



# Yosemite Guide

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

December 12, 2012 - February 12, 2013

Peregrine Falcons Photo by Peggy Sellis



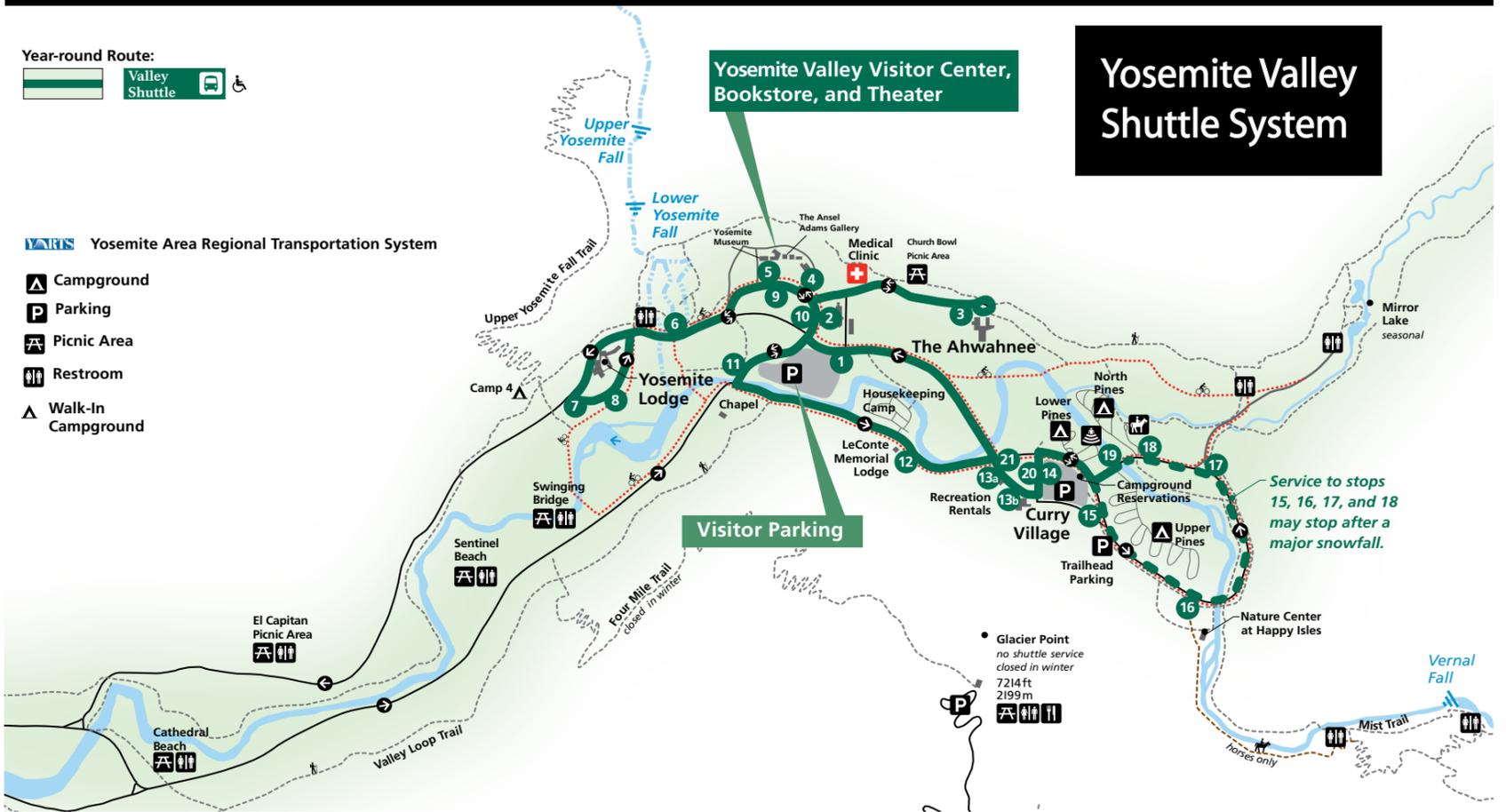
Experience Your America Yosemite National Park

Volume 38, Issue 1

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Yosemite Guide December 12, 2012 - February 12, 2013

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



Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am - 10:00pm and serves stops in numerical order.

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	YARS Yosemite Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2	10 Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	YARS The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	Degnan's Deli	13a	21 Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5	9 YARS Valley Visitor Center	13b	YARS Curry Village		
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	14	20 Curry Village Parking		

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# Seasonal Highlights

Keep this Guide with you to get the most out of your visit

**W**hat do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours. Here are some popular activities for a day in Yosemite National Park.

## Take the Bus

Free shuttles, including one to Badger Pass Ski Area, are available in Yosemite Valley year-round. Park your car and let an expert drive you to some of the most scenic and historic points in the park. Not only will you be doing your part to cut down on traffic congestion and vehicle pollutants, you'll also have both hands free for that perfect shot of Half Dome.

## Enjoy Winter Fun at Badger Pass!

California's original ski resort, Badger Pass Ski Area is a perfect place for visitors of all ages and skill levels to play in the snow. Learn to ski with one of our lessons, get some practice in on 10 runs, or catch some air in one of two terrain parks. You can also set-out on an easy, guided snowshoe hike or embark on a cross-country skiing adventure from the Nordic center. Badger Pass is open everyday, weather and conditions permitting. Downhill ski lifts operate from 9am to 4pm. Call 209/372-1000 for current snow conditions. Equipment rentals and lift tickets are available from 8:30am to 4pm.

## Visit the Ice Rink at Curry Village

Take the shuttle to Curry Village for a one-of-a-kind ice skating experience with a spectacular view of Half Dome. Four sessions are available on weekends and holidays: 8:30am to 11:00am, noon to 2:30 pm, 3:30pm to 6:00pm, and 7pm to 9:30pm. Monday through Friday, two sessions are available from 3:30pm to 6:00pm and 7:00pm to 9:30pm.

## Explore a Sequoia Grove

Meet the most massive living trees on earth as you explore a sequoia grove. Yosemite is home to three groves—each within walking distance of a road. Skis or snowshoes are recommended if the trail is snow covered. (See map on page 2 and info on page 7.)

## Visit the Yosemite Museum

Learn about Yosemite Indians by exploring a museum collection that includes remarkable woven baskets and traditional dress. Tour the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. The Yosemite Museum is located in Yosemite Village at shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 6.)

## Go on a Snowshoe Hike

Join a naturalist for a guided hike or rent or bring your own equipment for a fantastic winter experience. Be sure



Half Dome in Winter, NPS Photo

## Whether you're looking for a cold-weather adventure, a warm fireplace, or a little of both, Yosemite is a magical place in winter!

to check weather and snow conditions before you go. Snowshoe rentals are available at Badger Pass Ski Area. The Rental Shop is open from 8:30am to 4pm. For weather conditions, please call 209/372-0200 or check at any visitor center. (See page 5 for guided hike schedule.)

### Tour The Ahwahnee...

Step back to an earlier era of history as you explore the National Historic Landmark that opened in 1927. Notable for its architecture and artful décor, the hotel provides a cozy atmosphere to relax and enjoy a warm drink in. ("Food & Beverage," page 7.)

### ... or Curl Up in Front of a Fireplace!

The Ahwahnee has three oversized fireplaces that match the proportion of the structure and that have always provided heat during the year's cooler months. Bring a book, a warm drink, or at least a pair of frosty hands for a good warm-up in front of the flames.

### Take a Photography Class

Learn how to best capture the landscape of Yosemite by joining a photography expert from The Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Some have fees, some are free. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See pages 5 and 6.)

## 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 about late May or early June. Other roads are generally plowed and maintained, but can close or present delays during storm periods. 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 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.

## Hike to Mirror Meadow

Situated at the base of Half Dome, the site of Mirror Lake frames reflections of Yosemite's most iconic cliff. (The lake itself is dry until the first significant precipitation of the season, however.) The quiet trail is gentle and follows Tenaya Creek as it winds its way through the eastern Valley. The trail starts at shuttle stop #17. (See Valley map on the back of this Guide.)

## Reserve Ostrander Ski Hut For an Epic Winter Adventure!

Ostrander Ski Hut, managed by Yosemite Conservancy, is accepting reservations for the 2012-2013 season. The hut operates from early December through March and is located 10 miles from the Badger Pass Ski Area. Trips to Ostrander require advanced snowshoe or cross country skiing experience. Reservations can be booked by calling 209-379-5161. Information, equipment lists and more can be found at [www.yosemiteconservancy.org/ostrander](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/ostrander).

## Get Outside With the Yosemite Conservancy

Join a Yosemite Conservancy naturalist-guide on a snowshoe adventure to explore the majestic Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias or sign up for a snowshoe trek to Dewey Point. Looking for a custom Yosemite experience? Contact us to plan a custom adventure for your family or group. Visit [www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures) or 209/379-2317 ext. 10 to find your adventure today.

## What's Inside

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# Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

## Entrance Fees

Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite. The park is open year-round, 24 hours/day.

**Vehicle \$20**  
Valid for 7 days

**Individual \$10**  
In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for 7 days.

**Yosemite Pass \$40**  
Valid for one year in Yosemite.

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

**Interagency Senior Pass \$10 (Lifetime)** 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) (Lifetime)** For active duty U.S. military and dependants

## Reservations

**Campground Reservations**  
877/444-6777  
www.recreation.gov

**Lodging Reservations**  
801/559-5000  
www.yosemitepark.com

## 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

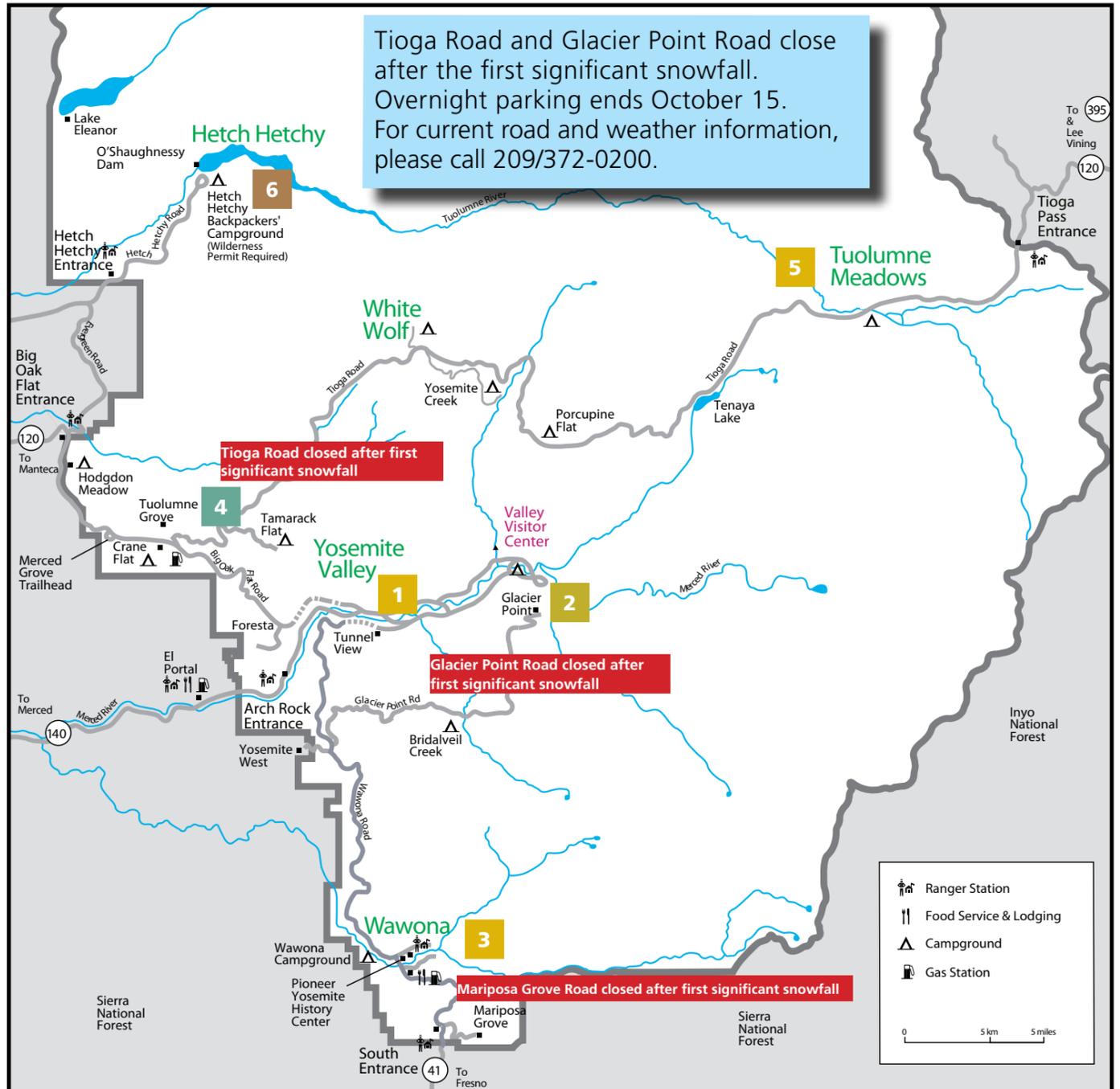
**Highway 132/49**  
Coulterville Visitor Center  
209/878-3074

**Highway 140/49**  
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

**Calif. Welcome Center, Merced**  
800/446-5353 or 209/724-8104  
www.yosemite-gateway.org



## Yosemite Valley

**1** Yosemite Valley is world-famous for its impressive waterfalls, cliffs, and unusual rock formations. It is open year round and may 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. 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 colors. Admire El Capitan, the massive granite monolith that stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. Whether you explore the Valley by foot, bike, car, or with a tour, the scenery will leave you breathless and eager to see what's around the next corner.



Granite, the Merced River, trees, and meadows compose the Valley's unique blend. Photo by Christine White Loberg

## Glacier Point Road

**2** Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and the Yosemite's high country, is located 30 miles (a one-hour drive) from Yosemite Valley. **The road stays open as weather permits, although overnight parking along it ends on Oct. 15.** When snow covers the road and conditions permit, a system of cross-country ski tracks is 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 takes you to an exhilarating, some might say unnerving, view 3,214 feet down to Yosemite Valley.

## Wawona and Mariposa Grove

**3** The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1 ¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's South Entrance station. When weather permits, the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is a short drive from Wawona. Help reduce congestion by taking the free shuttle from the Wawona Store, available weekends from 9am to 6pm as weather permits. The road to the grove is closed to vehicles after the first big snowstorm, making it a peaceful hike or snowshoe for winter adventurers. See page 7 for Mariposa Grove hiking 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 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 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

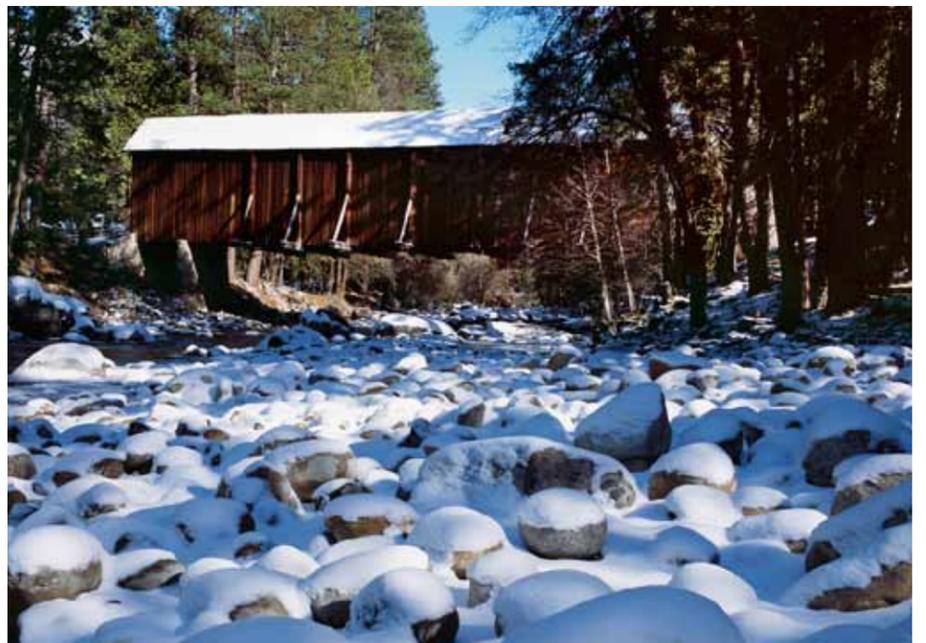
**6** Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. The area's low elevation makes it a good place to hike in autumn and winter. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. Hetch Hetchy Road is open limited hours: 8 am to 7 pm through Oct. 31; then 8 am to 5 pm through March 31. The road is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen Road and is a 1 hour and 15 minute drive from Yosemite Valley. Trailers, vehicles over 25 feet long, and RVs and other vehicles over 8 feet wide are not allowed on the narrow, winding Hetch Hetchy Road.

### Did You Know?

Yosemite has one of the longest-running datasets of breeding birds in the country. Yosemite's songbird banding stations have been operating since 1990 and since that time over 20,000 songbirds have been banded. The park is using this information to track long-term population trends.



The view from Washburn Point. Photo by Ken Watson



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



Tuolumne Meadows deep freeze. Photo by Wendy Malone



Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. NPS photo by Erik Skindrud

# Yosemite Valley

Spectacular vistas in the heart of the park



Upper Yosemite Fall in Winter, NPS Photo

## The Incomparable Yosemite Valley

Yosemite Valley embraces one of the world's most outstanding concentrations of waterfalls, granite walls, meadows, wildflowers, and trees. The Valley also harbors a rich collection of human stories, from American Indian lore to the birth of the National Park movement.

### Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 5-6 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

The base of **Lower Yosemite Fall** is an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. (Both Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls will be dry until rain and snow return.) This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired. Although Yosemite Falls dries up by the end of the summer, **Bridalveil Fall** is a year-round waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley. Winds swirling about the cliff lift and blow the falling water in a delicate free-fall.

**El Capitan**, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. From spring to fall, climbers come from all over the globe to scale El Capitan. *Note: Please park on the paved road shoulder next to El Capitan Meadow. Delicate meadows are easily damaged by trampling, so please stay on footpaths.*

**Half Dome**, Yosemite's most distinctive

monument, dominates most views in Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook's Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

**Happy Isles** is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story.

*Shuttle buses may not travel to stop #16 when the road is snow-covered or icy.*

### Winter Sports

**Badger Pass Ski Area** is scheduled to open December 14, conditions permitting. When open, lifts operate daily from 9am to 4pm. Call 209-372-8430 for more information.

Free shuttle bus to Badger Pass: Departs Curry Village 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. / Departs Yosemite Village 8:10 a.m., 10:40 a.m. / Departs Ahwahnee 8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. / Departs Yosemite Lodge 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. // Returns to Valley from

Badger Pass 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.

**Curry Village Ice Skating Rink:** Weekends/Holidays - four sessions - 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. / noon - 2:30 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. / 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mon - Fri - two sessions - 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. / 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. To learn more: 209/372-8341.

**Tunnel View**, along Wawona Road (Hwy 41) provides a classic view of Yosemite Valley, including El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridalveil Fall. It is particularly spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.

**To experience the Valley on foot**, stop by a visitor center for a trail map and the most current trail conditions, or see page 9 for a list of popular Valley day hikes.

**Weather permitting, motor coach sightseeing tours are available in Yosemite.** To experience the Valley with a guide, take the Valley Floor Tour. This 2-hour tour departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge.

### Camping in Yosemite

Camping is available on a first come, first served basis in Yosemite Valley at Upper Pines and Camp 4.

Reservations are required March 15 through November for Yosemite Valley's car campgrounds and summer through fall for Hodgdon Meadow, Crane Flat, Wawona, and half of Tuolumne Meadows. Campground reservations are available in blocks of one month at a time, up to five months in advance, on the 15th of each month at 7 am Pacific Time. Be aware that nearly all reservations for the months of May through September and for some other weekends are filled the first day they become available, usually within seconds or minutes after 7 am.

To make reservations, visit [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) (recommended) or call 877/444-6777



Illustration by Jesus Delores

# Events and Programs

Where to go and what to do

	YOSEMITE VALLEY, BADGER PASS, AND BEYOND	WAWONA
<b>Sunday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Adventure Hike-Snowshoe to Dewey Point</b> 6 ½ hours. Badger Pass Nordic Center. Tickets/Info at any tour desk. (YMS)</p> <p>10:00am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. 20 only) 3 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Bears</b> 1 1/2hrs. shuttle stop #6 (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 16 only) 30 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. 27 only) 2 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC) ♿</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Programs listed in <b>ALL CAPS AND COLOR</b> are especially for children and their families</p> </div>
<b>Monday</b>	<p>8:45am <b>Adventure Hike- Snowshoe in Toulumne Grove of Sequoias</b> (ONLY Monday 1/21/13) 6 1/2 Hours Yosemite Lodge at the Falls, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance at The Ansel Adams Gallery and meet at the Ahwahnee Hotel. (TAAG)</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>“Using your Digital Camera” Class</b> (Except December 24) 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Yosemite’s First People</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 24 only) 30 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>4:00pm <b>Naturalist Stroll</b> (Jan. &amp; Feb. only) 1 hr. Check local listings for topic. The Ahwahnee back lawn (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. (NPS) ♿</p>	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> (Except Dec. 25) 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery.</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>“In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams” Class</b> (Except Dec. 25) 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Geology</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 18 &amp; 25 only) 30 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC) ♿</p> <p>8:00pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES</b> (Jan. 1 only) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (Dec. 18 &amp; 25 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening to ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Adventure Hike- Snowshoe to Dewey Point</b> 6 ½ hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>9:00am <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> (Except Jan. 23) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge (DNC) ♿</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except Dec 12) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Yosemite’s Legacy</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:00pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES</b> (Dec. 26 only) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>CHILDREN’S STORYBOOK HOUR</b> (Dec. 26 only) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. 23 only) 2 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> - 1hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. (NPS) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (Dec. 19 &amp; 26 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening to ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Thursday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> (except Dec 13) Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>“Using your Digital Camera” Class</b> 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. &amp; Feb. only) 3 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Trees</b> 1 1/2 hrs. The Ahwahnee shuttle stop #3 (NPS)</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 13 &amp; 20 only) 30 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. 24 only) 2 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC) ♿</p> <p>8:00pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES</b> (Dec. 27 only) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (Dec. 20 &amp; 27 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening to ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Friday</b>	<p>9:00am <b>WEE WILD ONES</b> (Except Jan. 25) 45 mins. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge (DNC) ♿</p> <p>10:00am <b>Beginner Backcountry Lesson-“Off-piste” Ski to Tempo Dome</b> (Jan. 18 only) 3hrs. Badger Pass Nordic Center, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Wild About Wildlife</b> 1 1/2 hrs. Front of Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 14 only) 30 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. 25 only) 2 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Evening Program</b> 1hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (TAAG) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow</b> (Dec. 21 only) 1 hr. Tickets at any tour desk or at door, if available. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Garden Terrace Room (DNC) \$ ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Film: Ansel Adams</b> (except December 21) 1hr. Check Local listings for venue. (TAAG).</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Evening Winter Solstice Program</b> (Dec 21 only) 1 hr. Meet at Yosemite Lodge, check local listings for venue. Join a ranger for a celebration of the seasons as we begin the winter months. Program will begin indoors and move outdoors for a look at the winter night sky and constellations, weather permitting. Bring flashlight. (NPS)</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (Dec. 14, 21 &amp; 28 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening to ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>
<b>Saturday</b>	<p>8:00am <b>Trek to the Edge 1</b> (Feb. 9 only) 7 hr. Naturalist-led snowshoe trek to Dewey Point. Snowshoes provided. Requires advanced reservation, please call 209/379-2317 ext. 10. (YC) \$</p> <p>8:45am <b>Adventure Hike- Snowshoe in Toulumne Grove of Sequoias</b> (Jan. 19 only) 6 1/2hrs. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls, Mountaineering School Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$</p> <p>9:00am <b>Camera Walk</b> 1½ hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery. (TAAG)</p> <p>9:00am <b>Mariposa Grove Snowshoe Trek</b> (Jan. 12 only) 7 hr. Naturalist-led snowshoe trek. Snowshoes provided. Requires advanced reservation, please call 209/379-2317 ext. 10. (YC) \$</p> <p>10:00am <b>JUNIOR RANGER TALK</b> 15 min. talk about a Yosemite topic, Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) ♿</p> <p>10:30am <b>Snowshoe Walk – Explore the Forest in Winter</b> Conditions permitting, 2 hrs, Meet at Badger Pass A-frame for naturalist tour of winter landscape. Bring warm clothing; snowshoes provided. (NPS)</p> <p>12:30pm <b>“In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams” Class</b> 4hrs. Sign up in advance and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG) \$</p> <p>1:00pm <b>Crane Flat to Clark Range Vista Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. &amp; Feb. only) 3 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk (DNC) \$</p> <p>2:00pm <b>Ranger Walk - Merced Meanders</b> 1 1/2 hrs. shuttle stop #6 (NPS)</p> <p>2:00pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES</b> (Dec. 29 only) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls (DNC) ♿</p> <p>2:30pm <b>History of Bracebridge Talk</b> (Dec. 22 only) 30 mins. The Ahwahnee Winter Club Room (DNC) ♿</p> <p>3:00pm <b>Fine Print Tour</b> 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up and meet at The Ansel Adams Gallery (TAAG)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>Full Moon Snowshoe Walk</b> (Jan. 26 only) 2 hrs. No experience required, advance sign up required at any tour desk. Badger Pass Lodge (DNC) \$</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Ranger Evening Program</b> 1hr. Check local listings for venue and topic. (NPS) ♿</p> <p>7:00pm <b>Winter Theater Live! The Spirit of John Muir: Stories of Ice and Snow</b> (Dec. 22 only) 1 hr. Tickets at any tour desk or at door, if available. Yosemite Lodge at the Falls Garden Terrace Room (DNC) \$ ♿</p> <p>8:00pm <b>FIRESIDE STORYTELLING FOR ALL AGES</b> (Jan. 5 only) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee Great Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>	<p>5:30pm <b>Vintage Music of Yosemite</b> (Dec. 15, 22 &amp; 29 only) 4 hrs. Live music and historical programs with pianist/singer Tom Bopp. Programs are available by request, usually given at 8:30pm. For more details, drop by the piano early in the evening to ask Tom or stop by the front desk. Wawona Hotel Lounge (DNC) ♿</p>

## Access for People with Disabilities



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/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/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 is available upon request. Contact Deaf Services at 209/379-5250 (v/txt) Two weeks advance notice is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are 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. Refer to the Accessibility Guide, or contact an Accessibility Coordinator for more information.

- NPS** National Park Service
- DNC** DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.
- TAAG** The Ansel Adams Gallery
- YC** Yosemite Conservancy
- \$** Programs offered for a fee

# Yosemite Valley



Yosemite Valley in Winter, NPS Photo

Even when it's cold outside, Yosemite Valley offers great activities and programs for the whole family.

## Valley Visitor Center and Yosemite Bookstore

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 5 pm, just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The center offers information, maps, and books in the attached bookstore. Explore the exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite's spectacular landscape was formed, how people have interacted with it through the centuries, how wildlife adapts and survives, and how your national park continues to evolve.

### FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE

Spirit of Yosemite Hours: shown every 30 minutes, Monday through Saturday between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm, Sunday between noon and 4:30 pm in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

## Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits and bear canisters can be obtained at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center daily from 9am to 5pm.

## Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center. Open 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.

### YOSEMITE CONSERVANCY MUSEUM STORE

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

## The Ansel Adams Gallery

The gallery is located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center and is open daily. Hours are 9am to 5pm. Starting January 1, 2013, hours will be 10am to 5pm. The Ansel Adams Gallery will close at 3pm on December 24th and will be closed December 25th.

The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. See page 5 for photo walk and other event times. For more information, call 209/372-4413, or visit [www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com).

### NEW EXHIBIT

East and West: Photographs by Richard Lohmann and Tom Mallonee

November 20th – January 6th, 2013  
(Reception November 24th from 2-4pm)

## Yosemite Conservancy Outdoor Adventures

Yosemite Conservancy is passionate about sharing the wonders of Yosemite through our Outdoor Adventure programs. Join one of the many year-round programs available and explore everything Yosemite has to offer.

### January 12

Mariposa Grove Snowshoe Trek  
*Snowshoe among giants with naturalist-guide Dick Ewart*

### January 17-20

Winter Landscape Photography  
*Capture winter memories with photographer John Senser*

### February 9

Trek to the Edge 1  
*Snowshoe to Dewey Point with naturalist-guide Karen Amstutz*

### February 22-23

Photographing the "Firefall"  
*Photographing a unique Yosemite phenomenon with photographer John Senser*

Find detailed information about these programs at [www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org/adventures) or call 209/379-2317, ext. 10. Camping and park entry are included, additional lodging options available. Custom tours can also be arranged for individuals, families and groups. Proceeds support Yosemite Conservancy, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and preserving Yosemite.

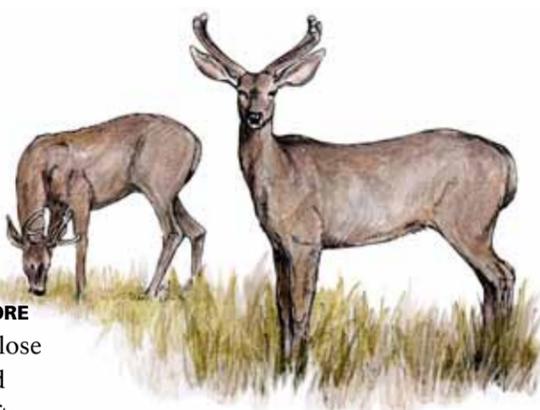


Illustration by Tom Whitworth

### POST OFFICE

Yosemite Village  
**Main Office**  
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm  
Saturday: 10am to noon  
Yosemite Lodge  
**Post Office**  
Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm  
El Portal  
**Post Office**  
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm  
*closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30*  
Wawona Post Office  
Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm  
Saturday: 9am to noon

### BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL

Yosemite Village  
**The Ansel Adams Gallery**  
9am to 5pm. *Starting January 1, 2013 - 10am to 5pm. The Ansel Adams Gallery will close at 3pm on Dec. 24th and will be closed Dec. 25th.*  
**Yosemite Conservancy Bookstore Inside Yosemite Visitor Center**  
9am to 5pm  
**Yosemite Conservancy Museum Store**  
9am to 5pm, *may close for lunch*  
**Village Store**  
8am to 8pm  
**Habitat Yosemite**  
11am to 4pm Thurs.-Sat. only  
**Sport Shop**  
10am to 4pm  
The Ahwahnee  
**The Ahwahnee Gift Shop**  
8am to 8pm  
**The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop**  
7am to 10pm  
Yosemite Lodge  
**Gift/Grocery**  
8am to 7pm  
**Nature Shop**  
11am to 7pm  
Curry Village  
**Mountain Shop**  
9am to 4pm  
**Curry Village Gift/Grocery**  
9am-7pm, *(closing for renovation after business hours on Jan 6, 2013)*

Wawona Area  
**Wawona Store and Pioneer Gift Shop**  
8am to 5pm

### WINTER SPORTS

**Badger Pass Ski Area and Sport Shop**, 9am to 4pm, Scheduled to open Dec. 14, weather and conditions permitting.

Hours listed are core hours for facilities and may be extended during periods of peak visitation. Check local postings for changes to hours of operation.

**FOOD & BEVERAGE**

**Yosemite Village**  
**Degnan's Delicatessen**  
 7am to 5pm  
**The Ahwahnee**  
**Dining Room**  
 Breakfast: 7am to 10am  
 Lunch: 11am to 2pm  
 Dinner 5-8pm Reservations and appropriate attire are respectfully requested. 372-1489. *No a la carte service on Bracebridge nights: Dec. 13/14/16/18/20/22/24/25.*  
 Sunday Brunch: 7am to 2pm  
*Appropriate attire required for dinner. Reservations recommended for all meals, strongly recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch. 209/372-1489.*  
**The Ahwahnee Bar** 11:30am to 11pm  
**The Coffee Bar** 7am to 10:30am

**Yosemite Lodge**  
**Food Court**  
 Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am  
 Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm  
 Dinner: Sunday - Thursday 5pm - 8pm and Friday and Saturday 5pm-8:00pm  
**Mountain Room Lounge**  
 Mon-Fri 4:30 pm - 11 pm / Sat& Sun Noon - 11pm / Dec 24-Jan 1 Noon - 11 pm/ New Year's Eve Noon - 1 am  
**Mountain Room Restaurant**  
 Sun-Thu 5 pm -8:00 pm / Fri & Sat 5 pm-8:30 pm/ Christmas 4 pm - 9 pm /New Year's Eve 5 pm- 10:30 pm  
 Reservations taken for 8 or more. 209/372-1281

**Curry Village**  
**Coffee Corner**  
 Open 7 - 11am Saturday, Dec.15 and Sunday, Dec.16/ Open daily Dec.22 thru Jan.1st. Then 7 - 11 am Saturdays and Sundays in January and February, and Mondays on holiday weekends (Martin Luther King Jr. and Presidents Day weekends).  
**Pizza Deck**  
 Open 5 - 9pm daily beginning Dec. 14- Dec.31/ Noon - 9pm Dec. 22 and 29 and Dec.23 and 30. Open Fridays 5pm to 9pm and Noon to 9pm Saturdays in January and February. Also open Noon to 9 PM on Sundays of Martin Luther King Jr. and Presidents Day weekends.  
**Guest Lounge** 8am-10pm

**Wawona**  
**Wawona Hotel Dining Room**  
 Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am *Breakfast complimentary for Hotel Guests.*  
 Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm  
 Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm, Sunday-Thursday, 5pm-9pm Friday-Saturday  
 For dinner reservations for 6 or more persons, call 209/375-1425 - *The Wawona Hotel closes for the season January 6, 2013*  
 Lounge Service: 5pm-9:30pm

**GROCERIES**

**Yosemite Lodge**  
**Gift/Grocery**  
 8am to 7pm  
**Yosemite Village**  
**Village Store**  
 8am to 8pm  
**Curry Village**  
**Gift/Grocery**  
 9am to 7pm *(closing for renovation after business hours on Jan 6, 2013)*  
**Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop**  
 8am to 5pm  
**Crane Flat**  
**Store** 10am-4pm

**GAS STATIONS**

**Gas outside Yosemite Valley**  
**El Portal**  
 Diesel available  
 Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card  
**Wawona Gas Station**  
 9am to 5pm. Diesel & propane.  
 Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card.  
**Crane Flat**  
 10am-4pm. Diesel available. Pay 24 hours with credit or debit card

**SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY**

**Curry Village Showers**  
 Open 24 hours  
**Housekeeping Camp Laundromat**  
 8am to 10pm

# Visitor Services

## Beyond Yosemite Valley



Western Bluebird NPS Photo

## Wawona Visitor Center

Bookstore only – through Dec. 30th: open 9-4 daily, may close for lunch; Dec. 31st: closed for season

## 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.

## Evening Programs

Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite's past.

## Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits can be obtained by self registration on the front porch of Hill's Studio and bear canisters are available for rent at the Wawona Store.

## Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite's South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park's largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. A few of these giants are visible in the parking area.

Information about access for disabled people is available at the tram boarding area. The road to the Grove typically closes in November or December. Visitors can walk, ski, or snowshoe when the road is closed to vehicles.

**GETTING TO MARIPOSA GROVE**

Allow 1½ hours driving time to reach the grove from the Valley. Cars are prohibited beyond the grove parking lot.

Trailers are prohibited on the Mariposa Grove Road. Private vehicles longer than 25 feet are not permitted.

**WALKING THROUGH THE GROVE**

Trails into the grove extend uphill from the trailhead at the far end of the parking area. Interpretive signs between the trailhead and the California Tree provide a self-guiding tour. Written translations are available at the trailhead in Spanish, German, French, and Japanese. When snow covers the ground, access is limited to foot, snowshoe, or ski.

Dogs and bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Mariposa Grove.

## Big Oak Flat

### Big Oak Flat Information Station

Bookstore only – through Dec. 30th: open Friday-Sunday, 9-4, may close for lunch; Dec. 31st: closed for season

## Wilderness Permits

Starting October 15th, the Tioga Road from Crane Flat to Tioga Pass, including all parking lots, is closed to any overnight parking and wilderness permits can be obtained by self registration on the front porch of the information station.

## Merced Grove

Yosemite's quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees accessible only on foot. It's a four-mile round-trip hike, ski, or snowshoe (about three hours) into the grove from Big Oak Flat Road (Highway 120 West). Located 3½ miles north of Crane Flat and 4½ miles south of the Big Oak Flat Entrance, the trailhead is marked by a road sign and post labeled B-10.

## Tuolumne Grove

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat at the intersection of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the grove. Now closed to cars, this path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip (you can walk, ski, or snowshoe) is moderately strenuous uphill. Within the Tuolumne Grove there is an easy, half-mile, self-guiding nature trail.

**GENERAL SERVICES**

**Village Garage**  
 8am to 5pm Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4:30pm. 209/372-8320

**Dental Services**  
 Adjacent to Yosemite Medical Clinic. For hours, call 209/372-4200. If no answer, call 209/372-4637

**Yosemite Medical Clinic**  
 The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am and 5:00pm and is closed on Saturday and Sunday. 24 hour emergency ambulance service continues to be available. Emergency care: 24 hours daily. 209/372-4637

**RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

**YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH** (Yosemite Chapel) Pastor Brent Moore Resident Minister, 209-372-4831

www.yosemitevalleychapel.org, Wedding information on our website.

**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
 9:15 AM (Sunday School available).  
 6:30 P.M. Sunday Evening Service/Bible Study

**TUESDAY BIBLE STUDIES**  
 Women's Bible 7:00 PM call chapel for location  
 Men's Bible 7:00 PM call chapel for location

**THURSDAY MIDWEEK SERVICE**  
 Thursday Evening Service 7:00 PM

Various Bible Studies during the week call for times and locations.

**ROMAN CATHOLIC**  
**SUNDAY MASS CELEBRATIONS:**  
 209-372-4729  
 Sunday, 10:00 am Visitor Center Theater, Shuttle Stop # 5 or 9

**CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)**

El Portal Chapel/Worship: Sunday 11 am Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane Information: 209/379-2100

**SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**  
 7:30 pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday  
 DNC General Office Building  
 (Employee Training Center) Yosemite Village

**LIONS CLUB**  
 Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee. Call 209/372-4475.

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**  
 Meets Thursdays for lunch at noon in The Ahwahnee Mural Room. Visiting Rotarian families and guests welcome. For meeting reservations or information, call 209/372-0282.

# Protecting yourself...



Ski lift at Badger Pass 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.

### Around Ice and Water

Stay off of frozen lakes, rivers and streams and away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards.

### Avoid Hypothermia

Sierra winters are comparatively mild, but temperatures can drop into dangerous territory with little warning. Winter sports require a high degree of preparation and training. Be prepared to shelter overnight even when out just for the day. Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

Avoid the combination of wetness, wind, and cold. Know symptoms of hypothermia. Carry emergency fire-starting materials and food. Avoid dehydration; carry and drink plenty of water and carry emergency high-energy food.

### Water Quality

To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking. Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier. To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available, and always wash hands afterwards with soap and water. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash, camp, and bury human waste (6 inches deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

### Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules: Please obey posted speed limits. Yosemite's roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park's scenery and wildlife.

### Effects of Altitude

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley's elevation is 4,000 feet). Should altitude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

### Hiking, Backpacking, Backcountry Snow Travel, and Rock Climbing

There are no scheduled winter patrols, so be prepared. Be honest about your abilities and plan with the least experienced member of your group in mind. Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back.

- Be prepared for icy travel before conditions arise. Bring crampons, ice axe, climbing skins, and other traction devices.

- Carry and know how to use a map and compass.

- Check weather forecasts. Snow can occur with little warning, and can make route finding very difficult.

- Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food.

- Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.

- Know how to use your gear and carry basic repair materials.

### Wilderness Permit Details

Free wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips into the Yosemite Wilderness. Please see Wilderness Permit Information on 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. Check the park's website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740.

Information about Half Dome permits is available on our website at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose).

### More Information

- [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm)
- Leave No Trace [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)
- Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue [www.friendofyosar.org](http://www.friendofyosar.org)

### HANTAVIRUS INFORMATION

Mice are an important part of the ecosystem, but can carry diseases that are harmful to humans.

Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) is a rare but serious disease spread in the droppings and saliva of infected rodents. Not all rodents are infected with hantavirus, but infected rodents have been found throughout the US. You can be in close proximity to park rodents, so it is important you take steps to protect yourself from HPS.

Tell housekeeping staff if you see evidence of mice in your tent or cabin and do not clean up the area yourself. Keep doors shut and do not eat or bring food into your cabin that is not in a sealed container. Do not pitch tents near rodent burrows or droppings. HPS begins with aches, fever, and chills 1- 8 weeks after exposure, progressing to cough and difficulty breathing. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience these symptoms.

For more information on rodent-borne diseases and other environmental safety hazards visit: <http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/yoursafety.htm>

# ...and Yosemite



## Keeping Bears Wild

Keep Yosemite's Black Bears Wild and Alive, while protecting yourself and your property.

### Store Your Food Properly.

4,000 to 20,000 calories worth of grasses, berries, acorns, and grubs—that's the typical daily diet of most bears. It's a lot easier for a bear to eat the thousands of calories of food in an ice chest than it is to spend all day nibbling at 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 can see in color, so they recognize ice chests, grocery bags, and other food containers as potential food sources.

### 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 is 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.

### 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.**

## 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

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 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	5-mile loop, 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

# A Bird's-eye View Into Yosemite

By Sarah Stock



American Kestrel Photo by Peggy Sellss

Bird watching is a great way to experience the magic of Yosemite. It doesn't matter if you are backpacking, hiking, or simply looking out your car window, beautiful and fascinating birds are everywhere. If you are near El Capitan, watch for Peregrine Falcons soaring on thermals at the cliff's edge or pursuing White-throated Swifts at speeds that exceed 200 mph. If you are driving on the Big Oak Flat Road, scan the snags above Foresta for Golden Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, and American Kestrels. If you are hiking along the shore of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, keep your eyes peeled for interesting water birds, like Pied-billed Grebes, Double-crested Cormorants, or Common Loons. And if you are hiking Yosemite's alpine peaks, watch for flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches scavenging dead insects off the snow.

Even though bird watching can be an intensely personal experience, it does not necessarily need to be a solitary endeavor. Bird watching comes with its own built-in community of passionate, knowledgeable, and friendly nature-loving types. In Yosemite, the annual Christmas Bird Count is a great example of this community spirit. Each December, dedicated park residents, visitors, and employees gather together, often braving rain, snow, and wind, to count as many birds as possible in a 24-hour period. The Christmas Bird Count began in 1900 by the National Audubon Society as an alternative to Christmas day bird hunts, and in

Yosemite the annual count has been going strong since 1932. In that time, we have observed Common Ravens increase exponentially, Chestnut-backed Chickadees show up in small numbers in Yosemite Valley, Varied Thrushes and Band-tailed Pigeons irrupt in relation to their food availability, and have learned to expect large flocks of White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos in El Portal.

Observations such as these have been the springboard for a myriad of scientific studies in Yosemite. Park biologists are studying specific habitat needs and population trends of sensitive bird species, such as the Great Gray Owl and the Peregrine Falcon. These studies provide the scientific basis for protecting their nests and habitats from inadvertent harm. Biologists are also researching bird communities in the park's wet meadows to learn more about what habitat features are important to enhance during park meadow restoration projects. In Poopenaut Valley, biologists are studying breeding birds in order to gain a more complete understanding of altered ecological conditions below Hetch

Hetchy Reservoir. When it comes to understanding and protecting the ecological health of the park, birds represent a critical piece of the puzzle.

As indicators of environmental conditions, birds are telling us an important story about the park's future in a changing climate. An incredible 264 species of birds have been documented in the park; some will adapt and succeed over time, others will struggle and decline, and some will disappear. A University of California Berkeley study has found that many Sierra species have shifted their ranges upslope during the past century, likely in response to changes in temperature and precipitation patterns. More recently, park biologists partnered with researchers from the Institute for Bird Populations to discover that the once common Willow Flycatcher, a diminutive gray-green songbird that brightens the soundscape of Sierra meadows with its cheerful "fitz-bew" song, no longer breeds in the park. Yet these changes likely pale in comparison to changes that are expected to result from accelerating climate change in the coming decades. To prepare for

these changes, park biologists and collaborating researchers are assessing the effects of annual weather variation on birds, predicting the effects of future climate change, and taking management actions to help cushion species – all critical steps for safeguarding Yosemite's much-celebrated birdlife.

As that flash of feathers catches your eye or that melodious trill pleases your ear, be sure to take a moment to sharpen your senses to your surroundings. Every bird exists as part of a rich ecosystem teeming with plants and animals. In Yosemite, a bird might lead you to discover other animals, such as coyotes, mule deer, and black bears. An excursion to find a Sooty Grouse might lead you to the red fir forests off Glacier Point Road. A Lincoln's Sparrow or Yellow Warbler might lead you to the willows and lush grasses that make up Wawona Meadow. An American Dipper might lead you to explore boulder-strewn rapids, as described by John Muir over a century ago.

*Go see him and love him, and through him as through a window look into Nature's warm heart.* – John Muir, 1901

*Sarah Stock is a wildlife biologist at Yosemite National Park, where she has been overseeing the Terrestrial Biodiversity Program since 2006. She graduated from The Evergreen State College with a B.S. in ecology and the University of Idaho with an M.S. in zoology. Sarah currently manages research projects ranging from Great Gray Owls to songbirds, and Pacific fisher and bats to bighorn sheep.*

## Did You Know?

The first Christmas Bird Count was inspired over a hundred years ago as an alternative to a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt"? Prior to the turn of the century, people engaged in this hunting tradition would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won. Since Christmas day 1900, the Christmas Bird Count has become a popular tradition of counting birds instead of hunting them and includes tens of thousands of volunteers all over North America.

# 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.



### 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.anseladamsgallery.com](http://www.anseladamsgallery.com).



### 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](http://www.anseladams.com)

**DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite**  
PO Box 578  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
801/559-5000  
[www.yosemitepark.com](http://www.yosemitepark.com)

**Yosemite Conservancy**  
101 Montgomery Street, Suite 1700  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
800/469-7275  
415/434-0745 fax  
[www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org)

**NatureBridge**  
PO Box 487  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
209/379-9511  
209/379-9510 fax  
[www.yni.org](http://www.yni.org)

### DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite (DNC) operates hotels, restaurants, sightseeing tours, recreational activities, interpretive programs, stores, shuttles and service stations in the park under contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior. DNC encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure.

For more information and employment opportunities with DNC at Yosemite, visit online at: [www.YosemitePark.com](http://www.YosemitePark.com)



### NatureBridge

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



### Yosemite Conservancy

Yosemite Conservancy is the only philanthropic organization that is dedicated exclusively to the protection and preservation of Yosemite National Park and enhancement of the visitor experience. Through the support of our donors, we have provided over \$70 million in grants to Yosemite. The Conservancy works to restore trails, protect wildlife through scientific research and habitat restoration, and offers outdoor programs that provide visitors with unique ways to connect with the park. The work of the Conservancy can be found in every aspect of the visitor experience from trail restoration, bear-proof lockers, wilderness permits, wildlife preservation, volunteer opportunities, and the production of award-winning books and DVDs. Join us today to preserve your park at [www.yosemiteconservancy.org](http://www.yosemiteconservancy.org) or call 800-469-7275.



*Providing For Yosemite's Future*

### Park Planning Updates

#### Providing Access and Protecting Resources: The Draft Tuolumne and Merced River Plans

Yosemite National Park is putting the final touches on river plans that will guide long-term resource protection, visitor use and facilities management in the Merced and Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridors. Visit Yosemite's planning webpage to find out more about the plans, proposed release dates, and opportunities for public input.

• <http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/planning.htm>

#### Monthly Public Open House

Join park and partner staff to learn about projects and plans at a free monthly public Open House! An Open House will be held on January 30, 2013, from 1-4pm in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium. *Park entrance fees will be waived for those attending the Open Houses!*



Bottom right: Common Raven. Photo by Karen Amstutz/ Above right: Half Dome. Photo by Christine White Loberg