

# Yosemite Guide



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A snowcovered Valley View. Photo by Rachel Zott

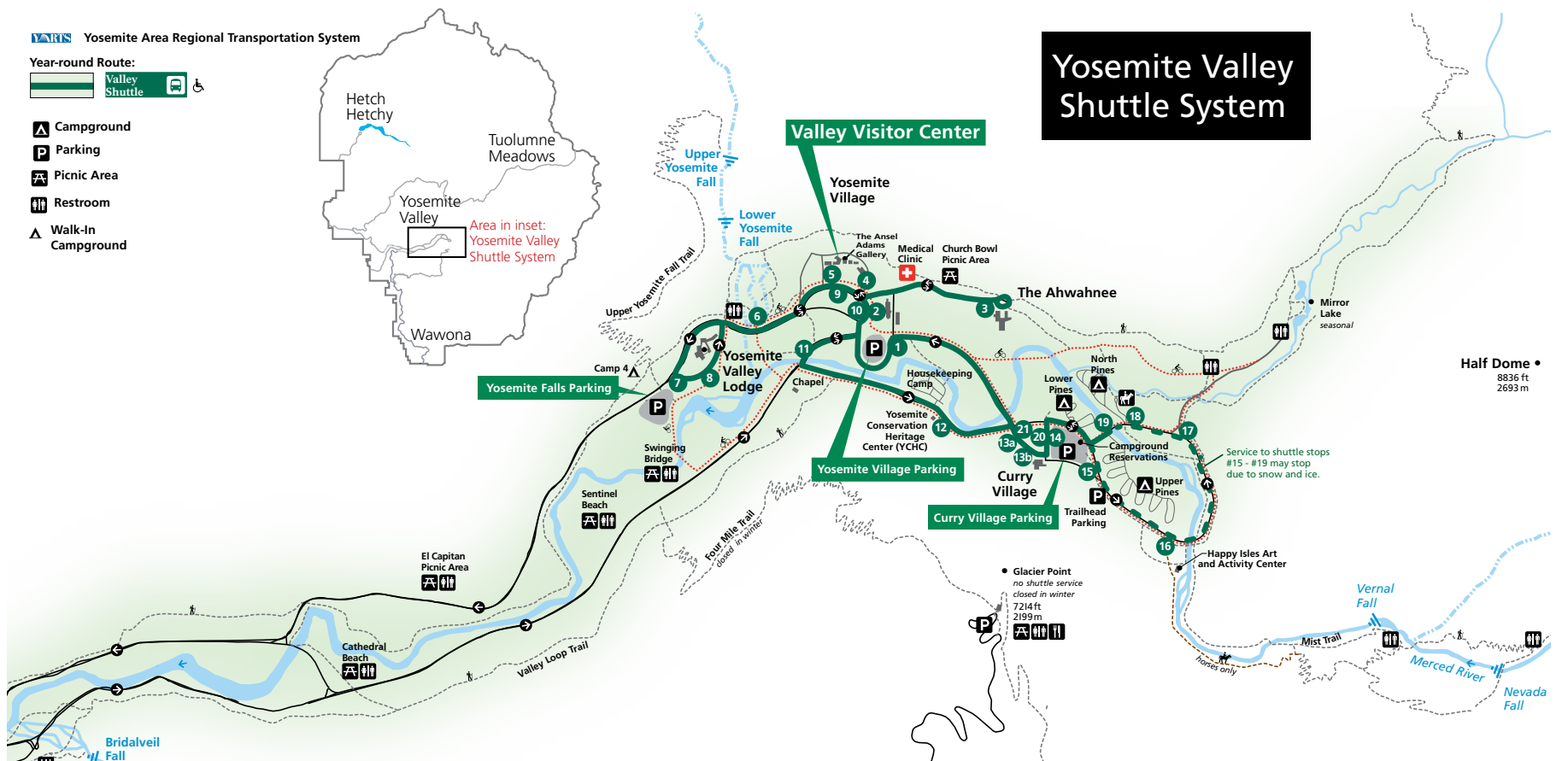
Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Guide February 5, 2020 - March 31, 2020

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US Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
PO Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389



The Yosemite Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7am to 10pm and serves stops in numerical order. Shuttles run daily every 20 to 30 minutes, depending on time of day. See schedule posted at shuttle stops. *In the event of snow and ice, buses may suspend service to shuttle stops #15 - #19.*

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Yosemite Village Parking	8	Yosemite Valley Lodge	15	Upper Pines Campground / Trailhead Parking
2 10	Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	16	Happy Isles / Mist Trail
3	The Ahwahnee	12	YCHC / Housekeeping Camp	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
4	Degnan's Kitchen	13a 21	Ice Rink (when open)	18	North Pines Campgrounds
5 9	Yosemite Valley Visitor Center	13b	Curry Village	19	Pines Campgrounds
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	14 20	Curry Village Parking		
7	Camp 4 / Yosemite Falls Parking				

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# Things to Do

## Winter in Yosemite



Curry Village Ice Rink. Photo by Yosemite Hospitality

### WINTER SPORTS

#### Badger Pass Ski Area

The Badger Pass Ski Area is open through March 29, *conditions permitting*. Live information on winter sports is available by calling (209) 372-8430; recorded information is available at (209) 372-1000. See page 6 for service hours.

#### Badger Pass Ranger Station (A-Frame)

Open 9am to 4pm, seven days a week when the Badger Pass Ski Area is open. Wilderness permits for the Glacier Point area, Ostrander Ski Hut check-in, and crosscountry ski trail information available. It's also the starting point for ranger led snowshoe walks, *weather and conditions permitting*.

#### Badger Pass Shuttle (FREE)

Take advantage of the free shuttle service to and from the Badger Pass Ski Area, *weather and road conditions permitting*. The Badger Pass shuttle arrival and departure times are subject to change due to traffic and weather conditions. *Closes for the season March 29.*

#### Shuttle Schedule

##### Yosemite Valley to Badger Pass Departures

Curry Village - 8:05am and 10:35am  
Yosemite Village (YTS) - 8:10am and 10:40am  
Ahwahnee Hotel - 8:15am and 10:45am  
Yosemite Valley Lodge - 8:30am and 11am

##### Badger Pass to Yosemite Valley Departures

Badger Pass - 2pm and 4:30pm

#### Ice Skating

Take the shuttle to Curry Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. See page 6 for ice rink hours.



#### Crane Flat Snow Play Area

A snow play area is open at Crane Flat Campground in winter when enough snow is present. Please do not sled onto roadways!

#### Walking and Hiking

Yosemite Valley has a wide range of year-round walking and hiking possibilities. Stop by Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for trail maps and updated weather and trail conditions.

### PROGRAMS AND GUIDED ADVENTURES

#### Naturalist Programs

Naturalists give programs about Yosemite's natural and cultural history every day. See page 5 for scheduled programs. For additional information, check local listings at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center or at the Yosemite Valley Lodge Tours & Activity Desks.

#### Tours

The Valley Floor Tour is a two-hour, guided tour of Yosemite Valley. It departs several times daily from Yosemite Valley Lodge, *weather permitting*. Call (209) 372-1240 or visit the Tours & Activity Desk at Yosemite Valley Lodge between 7:30am and 3pm, *7:30am to 7pm beginning March 13.*

#### Adventure Out With the Yosemite Mountaineering School

Yosemite Mountaineering School provides outdoor adventures for people of all experience levels. We are here to help you learn how to enjoy Yosemite safely and responsibly. Give us a call to join one of our group classes or schedule a custom outing designed specifically for your group. We offer professional guides for Nordic skiers and snowshoe trips. Reservations required. Call (209) 372-8444 or email [yms@aramark.com](mailto:yms@aramark.com)

#### Take A Photography Class

Enjoy the beauty of winter in Yosemite. Join a photography expert from The Ansel Adams Gallery and learn how to best capture the landscape. Several classes are offered weekly. Custom photography guides available upon request. See page 5 for scheduled classes.

#### Yosemite Conservancy Adventures

Are you looking for a memorable way to deepen your connection with the park? Go on an expert-led adventure with Yosemite Conservancy! Join a scheduled Outdoor Adventure, such as a snowshoe hike or field school excursion, or create a Custom Adventure tailored to your interests and schedule. For details, visit [yosemite.org/experience](http://yosemite.org/experience), or call (209) 379-2317 ext. 10. See page 5 for upcoming adventures.

### OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY

#### Pioneer Yosemite History Center

Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explores Yosemite's history and explains how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and around the world. The center is located in Wawona, near the Wawona Store, and is open throughout the year.

#### Tuolumne Grove

The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 mature sequoias is near the Big Oak Flat and Tioga road intersection at Crane Flat. The moderately strenuous trail leads downhill from the parking area into the grove and drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guided nature trail. There is no potable water in the area so be sure to bring drinking water with you.

#### Merced Grove

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of approximately 20 mature trees accessible only on foot. It's a three-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe into the grove. The trail drops 1.5 miles, making this a moderately strenuous hike on the uphill portion. There is no potable water so be sure to bring drinking water with you. The grove is located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance along the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). The trail is marked by a sign and a post labeled B-10.



#### Entering a National Park

Yosemite is a place where wilderness prevails. Prepare yourself for a wild experience. The National Park Service is bound by its mission to protect Yosemite's natural and cultural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. Please, be attentive to the regulations in place to protect park resources (page 9) and those designed for your safety (page 8).



#### Fire – Police – Medical Emergency:

Dial 911 or (209) 372-4637

#### Medical Clinic (in Yosemite Valley)

Open Monday through Friday, 9am to 7pm, *closed weekends and federal holidays*



#### Road, Weather, and Park

Information: (209) 372-0200

**Yosemite Village Garage** - 8am to 5pm, 24 hour AAA towing, NO gas, propane service until 4:30pm. (209) 372-1060

#### Access for People with Disabilities

For a complete list of accessible services, exhibits, and recreational opportunities, pick up a Yosemite Accessibility Guide at any park entrance station or visitor center, or view online at [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm), or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at (209) 379-1035.



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



Assistive Listening Devices available upon advance request at any visitor center.



Audio tours available at Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.



Accessible parking spaces available west of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

#### Upcoming Park Projects

##### **Bridalveil Fall Rehabilitation Project**

Why: To rehabilitate visitor facilities at the base of Bridalveil Fall and surrounding area.

When: 2019 - 2020

Visitor Impact: Comfort station and parking lot may not be available due to construction.



##### **Replace Big Oak Flat Welcome Center Complex**

Why: To enhance the visitor experience and improve operational efficiency for existing park programs.

When: Beginning spring 2020

Visitor Impact: May effect services at BOF through the 2020 and 2021 seasons.

##### **Tioga Road Rehabilitation Plan**

Why: To make safety improvements, while preserving natural and cultural resources along the road.

When: lasting through 2020 and 2021 seasons

Visitor Impact: 30-minute traffic delays along Tioga Road due to construction.



## Inside:

- 01 Things to Do
- 05 Events and Programs
- 06 Services
- 07 Permit Information
- 09 Protecting Yourself
- 10 Feature Story
- Back Shuttle Map

# Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

## Entrance Fees

**Non-commercial car, truck, RV, or van with 15 or fewer passenger seats**  
(No per-person fee)

**Vehicle** Valid for 7 days  
\$35/Vehicle

**Motorcycle** Valid for 7 days  
\$30/motorcycle

**Individual** Valid for 7 days  
\$20 (In a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse),

**Yosemite Pass \$70**,  
Valid for one year in Yosemite.

**Interagency Annual Pass \$80**  
Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.

**Interagency Senior Pass \$80**  
(Lifetime) For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

**Interagency Annual Senior Pass \$20**  
For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

**Interagency Access Pass (Free)**  
(Lifetime) For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

**Interagency Military Pass (Free)**  
(Annual) For active duty U.S. military and dependents.

**Interagency 4th Grade Pass (Free)**  
(Annual) For fourth graders and their families. Must present paper voucher.

## Reservations

**Campground Reservations**  
(877) 444-6777  
www.recreation.gov

**Lodging Reservations**  
(888) 413-8869  
www.travelyosemite.com  
Group Sales Office: (888) 339-3481

## Regional Info

**Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)**  
www.yarts.com

**Highway 120 West**  
**Yosemite Chamber of Commerce**  
(800) 449-9120 or (209) 962-0429

**Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau**  
(800) 446-1333  
www.tcvb.com

**Highway 41**  
**Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau**  
(559) 683-4636  
www.yosemitethisyear.com

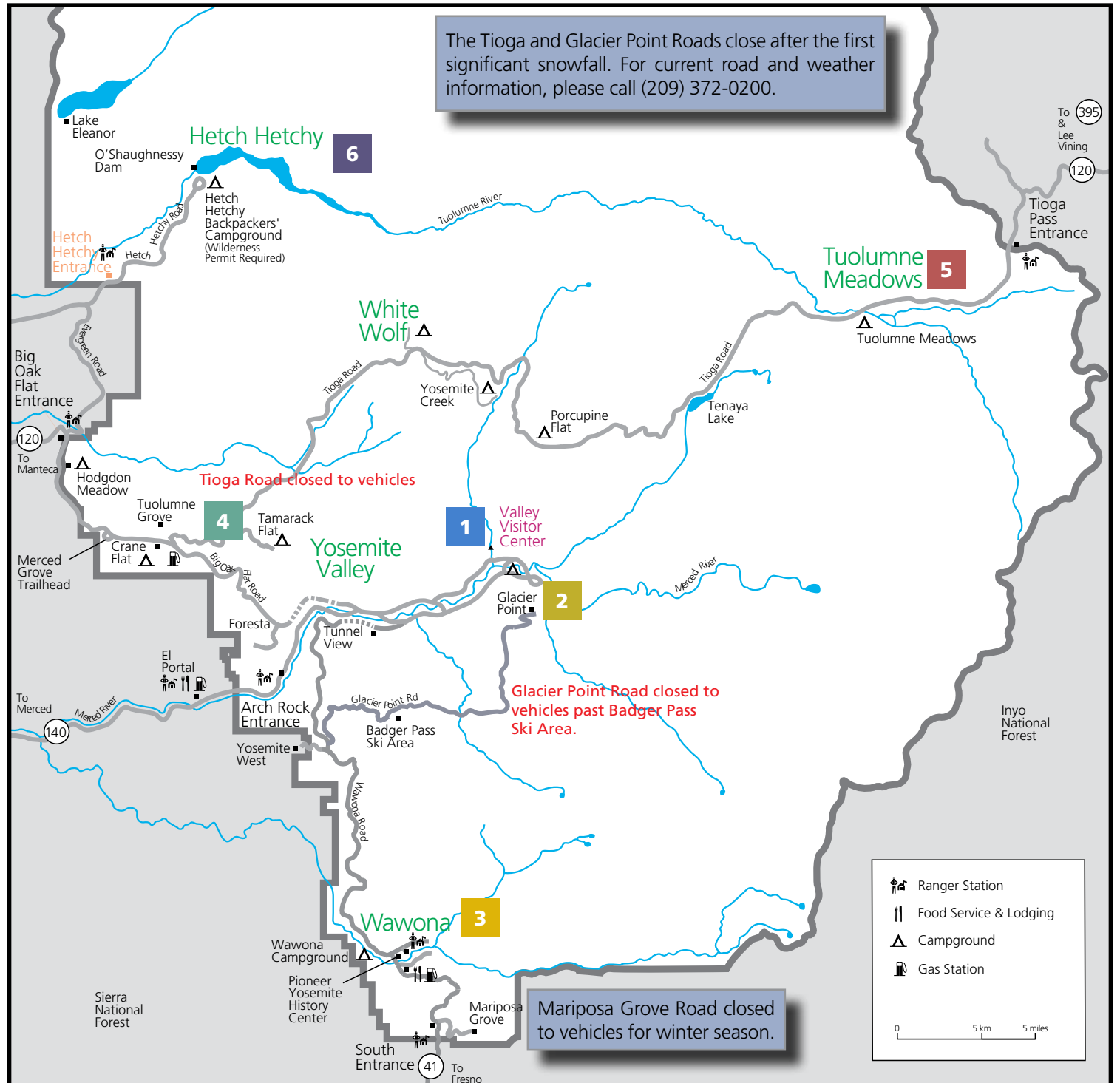
**Highway 132/49**  
**Coulterville Visitor Center**  
(209) 878-3329

**Highway 140/49**  
**California Welcome Center, Merced**  
(800) 446-5353 or (209) 724-8104  
www.yosemite-gateway.org

**Mariposa County Visitor Center**  
(866) 425-3366 or (209) 966-7081

**Yosemite Mariposa County Tourism Bureau**  
(209) 742-4567  
www.yosemite.com

**Highway 120 East**  
**Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center,**  
(760) 647-6629, www.leevining.com



## Winter Weather and Driving in Yosemite

In the event of heavy rainfall, road conditions may become hazardous, especially in areas recently burned by the Ferguson Fire. The risk of rockfalls, debris flows, and mudslides increases after a fire, mainly because of vegetation loss and increased runoff. High-risk areas for rock falls and debris flows are located within burned areas along the Highway 140 and 41 corridors. Be aware, drive cautiously, and obey posted signs and closures.

## Chain Control Information:

Winter road conditions through Yosemite National Park may require tire chains. It is possible that your route will take you from an elevation of 3,000 feet up to an elevation of 7,000 feet in just a few miles, and road conditions can vary widely with the terrain. For updated 24-hour road and weather conditions for Yosemite National Park, please call (209) 372-0200.

You are required to have and carry chains or traction devices in your vehicle any time you see a "Chains Required" sign. Speed limit is 25 MPH. Signs will indicate when chains must be installed on your tires. Here is a short explanation of chain control signs on Yosemite roads.



**R1** - This sign indicates that all vehicles without mud and snow tires are required to install traction devices. Vehicles that have mud and snow tires do not need to have traction devices on but must carry chains. All vehicles towing trailers must have chains on one drive axle. Trailers with brakes must have chains on at least one trailer axle.



**R2** - This sign indicates that chains or traction devices must be installed on ALL vehicles except 4-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicles with mud and snow tires. Four-wheel drive vehicles do not need traction devices installed but must have 4-wheel drive engaged.



**R3** - This sign indicates that ALL vehicles are required to install traction devices, regardless of having mud and snow tires or 4-wheel/all-wheel drive capability, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

\*Mud and snow tires are commonly indicated by an "M+S" icon on the side of the tire.

\*Be sure to install traction devices on the drive axle of your vehicle.



## Yosemite Valley

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

## Glacier Point Road

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

## Wawona and Mariposa Grove

**3** The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's south entrance station. While the Mariposa Grove Road closes to cars in the winter, approximately from the end of November until mid-March, the road is open to hikers, snowshoers, and skiers, and all trails in the grove remain open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite.

## Crane Flat and Tuolumne Grove

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

## Tuolumne Meadows and Tioga Road

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

## Hetch Hetchy

**6** Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area's low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles (1¼ hour) from Yosemite Valley via the Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120W) and the Evergreen Road. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open from 8am to 5pm through March 31. Self-registration wilderness permits for the Hetch Hetchy trailheads only are available at the kiosk. Vehicles and/or trailers over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not permitted on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.



Yosemite Valley in Winter. Photo by Christine White Loberg



The view from Glacier Point. NPS Photo



Snow laden sequoias in Mariposa Grove. Photo by Christine White Loberg



Tenaya Lake. NPS Photo



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. NPS Photo



# Yosemite Valley

## Information, Art, and Exhibits

### Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore are open from 9am to 5pm. They are located west of the main post office, near shuttle stops #5 and #9. The facility offers information, maps, and books. Explore the exhibits and learn how Yosemite's landscape formed and how people interact with it.

#### YOSEMITE FILMS

Two films are shown daily, every half-hour beginning at 9:30am, except on Sundays when the first showing is at noon. The last film is at 4:30pm. Ken Burns' *Yosemite: A Gathering of Spirit* plays on the hour and *The Spirit of Yosemite* plays on the half-hour, in the Theater behind the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center.

#### YOSEMITE MUSEUM

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Visitor Center. The museum is open daily from 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*.

#### INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

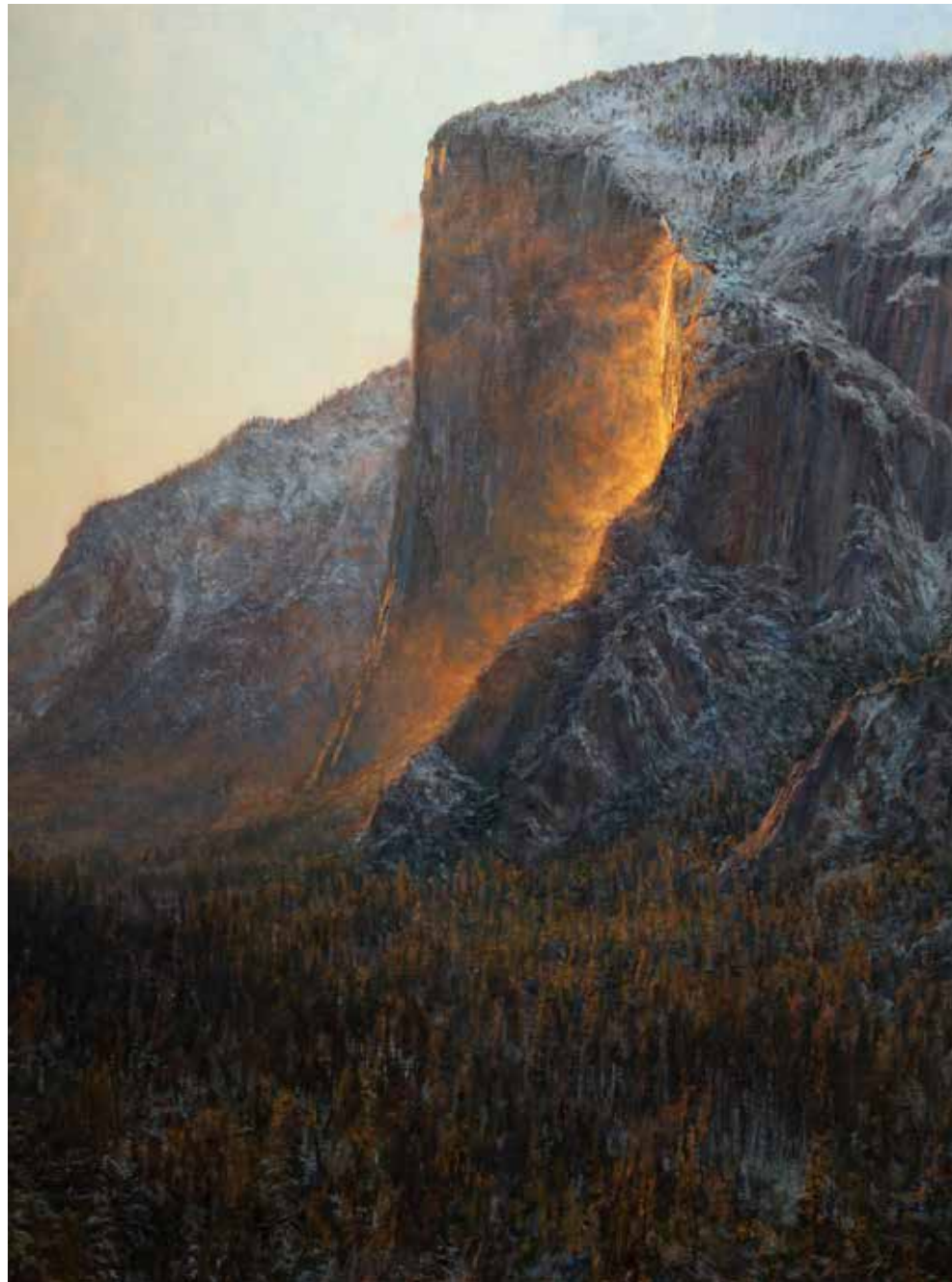
Explore the cultural history of Yosemite's Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. Visit with Indian Cultural Demonstrators and see demonstrations of traditional skills such as stone tool making, basket weaving, beadwork, flutes, etc. Open daily from 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*.

#### YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE

The store offers books and traditional American Indian arts, crafts and jewelry. Open daily from 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*.

#### YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE 35 ART EXHIBIT

Yosemite Renaissance 35 competition and exhibit will be on display from February 22 through May 3, 2020, at the Yosemite Museum Gallery in Yosemite Valley. The public is cordially invited to attend the exhibit opening and award ceremony on Friday, February 21, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Museum Gallery. The exhibit presents creative



*Winter's Magic* 40"x30" on display as part of *Yosemite Reverence: New Paintings by James McGrew*. Original Oil on Linen on Birch Ply by James McGrew

interpretations of Yosemite and the California Sierra Nevada, celebrates the environment, and inspires people to understand, preserve and protect our parks, wild lands, and natural places. The Museum Gallery is open 10am to Noon and 1pm to 4pm daily.

### The Ansel Adams Gallery

Open daily from 10am to 5pm. The gallery offers works by Ansel Adams as well as contemporary photographers, painters, and printers. Call (209) 372-4413 or visit [www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com) for more information.

#### EXHIBIT

January 5 – February 22

*32 Degrees of Winter - Images by Resident Photographers*

To Ansel Adams, furthering the art and education of photography was paramount. He advocated the importance of bringing new and younger minds into the field. He encouraged them to seek original ways of interpreting the world as they saw it through their lens. As the popularity of photography grew throughout the late 20th century, The Ansel Adams Gallery brought in permanent staff photographers to become onsite educators available to park guests looking to learn more about their cameras and the visual mysteries of the park. The benefits were mutual, with visitors liberally absorbing knowledge about photography in a place steeped in photographic tradition, while the staff had year-round access to a big back yard of natural wonders.

Opening at The Ansel Adams Gallery on January 5, 2020, and running through February 22, 2020, *32 Degrees of Winter*

explores an array of contemporary work made by our full-time instructors and staff members as they have come to see the most enigmatic season of the year. Pieces on display will consist of platinum prints to digital photographs, and all original. A reception for the artists will be held on Sunday, January 19, from 1pm to 3pm with several staff members in attendance, each of them a part of a rich history here in Yosemite and eager to share their stories and work.

#### NEW EXHIBIT

February 23, 2020 – April 11, 2020

*Yosemite Reverence: New Paintings by James McGrew*

One of the great relationships in history is the one forged between humans and nature, the intervening courtship often interpreted through the artistic mediums of the time. Yosemite's own success story owes much to the romantics of the nineteenth century, whose photographs and paintings helped bare the conservation movement, and protect the wild lands of the West. Today, these talismans of silver and oil are held in great reverence, as affirmations of yesterday, and mnemonics for tomorrow.

With his own dedicated approach, en plein air and on elaborate studio canvases, painter James McGrew has continued this tradition. On his affinity for Yosemite, James has written:

'Yosemite's awesome geology, raging rivers and wildlife command awe and respect. Annual winter storms bring Yosemite not only mysterious beauty and wonder, but also accumulate the snow pack which melts each spring and generates life-sustaining waters and raging falls. Such vital water carves geologic features and provides diverse habitat and sustenance for Yosemite National Park's ecosystems from forests and wildflower filled meadows, to aquatic systems. The complex and fragile ecosystems dependent upon winter precipitation now face greater variability and uncertain future with a warming climate.'

Opening on February 23 and running through April 11, 2020, *Yosemite Reverence: New Paintings by James McGrew* will showcase the dramatic beauty of winter storms and spring runoff; another chapter in the great relationship between humans and nature and art. A reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, February 29 from 1pm to 3pm.

Want the Guide on your Apple or Android device?

## Get the App!

Search **NPS-Yosemite** in app stores or at [nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit](http://nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit) to download the official park app for up-to-date listings of programs, services, an interactive map, and more!



iPhone/iPad



Android



# Events and Programs

## Schedule



Rolling Fog, Bridalveil Fall on display as part of 32 Degrees of Winter: Images by Resident Photographers. Original Platinum/Palladium Photograph by Evan Russel

### YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY ADVENTURES

Experience the park in a new way with Yosemite Conservancy's naturalist guides! Upcoming outings include:

- Feb 8 *Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Views from Dewey Point*
- Feb 22 *Winter Wonder: Tuolumne Grove and Crane Flat*
- Mar 7 *Yosemite Valley Winter Exploration*
- Mar 14 *Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Views from Dewey Point*
- Mar 26-27 *Yosemite Field School: Leave No Trace Trainer Backpack*
- Mar 29 *Yosemite's West End: Naturalist Photography Walk*

### BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

You could become Yosemite's newest Junior Ranger by completing the following steps:

- Purchase a Junior Ranger or Little Cub Hand Book
- Attend a guided program
- Complete the pages in your hand book
- Pick up trash
- Return your completed book and a bag of trash to the staff at a Visitor Center
- Take your official Junior Ranger Pledge.
- Receive a Junior Ranger Badge and a Junior Ranger Patch or Little Cub Button.



Visit [yosemite.org/experience](http://yosemite.org/experience) or call (209) 379-2317 ext. 10 to learn more, see all upcoming programs, and sign up. Proceeds from all our programs help preserve and protect Yosemite.

TIME	PROGRAMS	DURATION	EXCEPTION DATES	LOCATION	SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
9:00am	<b>Camera Walk</b> Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG) ♿	1.5 hrs.		Yosemite Valley			X		X		X
9:00am	<b>Adventure Hike – Dewey Point Snowshoe</b> Tickets/info at any tour desk. Badger Pass Nordic Center. (YH) \$	6.5 hrs		Badger Pass	X			X			
10:00am	<b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿	15 mins.		Yosemite Valley	X		X				X
10:00am	<b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (conditions permitting) Meet at Badger Pass Ranger Station for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	2 hrs.		Badger Pass	X	X	X	X	X	X	Feb 15 and 29 Only
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families.                 </div>											
2:00pm	<b>Historic Ahwahnee Hotel Tour</b> Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind The Ahwahnee. Meet at the The Ahwahnee hotel concierge desk. (YH) ♿	1 hr.		Yosemite Valley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3:00pm	<b>Collector's Fine Print Viewing</b> Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)	1 hr.		Yosemite Valley							X
3:30pm	<b>Naturalist Stroll</b> Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on The Ahwahnee hotel back lawn. (YH) ♿	1 hr.		Yosemite Valley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7:00pm	<b>Ranger Evening Program</b> Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. See local listings for topic (NPS) ♿	1 hr.		Yosemite Valley				X			
7:00pm	<b>Evening Program</b> Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿	1 hr.		Yosemite Valley		X					X
7:00pm	<b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING</b> Gather by the fire and listen to the stories of Yosemite's past and present! Meet at The Ahwahnee hotel. (YH) ♿	1 hr.		Yosemite Valley					X		
7:00pm	<b>Film - Ansel Adams: Photographer</b> Yosemite Valley Lodge, check local listings for venue. (TAAG) ♿	1 hr.		Yosemite Valley						X	
7:00pm	<b>FULL MOON SNOWSHOE HIKE</b> No experience required. Tickets and information available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$	2 hrs.	Feb 6-9 and March 6-9 Only	Badger Pass	X	X			X	X	X
8:30pm	<b>NIGHT PROWL</b> Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. See pg. 6 for locations. (YH) \$	1 hr.	Except Feb 7-9 and March 6-9	Yosemite Valley	X	X				X	X
8:30pm	<b>STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE</b> Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. See pg. 6 for locations. (YH) \$	1 hr.		Yosemite Valley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



**RANGER WALKS - 2pm** ♿ (1.5 hrs.) All programs, except Thursdays, begin in Yosemite Valley, near shuttle stop #5/#9.

- Sunday: Merced Meanders**  
Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
- Monday: Yosemite's First People**  
Front of Yosemite Museum
- Tuesday: Geology**  
Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
- Wednesday: Inspiring Generations**  
Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
- Thursday: Trees**  
The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop #3
- Friday: Discover Yosemite**  
Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
- Saturday: Ahwahneechee Lifeways**  
Front of Yosemite Museum

**PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES - 1pm** ♿ Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery, located in Yosemite Valley, near shuttle stop #5/#9.

- Monday & Wednesday: Ansel Adams' Legacy and Your Digital Camera** (4 hrs.) \$
- Tuesday: In the Field: Creative Smartphone Photography** (2 hrs.) \$
- Tuesday & Saturday: In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams** (4 hrs.) \$
- Thursday: Using Your Digital Camera** (4 hrs.) \$



### ACCESSIBILITY



Indicates facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs. Short, steep inclines may be encountered.



Contact (209) 379-5250 (v/txt) to request a sign language interpreter. Two weeks notice requested, but not required.



Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advanced request for any public program. Inquire at any visitor center or tour desk.



Audio tours are available for the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. Refer to the Accessibility Guide for details

### KEY

- AAC American Alpine Club
- YH Yosemite Hospitality LLC
- NPS National Park Service
- SC Sierra Club
- TAAG The Ansel Adams Gallery
- YC Yosemite Conservancy
- \$ Programs offered for a fee





# Services in Yosemite



Water Music, an oil Painting by Kris Lael Temple, will be on display at Yosemite Renaissance 35, February 22 - May 3, 2020, at Yosemite Museum Gallery in Yosemite Valley.

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

## Food and Drink

### YOSEMITE VILLAGE

#### Degnan's Kitchen

7am to 6pm

#### Village Grill

11am to 6pm, beginning March 21

### THE AHWAHNEE

#### Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm,

11:30am to 3pm beginning March 13

Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm,

5:30pm to 9pm beginning March 13

Reservations and appropriate attire are respectfully requested: (209) 372-1489

Sunday Brunch: 7am to 2pm,

7am to 3pm beginning March 15

Reservations recommended:

(209) 372-1489

The Coffee Bar 6am to 10:30am

The Ahwahnee Bar 11:30am to 10pm,

11:30am to 11pm beginning March 13

### YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

#### Base Camp Eatery

Starbucks Coffee: 6:30am to 5pm,

6am to 6pm beginning March 13

Breakfast: 6:30am to 10:45am

Lunch: 11am to 4:30pm

Dinner: 4:30pm to 8pm,

4:30pm to 9:30pm beginning March 13

#### Mountain Room Bar

Monday - Friday: 5pm to 10pm,

4:30pm to 10pm beginning March 13

Saturday & Sunday: Noon to 10pm.

#### Mountain Room Restaurant

Dinner: 5pm to 9pm

For reservations visit <https://www.opentable.com/r/yosemite-valley-lodge-mountain-room-yosemite-national-park>

*opentable.com/r/yosemite-valley-lodge-mountain-room-yosemite-national-park*

### CURRY VILLAGE

#### Pavilion Buffet

Opens March 13, conditions permitting

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm,

#### Pizza Deck

Opens March 13, conditions permitting

11am to 10pm daily

#### Coffee Corner

Opens March 13, conditions permitting

6am to 8:30am

### WAWONA AREA

#### Wawona Hotel

Opens for the season March 27

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Lunch: 11am to 3pm

Dinner: 5pm to 9pm

Call (209) 375-1425 for reservations

Lounge Service: 5pm to 9:30pm

### BADGER PASS SKI AREA

#### Skiers Grill (downstairs)

8am to 4pm, Closes for season March 29

#### Snowflake Room (upstairs)

Friday: 12pm to 4pm

Saturday - Sunday and holidays:

10am to 4pm, Closes for season March 29

## Groceries

### YOSEMITE VILLAGE

#### Village Store

8am to 8pm,

8am to 9pm beginning March 13

### YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

#### Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm,

8am to 10pm beginning March 13

### CURRY VILLAGE

#### Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm,

8am to 10pm beginning March 13

### WAWONA

#### Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 6pm,

8am to 8pm beginning March 13

## Gas Stations

### EL PORTAL

8am to 5pm

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

### WAWONA SERVICE STATION

9am to 6pm. Diesel & propane.

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

### CRANE FLAT

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card,

store opens March 13, 8am to 7pm,

weather permitting.

## Post Offices

### YOSEMITE VILLAGE

#### Main Office

Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm

Saturday: 10am to noon

### YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Monday - Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm

### EL PORTAL

Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm

Closed for lunch 12:30pm to 1:30pm

### WAWONA

Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm

Saturday: 9am to noon

## Books, Gifts, & Apparel

### YOSEMITE VILLAGE

#### Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore

#### at Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

9am to 5pm

#### Yosemite Museum Store

9am to 5pm, may close for lunch

#### The Ansel Adams Gallery

10am to 5pm

#### Village Store

8am to 8pm,

8am to 9pm beginning March 13

### THE AHWAHNEE

#### Gift Shop

8am to 8pm,

8am to 9pm beginning March 13

#### Sweet Shop

7am to 10pm

### YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

#### Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

8am to 10pm beginning March 13

### CURRY VILLAGE

#### Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm,

8am to 10pm beginning March 13

#### Mountain Shop

8:30am to 6:30pm,

8am to 8pm beginning March 13

### WAWONA

#### Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

8am to 6pm,

8am to 8pm beginning March 13

### BADGER PASS SKI AREA

#### Sport Shop

9am to 4pm, Closes for season March 29

## Recreation

### TOUR AND ACTIVITY DESKS

#### Yosemite Valley Lodge

7:30am to 3pm,

7:30am to 7pm beginning March 13

#### Village Store

7:30am to 3:30pm beginning March 25

### BADGER PASS SKI AREA

Closes March 29, conditions permitting

Lift Operation 9am to 4pm

Lift Tickets 8:30am to 4pm

Ski School Desk 8:30am to 4pm

Tubing 10am to 11am, 11:30am to

1:30pm, 2pm to 4pm

Nordic Rental Shop 8:30am to 4:30pm

Alpine Rentals 8:30am to 4:30pm

### CURRY VILLAGE

#### Ice skating

Daily 3:30pm to 6pm, & 7pm to 9:30pm

Weekends 12pm to 2:30pm, 3:30pm to

6pm, & 7pm to 9:30pm

Holidays 8:30am to 11am, in addition to

weekend hours.

## General Services

### Medical Clinic - Yosemite Valley

(209) 372-4637

#### for emergency CALL 9-1-1

Monday - Friday: 9am to 5pm,

Closed weekends and federal holidays

### Laundry (Housekeeping Camp)

8am to 10pm

### Shower House (Curry Village)

Open 24 hours

### Yosemite Village Garage

8am to noon, 1pm to 5pm

Towing available 24 hours.

Propane available until 4:30pm.

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

### CHURCH OF CHRIST (Non-denominational)

El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am

Info: 209/379-2100

### YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Brent Moore: Resident Minister

(209) 372-4831 • [www.YosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org](http://www.YosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org)

[www.YosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org](http://www.YosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org)

Call for wedding information and availability

#### Services in The Chapel

Sunday: 9:15am

Sunday Evening: 6:30pm

Wednesday: 7pm

Thursday Bible Study (call for location): 7pm

### OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

Catholic Mass

Sunday 10:00 a.m. (year - round)

Visitor Center Theater

Shuttle stop #5 or #9

## SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Yosemite Valley Chapel

Tuesday and Thursday: 7:30pm

Sunday: 8pm

Oakhurst Hotline: (559) 683-1662



# Permit Information

## Camping, Hiking, and Wilderness Use



Upper Yosemite Fall. NPS Photo

### Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits are required year round for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Permits are issued and bear canisters are available for rent in Yosemite Valley during hours of operation. Self-registration permits are available at the Hill's Studio in Wawona, Big Oak Flat Information Station, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station. For summer trips, reservations are taken from 24 weeks to two days in advance of the start of your trip. A processing fee of \$5 per permit plus \$5 per person is charged to each confirmed reservation. Go to [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits) to check trailhead availability and for more information on how to make a reservation. Reservations can be made online (preferred), by phone or mail. To make a reservation by phone, call (209) 372-0740, Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm), [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org), the Leave No Trace website at [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org), or the Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue website at [www.friendofyosar.org](http://www.friendofyosar.org)

### YOSEMITE VALLEY

Wilderness permits for Yosemite Valley trailheads are available at the Visitor Center daily from 9am to 5pm. Bear canisters are also available for rent at the bookstore. For more information on wilderness travel and safety please see page 8.

### WAWONA AND MARIPOSA GROVE

Self-registration wilderness permits for the Wawona and Glacier Point Road trailheads only are available on the front porch of Hill's Studio. Please come prepared with your own bear canister. Hill's Studio is located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel; walk from the hotel or park at the store and follow the path uphill.

### BIG OAK FLAT

Self-registration wilderness permits for the Crane Flat area and Tioga Road trailheads only are available on the front porch of the information station. Please come prepared with your own bear canister. The center is located just inside the park entrance on Hwy 120W.

### GLACIER POINT

Self-registration wilderness permits for the Glacier Point Road trailheads only are available at the Badger Pass Ranger Station.

### HETCH HETCHY

Self-registration wilderness permits for the Hetch Hetchy trailheads only are available at the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station daily from 8am to 5pm. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

### Half Dome Permit Information

The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be put back up May 22, 2020 through October 13, 2020, *conditions permitting*. Permits are required 7 days a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2020 permits begins March 1, 2020 and ends March 31, 2020. To apply for permits visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or call (877) 444-6777. More information about the Half Dome permit process is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm>.

### Camping

Upper Pines, Camp 4, Wawona (*closed this winter for sewer work*), and Hodgdon Meadow are open year-round. For more information on campground opening dates, visit our website at [go.nps.gov/campground](http://go.nps.gov/campground). Call (209) 372-0266 for same-day camping availability. *Sleeping in vehicles and frontcountry camping are only permitted in designated campsites.*

### CAMPING RESERVATIONS

In Yosemite Valley's car campgrounds, reservations are recommended December through February, and required March through November. Outside the valley, reservations are required summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. All other campgrounds (except group and stock campgrounds) are first-come, first-served. Campground reservations are

available up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month at 7 am Pacific time. Log onto the website or call as soon as possible as some campgrounds fill within a few minutes of the opening period.

For campground reservations, visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) (recommended) or call (877) 444-6777 or TDD (877) 833-6777 or (518) 885-3639 from outside the US and Canada.

### Call Center Hours:

7am to 7pm Pacific time  
(November - February)  
7am to 9pm Pacific time (March - October)

Campground offices in the park are located in the visitor parking area at Curry Village (shuttle bus stop #14), the Tuolumne Meadows Campground entrance, in Wawona off Chilnualna Falls Road, and at Big Oak Flat Information Station.

### General Camping Information

#### Services

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

#### Regulations

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

#### Campfires

- In Yosemite Valley between May 1 and September 30, campfires are permitted between 5pm and 10pm. At other times of the year and in out-of-Valley campgrounds, fires are permitted at any time, as long as they are attended.
- Firewood collection is permitted within the boundaries of campgrounds in Yosemite Valley, and can otherwise be gathered anywhere in the park that is outside Yosemite Valley, below 9,600 feet, and not in a sequoia grove.

### Yosemite Valley Day Hikes\*

TRAIL / DESTINATION	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE / TIME	DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION
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, 2-3 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Upper Yosemite Fall	Same as above	7.2 miles round-trip, 6-8 hours	Very Strenuous 2,700-foot gain
Mirror Lake (A seasonal lake)	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, 1-2 hours	Moderate, 400-foot gain
Top of Vernal Fall	Happy Isles Shuttle Stop #16	3 miles round-trip, 2-4 hours	Strenuous 1,000-foot gain
Top of Nevada Fall	same as above	5 miles round-trip, 5-6 hours	Strenuous 1,900-foot gain
Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point (Closed in winter)	Southside Drive	4.8 miles one-way, 3-4 hours one-way	Very Strenuous, 3,200-foot gain
Valley Floor Loop	Lower Yosemite Fall Shuttle Stop #6	13 miles full loop, 5-7 hours full loop	Moderate

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



# Protecting yourself...



The Badger Pass Ranger Station A-frame. NPS Photo

## Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

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

### A SEASON OF TRANSITION

What will Yosemite’s weather be like this time of year? The short answer is: no one knows! This is a season of transition so you can experience several weather extremes in just one day. In other words, be prepared for wide ranging temperatures, rain, snow, and sunshine at any elevation.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS

Rain and melting snow can cause our rivers and streams to flow fast and high. Yosemite’s streams are a huge temptation for the curious. Yosemite’s water is deceptively dangerous and unforgiving, even during low flow. Visitors are strongly urged to enjoy moving or falling water from a safe distance. *Also, granite rocks and boulders near rivers and waterfalls, wet or dry, are extremely slippery. To avoid injury, please do not leave the safety of the trail.*



### WEATHER

Your best approach to the weather is to check the latest forecast and always be prepared for all extremes. Dress in layers so that you can adjust to weather changes. Weather in mountainous climates, like Yosemite, varies drastically depending on elevation, with temperatures cooling by as much as five degrees for every 1,000 feet of elevation gain; a moderate rain in the Valley can be a white-out blizzard with just a short drive or hike.

### NAVIGATION

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

### YOSEMITE’S ROADS

Weather is unpredictable and changes quickly which can affect our Park’s roads. Plan for all potential road conditions; call ahead to our recorded number (209) 372-0200 +1+1 for current conditions and restrictions. Be aware of changing conditions such as moisture freezing on the road surface or remaining frozen in shadows even while other surfaces have thawed. Always carry tire chains, it’s the law.

### YOSEMITE’S TRAILS

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

### FOR ALL SEASONS

- Let someone know – always leave travel and hiking plans, including intended routes and estimated time of return, with a trusted person.
- Stay on established trails
- River, streams and lakes can be hazardous all year. Maintain awareness and crossing water should only be attempted where it is safe.
- regardless of season you still need to stay hydrated and snack frequently! If you are sweating, replace lost salts with salty, easy-to digest snacks.
- “10 hiking essentials” – including sunglasses, sunscreen, and a signaling method (mirror and whistle).

### HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases harmful to humans. Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread to humans via the droppings, urine, or saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. You may come into close proximity to rodents during your visit, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS. HPS risk is greater inside of buildings or other enclosures where deer mice are present. If staying in guest lodging, please tell the housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your accommodations. Do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors to guest lodging shut and do not bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. If you are camping and backpacking, do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings. HPS often begins with flu-like symptoms such as aches, fever, and chills one to seven weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and

difficulty in breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms and mention any potential rodent exposures to your physician. For more information on hantavirus and other environmental safety hazards visit: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm>

### PLAGUE

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

### WILDERNESS ETIQUETTE: USING YOUR BACKCOUNTRY BATHROOM

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



# ...and Yosemite



Coyote in snow. Photo by Caitlin Lee-Roney

## Keep Bears Wild

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

### STORE YOUR FOOD PROPERLY

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



### DRIVE THE SPEED LIMIT

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

### IF YOU SEE A BEAR...

...scare it away or keep your distance. You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away: Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there are more than one person, stand together

to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people. Bears that become comfortable around humans lose their natural fear of us and may become too aggressive. When that happens, they sometimes have to be killed. Report bear sightings and incidents to the Save-A-Bear hotline (209)372-0322 or by emailing [yose\\_bear\\_mgmt@nps.gov](mailto:yose_bear_mgmt@nps.gov). For more information about bears in Yosemite please visit [www.keepbearswild.org](http://www.keepbearswild.org).

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

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

## YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK ZERO LANDFILL INITIATIVE

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

Here are 3 things you can do to help:

1. Get rid of excess packaging by repacking food in reuseable containers before you leave home.
2. Use refillables! Bring a refillable water bottle and travel mug. Camping? Use refillable propane canisters.
3. Put trash and recycling in the right containers.



## Yosemite Guardians

Visitors to Yosemite National Park are the park's most important guardians. With nearly 4 million people watching over its special plants, animals, historic, and archeological sites, imagine how well-protected these park resources could be!

During your visit, be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see any of the following illegal acts:

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

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

### E-BIKES

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

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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



# Winter in Mariposa Grove

Story by Shirley Spencer



Snow laden sequoias in Mariposa Grove. Photo by Christine White Loberg



Mariposa Grove supports an array of animals, including great gray owls. These majestic birds stay active year-round, and move to lower elevations with less snowy terrain in winter. Watercolor by Shirley Spencer, January 2019



Douglas squirrels are important residents of sequoia groves, where they help release seeds from cones to promote new growth. Watercolor by Shirley Spencer, December 2018

A series of seasonal physiological shifts help giant sequoias (including the always impressive Grizzly Giant) survive winter months. As daylight shortens and shadows lengthen, temperatures drop and the flora and fauna of Yosemite adjust to the rhythm of winter. Along with mugs of hot cocoa around a roaring fire, this is a wonderful time of quiet beauty to get out and enjoy the interesting adaptations of winter life. In southern Yosemite, the Mariposa Grove is a superb place to explore and observe biological intricacies that make survival possible for life during this quieting season.

Skeletal branches of deciduous trees and shrubs in winter allow for unobstructed views of neighboring lofty evergreens: pines, cedars, firs and sequoias. Shorter day length and dropping temperatures trigger conifers to boost the sugar content of the liquids in their vascular systems to stave off the possibility of cellular freezing and ensure survival by lowering the freezing temperature of moist tree tissue.

As botanical growth slows in winter, the cells that are produced in the sapwood of the tree are smaller and densely packed together, appearing darker. The following summer, when daylight is abundant with warmer temperatures, the cells produced are much larger, and hence appear lighter

in color. In dendrochronology, the study of tree rings, one thin line of dark tissue thus represents the slower winter growth and the lighter colored tissue represents the lush summer growth. One complete year of growth includes one larger pale summer ring and the adjoining darker thin winter band.

California black oaks, which are generally found in sunny and drier locations within a sequoia grove, don't lose all their leaves. Some brittle, tan-colored oak leaves can hang tenaciously onto twigs, rustling late into the spring season. This interesting aspect of the local deciduous black oak is referred to as marcescence.

Wild ginger, with its deep green, fleshy leaves, survives under the snowpack, sprawling near prone logs to use the extra protection and insulation that fallen tree trunks provide. Scouring rush, commonly called horsetail, is an upright and winter-hardy plant that clusters in and around moist riparian areas throughout the snowy landscape. (In the image above, you can see horsetail growing in the foreground, near the base of the sequoias.)

Neon green wolf lichen grows robustly on the furrowed bark of many evergreen trees in winter. Relative snow depth can be deduced by viewing the height at which

the wolf lichen grows on tree trunks. Deep winter snow discourage the growth of this lichen on the lower portion of tree trunks.

While exploring Mariposa Grove, look for some of the ways wild animals cope with winter. One strategy is migration: Leave the area for a more suitable location if one has long enough legs or wings to facilitate the departure. Another method is hibernation: Consume enormous amounts of food during the autumn months to allow steady metabolization of abundant stored fat. Insects take yet another approach: They ensure the survival of their species by encapsulating their pupae, chrysalis or future offspring until more suitable conditions arrive.

Some animals remain active during the winter months by living in the subnivean space, the zone under and around the insulating and protective snowpack, where they rely on previously gathered and stored summer food. Resident predatory animals hunt above and below the snowpack to fulfill their caloric needs, sometimes seeking sustenance in the subnivean zone.

The Douglas squirrel, fondly known as the chickaree, is physically and vocally active in sequoia groves throughout winter. Melting snow provides a reliable water source, and a supply of cached evergreen

cones allows the chickaree to survive the challenges that winter presents. The Douglas squirrel aids in the dispersal of sequoia seeds by chewing apart the cones and leaving large midden piles of cone scales mounded at the base of evergreens. In contrast, the Lodgepole chipmunk is largely absent from view during the coldest months; instead, it relies on previously stored foodstuffs and enjoys the protection of an insulating blanket of spun snow.

When early winter sunsets curtain the western horizon, moist atmospheric conditions may reward the outdoor enthusiast with skies and clouds streaked with vivid colors of pink, orange and violet. Take some time this winter to experience the beauty and serenity of a hallowed landscape among antiquity with giant sequoias as companions.

*Since moving to the Yosemite area in the late 1970s, Shirley Spencer has helped thousands of people connect with the park by sharing her passion for the natural world during day hikes, snowshoe trips, art workshops and more. In addition to leading Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures, Shirley is a talented musician, athlete, artist, and author. This story was originally published on the Conservancy blog (at yosemite.org).*



# Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

## Enhance the Visitor Experience

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

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



Half Dome, Christine White Loberg

### The Ansel Adams Gallery



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

### Contact Us

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<http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm>

**The Ansel Adams Gallery**  
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**Yosemite Hospitality L.L.C.**  
PO Box 306  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
(888) 304-8993  
[www.aramarkleisure.com](http://www.aramarkleisure.com)

**Yosemite Conservancy**  
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**NatureBridge**  
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(209) 379-9510 fax  
[www.yni.org](http://www.yni.org)

### Yosemite Hospitality LLC



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

### NatureBridge



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

### Yosemite Conservancy



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

### Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

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



### Yosemite Name Changes

The names of the following facilities in Yosemite have changed.

- The changed names are:
- Curry Village (formerly Half Dome Village)
  - The Ahwahnee (formerly The Majestic Yosemite Hotel)
  - Wawona Hotel (formerly Big Trees Lodge)
  - Badger Pass Ski Area (formerly Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area)
  - Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge)

### Lose Something in Yosemite?

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



Raven, Photo by Karen Kroner Amstutz