



# Yosemite National Park



Hunter Hampton

An icon of America's majestic natural beauty, California's Yosemite National Park welcomes millions of visitors each year—drawn to its dramatic waterfalls, giant sequoias, abundant wildlife, and awe-inspiring cliffs, like Half Dome and El Capitan. Whether you're looking for the adventure vacation of a lifetime, want to immerse yourself in the stillness of nature—or simply hike, backpack or ski in one of the most beautiful places on earth, you'll find your place in Yosemite.

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike,” wrote John Muir in his beloved 1912 book *The Yosemite*. More than a century later, the giant California park still reaches those lofty goals via its dramatic landscapes, diverse outdoor pursuits, and the possibility of soul-searching reflection.





## Top Destinations



### ***1. Crane Flat Area***

Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area. Nearby are the Tuolumne and Merced Groves of Giant Sequoias, which are only accessible by foot.

The area is forested with stands of Sugar pine, Red fir and Lodgepole pine, offering a pleasant combination of sun and shade. Vanilla-scented Jeffrey pine and picturesque western Juniper dot the landscape.

### ***2. Yosemite Falls***

Yosemite is home to countless waterfalls. The best time to see waterfalls is during spring, when most of the snowmelt occurs.

Peak runoff typically occurs in May or June, some waterfalls (including Yosemite Falls) often dry by August. Storms in late fall rejuvenate some of the waterfalls and all of them accumulate frost along their edges many nights during the winter.



### ***3. Glacier Point***

Glacier Point, an overlook with a commanding view of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, Yosemite Falls, and Yosemite's high country, is accessible by car from approximately late May through October or November.

From mid-December through March, cross-country skiers can experience this view after skiing 10.5 miles.





## Top Destinations



### **4. Half Dome**

Half Dome is perhaps the most recognized symbol of Yosemite. Rising nearly 5,000 feet above the Valley floor.

Some people even hike or rock-climb to the top. Steel cables and wooden planks are placed along the dome to assist hikers to the summit in the summer months. The cables are removed every October, and replaced in late May.

### **5. El Capitan**

El Capitan, rising over 3,000 feet above the floor of Yosemite Valley, is a favorite for experienced rock climbers.

The formation was named “El Capitan” by the Mariposa Battalion when they explored the valley in 1851. El Capitan (“the captain”, “the chief”) was taken to be a loose Spanish translation of the local Native American name for the cliff.



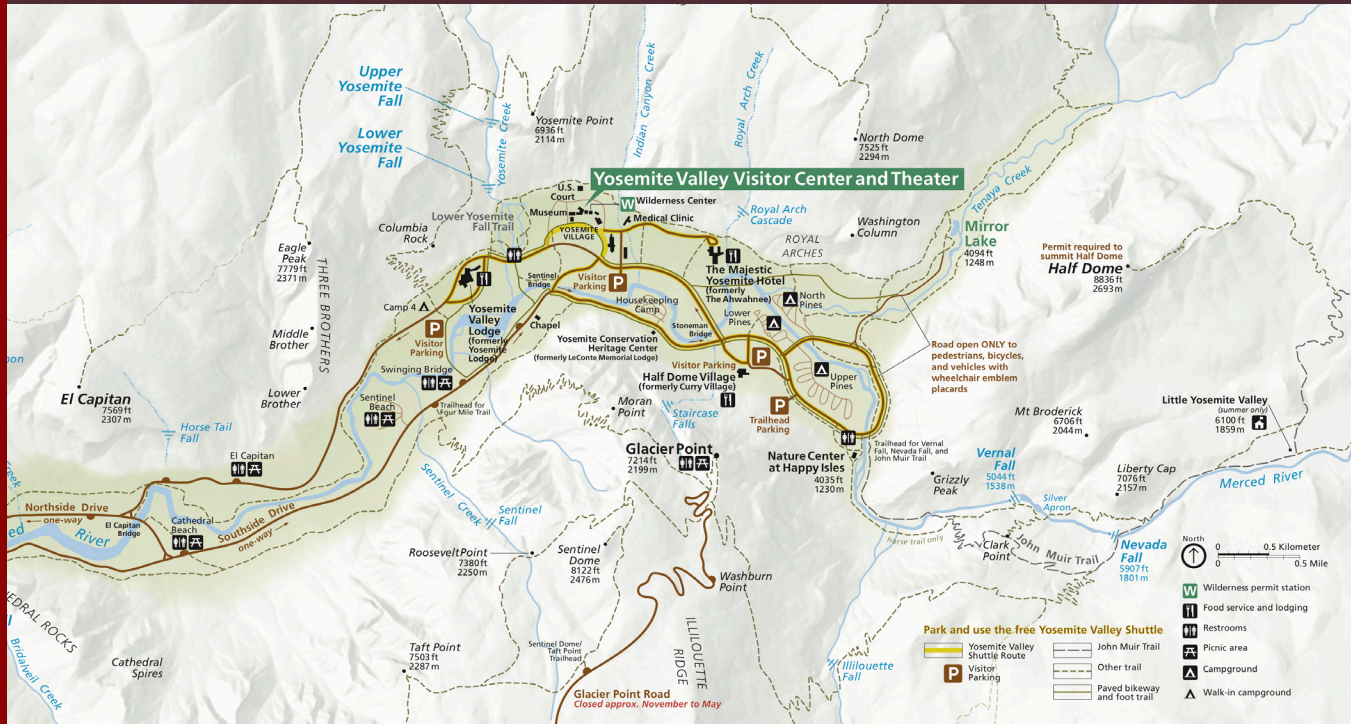
### **6. Yosemite Valley**

Yosemite Valley is what most visitors think of when they say “Yosemite.” Seven miles long and one mile wide at its broadest, its glacier-carved granite walls are near vertical, hemming it in with mile-high cliffs.

Yosemite Valley is world famous for its impressive waterfalls, meadows, cliffs, and unusual rock formations; accessible by car year-round.



# Getting Around



# Contact & Information

### Mailing Address:

PO Box 577  
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

### Phone:

+1 (209) 372-0200  
9 am to 5 pm Pacific time  
(closed for lunch)

### Website:

[www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose)

### Entrance Fees:

- \$30 per vehicle  
- \$15 per individual

### Get in for Free:

- Any and all military personal  
- U.S. citizens and permanent residents with lifelong disabilities

