



# Yosemite Guide

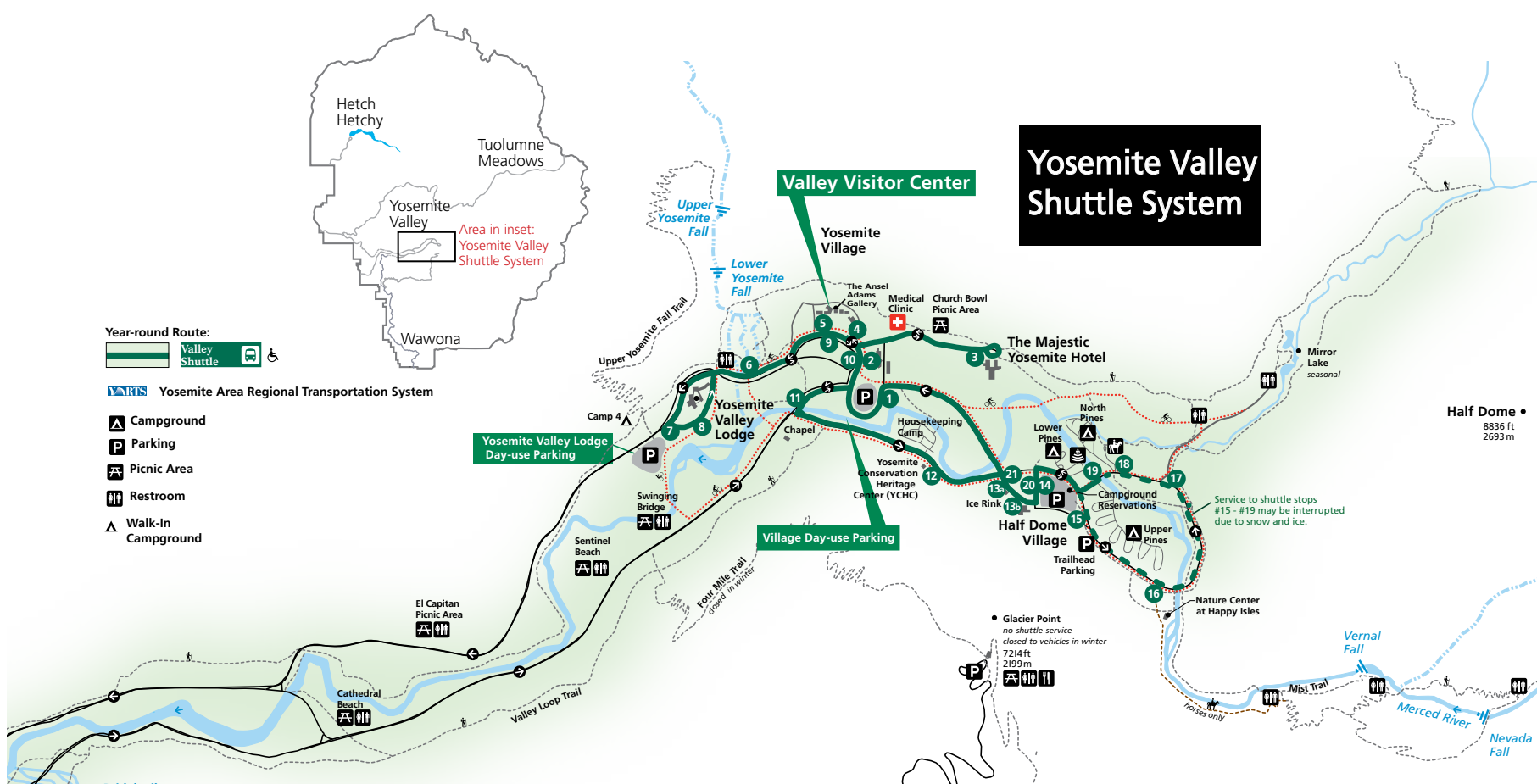


Skiers in Yosemite, 1936 NPS Photo (RL 003944)

Experience Your America Yosemite National Park December 6, 2017 - February 6, 2018 Volume 43, Issue 1


Experience Your America Yosemite National Park Yosemite Guide December 6, 2017- February 6, 2018

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, busses may suspend service to shuttle stops #15 - #19.*

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	Yosemite Valley Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2	Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	The Majestic Yosemite Hotel	12	YCHC / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	Degnan's Deli	13a, 21	Ice Rink	19	Pines Campgrounds
5	Valley Visitor Center	13b	Half Dome Village		
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	14	Half Dome Village Parking		
7	Camp 4	15	Upper Pines Campground		

 **Pardon our dust!** Shuttle service and traffic circulation may change due to road repairs, conditions permitting. Expect detours and delays. Ask at the Visitor Center for the most current routes.

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# Things to Do

## Winter Activities: Exploring Yosemite in Winter



### Winter Sports

#### 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 in or onto roadways!

#### YOSEMITE SKI AND SNOWBOARD AREA

The Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area (YSSA) opens on December 15, weather and conditions permitting. Live information on winter sports is available by calling 209/372-8430; recorded information is available at 209/372-1000.

Lift Tickets - 8:30am to 4pm

Lift Operations - 9am to 4pm

Ski School Desk - 8:30am to 4pm

Tubing - 11:30am to 1:30pm and 2pm to 4pm

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

Cross Country Ski Center - 8:30am to 4:30pm

Skiers Grill - 8am to 4pm

Snowflake Room - 8am to 4pm, *Friday to Sunday and holidays only*

Sports Shop - 9am to 4pm

#### YSSA A-FRAME

Open 9am to 4pm, seven days a week when the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area (YSSA) is open, beginning December 15, weather and road conditions permitting. Wilderness permits for the Glacier Point area, Ostrander Ski Hut check-in and cross-country ski trail information available. It's also the starting point for ranger led snowshoe walks.

#### YSSA SHUTTLE (Free)

The free shuttle service to and from the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area (YSSA) begins December 15, weather and road conditions permitting. The YSSA shuttle arrival and departure times are subject to change due to traffic and weather conditions.

#### YSSA SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

Yosemite Valley to YSSA:

Half Dome Village - 8am and 10:30am

Yosemite Village - 8:10am and 10:40am

Majestic Hotel - 8:15am and 10:45am

Yosemite Valley Lodge - 8:30am and 11am

YSSA to Yosemite Valley:

2pm and 4:30pm

#### ICE RINK AT HALF DOME VILLAGE

Take the shuttle to Half Dome Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. The ice rink will be open daily, conditions permitting, from 12pm to 2:30pm, 3:30pm to 6pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm. On weekends and holidays, the ice rink is open from 8:30am to 11am, in addition to the daily hours.

#### WALKING AND HIKING

Yosemite Valley has a wide range of walking and hiking possibilities. Stop by Yosemite Valley Visitor Center for trail maps and current trail conditions, or see page 7 for a list of popular Yosemite Valley day hikes.

### Programs and Guided Adventures

#### NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Naturalists give walks and talks about Yosemite's natural and cultural history, every day. See page 5 for scheduled walks, talks, and evening programs. **Snowshoe Walks are dependent on weather, road, and snow conditions. For additional information, check local listings at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and hotel tour desks.**

#### TOURS

**The Valley Floor Tour** is a 26-mile, two-hour, guided tour of Yosemite Valley. It departs several times daily from Yosemite Valley Lodge, weather permitting. Call 209/372-1240 or inquire at the Tour and Activity Desk in the Yosemite Valley Lodge between 7:30am and 3pm.

#### YOSEMITE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

Provides outdoor adventures for people of all experience levels. We are here to help you enjoy Yosemite outdoor sports safely, and responsibly. Join one of our group cross country skiing classes or schedule a custom outing designed specifically for your group. We offer professional guides for cross country skiing and snowshoeing, as well as hiking, and rock climbing (depending on weather). Reservations required for most activities, please call 209/372-8344 or email yms@aramark.com.

#### ADVENTURE WITH YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY (YC)

Experience the park in a new way with Yosemite Conservancy's naturalist guides! Explore the winter landscape during snowshoe hikes, bird-watching walks, and more. Sign up for a scheduled Outdoor Adventure, or contact us to plan a Custom Adventure. See page 6 for details.

#### YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY OUTDOOR ADVENTURES (YC)

Yosemite Conservancy's year-round, naturalist-led Outdoor Adventures offer something for every park explorer. This winter, join one of our guides for a snowshoe hike to immerse in the seasonal scenery and learn about natural history. Upcoming outings include:

Jan 6 *Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas atop Dewey Point*

Jan 20 *Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas atop Dewey Point*

Jan 21 *Snowshoe Yosemite: Winter Ecology and Survival at Tuolumne Grove*

Feb 3 *Snowshoe Yosemite: Valley Vistas atop Dewey Point*

Feb 10 *Snowshoe Yosemite: Winter Ecology and Survival at Tuolumne Grove*

To learn more and register, visit [bit.ly/yosemite-adventures](http://bit.ly/yosemite-adventures) or call 209/379-3217 x10. Park entry and camping are included with your registration; other lodging options are available. Custom Adventures can be arranged for individuals and groups. Proceeds from Yosemite Conservancy's programs help preserve and protect the park.

#### TAKE A PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS

Enjoy the beauty of Winter Light 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. Learn more and sign up at The Ansel Adams Gallery.



### 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 open throughout the year.

#### TUOLUMNE GROVE

The trailhead for this grove of approximately 25 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 big 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.

#### Great Things Are Happening In The Mariposa Grove!

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. The Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project is now underway! A temporary closure of the grove is expected to remain in place until Spring, 2018. The restoration project will improve the habitat and restore the hydrology of the Mariposa Grove and improve visitors' experience and enjoyment of the grove. Trails will be improved providing universal access along with improved restrooms. **The Mariposa Grove Road is closed to all public access due to restoration, including bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Hiking trails within the grove are also closed.**

# Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

## Entrance Fees

**Non-commercial car, pickup truck, RV, or van with 15 or fewer passenger seats** Valid for 7 days

(No per-person fee)

**Vehicle** Valid for 7 days  
\$30/Vehicle

**Motorcycle** Valid for 7 days  
\$25/motorcycle

**Individual** Valid for 7 days  
\$15, (In a bus, on foot, bicycle, or horse)

**Yosemite Park Pass \$60**  
Valid for one year in Yosemite.

**Interagency Annual Pass \$80**  
Valid for 1 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**  
(Annual) 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

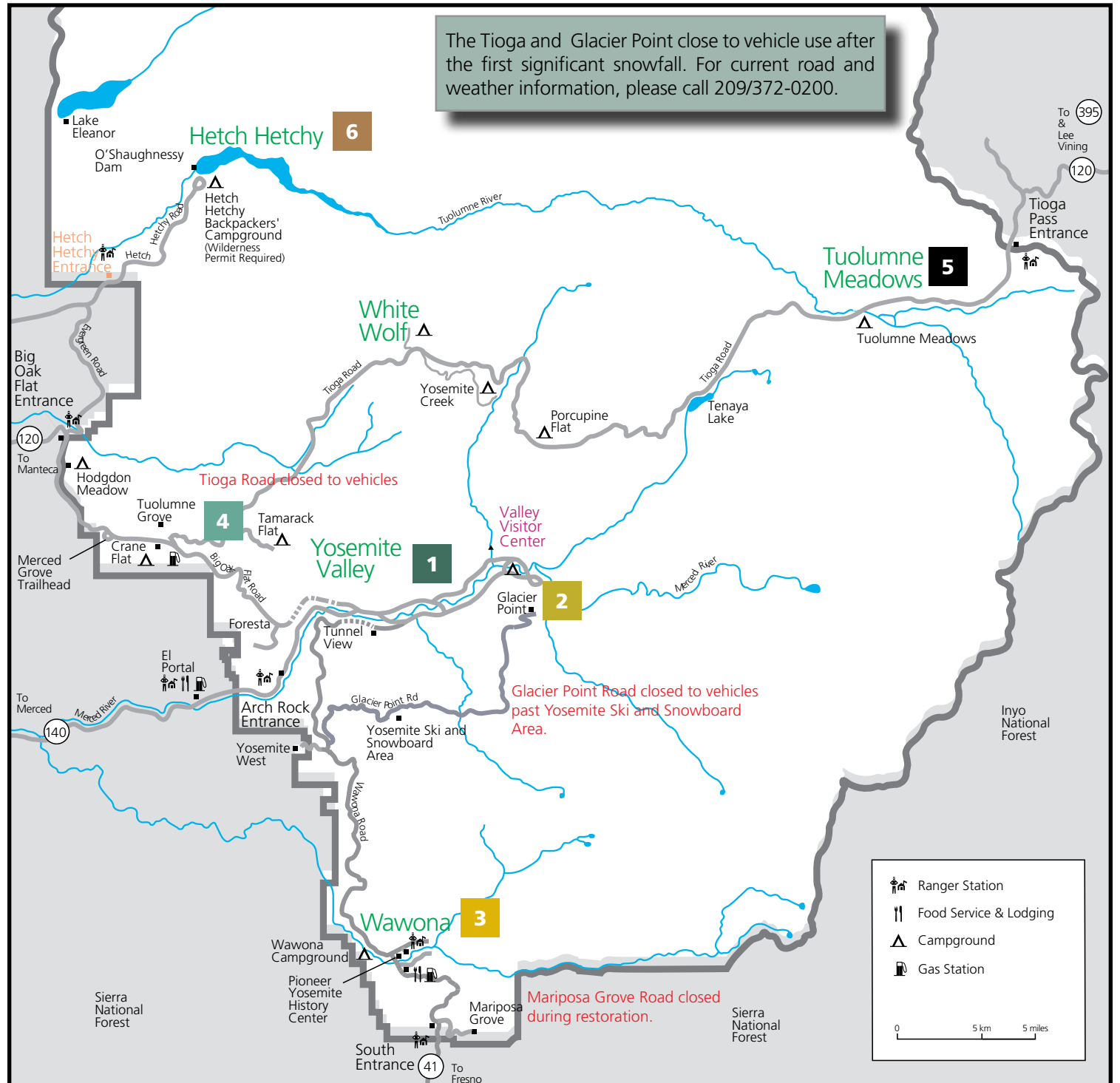
**Highway 132/49**  
**Coulterville Visitor Center**  
209/878-3329

**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.homeofyosemite.com

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



## ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Accessible parking, lodging, tours, and activities are available throughout the park.

For a complete list of accessible services, recreational opportunities, and exhibits, pick up an updated Yosemite Accessibility Guide which is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and online at [www.nps.gov/yose/playourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/playourvisit/accessibility.htm), or call a park Accessibility Coordinator at 209/379-1035 for more information.



Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive. Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue and white signs.



Sign Language interpreting available upon request. Contact Deaf Services at 209/379-5250 (v/txt), VP: 209/222-3944, or at [yose\\_deaf\\_services@nps.gov](mailto:yose_deaf_services@nps.gov). Two weeks advance notice preferred.



Assistive Listening Devices available upon advance request, inquire at a visitor center. Audio tours are available for the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias (closed until Summer 2017). Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

## WINTER WEATHER AND DRIVING IN YOSEMITE

The Tioga, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove Roads are closed each year from after the first significant snowfall to late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storms. Motorists are advised to always carry chains and check weather and road conditions before travel. Icy and wet roadways can exist throughout the park! To check road conditions, call 209/372-0200 for roads inside the park and 800/427-7623 or visit [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov) for highways connecting to Yosemite, outside the park.

### Chain Control Information:

You must have tire chains or cables in your possession when entering a designated chain control area, **even if you're driving a four-wheel drive or rental vehicle.**

**R1** - Chains Required, unless you are driving a car, pickup truck, or SUV weighing less than 6,000 pounds AND your auto or pickup has mud/snow tires installed. (look for "M+S" on the wall of the tire)

**R2** - Chains Required, unless you are driving a car, pickup truck, or SUV weighing less than 6,500 pounds AND your car has snow tires installed on all four wheels AND has four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive engaged.

**R3** - Chains Required, on ALL vehicles (chains on 2 wheels of a 4-wheel drive).

## Yosemite Valley

**1** ...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

**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 Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area after the first significant snow fall.* 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, when the road is open, a short, paved, and wheelchair-accessible trail takes you to an exhilarating view looking down 3,214 feet into Yosemite Valley.

## Wawona and The 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. *The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is currently closed for restoration, see page 1 for more details.* 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 Area

**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.

## Tioga Road and Tuolumne Meadows

**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 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 Snow. Photo by Christine Loberg



The view from Glacier Point. NPS Photo



Snow at Wawona's covered bridge. Photo by Christine White Loberg



Tuolumne Meadows deep freeze. Photo by Wendy Malone



Hetch Hetchy in Winter. Photo by Kyle Strand

# Yosemite Valley

## Information, Art, and Exhibits



Yosemite Valley Visitor Center during a winter storm Photo by Jamie Richards

### 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 Valley Visitor Center. The museum is open daily from 9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*.

#### INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT

Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite's Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. The Indian Cultural Museum is open 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*.

### The Ansel Adams Gallery

December 6 - February 6

Open 9am-5pm

*Will close at 3 pm Dec 24*

*Closed Dec 25*

January 1 - February 6

Open 10am-5pm

#### Exhibit

November 12 - January 7

Anne Larsen and John Sexton

*Exploring Light*

This will be a unique two-person exhibition by noted fine art photographers Anne Larsen and John Sexton. They have been sharing their passion for photography, and exploring the land with their large format cameras, for over twenty years. They both have a passion for the sheer beauty of the black and white silver gelatin print hand-printed in the traditional wet darkroom.

The exhibition will include not only stunning images of the natural environment, but will also incorporate human-made subjects. For each of the two photographers the use of light as it graces the subject and its use throughout the

creative photographic process is essential. Though their palettes are different, both Anne's and John's prints share a common beauty and luminosity.

*Exploring Light* will be on display at The Ansel Adams Gallery between November 12th, 2017 and January 7th 2018 and will feature original gelatin silver photographs made by these two superb artists – including new imagery hanging for the first time on our wall, as well as classic and rare out of print photographs.

#### NEW EXHIBIT

January 8 - February 24

*Looking West: Photographs by Ansel Adams*

Ansel Adams is a distinct paradigm of the American West from his wild adventures to his modern methods and embrace of technology, along with his romanticizing of the open spaces and their vernacular — and all the way down to his bolo and white stetson. He came of age in San Francisco during the early parts of the twentieth century, a time that saw two competing worlds clash as the final days of a frayed frontier gave up ground to an increasingly mechanized world. As a curious witness, it is no less important that Ansel found his artist's voice by interpreting this old landscape through a recent advancement in technology — the camera. He never relented documenting

the architecture, people and mountains as they fluxed and flexed, while he walked a figurative tightrope between these old and new worlds — both of which he recognized as being significant to society. *Looking West* will honor the determination of spirit of Ansel Adams within his unique place in history by displaying a variety of hand made photographs from his lifetime. These images will showcase a wide range of subjects and materials and will include early works from the 1920's to others completed towards the end of his life, as well as pieces from some of his last organized portfolios. This exhibition will open at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village on January 8th, 2018 and run through February 24th, 2018.

### Yosemite Art Center (YC)

CLOSED for move to Happy Isles Nature Center until Spring, 2018.



# Events and Programs

## Schedule

	YOSEMITE VALLEY	WAWONA
Sunday	9:00am <b>Snowshoe Yosemite: Tuolumne Grove</b> (Jan 21 Only) 7 hrs. Explore winter ecology and learn key survival skills during a day in a sequoia grove. See page 1 for details. (YC) \$	5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (Dec 17 and 24 only) 4 hrs. Join Pianist/ Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8pm to ask Tom. (YH)
	10:00am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 min. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿	
	10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk-</b> Explore the Forest in Winter (Dec 17, 24, 31 only; For Jan 7 – Feb 6 check local listings) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
	2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk-</b> Wildlife 1.5 hrs. Front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿	
	2:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿	
	3:30pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH) ♿	
	7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿	
Monday	8:30pm <b>NIGHT PROWL</b> (Except Dec 31) 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$	5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (Dec 18 and 25 only) 4 hrs. Join Pianist/ Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8pm to ask Tom. (YH)
	8:30pm <b>STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE</b> 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$	
	10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk-</b> Explore the Forest in Winter, (Dec 18, 25, Jan 1 only; Jan 7 – Feb 6 check local listings) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
	1:00pm <b>Ansel Adams' Legacy and Your Digital Camera</b> photography class (Except Dec 25) 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$	
	2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk-</b> Yosemite's First People 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5/#9 (NPS) ♿	
	2:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿	
Tuesday	3:30pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH) ♿	Programs printed in ALL CAPS AND COLOR are especially for children and their families.
	7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿	
	8:30pm <b>STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE</b> 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$	
	9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel 1.5 hrs. (TAAG) ♿	
	10:00am <b>MEET YOUR YOSEMITE</b> 15 min. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS)	
	10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (Dec 19, 26, Jan 2 only; Jan 7 – Feb 6 check local listings) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
Wednesday	1:00pm <b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams</b> photography class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$	5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (Dec 21 and 28 Only) 4 hrs. Join Pianist/ Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8pm to ask Tom. (YH)
	2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk-</b> Geology: Uncover the geologic stories of Yosemite's granite walls, 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿	
	2:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿	
	3:30pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH) ♿	
	8:30pm <b>NIGHT PROWL</b> 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$	
	10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk-</b> Explore the Forest in Winter (Dec 20, 27, Jan 3 only; Jan 7 – Feb 6 check local listings) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
Thursday	1:00pm <b>Ansel Adams' Legacy and Your Digital Camera</b> photography class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$	5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (Dec 15, 22, and 29 Only) 4 hrs. Join Pianist/Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8pm to ask Tom. (YH)
	2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk-</b> Inspiring Generations Learn how Yosemite helped inspire conservation, 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿	
	2:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿	
	3:30pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH) ♿	
	7:00pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING</b> (Except Dec 14) 1 hr. Gather by the fire and listen to the stories of Yosemite's past and present! The Majestic Yosemite Hotel. (YH) ♿	
	8:30pm <b>NIGHT PROWL</b> 1 hr. Explore the night on a hike with a trained Naturalist! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$	
Friday	10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk - Explore the Forest in Winter</b> 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (Dec 16, 23, and 30 Only) 4 hrs. Join Pianist/Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8pm to ask Tom. (YH)
	2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk-</b> Living Yosemite: Learn about the constantly changing ecosystem in Yosemite 1.5 hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿	
	2:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿	
	3:30pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH) ♿	
	7:00pm <b>Film - Ansel Adams</b> 1hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge, check local listing for venue (TAAG) ♿	
Saturday	8:30pm <b>STARRY NIGHT SKIES OVER YOSEMITE</b> 1 hr. Discover the stories of the night sky! Advanced registration required, tickets and information are available at any tour & activity desk. (YH) \$	5:30pm <b>Tom Bopp Performing at the Piano</b> (Dec 17, 24, and 31 Only) 4 hrs. Join Pianist/Singer Tom Bopp in the Big Trees Lodge lobby as he performs songs and stories from Yosemite's past. Historical programs are available by request and are usually given at 8:30pm. For details or to request a program, drop by the piano before 8pm to ask Tom. (YH)
	8:00am <b>Snowshoe Yosemite: Dewey Point</b> (Jan 6, 20 and Feb 3 Only) 8 hrs. Enjoy winter scenery from 3,000 feet above Yosemite Valley. See page 1 for details. (YC) \$	
	9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery 1.5 hrs (TAAG) ♿	
	10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk-</b> Explore the Forest in Winter (December 16, 23, 30, Jan 6 only; Jan 7 – Feb 6 check local listings) 2 hrs. Conditions permitting, meet at Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger office A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; Snowshoes provided. (NPS)	
	1:00pm <b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams</b> photography class 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$	
	2:00pm <b>Historic Majestic Hotel Tour</b> 1 hr. Immerse yourself in the history of and meaning behind the Majestic Yosemite Hotel. Meet at the Majestic Yosemite Hotel Concierge. (YH) ♿	
	2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Ahwahneechee Stories and Games:</b> Learn about the culture of Yosemite's First People 1½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum, near shuttle stop #5 (NPS) ♿	
	3:00pm <b>Fine Print Viewing</b> 1hr. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. Very limited space (TAAG) ♿	
	3:30pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> 1 hr. Uncover Yosemite's natural and cultural history on a guided hike! Meet on the Majestic Yosemite Hotel back lawn. (YH) ♿	
	7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Valley Lodge Cliff Room. (YH) ♿	

# Services in Yosemite



Yosemite Chapel, NPS Photo

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

## Food and Drink

### YOSEMITE VILLAGE

#### Degnan's Kitchen

7am to 6pm  
The Loft at Degnan's  
Saturday and Sunday: 2pm to 9pm

### THE MAJESTIC YOSEMITE HOTEL

#### Dining Room

Breakfast: 7am to 10am  
Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm  
Dinner: 5:30pm to 8:30pm  
Reservations and appropriate attire are respectfully requested: 209/372-1489  
Dinner service closed due to Bracebridge  
Dinner on: Dec 10, Dec 12, Dec 14, Dec 16, Dec 18, Dec 20, and Dec 22

Sunday Brunch: 7am to 2pm  
Reservations recommended:  
209/372-1489

The Coffee Bar 7am to 10:30am

The Majestic Bar 11:30am to 11pm,  
Open until 10pm beginning Jan 9

Room Service 7am to 11pm

### YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

Food Court: Closed

#### Garden Terrace:

Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am  
Lunch: 11am to 4:30pm  
Dinner: 4:30pm to 8pm

#### Mountain Room Bar

Monday - Friday: 5pm to 10pm  
Saturday & Sunday: 12pm to 11pm  
Continental Breakfast:

7am to 10:30pm

#### Mountain Room Restaurant

Dinner: 5pm to 9pm  
Reservations taken for 8 or more:  
209/372-1281

### HALF DOME VILLAGE

#### Pizza Deck

Open Dec 15 - Jan 7  
11:30am - 9pm  
Starting Jan 12th open weekends only,  
Fri & Sun: 5pm - 9pm; Sat: 11:30am -  
9pm

#### Coffee Corner

Opens Dec 15 7am to 11am  
Starting Jan 6, open Sat & Sun only  
7am-11am

## 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.YosemiteValleyChapel.org  
www.yosemiteValleyChapelWeddings.org  
all for wedding information and availability  
**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE**  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 24, 2017 at 4:00pm

**SUNDAY Chapel Services:** 9:15am year round  
**SUNDAY Evening Services:** 6:30pm  
**WEDNESDAY Evening Mid-Week Service:** 7pm  
**THURSDAY Bible Study:** call the office for location.

**ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS**  
**OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS**  
Sunday, 10am, East Auditorium behind Yosemite  
Valley Visitor Center, shuttle stops #5/#9.  
Rectory Phone: 209/372-4729

### WAWONA AREA

#### Big Trees Lodge

Open Dec 14 - Jan 1  
Breakfast: 7am to 10am  
Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm  
Dinner: 5pm to 8:30pm  
Call 209/375-1425 for dinner  
reservations  
Lounge Service: 5pm to 9:30pm

## Groceries

### YOSEMITE VILLAGE

#### Village Store

8am to 8pm

### YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

#### Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

### HALF DOME VILLAGE

#### Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

### WAWONA

#### Big Trees Lodge Store

8am to 7pm

### Yosemite Museum Store

9am to 5pm

### The Ansel Adams Gallery

Dec 6 - Feb 6, open 9am-5pm  
Closed Dec 24 at 3pm  
Closed December 25

### Village Store

8am to 8pm

### THE MAJESTIC YOSEMITE HOTEL

#### Gift Shop

8am to 8pm

#### Sweet Shop

7am to 10pm

### YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

#### Gift/Grocery

8am to 8pm

### HALF DOME VILLAGE

#### Gift/Grocery

8am to 6pm

#### Mountain Shop

9am to 6pm

### YOSEMITE SKI AND SNOWBOARD AREA

#### Sport Shop

Beginning Dec 15, 9am to 4pm,  
conditions permitting

### WAWONA

#### Big Trees Lodge Store

8am to 7pm

## Gas Stations

### EL PORTAL

8am to 5pm  
Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

### BIG TREES LODGE 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.

### NO GAS IN YOSEMITE VALLEY

## 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 from 12:30pm to  
1:30pm

### WAWONA

Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm  
Saturday: 9am to noon

## Books, Gifts, and Apparel

### YOSEMITE VILLAGE

Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore  
at Yosemite Valley Visitor Center  
9am to 5pm

## General Services

### Laundry (Housekeeping Camp)

8am to 10pm

### Yosemite Village Garage

8am to 5pm, Towing available 24 hours.  
Propane available until 4:30pm.

### Medical Clinic (Yosemite Valley)

Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm  
Closed weekends and federal holidays.  
For emergency care after 5pm,  
CALL 9-1-1.  
Medical Clinic Phone: 209/372-4637

## Tour and Activity Desks

### YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

7:30am to 7pm (after hours service  
available at Front Desk)

## Recreation

### HALF DOME VILLAGE

Ice Skating Rink  
See Page 1 for details.

### YOSEMITE SKI AND SNOWBOARD AREA

Opens Dec 15, conditions permitting.  
See Page 1 for details.



# Permit Information

## Winter Camping, Hiking, and Wilderness Use



### Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Please see pages 6 and 7 of this Guide for more information about obtaining wilderness permits. 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 by fax, phone or mail starting November 13, 2017. To make a reservation by phone, call 209/372-0740, Mon-Fri 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), 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 are required year-round. Permits for Yosemite Valley trailheads are available at the Visitor Center daily from 9am to 5pm. Bear canisters are also available for rent. For more information on wilderness travel and safety please see page 8.

#### 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.

#### HETCH HETCHY

Self-registration permits for the Hetch Hetchy trailheads only are available at the kiosk. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

#### GLACIER POINT

Self-registration wilderness permits for the Glacier Point Road trailheads only are available at the Yosemite Ski and Snowboard Area Ranger. Please come prepared with your own bear canister.

#### WAWONA & MARIPOSA GROVE

Self-registration wilderness permits for the Wawona 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 Big Trees Lodge; walk from the hotel or park at the store and follow the path uphill.

#### HALF DOME PERMIT INFORMATION

The Half Dome Cables are down for the season. They will be put back up May 25, 2018 conditions permitting. Permits are required 7 days a week when the cables are up. The pre-season lottery application period for 2018 permits begins March 1, 2018 and ends March 31, 2018. To apply for permits visit [recreation.gov](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/recreation) 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, and Hodgdon Meadow are open year-round.

#### 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:

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

Campground offices in the park are located in the visitor parking area at Half Dome 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 year-round 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 10 pm to 6 am.
- 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 5 pm and 10 pm. 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 (including pine cones and pine needles) is not permitted in Yosemite Valley; you may purchase firewood at stores near the campgrounds.

### 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 <b>Trail to Columbia Rock</b>	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...



Photo by Jamie Richards

## 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.

## Winter in Yosemite

Winter is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy smaller crowds and to experience a different personality in the Park. It is a favorite time for viewing wildlife and for capturing Yosemite's beauty on camera and canvas. Moreover, outdoor recreation opportunities abound. However, winter also creates its own challenges for staying safe and comfortable but with a little planning, preparation, and awareness your winter visit to Yosemite will be pleasantly rewarded.

### SUNLIGHT

Daylight is short; carrying a headlamp or flashlight and extra batteries can be a lifesaver if you find yourself with a later than anticipated return to your vehicle or shelter.

### WEATHER

Weather is unpredictable, therefore, prepare for all winter weather extremes. Rather than thinking in terms of "avoiding hypothermia," a life-threatening cooling of your body temperature, hike in comfort and warmth by adding or reducing layers as follows:

- Base layer – synthetics, wool, or silk, never cotton. This layer is meant to pull moisture away from your skin so that you will feel dry.
- Mid layer – insulation to keep warm. Many outdoor enthusiasts enjoy fleece or wool.
- Outer layer/shell – protects you from outside moisture, i.e., rain and snow. Newer materials are designed to "breathe" to reduce sweating while also keeping water out.
- Hat – one suitable for keeping your head warm and dry. A good knit hat that is long enough to cover your ears can make a big difference. Keep warm with scarves and neck gaiters.
- Shoes – wear sturdy boots that protect your feet from rain, snow, and slush. Your

boots should never be tight or you will lose circulation, which will make your feet cold. Thick wool or synthetic socks help keep your feet warm and dry. Carry extra socks.

- Gloves – have an extra pair in case your first pair gets wet.

Weather varies drastically in the park depending on elevation, with temperatures cooling by as much as five degrees for every 1,000 feet of elevation gain. At night, the opposite can occur with colder air sinking to the valley floor. Always check the latest weather forecast but prepare for wide-ranging temperatures, rain, snow, and ice.

### NAVIGATION

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

### SNOW PLAY

Snow opens up exciting winter recreational opportunities in Yosemite. To keep the fun in your recreation, be realistic about your physical limits and stay within them.

### YOSEMITE'S ROADS

Unpredictable changes in weather can quickly affect park roads. Plan for all potential road conditions; call ahead to hear current road conditions and restrictions at 209/372-0200. See page 2 for important information on tire chain controls. Be aware of changing conditions such as icy roads, which may remain frozen in shadowed areas, even while other surfaces have thawed. Carry chains at all times. Slow down and allow for extra travel time.

### FOR ALL SEASONS

- Stay on established trails - do not take shortcuts.
- Rivers, streams, and lakes are hazardous all year. Crossing water should only be attempted where it is safe.
- Rock scrambling – leave this to the critters.
- Water and food – stay hydrated and snack frequently; make sure you have plenty of food and water. 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).
- Let someone know – always leave your travel and hiking plan, including your intended route and estimated time of return, with a trusted person.

### 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 scraps 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 in the park, see your doctor and inform them you may have been exposed. Plague is treatable with antibiotics if given in time.

### WILDERNESS ETIQUETTE: USING YOUR BACKWOODS 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



Black bear logging in Photo by Karen Amstutz

## Keep Bears Wild

Yosemite bears may still be active during the winter months. 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.

## 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 to Yosemite 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.

### 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 made by the superintendent, 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.

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

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.



# Winter in Yosemite

By Ashley McComb



For years, many have associated Yosemite in the winter with magic: a wonderland of soft blankets of snow, sparkling alpine glow on frozen mountain faces, and crisp starry skies decorated with wide-eyed constellations. One cannot help but feel enveloped in a sense of awe and wonder when observing it all.

Winter also brings many changes to the park: structures in Yosemite’s high country transform into ski cabins (e.g. Glacier Point Cabin, Ostrander Cabin, and Tuolumne Meadows Cabin), and busy trails transition into quiet snowshoe havens. High country lakes sometimes even become ice-skating retreats. The backcountry is a wild and seemingly untouched playground in the winter for those who crave adventure.

For many years, Yosemite’s winter changes developed a rich history enveloped in a showcase array of winter activities. Cold Sierra seasons brought hockey tournaments, Olympic speed skating trials, curling, downhill ski races, dogsledding, ski touring behind horses, and tobogganing. Donald Tresidder, the first president of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company, even put in a bid for the 1932 Winter Olympics to be hosted in Yosemite National Park. Thankfully Lake Placid New York was chosen as the site. Imagine how drastically the Olympic Games could have changed the landscape of Yosemite. Lake Placid was chosen because the International Olympic

Committee said it had a “more predictable snowfall.” However, it must be noted that during the year of the 1932 Olympics, Lake Placid had record low snowfall, while Yosemite had record high snowfall. Not only has the park hosted a myriad of winter activities over the years, but it was also home to the first ski school west

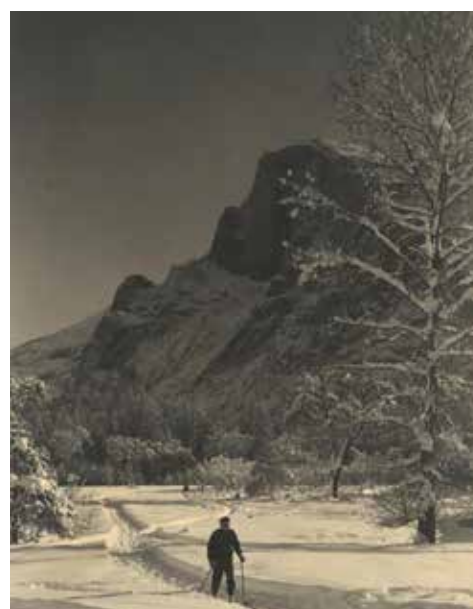
of the Mississippi. Donald Tresidder established the Yosemite ski school during the winter of 1928, and it was run by a top Swiss instructor: Jules Fritsch. He, along with Gordon Hooley, Wolf Greeven, and Ralph de Pfyffer were some of the first ski instructors in Yosemite. It was common for them to lead overnight

backcountry ski trips with park visitors to Snow Flat and Mount Dana, often using backcountry ranger cabins for overnight accommodations.

Yosemite is not only known for having the first ski school in the West, but its historic Badger Pass was also the first ski resort established in California. Though Yosemite’s ski area is shy in size, it has fostered a deep love for winter activities since 1935. Generations upon generations of families come to the ski area every year to learn and play.

Here in Yosemite, it feels as though the seasons change at the perfect time: after busy hot summers, human hearts long for the cold and crisp winters. As the end of winter draws near, one cannot help but crave the cusp of long dark nights to elongated warm summer days.

Though Sierra winters bring many changes to the park, Yosemite continues to offer itself to everyone. Whether one prefers to bask in the beauty of a snow covered Valley, embark on wild back country adventures, or learn to fly down peaks on skis and snowboards, winter in Yosemite ignites a sense of awe and wonder.



Captions, clockwise, starting from top: Queen Mary at Badger Pass *NPS Photo*, (RL 003874); Ann Morris and Mabel Rae 1928 *NPS Photo*, (RL 005771); Seaschultz and the dog team *NPS Photo*, (RL 006272)

# 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).

### 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



*Providing For Yosemite's Future*

Through the support of donors, Yosemite Conservancy provides grants and support to Yosemite National Park to help preserve and protect Yosemite today and for future generations. Work funded by the Conservancy is visible throughout the park, in trail rehabilitation, wildlife protection and habitat restoration. The Conservancy is also dedicated to enhancing the visitor experience and providing a deeper connection to the park through outdoor programs, volunteering, wilderness services and its bookstores. Thanks to dedicated supporters, the Conservancy has provided \$119 million in grants to Yosemite National Park. Learn more at [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org) or call 415/434-1782.

## Contact Us

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#### Yosemite Hospitality L.L.C.

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#### NatureBridge

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## Yosemite Volunteers: Serving Yosemite

Over 12,407 volunteers donated more than 186,000 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:

- Half Dome Village (formerly Curry Village)
- Yosemite Valley Lodge (formerly Yosemite Lodge)
- The Majestic Yosemite Hotel (formerly The Ahwahnee)
- Big Trees Lodge (formerly Wawona Hotel)
- Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area (formerly Badger Pass Ski 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