Winter Weather Driving and Chain Control Information:

Winter road conditions through Yosemite can vary widely and may require tire chains. **Chain requirements are strictly enforced.** For updated 24-hour road and weather conditions for Yosemite National Park, please call 209/372-0200. Signs will indicate when chains are required. Here is a summary of chain control signs on Yosemite roads:

**R1** - All vehicles without mud and snow tires are required to install chains/cables. Vehicles with mud and snow tires do not, but must still carry chains. See chain control regulations on www.nps.gov/yose for vehicles towing trailers.

**R2** - Chains/cables must be installed on ALL vehicles except 4-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicles with mud and snow tires. Four-wheel drive vehicles must have 4-wheel drive engaged.

**R3** - ALL vehicles are required to install chains/cables, regardless of having mud and snow tires or 4-wheel/all-wheel drive capability. NO EXCEPTIONS.

*"M+S" will be on the side of your tires if they are mud and snow tires.

Winter Weather Driving and Chain Control Information:

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*"M+S" will be on the side of your tires if they are mud and snow tires.
How Will COVID-19 Impact My Visit?
Following guidance from federal, state, and local public health authorities and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we are increasing access and services in a phased approach at Yosemite National Park. Visit the park website, www.nps.gov/yose, for more updates and safety information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currently open and available</th>
<th>Not open or available at this time</th>
<th>Unavailable in early 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An outdoor visitor contact station is located behind Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.</td>
<td>Visitor Centers are closed until further notice.</td>
<td>All shuttles and tours are canceled during this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most roads and trails are open. Some trails may be closed or re-routed.</td>
<td>Some campgrounds are currently closed.</td>
<td>Yosemite Theater and Yosemite Museum will be closed during this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campgrounds in Yosemite Valley are open, reservations required, see page 7.</td>
<td>Most programs are canceled until further notice.</td>
<td>There is no first come, first served camping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select dining and shopping establishments are open and encourage social distancing.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and services are closed during this time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What Does 6-ft Look Like? The wing span of a bald eagle is roughly 6 feet long. While social distancing, imagine the length of a soaring eagle’s wing span between you and others.

THINGS TO DO IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

Custom Yosemite Experiences
Join a Yosemite Conservancy naturalist guide or art instructor for a customized experience that fits your interests and schedule.

Custom Adventures: Experience the park on personalized day hikes, birding walks, stargazing programs and backpacking trips. Learn more: yosemite.org/custom-adventures.

Custom Art Classes: Explore nature through drawing, painting, sketching and journaling. We also offer creative activities for kids! Learn more: yosemite.org/custom-art.

Looking for ways to connect with Yosemite from home? Contact us to schedule a virtual adventure or art class.

Walking and Hiking
Yosemite Valley has plenty of year-round walking and hiking possibilities. Stop by the outdoor visitor contact station behind the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for trail maps and updated weather and trail conditions.

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, reservations permitting. See page 6 for Bike Stand hours, beginning April 9. Bicycles are only allowed on paved roads and paved bike paths.

Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center
The Sierra Club’s Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly Le Conte Memorial Lodge) will not be open from May 1 through July 31, 2021 due to COVID-19. In addition, all evening programs have been cancelled for the entire season due to social distancing requirements. Call 209/374-7380 for information and updates.

Inside:

01 Things to Do
04 Exhibits and Programs
05 Services
07 Permit Information
09 Protecting Yourself
10 Feature Story
Back Yosemite Valley Map

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide March 31, 2021 - May 11, 2021
Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

Walking Yosemite Valley

We strongly recommend moving around the east end of Yosemite Valley on foot or bike if possible. On the map below, the numbers in the white circles show the average walking time between each destination, represented by the red circles.
Yosemite Valley

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

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and Yosemite’s high country, is located 30 miles (1 hour) from Yosemite Valley. The road stays open as weather permits, however, overnight parking along it ends October 15. Glacier Point Road closes beyond the Badger Pass Ski Area after the first significant snowfall. When the road is snow-covered and conditions permit, a system of cross-country ski tracks are maintained on it. From Yosemite Valley, take the Wawona Road (Highway 41), then turn left onto Glacier Point Road. At Glacier Point, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail leads you to a stunning view looking into Yosemite Valley.

Wawona and Mariposa Grove

The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1½ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park’s south entrance station. While the Mariposa Grove Road closes to cars in the winter, approximately from the end of November until mid-March, the road is open to bikers, snowshoers, and skiers, and all trails in the grove remain open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. 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.

Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

Crane Flat is located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of the Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. A number of hikes through pleasant meadows are available—when snow covers the ground these turn into delightful ski and snowshoe tracks. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area located on the Tioga Road, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk two steep miles down to this small grove. These groves north of Yosemite Valley are smaller than the more-famous Mariposa Grove, but are quieter and off limits to vehicles. Remember that the walk down is easier than the walk back up.

Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

The Tioga Road offers a 39-mile scenic drive past forests, meadows, lakes, and granite domes. The road closes after the first big snowfall, and overnight parking ends on October 15. The road’s elevation ranges from 6,200 feet to just under 10,000 feet. Tuolumne Meadows embodies the high-country of the Sierra Nevada. The Wild and Scenic Tuolumne River winds through broad sub-alpine meadows surrounded by granite domes and peaks. It is the jumping off place for countless hikes, whether you venture out for a day or a week. In winter, Tuolumne Meadows is often reached by skiers via the Snow Creek Trail from the Mirror Lake trailhead, a short distance east of Yosemite Valley.

Hetch Hetchy

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 (1½ hour) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 8am to 5pm. 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.

Buy Your Site Pass on Recreation.gov

Purchase your Yosemite National Park site pass on Recreation.gov before you arrive. Your site pass can easily be downloaded on your phone or tablet, or be printed to be displayed when you arrive. Learn more at https://www.recreation.gov/sitepass/74296
Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore
A visitor contact station is available behind the visitor center for information and updates from 9am to 5pm. The Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore will operate as an outdoor “to-go” store, daily from 9am to 5pm.

YOSEMITE THEATER
Closed Spring and Summer of 2021

Yosemite Museum
Closed Spring and Summer of 2021

INDIAN CULTURAL VILLAGE
Walk through the reconstructed Indian Village of Ahwahnee 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 RENAISSANCE ART EXHIBIT
Yosemite Renaissance has supported the arts in Yosemite since 1985. If you are an artist inspired by Yosemite and the California Sierra Nevada region, this is the show for you! The competition is open to artists word-wide and offers $4000 in cash awards. The competition seeks to encourage the public to protect and preserve our parks and wild lands through art. The exhibit will open at Yosemite Gateway Center in Oakhurst in March, Kings Art Center in Hanford in June, Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock in August, and the Yosemite Museum Gallery in October. Visit www.yosemiterenaisance.org to learn more.

Yosemite Conservancy
ADVENTURES AND ART CLASSES
Join Yosemite Conservancy for a memorable park experience! Preregistration is required for all Conservancy adventures and art classes.

Yosemite Bike Share
The free Yosemite Bike Share will open for the season in late spring, depending on weather and road safety. When it opens, you can use the bike share for short trips (up to two hours) in Yosemite Valley.

1. Get connected: Download the Yosemite Bike Share mobile app for Apple/iOS or Android in advance.
2. Get a bike: Use the app to unlock a bike at one of the Yosemite Bike Share stations, located at the Yosemite Village Parking Area and on the Village mall (between the Valley Wilderness Center and the Valley Visitor Center).
3. Get pedaling: Ride safely! Use the helmet provided with the bike (or wear your own) and stay on roads and paved bike paths.

Visit yosemite.org/yosemite-bike-share to learn more about this program, see a map of bike paths and plan your routes.
Services in Yosemite

Schedule

**YOSEMITE VILLAGE**
- **Degnan's Kitchen**
  - 7am to 11am; 11:30am to 6pm
- **The Loft at Degnan's**
  - Closed for the Season

**THE AHWAHNEE**
- **Dining Room**
  - Breakfast: 7am to 10am
  - Lunch: 11am to 2pm
  - Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm
- **The Ahwahnee Bar**
  - 2pm to 9pm

**YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE**
- **Starbucks Coffee**
  - Sunday-Thursday, 7am to 3pm, open daily beginning April 5
- **Base Camp Eatery**
  - Breakfast: 7am to 10am
  - Lunch: 11am to 2pm
  - Dinner: 4pm to 8pm
- **Mountain Room Bar**
  - 5pm to 9pm
- **Mountain Room Restaurant**
  - Temporarily closed due to COVID-19

**CURRY VILLAGE**
- **Coffee Corner**
  - 6:30am to 11am
- **Pizza Deck**
  - 12pm to 8pm, beginning April 2
- **Bar 1899**
  - 12pm to 8pm, beginning April 2
- **Meadow Grill**
  - 7am to 10am, 11am to 7pm, beginning April 3
- **Wawona Area**
  - Wawona Hotel Temporarily Closed

**YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE**
- **Gift/Grocery**
  - 10am to 6pm

**WAWONA**
- **Wawona Hotel**
  - Temporarily Closed

**Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore**
- at Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
  - 9am to 5pm daily (operating as an outdoor "to-go" store)

**The Ansel Adams Gallery**
- 10am to 3pm

**YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE**
- **Gift/Grocery**
  - 10am to 6pm, beginning April 2

**WAWONA**
- **Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop**
  - 9am to 7pm, beginning April 2

**CURRY VILLAGE**
- **Gift/Grocery**
  - 10am to 6pm, beginning April 2

**Yosemite Mountain Shop**
- 12pm to 4:30pm, April 2 only
- 8:30am to 4:30pm, beginning April 3

**GLACIER POINT**
- **Glacier Point Gift Shop**
  - 9am to 5pm, beginning May 7

**YOSEMITE VILLAGE**
- **Village Store**
  - 9am to 7pm, 8am to 8pm beginning April 2

**YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE**
- **Gift/Grocery**
  - 10am to 6pm

**WAWONA**
- **Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop**
  - 9am to 5pm

**EL PORTAL**
- **El Portal Market**
  - 10am to 6pm

**YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE**
- **Bike Stand**
  - 10am to 5pm, 8am to 6pm, beginning April 9

**YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE**
- **Bike Stand**
  - 10am to 5pm, 8am to 6pm, beginning April 9

**CURLY VALLEY**
- **Gift/Grocery**
  - 10am to 6pm, beginning April 2

**El Portal Market**
- 10am to 6pm

**WAWONA**
- **Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop**
  - 9am to 7pm, beginning April 2

**Books, Gifts, & Apparel**

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES**
- **YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH (THE CHAPEL)**
  - Resident Minister: Pastor Brent Moone
  - www.YosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org

  **SUNDAY CHAPEL SERVICES**:
  - 9:15am – Year-round
  - 11am – Labor Day to Memorial Day

  **EASTER WEEK SERVICES**:
  - Maunday Thursday Service (April 1) – 7pm
  - Good Friday (April 2) – 12pm and 7pm
  - Easter Sunday Services (April 4):
    - Lower Pines Campground – 7am
    - Chapel – 9:15am and 11am

  **MARRIAGE RENEWAL**:
  - May 2 at 9:15am and 11am

  *Subject to Covid-19 policies. Please call the chapel for current information before you travel.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**
- (Non-denominational)

**SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**
- **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**
  - No meetings at this time
  - Oakhurst Hotline: 559/683-1662

**Post Offices**
- **YOSEMITE VILLAGE**
  - Main Office
    - Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
    - Saturday: 10am to noon

- **YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE**
  - Monday - Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm

**EL PORTAL**
- Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm
  - Closed 12:30pm to 1:30pm

**WAWONA**
- 9am to 5pm

**Gas Stations**
- **EL PORTAL**
  - Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

- **WAWONA SERVICE STATION**
  - Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

- **CRANE FLAT**
  - Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

**General Services**
- **Medical Clinic** - Yosemite Valley
  - (209) 372-4637
  - For emergency care CALL 9-1-1

- **YOSEMITE VILLAGE Garage**
  - Towing available 24 hours
  - NO gas in Yosemite Valley.

**Yosemite Guide March 31, 2021 - May 11, 2021**
Hiking

**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:**

- Stay away from swift-moving water
- Always supervise children closely.
- Never swim upstream from a waterfall.

**Choose Your Adventure**

What better way to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite than on foot. Ask a ranger at any visitor contact station for updated trail conditions and one of several free day-hike handouts.

### Yosemite Valley Day Hikes*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRAIL / DESTINATION</th>
<th>STARTING POINT</th>
<th>DISTANCE / TIME</th>
<th>DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridalveil Fall - CLOSED due to Construction</td>
<td>Bridalveil Fall Parking Area</td>
<td>0.5 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Across from Yosemite Valley Lodge</td>
<td>1.0 mile round-trip, 20 minutes</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock</td>
<td>Camp 4, across from Yosemite Valley Lodge</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 2–3 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
<td>7.2 miles round-trip, 6–8 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake (A seasonal lake)</td>
<td>East of North Pines Campground</td>
<td>2 miles round-trip, 1 hour</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernal Fall Footbridge</td>
<td>Happy Isles</td>
<td>1.4 miles round-trip, 1–2 hours</td>
<td>Moderate, 400-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Top of Vernal Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles</td>
<td>3 miles round-trip, 2–4 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,000-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top of Nevada Fall</td>
<td>Happy Isles</td>
<td>5 miles round-trip, 5–6 hours</td>
<td>Strenuous 1,500-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point (Partially closed in winter)</td>
<td>Southside Drive</td>
<td>4.8 miles one-way, 3–4 hours</td>
<td>Very Strenuous, 5,200-foot gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Floor Loop</td>
<td>Lower Yosemite Fall Trailhead</td>
<td>13 miles full loop, 5–7 hours full loop</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Trails may be closed due to unsafe conditions. Ask a ranger for current conditions and heed all warning and closure signs!

### WALKS/HIKES TO DO IN 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 2021 season, expect a two-mile, one-way walk to reach the grove. Interpretive signs provide a self-guiding tour once in the grove.

### HIKES IN CRANE FLAT

**Tuolumne Grove**

The trailhead for this grove of about 25 sequoias is near the intersection of the Big Oak Flat Road and Tioga Road at Crane Flat. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from the parking area into the grove. The trail drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The way down can seem much easier than the uphill return to the parking lot. The trip is moderately strenuous on the uphill portion. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water at the parking area or in the grove. Be sure to bring drinking water with you.

**Merced Grove**

Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of approximately 20 big trees accessible only on foot. It’s a three-mile round-trip hike (about three hours) into the grove. The trail drops down 1.5 miles making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water at the parking area or down in the grove. Be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10.
Permit Information
Camping, Hiking, and Wilderness Use

Wilderness Permits
Wilderness permits are required year-round for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Self-registration quota sheets and permits are available at Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Hill's Studio in Wawona, Big Oak Flat Information Station, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. Bear canisters are only available for rent at the Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore in the Valley Visitor Center. For summer trips, reservations are taken 24 weeks (168 days) in advance of the start of your trip. Visit https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermittimes.htm to view a helpful chart. A processing fee of $5 per permit plus $5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. Go to www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wldpermits.htm to check trailhead availability and for more information on how to make a reservation. Reservations can be made online (preferred) at www.yosemite.org/experience/wilderness-permits or by phone at 209/372-0740, Monday-Friday from 9am to 4:30pm. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm, www.yosemite.org and the Leave No Trace website at www.lnt.org.

YOSEMITE VALLEY
The Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center will be open daily from 8am to 5pm, beginning April 30. The center is scheduled to open soon after the Tioga Road opens. Please check the website for hours of operation. The Yeosemite Valley Wilderness Center will be open daily from 8am to 5pm. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

WAWONA
Wilderness permits for Wawona trailheads only can be obtained by self-registration in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Bear canisters are available to rent or buy at the Yosemite Valley Bookstore.

BIG OAK FLAT
Wilderness permits for Big Oak Flat Road and Tioga Road trailheads only are by self-registration on the front porch of Hill's Studio. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS
The center is scheduled to open soon after the Tioga Road opens. Please check the website for hours of operation.

HETCH HETCHY
Wilderness permits for the Hetch Hetchy trailheads only can be obtained by self-registration at the entrance station kiosk. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open daily from 8am to 5pm Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

Half Dome Permit Information
Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are required seven days a week when the cables are up for 2021, May 28 through October 11, conditions permitting. The press season lottery has already closed, and the results will be available mid-April. Additional day use permits will be released by daily lottery throughout the season. Applications for daily lotteries will be accepted 2 days prior to the desired hiking date between midnight and 1pm. To apply, visit Recreation.gov or call 877/444-6777. 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). Rock climbers who reach the top of Half Dome without entering the subdome area may descend 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 is open year-round during the 2021 season. Lower Pines, North Pines and Camp 4 will open in April, by reservation only. More information on campground opening dates, visit go.nps.gov/campground. Sleeping in vehicles and footcountry camping are only permitted in designated campsites.

Fire Restrictions Are in Effect for the Entire Park
- Fire burning will take place throughout the winter. Make sure to heed all posted signs.
- Campfires and charcoal grills should always be completely extinguished before you leave by drowning with water, stirring with a tool, and feeling with your hand. If it’s too hot to touch it’s too hot to leave.
- Smoking is not allowed inside public buildings or restrooms, within 25 feet of any building except those used as single-family residence, or other areas as posted. Smoking while traveling on trails is prohibited. Persons who wish to smoke must stop and remain in one location until they have extinguished their smoking material. Pack out all debris.
- Smoke is inevitable throughout the year in different parts of the park, whether from campfires, natural wildfire in the backcountry, 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.

Yosemite Guide March 31, 2021 - May 11, 2021

COVID-19 Coronavirus
PARK UPDATE
- Camping during the 2021 season is by reservation only.
- Some day availability must be accessed via recreation.gov as there is no walk-up service.
- There is no first come, first served camping.
- Group sites are not available this year.

General Camping Information
Services
- All sites include picnic tables, firepits with grills, and a food locker. See page 9 for food storage regulations.
- Shower and laundry facilities are not available during the 2021 season.
- There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), 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 10pm to 6am.
- Where permitted, pets must be on a leash and may not be left unattended.
- Firewood collection of dead and down wood is permitted within the boundaries of campgrounds in Yosemite Valley, and can otherwise be gathered anywhere in the park that is outside Yosemite Valley, below 9,600 feet, and not in a sequoia grove.
Protecting yourself...

Keep yourself safe while exploring your park

There are many ways to experience the wilderness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning, you can minimize the risks associated with many activities.

A SEASON OF TRANSITION

Spring weather is some of our finest for enjoying outdoor activities. Nevertheless, cold fronts can bring snow as low as the Valley floor well into May. The higher country is noticeably cooler. In summary, while you are likely to enjoy pleasant weather, check the latest forecast and be prepared for cold and wet conditions and always be ready to add layers of clothing to stay warm and dry.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Rain and melting snow fill our rivers and streams to their greatest volume and flow velocity in spring, creating beautiful accents in sight and sound to Yosemite’s landscape. Do not be fooled. Currents are too forceful for the strongest swimmers to survive even a shallow water plunge. Waters that appear still and green can have powerful unseen currents. The granite rocks in and near the water are slippery. In short, stay away from streambanks where a simple slip can have disastrous consequences and never attempt a water crossing except in safe and designated areas. Granite rocks and boulders near rivers and waterfalls, wet or dry, are extremely slippery. To avoid injury, please do not leave the safety of the trail.

YOSEMITE’S TRAILS

Know before you go! Some trails and trail segments may be closed due to weather or other hazards, check ahead at the visitor center during business hours and obey all signage. All trails can be icy or wet—use tools that are helpful to you! Trekking poles, crampons, or other footwear traction can help with preventing a serious fall.

NAVIGATION

Snow blanketed terrain can quickly cause disorientation. Winter specific trails are marked with a blaze. Always keep at least one marker or reference point in sight. Carry a good map and compass (or GPS) and always know your location.

YOSEMITE’S ROADS

Snow and ice, while less frequent than late winter, remain a possibility. Plan for all potential road conditions; call ahead to our recorded number (209) 372-0200 +1 for current road conditions and restrictions. See page 3 for chain control information. Also, rock fall occurs throughout the year and wildlife, including deer and bears, can all create driving hazards. There are many sites to distract drivers. If you cannot devote 100% of your attention to your driving, please pull completely off the road into designated pulloffs and parking areas.

FOR ALL SEASONS

• 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 snacks.
• 10 hiking essentials – includes sunglasses, sunscreen, a signaling mirror and whistle.
• Hiking plans, including intended routes and estimated time of return, with a trusted person.
• Let someone know – always leave travel and estimated time of return, with a trusted person.

WILDERNESS ETIQUETTE: HOW TO POOP IN THE WOODS

When nature calls, make sure you are 200 feet away from any water source.

• Carry a trowel so you can dig a hole in the dirt that is at least 6 inches deep so you’re able to bury your waste.
• In the winter, human waste still needs to be buried 6 inches deep in soil not snow or carried out in a WAG bag.
• Pack out toilet paper, don’t bury it or try to burn it!

For more information visit: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm

HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread to humans via the droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents. Infected rodents have been found throughout the US. You may come into close proximity to rodents during your visit. Here are some ways to protect yourself:

• Do not be fooled. Currents are too forceful to burn it!
• DEET, and immediately tell a park ranger if you see a dead animal.
• Pack insect repellent with DEET, and immediately tell a park ranger if you see evidence of mice. Do not bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container.
• If camping or backpacking, do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings.

PLAGUE

Plague is an infectious bacterial disease carried by squirrels, chipmunks and other rodents and their fleas. To protect yourself, never feed wildlife, avoid dropping food when eating outside, avoid pitching a tent near rodent burrows, wear insect repellent with DEET, and immediately tell a park ranger if you see a dead animal.

For more information visit: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm

Wilderness Etiquette: How to Poop in the Woods

• When nature calls, make sure you are 200 feet away from any water source.
• Carry a trowel so you can dig a hole in the dirt that is at least 6 inches deep so you’re able to bury your waste.
• In the winter, human waste still needs to be buried 6 inches deep in soil not snow or carried out in a WAG bag.
• Pack out toilet paper, don’t bury it or try to burn it!

For more information visit: http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm
...and Yosemite

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...**
—stay away and 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**
“Food” includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This includes items you may not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed dishes.

**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 campites when people are present, and some will even shake food lockers to see if they’re secured. Keep food lockers closed and reached at all times, even when you are in your campsite or tent cabin. |  
Picnic Areas & on the Trails | 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. |  

**Clean water is a precious resource for all living beings—**
You can protect these waters and this pristine watershed which supplies drinking water for 2.7 million people.

- **Protect fragile plants and soils:** Trampling vegetation and compressing soils affects the movement and cleanliness of water.
- **Walk and camp on durable surfaces:** Use established trails, campsites, rock, and gravel to minimize your impact. Walk single file and keep groups small.
- **Pack it in, pack it out:** Pack out toilet paper, hygiene products, leftover food, trash, and litter from campsites, rest areas, and trails. Leave no trace!
- **Wash yourself or dishes 200 feet away from water sources:**
- **Use restroom facilities or bury human waste:** Bury human waste in a hole at least 6 inches (15 centimeters) deep and at least 200 feet (60 meters) from streams and lakes.

**How to Protect Yourself**

- **Remove food odors from your body:** When you hike or camp away from a developed area, remove odors that could attract bears. Carry a deodorant that does not contain baby powder or baby oil.
- **Stay alert:** Be aware of what’s around you. Bears are attracted to human perfume, lotions, baby powder, and other scents.
- **Be cautious near campgrounds:** When you hike or camp near a developed area, use bear canisters—bear resistant food containers are required throughout the park.

**Yosemite Guardians**

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park’s most important guardians. During your visit, be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Collecting plants
- Hunting animals
- Collecting reptiles and butterflies
- Picking up archeological items, such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Biking off of paved roads
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Possession of weapons inside federal facilities
- Possessing or using marijuana, including medical marijuana
- Operating an unmanned aircraft system (“drone”)

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and call (209) 379-1992.

**E-BIKES**
E-bikes with two or three wheels, fully operable pedals, and electric motors less than 750 watts (1 horsepower) are allowed on roads open to cars, as well as on Happy Isles Road and Mirror Lake Road. They are not allowed on bike paths or trails.

**FISHING**
Stream and river fishing in Yosemite Valley to Parkline (Merced River) is closed from November 15 to April 24. All lakes and reservoirs are open to fishing year-round. For more information about fishing in Yosemite visit www.yoseyovem.com.

To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/planyoursafety.htm.
Making Art In or Inspired by Yosemite

For the past few years, Kristin Anderson has managed Yosemite Conservancy’s art activities in Yosemite Valley, planning seasons of creativity-packed programming and working with the professional artists who volunteer as guest instructors. In this reflection, Kristin considers the value of making art in, or inspired by, Yosemite — regardless of whether you see yourself as an “artist.”

There’s a long and storied history of art in Yosemite, visible in woven baskets, paintings, prints, photographs and more. Since the 1980s, visitors have been able to participate in art programs in the Valley. I’ve been running those programs for three years now, and it might surprise you to hear the question that always gives me pause: Are you an artist?

The phrase I’ve heard the most over the past few years from people I encounter through the Conservancy’s art programs is, “I’m not an artist.” People say things like, “I can’t even draw a stick figure,” or “I don’t have an artistic bone in my body.” They say these things to explain why they’re not taking an art class — or if they are in the class, to explain why their art might not be “perfect.”

What is an artist? Who is an artist?

Because I manage Yosemite Conservancy’s art programs, people are always asking me, “Are you an artist?” Whenever I hear those words, I get a pit in my stomach. It’s at these moments that I feel the sense of doubt that the “I’m not an artist” visitors feel. What does it mean to call yourself an artist?

When I was a kid, art supplies were my most loved possessions, and art was my most common form of self-entertainment. I took art classes in college, but I didn’t study art in a serious way. I don’t think I’m a good painter, but I practice. Do I need to like my art or feel like an expert to be an artist?

These grand ideas of what art is can feel intimidating to those of us who love art, but who left it behind when we “grew up.”

When we are asked, “Are you an artist?”, we might think of the masters, of people who have studied and trained and dedicated their lives to creating world-renowned paintings and sculptures. We think of life-like representations of humans and landscapes, or of Michelangelo’s impossibly detailed stories painted on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, or of Albert Bierstadt’s dreamy landscapes of Yosemite Valley. These grand ideas of what art is can feel intimidating to those of us who love art, but who left it behind when we “grew up.”

But art doesn’t need to be exclusive or intimidating. Art surrounds the human experience. You might find inspiration in a painting, or in dance, music, sculpture, architecture or writing — the list is endless. The definition of art is expanding as we see more people sharing their art on social media rather than in galleries, finding their communities online rather than joining member-based art societies. Through these platforms, we are seeing people share the joy of creating art, rather than worrying about the definition of “artist.” There are countless ways to enjoy art, whether you’re a professional painter with years of experience, a beginner trying out different mediums, or someone willing to try.

I hope that I can help reframe the idea of what it means to be an artist. As someone who uses art mostly as a creative outlet that brings me joy, my paintings are more like sketches than finished products. No matter how my pieces turn out, they all offer me a different way of seeing the world and experiencing the places I visit. My time pushing paint around paper is more important than the final piece; for me, art is more about the process than the product.

My goal for the Conservancy’s art programs is to invite people to come and tap into their inner artist, even if they haven’t seen that person since childhood! I would like people to come enjoy themselves and embrace the imperfect process of creating art. They just might find that they see Yosemite through different, more observant lenses afterward.

Find out what being an artist means to you! Conservancy art programs are back in action for this spring, summer and fall, with weekday outdoor art classes based in Yosemite Village (Monday–Friday, April 5–October 22), plus customized art programs and overnight art retreats. For all 2021 Conservancy art programs, please register in advance at yosemite.org/art.

Wherever and whenever you make art, we hope you have fun and enjoy the process... and if you want to share your park-themed creations with the Conservancy, tag @ yosemiteconservancy on social media to show us what you come up with!
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 life-long 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 for all. Thanks to generous donors, the Conservancy has provided over $140 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, or lounges, 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.