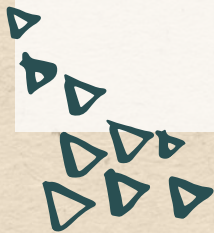


FAMILY TRAVEL GUIDE

**YOSEMITE
NATIONAL
PARK**

CALIFORNIA



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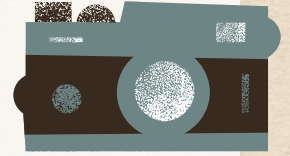
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

There is really no comparison when it comes to the majesty of Yosemite National Park. Located in the heart of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, this park is a wonderland for those looking to hike, bike, rock climb, explore, or just drive through. From sheer granite rock monoliths and plunging waterfalls, to lakes, meadows, and incredible wildlife, the natural beauty of Yosemite shines from every orifice. Yosemite National Park is a true treasure of the National Park System, and is home to Half Dome and El Capitan, which both rise from the park's centerpiece, the glacier-carved Yosemite Valley.



[READ MORE](#)

MUST SEE SITES



YOSEMITE VALLEY

From the valley floor, view Yosemite's iconic El Capitan and Half Dome granite walls, and the beauty of Bridalveil Fall and Yosemite Falls. While we recommend hiking to see many of these up close, the road through the valley floor will provide a view of all of them. If you prefer, hop on the Valley Shuttle, which takes a scenic tour through the valley floor.

VALLEY VISITOR CENTER

Located in the heart of Yosemite Village, the valley floor, the visitor center has a wonderful museum as well to learn all about the park and to obtain information. The kids will also love a visit to the Miwok Native American Village, adjacent to the visitor center.





HIKE RECOMMENDATIONS

P. 1/3

LOWER YOSEMITE FALLS TRAIL (1.2 MILES ROUNDTrip, RELAXED, 45 MIN)



This paved loop trail takes visitors to an up-close view of the upper and lower falls. Best for small children and also stroller-accessible.

UPPER YOSEMITE FALLS TRAIL (7.6 MILES ROUNDTrip, STRENUOUS, 5-6H)



With a 3,200 feet elevation gain, this hike is not recommended for kids, and only for experienced hikers. That being said, the views of the Upper and Lower Falls, as well as the valley below, are spectacular for those able to make the journey.

MIRROR LAKE TRAIL (2.3 MILES ROUNDTrip, MODERATE, 1.5H)



From Shuttle Stop 17 within the park (no parking lot at the end of Southside Dr.), take this trail through the forest to a gorgeous lake with incredible views of Half Dome. This trail is also accessible in the winter.

VERNAL FALL FOOTBRIDGE VIA MIST TRAIL (2.3 MILES ROUNDTrip, MODERATE, 1.5H)



This hike climbs over 600 stairs and jags through the granite rock to the top of Vernal Falls with an amazing view of the valley below.

EXPERT TIP: For those with more stamina, consider continuing another 2 miles to the top of Nevada Fall, and return via the John Muir Trail (this will add another 2-2.5 hours to your hike.





HIKE RECOMMENDATIONS

P. 2/3

BRIDALVEIL FALL TRAIL

(0.5 MILES ROUNDTRIP, RELAXED, 15 MIN)



This short walk that leads from the parking area to the falls is not to miss, but prepare to get wet from the mist!

GLACIER POINT TRAIL

(0.6 MILES ROUNDTRIP, RELAXED, 30 MIN)



This short, easy hike provides incredible views of the entire valley and High Sierra, the same that wow-ed President Roosevelt when John Muir brought him to this spot in 1903.

SENTINEL DOME AND TAFT POINT

(5.1 MILES ROUNDTRIP, MODERATE, 3.5-4H)



This hike is not recommended for small children, with an 1,100 foot elevation gain, but provides an amazing view of the High Sierras almost 2,000 feet above the valley.

TUOLUMNE GROVE TRAIL

(3.2 MILES ROUNDTRIP, MODERATE, 2H)



This trail through the giant sequoia grove is incredible for those wishing to see these spectacular trees.



HIKE RECOMMENDATIONS

P. 3/3



HALF DOME

(15 MILES ROUNDTrip, NEXT LEVEL, 10-12H)



Only for very experienced hikers, the hike to Half Dome follows the Mist Trail to Nevada Fall, and then continues on to Half Dome. The 4,800 foot elevation gain is strenuous, and there is also a 400-foot final ascent via hand cables to reach the top, a view that is well worth the effort.

EXPERT TIP: You must begin this hike BEFORE SUNRISE and turn around by 3:30 pm to finish before dark. A permit is required, and they are difficult to get via the [online lottery](#) that starts in March of each year. Make sure to bring plenty of water, food, and gloves for climbing the cables.

CAN'T MISS ADVENTURES

BIKE

Bike the Yosemite Valley Loop - over 12 miles of paved paths

ICE SKATE

Ice skate at Half Dome Village in the Winter

SKI OR SNOWBOARD



Ski or snowboard in the winter months at the Yosemite Ski & Snowboard Area. Many beginner and intermediate runs, as well as ski & snowboard rentals.



HELPFUL HINTS

RV / CAMPING LODGING



The Upper Pines Campground in the park is recommended, but reservations are difficult to get (and usually book up when they are released 5 months in advance on the 15th of each month at 7am EST). If you cannot get a spot at the Upper Pines, try Lower Pines, North Pines, or the Bridalveil Creek Campgrounds, also all in the park.

TENT LODGING



We would also recommend the tent cabins located at Curry Village in the park. Ideal location in the valley and located next to many popular hiking trails, restaurant and grocery amenities, comfortable beds and bedding.

HOTEL LODGING - FAMILIES



We loved our stay at the Yosemite Valley Lodge, conveniently located in Yosemite Village with easy access to the park shuttle. The Lodge has a restaurant and lounge, as well as a food court, and bunk rooms are also a fun way to accommodate children.

HOTEL LODGING - HIGH END



The Ahwahnee Yosemite Hotel is an amazing historic hotel and worth a visit even if you are not staying there (consider a stop to warm up by one of their large, roaring fireplaces). They also have a fantastic and elegant dining room with incredible views, but you will surely need a reservation (there is a dress code as well).

READ THE
FULL STORY



BLOG POST