

Yosemite Guide



Find us on @YosemiteNPS



COVID-19 Coronavirus

UPDATE

Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, visitor services and access may be affected. Check local resources, area signage, and our park website for updates, www.nps.gov/yose.

Please follow CDC guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- Maintain 6 feet of distance between you and others.
- Wear a face covering when social distancing is not possible.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Day-use reservations may be required: go.nps.gov/covid

Park scientists have determined that the Lyell Glacier in Yosemite's high country has shrunk by more than 80 percent since it was first mapped in the late 1880's. Glacier loss is one of the many signals of a warming climate that scientists are tracking across the park. See feature story on page 10 to learn more. *NPS Image / Greg Stock*

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

- Campground
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Restroom
- Walk-In Campground

Yosemite Valley Map

COVID-19 Coronavirus

The Yosemite Valley Shuttle System will not be operating during the Spring 2021 season.

Winter Weather Driving and Chain Control Information:

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



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



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



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

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

Things to Do

Winter in Yosemite

COVID-19 Coronavirus SAFETY ALERT

For your safety and the safety of other visitors and employees, we encourage you to follow CDC guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



Practice social distancing. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between you and others.



Wash hands using soap and water or use hand sanitizer frequently.



Wear a facecovering when social distancing cannot be maintained.



Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.

Additionally, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and most importantly, stay home if you feel sick.



Park App
Download the Yosemite app for an interactive map, hiking trails, and park updates. See page 11 for more information.

WELCOME Ask A Ranger

Drop by the visitor contact station located behind the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center to ask your Yosemite-related questions and to get park information and updates. Look for signs to direct you to the exact location. Open 9am to 4:30pm, then hours will change to 9am to 5pm beginning February 13



NPS Image

How Will COVID-19 Impact My Visit?

Following guidance from federal, state, and local public health authorities and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we are increasing access and services in a phased approach at Yosemite National Park. Visit the park website, www.nps.gov/yose, for more updates and safety information.

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

What Does 6-ft Look Like?

The wing span of a bald eagle is roughly 6 feet long. While social distancing, imagine the length of a soaring eagles' wing span between you and others.



THINGS TO DO IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

Custom Yosemite Experiences

Join a Yosemite Conservancy naturalist guide for a Custom Adventure designed to fit your interests and schedule. Options include snowshoe outings, day hikes, birding walks, stargazing programs, backpacking trips, and more. Contact adventures@yosemite.org, or visit yosemite.org/custom-adventures for details.

Walking and Hiking

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

THINGS TO DO OUTSIDE YOSEMITE VALLEY

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!

Visit A Sequoia Grove

Hike, snowshoe, or ski in one of three sequoia groves, *conditions permitting*. The Merced Grove and Tuolumne Grove are located near Crane Flat, while the Mariposa Grove, the largest of the three, is near South Entrance. Inquire at a visitor contact station for details.

YOSEMITE INSPIRATIONS

Celebrate African American History

From the first footsteps of enslaved peoples on American soil to where Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged us all to rise to his "Dream," national parks preserve the places where this history happened. The National Park Service, along with others, pays tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society. Visit www.nps.gov to find ways to celebrate African American History Month, including the viewing of a NPS short film, *Twenty & Odd*.



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
Medical Clinic (in Yosemite Valley)
Open 7 days per week from 9am to 7pm.
Medical Clinic Phone: (209) 372-4637.



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/playourvisit/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, and to protect natural and cultural resources in the area.
When: 2020 - 2021



Visitor Impact: Trail, comfort station and parking lot may not be available due to construction.

Tioga Road Rehabilitation Plan

Why: To make safety improvements and manage roadside parking and traffic flow while preserving natural and cultural resources along the road.
When: 2020 and 2021 seasons
Visitor Impact: 30-minute traffic delays along Tioga Road due to construction.



Inside:

- 01 Things to Do
- 04 Exhibits and Programs
- 05 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.

U.S. Military Veterans (Free)
Must present suitable ID

Gold Star Families (Free)
Must present paper voucher

Interagency 4th Grade Pass (Free)
Must present paper voucher.

U.S. 5th Grade Voucher (Free)
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

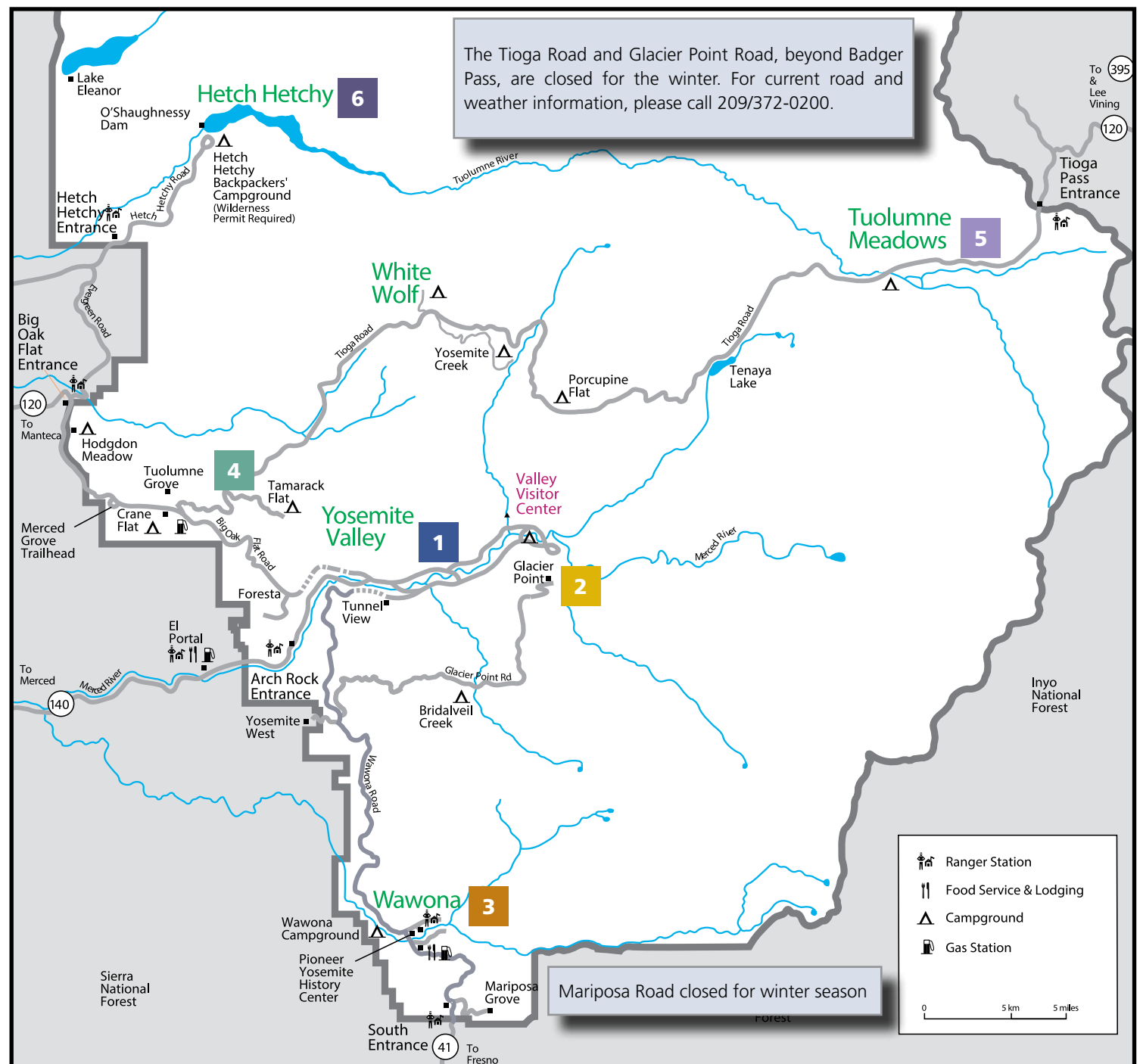
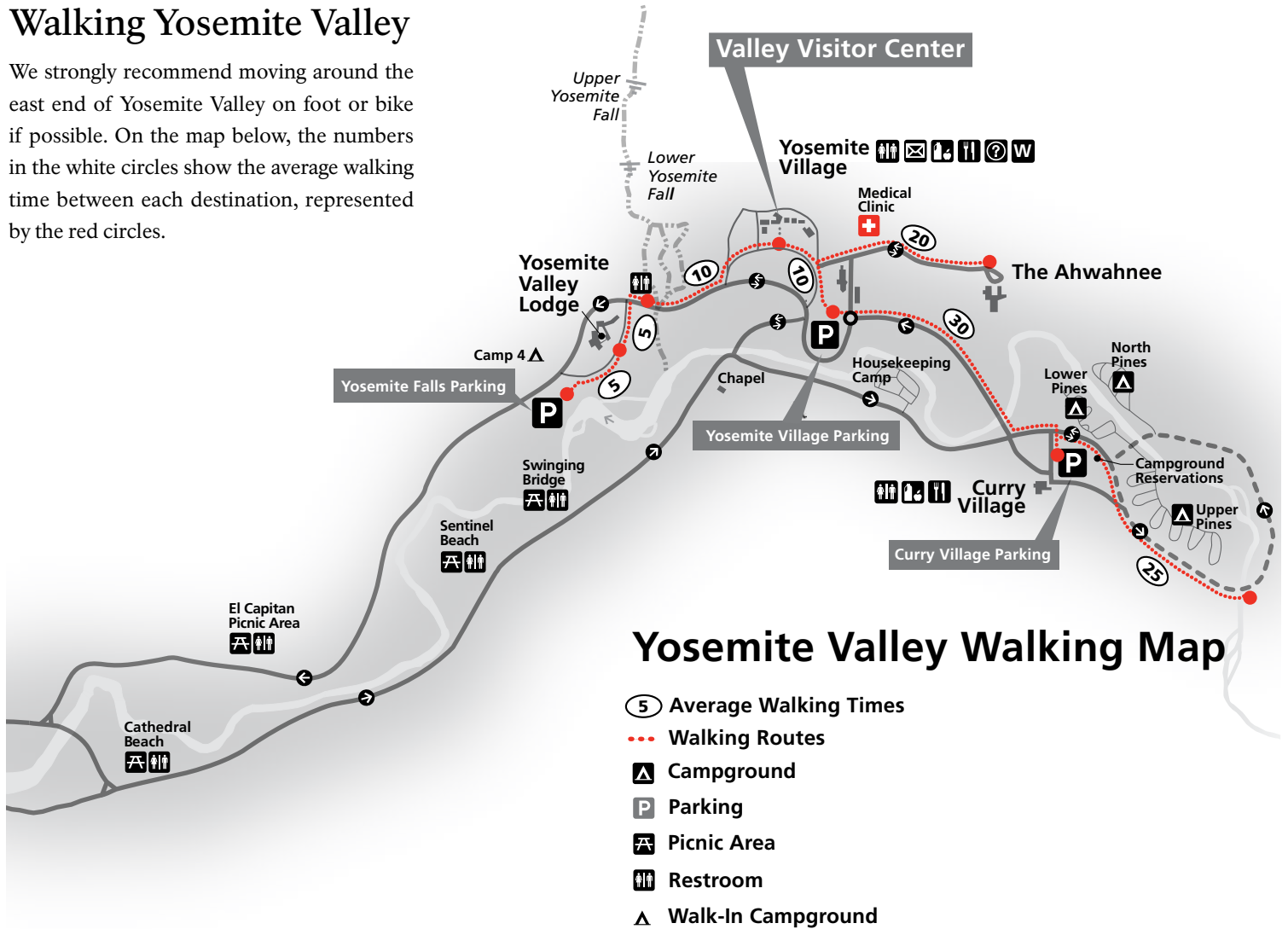
Mariposa County Visitor Center
(866) 425-3366 or (209) 966-7081

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

Walking Yosemite Valley

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



Yosemite Valley

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

Glacier Point Road

2 Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and Yosemite's high country, is located 30 miles (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. 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.

RECREATION.gov

Buy Your Site Pass on Recreation.gov

Purchase your Yosemite National Park site pass on Recreation.gov before you arrive. Your site pass can easily be downloaded on your phone or tablet, or be printed to be displayed when you arrive. Learn more at <https://www.recreation.gov/sitepass/74296>



Yosemite Valley in Winter. Photo by Christine White Loberg



The view from Glacier Point. NPS Photo



Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. NPS Image



Tenaya Lake. NPS Photo



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. NPS Photo

Yosemite Valley

Information, Art, and Exhibits



Half Dome, Yosemite Valley, 2020. Image by Deanna Shorter

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

A visitor contact station is available behind the visitor center for information and updates. *9am to 4:30pm, hours will change to 9am to 5pm beginning February 13.* The Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore will also be operating as an outdoor “to-go” store from 9am to 5pm. Located in Yosemite Village.

YOSEMITE THEATER

Closed Spring and Summer of 2021

Yosemite Museum

Closed Spring and Summer of 2021

INDIAN CULTURAL VILLAGE

Walk through the reconstructed Indian Village of Ahwahnee and learn about the structures the Ahwahneechee lived in and the plants they

used for survival. Check out the interactive displays and see the ceremonial roundhouse, bark houses, and sweathouse members of the local tribes still actively use for ceremonies and special gatherings. Located behind the Yosemite Museum in Yosemite Village.

Yosemite Conservancy

ADVENTURES AND ART CLASSES

Join Yosemite Conservancy for a memorable park experience! Preregistration is required for Conservancy adventures (yosemite.org/adventures) and art classes (yosemite.org/art).

Snowshoe Walks

Experience Yosemite’s winter magic on a naturalist-led snowshoe outing, *conditions permitting*. Snowshoes provided, as needed!

Mariposa Grove Winter Hike or Snowshoe
March 6 at 9am (7 hrs.) \$

Custom Adventure at 8am (7 hrs.) \$
Schedule a private snowshoe hike to Dewey Point. Contact us at adventures@yosemite.org or yosemite.org/custom-adventures to learn more.

Day Hikes

Celebrate the start of spring in the Sierra Nevada on a day hike with a naturalist guide.

Spring Equinox Hike in Yosemite Valley
March 20 at 9am (6 hrs.) \$

Wildflowers on the Merced Day Hike
March 27 at 9am (8 hrs.) \$

Planning a spring trip? Don’t miss our April outings, including a *Leave No Trace Trainer* certification course (April 2–3), a night of stargazing and a daytime bike tour in the Valley (April 8–9), a weekend intro to birding (April 17–18), and a Yosemite Field School program on climate change (April 22–24).

Our outdoor art classes start April 5. Be sure to register online in advance (yosemite.org/art)! Classes are offered every weekday (Monday–Friday, 10am to 2pm) through October, and are taught by a professional artist. Learn more about all our upcoming programs and sign up at yosemite.org/experience.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

In light of recent Stay-At-Home orders, The Ansel Adams Gallery is temporarily closed to visitors. You can still enjoy a bit of Ansel Adams inspiration during your time in the Park with our new Find Your Ansel App. The app invites you to follow in the footsteps of Ansel Adams and explore some of the same locations he made famous. Select a region in Yosemite, use the map to discover images Ansel made there, and make your own photographs. Download the app here: <https://www.anseladams.com/find-your-ansel-app/>.

For information on classes, private guiding, refunds, or any other questions, please contact us at info@anseladams.com. Our online store, anseladams.com, is still open, and we will be sharing Gallery updates on our social media channels, newsletter, and website. Take care and we look forward to seeing you soon!



Yosemite Renaissance Art Exhibit



Yosemite Renaissance – “Great Grey Owl” – oil painting by James McGrew

Yosemite Renaissance has supported the arts in Yosemite since 1985. If you are an artist inspired by Yosemite and the California Sierra Nevada region, this is the show for you! The competition is open to artists world-wide and offers \$4000 in cash awards. The organization seeks to encourage the public to protect and preserve our parks and wild lands through art. Because the Yosemite Museum will be closed this Spring, the exhibit will open at Yosemite Gateway Art Center in Oakhurst in March, Kings Art Center in Hanford in June, Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock in August, and the Yosemite Museum Gallery in October. Visit www.yosemiterenaissance.org to learn more.

Services in Yosemite

Schedule



All available operations and hours of operations are subject to change. Check local resources and area signage in light of changing public health requirements related to COVID-19.



The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, 2019. NPS Image / Jamie Richards

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

Food and Drink

YOSEMITE VILLAGE

Degnan's Kitchen

7am to 11am; 11:30am to 6pm

The Loft at Degnan's

Closed for the Season

THE AHWAHNEE

Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10am

Lunch: 11am to 4pm

Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm

The Ahwahnee Bar

Friday & Saturday: 3pm to 9pm

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Starbucks Coffee

Thursday - Sunday: 7am to 3pm

Base Camp Eatery

Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am

Lunch: 11am to 2pm

Dinner: 4pm to 8pm

Mountain Room Bar

Friday & Saturday: 4pm to 9pm

Mountain Room Restaurant

Temporarily closed due to COVID-19

CURRY VILLAGE

Pizza Deck

Closed for the Season

Pavilion/Coffee Corner

Closed for the Season

WAWONA AREA

Wawona Hotel

Closed for the Season

BADGER PASS SKI AREA DINING

Temporarily closed due to COVID-19

Groceries

YOSEMITE VILLAGE

Village Store

9am to 7pm

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Gift/Grocery

10am to 6pm

CURRY VILLAGE

Gift/Grocery

Closed for the Season

EL PORTAL

El Portal Market

10am to 6pm

WAWONA

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

11am to 3pm

Post Offices

YOSEMITE VILLAGE

Main Office

Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm

Saturday: 10am to noon

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

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

EL PORTAL

Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 5pm

Closed 12:30pm to 1:30pm

WAWONA

11am to 3pm

Gas Stations

EL PORTAL

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

WAWONA SERVICE STATION

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.

CRANE FLAT

Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

Books, Gifts, & Apparel

YOSEMITE VILLAGE

Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore at Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

Monday - Friday: 9am to 5pm,

Saturday & Sunday: 9am to 4:30pm

(operating as an outdoor "to-go" store)

Yosemite Museum Store

Temporarily closed due to COVID-19

The Ansel Adams Gallery

Temporarily closed due to COVID-19

Village Store

9am to 7pm

THE AHWAHNEE

Gift Shop

9am to 7pm

Sweet Shop

11am to 6pm

YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Gift/Grocery

10am to 6pm

CURRY VILLAGE

Gift/Grocery

Closed for the Season

WAWONA

Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop

11am to 3pm

Recreation

BADGER PASS SKI AREA

Temporarily closed due to COVID-19

CURRY VILLAGE ICE SKATING

Temporarily closed due to COVID-19

GLACIER POINT SKI HUT

Temporarily closed due to COVID-19

General Services

Medical Clinic - Yosemite Valley

(209) 372-4637

For emergency care CALL 9-1-1

Monday - Friday: 9am to 5pm,

Closed during federal holidays

Yosemite Village Garage

Towing available 24 hours

NO gas in Yosemite Valley.



NPS Image

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH (THE CHAPEL)

209/372-4831

Pastor Brent Moore-Resident Minister

www.yosemiteValleyChapel.org

www.YosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org

Email for wedding information and availability

YosemiteChapel@sbcglobal.net

SUNDAY CHAPEL SERVICES:

9:15am year-round and

11am Labor Day - Memorial Day

*Subject to Covid -19 policies. Please call the chapel for current information about indoor services.

CHURCH OF CHRIST (Non-denominational)

El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am

209/379-2100

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS

Catholic Mass

Sunday 10am (year - round)

Visitor Center Theater

Shuttle stop #5 or #9

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

No meetings at this time

Oakhurst Hotline: 559/683-1662



Image by Tom Whitworth

Hikes in Yosemite Valley



Swinging Bridge, Yosemite Valley, 2019. NPS Image / Sheree Peshlakai



COVID-19
Coronavirus

PARK UPDATE

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

Know Before You Go:

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



Choose your adventure

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

Yosemite Valley Day Hikes*

TRAIL / DESTINATION	STARTING POINT	DISTANCE / TIME	DIFFICULTY / ELEVATION
Bridalveil Fall - <i>CLOSED due to Construction</i>	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 (Partially 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!



Please wear a facecovering when social distancing cannot be maintained. NPS Images

Permit Information

Camping, Hiking, and Wilderness Use



Mariposa Grove, Yosemite National Park. NPS Image

Wilderness Permits

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

YOSEMITE VALLEY

Wilderness permits for Yosemite Valley trailheads are available by self-registration in front of the visitor center. Bear canisters are available for rent or to buy at the bookstore. *See pg. 8 for details on wilderness travel and safety.*

WAWONA AND MARIPOSA GROVE

Self-registration wilderness permits for the Wawona trailheads only are available on the front porch of Hill's Studio. Please bring your own bear canister. Hill's Studio is located on the grounds of 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 A-Frame.

HETCH HETCHY

Self-registration wilderness permits for Hetch Hetchy trailheads only are available at the 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 28, 2021 *conditions permitting*. Permits are required 7 days a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2021 permits begins March 1, 2021 and ends March 31, 2021. To apply for permits visit 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 is open year-round during the 2021 season. For more information on campground opening dates, visit our website at go.nps.gov/campground. *Sleeping in vehicles and frontcountry camping are only permitted in designated campsites.*

CAMPING RESERVATIONS

In Yosemite Valley's car campgrounds, reservations are required year-round. 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 7am Pacific time. Log onto the website or call as soon as possible as some campgrounds fill within a few minutes of the opening period.

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



COVID-19
Coronavirus

PARK UPDATE

- Camping during the 2021 season is by reservation only.
- There is no walk-up service, campground offices are closed. Same-day availability may be accessed via recreation.gov
- There is no first come, first served camping

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 not available during the 2021 season.
- There are no hookups in Yosemite campgrounds, but there are sanitary dump stations in Yosemite Valley (all year), and summer only in Wawona and Tuolumne Meadows.

Regulations

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

Fire Restrictions Are in Effect for the Entire Park

- Pile burning will take place throughout the winter. Make sure to heed all posted signs .
- Campfires and charcoal grills should always be completely extinguished before you leave by drowning with water, stirring with a tool, and feeling with your hand. If it's too hot to touch it's too hot to leave.
- Smoking is not allowed inside public buildings or restrooms, within 25 feet of any building except those used as single-family residence, or other areas as posted. Smoking while traveling on trails is prohibited. Persons who wish to smoke must stop and remain in one location until they have extinguished their smoking material. Pack out all debris .
- Smoke is inevitable throughout the year in different parts of the park, whether from campfires, natural wildfire in the backcountry, or prescribed fire. The park may also experience smoke impacts from other areas throughout the region. To help plan your trip look up the air quality page on the park's website.



NPS Photo

Protecting yourself...



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? No one knows! This is a season of transition. You might experience several weather extremes in one day. So, 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. *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 be prepared for all extremes. Dress in layers so 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 can change quickly which can impact our Park's roads. Plan for all potential road conditions; call ahead for current weather and road conditions at 209/372-0200 +1+1. 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 snacks.
- 10 hiking essentials – includes sunglasses, sunscreen, a signaling mirror and whistle.

HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION

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

- If staying in guest lodging, tell housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice.
- Keep doors to guest lodging shut.
- Do not bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container.
- If camping or backpacking, do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings.

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

PLAGUE

Plague is an infectious bacterial disease carried by squirrels, chipmunks and other rodents and their fleas. To protect yourself, never feed wildlife, avoid dropping food when eating outside, avoid pitching a tent near rodent burrows, wear insect repellent with DEET, and immediately tell a park ranger if you see a dead animal. For more information visit: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm>

Wilderness Etiquette: How to Poop in the Woods

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



...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. For more information about bears in Yosemite please visit www.keepbearswild.org.

Yosemite Guardians

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

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

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

E-BIKES

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

FISHING

Stream and river fishing in Yosemite Valley to Parkline (Merced River) is closed from November 15 to April 24. All lakes and reservoirs are open to fishing year-round.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm.

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

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

Clean water is a precious resource for all living beings -

You can protect these waters and this pristine watershed which supplies drinking water for 2.7 million people.

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



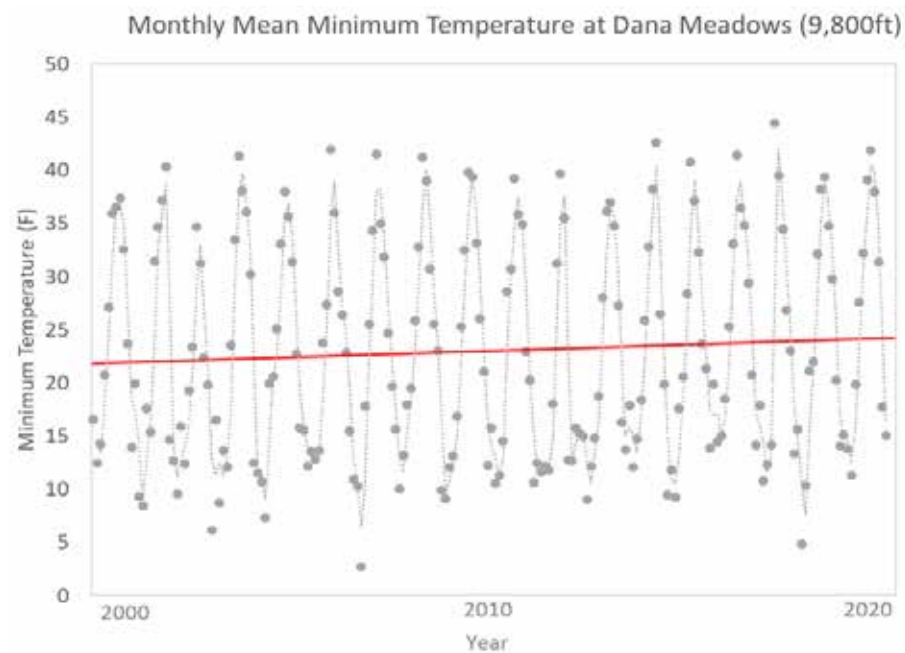
Hetch Hetchy - Image by NPS

Monitoring Yosemite's Hydroclimate:

Reflecting on 20 Years of Climate Research in the Park



Smoke from the Creek Fire obscures the scenery in western Yosemite Valley in September 2020. NPS Image



Changes in monthly minimum temperatures at the Dana Meadows meteorological station from 2000 to 2020, showing a 2.4 degree Fahrenheit increase (red line) over the past 20 years. NPS Image

Nearly 20 years ago, a small group of scientists assembled in Yosemite Valley to discuss how best to take the pulse of water. The group had recently begun monitoring Yosemite's "hydroclimate" – the connected system of precipitation (rain and snow), evaporation, soil moisture, and streamflow across landscapes – and they sought to coordinate their growing network of instruments. Mike Dettinger, a recently retired research hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, was one of the pioneering members of the workshop. He recalls researchers from state and federal agencies, universities, and local water managers meeting initially to further their own research goals but gradually embracing their important role in providing scientific information for park decision-makers. Over time the annual meetings became more formal, with climate change emerging as a defining theme.

Yosemite offers a perfect natural laboratory to study the hydroclimate. Ninety-five percent of the park's nearly 1,200 square miles is designated wilderness, offering pristine conditions for monitoring natural systems. Yet Yosemite's high country is easy to access in the summer via the Tioga Road, allowing for sophisticated weather stations in non-wilderness areas. The hydroclimate network of rain gauges, thermometers, snow depth sensors, and stream gauges – some going back more than 100 years – record the vital signs of Yosemite's hydroclimate.

Much has changed with Yosemite's hydroclimate since that first meeting almost 20 years ago. Following the global trend, temperatures in Yosemite have steadily ticked upward since reliable record keeping began in the 1920's.

Warming temperatures have caused Yosemite's two remaining glaciers to lose more than 80 percent of their volume since 1883, with most of that loss occurring in the past 20 years. Warming has also pushed the "snowline" (the elevation separating rain from snow) upward, so that more of the park experiences rain rather than snow. Snowpack has diminished as a result. Meanwhile precipitation has become more variable, swinging wildly between wet and dry years in a sort of climate "whiplash", evidenced by record dry conditions in 2015 followed by near-record wet conditions just two years later.

"...drier summers mean greater potential for widespread and more intense wildfires in overgrown forests and shrublands."

Sustained drought between 2012 and 2016 caused water-stressed trees to succumb by the millions to bark beetles and other pathogens. These dead trees are fuel for wildfires that incinerate tens of thousands of acres in a single day. Although natural fires burning at mixed intensity are beneficial for Sierra Nevada forests, large high-intensity fires like the Rim Fire of 2013, which burned 10 percent of the park, can forever eliminate forests, converting them to sparser shrublands. Recent wildfires have suffocated Yosemite in dense smoke, creating hazardous conditions for people and wildlife. Park closures and evacuations due to natural disasters, once rare, are now commonplace; Yosemite Valley was temporarily closed to visitors four times in the past four years, twice because of floods and twice because of fires.

These climate-related changes are already happening in Yosemite, and research presented at the Hydroclimate Workshops tells us that more changes are coming. Foremost, additional warming is virtually guaranteed, with models indicating a several degree increase in average temperatures within this century. Warming will cause Yosemite's snowpack to further decline, with more rain falling than snow and earlier melting of what snow remains. This loss of snowpack, and thus the seasonal storage of water, means that summertime streamflow will decrease, causing waterfalls like Yosemite Falls to dry up earlier. Large winter storms will likely be even more intense, which will increase the risk of valley flooding. Loss of snowpack will also mean drier soils and more water-stressed forests. And drier summers mean greater potential for widespread and more intense wildfires in overgrown forests and shrublands.

The 2020 Hydroclimate Workshop, held virtually, occurred as smoke from the nearby Creek Fire lingered in Yosemite Valley. Talks covered the usual broad range of topics supported by the instrument network, from snowpack to streamflow to vegetation change. But there seemed to be a greater sense of urgency to the discussions, as the reality of climate change becomes more tangible. Park managers are working closely with researchers to identify ways to make Yosemite resilient to future changes; for example, under the right conditions, allowing natural and prescribed fires to naturally thin forests can result in greater water availability throughout the year, buffering landscapes from extreme droughts.

As the Yosemite Hydroclimate Workshop celebrates 20 years of meetings, its value as a key source of scientific information for understanding the next 20 years is clearer than ever. According to Dettinger, "The Hydroclimate Workshop has proven to be a reliable and welcoming gathering of colleagues. That sense of community will be vital for sustaining the energy and persistence we'll need to provide the scientific basis for managing the challenges to come."

Story by Park Geologist Greg Stock



A National Park Service hydrologist works on a weather station near Tioga Pass. The station is part of the network of hydroclimate sensors monitoring climate change in Yosemite. NPS Image

Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite's Future

Enhance the Visitor Experience

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

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



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.

Yosemite Hospitality LLC



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

NatureBridge



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

Yosemite Conservancy



Yosemite Conservancy inspires people to support projects and programs that preserve Yosemite National Park and enrich the visitor experience for all. Thanks to generous donors, the Conservancy has provided over \$140 million in grants to the park to restore trails and habitat, protect wildlife, provide educational programs, and more. The Conservancy's guided adventures, volunteer opportunities, wilderness services and bookstores help visitors of all ages connect with Yosemite. Learn more: yosemite.org or 415/434-1782.

Contact Us

Yosemite National Park

PO Box 577
9039 Village Drive
Yosemite, CA 95389
(209) 372-0200
<http://www.nps.gov/yose/contacts.htm>

The Ansel Adams Gallery

PO Box 455
Yosemite, CA 95389
(209) 372-4413
(209) 372-4714 fax
www.anseladams.com

Yosemite Hospitality L.L.C.

PO Box 306
Yosemite, CA 95389
(888) 413-8869
www.travelyosemite.com

Yosemite Conservancy

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www.yosemite.org

NatureBridge

PO Box 487
Yosemite, CA 95389
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(209) 379-9510 fax
www.yni.org

Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

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

Lose Something in Yosemite?

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

Yosemite National Park App

Want the Guide on your Apple or Android device?
Get the App!

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



iPhone/iPad



Android

Looking for a Hiking Trail?

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

