

Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, in the northwest region of the park, serves as the portal to many spectacular and remote areas of Yosemite. Because of its more isolated location, Hetch Hetchy trailheads have relatively fewer visitors embarking on trips than other areas of the park. Located at 3,900 feet, Hetch Hetchy is an ideal place for thundering spring waterfalls and wildflower displays. High temperatures prevail in summer months, but that is a small price to pay for the reward of stunning peaks, hidden canyons, and remote lakes accessed from here. *(The Hetch Hetchy Road has seasonal hours corresponding roughly with daylight hours--ask at any wilderness center.)*

Trail Descriptions and Distances (One Way)

Hetch Hetchy

Rancheria Falls

This popular trail follows the contour of the cliffs above Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Backpackers can continue toward Rancheria Falls and the canyons of the northwest region of the park.

	Miles	Km.
Rancheria Falls.....	6.7	10.8
Tilltill Valley.....	9.5	15.3
Lake Vernon.....	16.3	26.2
Pleasant Valley.....	18.5	29.8
Glen Aulin.....	47.4	75.9

Beehive Meadows

This trail follows an old road as it switchbacks up the cliffs above Hetch Hetchy and then continues to ascend through the forest toward Beehive Meadow, Laurel Lake, and Lake Vernon.

	Miles	Km.
Beehive Meadows.....	7.2	11.6
Laurel Lake.....	8.3	13.3
Lake Vernon.....	11.5	18.5
Wilma Lake.....	17.9	28.8
Bond Pass.....	27.5	44.3
Benson Lake.....	33.7	54.2
Hetch Hetchy via Lake Vernon.....	29.8	48.0
Tuolumne Meadows via Benson Lake.....	63.2	101.7

Miguel Meadows

This trail follows the Beehive/Vernon trail to the top of the switchbacks and then turns west through forested terrain to Miguel Meadow and Lake Eleanor.

	Miles	Km.
Miguel Meadows.....	7.5	12.1
Lake Eleanor.....	10.7	17.2
Cherry Valley.....	17.0	27.4

Poopenaut Valley

This trail provides quick access to the Tuolumne River descending 1,200 feet below O'Shaughnessy Dam.

	Miles	Km.
Poopenaut Valley.....	1.5	2.4

Smith Peak

This seldom used trail winds up through brush and meadows to the top of Smith Peak. Although this trail is shorter than the trail leaving from Mather, there is more elevation gain

	Miles	Km.
Smith Meadow.....	5.2	8.4
Smith Peak.....	6.7	10.8

Mather Ranger Station

These trails wander through forest, brush, and meadows to Smith Peak.

	Miles	Km.
Cottonwood Meadow.....	3.9	6.3
Smith Meadow.....	6.8	11.0
Smith Peak.....	8.3	13.3