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# YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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# WELCOME

Welcome to Yosemite National Park! There are as many ways to experience this amazing place as there are granite rocks in the Sierra Nevada landscape. To make the most of your time here, we invite you to peruse and be inspired by this edition of the *American Park Network* guide to Yosemite National Park. We hope you find it useful during your visit to the area.

This guide represents the collaborative efforts of the *American Park Network* and a number of park partners—organizations dedicated both to Yosemite and to making your stay enjoyable and memorable. We are grateful to the legions of staff

and volunteers who work together to ensure that the wonders of this park are preserved. (See the “**Who’s Who at the Park**” chapter for more information.)

National parks were established to protect what is truly special about America. They are places to be shared, places where everyone is included, places where we can reconnect with our heritage. The grandeur of Yosemite is similarly special, bringing us together with a collective sense of awe. Whether you are here for a few hours or a few days, there are plentiful opportunities to find fun, as well as fulfillment.



## FUN FACTS

**Established:** Yosemite was designated as a forest reserve in 1864 by President Lincoln, Yosemite has grown into an American icon of wilderness. From the 3,000-foot-tall El Capitan to the magnificent Half Dome, Yosemite’s beauty is unrivaled. The park became a World Heritage Site in 1984 and attracts a vast number of visitors.

**Land Area:** Yosemite is 759,620 acres and is known for its waterfalls, giant granite cliffs and stunning sequoias.

**Highest Elevation:** The peak of Mt. Lyell at 13,114 feet.

**Plants & Animals:** In total, Yosemite is home to more than 400 species of vertebrates. These include fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Yosemite is famous for its giant sequoia groves and oak woodlands.

**Biking:** Yosemite offers over 12 miles of paved bike paths and bikers can also use regular roads.

**Hiking:** With more than 800 miles of hiking trails, visitors are sure to find a trail that suits their capabilities.

**Camping:** The park has 13 main campgrounds—and backcountry camping for adventurers.

**Lodging:** Whether you are looking for a cabin or a luxurious hotel room, Yosemite offers a variety of options.

**Popular Activities:** Visitors to the park can hike, rock climb, backpack and birdwatch. Hiking Half Dome requires a permit, so be sure to check at a visitor center before heading out.



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**Cover:** Overlooking Yosemite Valley at Taft  
Point at sunset • Jason Finn/iStock

# WHAT'S NEW!

## PARKS UNITE US



***"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle."***

-Plato

Growing up in an urban environment, the parks I was exposed to as a child were mostly concrete, with swings vs. hiking trails. Everything was familiar and everyone was from the neighborhood. My world was quite small. Things have changed a lot. We're all connected now in ways that would have seemed like science fiction in my childhood. Also, as a New Yorker, I'm exposed (IRL) to the most diverse group of people on earth. Ironically, I experience this same amazing diversity when visiting our nation's parks and public lands.

I remember one of my first business trips to a national park. It was a quick visit, with more time spent traveling than in the park. Fortunately, I set aside two hours to go for a hike. I selected a steep switchback trail for a good workout and great views, and ended up with a whole lot more. About half way up, I passed a small nook in a rock formation, where a group was sitting in the shadows, just a few steps off the trail. As I approached, they waved me over. It was an isolated spot, so I cautiously took a step forward. They asked me if I had water, not because they wanted some but because they hiked there regularly and brought extra. You see, this group knew from experience how easy it was to underestimate the physical demands of the trail and the dangers of becoming dehydrated. They shared that they always stopped to rest in the same shady spot on their way down, to make sure people on their way up had enough water

to continue on safely. I couldn't believe they actually carried extra pounds - literally gallons of water - just to give it away!

I quickly learned to call such people "trail angels," and that angels don't always appear as one might expect. Based on first impressions, this disheveled group, slightly hidden from view in an isolated spot, might seem more threat than salvation. With a snap judgement, it would have been easy to keep on walking, perhaps even quickening my pace. Fortunately, I took a leap of faith and, in return, received a lasting memory and had a valuable lesson reinforced. Simply put, we're all more similar than initially meets the eye. Technology has rendered the world a smaller place, but it also seems to be a more divided one. Parks create common ground, where it's easy to discover hidden powers that unite us. These magical places somehow compel total strangers to graciously share and be kind to others. Let's hold onto that wonderfully positive spirit derived from time spent in nature, and use it when we return home to better help each other, regardless of how different we may appear on the surface. By working together and embracing our differences, we're much better equipped to conquer the universal challenges we all face... together!

**Founder & Editor-in-Chief**

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**Check First.** Please be sure to check the park's website, ask a ranger or stop by a visitor center to find out about current conditions and regulations, as well as potential changes in operations.

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# PLAN YOUR VISIT



Located in the heart of the Sierra Nevada mountains, Yosemite National Park was established by an act of Congress on October 1, 1890. Five distinct areas attract about four million visitors each year to the park: **Yosemite Valley, Wawona** and the **Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, Glacier Point, the Tioga Road** and **Tuolumne Meadows**, and **Hetch Hetchy**.

## WEATHER

Yosemite typically enjoys a warm, dry summer, a mild spring and fall, and a cool winter. Higher elevations receive a great deal of snow, but the Valley (at 4,000 feet) does not. Whatever the season, be prepared by dressing in layers. Higher elevations can be much cooler than lower-elevations.

## ENTRANCE FEES

The park and its entrances are open year-round, 24 hours a day. A reservation is now required to drive into Yosemite National Park during peak hours (6 am to 4 pm) from May 20 through September 30. Reservations must be purchased online at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)

or using the **Recreation.gov** app. Peak-hours reservations cost \$2.00 and are valid for three consecutive days (including arrival date), but will be valid for the duration of an overnight reservation inside the park. If you don't have computer access, you can call **(877) 444-6777** to make a reservation. Reservations will not be sold at the park, and you will be turned away without a reservation or asked to come back after peak hours. The entrance fee of \$35 may then be paid by cash or major credit card at the park entrance stations. Reservations are not required outside of peak hours or for guests with overnight lodging, reservations with Yosemite Mountaineering School, or with Half Dome or wilderness permits. Non-peak hour passes are valid for seven days.

For visitors traveling by bus, foot, bicycle, or horse, an Individual Pass costs \$20. A motorcycle pass is \$30. An annual Yosemite Pass costs \$70 and admits all occupants of an automobile for one year. For more detailed information, visit [nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm](https://nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm).

## FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASSES

A federal recreation pass is helpful if you plan to visit many national parks, forests or other federal lands. For information, call **(888) 275-8747** or visit [store.usgs.gov/pass](https://store.usgs.gov/pass).

Type	Cost	Availability	Details
Annual Pass	\$80	General Public	This one-year pass is available on site, by phone or online (see above).
Senior Pass	\$80	U.S. residents age 62+	This lifetime pass is available on site or via mail order. ID required. A 12-month pass is available for \$20.
Military Pass	Free	Active military and their dependents	This one-year pass is available on site. ID (CAC Card or DoD Form 1173) required.
Access Pass	Free	U.S. residents with permanent disabilities	This lifetime pass is available on site or via mail order. Signed affidavit required.
Volunteer Pass	Free	250 cumulative volunteer service hours	Inquire locally to obtain information about this one-year pass.



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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<b>General Park Information (recording)</b>	(209) 372-0200	<a href="https://nps.gov/yose">nps.gov/yose</a>
<b>Guidebooks</b>	(209) 379-2648	<a href="https://yosemite.org">yosemite.org</a>
<b>Road &amp; Weather</b>	(209) 372-0200	<a href="https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/conditions.htm">nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/conditions.htm</a>
<b>Wilderness Permits</b>	(209) 372-0826	<a href="https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm">nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm</a>
<b>Emergencies</b> <b>From Public Phones</b> <b>From Hotel Rooms</b>	911 9-911	
<b>Lodging, Reservations or Cancellations</b>	(888) 413-8869	<a href="https://travelyosemite.com">travelyosemite.com</a>
<b>Campground Reservations TTY (toll-free)</b>	(877) 444-6777 (877) 833-6777	<a href="https://recreation.gov">recreation.gov</a>
<b>Lost &amp; Found</b> <b>Yosemite Hospitality</b> <b>National Park Service</b>	(209) 372-1390 (use website)	<a href="https://nps.gov/yose/lostandfound.htm">nps.gov/yose/lostandfound.htm</a> <a href="https://travelyosemite.com/lost-and-found">travelyosemite.com/lost-and-found</a>
<b>Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System</b>	(877) 98-YARTS (989-2787)	<a href="https://yarts.com">yarts.com</a>
<b>Sightseeing Tours</b>	(209) 372-1240	<a href="https://travelyosemite.com">travelyosemite.com</a>
<b>Badger Pass Ski Area</b>	(209) 372-8430	<a href="https://travelyosemite.com">travelyosemite.com</a>
<b>Road Service in Yosemite</b>	(209) 372-8320	
<b>Visitor Activities</b>		<a href="https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/things2do.htm">nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/things2do.htm</a>
<b>Regional Information</b>		<a href="https://yosemite.com">yosemite.com</a>
<b>Information Outside Yosemite (Chambers of Commerce)</b>		
<b>Groveland</b>	(209) 962-0429	<a href="https://groveland.org">groveland.org</a>
<b>Lee Vining</b>	(760) 647-6629	<a href="https://leevining.com">leevining.com</a>
<b>Mariposa</b>	(209) 966-2456	<a href="https://mariposa.org">mariposa.org</a>
<b>Oakhurst</b>	(559) 683-4636	<a href="https://yosemitethisyear.com">yosemitethisyear.com</a>
<b>Sonora</b>	(800) 446-1333	<a href="https://visittuolumne.com">visittuolumne.com</a>
<b>U.S. Forest Service Campgrounds (Outside Yosemite)</b>		
<b>Groveland Ranger Station</b>	(209) 962-7825	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus">www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus</a>
<b>Mariposa Ranger Station</b>	(209) 966-3638	
<b>Mono Lake Ranger Station</b>	(760) 873-2400	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo">www.fs.usda.gov/inyo</a>
<b>Sierra</b>	(559) 297-0706	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/sierra">www.fs.usda.gov/sierra</a>



Digital passes for select federal public lands, including Yosemite National Park, are also available at [recreation.gov/pass](https://www.recreation.gov/pass) or in the [recreation.gov app](https://www.recreation.gov/app).

### EVERY KID OUTDOORS

Every Kid Outdoors was created so fourth graders and their families could discover our wildlife, resources, and history for free. The immediate goal of the program is to provide an opportunity for each and every fourth grade student across the country to experience their federal public lands and waters in person. This pass admits the pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private non-commercial vehicle to the park.

Visit [everykidoutdoors.gov](https://www.everykidoutdoors.gov) to obtain a pass. You must print it and present it at the park. Educators can download activity guides and get a pass for each of their fourth-grade students. The Every Kid Outdoors pass is valid until August 31, 2022.

### GETTING TO YOSEMITE

Yosemite is a four-hour drive from **San Francisco** and a six-hour drive from **Los Angeles**. All public roadways into the park are well-maintained and most are open year-round. Roads leading to and within the park are two-lane, narrow and winding. *Note: When traveling through the Sierra Nevada from November to April, always carry tire chains.* For road conditions, call **(209) 372-0200**.

You can access the park via four main entrances as noted below. Please refer to the map above for specific details.

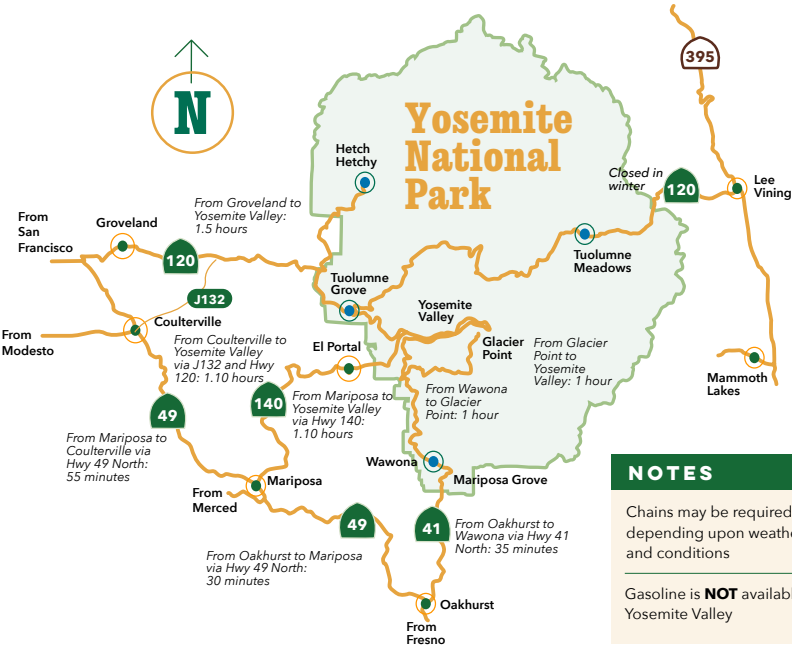
**Northwest:** Big Oak Flat Entrance via Highway 120.

**West:** Arch Rock Entrance via Highway 140.

**East** (summer to late fall): Tioga Pass Entrance via Highway 120.

**South:** South Entrance via Highway 41.

**Gas:** Available year-round in Wawona, Crane Flat and El Portal.



**NOTES**

Chains may be required depending upon weather and conditions

Gasoline is **NOT** available in Yosemite Valley

## TRAVEL BY AIR

### **Fresno Yosemite International Airport**

**(FAT):** 2.5 hours to Yosemite Valley via South Entrance from Highway 41.

### **San Francisco International Airport (SFO)/**

### **Oakland International Airport (OAK):**

Three hours to Big Oak Flat Entrance via Highway 120, four hours to Yosemite Valley.

### **Los Angeles International Airport (LAX):**

Six hours to Yosemite Valley via I-5 to Highway 99 to Highway 41.

### **Sacramento International Airport (SMF):**

Two hours to Big Oak Flat Entrance via Highway 120, and three hours to Yosemite Valley.

### **Modesto City-County Airport (MOD):**

2.5 hours to Yosemite via Highway 132 to Highway 120.

**Merced Regional Airport (MCE):** Two hours to Yosemite Valley via West Entrance from Highway 140.

**Reno International Airport (RNO):** Five hours to Yosemite Valley via Tioga Pass (summer to late fall). Call ahead for road opening.

**Las Vegas Airport (LAS):** Eight to nine hours to Yosemite Valley via Tioga Pass (summer to late fall). Call ahead for road openings.

## TRAVEL BY TRAIN OR BUS

Amtrak serves San Diego, Los Angeles, Fresno, San Jose, San Francisco, and Sacramento to and from Merced, and connects with motorcoaches to Yosemite Valley. Each afternoon, buses depart Yosemite Lodge to connect with Amtrak in Merced. This bus route is serviced by the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System. Best of all – when purchasing Amtrak tickets to Yosemite, the (shuttle) bus ride and admission to the park are included. For more information, call **(800) 872-7245** or visit **amtrak.com**.

**Regional Transit:** (YARTS) offers individual and group fares for motorcoach service into Yosemite from numerous gateway com-

munities. Residents of Merced or Mariposa Counties can apply for free YARTS round-trip tickets. Call **(877) 98-YARTS (989-2787)** for information or visit YARTS online at **yarts.com**. Face masks are required on YARTS.

**Car Rental:** Neither rental cars nor taxi service are available in Yosemite. For rental car assistance, inquire at nearby airports.

## GETTING AROUND YOSEMITE


### ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

Visit **nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/upload/access2022.pdf** for an accessibility guide to Yosemite. It outlines accessible services, facilities, and activities people with sight, hearing, and mobility impairments can enjoy the park. For more information, call **(209) 379-1035**.

### PARK NEWSPAPER

The park newspaper, *Yosemite Guide*, contains a complete schedule of facility hours and park programs. Pick one up from any visitor center in the park or online at **nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/guide.htm**.

### SHUTTLE SERVICES

In Yosemite Valley, visitors are encouraged to park their vehicles at one of the day-visitor parking areas and ride the free shuttle (all shuttles are equipped with a wheelchair lift). In summer, additional free shuttles provide access to El Capitan. In the Tuolumne Meadows area, a fee-based shuttle runs from the Tioga Pass Entrance to Olmsted Point. In winter, free shuttles are available between Yosemite Valley and Badger Pass Ski Area. 

*Note: Check updated shuttle stops at **nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/roadpilot.htm***



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# LODGING & DINING



A variety of inviting lodging and dining options can be found throughout Yosemite. From rustic to royal, casual to upscale, there's something to suit every traveler.

**Reservations** for lodging can be made in advance by contacting Yosemite Hospitality, LLC, a subsidiary of Aramark, at

**(888) 413-8869** or **travelyosemite.com**.

Same day reservations may be made at hotel front desks based on availability. Most of the accommodations have at least a few accessible rooms for visitors. Due to the COVID-19 situation, Yosemite Hospitality, LLC, is experiencing higher call volumes; therefore, they encourage using their online reservation system to book your trip.

From fine dining at **The Ahwahnee Dining Room**—complete with a 34-foot-tall trestle-beamed ceiling—to casual dining at the **Curry Village Pavilion**, **Degnan's Kitchen** and **Base Camp Eatery** at Yosemite Valley Lodge, there is something for everyone at Yosemite National Park. Current restaurant operating hours are posted at each respective restaurant and are listed in the park newspaper, *Yosemite Guide*. As appropriate, please help keep the park clean for future visitors by reusing and recycling at casual dining locations.

## ABOUT THE PROPERTIES

The **Ahwahnee** has counted presidents, celebrities and royalty among its guests. Now with remodeled guest rooms, it is an exceptional example of NPS rustic architecture known as "parkitecture." **AMENITIES** Gift shops, conference and wedding facilities, a dining room, cocktail lounge, Wi-Fi, high-definition TV programming and

an outdoor swimming pool. The breathtaking **Dining Room** serves as the backdrop to your meal. Freshly baked breads are created to accompany the seasonal menu. For dining reservations, call **(209) 372-1489**.

**BLD** ♿

**Yosemite Valley Lodge** is situated at the former location of Fort Yosemite, which was the park headquarters of the U.S. Army Cavalry. The lodge offers 245 comfortable, centrally located and eco-friendly hotel rooms.

**AMENITIES** Tour & Activities Desk; bicycle, wheelchair and electric scooter rentals; gift shop, swimming pool, outdoor amphitheater, post office, Wi-Fi; conference and wedding facilities; and daily housekeeping service. **The Mountain Room Restaurant** boasts striking views of Yosemite Falls and its walls are adorned by stunning images of Yosemite taken by acclaimed photographers. The menu emphasizes local, organic, seasonal and sustainable dishes. Options are available for various dietary preferences and needs (vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free). Full bar. **BLD** ♿ **Mountain Room**

**Lounge** offers soup, appetizers and lighter fare in addition to a full bar. **Base Camp Eatery, formerly Food Court**, offers burgers, sandwiches, an international station and Starbucks. **BLD**

**Curry Village** features incredible views of Half Dome and Glacier Point, accommodations include hotel-style rooms in the Stoneman Cottage, wood cabins and canvas tent cabins. **AMENITIES** Public showers, swimming pool, bike/raft rentals, general store/gift shop, Yosemite Mountaineering School, the Mountain Shop and amphitheater. **The Seven Tents Pavilion** is at the base of Glacier Point



and offers a variety of à la carte breakfast and dinner options. **☎️ & Coffee Corner** Muffins, cinnamon rolls, dessert, coffee, espresso, ice cream (seasonal). **☎️ ☎️ & Pizza Deck** Pizza, salad, wings and other bar fare. **☎️ ☎️ & Meadow Grill** Burgers, chicken sandwiches, fish sandwiches, salads, chili. **☎️ ☎️ &**

**White Wolf Lodge** is currently closed for the 2022 season. Located in the high country off Tioga Road, the lodge is a popular base for day hikes to Lukens and Harden Lakes. **AMENITIES** Beds and linens, wood burning stove and wood. There is no electricity. Two central showers and restroom facilities are nearby. Free parking for lodge guests. Breakfast and dinner are served daily at the **White Wolf Lodge Dining Room** during the summer with lunch items available at the adjacent small retail outlet. Dinner reservations are advised and may be made by calling **(209) 372-8416**. Restaurant will be closed for the 2022 season. **☎️ ☎️ ☎️**

**Wawona Hotel** is one of California's original mountain resort hotels. The Victorian-era lodge was originally established in 1856 and is situated 27 miles from Yosemite Valley. This National Historic Landmark is near the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. The hotel

offers 104 rooms, either with private bath or shared facilities. **AMENITIES** Dining room, golf course, swimming pool, tennis court, mule and horseback rides, and wedding facilities. Well-known for its culinary excellence, the **Wawona Hotel Dining Room** features an array of seasonal specialties, as well as traditional favorites. Enjoy cozy cocktails by the fireplace in winter or mouthwatering meals on the veranda in warmer weather.

**☎️ ☎️ ☎️ Wawona Golf Shop Snack Stand** Beer, wine, soda and snacks near the putting green. **☎️ ☎️ ☎️**

**Tuolumne Meadows Lodge (currently closed for the 2022 season)** is located at an elevation of 8,575 ft. in Tuolumne Meadows, the largest subalpine meadow in the Sierra Nevada. The Tuolumne Meadows Lodge boasts 69 rustic tent cabins that are open all summer. **AMENITIES** Dining room, small retail outlets and shower houses. **Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Dining** offers hearty, family-style meals served in a rustic canopy tent beside the Tuolumne River. Menu items include beef, chicken, soups, salads and special desserts. Open in summer only. Reservations required, call **(209) 372-8413**. **☎️ ☎️ ☎️ Tuolumne Meadows Grill** serves popular all-American fare, like hamburgers, hot dogs,

grilled cheese, french fries, chili (vegetarian, too!), fruit salad and a range of beverages and sweets. Tuolumne Meadows Restaurants will be closed for the 2022 season. Open in summer only. **B****L**

**Housekeeping Camp** This facility offers views of Yosemite Falls and Half Dome, plus a sandy beach for summer days. • [travelyosemite.com](https://travelyosemite.com). **AMENITIES** 266 camping shelters, each with a double bed, two bunk beds, electricity, a table and a campfire ring. Shared restrooms/shower facilities with soap and towels.

**Yosemite High Sierra Camps** welcomes guests who arrive by foot or saddle at one of Yosemite's five High Sierra Camps. Each is located in an area of outstanding beauty. Reservations are booked by lottery, held in mid-December. Applicants are notified of their standing by early spring. Once complete, any openings available are first come, first-served. Due to ongoing challenges from the pandemic, the National Park Service and Yosemite Hospitality have made the difficult

decision to keep the High Sierra Camps closed for the 2022 season. We anticipate the lottery for the High Sierra Camps 2023 season open on October 1, 2022. • **(888) 413-8869** • [travelyosemite.com](https://travelyosemite.com).

**AMENITIES** Showers (select camps) and restrooms subject to water availability.

**The Redwoods In Yosemite** is located in historic Wawona inside Yosemite National Park and offers the largest selection of cabin and vacation home rentals in the park and a wedding and event center. • **(844) 355-0039** • [redwoodsinyosemite.com](https://redwoodsinyosemite.com).

**AMENITIES** Washer/dryer, DSL, hot tub, satellite TV, wood burning fireplace, wood burning stoves, gas BBQs.

**Yosemite Scenic Wonders** provides home, cabin and condominium rentals within and on the border to the gates of historic Yosemite National Park. Centrally located, you're just minutes to all the wonders of Yosemite! • **(888) 967-3648** • [scenicwonders.com](https://scenicwonders.com).



## ADDITIONAL DINING OPTIONS

**Glacier Point Snack Stand** Located inside the Glacier Point Gift Shop, the Snack Stand has hot dogs, grab 'n' go sandwiches, beverages and other snacks. (Closed due to 2022 Road construction) **L****D****♿**

**The Loft at Degnan's** Serves Mexican fare, Asian rice bowls, and artisan pizzas; has a variety of wines and beers on tap. TVs are available. (Currently closed for the season.) **L****D****♿**

**Degnan's Kitchen** Offers deli sandwiches, salads, vegetarian fare, espresso, and fresh donuts year-round. **B****L****D****♿**

**Village Grill** Located in Yosemite Village, the Village Grill serves hamburgers, veggie burgers, chicken sandwiches, soft-serve ice cream, and beverages. Open spring to fall. **L****D****♿**

**Skiers Grill** Features casual American favorites on the go. Fast food on the main floor of the Day Lodge at the Badger Pass Ski Area during winter operations. **B****L****D****♿**

**Base Camp Eatery** The new dining experience offers greater menu variety, recipes using local/seasonal ingredients with a greater emphasis on front-of-house cooking and fresh food concepts, and grab-and-go selections. **B****L****D**

**KEY** **B** Breakfast **L** Lunch **D** Dinner **♿** Open during winter



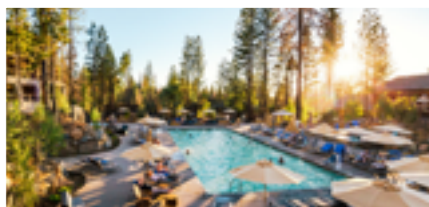
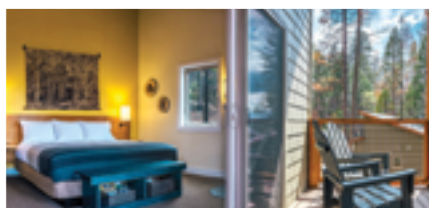
# EXPLORE YOSEMITE IN STYLE

Restaurants • Taverns • Pools & Hot Tubs • Daily Activities  
Guided Tours & Outdoor Adventures • General Stores



## RUSH CREEK LODGE & SPA

Rush Creek provides a relaxed yet sophisticated experience inspired by its 20-acre hillside setting near the Highway 120 West entrance to the park. The first brand new lodge in the area in over 25 years, Rush Creek features a tastefully appointed mix of 143 rooms, suites and villas.



## EVERGREEN LODGE

The Evergreen is a newly expanded historic resort with 88 cabins spread throughout 20 acres of woods, just 1 mile from Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy entrance.

See for yourself why it's a *Fodor's Guide* "Favorite" and why *Frommer's Guide* calls it "the classic Yosemite experience."



Book directly for best rates  
209-379-2373  
[RushCreekLodge.com](http://RushCreekLodge.com)  
[info@rushcreeklodge.com](mailto:info@rushcreeklodge.com)



Book directly for best rates  
209-379-2606  
[EvergreenLodge.com](http://EvergreenLodge.com)  
[info@evergreenlodge.com](mailto:info@evergreenlodge.com)

# PARK REGULATIONS & SAFETY



Help protect the park by alerting a park official if you witness any of the following:

- Feeding and hunting wildlife
- Collecting park resources
- Picking up archeological items
- Using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- Driving vehicles into sensitive meadows
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds
- Using weapons
- Using drones

If you encounter illegal activities taking place that could harm people, animals, or park resources, please make note of any details or a vehicle license plate number and call 911, or contact the park dispatch office at **(209) 379-1992**

## SWIMMING

- Closely supervise children around any body of water.
- Choose swimming areas carefully and swim only during low water conditions. Avoid areas of whitewater where streams flow briskly over rocks.
- Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths.
- **No swimming** is permitted in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir or in Emerald Pool.

## STREAM CROSSING

In spring and summer, rivers and creeks swollen by snowmelt runoff are dangerous. Powerful current, icy water, and trees/logs can trap or kill the unwary.

- Stay away from river and creek banks during high water conditions and avoid “rock hopping.” Stream-polished rocks along the water’s edge may be slippery.
- If you choose to cross a stream without a bridge, avoid places where the water is either swift or over your knees. Crossing a natural bridge of rocks or logs can be slippery. Never cross above rapids or waterfalls.

## RAFTING REGULATIONS

- Rafting, conditions permitting, on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley (Stone-man Bridge to Sentinel Beach) and the South Fork of the Merced River is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily to non-motorized vessels or other flotation devices.
- The entire length of the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 ft. or higher.
- Enter and exit the river at designated points, sandy beaches or “point bars.”
- Everyone must wear or have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device immediately available.
- **No rafting** is permitted on the O’Shaughnessy Reservoir at Hetch Hetchy or on the Tuolumne River.

## FISHING REGULATIONS

Fishing in Yosemite National Park is regulated under state law. A valid California sport fishing license is required for persons age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible by attaching it to an outer layer of clothing

above the waistline. For more information about licenses and regulations, visit [wildlife.ca.gov/fishing](http://wildlife.ca.gov/fishing).

## BEAR SAFETY

Approximately 300 to 500 American black bears live in the park. The typical adult male weighs 300-350 pounds and an adult female can weigh in at 200-250 pounds. Bears are omnivores and most active in spring and summer. Stay safe by following these guidelines:

- If you see a bear in a developed area (campground or parking lot), make as much noise as possible to scare it away. If you see a bear in the wild, stay at least 100 yards away to allow the bear to continue its natural behavior.
- Drive the speed limit. Cars are the most common human-related cause of black bear deaths in the park.
- Report bear sightings to the bear hotline at **(209) 372-0322**. For more, visit [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/bears.htm](http://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/bears.htm).

- Remove food and items that could be perceived as food (sunscreen, makeup) from your car and store in a food locker when you will be away from your vehicle. Do not store food in the trunk.
- Always keep food within arms reach and never leave it unattended.
- Keep food locker closed unless you're actively getting food in or out.

## PETS

(Note: The Kennel at Yosemite Valley Stable are currently closed for rehabilitation..) Pets have a few rules to follow in Yosemite:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved paths.
- Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet or otherwise restrained.
- Deposit pet waste in trash receptacles.
- Pets are not allowed in any accommodations in the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.
- Pets may not be tied to an object or left unattended.

## EFFECTS OF ALTITUDE

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet. The risk of occurrence increases with age and heart or lung diseases.

Symptoms include headache, nausea, insomnia, irritability, shortness of breath, general malaise, and fatigue. The best way to avoid altitude sickness is to slowly acclimate yourself to higher elevations over two to three days by gradually gaining elevation until you reach 10,000 feet (Tioga Pass). Drink as much water as possible and avoid alcohol, sugar and high-fat meals.

Should altitude sickness develop, de-



scend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

# PRESERVATION



In Yosemite, the natural forces at work—such as rockfalls, fires and floods—are respected. The NPS recognizes their importance and has a mission to protect them.

## ROCKFALL

**Winter** and **spring** are the most active periods for rockfall activity in the park, but large rockfalls have occurred during summer and fall as well.

In Yosemite, as in any natural area, people need to be aware of their surroundings. Rockfalls are dangerous and can cause injury or death. Use caution when entering areas where rockfall activity may occur, such as valley walls, climbing areas or talus slopes.

## FIRE AT WORK

Fire managers in Yosemite use wildland fire and prescribed fire to restore the benefits of this natural process. Prescribed fires are sometimes ignited under approved conditions by park fire staff.

If you see smoky skies, it may be a lightning fire being managed by park staff, or it may be an intentionally set blaze meant to eliminate buildup of debris. This is vital for restoring the health of Yosemite's forests.

## BLACK OAK WOODLAND RESTORATION

Years of trampling have compacted Yosemite Valley's **black oak woodland**. As a result, seedlings are unable to take root.

Around the valley, plastic tubes in roped-off areas protect seedlings to restore black oak woodland. Support this effort by staying on designated trails, especially where black oak woodland restoration is underway.

## MEADOW RESTORATION

When people walk into meadows, plants, soils, nests and small creatures can be disturbed. Support efforts by the Yosemite Conservancy and the National Park Foundation to preserve these networks by staying on trails and boardwalks.

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE

The NPS—with support from the California Conservation Corps, the Yosemite Conservancy and volunteer groups—has been filling and replanting ruts. Help by staying on trails, not cutting corners on switchbacks and watching your step.

## YOSEMITE RECYCLING

Yosemite has one of the most comprehensive recycling programs in the NPS. Yosemite Hospitality recycles more than 30 different materials, including **glass, aluminum, paper, cardboard and plastics**. Recycling is accepted year-round at the recycling center at the Village Store and in green receptacles in campgrounds, picnic areas, residential areas and at roadside turnouts.

## VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS

Volunteers in Parks (VIPs) play an ever-increasing role in our parks. For information, call **(209) 379-1850** or visit **[nps.gov/yose/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm](https://nps.gov/yose/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm)**.

## PARKS AS CLASSROOMS

The NPS provides educational tools for teachers. For more information, please visit **[nps.gov/yose/forteachers](https://nps.gov/yose/forteachers)** or call **(209) 375-9503**.





# Connecting you with Yosemite.

**THE YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY** helps visitors connect with Yosemite through adventures, volunteering, and the arts. It's the only nonprofit dedicated to supporting Yosemite National Park, and funds grants to improve trails, restore habitat, protect wildlife, and inspire the next generation of nature-lovers.

**LEARN MORE AT [YOSEMITE.ORG](https://www.yosemite.org)**



# VISITOR SERVICES



Visitor centers are located year-round in Yosemite Valley and seasonally at Wawona, Big Oak Flat and Tuolumne Meadows. While the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center is closed, Rangers and volunteers are staffing an outdoor visitor information kiosk near the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. It takes a legion of people working together to protect our parks for you and for future generations of visitors. Among those entities responsible for creating a great visitor experience are the National Park Service ([nps.gov/yose](https://nps.gov/yose)), Yosemite Conservancy ([yosemiteconservancy.org](https://yosemiteconservancy.org)), Yosemite Hospitality ([travelyosemite.com](https://travelyosemite.com)) and NatureBridge ([naturebridge.org/yosemite](https://naturebridge.org/yosemite)).

## IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

**Yosemite Valley Visitor Center:** Located in Yosemite Valley at shuttle stops #5 and #9, it offers natural history displays, audiovisual programs and a helpful staff to answer questions. Spirit of Yosemite—a state-of-the-art, wide-screen, 23-minute film about Yosemite National Park (closed-captioned and audio-described)—is presented in the Visitor Center Theater located behind the visitor center lobby. At this time, the Valley Visitor Center is closed; however, staff and volunteers have created a socially-distant visitor information kiosk.

**Yosemite Museum:** Next door to the Valley Visitor Center, the Indian Cultural Exhibit displays the cultural history of the Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. An Indian Cultural Demonstrator is on site. Rotating exhibits in the Museum Gallery continue to foster the arts in Yosemite. The Museum Store, operated by the Yosemite Conservancy, features

traditional American Indian crafts. (The Yosemite Museum is currently closed for spring 2022; the outdoor Indian Village remains open.)

**Indian Village of Ahwahnee:** Behind the Valley Visitor Center, this outdoor exhibit, open year-round, is where traditional cultural presentations come to life.

### **Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center:**

Located in Yosemite Village between the Ansel Adams Gallery and the post office, the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center is a one-stop location for backpackers. It offers wilderness permits (required for overnight wilderness travel), maps, guidebooks and bear-resistant canister rentals from Yosemite Conservancy, and other pre-trip planning and minimum-impact suggestions.

**Yosemite Cemetery:** This historic cemetery is located across the street and west of the Yosemite Museum. People buried here include American Indians and others who played an important role in the development of Yosemite National Park. A guide to the Yosemite Cemetery is available at the Valley Visitor Center.

**Happy Isles Art and Nature Center:** Located a short walk from shuttle stop #16, this nature center (staffed by Yosemite Conservancy volunteers) is a great place to take kids. The center includes natural history exhibits, tactile and auditory displays, and a bookstore geared to nature-exploring families (open in summer). Nearby are short trails that are accessible and focus on the area's four different

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environments: forest, river, talus and fen. An outdoor exhibit details the geologic story of rockfall in Yosemite. Open daily 9 am to 4 pm.

**The Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge):** Located at shuttle stop #12, the Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center was Yosemite's first public visitor center and is operated during the summer by the Sierra Club. It features a children's corner and a library and offers a variety of environmental education and evening programs (summer only). All evening programs are canceled for 2022, but *The Conservation Center will be open, Wednesday through Sunday, 10am until 4pm from Sunday, May 1 to Friday, September 30, 2022.* For more information, call **(209) 372-4542** or check the park newspaper.

**Yosemite Art Center:** Informal outdoor classes are offered to park visitors. Art

supplies, books and original art are available for purchase. Located southwest of the Village Store. For more information call **(209) 372-4207**.

## OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY

**Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center:** Only open during the summer, the visitor center has exhibits that feature information on area geology, wildflowers, alpine and subalpine ecology, bears and other wildlife, the area's human history, and wilderness etiquette. Books and maps are also available.

**Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center:** Opens in spring 2022 when Tioga Pass opens. Wilderness permits for the Tuolumne Meadows area are available on the porch (self-registration). Be prepared with your own bear canister. This center also offers park orientation, trail information, books, maps and displays. Located at shuttle stop #3.



## **Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley**

**Cabin & Soda Springs:** Located in Tuolumne Meadows, this historic area can only be reached by foot via two easy trails (summer only).

## **Big Oak Flat Information Station:**

Located at the Big Oak Flat entrance, this station is staffed and offers bear canister rentals, maps and wilderness permits. Hours vary (spring to fall). In the winter, self-registration wilderness permits for the Crane Flat area and Tioga Road trailheads only, are available on the front porch. You must bring your own bear canister when the information station is closed.

## **Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio:**

A recreation of Thomas Hill's historic art studio, today this visitor center explores the concepts of art and preservation. Near the Big Trees Lodge, this facility provides information on interpretive programs and park activities. Books and maps. Wilderness permits for the Wawona area only are available on the porch (self-registration). Permits for trailheads starting in Yosemite Valley are not available. Starting May 20, open from 8 am to 5 pm. When open, wilderness permits available, maps for sale, and bear canisters for rent.

## **Pioneer Yosemite History Center in**

**Wawona:** Discover horse-drawn wagons, stroll across a covered bridge and visit historic buildings out of Yosemite's past. The center is always open and interpretive signs and brochures are available.

**Mariposa Grove Museum:** The Mariposa Grove Museum and the Grove itself is closed as part of a restoration project that will restore the grove's dynamic ecology and increase its resilience.

## **OTHER SERVICES**

**Banking Services:** ATMs can be found in the Yosemite Valley Lodge lobby, the Village Store, The Majestic Yosemite Hotel, Half Dome Grocery and Gifts and at the Wawona Pioneer Gift & Grocery.

**Gas Stations:** Gas stations are open year-round at El Portal, Wawona and Crane Flat. The Yosemite Village Garage handles minor repairs. Emergency road service is available by calling **(209) 372-8320**. Open hours are listed in the park newspaper.

**Laundromat:** Laundry facilities are available year-round at Housekeeping Camp. See the park newspaper for hours of operation.

**Lost & Found:** For items lost or found at restaurants, lodging facilities, lounges, shuttle or tour services, call **(209) 372-0200**. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, email [yose\\_lostandfound@nps.gov](mailto:yose_lostandfound@nps.gov).


**Medical & Dental Services:** For emergency medical care (available 24 hours a day), dial **911** from commercial telephones or **9-911** from hotel phones. For more information about park emergencies, please refer to the park newspaper, the Yosemite Guide. Visitors can obtain a copy of the newspaper at any visitor center in the park.

**Post Offices:** The park's main post office is in Yosemite Valley next to the Ansel Adams Gallery. Smaller post offices are located at the Yosemite Valley Lodge and Wawona. From mid-June to mid-September, postal service is also available at Tuolumne Meadows.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

The Access Pass (available at visitor centers, entrance stations and information stations) waives entrance fees for citizens or permanent residents of the United

States with visual, hearing, mobility or other cognitive impairments. A reservation is still required if entering during peak hours. A temporary accessibility placard is available at all park entrance stations and visitor centers.

The Yosemite Accessibility Guide is available online at [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/upload/access2022.pdf](https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/upload/access2022.pdf). Not all facilities are fully accessible; be sure to request an accessible room when making a reservation. Be specific about your needs. Look for this symbol  for facilities and services accessible to guests in wheelchairs.

Wheelchairs, hand-bikes, electric scooters and adaptive equipment are available for rental. For deaf visitors needing to make outgoing calls, a free public videophone is available in the Yosemite Valley Lodge registration area.

A sign language interpreter may be available to interpret park programs and provide information for deaf visitors. Check at the Valley Visitor Center, email [yose\\_deaf\\_services@nps.gov](mailto:yose_deaf_services@nps.gov) or call **(209) 379-5250** (voice/text). For more information, visit [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/deafservices.htm](https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/deafservices.htm).

## RECREATION

### BACKPACKING

Free **wilderness permits** are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite wilderness. Sixty percent of wilderness permit reservations become available by lottery 24 weeks in advance. For the 2022 season, the remaining 40% of trailhead quotas will be released on a first-come, first-served basis on Recreation.gov seven days in advance

at 7 am PDT. Any unreserved permits will be available in person at wilderness centers (See centerfold map for locations) only on the start date of the trip. Few, if any, unused permits will be available on any given day.

You must arrive at a wilderness center during business hours to get a permit. All wilderness centers operate from 8 am to 5 pm. After-hours permits will not be available. In order to get a same-day permit, you must be in the park either by reservation or by entering during non-peak hours.

From November through April, wilderness permits are still required. You can get a wilderness permit the day before or day of you intend to start your hike at the permit issuing station nearest the trailhead, and issued at the Valley Visitor Center, Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio porch, Big Oak Flat Information Station porch, Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station, Tuolumne Meadows Ski Hut and Badger Pass Ski Area's A-frame.

Food must be stored properly in bear canisters or food lockers while camping in wilderness areas. Bear canister rentals are available at the Valley Visitor Center Bookstore, the Wawona Store and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. For recorded wilderness information, call **(209) 372-0200** or visit [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wild-permits.htm](https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wild-permits.htm).

### BICYCLES

Explore Yosemite Valley on over 12 miles of paved bike paths. Bikes (including helmets; required by law for children 18 and under) are available for rent for riders of all ages. One tandem bike is available for those with vision impairments. Bicycles with trailers and tagalong bikes are available for families with younger children.



Hand-cranked bicycles are available for visitors with mobility impairments. Bikes can be rented at Yosemite Valley Lodge, Curry Village, or Yosemite Village from early spring to late fall. Electric scooters, wheelchairs, strollers, helmets, and tag-a-long bikes are also available for rent. All rental bikes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information call **(209) 372-8319**.

## GOLF

One of the oldest courses in the Sierra Nevada, the 35-par Wawona Golf Course features nine holes and 3,050 yards. This Yosemite golf course is one of the few organic golf courses in the United States and is a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. It is open daily spring to fall, conditions permitting. Extra amenities include electric and caddie cart rentals, daily snack and beverage service, a golf shop, and putting green. Please call **(209) 375-6572** to reserve a tee time. Visit [travelyosemite.com/things-to-do/golfing](https://www.travelyosemite.com/things-to-do/golfing) for more information.

## GUIDED TRAIL RIDES

Guided horse and mule trail rides are available (summer only) in Wawona. For information, call **(888) 413-8869**.

## RIVER RAFTING

In summer, conditions permitting, rental rafts—complete with life jackets and paddles—are available at Curry Village. Children must weigh at least 50 pounds. Rafting is permitted only from Stoneman Bridge (near Curry Village) to Sentinel Beach Picnic Area.

## YOSEMITE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

The Yosemite Mountaineering School provides year-round services for all levels of climbers, or would-be climbers, including lessons, guiding and equipment rentals. Their Welcome to the Rock® class is an ideal introduction to the sport and a fun adventure for the whole family. They also provide guided snowshoe hikes in the winter. Yosemite Mountaineering School also offers guided hiking, backpacking, and cross-country skiing services to help you explore Yosemite. For more information, call **(209) 372-8344** or visit [travelyosemite.com](https://www.travelyosemite.com).

## SELF-GUIDING TRAILS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

**The Miwok in Yosemite:** This is a short loop trail that winds through a reconstructed Miwok-Paiute Village in the Indi-

an Village of Ahwahnee. Southern Miwok life, history and language are discussed on the walk. The trail begins behind the Yosemite Museum.

**Mirror Lake Interpretive Trail:** This loop is adjacent to Mirror Lake. Exhibits focus on the area's rich natural and cultural history. Located one mile from shuttle bus stop #17 near the parking spaces designated for visitors with disabilities, the trail is open year-round.

**A Changing Yosemite:** This one-mile-long walk through Cook's Meadow explores natural and cultural stories of Yosemite.

## SELF-GUIDING TRAILS OUTSIDE THE VALLEY

**Giant Sequoias:** A self-guiding trail in the Tuolumne Grove interprets the natural history and ecological dynamics of the giant sequoia community.

## SWIMMING

In summer, guests may swim at the Curry Village and Yosemite Valley Lodge swimming pools. Use caution when in the Merced River as water temperatures can be chilly and the current can be swift. Do not swim above or near waterfalls or rapids. Swimming pools are closed for the season.

## SHOPPING

### AHWAHNEE HOTEL

**The Ahwahnee Hotel Gift Shop:** This shop offers Yosemite-inspired gifts, local and international handicrafts, art and photographic prints, and a diverse selection of American Indian pottery, art and jewelry. Open year-round. ♿

**The Ahwahnee Hotel Sweet Shop:** This shop offers signature merchandise, a fine selection of local and regional wines, gourmet snacks, sundries and greeting cards are available. Open year-round. ♿

### CRANE FLAT

**Crane Flat Store:** This seasonal convenience store on the Big Oak Flat Road off of Hwy 120 carries snacks and supplies and has 24-hour fuel sales.

### CURRY VILLAGE

**Yosemite Mountain Shop:** If you left your gear at home, the Mountain Shop provides an excellent and diverse selection of rock climbing equipment, camping, hiking and backpacking gear, bear-resistant food canisters, hiking and climbing shoes, and a wide range of sportswear and technical outdoor clothing. Open year-round. ♿

**Gift & Grocery:** Groceries, picnic supplies, mementos, apparel and an ATM are available. Open year-round. ♿

### HOUSEKEEPING CAMP

**Camp Store:** This is a general convenience store, which opens in parallel with the campground and is weather pending. If closed, utilize the store at Curry Village or Yosemite Village Market. ♿

### GLACIER POINT

**Gift Shop:** (closed for 2022 Glacier Point Road construction) Hiking and picnic supplies, astronomy- and geology-related gifts, and apparel available. Sandwiches, hot dogs, beverages and other snacks available at the Snack Stand. ♿

### HAPPY ISLES ART AND NATURE CENTER

**Book Store:** The Yosemite Conservancy-operated bookstore offers books and



games that explore hiking, natural history, wildlife and the Yosemite Junior Ranger Program. Art classes also offered here. The conservancy also offers a webstore at [shop.yosemite.org](http://shop.yosemite.org).

## TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

**Tuolumne Gift and Grocery:** Gifts, post office, grocery items, clothing, fishing licenses and camping and fishing supplies are offered. Backpackers can also rent bear-resistant food canisters. Opens June 3.

### **Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center:**

The Yosemite Conservancy Visitor Center Bookstore offers titles with an emphasis on the natural history, wildlife and outdoor recreation of Tuolumne Meadows. Open from late May to late September. ♿

## WAWONA

**Wawona Golf Shop:** You'll find golfing equipment and rentals, clothing and a snack stand here. Open mid-May to late October, conditions permitting.

### **Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio:**

The Yosemite Conservancy bookstore offers titles about Yosemite with an emphasis on the pioneer history, natural history, wildlife and outdoor recreation of the Wawona and Mariposa Grove areas. Wilderness permits and bear canister rentals are available. Open spring to fall. ♿

## YOSEMITE LODGE

**Gift/Apparel Store:** This store offers a variety of Yosemite merchandise, snacks, beverages and picnic supplies. Open year-round.

## YOSEMITE VILLAGE

**Village Store:** The most varied general merchandise store in Yosemite National Park, offering groceries, clothing, camping supplies,

magazines, books, postcards, gifts, souvenirs, and an ATM. Open year-round. ♿

**Ansel Adams Gallery:** Once known as Best's Studio, the Ansel Adams Gallery is listed on The National Register of Historic Places. The gallery has been in business under the same family ownership since 1902. What started as a painter's studio is now a destination for photographers and aficionados of Ansel Adams worldwide. Walking photography workshops are available. Open year-round; however, please check in advance for certain holiday closings. For more information, please call **(209) 372-4413** or visit at [anseladams.com](http://anseladams.com). 📺 ♿

**Yosemite Museum Shop:** This Yosemite Conservancy shop, located next to the Indian Cultural Museum, offers books and traditional American Indian arts and crafts of California and Nevada, including baskets and silver jewelry. Operating hours vary according to season. Open 10 am to 4 pm. ♿

**Valley Visitor Center:** This Yosemite Conservancy visitor center bookstore offers numerous titles about Yosemite in many categories, as well as children's games, park guides and maps, DVDs, posters, cards, Obata art prints and Yosemite apparel. The Valley Visitor Center is closed; rangers and volunteers are staffing an outdoor visitor information kiosk with proper social distancing measures in place. ♿

## BADGER PASS SKI AREA

**Ski Shop:** This shop carries a variety of ski and snowboard clothing, gloves, hats, accessories, sunglasses and goggles. Snacks are also available. Currently closed for the season.

# SIGHTS TO SEE



## YOSEMITE VALLEY

Yosemite Valley is accessible year-round via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced and Highway 120 from Manteca. In late spring through late fall it is accessible via the Tioga Road (Highway 120 from Lee Vining). Called “the incomparable valley,” Yosemite Valley, the most visited section of the park, is seven miles long and one-mile across (at its widest point).

The walls of the valley are draped with **waterfalls** that usually run full in the spring and early summer. Visitors enjoy fields of flowers in summer, a show of colors in fall and brilliant mountain light and relatively mild temperatures in winter. A number of recreational and educational opportuni-

ties are available, including hiking, biking, nature walks, photography, ice skating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and interpretive programs. Visitors can also take advantage of lodging, dining, tours and other visitor services. See the park newspaper for more information.

**Bridalveil Fall:** The Ahwahneechee called this place **Pohono**, “Spirit of the Puffing Wind.” The wind swirls about the cliff, often lifting the falling water and blowing it from side-to-side in a delicate free-fall. Although Bridalveil Fall appears small when viewed against the surrounding canyon walls, it actually has a 620-foot drop, the height of a 62-story building. Bridalveil Fall is currently closed due to the Bridalveil Fall Rehabilitation Project as well as Glacier Point Road.

## FUN FACTS



### THE WORLD'S 10 TALLEST WATERFALLS

Angel Falls, Venezuela	3,212 ft.
Tugela Falls, South Africa	2,800 ft.
Utigordsfossen, Norway	2,626 ft.
Mongelfossen, Norway	2,540 ft.
<b>Yosemite Falls, Yosemite</b>	<b>2,425 ft.</b>
Espelandfoss, Norway	2,307 ft.
<b>Sentinel Fall, Yosemite</b>	<b>2,000 ft.</b>
Cuquenán Falls, Venezuela	2,000 ft.
Sutherland Falls, New Zealand	1,904 ft.
Kjelfossen, Norway	1,841 ft.

**Yosemite Falls:** The base of Lower Yosemite Falls is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. Impressive views of both the upper and lower falls are seen on the path to the base. This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area. It is accessible to the mobility impaired. The upper and lower falls, and an intermediate cascade, drop 2,425 feet and combine to make this the tallest waterfall in North America. ♿

**El Capitan:** This 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.

**Half Dome:** Yosemite's most distinctive monument, Half Dome dominates most valley views. Standing at the eastern end of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome rises to an



elevation of 8,842 feet. At 87 million years old, the granite of Half Dome crystallized deep within the earth under miles of overlying rock. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall shaped this famous feature.

**Happy Isles:** Located at the far eastern end of Yosemite Valley, Happy Isles is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. From the dazzling spray of springtime rapids in the Merced River to the quiet trickling of water through a fen (or marsh), Happy Isles is a must-see. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story.

**The Happy Isles Art and Nature center:** Great place to take kids. For a day hike, visitors can use this trailhead to reach Vernal (0.75 miles) and Nevada Falls (3.5 miles). Visitors with mobility impairments can obtain a blue placard at the Valley

Visitor Center or an entrance station that will authorize them to drive to the Happy Isles Art and Nature Center or Mirror Lake. Emergency flashers must be engaged on all personal vehicles traveling on the Mirror Lake Road.

**Mirror Lake/Mirror Meadow:** Mirror Lake is a moderately easy, one-mile walk from the shuttle bus at stop #17. During the springtime, you will see impressive views and mirror reflections of Tenaya Canyon and Half Dome. The lake is naturally evolving into a meadow and dries up by summer's end. If you're bicycling, park your bike at the base of the Mirror Lake hill and walk to the lake. Riding back down the hill is dangerous and not allowed on rental bikes, due to its steepness and amount of pedestrian traffic.

**Tunnel View:** Just outside of Yosemite Valley, one of the most photographed vistas in the world can be seen at the turnout at the eastern end of the Wawona Tun-

nel along the Wawona Road (Hwy 41). It provides a classic view of Yosemite Valley, including El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks and Bridalveil Fall.

**Yosemite Valley Exhibit Hall:** Inside the Valley Visitor Center, which at the time of writing is closed, exhibits offer an interactive educational journey about the way the landscape was formed, how wildlife adapts, how humans have affected (and have been affected by) Yosemite and how the national park continues to evolve.

## WAWONA

Located six miles from the park's South Entrance (near Highway 41 to Fresno; 36 miles south of Yosemite Valley), the Wawona area tells the story of Yosemite's human history and pioneer past. The charming 19th century **Big Trees Lodge** and the **Pioneer Yosemite History Center** are a history buff's delight. The center is a collection of historic buildings associated with the people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour. The **Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias** reopened in June 2018 following renovations to the South Entrance and Grove to improve the ecological health of the sequoias.

Guests at Wawona will be able to easily access the **Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias**, Yosemite's largest stand of giant sequoias (about 500 mature trees) and one of three groves of giant sequoias in the park (road closed to vehicles late fall through early spring). Here, you'll marvel at one of the world's largest trees, the Grizzly Giant. Trail brochures are available in several languages.

You can also see sequoias at the **Tuolumne Grove**, the **Merced Grove**, and outside the park **Calaveras Big Trees State Park** and **Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park**.

## GLACIER POINT

The entire Glacier Point Road is closed until 2023 for rehabilitation. The **Glacier Point Road** takes you right to the brink of Yosemite Valley. Along the way to Glacier Point, marvel at the meadows. Once at Glacier Point, go to the railing's edge and catch your breath at one of the most exhilarating overlooks on Earth. From this perch on the rim of Yosemite Valley, you can look down 3,214 feet to the valley floor for an eagle's view of many of the popular features of Yosemite National Park. The paved trail to Glacier Point is wheelchair-accessible. ♿

## BADGER PASS SKI AREA

Open mid-December through early April (conditions permitting), the Badger Pass Ski Area is located on the Glacier Point Road, a 21-mile drive from Yosemite Valley. This is California's original ski area and offers downhill skiing, snowboarding, snowtubing and more than 90 miles of trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

## HETCH HETCHY

Once considered a twin to Yosemite Valley, this valley was described by John Muir as "a grand landscape garden, one of Nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples." **Hetch Hetchy** is located along the Tuolumne River in the northern part of the park and now contains a reservoir created by the **O'Shaughnessy Dam**. The dam was com-



pleted in 1923 and raised to its present height in 1938. Some opposition to the dam remains today.

Hetch Hetchy's towering cliffs, plunging waterfalls and quiet solitude make this a popular hiking area from spring to fall. The area's relatively low elevation gives the area one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite. Lake Eleanor is also nestled in the northwestern edge of Yosemite. Fishing, camping, swimming and motorless boating are permitted on this reservoir. The lake can be accessed from either Tuolumne City or Highway 120. More information is available at the Hetch Hetchy entrance station, or you can visit [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/placestogo.htm](https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/placestogo.htm) to explore a virtual tour of Hetch Hetchy.

Hetch Hetchy is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen and Hetch

Hetchy Roads; 40 miles from Yosemite Valley. Vehicles over 25 feet are prohibited on the narrow Hetch Hetchy Road. This area does not require a day-use reservation for the 2022 season, however, access is limited when parking fills. Hetch Hetchy Road is only open from 8 am to 5 pm and day visitors must exit the area prior to 5 pm.

## TIOGA ROAD & HIGH COUNTRY

Tioga Road and high country are open late May or early June through November. The road begins at the Big Oak Flat Road intersection near Crane Flat. Along the 39-mile scenic **Tioga Road**, the park's trans-Sierra Nevada crossing, there are numerous meadows, brilliant-blue lakes, huge granite domes and an extensive network of hiking trails. The road takes off from Big Oak Flat Road at

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Crane Meadow Flat, home to meadows and the trailhead to the **Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias**.

As you travel east, there are campgrounds (available on a first come, first-served basis) located along Tioga Road.

**White Wolf** offers wildflower shows, day hikes to glacial lakes and nearby views of the Tuolumne River gorge and northern high country.

One of the park's most spectacular vistas can be seen at **Olmsted Point**, where visitors can witness the immense power of the glaciers that created sparkling **Tenaya Lake**, with its sandy (but chilly) beaches, and **Clouds Rest**, which emerges like a granite backbone

extending down Tenaya Canyon to a "backward" view of Half Dome.

## TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

Tuolumne Meadows is accessible by vehicle when Tioga Road is open (mid-April). In winter, access is by ski or snowshoe only. It is located near the Tioga Pass Entrance Station (Highway 120 from Lee Vining) at the park's eastern boundary.

Located in Yosemite's high country at an elevation of 8,575 feet, Tuolumne Meadows is the largest subalpine meadow in the Sierra Nevada and a popular spot for day hikes, fishing, camping and ranger programs. Here, the **Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River** meanders peacefully after plummeting from its headwaters along the Dana and Lyell forks.



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# THINGS TO DO



Events and activities are available every day in Yosemite. Most are free and all provide interesting insight into this magnificent place. For a complete calendar of park programs and activities, see the park newspaper or visit [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/guide.htm](https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/guide.htm). You may also check at visitor centers, the Yosemite Valley Lodge Tour and Activity Desk and local bulletin boards. The following is a partial list of the classes, programs and tours offered in Yosemite.

## RANGER WALKS

Take a stroll with a National Park Service ranger who will provide knowledgeable insight into what makes Yosemite special. Ask about the history and symbolism behind the ranger's famous hat. See the park newspaper for schedule, topic and location. Ranger-led programs may be available on a limited basis; check local listings for dates, times and locations.

## PHOTO WALKS

Free photography walks are offered by the Ansel Adams Gallery, [anseladams.com](https://anseladams.com).

## ART CLASSES

Get creative in Yosemite Valley! Join Yosemite Conservancy for an outdoor workshop with a professional artist, children's art activities or a family-friendly Art in Nature walk.

## INDIAN CULTURAL PROGRAM

Demonstrators interpret the customs of Yosemite American Indians in the Indian Village of Ahwahnee and Indian Cultural Exhibit (year-round), located at the Yosemite Museum in the valley. Julia Parker

spent more than 60 years as a cultural demonstrator in Yosemite National Park educating visitors about American Indian customs. She continues to teach traditional basket-weaving techniques with her family at the Yosemite Conservancy.

## EVENING PRESENTATIONS

Talks and slideshow programs cover a wide range of topics on the natural and cultural history of Yosemite. Learn about the stories behind Yosemite's scenery, hear about rock climbers and how they've made history here, or see award-winning imagery. In summer, programs and traditional campfires are also offered at Yosemite Lodges. Visit [travelyosemite.com/things-to-do/evening-programs](https://travelyosemite.com/things-to-do/evening-programs) or call (209) 372-4386 for current information.

## HORSE-DRAWN STAGE RIDES

Discover the stagecoach travel tradition. For a nominal fee, join "Buckshot" Burrell and his horse team on a unique tour of historic Wawona buildings.

## YOSEMITE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL ADVENTURES

Since the late 1960s, the Yosemite Mountaineering School & Guide Service has guided tens of thousands of climbers—from novices through experts. The school offers classes, courses and guided adventures in rock climbing, hiking, backpacking and cross-country skiing. For more information, please call (209) 372-8344 or visit [travelyosemite.com](https://travelyosemite.com).





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# ↓ TOURS

There are a number of special guided tours designed to help visitors discover the park's incredible scenery. Learn from an expert about the park's geology, history and wildlife.

## Yosemite's Night Sky

→ Minimal light pollution makes Yosemite Valley a perfect place for stargazing! Learn about constellations and the value of dark night skies during this one-hour guided program. Families Welcome! Reservations required. Offered every Monday-Friday, 9:00-10:00 pm. Register at [Yosemite.org/adventures](https://www.yosemite.org/adventures).

## Ahwahnee Historic Tours

→ Take a step back in time through the magnificent halls, great rooms, and grounds of the The Ahwahnee Hotel. Learn the story behind the architecture, the design and the people who influenced the building. Inquire at the Concierge Desk for more information.

## Valley Floor Tour

→ Available year-round, the Yosemite Valley Floor Tour is approximately two hours long and can be enjoyed during the warm months in an open-air tram, and during the colder months from the comfort of a heated motor coach with panoramic windows. Led by park rangers and Yosemite Hospitality naturalists, you'll get to see all of the highlights at Yosemite, as you learn about the history, flora, and fauna throughout the park. Visit [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/tours.htm](https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/tours.htm).

## Valley Sunset Walk

→ Experience the magic of Yosemite during this evening stroll. Watch the setting sun light up your favorite granite features and learn about the wildlife most active at dusk. Families Welcome! Reservations required. Offered every Monday-Friday, 6:00-8:00 pm. Register at [Yosemite.org/adventures](https://www.yosemite.org/adventures).

## Glacier Point Ski Hut - Guided Overnight Tour

→ Led by an experienced guide, you'll enjoy miles of scenic cross-country skiing on intermediate groomed tracks to scenic Glacier Point. Dormitory-style overnight accommodations are provided in the Glacier Point Ski Hut. Lunch and dinner on the first day, and breakfast and lunch the following day are provided. For more information, please call **(888) 413-8869** or visit [travelyosemite.com](https://www.travelyosemite.com). Winter only.



## VINTAGE SONGS

Come and experience the joys of music. Musician and entertainer Tom Bopp has been performing at the Wawona Hotel since 1983. Playing the piano while singing along, his music is heard five nights a week in the guest lounge. Tom also presents slide programs on Yosemite history. For more information, please visit [yosemitemusic.com](http://yosemitemusic.com).

## LIVE THEATER IN YOSEMITE

Yosemite Theater offers a variety of live programs and films that bring the park's history, people and landscapes to life. The Spirit of Yosemite shows daily, on the half hour from 9:30am to 4:30pm, in the Theater behind the Valley Visitor Center. Check the Yosemite Guide for details of these and other offerings. Tickets can be purchased at the Yosemite Lodge Tour Desk or Valley Visitor Center Bookstore.

## TUOLUMNE MEADOWS TOUR & HIKERS' BUS

A five to six-hour round-trip takes you to the stunning high country of Tuolumne Meadows. Spend a few hours hiking along the Tuolumne River or enjoy a picnic near Lembert Dome. The bus service is available June to early September, weather conditions permitting.

## VALLEY FLOOR TOUR

Enjoy a 26-mile tour of Yosemite Valley in an open-air tram. Take pictures and enjoy the view as a National Park Service ranger (summer only) describes the amazing history, geology and wildlife of the park in an open-air tram. The two-hour guided Valley Floor Tour is available for the spring/summer 2022 season. Other tours are not in service at this time. For a full list of revised services, visit [travel Yosemite.com/alerts/guest-updates](http://travel Yosemite.com/alerts/guest-updates).

## BADGER PASS SKI AREA

Badger Pass Ski Area is a full-service ski resort offering ski and snowboard instruction, rental equipment, ski shop, cafeteria and lounge and free shuttle service from Yosemite Valley. Located on the road to Glacier Point, the ski area is about a 40-minute drive from Yosemite Valley. Open mid-December through early April, conditions permitting.

## THE NORDIC CENTER

There are nearly 350 miles of skiable trails and roads in the park. Cross-country track and skating lanes are groomed from Badger Pass Ski Area to Glacier Point (a 21-mile round-trip). The Nordic Center has everything from equipment rentals and sales to guides and daily lessons, also scheduled, and custom-designed day and overnight trips. For more information, call **(209) 372-8444**.

## SNOW TUBING

There are specially groomed slopes exclusively for sliding on custom-designed inner tubes made for the snow. Located right next to the ski slopes at the Badger Pass Ski Area, snow tubing offers a convenient and affordable alternative way to play in the snow. **Note: Sledding is not allowed in the area.**

## SNOWSHOE WALKS

From the Nordic Center at the Badger Pass Ski, join one of the Yosemite Mountaineering School and Guide Service's knowledgeable and friendly guides on a moderate snowshoe hike to discover the

wonders of Yosemite's winter environment. Plan to hike 3-4 miles in the snow in this 3 hour program, and learn about Yosemite's basic winter ecology. Due to the distance and duration of the snowshoe walk, children need to be at least 12 years of age and accompanied by an adult. Any families with younger children are welcome to book a private snowshoe hike by calling **(209) 372-4996**.

## ICE SKATING

Since the 1930s, visitors have enjoyed ice skating in Yosemite National Park. The outdoor skating rink is a family-friendly destination, where you'll enjoy the freshly polished ice, a cozy fire pit and ample supplies for making s'mores. The ice rink also offers a skate rental program and warming hut for storing your shoes while you skate.

## WINTER TOURS

Take a two-hour winter sightseeing tour of Yosemite Valley in a comfortable, enclosed motorcoach with large windows, perfect for viewing the scenery. Tours depart twice daily from Yosemite Valley Lodge.

## YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY WINTER ADVENTURES


Explore Yosemite's magical winter wonderland with expert guides. The Yosemite Conservancy offers classes on photography, ecology, snowshoeing, cross-country adventures and American Indian lifeways. Advanced registration is required for all Outdoor Adventures, call **(209) 379-2317** or visit **yosemiteconservancy.org**.

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

Yosemite hosts special events from November to February. Reservations are accepted up to a year in advance. For a full schedule, visit [travelyosemite.com](http://travelyosemite.com).

### BRACEBRIDGE DINNER

During December, The Ahwahnee Hotel's Dining Room is transformed into the old English hall of Squire Bracebridge from author Washington Irving's Sketchbook. Music, song and dance accompany an elegant seven-course dinner. The Bracebridge Dinner will be postponed due to a refurbishment project at The Ahwahnee with plans to return in 2023.

### GRAND GRAPE CELEBRATION & TASTE OF YOSEMITE

In November, Yosemite welcomes California winemakers who host tastings and seminars, a private reception and a five-course gala dinner. This November and December, some of the world's most acclaimed chefs will offer cooking demonstrations, tastings and other interesting things. For more information, including session dates, visit [travelyosemite.com](http://travelyosemite.com). The wine-tasting celebration will also not take place this 2022 season.

### YOSEMITE SPRINGFEST

A winter carnival takes place at Yosemite Badger Pass Ski Area during the last weekend of every ski season (usually in late March). Dual slalom racing, costume contests, obstacle course races, cross-country ski races and other exciting events take place. For more information, please visit [travelyosemite.com](http://travelyosemite.com).

## NPS SOCIAL YOSEMITE

No matter where you are, stay connected to the **National Park Service at Yosemite!** Keep up with the latest news, learn more about the park, and share favorite photos and fond memories with fellow fans of Yosemite National Park.



Visit [facebook.com/YosemiteNPS](https://facebook.com/YosemiteNPS) to "Like" the Yosemite NPS Facebook page, where you can post pictures and recount experiences, as well as see and read about others'!



Visit [twitter.com/YosemiteNPS](https://twitter.com/YosemiteNPS) to follow the Yosemite NPS Twitter feed, featuring breaking information and upcoming events.



Instagram is all the rage these days, so why not follow the Yosemite NPS and add serene scenes to your feed? Visit [instagram.com/YosemiteNPS](https://instagram.com/YosemiteNPS).



Visit [youtube.com/user/yosemitenationalpark](https://youtube.com/user/yosemitenationalpark) to subscribe to the Yosemite NPS YouTube channel. Watch videos about trip planning, hiking trail overviews, and unique natural and cultural resources, among other things.

Visit [nps.gov/yose/parknews/blogs.htm](https://nps.gov/yose/parknews/blogs.htm) to read recent blog posts from Yosemite NPS, featuring an array of article topics—from ranger notes to nature notes, winter updates to fire updates—supplied by employees and volunteers.

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- President Franklin D. Roosevelt

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# WALKING & HIKING



With more than 800 miles of hiking trails, there's no better way to enjoy the beauty of Yosemite than on foot. Whether you're interested in an easy stroll or a challenging hike, there's a trail for you. For more information, talk with a ranger at any visitor center and obtain one of several free, day-hike handouts. Excellent maps and guidebooks are available at **yosemite-**

**conservancy.org** and at bookstores throughout the park.

**Note:** *Bicycles, pets and strollers are only allowed on park roads and paved paths on the floor of Yosemite Valley. They are not allowed on trails off of the valley floor or in any wilderness areas.*

## YOSEMITE VALLEY HIKES

Trail/Destination	Starting Point	Round-Trip Distance Time	Difficulty Elevation Gain
<i>Bridalveil Fall (closed)</i>	Bridalveil Fall Parking Area	0.5 mile round-trip 20 minutes	Easy
<i>Lower Yosemite Fall</i>	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	1 mile round-trip 20 minutes	Easy
<i>Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock</i>	Camp 4 near Shuttle Stop #7	2 miles round-trip 2 to 3 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
<i>Top of Upper Yosemite Fall</i>	Camp 4 near Shuttle Stop #7	7.2 miles round-trip 6 to 8 hours	Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain
<i>Mirror Lake (seasonal)</i>	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17	2 miles round-trip 1 hour	Easy
<i>Vernal Fall Footbridge</i>	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	1.4 miles round-trip 1 to 2 hours	Moderate 400-foot gain
<i>Top of Vernal Fall</i>	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	3 miles round-trip 2 to 4 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
<i>Top of Nevada Fall</i>	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	7 miles round-trip 5 to 6 hours	Strenuous 1,900-foot gain
<i>Top of Half Dome</i>	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	17 miles round-trip 10 to 12 hours	Extremely Strenuous 4,800-foot gain
<i>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</i>	Southside Drive	4.8 miles one-way 3 to 4 hours one-way	Very Strenuous 3,200-foot gain
<i>Valley Floor Loop</i>	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	13 miles full loop 5 to 7 hours full loop	Moderate

BEYOND YOSEMITE VALLEY

Trail/Destination	Starting Point	Round-Trip Distance/Time	Difficulty/ Elevation Gain
WAWONA			
Wawona Meadow Loop	Big Trees Lodge	3.5 miles round-trip 1.5 hours	Easy
Swinging Bridge Loop	Big Trees Store/ Pioneer Yosemite Hist. Ctr. Parking Area	4.75 miles round-trip 2 hours	Moderate
GLACIER POINT ROAD (CLOSED)			
Taft Point	Sentinel Dome Parking Area	2.2 miles round-trip 2 hours	Easy to Moderate
Sentinel Dome	Sentinel Dome Parking Area	2.2 miles round-trip 2 hours	Moderate
TUOLUMNE MEADOWS AREA			
Soda Springs/ Parsons Lodge	Lembert Dome Parking Area	1.5 miles round-trip 1 hour	Easy
Lembert Dome	Lembert Dome Parking Area	4 miles round-trip 3 to 4 hours	Moderately strenuous
John Muir Trail through Lyell Canyon	Dog Lake Parking Area	8 miles one-way 3 to 4 hours	Easy 200-foot gain
Elizabeth Lake	Tuolumne Meadows Group Campground	4.8 miles round-trip 4 to 5 hours	Moderate
TIOGA ROAD			
Lukens Lake	White Wolf*	5.4 miles round-trip 3 to 4 hours	Moderate
Yosemite Valley via Porcupine Creek	Porcupine Creek*	7 miles one-way 4 to 6 hours	Moderate 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss
Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek	Lukens Lake Trailhead*	10.5 miles one-way 5 to 9 hours	Moderately strenuous 3,500- to 4,000-foot loss
Yosemite Valley via Clouds Rest	Tenaya Lake*	19 miles one-way 10 to 12 hours	Strenuous
HETCH HETCHY			
Wapama Falls	O'Shaughnessy Dam	5 miles round-trip 3 to 4 hours	Easy to Moderate

\*These are drop-off points via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers' Bus.

# CAMPING



There are 13 campgrounds in the park, four of which are in Yosemite Valley. A seven-day camping limit is in effect in Yosemite Valley and Wawona from May 1 to September 15, and a 14-day limit outside the valley. For the rest of the calendar year, the limit is 30 days. Campground rules and regulations are located at [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/camping.htm](https://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/camping.htm). There are no hookups. Pets are allowed in some campgrounds.

A maximum of six people (including children) are allowed per campsite. There is no limit on the number of tents (as long as they all fit into the campsite). Reservations are required for all open campgrounds in 2022. There are no first-come, first-served campgrounds open.

Campground reservations are managed by the National Recreation Reservation System. Reservation centers in the park are located at Curry Village, at the Tuolumne Meadows Campground, in Wawona off Chilnualna Falls Road and at the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station. For campground reservations, call **(877) 444-6777**, or visit [recreation.gov](https://recreation.gov).

Reservations are required all year for Yosemite Valley's car campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. In 2022, reservations will also be required for Tamarack Flat, White Wolf, and Yosemite Creek. From late May through early September, space at Camp 4 is available only by daily lottery one day in advance.

For all other campgrounds, reservations are available in blocks of one month at a time, up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month at 7 am Pacific time. Be aware that nearly all reservations for the months of May through September and for some other weekends are filled the first day they become available, usually within seconds or minutes after 7 am.

Yosemite is piloting a lottery system for North Pines Campground reservations for arrival dates from July 21 through September 14. Successful lottery applicants will have an opportunity to make a reservation for campsites in North Pines Campground during an early access period.



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## CAMPING IN YOSEMITE 📞 (877)444-6777 • RECREATION.GOV

Campground (Elevation)	# of Sites	Daily Fee	Availability Reservations are required for all open campgrounds in 2022. * tentative opening due to snow
IN YOSEMITE VALLEY			
North Pines (4,000 ft.)	81	\$36/site	April 11 - October 11; lottery system for arrival dates from July 21 through September 14.
Upper Pines (4,000 ft.)	238	\$36/site	All Year
Lower Pines (4,000 ft.)	60	\$36/site	April 14 - October 12.
Camp 4 (4,000 ft.)	61	\$10/ person	Late May; available one day in advance by lottery; limited parking.
OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY			
Wawona (4,000 ft.) Wawona Road	72	\$36/site	All Year
Bridalveil Creek (7,200 ft.) Glacier Point Road	83	\$18/site	Not open in 2022.
Hodgdon Meadow (4,872 ft.) Big Oak Flat Road	105	\$36/site	All Year
Crane Flat (6,192 ft.) Big Oak Flat Road	166	\$36/site	Not open in 2022.
Tamarack Flat (6,315 ft.) Tioga Road (pit toilets/no potable water)	52	\$24/site	Mid June - October 15.
White Wolf (8,000 ft.) Tioga Road	74	\$30/site	Mid June - September 25.
Yosemite Creek (7,659 ft.) Tioga Road (pit toilets/no potable water)	75	\$24/site	Mid-June-September 15.
Porcupine Flat (8,100 ft.) Tioga Road	52	\$20/site	Not open in 2022.
Tuolumne Meadows (8,600 ft.) Tioga Road	304	\$36/site	Not open in 2022.

# HISTORY & CULTURE



Although Yosemite's history as a national park goes back more than 100 years, its geologic history is timeless. The human history of Yosemite is no less fascinating. There's a story in every corner of the park.

## THE PEOPLE OF YOSEMITE

Yosemite Valley's first residents were American Indians who inhabited the region, perhaps as long as 6,000 years ago. The area was inhabited by people who called Yosemite Valley "Ahwahnee," which loosely translates into "Place of a Gaping Mouth."

The discovery of gold in the Sierra Nevada foothills in 1848 brought thousands of gold seekers to the area. Word of Yosemite's beauty gradually spread and, in 1855, the first party of tourists arrived.

## NATIONAL PARK STATUS

The drive for federal protection of the Yosemite region began shortly after the first non-American Indian settlers arrived and before conservationist John Muir first visited in 1868.

**Abraham Lincoln** provided this protection when he signed the **Yosemite Grant** on June 30, 1864. The grant deeded Yosemite Valley and the **Mariposa Grove of Big Trees** to the state as California's first state park; however, no such protection existed for the surrounding wilderness.

In 1889, **John Muir** and **Robert Underwood Johnson**, the influential editor of *Century Magazine*, found the high country overrun with flocks of domestic sheep. Muir urged Johnson to use his influence on key citizens

and politicians to help preserve the region. Together they planned a campaign to make the high country surrounding Yosemite Valley into a national park.

While Johnson lobbied for the park, Muir spoke and wrote of the need for legislation to designate the land as such. Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872. Remarkably, their efforts were rewarded in just one year. On October 1, 1890, the U.S. Congress set aside more than 1,500 square miles of "reserved forest lands," soon to be known as Yosemite National Park. It included the area surrounding Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. It took a meeting between President **Theodore Roosevelt** and **John Muir** in 1903, however, to have Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove ceded from the state of California's control and included with Yosemite National Park in 1906.

## FOR PRESERVATION & ENJOYMENT

In the early part of the 20th century, the park was under the watch of the U.S. Army's 24th Mounted Infantry and the 9th Cavalry, also known as "Buffalo Soldiers." In the absence of a National Park Service—which wasn't created until 1916—these African American men, and other cavalry, were charged with the protection of the newly formed Yosemite National Park.

News of Yosemite Valley's wonders spread, bringing with it tourists and the need to accommodate them. Hotels were built, crops were planted and livestock grazed in valley meadows. People camped wherever they could. In the 1920s, "nature"



guides were hired to help educate visitors and the Field School for Natural History was established to train future interpreters.

## THE ROCKS OF YOSEMITE

Here are some of the amazing geologic features that you may have caught your eye around the park:

**Layers of Rock:** Yosemite's granite continues to expand along joints or fractures in the rock due to internal pressure within the earth's crust. This process—known as exfoliation—causes slabs of granite to “peel” off, like layers of an onion.

**Hanging Valleys:** Where streams once flowed into the valley, the glaciers left behind dramatic precipices, known as “hanging valleys.” This is noticeable at

Bridalveil Fall and Yosemite Falls.

**Roche Moutonnée (sheep rock):** These asymmetrical outcroppings of rock resemble sheep feeding in a meadow. An example of this type of formation is Lembert Dome in Tuolumne Meadows.

**Glacial Polish and Striations:** Sand and other small abrasives that pressed against the granite under the weight of the glaciers centuries ago cut distinct striations, or scratch marks, on the rocks, which indicate the direction the glaciers were moving.

**Dikes:** Rock faces show long white lines that are so straight, they resemble street lines. These rocks are rich in feldspar and quartz, which, in their fluid state, oozed into a crack and solidified millions of years ago.

# NATURE & WILDLIFE



Yosemite's range of elevations—from its semi-arid foothills to its snow-capped mountains—supports a habitat distribution that nurtures 37 types of native trees, over 1,000 species of wildflowers, 85 species of mammals, over 150 species of birds, and 33 varieties of reptiles and amphibians.

The **California black oak** (*Quercus kelloggii*) is a large deciduous tree with yellow-green leaves and a dark trunk that is commonly found in Yosemite Valley.

The **Ponderosa pine** (*Pinus ponderosa*) is easily identified by its puzzle-like bark, which has a pattern of irregularly-shaped plates separated by dark furrows.

The **incense-cedar** (*Calocedrus decurrens*) is often confused with the giant sequoia because it has feathery, reddish bark.

The **giant sequoia** (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) is the most massive living tree on earth. Three groves are located in the park: Mariposa, near South Entrance (Wawona Road); Tuolumne, near Crane Flat off the Tioga Road; and Merced, off the Big Oak Flat Road between Crane Flat and the Big Oak Flat Entrance.

## NOTABLE FLOWERS

Mariposa is the Spanish word for butterfly and the **mariposa lily** (*Calochortus leichtlinii*) is said to resemble this beautiful winged creature. The **Sierra tiger lily** (*Lilium columbianum*) has spots on its petals that dangle down, like a bell, from the top of the stem. Both plants were once an important part of the diet of the American Indians.

**Mule ears** (*Wyethia mollis*) are a yellow flower that have a large blossom resembling a sunflower. The flower's huge leaves, which grow to between eight and 16 inches long, give the flower its name.

## ANIMALS

The **western gray squirrel** (*Sciurus griseus*) is one of many types of tree and ground squirrels found in the park. It is known for its impressive, bushy gray tail.

The bat is the only flying mammal in existence. Recent surveys by scientists indicate that at least 15 bat species can be found in Yosemite, including the rare spotted bat. The **spotted bat** (*Euderma maculatum*) is named for three distinctive white spots on its black back. It also has the largest ears of any bat in North America. Most bats eat insects, which they hunt at night. Bats find food by echolocation, an utterance of a series of high-pitched squeaks that bounce off objects. Unfortunately, bat populations have decreased dramatically in the last 25 years due to pesticides, habitat loss, disease, and human disturbance of caves.

**Golden eagles** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are occasionally seen in Yosemite Valley, but are more common at higher elevations. Look for a very large, dark brown bird that holds its broad wings in a shallow V-shape when soaring.

Yosemite is home to the endangered **great gray owl** (*Strix nebulosa*). Monitoring documents the habits and health of the park population of this large bird. In some areas of the park you may hear its distinctive, deeply-toned hoot.



# ➤ WATCHABLE WILDLIFE



## BOBCAT

The bobcat's ears, perhaps its most notorious feature, are pointed and black-tipped with black hair tufts spiking upward. Named for its stubby, bobbed tail, the bobcat is crepuscular (most active at twilight and dawn). However, they keep more of a diurnal (daytime) schedule in the winter. • **Weight** 20 lbs. • **Size** 2-4 ft. with a 4-7 in. tail • **Active** year-round.

## COYOTE

At night you may hear this silver-gray member of the canine family singing in a chorus of howls, barks and yodels. It primarily preys on field mice and ground squirrels, although it has learned to beg from people. Do not feed coyotes and keep a safe distance at all times! • **Weight** 20-30 lbs. • **Size** 3-4.5 ft. • **Active** year-round.

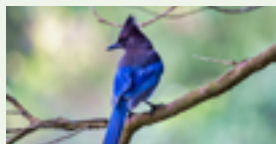


## MOUNTAIN LION

Also known as cougar and puma, the mountain lion is found across North America. Extremely secretive, and thus rarely seen, these solitary predators prefer areas where they can hunt most efficiently—steep canyons, rock outcroppings and lush vegetation. They primarily prey on mule deer. • **Weight** 60-200 lbs. • **Length** 9 ft. (with tail) • **Active** year-round.

## GOLDEN EAGLE

The golden eagle's namesake buff-gold collar of feathers blend strikingly against the dark-brown plumage of the rest of its body. This raptor is occasionally seen in Yosemite Valley, but is more common at higher elevations. • **Weight** 5-15.5 lbs. • **Size** 2-3.5 ft.; wingspan 5-7.5 ft. • **Winter** South of Alaska.



## MULE DEER

Often seen grazing in or near meadows, the naturally timid mule deer has grown accustomed to people. Although it may appear tame, the mule deer is a wild animal and may charge if it feels threatened. Its hooves and antlers are sharp! Always keep a safe distance. • **Weight** 70-475 lbs. • **Size** 4-7.5 ft. • **Active** year-round.

## STELLER'S JAY

The Steller's jay is a comic, bright-blue bird with a pointed gray-black crest. Their distinctive caw-like screech often alerts others that food has been found. Their calls are numerous and variable, and their notable alarm call is a harsh nasal "wah." Get a pair of binoculars and see what you can spot. • **Length** 12-13 in. • **Weight** 3.5-4.9 oz. • **Active** year-round.

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# PHOTOGRAPHY



Just as large scale paintings and photographic surveys were once the catalyst for Congress to create the first national parks, photographs and videos created by today's visitors continue to inspire a passion for the preservation of these awe-inspiring places. Today more than ever, these wild and captivating environments offer us the much needed opportunity to reconnect with nature; places to recharge our metaphorical batteries. The following tips will help enhance your photography and video work both technically and aesthetically, and empower you to contribute to the ongoing visual preservation of the wildlife and landscapes of our national parks, and have fun doing it!

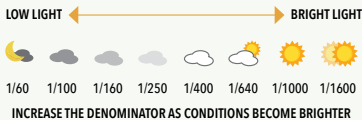
- **Timing is everything.** The best time to photograph is during the soft golden hours—at dusk and dawn—when the light is soft. When your shadow is longer than you are, you've got the best light!
- **Stay in the shallows.** To easily achieve the cinematic, blurred background look, move away from your subject matter and use your telephoto lens to zoom in and compress the image's foreground to background to create a shallow depth of field.
- **Go with the flow.** Fight the desire to constantly follow wildlife, and let the action naturally enter and exit your frame.
- **Framing.** Seek out natural framing ele-

ments—trees and branches, rock formations, knot holes—to add more layers to your image. Leave space around wildlife to frame them within their natural habitat.

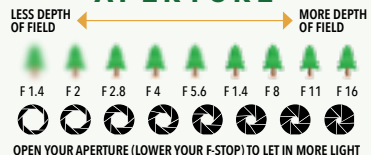
- **The eyes have it.** Change your perspective whenever possible to photograph at an intimate eye level with your subject. Place eyes in the power points (the intersection of rule of third guidelines) and keep them in sharp focus.
- **Use a monopod.** If you are using a heavy telephoto lens for photos or video, consider using a monopod to stabilize it (one can be attached to either the base of the camera or lens). Many hiking poles serve double duty and convert to monopods.
- **Do photo yoga.** Snap a few versions of a composition with a variety of perspectives, both vertical and horizontal. The best image is not likely the first one you take.
- **Shoot in burst mode.** Increase the probability that you'll capture a candid behavior, head position or unique angle of your subject by taking many pictures at once using your camera's burst mode.
- **Steady as you go.** Investing in a pan-and-tilt tripod head will allow you to move your camera smoothly on top of a tripod and avoid hand-held camera shake that will distract from your footage.

## CHEAT SHEET

### SHUTTER SPEED



### APERTURE



### ISO







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Yosemite offers an abundance of activities for the entire family—or anyone at all! Discover the many ways you and your children can best enjoy nature and wildlife in the park.

## VISIT THE HAPPY ISLES ART AND NATURE CENTER

See wildlife exhibits and a night display of Yosemite, play in the children's corner or join a Junior Ranger program (summer only).

## GO INTO THE FIELD!

Join NatureBridge on their residential field science program, a five-day introduction to Yosemite's outdoor classroom. For more information, call **(209) 379-9511**.

## PRESCHOOL PLAY

**Bring your 2- to 5-year-olds for Wee Wild Ones**, a 45-minute educational program packed with stories, games and fun surprises. Check the Yosemite Guide for additional details.

## BUILD A CAMPFIRE

Enjoy an evening around the campfire with a park ranger. During the summer, free ranger-led campfire programs are provided in and outside of Yosemite Valley. Note: ranger programs are available on a limited basis this year. See a park newspaper for the schedule.

## FIRESIDE STORYTELLING

A blazing fire, good stories and a gorgeous setting lend themselves to this program in The Ahwahnee Hotel Great Lounge, offered in winter and spring. Families—whether guests or just visiting—will enjoy this free pre-dinner activity. As staffing is limited this year, check

with front desk on fireside program-availability.

## BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

Kids 7 to 13 can earn a certificate and a patch as they learn about Yosemite. This self-guiding Junior Ranger Hand Book is sold online at **yosemiteconservancystore.org** and at visitor centers for \$3.50 (plus tax). Join a Junior Ranger Program in various areas throughout the park. See park newspaper for schedule.

## BECOME A LITTLE CUB

The *Little Cub Handbook* is a self-guiding booklet for children ages 3 to 6 that encourages young visitors to discover Yosemite and earn a Little Cubs button. Booklets are sold for \$3 (plus tax) at visitor centers in the park or at **shop.yosemite.org**.

## DISCOVER YOSEMITE BOOKS

Learn about the park with *Two Bear Cubs*, a legend about El Capitan! To order, call Yosemite Conservancy at **(209) 379-2317** or visit **shop.yosemite.org/**.

## GO WHITEWATER RAFTING

The Merced River flows through Yosemite's National Park and offers memorable natural and recreational opportunities. From mid-May to mid-September, you'll have fun rafting down the river, while staying cool and taking in some amazing views. Trips generally meander three miles down the river in a raft with 2 to 4 people. Assistance is available for special needs visitors. For more information, visit **travelyosemite.com**.



# NATURE MAKES US BETTER



## ESPECIALLY WHEN WE FEEL IT UNDER OUR FEET!

Here in our national and state parks, and wherever your adventures take you, remember these simple tips to make the most of your family time on the trail.

- 1 START SMALL** – Make sure that your first hikes here are achievable, and ideally have clearly defined end points. Family traditions are built slowly – the love of hiking is too!
- 2 FOCUS ON FEATURES** – Lakes, streams, waterfalls, overlook views, etc. will keep your family focused and engaged.
- 3 ROTATE THE LEADER** – Walking in front on a hike is a different experience. Encourage even the youngest to take turns keeping the pace and navigating.
- 4 BONUS FUN** – Scavenger hunts, word games, species spotting prizes, and yes, even tech toys (check out iNaturalist!) are all great hiking companions.

## HIKE. WASH. SHARE. REPEAT.

Nature Valley is proud to support and promote restoration projects that increase access to thousands of miles of trails in parks across the country – dedicating those miles to the countless people like you who are out there making them matter! Visit [naturevalley.com/nationalparks](https://naturevalley.com/nationalparks) to learn more.



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# IF YOU ONLY HAVE A DAY

No matter what you choose to do, Yosemite offers a wide variety of activities and sights. Try and plan out exactly how much time you will have so you don't miss a thing. Here are some tips from **Oh, Ranger!**

## MARIPOSA GROVE

Visit the giant sequoias and walk past massive trees that are over a thousand years old! Take a stroll through the shade of the giant trees on one of the many paths that wind through the grove of ancient life. If you still want the joy of seeing the giant sequoias but with less of a crowd, go in search of Merced Grove. It may not be as large as the Mariposa Grove, but it sure is peaceful and quiet! The Merced Grove is an amazing place to find the true solitude of nature and be with your thoughts.

## GO BACK IN TIME

If you enjoy history, make a quick stop off and visit the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona. Here, visitors get the opportunity to experience the days of cabins and covered bridges with a horse-drawn stage ride that loops to the Big Trees Hotel.

## YOSEMITE VALLEY

Not all of the best adventures are restricted to the outdoors. Be sure to explore the Valley Visitor Center Exhibit Hall and the Yosemite Museum. One of the most beautiful areas of the park can be found by walking to the base of lower Yosemite Falls. Consider a two-hour Valley Floor Tour to see the valley's most scenic sights with the added benefit of a park ranger narration. This will put the waterfalls in context with the history of the park.

## A SUNSET YOU WON'T FORGET

End your day at Sentinel Dome for one of the most stunning sunsets. Find the trailhead along Glacier Point Road (closed for construction 2022), and, if time allows, stop at **Glacier Point overlook** to awe at Yosemite Valley, Half Dome and Yosemite Falls from an elevated vantage point. You'll want to look for Taft Point's trailhead, but make a right toward **Sentinel Dome**. Just over a mile, the moderate trail leads to 360-degree panorama views of **Half Dome** and **El Capitan**. Perch yourself on the apex of the dome as the stark, bluish-gray mountain range becomes backlit with pink and orange hues. On your hike back, don't forget to look up at the stars!



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