy

Yosemite Conservancy inspires people to support projects and programs that preserve Yosemite National Park and enrich the visitor experience. Thanks to generous donors, the Conservancy has provided over $130 million in grants to the park to restore trails and habitat, protect wildlife, provide educational programs, and more. The Conservancy’s guided adventures, volunteer opportunities, wilderness services and bookstores help visitors of all ages connect with Yosemite. Learn more: yosemite.org or (415) 434-1782.

Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

Over 10,374 volunteers donated more than 139,500 hours of service to Yosemite last year, restoring native habitat, working in visitor centers, serving as camp hosts, studying wildlife, cleaning up litter and more. Would you like to serve? We have group and individual volunteer opportunities, both short term and long term. Learn more at: www.nps.gov/yose/getinvolved/volunteer.htm or call the volunteer office at (209) 379-1850.

Lose Something in Yosemite?

To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite’s restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses or tour services, call (209) 372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call (209) 379-1001 or email yose_lostandfound@nps.gov

Yosemite National Park App

Want the Guide on your Apple or Android device?

Get the App!

Search NPS-Yosemite in app stores or at nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit to download the official park app before arriving to the park. See up-to-date listings of programs, services, an interactive map, and more!

Looking for a Hiking Trail?

Check out the TRAILHEADS tab, located within the SERVICES tab.