

# Y o s e m i t e m o t e l s

## Why Yosemite motels are so distinctive

We're the largest provider of lodging closest to Yosemite National Park (Almost 800 rooms and suites). And, we're a major provider of lodging outside Bryce Canyon National Park. Each of our motels has its own special character and all of them are quality properties.

### HEADQUARTERS

P.O. Box 1989  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
(209) 742-7106 Main; (209) 742-7189 Fax;  
**Reservations: (800) 321-5261**  
[reservations@yosemite-motels.com](mailto:reservations@yosemite-motels.com)  
[www.yosemite-motels.com](http://www.yosemite-motels.com)

### Yosemite View Lodge

El Portal, California  
279 rooms and suites. Closest lodging to Yosemite Valley, situated beside a spectacular stretch of the Merced River. Luxury accommodations with kitchenettes, fireplaces, private balconies, in-room spas and double showers available. Indoor-outdoor swimming pools and spas. 150-seat restaurant. Bar. Gift and food shop. Lounge. ATM. Meeting/banquet rooms. Nature trail. \$109 - \$149. (209) 379-2681; FAX (209) 379-2704

### Cedar Lodge

El Portal, California  
211 rooms and suites. Secluded beach along Merced River. Indoor-outdoor swimming pools and spa. Conference & banquet room seats 250.

Nature trail. Gift shop. Family restaurant, pizza parlor and bar. \$99 - \$135. (209) 379-2612; FAX (209) 379-2712

### Comfort Inn Oakhurst

Oakhurst, California  
114 rooms and suites. Swimming pool and spa. Numerous restaurants within walking distance. Visitor Center nearby. \$89 - \$129. (559) 683-8282; (559) 658-7030

### Best Western Yosemite Way Station

Mariposa, CA  
78 rooms. Conference Room seats 150  
Swimming pool, spa  
Numerous restaurants within walking distance  
\$79 - \$85. (209) 966-7545; FAX (209) 966-6353

### Comfort Inn

Mariposa, CA  
61 rooms-suites. Swimming pool-spa. Many restaurants nearby. Historic church and jail adjacent. \$79 - \$89. Houses: \$189 - 359.  
(209) 966-4344; FAX (209) 966-4655

### E.C. Yosemite Motel

Mariposa, California  
28 rooms. Swimming pool-spa. Many restaurants within walking distance. Visitor center and bank across the street. \$59 - \$76. (209) 742-6800; FAX (209) 742-6719

### Bryce Canyon Resorts

Located next to Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah  
76 rooms and cabins. Restaurant. Indoor swimming pool. Gift shop. \$29 - \$85.  
(800) 834-0043; (435) 834-5351; FAX (435) 834-5256



# Y o s e m i t e a c t i v i t i e s

## Inside Y o s e m i t e N a t i o n a l P a r k

### Classes and Programs

- Evening Programs
- Living History Programs
- Nature walks, talks and hikes
- Photo Walks, each morning
- Native-American Cultural Program
- Field Seminars
- Yosemite Theater

### Sightseeing Tours

- Valley Floor Tour, 2, hours
- Glacier Point Tour, 4 hours
- Glacier Point Sunset Tour, 4 hours
- Glacier Point Hiker's Bus, 4 hours
- Big Trees Tram Tour, 1 hour
- Mariposa Grove Tour, 6 hours
- Grand Tour, all day
- Moonlight Tour, 2 hours

### Guided Saddle Trips

- 4 and 6-day saddle trips

### Self-guided Tours

- A Changing Yosemite, 45 minutes, begin at Valley Visitor Center
- The People of Ahwahnee, 30 minutes, begin behind Valley Visitor Center
- Giant Sequoias, 1 to 2 hours, at Mariposa and Tuolumne Groves of Big Trees

### Children's Programs

- Junior and Senior Rangers (8 – 12 yrs)
- Junior Snow Rangers (winter)

- Family Program Walks
- School Programs

### Spring, Summer and Fall

- Bicycle Rentals, Yosemite Lodge or Curry Village
- River Rafting, Curry Village
- Rock Climbing School, Curry Village, Sept. to June; Tuolumne Meadows, July to Oct.
- Hiking and Backpacking Instruction and Guided Trips
- Fishing

### Winter

- Alpine Skiing, Badger Pass, 9 runs, 5 lifts, all abilities
- Cross-Country Skiing, Badger Pass, 21 miles of groomed trails
- Snowshoeing, Badger Pass
- Ranger-led Snowshoe Walks, Badger Pass
- Ice Skating Rink, Curry Village
- 2-hour Valley Floor Tour, heated motor coach
- Winter Field Seminars

### Special Events

- Yosemite Vintner's Holidays, mid-Nov. to mid-Dec.
- Bracebridge Dinner, Dec. 22, 24 and 25, applications accepted Dec.15 through Jan.15
- Yosemite Pioneer Christmas, Wawona
- Yosemite Chefs Holidays, January
- Yosemite Nordic Holidays, 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. in March
- Yosemite Spring Ski Festival, last weekend of each ski season

# Public Lands

## Yosemite n.p. Entrance Fees

- Sedan (1-8 passengers) - \$25\*
- Van (7-15) - \$125\*
- Mini-bus (16-25) - \$200
- Coach (25+) - \$300

All commercial vehicles entering a national park must obtain a permit. Call (209) 372-0200 for more information.

## Merced River Canyon (BLM)

### Whitewater Rafting

- Red Bud to Suspension, 8 mi., Class III and IV (difficult)
- Suspension to Split Rock, 8 mi., Class II and III (medium)
- Split Rock to Bagby, 12 mi., Class III, IV and V (very difficult)

### Whitewater Outfitters

- Ahwahnee Whitewater
- American River Recreation
- ARTA
- California Rafting Adventures
- Mariah Wilderness Expeditions
- Whitewater Voyages

### Fishing

- Park Boundary to Foresta Bridge, 2-trout limit, min. fish 12 inches, open all year
- Foresta Bridge to Bagby, 5-trout limit, open last Sat. in April through Nov. 15

### Wildflower Trails

- Best in March, April and May, California Poppies best in March

## Lake McClure and Lake McSwain

- Fishing
- Water skiing
- Boating
- Picnicking

## California State Parks

### SR 49

- California State Mining and Mineral Museum, Mariposa
- Bower Cave, Coulterville (Selected to be a future State Park!)
- Railtown 1897 SHP, Jamestown
- Columbia SHP, Columbia
- Calaveras Big Trees SP, Arnold
- Indian Grinding Rock SHP, Volcano



### US 395

- Mono Lake Tufa SR, Lee Vining
- Bodie SHP, Bodie

### SR 49

- Wassama Round House SHP, Oakhurst

## Sierra National Forest

- Miami Motorcycle and ATV Trails (60 mi. of off-road trails located 6 and 8 miles north of Oakhurst off SR 41)

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\* Good for 7 days with receipt

# Y o s e m i t e S t o r y I d e a s

## y e a r - r o u n d

**Yosemite's Changing Gateway** – A transformation has been occurring at Yosemite National Park and it's good news for people seeking quality accommodations at a reasonable price. Old, outdated accommodations at the entrances to the Park have been replaced with amenity-rich riverfront rooms. The Yosemite View Lodge, for example, overlooks the Merced River and features fireplaces, air conditioning, double spa tubs, double showers, private balconies and kitchenettes all for \$150 per night and less, double occupancy.

**Guided Fly Fishing** – Knowledgeable and experienced outdoorsmen and women of the Yosemite Guides, from their base at the Yosemite View Lodge in El Portal, take Yosemite visitors to the secret and remote places along the Merced River and nearby tributaries on full day or half day guided fly fishing expeditions.

**Guided Hikes** – People seeking maximum enjoyment during their Yosemite National Park visit are hiring private guides from the Yosemite Guides to take them on private rim hikes, high country trails, sunset walks and full moon walks.

**Guided Birdwatching** – The power and beauty of Yosemite's birds – from the Black Swift jetting across verticle canyon cliffs, to the wild song of the Canyon Wren – are revealed on private guided bird walks by naturalists of the Yosemite Guides. Group walks or custom walks are available.

**Photo Walks** –Free photo walks and classes are provided by professional Yosemite photographers for park visitors throughout the year. These walks leave each day from a different location: Yosemite Lodge, The Ahwahnee or The Ansel Adams Gallery.

**In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams** – Join a professional Yosemite photographer as you follow in the footsteps of Ansel Adams to his favorite photo locations. Hear stories of the great photographer as you take photographs.

**Getting Married in Yosemite** – Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, wedding couples choose Yosemite to say their vows and honeymoon. Whether standing in a gazebo with the rushing Merced River as backdrop or at the historic Yosemite Chapel with Half Dome as backdrop, a wedding at Yosemite is surrounded by beauty.

**Vintage Mariposa** – One of California's first wine countries was the Gold Country. Back during gold rush days, wines were made for '49ers. Today, there is another gold rush to the new wines of this region. In Mariposa County, three major wineries with 125 acres in cultivation produce Merlots, Cabernets, Chardonnays and Zinfandels. North of Mariposa

County, the Gold Country is booming again as tasting rooms and vineyards are replacing stamp mills and mines.

**Yosemite Without A Car** – You can always drive to Yosemite, but what if you didn't? How would you get there? How would you get around once there? No cause for concern. Yosemite is a great place to leave for while you leave your car behind. Amtrak provides transportation to Yosemite daily, as well as several bus companies. Once at Yosemite, there's a free Valley Shuttle Bus, transportation to the Valley from outlying communities and sightseeing tours throughout the Park. Of course, you may prefer to walk, too, since there are 13 miles of level walking trails in the Valley.

**Yosemite Transportation** – How is the national park planning for the future. What transportation programs are underway and how will this affect visitation in the future. Explore the issues that affect

**The Yosemite Plan** – A General Management Plan for Yosemite National Park was issued in 1984. Much was accomplished, but more is still to be done. What is the National Park Service planning relative to this plan and the Park's future. Explore the issues that face the national park with park and community officials.

**Edutourism at Yosemite** – Learning while on vacation has always been part of the national park experience. Today, edutourism programs are conducted by the national park service, non-profit organizations and commercial operators. They include: The Sierra Club, Yosemite Association, Yosemite Institute, Yosemite Guides and Yosemite Concession Services, Inc. as well as many other smaller groups. Field trips, ecotourism seminars, guided walks, hikes, backpacktrips, birdwatching expeditions are provided by several of these groups.

**The Trail of the Mariposa Battalion** – Follow the Mariposa Battalion's footsteps from the Merced River Canyon to Yosemite Valley. Visit the Indian Village of the Ahwahnee and hear the stories of the battalion's entry to the Valley and its consequence.

**A Meeting With John Muir** – Meet actor Lee Stetson who has portrayed John Muir in Yosemite National Park, for years. Hear Muir's words from Stetson and learn of the great naturalist's effort to preserve the wild places and how that idea has spread from Yosemite around the world.

**Pioneer Yosemite** – Tour the Pioneer Yosemite History Center with a Park historian and learn of pioneer life in Yosemite prior to it becoming a National Park. Summer living history programs, announced in The Yosemite Guide and performed by authentically costumed reenactors, introduce visitors to people and events that shaped Yosemite history.

## s p r i n g

**Six-month Spring** – Beginning in mid to late March, the green hillsides of the Merced River Canyon are painted with golden splashes of California poppies, announcing a Yosemite wildflower season that runs through August in the high country. One of the most popular and beautiful of Yosemite's great wildflower trails is the Hite's Cove Trail at Savage's Trading Post on State Route 140. This 4-mile trail has one of the most diverse collections of wildflowers found in the Sierra.

**Yosemite Whitewater** – All levels of whitewater adventures exist along the Wild and Scenic Merced River. In Yosemite Valley, lazy class two and three floats drift down the river as the canyon walls spin above. From El Portal at the Park's west entrance, the Merced River drops in Class III and IV rapids with some sections reaching Class V. Many whitewater companies operate on the river from spring through summer.

**Capturing the Moonbow** – Full moon permitting, join a Yosemite photographer for a nighttime phenomenon, a moonbow seen in the mist of lower Yosemite Fall.

## w i n t e r

**Yosemite Chefs Holidays** – Each January, The Ahwahnee hosts one of America's most distinguished and longest-running culinary programs, the Yosemite Chefs Holidays. A celebration of the best in American regional cooking, distinguished chefs from throughout the United States demonstrate their techniques and cook for attendees. Each session ends with a gala banquet conceived and directed by a featured chef.

**California's Original Ski Area** – Since 1934, Badger Pass Ski Area in Yosemite National Park has entertained families. It is the oldest continuously operating ski area in America and was the first in California. Yosemite competed with Lake Placid for the Winter Olympic Games with Lake Placid winning the bid. While there was little snow in New York for those Olympics, Yosemite dug out from a blizzard.

**Yosemite Ice Rink** – Virtually in the shadow of Glacier Point, the Curry Village Ice Rink in Yosemite Valley has welcomed families since the 1920s. The views of Half Dome are breathtaking, as is the crisp Yosemite Valley air.

**The 50-year-long Ski Lesson** – Nic Fiore (Director of the Yosemite Ski School – oldest ski school in America) has been teaching skiing longer and has taught more people than anyone alive. Since 1949, Nic has skied the slopes and back country of Badger Pass and he tells some very humorous stories of the early days of skisport in America.

**Yosemite's Wilderness Ski Huts** – Looking for solitude... true solitude? Well, if you have the skill and daring to ski a few miles into the wilderness, rustic and romantic ski huts are at the



end of the trail. The stone-flanked Glacier Point Hut overlooks spectacular Glacier Point. At Tuolumne Meadows, cross country skiers base their trips into the High Sierra. While at Ostrander Lake, a stone hut operated by the Sierra Club is the winter retreat of cross country skiers.

**Ski to the Edge** – Ski to the edge of Yosemite Valley on a one day tour to Dewey Point. Join a member of the Yosemite Cross Country Ski School for a guided trip to the edge.

**Snowshoeing Yosemite** – One of the fastest growing winter sports is snowshoeing. And, in Yosemite, it's easy to see why. Pick up your snowshoes from Curry Village (when it's snowed in the Valley or at Badger Pass, anytime in winter, and cross snowfields to beautiful locations. Or head to Crane Flat or Wawona for a walk through the Big Trees.

**Yosemite With Solitude** – What makes winter so special and the favorite season of many Yosemite visitors? Perhaps because in winter, the national park seems almost to be all your own. With foliage off the trees, wildlife (coyotes, deer, bobcats and an occasional bear) are easier to see as they move across the Valley floor. The mountain light is intensified, and the ice and snow of winter create fantasy landscapes for photographers and appreciators of scenic beauty.

**Winter on a Budget** – There is still a winter resort that provides traditional entertainment at traditional prices. The Yosemite area offers bargain-level pricing and an abundance of things to do with budget-conscious families in mind.

**Yosemite Renaissance Art Exhibit** – The artist Thomas Ayers was among the first tourists to enter Yosemite in 1855. Later, Thomas Hill, Christian Jorgenson, Ansel Adams and many other distinguished artists have studied Yosemite and painted it. Many of these paintings are kept at the Yosemite Museum in Yosemite Valley. Others are freshly delivered each year for the Yosemite Renaissance Art Exhibit held each February at the Valley Visitor Center. Meet the curator of the museum and learn of the artistic history of Yosemite and how art helped preserve the park.

**Winter Wildlife** – Many believe wildlife is easier to see in winter. Tour the park with a wildlife photographer and park naturalist and learn wildlife viewing ethics as you search for winter wildlife.

**Snowplay** – Slip, slide and make snow angels in Yosemite Valley and at Crane Flat. Find Yosemite's snow play areas, ideal for sledding, tobogganing, tubing and making snowmen.

**Junior Snow Rangers** – OK, so you're not under four feet tall. We'll still let you join the Junior Snow Rangers for a day to see how the National Park Service teaches kids about the

winter environment. Hey, you might even learn a thing or two, just don't throw any snowballs at the Ranger.

For more information on any of these story ideas, contact: John Poimiroo, (916) 933-8860  
– [poimiroo@cwo.com](mailto:poimiroo@cwo.com)



# Mariposa county activities & iNFO

## attractions

- Horse-drawn Carriage and Stage Rides, Mariposa (SR 140)
- Gold Panning (several recreational areas, commercial guide services, shops and the Mariposa Museum provide gold panning, instruction and supplies), Mariposa
- Aerial Tours of Yosemite and the High Sierra (Mariposa Yosemite Airport), Mariposa (SR 49)
- Yosemite Mountain and Sugar Pine Railroad (antique steam trains and Jenny cars), Fish Camp (SR 41)
- Yosemite Trails Pack Station (1-hour rides, 2-hour rides and walk and lead horses), Fish Camp (SR 41)
- The Miner's Cabin, Yosemite Sugar Pine Railroad

## BACKGROUND INFO

Gold Mining  
The Mariposa Story  
Mining History of Mariposa County  
Chinatown of Coulterville, 1910  
History of Coulterville

## Great Outdoors

- Yosemite Field Seminars (Ecotourism, seminars, guided walks, hikes and backpack trips), Yosemite Association, El Portal (SR 140)
- Yosemite Guides (Ecotourism, Guided Hikes, Birdwatching, Fly Fishing), El Portal (SR 140)
- Fishing Trails
  - Fish Camp Bridge (SR 41)
  - Merced River from Foresta Rd.
  - Merced River from Briceburg
  - Merced River from El Portal
  - Merced River – Bagby – Lake McClure
  - Lake McClure/Horseshoe Bend (SR 132)
- Birdwatching (A local guide provides directions to places where interesting birds are likely to be seen)
- Mountain Biking (a map of Mariposa County mountain bike trails is available at [www.yosemitebug.com](http://www.yosemitebug.com))

## Museums

- California State Mining and Mineral Museum, Mariposa
- Indian Village of the Ahwahnee, Yosemite Village
- Mariposa Museum and History Center, Mariposa
- Pioneer Yosemite History Center, Wawona
- Sierra Club's Le Conte Memorial, Curry Village
- Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center, Tuolumne Meadows
- Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Yosemite Village
- Yosemite Museum, Yosemite Village

# Mariposa county activities & info

## Transportation

- Yosemite Area Traveler Information may be obtained at [www.yosemite.com](http://www.yosemite.com)

## Wine Tasting

- Radanovich Winery (Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel, Sauvignon Blanc)
- Silver Fox Vineyard (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Rhone Varieties)
- Butterfly Creek Winery (Merlot, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon)

## The Arts

- Yosemite Renaissance Art Exhibit – February
- Young Masters – February
- Storytelling Festival – March
- Bluegrass Festival – May
- Mariposa Evenings – Summer
- Feathers, Furs, Scales – October
- Tellabratons – November
- Craft Fair – December

## Historic sites

- Coulterville
  - Crookedest railroad in the world
  - Hangman's Tree
  - Jeffery Hotel
  - Many period buildings
- Mariposa
  - Oldest continuously operating courthouse west of the Rockies
  - Historic Walking Tour
  - Many period buildings
- Hornitos
- Bear Valley
- Mt. Bullion

## Superlatives

- Three tallest waterfalls in North America (Yosemite Falls, 2,425 ft.; Sentinel Fall, 2,000 ft. and Ribbon Fall, 1,612 ft.)
- California's oldest continuously published weekly newspaper (Mariposa Gazette)
- Tallest rock monolith in the U.S. (El Capitan, 3,593 ft.)
- Highest pass in the Sierra Nevada (Tioga, 9,945 ft.)
- Oldest County Courthouse in continuous use west of the Rockies (1854)
- America's Largest Canyon Oak (Jordan Oak)
- Largest County with no stop lights
- America's highest observation platform (Glacier Point, 7,214 ft., 3,214 ft. drop)
- Only California county with a mineral and flower named after it (Mariposite and Mariposa Lily)
- Oldest ski area in North America in continuous use (Badger Pass, 1934)
- Founding father was once the largest single land owner in the United States (John C. Fremont)
- Originally it had the largest land area of any county in California (30,000 square miles)
- Largest producing mine in California (Princeton Mine – at various times)
- Best site for wildflower viewing in the U.S. (Hite's Cove – according to many flower experts)
- Only California county with an insect named after it.
- Oldest hotel in California continuously owned by a single family (Hotel Jeffery)
- Highest known grade of crystalline gold is still mined in Mariposa mines
- Most number of wildlife species in California (80 mammals, 247 birds, 24 reptiles and amphibians, 10 species of fish)

# Mariposa county Special events

## January

- Yosemite Chefs Holidays

## February

- Yosemite Chefs' Holidays
- Young Master's Art Show
- Yosemite Renaissance Art Exhibit

## March



- Yosemite Nordic Holidays (oldest X-C ski race in North America)
- Mariposa Storytelling Festival
- Heritage Days (pre Civil War reenactments)

## April

- Civil War Reenactment
- Yosemite Spring Ski Festival

## May

- Mariposa County American Indian Council Pow Wow
- Gold Rush Days & Bluegrass Festival
- Mariposa Highland Games & Celtic Festival
- Coulterville Annual Coyote Howl

## June

- Mariposa County Pioneer Wagon Train
- Bull Rider's Buckin' Bash
- Run for the Gold Endurance Ride

## July

- Mariposa Evenings (local concerts)
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks
- Classic Car & Craft Show and Street Dance

## August

- Mariposa Evenings

## September

- Mariposa Evenings
- Mariposa District Fair & Homecoming (Labor Day)

## October

- Yosemite Airport Fly-In
- Halloween Carnival

## November

- Tellabratations (story telling sequel)
- Yosemite Vintners Holidays

## December

- Yosemite Vintners Holidays
- Mariposa Crafters Holiday Festival
- Bracebridge Dinner, The Ahwahnee
- Coulterville's A Victorian Christmas



# Mariposa county

## Story ideas

### Mariposa, mother of counties

Yes, the Wild West still exists in California... especially in Mariposa County. Ranching, small towns, historic structures and fewer than 15,000 residents keep the old West alive across this huge chunk of California real estate. Once the largest of California's counties, Mariposa gave birth to all or portions of eleven counties from its original boundaries. Today, Mariposa remains so unpopulated that it doesn't have a single stoplight. Local historians Leroy Radonovich and Scott Pinkerton can provide insights to one of California's most colorful and unexplored places.

### Giants of the Sierra

In a region known for dizzyingly tall waterfalls, massive trees and gigantic granite monoliths, the people of Mariposa County have matched their mountains. Ansel Adams, John Muir, John C. Frémont, and Jessie Benton Frémont are among figures past and present who have changed their world through their art, thoughts and actions. The Mariposa Museum and History Center is a good starting point to explore these compelling human-interest stories.

### Bower Cave

Explore fascinating and mystical Bower Cave, California's next State Park.

### Adventures without trails

Trek across a landscape unmarked by trails. With topographic map and compass in hand, your orienteering will take you to isolated fishing spots, beautiful vistas, and places of great solitude that few others can claim.

### Driving stagecoach routes

Motor along historic stage and wagon roads of California's gold rush. Not much has changed along these historic routes in the past 150 years. Begin at the Mariposa Museum where you can board a restored Cannon Ball stage, then follow interpretive guides available at the museum for your trip to the past.

### College- educated fish

It's said the native trout of the Merced River got their degrees at Stanford. If so, it stands to reason that it must take a Ph.D. in fly fishing to hook them. For the angler who believes he/she can outsmart any fish, there's no more challenging or rewarding river than the Merced. This Wild and Scenic stretch of water is alive with wily fish, but not people. Though SR 140 travels directly beside the river, few fishermen stop to test their lines. Perhaps they're afraid of being taught a lesson by the Merced's educated fish. Join a Yosemite Guide on a fly-fishing expedition and learn from the masters... the Merced's trout, of course.

# Yosemite valley day hikes

## Bridalveil Fall

Easy - Begins at Bridalveil Fall parking lot, 1/2 mi./0.8 km roundtrip, 20 min. roundtrip

Stop #8, 7.2 mi./11.6 km, (2,700'/810m) vertical gain, 6 to 8 hours roundtrip

## Mirror Lake

Easy -- Begins at Mirror Lake Shuttle Stop #17, 1 mi./1.6 km to lake, 1/2 hour to lake

## Mist Trail & John Muir Trail

To Vernal Fall Footbridge - Moderate - Begin from Shuttle Stop #16, 1.4 mi/2 km roundtrip, 1 to 2 hours roundtrip

## Valley Floor Loop

Moderate - Begin at Yosemite Falls Shuttle Stop #7, 13 mi./20.8 km full loop; 6.5 mi./10.4 km. half loop), moderate, 5 to 7 hours full loop; 2.5 to 3.5 hours half loop.

To Top of Vernal Fall - Strenuous - Begin from Shuttle Stop #16, 3mi./4.8 km. roundtrip, (1,000'/300m gain), 2 to 4 hours roundtrip

## Lower Yosemite Fall

Easy -- Begins from Shuttle Stop #7, 1/2 mi./0.8 km, easy, 20 min. roundtrip

To Top of Nevada Fall - Strenuous - Begin from Shuttle Stop #16, 7 mi./11.3 km. roundtrip, (1,900'/570m gain), 6 to 8 hours roundtrip

## Upper Yosemite Fall

To Columbia Rock - Strenuous - Begin from Sunnyside Campground near Shuttle Stop #8, 2 mi./3.2 km, (1,000'/300m) vertical gain, 1 to 3 hours roundtrip

To Top of Half Dome - Extremely Strenuous - Begin from Shuttle Stop # 16, 17 mi./27.4 km roundtrip, (4,800'/1,463m gain), 10 to 12 hours roundtrip

To Top of Fall - Very Strenuous - Begin from Sunnyside Campground near Shuttle

## Glacier Point Four Mile Trail

Very Strenuous - Begin from Southside Drive, 4.8 mi./7.6 km one way, (3,200'/960m gain), 3 to 4 hours one way

# Y o s e m i t e I t i n e r a r i e s

## O n e - d a y t o u r

The classic Yosemite National Park visit. Includes stops at the most popular sites in Yosemite Valley.

## T w o - d a y t o u r

Includes Yosemite Valley high points and your choice of either a drive to the east end of the Park up into the Yosemite high country along Tioga Road (the highest pass in the Sierra Nevada) with a bonus hike to the big trees on your return (moderate). Or, take a trip to the big trees at the south end of the park with additional stops at the Yosemite Pioneer History Center, breathtaking Glacier Point and a bonus hike to the summit of Sentinel Dome (moderate).

## t h r e e - d a y t o u r

Includes all of the tours previously mentioned... Yosemite Valley, Tioga Pass and Glacier Point. This is a complete tour of all Yosemite National Park's major attractions.

## f o u r - d a y t o u r

For the visitor who wants to explore and enjoy Yosemite more fully, numerous other activities and options are available to fit any season or interest, from whitewater rafting down the wild and scenic Merced River, to skiing at Badger Pass Ski Area, to taking a full or half-day guided hike, wildlife field trip or fly fishing expedition. Yosemite Guides™, a guide service of adventurers and naturalists headed by renowned Yosemite mountaineer and adventurer Peter Mayfield, provides guided trips that leave from the Yosemite View Lodge in El Portal. Pick and choose your favorites, to customize a Yosemite vacation.

## f i v e - d a y t o u r

There are many fun and interesting things to do and see outside Yosemite, too... so much, in fact, that you may want to do these, first! Ride a steam train into the forest; explore historic Gold Rush-era Mariposa County; ride your road bike to Hornitos or down the Merced River Canyon along some of the best cycling roads and trails in California. Back in Yosemite National Park, you can take a horseback trip, go ice skating in the shadow of dramatic Half Dome or learn the basics of rock climbing from one of the finest mountaineers in the United States.

## L i m i t l e s s p o s s i b i l i t i e s

From guided wildflower hikes, to guided snowshoe walks, the options to explore scenic Mariposa County and Yosemite National Park are limitless. Take a morning photo walk; hike from Glacier Point down to Yosemite Valley or up from Yosemite Valley to the top of Half Dome or beside Yosemite Falls. Whatever your time or inclination, let the tour professionals at Yosemite Motels customize a tour that will fit your group's special needs.

Contact Kevin Shelton at: Tel, (209) 742-7106; Fax, (209) 742-7189 Fax; or E-mail

[Kevin@yosemite-motels.com](mailto:Kevin@yosemite-motels.com)

# Yosemite Itineraries

## One-day tour



Long-time Yosemite naturalist Carl Sharsmith was once asked what he'd do if he only had a day to see Yosemite. "Madam," he replied, "I'd sit by the Merced River and cry."

Certainly, one can spend a lifetime – as Ranger Sharsmith did – exploring

Yosemite National Park, but if you only have a day, here are some highlights that are "must dos."

1. First, buy a couple of rolls of film before you depart from your Yosemite Motel. Then drive to Yosemite Valley via State Route 140 or SR 41 (depending on whether you are traveling from Mariposa or Oakhurst).
2. At the east end of the Valley, stop at Tunnel View (it's on SR 41) for the classic picture-taking location with its panoramic view of the Valley (best at sunset or when storms break).  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour.
3. Continue into the Valley, stopping at Bridalveil Fall for views of El Capitan and Bridalveil Fall. When you have arrived in the heart of the Valley, park your car at the nearest available day-use parking lot and ride the free Valley Shuttle Bus to the Visitor Center.  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour.
4. After touring the Visitor Center, visit The Ansel Adams Gallery, next door, then re-board the Valley Shuttle Bus for a free trip around the Yosemite Valley floor. 1 hour.
5. Get off at Yosemite Falls for a short walk to the base of Yosemite Falls; at Photographer's Bridge for a picture of Half Dome reflected

in the Merced River; and at Happy Isles to visit the nature center. 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

6. For lunch, dine at the elegant Ahwahnee hotel, have a more casual lunch in Yosemite Village or picnic in any of the Park's many scenic picnic areas. 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  hours.
7. After lunch, work off your appetite by walking or bicycling on the Yosemite Valley bike path (bike rentals are available at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village). Other options are to hike to Mirror Lake from the Mirror Lake Shuttle Bus Stop or to Vernal Fall from the Happy Isles Shuttle Bus Stop. Both of these walks are about a mile in length, moderately uphill. For a less-strenuous option, take a guided, two-hour Yosemite Valley bus tour departing from Yosemite Lodge. This narrated tour includes descriptions of the Valley's famous landmarks and its history. 2 hours.
8. Depart Yosemite Valley with stops at El Capitan meadow to see rock climbers high up on the side of El Capitan (binoculars are helpful) and at Gates of the Valley, for a beautiful picture of El Capitan reflected in the river. 1 hour.
9. Upon your return, enjoy a late afternoon swim or well-deserved soak in a hot tub at your Yosemite Motel.





# Yosemite Itineraries

## Two-day tour

Begin with the One-Day Tour. Add one of the following options on your second day:

### Tioga Pass Option

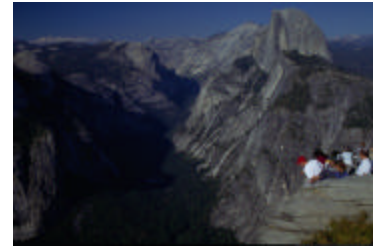
This itinerary begins at Tuolumne Meadows and travels west back toward your Yosemite Motel and SR 120 West, SR 140 and SR 41. If you prefer to depart on SR 120 East toward US 395, reverse the itinerary. Add one hour travel time, if starting in Oakhurst.

1. Begin Day Two by purchasing a picnic lunch, water and film at your Yosemite Motel (bring binoculars).
2. Drive into Yosemite National Park via SR 140 to SR 120. At Crane Flat, turn right onto the Tioga Road and drive to the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. Along the way, you will pass White Wolf, Olmstead Point and Tenaya Lake. 1 hour.
3. Numerous easy walks are available at Tuolumne Meadows. Some include opportunities to climb small granite domes. Also popular is wildlife viewing (big horn sheep, birds and golden mantled ground squirrel). Inquire at the Visitor Center about hikes and places to see wildlife. Big Horn Sheep often congregate near the Park's east entrance station, but ask before heading there as they migrate. 2 hours.
4. A favorite place to stop and enjoy a rest is the shoreline along Tenaya Lake. Rock climbers are often seen on cliffs at the east end of Tenaya Lake. Impressive views are seen from Olmstead Point, east of Tenaya Lake. 1-1/2 hours.
5. For a strenuous one-day hike, climb 11,000-foot Mt. Hoffman from May Lake. All day.
6. Optional two-hour, half-day and all-day Horseback rides are available at Tuolumne Meadows and White Wolf.

7. Stop at the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias to see the big trees before leaving the Park. 1 hour.

### Glacier Point Option

This itinerary begins at the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias near the South Entrance and travels toward



Yosemite Valley, SR 140 and SR 120. If you prefer to return via SR 41, reverse the itinerary.

1. Begin Day Two by purchasing a picnic lunch, water and film at your Yosemite motel (bring binoculars).
2. Drive into Yosemite National Park via SR 140 to SR 41. Drive past Wawona and the south entrance to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. 1 hour.
3. Take the bus tour of the big trees or hike through the trees (moderate to strenuous). 1 hour.
4. Return to Wawona and stop at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Check the Yosemite Guide for scheduled programs. 1 hour. Option: play golf at Wawona Golf Course (advance reservations recommended) 6 hours.
5. Continue on SR 41 to the Glacier Point Road. Drive to Glacier Point. Enjoy breathtaking views from Glacier Point. 2 hours.
6. A short, moderate hike is to Sentinel Dome. 1/2 hour.
7. Then back to Yosemite Valley stopping once more at Tunnel View before leaving the Park. 1 hour.

# Yosemite Itineraries

## Three-day tour

Begin with the One-Day Tour. Add both of the Two-day Tour options to complete the second and third days.

## Four - and five - day tours

Add your choice of the following activities to a Three-Day Tour. Items noted with an asterisk (\*) depart from the Yosemite View Lodge in El Portal. ‡ denotes commissionable

### Spring/Summer/Fall:

#### River Rafting

- Two-hour Yosemite Valley float
- Half-day whitewater trip – El Portal to Briceburg, lunch provided‡
- All-day whitewater trip – El Portal to Lake McClure, lunch provided‡

#### Guided Hikes



- Merced Canyon Wildflower Hikes – moderate, half or all-day, lunch provided‡
  - Rim Hike – moderate, all-day, lunch provided‡
- High Country Trails – various abilities, all-day, lunch provided‡
- Sunset Walks – easy to moderate, short walks, 5-hours, dinner provided‡
- Full Moon Magic – easy to moderate, 5-hours, moonlight permitting‡

Rock climbing lessons (half-day and all-day)

#### Horseback rides

- Two-hour ride
- Half-day ride
- All-day ride

#### Birdwatching/Wildlife Viewing

- \*Guided Walks, half-day, all-day, easy to moderate, binoculars provided‡
- Custom-guided Field Expeditions, half-day, all-day, various abilities, binoculars provided‡

#### Fly Fishing

- Half-day Guided Fishing Trip, fishing gear provided‡
- All-day Guided Fishing Trip, lunch and fishing gear provided‡
- Custom overnight and longer trips are available‡

### Winter:

- Downhill skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing at Badger Pass. 6 to 8 hours.
- Ice Skating at Curry Village. 2 hours.
- Guided snowshoe walk, half day. ‡

### All-Year

#### Historic Mariposa (All-day)

- California State Mining and Mineral Museum
- Mariposa County Court House
- Mariposa Museum and History Center
- Historic Mariposa, Coulterville and Hornitos



# Calif. -Yosemite Itineraries

## overnight tour



Traveling to Yosemite and back in a day can be a tiresome event. This tour includes a night at a Yosemite Motel, breaking up a one-day trip and making it far less tiring.

The Overnight Tour can be added to any itinerary in which an afternoon departure and trip of not more than five hours to the next destination is planned.

1. Day One: depart San Francisco (4 hours), Sacramento (3.5 hours), Monterey (3.5 hours), Fresno (2 hours) or San Luis Obispo (4 hours) in the afternoon. Arrive at your Yosemite Motel in the evening, enjoy dinner by the Merced River, and soak in a spa and rest.
2. Day Two: after breakfast, purchase a couple of rolls of film. Then drive to Yosemite Valley via State Route 140 or SR 41 (depending on whether you are traveling from Mariposa or Oakhurst).
3. At the east end of the Valley, stop at Tunnel View (it's on SR 41) for the classic picture-taking location with its panoramic view of the Valley.  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour.
4. Continue into the Valley, stopping at Bridalveil Fall for views of El Capitan and Bridalveil Fall. When you have arrived in the heart of the Valley, park your car at the nearest available day-use parking lot and ride the free Valley Shuttle Bus to the Visitor Center.  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour.
5. After touring the Visitor Center, visit The Ansel Adams Gallery, next door, then re-

- board the Valley Shuttle Bus for a free trip around the Yosemite Valley floor. 1 hour.
6. Get off at Yosemite Falls for a short walk to the base of Yosemite Falls; at Sentinel Bridge for a picture of Half Dome reflected in the Merced River; or at Happy Isles to visit the nature center. 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  hours.
7. For lunch, dine at the elegant Ahwahnee hotel, have a more casual lunch in Yosemite Village or picnic in any of the Park's many picnic areas. 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  hours.
8. After lunch (depending on how much time you need to get to your next destination), work off your appetite by walking or bicycling on the Yosemite Valley bike path (bike rentals are available at Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village). Other options are to hike to Mirror Lake from the Mirror Lake Shuttle Bus Stop or to Vernal Fall from the Happy Isles Shuttle Bus Stop. Both of these walks are about a mile in length, moderately uphill. For a less-strenuous option, take a guided, two-hour Yosemite Valley bus tour departing from Yosemite Lodge. This narrated tour includes descriptions of the Valley's famous landmarks and its history. 2 hours.
9. Depart Yosemite Valley with stops at El Capitan meadow to see rock climbers high up on the side of El Capitan (binoculars are helpful) and at Gates of the Valley, for a beautiful picture of El Capitan reflected in the river. 1 hour.



# Calif.-yosemite Itineraries

## San Francisco & Yosemite (two-nights)

Spend a night and day in San Francisco, then a night and a day at Yosemite. Includes San Francisco and Yosemite Valley highlights. Returns to San Francisco.

## San Francisco, Yosemite & Monterey (three-nights)

This tour begins in San Francisco. Tour San Francisco's famous sights the next day, then drive to Yosemite that afternoon. Tour Yosemite Valley, then on to Monterey. Spend the third night in Monterey and return to San Francisco the following afternoon (2.5 hours).

## San Francisco, Wine Country, Gold Country & Yosemite (four nights)

Arrive in San Francisco. Spend the evening and next day in The City, then travel to California's wine country where you'll stay one night. Enjoy a morning balloon ride and a bit of wine tasting before traveling to Sacramento for your third night. Tour Old Sacramento and the state railroad museum before traveling south along Gold Country Hwys 49 and 120 to Yosemite. After a day in Yosemite, return to San Francisco.

## Los Angeles, Solvang, Hearst Castle, Coast Highway 1, Monterey, Yosemite & San Francisco (five to six nights)

Spend a night and the next morning in Los Angeles, then travel north to the Danish community of Solvang. Stay one night, then travel north to tour the Hearst Castle. Continue up scenic Highway 1 to Monterey for the night. Visit historic Monterey and its Cannery Row before traveling to Yosemite. Spend one to two nights at Yosemite, exploring the Valley, Glacier Point and the Big Trees, then on to San Francisco for your final night along the California coast.

## Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Yosemite & San Francisco (seven nights)

Spend two nights in Los Angeles with options to visit Universal Studios Hollywood, museums or Disneyland, then on to Las Vegas where you'll stay two nights enjoying its famous shows, then travel through Death Valley National Park to Yosemite National Park. You'll travel across Tioga Pass to your Yosemite Motel where you'll stay two nights, seeing Glacier Point, the Giant Sequoia and Yosemite Valley. Your last night is spent in everyone's favorite city, San Francisco.



# Calif. -Yosemite Itineraries

## Gold Discovery Tour

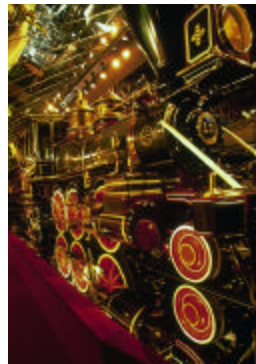


Travel the route of the '49ers as you tour famous towns of California's Gold Rush and Nevada's silver boom.

This example begins and ends in San Francisco, but it can also do so from Sacramento or Reno.

The Gold Discovery Tour can be shortened or lengthened, as desired. In winter (Nov. through May), stops in Reno, Bodie and Virginia City are dropped, due to snow that closes Tioga Pass.

1. Spend your first night and in San Francisco, the gateway to this Gold Discovery Tour, just as it was for the original '49ers. Dine at Fisherman's Wharf, in Chinatown, downtown at Tadich's Grill or in Italian North Beach, just as the '49ers might have.
2. Day One: You are free to tour San Francisco's famous sights and ride its cable cars or take a half-day sightseeing tour (8 hours).
3. At 4 that afternoon, follow the trail of the '49ers to Sacramento (2 hours). Dine that evening in Old Sacramento.
4. Day Two: Visit the California State Railroad Museum (2 hours) or California State Capitol (1 hour) before traveling along State Routes 16 and 49 (2 hours) through old-west Gold Rush towns to Murphy's where you'll visit Kautz Ironstone Vineyards and see one of the largest gold



5. Day Four: Visit Columbia State Historic Park and pan for gold (2 hours),
6. Continue on Hwy 49 to Hwy 120, following the golden trail into the Sierra Nevada and Yosemite National Park (2 hours). Stop at Yosemite Valley's famous Tunnel View before spending two nights at a Yosemite Motel.
7. Day Five: tour Yosemite Valley (see the Yosemite One-day Tour).



8. Day Six: depart your Yosemite Motel and travel through Yosemite National Park across Tioga Pass (2 hours), stopping in Lee Vining for lunch (1 hour). Continue on to Gold Rush town of Bodie (3 hours). This State Historic Park is an authentic old west ghost town, then travel north to Reno along the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada (3 hours).
9. Day Seven: Sleep in (you deserve it) and take a midday tour to Virginia City where the Nevada Silver Rush began (4 hours). Return to Reno for an evening show and its famous casinos.
10. Day Eight: Depart from Reno or travel back to Sacramento (2.5 hours) or San Francisco (5 hours).

## California Wildlife Discovery tours

A distinguished BBC naturalist once called California the great Serengeti of America, in reference to the abundant wildlife that passes through its lush valleys and along its coast. Ecotourism began here and what better way to celebrate nature than to discover California's wildlife.



# Calif. -yosemite Itineraries



These Wildlife Discovery Tours reveal California's abundant wildlife adventures with featured stops at Yosemite National Park. The first begins and ends in Los Angeles; the second in San Francisco. The tours can be combined and extended in multiple ways.

## Southern California (six nights, seven days)

1. Day One:  
Spend your first night in Huntington Beach, south of Los Angeles International Airport. Visit one of the finest nature preserves in Southern California.



2. Day Two: travel by ferry to Catalina Island, home of California's official marine fish, the bright orange Garibaldi or enjoy a whale-watching cruise off the California coast.

3. Day Three: continue north through the Mojave Desert to Death Valley National Park or see wild horses at Ridgecrest.
4. Day Four: Tour Death Valley or the Eastern Sierra on your way to Yosemite National Park. Cross Tioga Pass through Bighorn Sheep country on the way to Yosemite Valley.



5. Day Five: Take a wildlife tour of Yosemite National Park with a Yosemite Guide.
6. Day Six: visit Stone's Lake national wildlife refuge on your way to San Francisco.
7. Day Seven: enjoy a day in San Francisco or return home.

## Northern California (five nights, six days)

1. Day One: Arrive in San Francisco, visit California Sea Lions at Pier 39.
2. Day Two: travel to Yosemite National Park, stopping at the Stone's Lake National Wildlife Refuge.
3. Day Three: accompany a Yosemite Guide on a wildlife tour.
4. Day Four: travel to Monterey, visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium or take a whale watching cruise
5. Day Five: see California's redwoods as you ride on 1880s steam trains at the Roaring Camp Railroads, visit Año Nuevo Elephant Seal State Reserve as you travel up the scenic San Mateo County coast.
6. Day Six; enjoy a day in San Francisco or return home

# Y o s e m i t e w i t h o u t c a r e s o r c a r s

## Getting there By bus or train

Though you can drive to Yosemite Valley any day of the year, one has to ask, "Why would you want to?" After all, Yosemite is served by one of the most convenient, modern and extensive transportation systems at any national park. This itinerary describes how to visit Yosemite without driving.

Getting to Yosemite is the best part. Amtrak offers daily rail service from San Francisco though Oakland to Merced. Additional service is available seasonally from Southern California through Fresno. The tracks lead through the orchards vineyards and farmlands of California's abundant Central Valley.

After arriving in Merced or Fresno, you will board a "Grayline of Yosemite" motor coach operated by VIA



Adventures for your trip to Yosemite Valley. VIA's luxurious European coaches depart and return up to four times per day and are driven by professional operators who provide fascinating narrations of the colorful history and sights along the way.

Another way to get to Yosemite is to ride on one of the daily motor coach tours from San Francisco operated by California Parlor Cars. It's possible to see Yosemite in a day by either Amtrak/VIA or California Parlor Cars, but why rush your visit? Isn't the point of leaving your car behind to leave your cares behind, as well?

Both VIA and California Parlor Car will drop you right at your Yosemite Motel. Plus, you can arrange to be picked up at your Yosemite Motel and transported into Yosemite Valley each day, too. So, there's no need for a car once you get there.

And, it's a deal! The roundtrip bus trip from El Portal to Yosemite on VIA is only \$16 (including park admission).<sup>1</sup> And, kids ride free on Amtrak during special promotional periods. No wonder it's a favorite way to travel among cost-conscious travelers.

Service is another reason why many people prefer to leave their car behind. For \$63, a burgundy-coated VIA bus driver becomes your personal chauffeur and valet, motoring you from Merced to Yosemite and back, escorting you to lunch (included) and arranging your seat on a Yosemite Valley Open Air Tour (included).

When you get to Yosemite Valley, there are free shuttle busses to ride that loop through the east end of the Valley. They stop at the best sights and trailheads. Also, several half-day and all-day narrated tours visit the Valley, Glacier Point, the Big Trees and Tioga Pass. Sign up at your Yosemite Motel or once in the Valley.

Of course, if you'd rather do your own touring, bicycles can be rented at Curry Village or the Yosemite Lodge and Yosemite Valley has miles of paved bike trails and level footpaths to explore. You might even pass a few people who are searching for parking spaces while you enjoy your carefree and carfree visit to Yosemite National Park.

## Internet Links

Amtrak: [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

California Amtrak: [www.dot.ca.gov/hq/rail](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/rail)

VIA: [www.via-adventures.com](http://www.via-adventures.com)

Calif. Parlor Car Tours: [www.calpartours.com](http://www.calpartours.com)

Yosemite Area Transportation Information:  
[www.yosemite.com](http://www.yosemite.com)

Yosemite Motels: [www.yosemite-motels.com](http://www.yosemite-motels.com)



<sup>1</sup> Schedules and prices are subject to normal changes