

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 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: Created in 1864 as a forest reserve by President Lincoln, Yosemite has grown into an American icon of wilderness. From the 3,000-foot-tall El Capitan to 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 761,787 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 famed for its giant sequoia groves and oak woodlands.

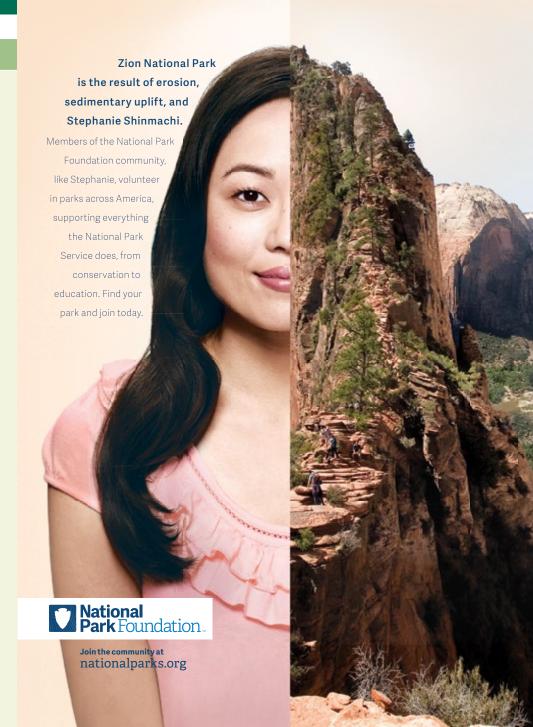
Popular Activities: Visitors to the park can hike, rock climb, backpack and birdwatch. Hiking Half Dome now requires a permit, so be sure to check at a visitor center before heading out.

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.









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> Publisher & Editor-in-Chief MARK J. SAFERSTEIN

Associate Publisher & Executive Editor

Group Sales & Partnerships Director

EDITORIAL / PRODUCTION

Managing Editor: Kate Morgan Editors: Nell Alk, Monette A. Bailey, Renee Sklarew, Andy M. Smith **DIGITAL**

Technology Managers: Scott Falconer, Josh Eckstein

ADVERTISING SALES & MARKETING (212) 581-3380

adsales@americanparknetwork.com Business Development: Sharon Burson, Randy Burton, Mary Pat Kaleth, Pat Keane, Craig King, Kristi Rummel Operations Manager: Matthew Price

American Park Network 41 East 11th Street, 11th Floor, NY, NY 10003









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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Distribution requests

distribution@americanparknetwork.com

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Special thanks to Lisa Cesaro. (Cover: El Capitan and Half Dome by Tonda/iStock)





WHAT'S NEW

66 There is nothing so American as **99** our national parks.

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Access to parks is one of the things that's truly great about life in America. Not just national parks, like FDR stated, but all parks. Parks afford everyone, regardless of race, income, social status or age, the opportunity to escape the concrete jungle and step into the wild. It doesn't matter whether it's a small step into a local park or a giant leap into the backcountry. The effect is the same. Time in nature feels good. Other values that parks bring may be less obvious. Since we take care of the things we value, I'd like to highlight a few other benefits we all receive from public lands:

Economic Impact America's federal, state and local parks and public lands generate \$200 billion in annual economic activity and support more than one million jobs! You might help a dozen businesses during a weekend hiking trip. Imagine the impact of a week-long national park adventure. Parks raise property values, too!

Conservation Trees produce the oxygen we need to survive, but did you know that they also help save money? It's estimated that trees in cities save \$400 billion in costs to retain stormwater. A single tree can store 100 gallons or more, which helps keep streets from flooding and reduces the need for artificial storage facilities. A tree can also absorb as much as three tons of carbon gas during its lifetime.



Mark, Joel & Alex - Support parks, stay healthy!

Take a deep breath in a park and you'll immediately know the value of greenspace.

Health & Wellness Studies show a high correlation between time spent in parks and improved health (and, in my view, happiness). You move more when you're outside, which decreases stress, makes you more fit and reduces the risk of many health issues, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. Exercise (which parks inspire) also positively impacts your cholesterol levels. A few years ago, I started bicycling to work every day. A year later, my overall cholesterol went down while my HDL-the "good" cholesterol-went up. The results of a small change in your exercise routine can be amazing! Parks invite this change.

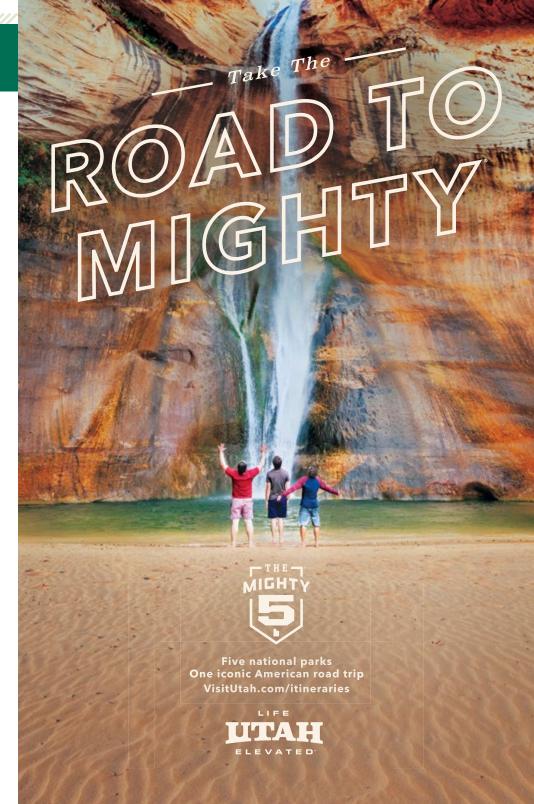
The value of parks is undeniable, so follow FDR's lead and support our public lands. It's the all-American thing to do. (Congress, take note!) You'll save the country money while improving our nation's health—and your own, too. Not a bad combination!

mark@americanparknetwork.com

GET CONNECTED AT YOUR FAVORITE PARKS!

Parks are about enjoying nature, but what if you want to share a great picture or are awaiting an important email? If you're looking to add connectivity to your park, or if you already have Wi-Fi and would like help adding content or generating sponsor revenues, please let us know at wifi@americanparknetwork.com.





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 4 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.

Entrance Fees: The park and its entrances are open year-round, 24 hours a day. The entrance fees may be paid by cash or major credit card. All park passes available for purchase can be acquired at park entrance stations:

A Vehicle Pass is available for \$30, valid for seven days. For visitors traveling by bus, foot, bicycle, or horse, an Individual Pass costs \$15. A motorcycle pass is \$20. An annual Yosemite Pass costs \$60 and admits all occupants of an automobile for one year. For more detailed information. visit nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm.

Every Kid in a Park: To help engage and create our next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates, the Obama White House, in partnership with the Federal Land Management agencies, launched the Every Kid in a Park initiative. The immediate goal is to provide an opportunity for each and every 4th grade student across the country to experience their federal public lands and waters in person.

All kids in the fourth grade have access to their own Every Kid in a Park pass. This pass admits the pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private noncommercial vehicle to the park.

You can obtain the pass by visiting everykidinapark.gov and you must print it and present it at the park. The Every Kid in a Park pass is valid until August 31, 2017.

Gas is available year-round in Wawona and seasonally at Crane Flat. Gas is not available in Yosemite Valley or Tuolumne Meadows

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.

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	\$10	U.S. residents age 62+	This lifetime pass is available on site or via mail order. ID required.
Military Pass	Free	U.S. military members 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 volun- teer service hours	Inquire locally to obtain information about this one-year pass.



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IMPORTANT NU	MBERS			
General Park Information (recording)	(209) 372-0200	nps.gov/yose		
Guidebooks	(209) 379-2648	yosemiteconservancy.org		
Road & Weather	(209) 372-0200	nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/conditions.htm		
Wilderness Permits	(209) 372-0740	nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits. htm		
Emergencies From Public Phones From Hotel Rooms	9-1-1 9-9-1-1			
Lodging, Reservations or Cancellations	(888) 540-5794	travelyosemite.com		
Guest Facilities & Services	(209) 372-1000	travelyosemite.com		
Campground Reservations TDD (toll-free)	(877) 444-6777 (877) 833-6777	recreation.gov		
Lost & Found Yosemite Hospitality National Park Service	(209) 372-1390	nps.gov/yose/lostandfound.htm		
Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System	(877) 98-YARTS (989-2787)	yarts.com		
Sightseeing Tours	(209) 372-4FUN (372-4386)	travelyosemite.com		
Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area	(209) 372-8430	travelyosemite.com		
Road Service in Yosemite	(209) 372-8320			
Visitor Activities	(209) 379-2321	nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/things2do.htm		
Regional Information		yosemite.com		
Information Outside Yosemit	e (Chambers of Com	merce)		
Groveland Lee Vining Mariposa CA Welcome Center Oakhurst Sonora	(800) 449-9120 (760) 647-6629 (209) 966-2456 (800) 446-5353 (888) 254-5864 (800) 446-1333	leevining.com mariposa.org visitmerced.travel yosemitethisyear.com visittuolumne.com		
U.S. Forest Service Campgrounds (Outside Yosemite)				
Groveland Ranger Station Mariposa Ranger Station Mono Lake Ranger Station Oakhurst	(209) 962-7825 (209) 966-3638 (760) 873-2400 (559) 658-7588	www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus www.fs.usda.gov/inyo www.fs.usda.gov/sierra		

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. Weather conditions can change unexpectedly, and chains may be mandatory on any park road at any time. 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 Hwy 120.

West: Arch Rock Entrance via Hwy 140.

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

South: South Entrance via Hwy 41.

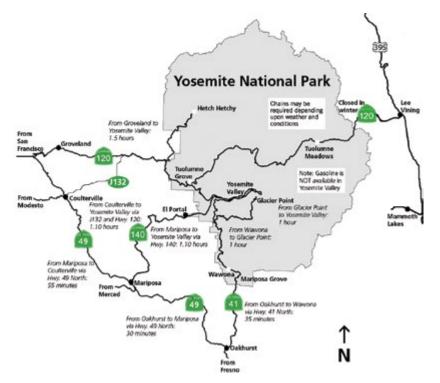
TRAVEL BY AIR

Fresno/Yosemite International Airport (FAT): 2.5 hours to Yosemite Valley via South Entrance from Highway 41.

San Francisco International Airport (SFO): 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.

Oakland (OAK): Three hours to Big Oak Flat Entrance via Highway 120, four hours to Yosemite Valley.



Sacramento (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.

Reno International Airport (RNO): Five hours to Yosemite Valley via the Tioga Pass Entrance (June to October). Call ahead for road opening.

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

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

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. For more information, call (800) 872-7245 or visit amtrak.com.

Regional Transit: Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) offers individual and group fares for motorcoach service into Yosemite from numerous gateway communities. Round-trip and one-way fares range from \$3 to \$36 (discounts for children and seniors) and include park entrance fees. Call (877) 98-YARTS (989-2787) for information or visit YARTS online at yarts.com.

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

GETTING AROUND YOSEMITE

The Yosemite Accessibility Guide is available at entrance stations, visitor centers and lodging facilities parkwide, or online at nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/upload/access.pdf. For more information, call (209) 372-0200.

PARK NEWSPAPER

The park newspaper *Yosemite Guide* contains a complete schedule of facilities' hours and park programs. Pick one up from any visitor center in the park. It is also available 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 to any of the 21 stops throughout the valley (all shuttles are wheelchair-lift equipped). In summer, additional free shuttles provide access to El Capitan in Yosemite Valley. In the Tuolumne Meadows area, a fee-based shuttle runs from the Tioga Pass Entrance to Olmsted Point. In winter, free shuttle transportation is available between Yosemite Valley and the Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area (formerly Badger Pass). ‡

WEATHER

Yosemite typically enjoys a warm, dry summer; a mild, pleasant spring and fall; and a cool winter. Higher elevations receive a great deal of snow, but the Valley (at 4,000 feet in elevation) tends to get far less. Whatever the season, be prepared for any type of weather by dressing in layers. Areas at higher elevations, such as Tuolumne Meadows, can be dramatically cooler than Yosemite Valley and other lower-elevation areas. Better safe than sorry!



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) 540-5794** or by visiting **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 with disabilities. **‡**

From fine dining at The Majestic Yosemite Hotel Dining Room, complete with a 34-foot-tall trestle-beamed ceiling, to casual dining at the Half Dome Village Pavilion, Degnan's Kitchen & Loft and the Food Court 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

1. The Majestic Yosemite Hotel (formerly The Ahwahnee) has counted presidents, celebrities and royalty among its guests. Opened in 1927, 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 more information, call **(209) 372-1489**. $(B,C,D) \otimes 1$

2. Yosemite Valley Lodge (formerly Yosemite Lodge at the Falls) 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, outdoor amphitheater, swimming pool, 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 available for various dietary preferences and needs (vegetarian, vegan and Lounge offers soup, guacamole, salsa, seasonal specialties and a full bar. Food Court Offers lighter fare, such as soups, sandwiches, appetizers and desserts. **BLO**

3. Half Dome Village (formerly Curry Village) features incredible views of Half Dome and Glacier Point, and accommo-



The Majestic Yosemite Hotel Dining Room certainly lives up to the majestic name!

dations include 18 hotel rooms with private baths, 60 cabins and 424 canvas tent cabins. AMENITIES Public showers, general store/gift shop, Yosemite Mountaineering School, the Mountain Shop, amphitheater, swimming pool, bike/raft rentals and a seasonal skating rink. Half Dome Village Pavilion is located at the base of Glacier Point, the Half Dome Village Pavilion offers a variety of à la carte options. It is open April through October. ®® # Half Dome Village Coffee Corner Muffins, cinnamon rolls, dessert, coffee, espresso, ice cream (seasonal). BLD #Half Dome Village Pizza Deck & Bar Pizza, salad, burgers, wings and other bar fare. BOD # Half Dome Village Meadow Grill Cheeseburgers, chicken, salmon and veggie burgers. BDD ±

4. White Wolf Lodge Located in the high country off Tioga Road, White Wolf 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. BD 🛠

5. Big Trees Lodge (formerly the Wawona Hotel) is one of California's original mountain resort hotels, the Victorian-era lodge was originally established in 1856. 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, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mule and horseback rides and wedding facilities. Well known for its culinary excellence, the **Big Trees Lodge 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. @CO Big Trees Golf Shop Snack Stand Beer, wine, soda & snacks near the putting green. BLD

6. Tuolumne Meadows Lodge is located at an elevation of 8.575 feet, in Tuolumne Meadows, the largest subalpine meadow in the Sierra Nevada. The Tuolumne Meadows Lodge

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. ₺

Degnan's Loft Restaurant serving pizza, salads, soup, appetizers, beer and wine daily spring to fall. (L)(D)

Degnan's Kitchen Offers deli sandwiches, salads, vegetarian fare, espresso and fresh donuts yearround. BDD **

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. ODI

Skiers Grill Features casual American favorites on the go. Fast food on the main floor of the Day Lodge at the Yosemite Ski & Snowboard (formerly Badger Pass) during winter operations. @@@

Snowflake Room Nachos, hot dogs, salads, sandwiches, beer & wine. Weekends & holidays. ©@

KEY ® Breakfast © Lunch ® Dinner ® Open during winter















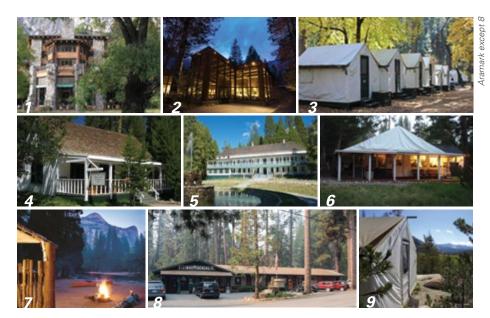








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boasts 69 rustic tent cabins that are open all summer. AMENITIES Dining room, small retail outlets and shower houses. Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Dining offers hearty, family-style meals served in a rustic canopy tent beside the Tuolumne River. Menu items include beef, chicken, soups, salads and special desserts. Open in summer only. For reservations, 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. Open in summer only. ®©

- 7. Housekeeping Camp This facility offers views of Yosemite Falls and Half Dome, plus a sandy beach for summer days. 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.
- **8. The Redwoods In Yosemite** was established as The Moore's Cottage in 1949. These often

overlooked vacation homes in Wawona offer 1-to-6 bedroom fully-equipped homes. (888) 225-6666 • redwoodsinyosemite.com. AMENITIES Washer/dryer, DSL, hot tub, satellite TV, wood burning fireplace, wood burning stoves, gas stoves.

- 9. Yosemite High Sierra Camps Guests 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 in February. Once complete, any openings available are first-come, first-served. (888) 540-5794
- travelyosemite.com. AMENITIES Showers (select camps) and restrooms subject to water availability.
- **10.** Yosemite Scenic Wonders (not pictured) 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.

PARK REGULATIONS & SAFETY

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

- Feeding wildlife
- Hunting animals
- 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 9-1-1, 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 bridges 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 (Stoneman 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 feet 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 **dfg.ca.gov/fishing**.

BEAR SAFETY

About 300–500 American black bears live in the park. The typical adult male weighs between 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:

- 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.

- 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

Kennels (open only in summer) are located at the Yosemite Valley Stable **(209) 372-8348**. 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.

Oh, Ranger! TIPS! 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, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.



In Yosemite, 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. Back 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.

PARKS AS CLASSROOMS

The NPS provides educational tools for teachers. For more information, please visit **nps.gov/yose/forteachers** or call **(209) 375-9505** or

VISITOR SERVICES

Visitor centers are located year-round in Yosemite Valley and seasonally at Wawona, Big Oak Flat and Tuolumne Meadows.

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), Yosemite Conservancy (yosemiteconservancy.org), Yosemite Hospitality (travelyosemite.com) and Nature-Bridge (naturebridge.org/yosemite).

IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

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.

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.

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

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 (when closed, pick up permits in the visitor center).

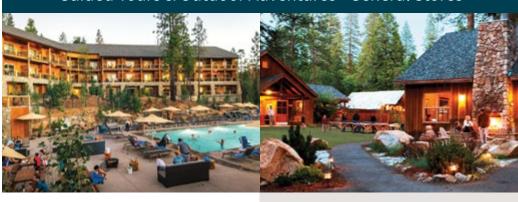
Yosemite Cemetery: This historic cemetery is located across the street and west of the Yosemite Museum. People buried here include American Indians and others who played an important role in the development of Yosemite National Park. A *Guide to the Yosemite Cemetery* is available at the Valley Visitor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

Nature Center at Happy Isles: 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 environments: forest, river, talus and fen. An outdoor exhibit details the geologic story of rockfall in Yosemite.

The Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly the 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). For more information, call (209) 372-4542 or check the park newspaper.

FUN AND FRIENDLY YOSEMITE LODGES

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



RUSH CREEK LODGE

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.







Book directly for best rates 209-379-2373 RushCreekLodge.com info@rushcreeklodge.com

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 209-379-2606 EvergreenLodge.com info@evergreenlodge.com Yosemite Art Center: For art guidance, informal outdoor classes are offered to park visitors. Art supplies, books and original art are available for purchase. Located southwest of the Village Store. Open spring to fall. For more information call (209) 372-1442.

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: Only open during the summer, this center offers wilderness permits, bear canister rentals, 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). Check at the visitor center for access information.

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).

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, maps, wilderness permits and bear canister rentals are also available. Hours vary (spring to fall).

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. The Mariposa Grove is currently closed and is expected to reopen in fall 2017.

OTHER SERVICES

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

Gas Stations: Gas stations are open year-round at 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) 372-1390**.

For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call the NPS at (209) 379-1001 or email 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 temporary accessibility placard is available at all park entrance stations and visitor centers.

A free *Yosemite Accessibility Guide* is available at park visitor centers, entrance

stations and lodging facilities around the park. 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 or call (209) 379-5250 (voice/text). For more information, visit nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/deafservices.htm.



RECREATION

BACKPACKING

Free wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. These are issued at wilderness centers. See centerfold map for locations. In late fall and winter, when wilderness centers are closed, permits are 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 Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area 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/vose/planvourvisit/wildpermits.htm.

BICYCLES

Bicycle rentals are available. 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 all ages of riders. One tandem bike is available for those with vision impairments. Trailer rentals are available for families and hand-cranked bikes, and may be rented for visitors with mobility impairments. Bikes can be rented at Yosemite Valley Lodge at the Falls or Half Dome Village from early spring to late fall. 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. For more information, visit **travelyosemite. com/things-to-do/golfing**.

GUIDED TRAIL RIDES

Guided two-hour horse and mule trail rides are available (summer only) in Wawona. For information, call (209) 372-8348.

RIVER RAFTING

In summer, conditions permitting, rental rafts—complete with life jackets and paddles—are available at Half Dome Village. Children must weigh at least 50 pounds. Rafting is permitted only from Stoneman Bridge (near Half Dome 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.

SELF-GUIDING TRAILS YOSEMITE VALLEY

The Miwok in Yosemite: This is a short loop trail that winds through a reconstructed

Miwok-Paiute Village in the Indian 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, self-guiding trail: This one-mile-long walk through Cook's Meadow explores natural and cultural stories of Yosemite.

SELF-GUIDING TRAILS OUTSIDE THE VALLEY

Giant Sequoias: Two self-guiding trails in the Mariposa Grove and one in the Tuolumne Grove, interpret the natural history and ecological dynamics of the giant

sequoia community. Note: The Mariposa Grove is currently closed for restoration, with a planned opening of fall 2017.

SWIMMING

In summer, swimming is available at the Half Dome 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.

SHOPPING

THE MAJESTIC YOSEMITE HOTEL

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 Majestic Yosemite Hotel Gift Shop:



See Yosemite as the area's earliest settlers did—from the back of a horse or mule.

The Majestic Yosemite 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 convenience store on the Big Oak Flat Road off of Hwy 120 carries snacks and supplies and has 24-hour fuel sales. Open spring through fall.

HALF DOME VILLAGE

Yosemite Mountain Shop: If you left your gear at home, you'll want to head to 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. \$\frac{1}{2}\$

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. Open spring to fall. **★**

GLACIER POINT

Gift Shop: Hiking and picnic supplies, astronomy and geology-related gifts, and apparel available. Sandwiches, hot dogs, beverages and other snacks available at the Snack Stand. Open spring to fall. **★**

NATURE CENTER AT HAPPY ISLES

Book Store: The Yosemite Conservancy operated bookstore offers books and games that explore hiking, natural

history, wildlife and the Yosemite Junior Ranger Program. Open in summer.

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

Tuolumne Store: Gifts, post office, grocery items, clothing, fishing licenses, and camping and fishing supplies are offered. Backpackers can also rent bear-resistant food canisters. Open in summer.

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 in summer. ‡

WAWONA

Pioneer Gift & Grocery: The store features groceries, camping and fishing supplies, pioneer-themed souvenir gifts, clothing, fishing licenses and books. There is also a full-service post office. Open year-round.

★

Wawona Golf Shop: You'll find golfing equipment and rentals, clothing and a snack stand here. Open spring to fall.

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 online at anseladams.com. \$\frac{1}{2}\$

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.

Yosemite Art Center: Free, informal outdoor art classes are offered through the Yosemite Art & Education Center. The center is sponsored by Delaware North and the Yosemite Conservancy and is located southwest of the Village Store. Art supplies, books and original art are all available for purchase. Open spring to fall. See the park newspaper for schedules and programs.

★

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. Open year-round.

★

YOSEMITE SKI & SNOWBOARD AREA (FORMERLY BADGER PASS)

Ski Shop: This shop carries a variety of ski and snowboard clothing, gloves, hats, accessories, sunglasses and goggles. Snacks are also available. Open in winter.



Warm up at the Glacier Point Ski Hut after a day on the slopes.

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 opportunities are available, including hiking, biking, nature walks, photography, ice skating, cross-coun-

Oh, Ranger! 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. Yosemite Falls, Yosemite 2,425 ft. 2,307 ft. Espelandfoss, Norway Sentinel Fall, Yosemite 2.000 ft. Cuquenán Falls, Venezuela 2.000 ft. Sutherland Falls, New Zealand 1,904 ft. Kjellfossen, Norway 1.841 ft.



try skiing and 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.

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 overlaying 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 guiet 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 Nature Center at Happy Isles is a great place to take kids (open early May through September). For a day hike, visitors can use this trailhead to reach Vernal (0.75 miles) and Nevada Falls (3.5 miles). Visitors with mobility impairment can obtain a blue placard at the Valley Visitor Center or an entrance station that will authorize them to drive to the Nature Center at Happy Isles 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 Tunnel along the Wawona Road (Hwy 41). It provides a classic view of Yosemite Valley, including El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks and Bridalyeil Fall.

Yosemite Valley Exhibit Hall: Inside the Valley Visitor Center, exhibits offer an interactive educational journey about the way the



At 2,425 feet, Yosemite Falls is the tallest waterfall in North America.

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, usually easily available from the lodge, is closed until fall 2017, when it will open with improved and far more ecologically sound access.



If you're visiting a national park this summer, look for a **CLIF Trail Magic Adventure Guide** who can help you unlock the door to adventure.





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and start planning your active
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Rush Creek Lodge

Truly a 'destination within a destination' located at the doorstep of Yosemite, Rush Creek features a contemporary, rustic sensibility inspired by its wooded hillside setting.

rushcreeklodge.com (209) 379-2373



Mammoth Mountain

From mountain biking and hiking on the mountain to boating and fishing in the Lakes Basin, Mammoth will quench your thirst for adventure and entertainment, fit for your whole family. (800) MAMMOTH



Headsweats

Headsweats is the leading manufacturer of ultra-light, supremely wicking headwear. 20% of sales from the National Parks Performance Trucker line goes to support the National Park Foundation.

headsweats.com



PARTICIPATING PARTNERS









When the grove reopens, guests will be able to easily access the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, Yosemite's largest stand of giant seguoias (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.

In the meantime, you can 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

Glacier Point is open from late spring through late fall; 32 miles south of Yosemite Valley along Wawona and Glacier Point roads or 14 miles from Wawona to the Glacier Point Road junction.

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. Ranger programs and tours from Yosemite Valley are offered in summer. The paved trail to Glacier Point is wheelchairaccessible.

YOSEMITE SKI & SNOWBOARD AREA

Open mid-December through early April (conditions permitting), the Yosemite Ski & Snowboard 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

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.

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 completed 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. Hetch Hetchy'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** to explore a virtual tour of Hetch Hetchy.

TIOGA ROAD & HIGH COUNTRY

Tioga Road and high country is open late May or early June through November. It 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 Crane Meadow Flat, home to meadows and the trailhead to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Seguoias. 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 extend-

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

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

Tuolumne Meadows is accessible by vehicle when Tioga Road is open. 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. See the park newspaper, Yosemite Guide, for a complete listing of ranger programs.



(S) 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. 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.

PHOTOGRAPHY WALKS

Free photography walks are offered by the Ansel Adams Gallery.

ART CLASSES

No matter where you look in Yosemite, there's a scene to inspire the artist in you. For a little guidance, the Yosemite Art Center offers daily informal outdoor classes. Art supplies, books and original art are available for purchase. Located southwest of the Village Store, it is open spring to fall. Conditions permitting, classes start at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m.

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 has been the unofficial ambassador for Yosemite and the National Park Service since 1960.

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 Tuolumne Meadows, Glacier Point, Crane Flat, White Wolf and in Wawona. Numerous stargazing programs are offered year-round. For more information, visit travelyosemite.com/things-to-do/evening-programs or call (209) 372-4386 or.

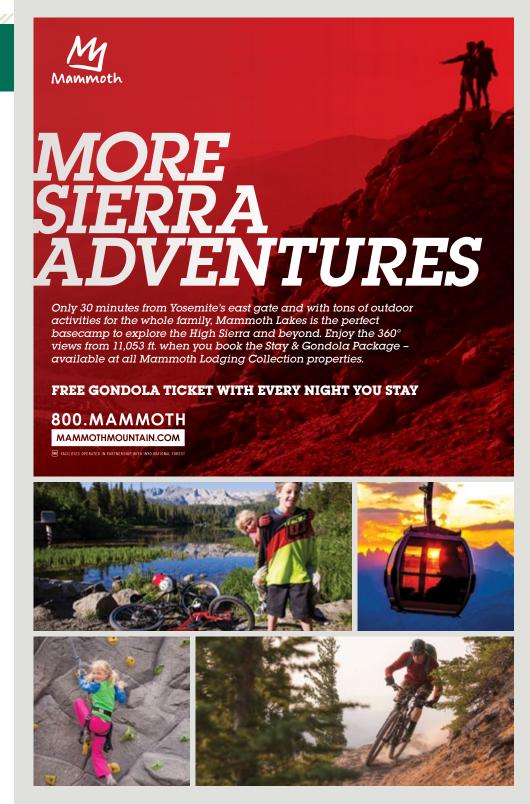
HORSE-DRAWN STAGE RIDES

Discover the stagecoach travel tradition. For a nominal fee, join "Buckshot" Burrel and his horse team on a unique tour of historic Wawona buildings. See the park newspaper for program times (summer only).

YOSEMITE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL OUTDOOR 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 crosscountry skiing. For more information, call (209) 372-8344 or visit travelyosemite.com.









Hike to Mammoth Peak for fewer crowds and great views.

VINTAGE SONGS

Come and experience the joys of music. Musician and entertainer Tom Bopp has been performing at the Big Trees Lodge 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.

LIVE THEATER IN YOSEMITE

Yosemite Theater Live! offers a variety of live programs and films that bring the park's history, people and landscapes to life. Shows include adventures and conversations with John Muir, as portraved by renowned actor Lee Stetson and "Through the Eyes of a Buffalo Soldier," a film about the Ninth Cavalry who patrolled the park in the early 1900s, hosted by Yosemite Park Ranger Shelton Johnson. 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

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. For information or to make a reservation, call (209) 372-4386 or visit travelyosemite.com.

GLACIER POINT STARGAZING TOUR

Go for an exciting tour to Glacier Point to learn about the stars. The evening begins with a guided bus tour to Glacier Point, during which you will learn about Yosemite's diverse natural and cultural history. At Glacier Point, you will have time to enjoy the breathtaking panoramas of Yosemite Falls, Nevada and Vernal Fall, and Half Dome. before the climax of the evening—an exciting one-hour astronomy program that takes place under the stars.

MAJESTIC YOSEMITE HISTORIC TOURS

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

GLACIER POINT TOUR

From spring to fall, conditions permitting, take a half-day tour from Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point for views of the High Sierra and Yosemite Valley. You can take the round-trip tour or go one way and hike back into Yosemite Valley from Glacier Point

MOONLIGHT TOUR

See the park come to life at night and marvel at Yosemite Valley in the moonlight on this illuminating two-hour tour through the valley. The tour is available late-spring to early-fall during full moon nights, conditions permitting. Experiencing the park at night will give you an entirely different perspective of Yosemite.

GLACIER POINT SKI HUT -GUIDED TOURS

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 (209) 372-8444 or visit travelyosemite.com. (Winter only)



YOSEMITE FAVORITES WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE **ACTIVITY IN THE PARK?**

You voted on Facebook and told us hiking is king in this Sierra Nevada paradise. Biking was a close second!

#1 HIKING

In total, the Yosemite Wilderness offers visitors over 750 miles of trails. No matter what level of difficulty, there is something for you and your family!

#2 BIKING



With over 12 miles of bike paths in the valley, bikes are a superb way to explore. Bikes can also be ridden on regular roads—and it beats sitting in traffic!

#3 CAMPING

Thirteen campgrounds and several backcountry sites in the park means plenty of places to choose from for an overnight outdoor adventure. See the "Camping" chapter for more information.





ARE YOU A FAN OF YOSEMITE **NATIONAL PARK?** BE A FAN ON FACEBOOK! Visit facebook.com/OhRanger and facebook.com/VisitYosemite

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TUOLUMNE MEADOWS TOUR & HIKERS' BUS

An eight-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 wild-life of the park in an open-air tram. From fall through spring, tours are offered by motorcoach bus.

YOSEMITE SKI & SNOWBOARD AREA

Yosemite Ski & Snowboard 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.

CROSS COUNTRY CENTER

There are nearly 350 miles of skiable trails and roads in the park. Cross-country track and skating lanes are groomed from the Ski & Snowboard Area to Glacier Point (a 21-mile round-trip). The Cross-Country 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 Yosemite Ski & Snowboard 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

Enjoy a two-hour ranger-led snowshoe walk from the ski area. Look for signs of wild-life, learn about winter ecology and get some great exercise! Don't miss special snowshoe walks during nights of the full moon. For more information on these walks, check the park newspaper for a schedule.

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. Please call (209) 372-4386 or sign up at any Tour & Activity Desk.

YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY WINTER ADVENTURES

Explore Yosemite's magical winter wonderland with expert guides. The Yosemite Conservancy offers classes on photogra-





phy, ecology, snowshoeing, cross-country adventures and American Indian lifeways. For more information, call (209) 379-2317 or visit vosemiteconservancy.org.

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.

THE BRACEBRIDGE DINNER

During the month of December, The Majestic Yosemite 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 sevencourse dinner.

GRAND GRAPE CELEBRATION & A TASTE OF YOSEMITE

Each November and December, Yosemite welcomes California winemakers who host tastings and seminars, a private reception and a five-course gala dinner. Each January and February, some of the world's most acclaimed chefs offer cooking demonstrations. tastings and kitchen tours, among other interesting things. For more information, including session dates, visit travelyosemite.com.

YOSEMITE SPRINGFEST

A winter carnival takes place at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard 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.

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 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 to follow the Yosemite NPS Twitter feed, featuring breaking information and upcoming events.

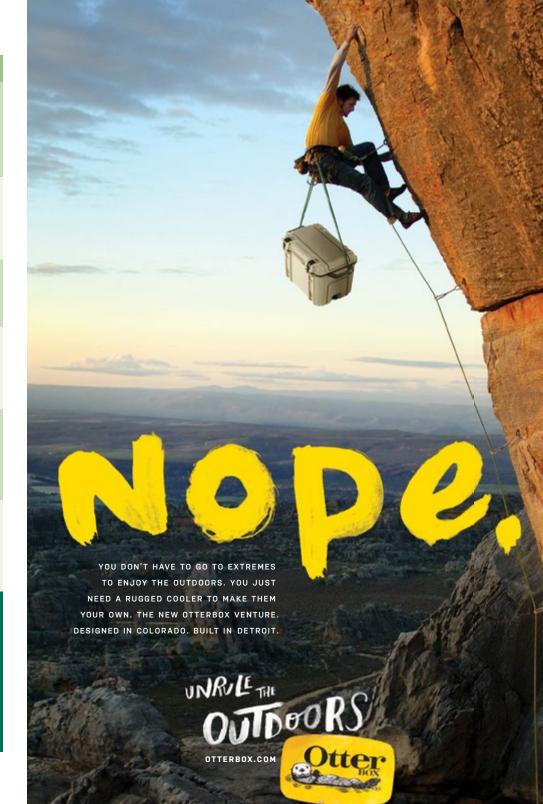
Instagram is all the rage these days, so why not follow the Yosemite NPS and add serene scenes to your feed? Visit instagram.com/YosemiteNPS

Visit 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 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.

"There is nothing so American as our national parks... The fundamental idea behind the parks... is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us."

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt





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 hand-outs. Excellent

maps and guidebooks are available at bookstores throughout the park or online at yosemiteconservancy.org.

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 <i>Elevation Gain</i>
Bridalveil Fall	Bridalveil Fall Parking Area	0.5 mile round-trip 20 minutes	Easy
Lower Yosemite Fall	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	1.0 mile round-trip 20 minutes	Easy
Upper Yosemite Fall Trail to Columbia Rock	Camp 4 near Shuttle Stop #7	2 miles round-trip 2 to 3 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Upper Yosemite Fall	Camp 4 near Shuttle Stop #7	7.2 miles round-trip 6 to 8 hours	Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain
Mirror Lake (seasonal)	Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17	2 miles round-trip 1 hour	Easy
Vernal Fall Footbridge	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	1.4 miles round-trip 1 to 2 hours	Moderate 400-foot gain
Top of Vernal Fall	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	3 miles round-trip 2 to 4 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Nevada Fall	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	7 miles round-trip 5 to 6 hours	Strenuous 1,900-foot gain
Top of Half Dome	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	17 miles round-trip 10 to 12 hours	Extremely Strenuous 4,800-foot gain
Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point	Southside Drive	4.8 miles one-way 3 to 4 hours one-way	Very Strenuous 3,200-foot gain
Valley Floor Loop	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			
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.			

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. The campground rules and regulations are located on the park's website at nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/camping.htm. There are no hookups. Pets are allowed in some campgrounds.

Campground reservations are managed by the National Recreation Reservation System. Reservation centers in the park are located at Half Dome 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 TDD **(877) 833-6777**, or visit **recreation.gov**.

Reservations are required year-round at Yosemite Valley's auto campgrounds, and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona and half of the Tuolumne Meadows Campground. All other campgrounds—except group and stock sites—are first come, first-served. Camping reservations are available up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month, and accepted in blocks of a month at a time. To learn more, call (209) 372-0200. For information on backpacking, see the "Visitor Services" chapter.



Pitch a tent and spend the night enjoying the great outdoors in Yosemite National Park.

CASIO

WSD-F20

Smart Outdoor Watch PRO TREK Smart

androidwear

PRO TREK

GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM

Dual-layer LCD

The display uses a two-layer structure consisting of monochrome liquid-crystal overlaid with color liquid-crystal. The monochrome liquid-crystal permanently shows the time, while the color liquid-crystal displays maps, measurements and anos

MIL STANDARD-compliant

The watch's resistance to environmental conditions complies with the MIL-STD-810G environmental test standard stipulated by the US Department of Defense This testing checks that the watch operates normally under a wide range of environmental stresses, including being dropped and subjected to vibration. and that it can handle the tough demands

Location Memory

of outdoor use.

Links with the GPS function to accurately display local places and track your movements, as well as allowing you to record specific locations.



Knowing Where you Are
The color map display means you
can always see where you are.
Downloading the maps beforehand
allows you to check your location on
the map even when your smartphone

is out of signal range.



Recording Memory on Maps
You can use the "TOOL" and "APP"
buttons to zoom the map in or out.
You can also use the tracking marks
and voice input to leave text memos
on the map

Android Wear, Google and other product names are trademarks of Google Inc.

TOOL butto

Calls up tools such as the compass or altimeter and can be assigned to any app.







Atmospheric Pressure Measurement

APP button

Can be assigned to any app

androidwear

Android Wear™ APP

As well as notifications and responses to incoming email and calls, the phone supports a range of apps and services provided by GoogleTM.





Water Resistant to 50 Meters

Size: 61.7 x 57.7 mm (H x W) Thickness: 15.3 mm Weight: 92 g



CAMPING IN Y	OSEMIT	E (. (8	377) 444-6777 • recreation.gov
Campground (Elevation)	# of Sites	Daily Fee	Availability
IN YOSEMITE VALLEY			
North Pines (4,000 ft.)	81	\$26/site	April 3–November 6; reservations required.
Upper Pines (4,000 ft.)	238	\$26/site	Year-round; reservations required March 15–December 2. Otherwise first come, first-served.
Lower Pines (4,000 ft.)	60	\$26/site	April-October; reservations required.
Camp 4 (4,000 ft.)	35	\$6/person	Year-round/walk-in; first-come, first-served; limited parking.
OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY			
Wawona (4,000 ft.) Wawona Road	93	\$26/site	Year-round; reservations required May–September (\$20); first-come, first-served (\$14).
Bridalveil Creek (7,200 ft.) Glacier Point Road	110	\$18/site	August-mid-September; first-come, first-served.
Hodgdon Meadow (4,872 ft.) Big Oak Flat Road	105	\$26/site	Year-round; reservations required May–September (\$20); first-come, first-served (\$14). Group camp closed in winter.
Crane Flat (6,192 ft.) Big Oak Flat Road	166	\$26/site	July-early October; reservations required.
Tamarack Flat (6,315 ft.) Tioga Road (pit toilets/no potable water)	52	\$12/site	July-mid-October; first-come, first- served; three-mile access road not suitable for large RVs or trailers.
White Wolf (8,000 ft.) Tioga Road	74	\$18/site	July-September; first-come, first-served; not suitable for vehicles over 27'.
Yosemite Creek (7,659 ft.) Tioga Road (pit toilets/no potable water)	75	\$12/site	July-early September.; first-come, first-served; five-mile access road not suitable for RVs over 24' or trailers.
Porcupine Flat (8,100 ft.) Tioga Road	52	\$12/site	July-mid-October; first-come, first-served; RVs access front section only.
Tuolumne Meadows (8,600 ft.) Tioga Road	304	\$26/site	August–Sept; advance reservations & same day reservations.



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

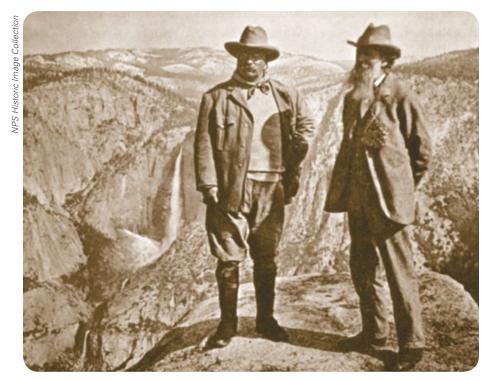
Yosemite Valley's first residents were American Indians who inhabited the region, perhaps as long as 6,000 years ago. The area was inhabited by people who called Yosemite Valley "Ahwahnee," which loosely translates into "Place of a Gaping Mouth."

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-Indian settlers arrived and before conservationist John Muir first visited in 1868.

Abraham Lincoln provided this protection when he signed the Yosemite Grant on



In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt (left made a historic visit to Yosemite. Here he is seen with John Muir.

HISTORY & CULTURE &

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 for a national park, as was done when 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 may have caught your eye around the park:

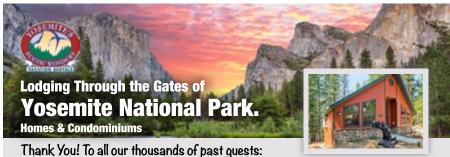
Layers of Rock: Yosemite's granite continues to expand along joints or fractures in the rock due to internal pressure within the earth's crust. This process—known as exfoliation—causes slabs of granite to "peel" off, like layers of an onion.

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 & 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 neat and straight, they resemble street lines. These are rocks rich in feldspar and quartz, which, in their fluid state. oozed up a crack in the rock and solidified millions of years ago.



Celebrating our 29th anniversary, year after year we have to turn away hundreds if not thousands of potential guests from early April through October because we become sold out due to our unique location and accommodations. If you're planning on visiting Yosemite again this Spring or Summer, remember, please keep in mind that Yosemite's Scenic Wonders lodging fills up very quickly, which is why it is always a good idea to make your reservations months in advance.

With over 100 properties to choose from, Scenic Wonders provides home, cabin and condominium rentals within the gates of historic Yosemite National Park. Centrally located, you're just minutes to all the wonders of Yosemite! Avoid that 1-2 hour commute in and out of the park every day during your visit. By staying with Yosemite's Scenic Wonders, you can wake up in the morning refreshed and be just minutes to some of the world's most breathtaking scenery and hiking trail heads in Yosemite National Park.

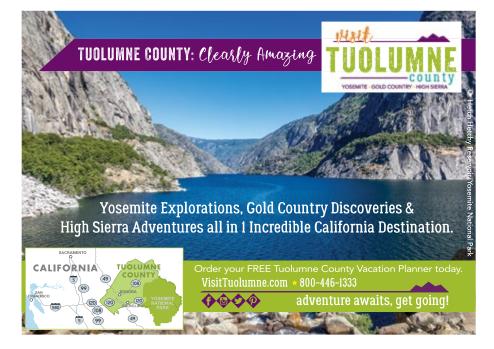
For reservations & information: 1-888-YOSEMITE www.scenicwonders.com

Yosemite West

Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

7540 Henness Circle

Condominiums Check-in Homes Check-in Office 7403 Yosemite Park Way



NATURE & WILDLIFE

Yosemite's range of elevations—from its semi-arid foothills to its snowcapped 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.

The **mule ears** (Wyethia mollis) is a yellow flower that has a large blossom resembling a

sunflower. The flower's huge leaves, which grow to between 8 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 such as insects.

Unfortunately, bat populations have decreased dramatically in the last 25 years due to pesticides, habitat loss, disease, and human disturbance of caves. Yosemite contains one of the last remaining spotted bat populations in California.

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









1. BOBCAT (LYNX RUFUS)

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 schedule in the winter. • Weight 20 lbs. • Size 2–4 ft. with a 4–7 in. tail • Active yearround. Photo: Becker1999

2. COYOTE (CANIS LATRANS)

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. Photo: lacomi

3. MOUNTAIN LION (PUMA CONCOLOR)

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. (including tail) • Active yearround. Photo: California Fish & Wildlife

4. GOLDEN EAGLE (AQUILA CHRYSAETOS)

The golden eagle's namesake buffgold 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. Photo: NPS

5. MULE DEER (ODOCOILEUS HEMIONUS)

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. Photo: NPS

6. STELLER'S JAY (CYANOCITTA STELLERI)

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. • Ac-

tive year-round. Photo: Ken McMillan

PHOTOGRAPHY

The ecosystems of America's national and state parks and public lands are among the most diverse on the planet—from the wetlands of the Everglades to the temperate rain forests of Olympic National Park and the deserts of Death Valley to the mountains of Yellowstone and Grand Tetons. For both aspiring and experienced photographers, the goal of any trip to a national park is to capture its endemic wildlife.

Taking photographs of animals presents a unique set of challenges. Landscapes cooperate; wildlife does not. Not only are animals likely to react to a photographer's presence, but they are also driven by their own instincts and behavior, which can make capturing them difficult. The tips below will help you compose better wildlife images of all creatures great and small—from the bison to the tiniest hummingbird and everything in between.

- Use a tripod. If you are using a large telephoto lens, consider investing in a gimbal head, which will make it easier to track your subject.
- Know your subject. Before you take out your camera, understand your subject's

Don't miss your shot! Be aware of your surroundings.

behavior so that you can be prepared for what it will do next.

- The eyes have it. Capturing your subject's eyes will lead the viewer into the picture and make your image more impactful. Always keep the eyes in focus and try to place them in the power points (the intersection of rule of third guidelines).
- Keep a safe distance. You'll want to keep a minimum of 25 yards between you and your subject and more than 75 yards for larger predators. That means that you'll need a big telephoto lens if you want to get up close and personal.
- . Shoot in burst mode. Instead of taking a single frame, increase the probability that you'll capture the behavior, head position or angle by capturing multiple frames.
- **Be prepared.** Wildlife, and particularly birds, move quickly and without provocation. Practice your panning skills to better catch birds when they alight.
- Timing is everything. The best time to photograph wildlife is during the golden hours—at dusk and dawn—when the light is soft and less likely to cast harsh shadows across your subject's face.
- Keep it simple. The easiest way to draw attention to your subject is to use a simple background. Use a shallow depth of field to blur any distracting backgrounds.
- Aim for the action. Make your image more compelling by capturing your subject exhibiting its natural behavior—flying, hunting, eating or caring for young.

The best way to take better photographs is to practice, and you don't need to go far. Buy a bird feeder and build a studio in your backyard, where you'll be able to create your own version of A Star(ling) is Born.



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Canyonlands National Park

JUST FOR KIDS

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

VISIT THE NATURE CENTER AT HAPPY ISLES

See wildlife exhibits and a night display of Yosemite, play in the children's corner, or join a Junior Ranger program (summer only). Open daily from late spring through September. Take the shuttle to stop #16.

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 or request more information at naturebridge. org/request-information-yosemite.

PRESCHOOL PLAY

Bring your two- to five-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.

FIRESIDE STORYTELLING

A blazing fire, good stories and a gorgeous setting lend themselves to this program in The Majestic Yosemite Hotel

Great Lounge, offered winter and spring. Families—whether guests or just visiting—will enjoy this free pre-dinner activity. See park newspaper for schedule.

BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

Kids seven to 13 can earn a certificate and a patch as they learn about Yosemite. This self-guiding booklet 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-quiding booklet for children ages three to six that encourages voung 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 yosemiteconservancystore.com.

DISCOVER YOSEMITE BOOKS

Learn about the park with Two Bear Cubs, a legend about El Capitan, or check out the Happy Camper Handbook, which teaches kids all about camping, and includes a flashlight and rescue whistle! To order, call Yosemite Conservancy at (209) 379-2648 or visit yosemiteconservancystore.com.

OUR READER FEEDBACK

"My kids became junior rangers, and we all had so much fun learning about the park."~ Marie Takashi

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*some restrictions may apply. Offer valid through 12/31/17

IF YOU ONLY HAVE A DAY

Yosemite offers a wide range of activities and places to explore. No matter what you choose to do, Yosemite offers much to explore! Try and plan out exactly how much time you have so you don't miss a thing. Here are some tips from our Oh, Ranger! faithful followers! They've been there, they love it! Happy trails!





MERCED RIVER

"Having been raised in Fresno, Yosemite is the closest place to heaven that I know. It brings back fond memories of my childhood. I hope everybody has a glori-ous place like this in their heart." - Patti B.

YOSEMITE HIGH COUNTRY

"One of the biggest 'characters' you'll see in Yosemite High Country is the marmot, often lounging on rocks." - Matt C.



Marmot near Upper Gaylor Lake



MAYIAKE

"Hiking to May Lake is wonderful, but the treasures beyond are amazing. After a few minutes at May Lake, head on by the High Sierra Camp a few miles and be awed by the spectacular views of the Cathedral Range." - Jennifer S.

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