



An Accessibility Guide to Yosemite National Park

On behalf of the National Park Service and park partners, welcome to Yosemite National Park! First set aside in 1864 during the Civil War, Yosemite is recognized for its world-class scenery, cultural resources, and natural wonders. The park promotes the full and equal participation and contribution of visitors from around the world.

To make your visit more enjoyable, Yosemite National Park is continually upgrading facilities for greater accessibility. This Accessibility Guide provides descriptions of facilities and services, as well as opportunities for persons with sight, hearing, and mobility impairments to enjoy a visit to the park. We consider this a living document to be regularly updated as conditions, facilities, and services change. If you have any comments that could help us improve this publication, please contact the park's accessibility coordinator (see below).

If you have specific questions or suggestions about facilities not covered in the Accessibility Guide, contact Larry Harris, Accessibility Coordinator, at 209/379-1035, by email at larry_harris@nps.gov, by mail to his attention at National Park Service, P.O. Box 700, El Portal, CA 95318.

If you received this Accessibility Guide during your Yosemite visit and you do not wish to keep it, consider returning it to any visitor center or entrance gate.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Information in this Guide describes basic facilities, services, and programs in Yosemite National Park. It does not contain a complete description of activities and services. Keep in mind that some facilities and areas are open only on a seasonal basis, or during certain hours of the day. New information will be made available on the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose. For detailed information on the different areas of the park, consult the *Yosemite Guide* newspaper; for a schedule of current activities and facilities/services hours, consult *Yosemite Today*. Both of these publications are free and can be obtained at entrance stations and visitor centers throughout the park. They are also posted on the park's web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

Important advisory text will be in a bolded black box.

Directions to park destinations and explanations of other activities are based **on driving times from Yosemite Village**. (See map)

Traffic Advisory

Parking at Lower Yosemite Fall is no longer available. Please follow signs to "Yosemite Village" parking and ride the free, lift-equipped shuttle buses to the Lower Fall area.

Camping & Lodging Reservations

When making a reservation for either campsites or overnight lodging, ask for full descriptions of facilities and services designated as accessible and describe your specific needs.

GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

Elevations

The elevation of Yosemite Valley is 4,000 feet above sea level. The roads leading outside of the Valley range from 3,000 feet to almost 8,600 feet in the Tuolumne Meadows area. The Tioga Pass Entrance, at the park's easternmost approach, crosses the crest of the Sierra Nevada range at 9,945 feet. The Glacier Point overlook of Yosemite Valley is at 7,214 feet. Wawona is at 4,000 feet and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias reaches from 5,600 feet in the lower grove, to 6,600 feet in the upper grove.

Maximum elevation on roads leading into Yosemite Valley:

Approach	Use Road	Highest Road Elevation
From South	Wawona Road via Hwy 41 N	6,039 ft at Chinquipin
From West	Big Oak Flat Road via Hwy 120 E	6,192 ft at Crane Flat
From West	El Portal Road via Hwy 140 E	4,000 ft at Yosemite Valley
From East (June to Nov)	Tioga Road via Hwy 120 W	9,945 ft at Tioga Pass Entrance

Medical Information

The Yosemite Medical Clinic is located in Yosemite Village. Hours of operation vary seasonally, see *Yosemite Today* or call 209/372- 4637.

Emergency service is available 24 hours a day and is accessible through the rear emergency entrance. Services include a limited pharmacy, lab, x- ray, and physical therapy.

Paramedic/ambulance service is also available 24 hours a day.

Wheelchair rental is available through the medical clinic; also available at the Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village bike rental stands.

Nearest hospitals outside of Yosemite are located in:

- Mammoth Lakes (southeast of the park off of Highway 395S. Not accessible in Winter.)
- Bridgeport, (northeast of the park, off of Highway 395N)
- Mariposa (west of the park, off of Highway 140)
- Oakhurst (south of Yosemite, off of Highway 41) Urgent Care facility ONLY.

Hospitals with a complete range of services are located in Fresno, Merced, Modesto, and Sonora. See **Additional Medical Information** at the end of this Accessibility Guide.

Entrance Fees

The Golden Access Passport is a lifetime entrance pass to national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas, and national wildlife refuges that charge an entrance fee. This passport waives entrance fees for citizens or permanent U.S. residents who have been medically determined to be permanently disabled and, as a result, are eligible to receive benefits under federal law. In Yosemite, the passport admits the permit holder and passengers in one private, noncommercial vehicle.

A Golden Access Passport must be obtained in person at a federal area where an entrance fee is charged. You may obtain the passport by showing proof of medically determined permanent disability or eligibility for receiving benefits under federal law.

The Golden Access Passport also provides a 50% discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as camping. When making a camping reservation, you must provide the number on the passport (see **Camping** later in this Guide).

In Yosemite National Park, Golden Access Passports are available at all park entrance stations, information stations, and visitor centers. For more information about fees in national parks, visit online at www.nps.gov/fees_passes.htm.

Temporary Accessibility Placard

This placard is available at all park entrance stations and visitor centers. When displayed on your vehicle dashboard, it allows driving on some paved roads normally closed to vehicle traffic (e.g., Happy Isles Loop Road and Mirror Lake Road). Please drive with caution at a speed of 15 miles per hour with your emergency flashers on. These roads are shared with pedestrians and bicyclists.

Service Animals

Service animals must be leashed at all times. They are allowed in all park facilities and on all park trails, except horse/mule trails, and in restricted areas closed by the park superintendent for resource protection purposes. Service animals in training and pets are subject to park regulations (see *Yosemite Guide*). When traveling with a pet or service animal be sure to remember that the traveling times between developed areas may be longer than anticipated. Allow for water and necessary stops for your animal. Pet feces must be disposed of in a trash receptacle.

Parking

Designated spaces are marked with the international access symbol. These are reserved for vehicles displaying an accessibility placard or license plate.

Cellular Phones

Cellular phone signal strength is marginal within most areas of the park.

Smoke in Yosemite

Fire in Yosemite is as natural as snow in winter and sun in summer and is important for maintaining healthy forests. Naturally occurring wildland fires—often ignited by lightning—generally are allowed to burn. Prescribed burns are intentionally ignited by trained fire crews in order to clear the unnatural build-up of forest material in developed areas. Both types of fires are strictly monitored by Yosemite Fire Management staff. Additionally, campgrounds can be very smoky. In order to improve air quality in Yosemite Valley during the months of peak visitation, campfires are only permitted between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., May 1 through October 15. There are no hourly restrictions during the rest of the year.

You may notice smoky skies during a spring, summer, or fall visit. Visitors with respiratory conditions should call ahead (209/372-0200 for recorded information—press 2, then 6 to speak with a ranger) or visit the park's web site (www.nps.gov/yose) for an update on fire conditions.

Weather

Summer daytime temperatures in Yosemite are variable depending on your location and can change unexpectedly. Temperatures can range from the upper 90s in Yosemite Valley to the high 60s in Tuolumne Meadows. Evening temperatures are equally variable. Carry and drink plenty of water. Plan accordingly and prepare to dress in layers.

GETTING AROUND THE PARK

Free shuttle buses operate daily in the east end of Yosemite Valley. All Valley shuttle buses are equipped with wheelchair lift and inside tie-downs for two wheelchairs.

If you have specific needs, ask the driver to notify you of your bus stop or assist you on/off the bus. For route and schedule, see *Yosemite Today*. There is no free shuttle bus service departing from the Valley to any outside locations.

Commercial bus service is not available between the Valley and Wawona or Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias

Transportation Outside of Yosemite Valley

In Wawona: Free shuttle bus service runs from the Wawona Store to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias on a seasonal basis; however, no lift equipment is available.

In Tuolumne Meadows: Free shuttle bus service is available during the summer along the Tioga Pass Road from Olmsted Point to Tioga Pass. This shuttle services the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center, store, grill, Tuolumne Meadows Campground, and Tuolumne Meadows Lodge. A shuttle bus with a lift is available; ask a driver for details.

Commercial bus service is available between Yosemite Valley to Tuolumne Meadows once per day during the summer. These buses are not wheelchair accessible. Contact the Yosemite Lodge Tour Desk at 209/372- 1240 for schedule and fare information.

FOOD SERVICE

All food service facilities are accessible except as noted :

In Yosemite Valley

- Village Grill (ramps on west and north sides) in Yosemite Village
- The Loft, on the second floor of the Degnan's complex in Yosemite Village

Outside Yosemite Valley

- Tuolumne Meadows Lodge; the dining room has two steps, the restroom is not accessible.
- The Wawona Hotel: The dining room is accessible by a ramp on the east side, the rest room is not accessible

GAS STATIONS

Attendants are available to assist with fuel service during business hours. 24- hour pay-at- the- pump service is available with a debit or credit card. Check *Yosemite Today* for location and hours of operation.

ATM MACHINES

See *Yosemite Today* for locations.

Bank of America Versateller (located at the Art Activity Center in Yosemite Village) has Braille functions and a plug for a headset.

POST OFFICES

In Yosemite Valley

Main Post Office (located in Yosemite Village). Accessible parking and a letter- drop box are located behind the building. Enter from the service road just north of the Degnan's complex off of Village Drive.

See *Yosemite Today* for other post office locations in the park.

WHEELCHAIR RENTAL (Manual only)

Yosemite Valley Medical Clinic (209/372- 4637)

Yosemite Lodge & Curry Village bicycle rental stands

(seasonally 209/372- 8319) Check *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation.

BICYCLE RENTAL

Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village bicycle stands. A hand- cranked bicycle and tandem bike are available for rent. Reservations are strongly recommended by calling 209/372-1208. Check *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation.

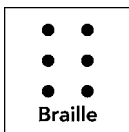
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

National Park Service

Most educational programs in Yosemite are accessible to students with disabilities. For example, tram rides through the Mariposa Grove accommodate students who are unable to hike. The Environmental Living Program at Wawona's Pioneer Yosemite History Center and the Parks As Classrooms programs have served students with a wide range of specific needs. Yosemite staff works with teachers and school districts to ensure that every student can be included in field trips, camping excursions, and other educational park activities. For further information, contact the park's Education Branch at 209/375- 9505.

Yosemite Institute

Yosemite Institute is a nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, offering residential field science programs for child and adult groups. Programs may be tailored to accommodate specific needs. For more information, contact Yosemite Institute at 209/379- 9511 or visit online at www.yni.org/yi.



VISITORS WITH SIGHT IMPAIRMENTS

Braille Publications

There are currently no park publications printed in Braille.

Development of large print materials will be forthcoming; watch the park's web site (www.nps.gov/yose) for updated information as these publications are made available.

Visitor Centers and Museums

Rangers in any of the park's visitor centers, wilderness centers, or museums can provide personalized services, information, and interpretation about the park. Check at park visitor centers to arrange for assistance. The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center has a magnifying half-globe for easier viewing of maps. Check at the front desk.

Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (Shuttle bus stops #5 & #9)

Spirit of Yosemite, the park's 23-minute, award-winning orientation film, is captioned and may be viewed with Audio Description and foreign language translation at the West Auditorium Theater. Check with the visitor information desk to arrange for listening devices.

One Day in Yosemite, a 7-minute trip planning video, may be viewed in the main exhibit hall.

The main exhibit hall displays several tactile exhibits relating to the geologic story of Yosemite Valley.

Museum

(Shuttle bus stops #5 & #9)

Outside the Museum is a cross-section display of a giant sequoia tree that visitors are welcome to touch. The Indian Cultural Exhibit, inside the Museum, has tactile objects relating to the culture and lifestyle of the Ahwahneechee people. An interpreter is available to give personal assistance. Reservations are recommended. The Indian Village of Ahwahnee, behind the museum, has some outdoor exhibits with audio commentary.

Yosemite Falls

(Shuttle bus stop #6)

Construction in the Lower Yosemite Fall area is currently underway. Please use caution. For easy access, park at Yosemite Village and ride the free shuttle bus to stop #6.)

Extraordinary granite boulders—some as big as a house—can be found just steps away from the paved trail leading to the base of Lower Yosemite Fall.

On the east side of the Yosemite Fall Bridge, there are areas just off of the trail (not paved) where visitors can approach the granite walls. This is also a regular practice area for climbers.

Just west of the Lower Yosemite Fall area and across Northside Drive from Yosemite Lodge, is an area know by locals as *Swan Slab*, accessed by a non- maintained paved trail. This is a remarkable location where visitors can get up close to and touch a granite wall. In some places, visitors can feel the glacial polish created by the heat and friction of the rivers of ice that once flowed through Yosemite Valley.

The Nature Center at Happy Isles

(Closed in winter)

(Shuttle bus stop #16)

The Nature Center has many tactile objects relating to Yosemite's native plants and animals. In spring and early summer, visitors may enjoy the natural sounds of the Merced River, as water crashes over boulders. An accessible paved trail winds around the Nature Center area and leads over a footbridge to the Happy Isles. There are numerous wayside exhibits in the area, however none are available in alternative formats. During the summer, a volunteer at the Nature Center is available to assist with narrating the outdoor exhibits. This is a great place for children and their families. There are several benches for resting in the outdoor exhibit area. Accessible restrooms are available adjacent to the shuttle bus stop.



VISITORS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS

Sign Language Interpretation

In summer and during limited off- season hours, a National Park Service ranger is available to provide American Sign Language interpretation for ranger programs. 24- hour reservations are suggested. All requests are filled on a first- come, first- served basis. Groups should request interpretive services in advance of a visit. Inquire at visitor centers or phone 209/372- 0298 (voice) or 209/372- 4726 (TTY only). For ASL interpretation on paid tours, contact the Yosemite Lodge tour desk at 209/372- 1240.

Assisted Listening Devices

Inquire at the Valley Visitor Center about availability of assisted listening devices for ranger- led programs in Yosemite Valley.



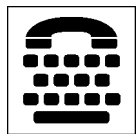
Captioned Programs

Inside the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center all video displays are closed captioned, including *One Day in Yosemite*, which is a 7- minute video describing Yosemite's popular features. The park 's inspirational orientation film, *Spirit of Yosemite*, is shown throughout the day in the Visitor Center West Auditorium Theater. Closed captioning and audio description are

available. Inside the theater, activate the captioning by pushing the button at lower right corner below the screen.

Telephones with Volume Controls

Volume control phones are located at most public pay telephones throughout the park.



TTY Service

TTY phones are available for visitor use at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. They are also available for guests at Curry Village, Yosemite Lodge, and The Ahwahnee.

TTY pay phones are available for visitors at pay phones just outside the Curry Village front desk, inside the Yosemite Lodge lobby, and at The Ahwahnee in the mezzanine area.

TTY general park information	209/372- 4726
TTY Yosemite lodging reservations	559/255- 8345
TTY Yosemite campground reservations	888/530- 9796



VISITORS WITH MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS

Yosemite Valley

Elevation: 4,000 feet

Visitor Center Complex (Shuttle bus stops #5 & #9)

Parking: There are a few close- in accessible parking spaces near the Yosemite museum; see map and written directions in the *Yosemite Guide*.

Accessibility: The Valley Visitor Center has accessible power- assisted doors on the front and rear entrances. Access to the East and West Auditoriums is through the Visitor Center front doors, proceed through the exhibit area, and out the rear doors. Ramp is located to the left.

When the Visitor Center is closed, use the sidewalk to the left of the Visitor Center's front entrance, go past the restrooms and up the concrete path past the rear doors of the Visitor Center. This path includes slopes ranging up to 16%.

Self Guiding Trail

The Miwok in Yosemite, a short loop trail that winds through the Indian Village of Ahwahnee, a reconstructed Paiute village, is located behind the Yosemite Museum. Portions of this trail are paved. The area in the center of the Indian Village is level, but unpaved. An interpreter is available in the summer to give personal assistance; reservations are recommended.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

Open daily, this gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists. An accessible ramp is located at the front of the Gallery. Access to the upper store level is via an outside access path which includes a short slope of 8% or 3 steps inside the gallery. For more information, contact the gallery at 209/372- 4413 or visit online *www.anseladams.com*.

Art Activity Center (Shuttle bus stop #2)

Located near the Yosemite Village Store, the Art Activity Center offers free art classes daily throughout the summer and fall. Many classes are conducted in accessible areas. Call 209/372- 1442 for information and a schedule of classes or see *Yosemite Today*.

Multi-Use Paved Trails

There are over 12 miles of paved, 2- lane multi- use (bicycle) trails in Yosemite Valley. Many of these trails travel through forested areas or along the river. Nearly the entire trail system is negotiable. However one short section at Superintendent's Bridge (opposite the historic Yosemite Chapel) includes steps that ascend and descend the bridge, and there is a steep section near Housekeeping Camp. Trail maps can be purchased at the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, or obtain a bicycle trail map from any bicycle rental location.

Ranger-Led Activities

See *Yosemite Today* for a complete listing of interpretive programs in Yosemite Valley. Ask a ranger at the Visitor Center desk for details of advertised walks.

Lower Yosemite Fall (Shuttle bus stop #6)

Construction in the Lower Yosemite Fall area is currently underway. Please use caution. For easy access, park at Yosemite Village and ride the free shuttle bus to stop #6.)

This is one of the most visited areas in Yosemite Valley. From the shuttle bus stop, visitors can take in tremendous views of the world's fifth tallest waterfall. A paved trail leads approximately ½ mile to the base of Lower Yosemite Fall. **The last 180 feet include a slope of 13.8% just before the flat viewing platform and bridge.**

Approaching the rise, visitors can experience enormous boulders that breathe with intermittent warm and cool spots. This is a great place to feel Yosemite's granite up close. In spring, visitors can enjoy the spray of the Lower Fall as it plummets 320 feet to the boulders below. **Watch your step as the walkway and bridge may be wet.**

A separate unisex accessible restroom is located at the trailhead near the shuttle bus stop. Work is currently underway to create a fully accessible loop trail. Watch the park's web site for project updates (*www.nps.gov/yose/planning*).

Happy Isles (Shuttle bus stop #16)

By vehicle: **Display temporary access placard on dashboard and drive with emergency flashers on. Speed limit: 15 mph.**

The Happy Isles Loop Road, located in the east end of Yosemite Valley, is closed to private vehicle traffic, however you may drive your own vehicle with the accessibility placard displayed (obtain a temporary placard at the Visitor Center desk). Follow signs to CAMPGROUNDS, proceed on the Happy Isles Loop Road beyond the sign indicating AUTHORIZED VEHICLES ONLY and past Upper Pines Campground. At the shuttle bus stop, turn right on the paved road. There are two designated parking spaces behind the public restroom and two designated parking spaces at the Nature Center.

The Nature Center at Happy Isles is open in the summer and some weekends during spring and fall. It is located approximately 100 yards from the shuttle bus stop. An accessible restroom and snack stand are located adjacent to the shuttle bus stop.

The Nature Center has family- oriented exhibits and interactive displays exploring Yosemite's wildlife and natural history. An accessible Happy Isles nature trail is located near the Nature Center, with outdoor exhibit panels detailing Happy Isles' four distinct environments: forest, river, talus, and fen. Outdoor exhibits also tell the geologic story of rock falls in Yosemite. There are benches for sitting and enjoying the quiet beauty of this area. In spring and summer, visitors can hear the roar of the Merced River as it crashes over large boulders. A short walk out to the isles of Happy Isles gives visitors a glimpse of vital riparian habitat along with the refreshing spray from the rapids.

Mirror Lake (a seasonal lake) (Shuttle bus # 17)

By shuttle bus: From the shuttle bus stop, follow the signs 1 mile to the end of the paved road. The last 1,000 feet up to the lake are on a slope of from 6.6% to 10.6%. Accessible parking, an accessible vault toilet, and a pay telephone are available at end of road.

By vehicle: **Display temporary access placard on dashboard and drive with emergency flashers on. The paved access road to Mirror Lake is shared with pedestrians and bicyclists. Drive with caution no more than 15 mph.**

The road to Mirror Lake, in the east end of Yosemite Valley, is closed to private vehicle traffic, however you may drive your own vehicle with the accessibility placard displayed (obtain a temporary placard at any entrance station or at the the Visitor Center desk). Follow the signs to "Pines Campgrounds." At North Pines Campground, proceed past the "NO ENTRY" sign and follow the signs to Mirror Lake.

From Happy Isles, turn right onto the Happy Isles Loop Road and drive 1 mile. Turn right at the Mirror Lake shuttle bus stop (stop #17). Vehicles displaying accessibility placard may continue on Mirror Lake access road.

The trail around Mirror Lake, a seasonal lake on Tenaya Creek in the shadow of Half Dome, begins at the end of the paved road. The trail surface is compacted gravel and may be slippery. Wayside exhibits explain the natural and cultural features of the area.

Mirror Lake Interpretive Trail, with interpretive waysides, is a short loop off the main trail. Visitors can enjoy a close-up view of Half Dome while witnessing the succession of this lake, as it is naturally becoming a meadow.

Bridalveil Fall

(No shuttle bus service)

The parking lot is located at the base of Wawona Road as it enters Yosemite Valley. There are designated parking spaces and accessible vault toilets.

This is one of the first stops for many visitors on their way in to Yosemite Valley. Spectacular views of this year-round waterfall (albeit a trickle come autumn) can be enjoyed right from the parking lot. Rainbows are common, as is the whip of wind that can cause this fall to spray up. A short paved trail leads to the base of the fall, but it is steep in places (14% to 24% slope) and is not advisable for people using wheelchairs or visitors in need of walking aids.

Another viewing area is located on Southside Drive, in a sizable turnout just east of where Wawona Road merges with Southside Drive.



PARKWIDE ACTIVITIES

Trail Rides (closed in winter)

Visitors with specific needs will be assessed on an individual basis and should contact stables at least 24 hours in advance to arrange a trail ride.

Restrooms at the Yosemite Valley Stable and Tuolumne Meadows Stable are not accessible; the Wawona Stable is equipped with an accessible portable toilet. For additional information, contact the stables: Yosemite Valley, 209/372- 8348; Tuolumne Meadows (summer only) 209/372- 8427; or Wawona (summer only) 209/375- 6502.

Sightseeing by Car

Many of Yosemite's finest scenic views and points of interest can be viewed by automobile. Purchasing the *Yosemite Road Guide*, which contains maps and descriptions keyed to roadside markers on Yosemite's major roads, may enhance your tour. These, as well as other helpful publications, are available at park visitor centers and retail outlets. Publications can also be purchased online from the Yosemite Bookstore operated by the nonprofit Yosemite Association (www.yosemitestore.com).

Tours

A variety of tours (offered for a fee) are conducted on motor coaches and open- air trams. Some of the coaches and trams are accessible to visitors using wheelchairs. Contact DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite tour desks to purchase tickets and determine if tours are available to meet your needs. Tour desks are located year- round at Yosemite Lodge and seasonally at Curry Village and Yosemite Village (behind the Village Store). All tours depart from Yosemite Lodge.

An open- air tram tour of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is available spring through fall. Purchase tickets at tram departure kiosk. **Trams are not wheelchair accessible.** Disabled visitors may elect to drive behind the tram with a pre- recorded narration on audiocassette at no charge. For more information, call 209/375- 1621 or check online at www.yosemiteparktours.com.

NORTHERN AREA OF YOSEMITE

Big Oak Flat

Elevation: 4,872 feet

The Big Oak Flat Information Station is open in the summer with variable off- season hours. Check *Yosemite Today* for availability and hours of operation. The station has an accessible information desk, campground reservation desk, wilderness center, and restrooms.

Hetch Hetchy

Elevation: 3,813 feet

In the summer, be aware of extreme temperatures and lack of shade. Carry and drink plenty of water.

Directions: From Hwy 120 west, proceed one half mile beyond the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station, and turn right on Evergreen Road. Drive 20 minutes to Camp Mather; turn right on Hetch Hetchy Road.

Parking: Due to the excessive cross slope of the parking area there are no designated accessible parking spaces.

The O'Shaughnessy Dam, built between 1919 and 1923, impounds the Tuolumne River forming the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. An accessible route crosses the dam to and through the granite tunnel to a vista point. Accessible restrooms are available in the backpackers' parking lot. The roadway to Hetch Hetchy has a 25- foot vehicle length restriction and is closed at night to all vehicles.

Tioga Road (closed in winter)

Elevation range: 6,192 - 9,945 feet

Tioga Road is closed November through late May or early June at the at Crane Flat, just beyond the Yosemite Institute campus. and toward the east at the base of Tioga Pass (near Lee Vining).

This spectacular National Scenic Byway crosses Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada, offering several roadside exhibits at vista points. Accessible vault toilets are located (from west to east) at the Tuolumne Grove parking lot, Sunrise Trailhead, Murphy Creek Picnic Area at Tenaya Lake, Tenaya Lake east end beach, and Lembert Dome. Restroom facilities are available at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center and Tuolumne Meadows Grill.

Tuolumne Grove

Elevation: 5,727 feet

This area is open year- round, however the route to the Tuolumne Grove is not plowed in winter. The parking area for the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias is located at Crane Flat, between the gas station and the Yosemite Institute campus.

The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the Tuolumne Grove, a cluster of about 25 trees. Now closed to traffic, this paved road has a 7.5% grade for about a mile where the first trees can be seen. The uphill return can be strenuous for some.

White Wolf (Closed in winter)

Elevation: 7,758 feet

Neither the campground nor the White Wolf Lodge has accessible facilities. This area is dominated by lush meadows that are filled with wildflowers in summer.

Olmsted Point (Closed in winter)

Elevation: 8,400 feet

Presents views west of Half Dome and Clouds Rest, and east toward Tenaya Lake and the Sierra Crest.

Tenaya Lake (Closed in winter)

Elevation: 8,150 feet

This is a large, glacier- carved lake along the Tioga Road and is situated among granite domes and peaks, just west of Tuolumne Meadows.

The access route to Tenaya Lake Picnic Area and beach is not accessible to wheelchairs. Access to the water is along a soil trail; the beach is not accessible. Some portions of the viewing area along the northern side of Tenaya Lake have a paved sidewalk.

Tuolumne Meadows (Closed in winter)

Elevation: 8,575 feet

High, subalpine meadows, the Tuolumne River, and spectacular domes and peaks dominate the landscape in this gateway to the Sierra wilderness. See *Yosemite Today* for facilities and interpretive programs.

Visitor Center

From the main parking area drive toward building up the service road incline. Park in the designated area and use the rear entrance ramp by following the paved path in front of the Visitor Center around to the rear of the building. Accessible restrooms can be found in the main parking area.

SOUTHERN AREA OF YOSEMITE

Glacier Point Road and Glacier Point

Elevation range: 6,040 feet to 7,888 feet

The Glacier Point Road offers some of the park's easiest access to some of the Sierra's most spectacular high country views. Wildflowers abound along the road in July. The road crosses Bridalveil Creek, the origin of Yosemite's Valley's Bridalveil Fall.

Badger Pass Ski Area (Winter only)

Elevation: 7,245 feet

California's oldest operating ski area, Badger Pass, is approximately 45 minutes from Yosemite Valley. Sit-ski lessons are offered by advance reservation. Call 209/372-8430. On the first floor of the Badger Pass Lodge, the food service area, deck, and restrooms are accessible. There are three designated parking spaces.

Washburn Point

Elevation: 7,591 feet

This spectacular overlook, just prior to Glacier Point, provides larger-than-life views of Half Dome and the eastern crest of the Sierra Nevada. From this vantage point, visitors can take in the "granite staircase" waterfalls—Nevada and Vernal Falls. Illillouette Falls is also visible. This point is named for the famed Washburn brothers who built the first road from Wawona to Yosemite Valley. It lacks designated parking spaces and curb cuts.

Glacier Point

Elevation 7,214 feet

This world-renowned overlook is accessible via a 300-yard paved, switch back trail from the main parking lot. Follow the signs to the overlook. A bronze, 3-dimensional model (located on the terrace below the gift shop) explains and identifies geologic features. Restrooms, snack bar, and a gift shop are accessible.

Wawona Road

Wawona

Elevation: 4,012 feet

Facilities in Wawona include a gas station (attendant available during business hours), grocery/gift shop, golf course (seasonal), golf shop (seasonal), and stable (seasonal; see earlier section on “Trail Rides”). For more information, see *Yosemite Today*.

Wawona Hotel

This is an historic complex dating back to 1879. The dining room restroom is not accessible. There is no accessible lodging available at the Wawona Hotel. The swimming pool and tennis courts are for hotel guests only.

Parking: Designated parking spaces, are located on the north side (rear) of Hill’s Studio (pink structure). Follow the signs to the hotel ramp at the rear of the hotel (there is a one inch threshold at the lobby).

Wawona Information Station at Hill’s Studio

Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel, Hill’s Studio was the gallery and art studio of famous 19th century landscape painter, Thomas Hill. Today it serves as an information station. There are two accessible parking spaces and a mechanical lift at the rear of the studio. Visitors need to inform staff when use of the lift is required.

Meadow Loop Trail

Although this trail is not paved or accessible, it is an easy walk that originates near the golf course. The trail is a pleasant, shady stroll along a wide dirt road that circles the meadow. The entire loop is 3 1/2 miles, but can be completed in short sections.

Pioneer Yosemite History Center

A collection of structures from Yosemite’s 19th century past (cabins, stable, covered bridge) are viewable from outside where plaques describe their history. During the summer, costumed interpreters provide information. Access routes within the complex have a dirt surface. Building interiors are not accessible. There is no designated parking. An accessible restroom is located near the parking lot. Paved access route from parking includes a portion at 8.1% slope.

Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias

Elevation range: 5,606 – 6,461 feet

Directions: From the South Entrance, follow signs to Mariposa Grove. There are two designated parking spaces in the parking lot near the restrooms, each with a slope and cross slope of 5.4%. The restroom at the parking area have a ramp, but the restrooms themselves are not fully accessible for wheelchairs.

A one- hour narrated tour on an open- air tram is available for a fee (late spring through early fall). Trams are not equipped with lifts, but persons with mobility impairments may elect to drive behind the tram with a pre- recorded narration on audiocassette at no

charge. For more information check online at www.yosemiteparktours.com or call 209/372- 8331.

The Upper Grove Museum (Closed in winter)

Elevation: 6,440 feet

Modeled after a cabin occupied by Galen Clark (the park's first guardian), the museum portrays the natural history of the giant sequoias and the human history of the area. Visitors with an accessibility placard may follow a tram to the museum.



CAMPING

Accessible campsites may be reserved through the National Park Reservation System (NPRS). The Campground Reservation Office located in the parking area at Curry Village is accessible.

Camping in Yosemite is subject to a 50% discount with a Golden Access Passport. When making a reservation, you must include your passport number in order to receive the discount. For more information on the Golden Access Passport, see **Entrance Fees**.

Camping reservations can be made by writing to NPRS, P.O. Box 1600, Cumberland, MD 21502; to reserve sites by phone, call between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Pacific time 800/436- 7275 in the United States and Canada. By TTY, dial 888/530- 9796. International callers should phone 301/722- 1257. To reserve a campsite online, visit www.reservations.nps.gov. Phone and online reservations may be made using Visa, Mastercard, or Discover cards.

Camping in Yosemite Valley

Campsites most suitable for wheelchairs are available at Lower Pines Campground. The three sites—#3, #5, and #14—are equipped with a power receptacle for charging electric wheelchairs; however, this supply is not adequate for life support systems (e.g., oxygen machines). Tables have extended tops. The main road serves as the access route to the restrooms. (NOTE: During summer 2003, restrooms will be in the process of being remodeled. Persons with specific mobility impairments may have difficulty accessing the facilities during renovation.)

Camp 4 walk- in campground (first- come, first- served) has no designated accessible camping sites. However, a dirt access route from the parking area leads to many level sites. The restroom is accessible. There are no designated accessible parking spaces.

Camping Outside Yosemite Valley

Two sites at Wawona Campground are reserved for visitors with mobility impairments; an accessible restroom is nearby.

Camping Outside Yosemite National Park

There are accessible campgrounds available outside of Yosemite National Park. It is advised that you call ahead for availability and exact accessibility information. Check the camping page in the *Yosemite Guide* newspaper for phone information or visit online at www.nps.gov/yose/trip/guide.

The accessible campgrounds outside of Yosemite National Park vary in their level of difficulty. Call the National Recreation Reservation Center (877/444- 6777) for information on the various accessible campgrounds. This center has a web site that allows you to make reservations online at www.reserveUSA.com.

LODGING

Guest lodging in Yosemite National Park is provided by DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite. Reservations are strongly advised (call 559/252- 4848; TTY 559/255- 8345; or online at www.yosemitepark.com). Please describe your specific needs (i.e., hearing, mobility, etc.) as rooms not designated “accessible” may offer limited usability and the approach may be difficult in rain or snow.

Lodging in Yosemite Valley

The Ahwahnee has one accessible cottage (entrance patio has a two inch threshold) and several hotel rooms with accessible bathrooms and shower stalls. The ground floor of the hotel has an accessible passenger loading zone, dining room, bar, gift shop, patio, telephone, and drinking fountain. An accessible unisex restroom on the mezzanine is identified by a sign and can be reached by an accessible elevator. Walkway surfaces are paved; the covered approach to the front door is wood planking. Valet parking and designated parking spaces are available.

The Yosemite Lodge has one accessible hotel room with an accessible bathroom and shower. The front lobby and tour desk are accessible by a ramp (at the west end of the front complex) leading to the covered walkway into the lobby; also from a ramp at the east end of the registration building. Accessible restrooms, restaurants, and gift shops are available. An outdoor amphitheater offers evening programs throughout the spring through fall. Most walkways are paved. See *Yosemite Today* for programs and hours of operation. Parking spaces are located close to the registration building.

Curry Village will have two accessible cabins with bath and five heated tent cabins available for use by July 2003. Walkway surfaces include asphalt, sand, and wood. The dining pavilion, grocery/gift shop, pizza patio and bar, and mountaineering shop are all accessible. An outdoor amphitheater offers evening programs throughout the spring through fall. Designated parking spaces are available.

Housekeeping Camp, located along the Merced River just west of Curry Village, offers accommodations of 3- sided canvas structures with beds, a place to prepare meals, and a concrete patio with a picnic table. Linens are not provided but can be rented. Walkway

surfaces include asphalt and sand. Accessible restroom and shower are located in Section H. Laundry facilities are available. See *Yosemite Today* for hours of operation.

Lodging Outside Yosemite Valley

Currently, there are no accessible lodgings at Tuolumne Meadows, White Wolf, or Wawona. You may wish to check with DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite for any changes in the future at 559/252- 4848 or visit online at www.yosemitepark.com.

PICNIC AREAS

In Yosemite Valley, the El Capitan Picnic Area has a designated parking space with immediate paved access to a level, paved picnic site. This site also has a picnic table with an extended table top. The vault toilet is wheelchair accessible.

ADDITIONAL MEDICAL INFORMATION

Listed below is information that could be of assistance during your visit to Yosemite National Park.

Northern Inyo Hospital
150 Pioneer Lane
Bishop, CA 93514
760/873-5811

Oakhurst Community Medical Center
(Urgent Care only)
48677 Victoria Lane
Oakhurst, CA 93644
559/683-2992

Mammoth Hospital
185 Sierra Park Road
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
760/934-3311

John C. Fremont Hospital
5810 Hospital Road
Mariposa, CA 95338
209/966-3631

Fresno Community Hospital
301 East 13th Street
Merced, CA 93637
209/385-7000

Tuolumne General Hospital
101 Hospital Road
Sonora, CA 95370
209/533-7100

Valley Children's Hospital
9300 Valley Children's Place
Madera, CA 93638
559/353-5150

Sonora Community Hospital
#1 South Forest Road
Sonora, CA 95370
209/532-3163

Madera Community Hospital
1250 Almond Avenue
Madera, CA 93637
559/673-5101

Doctors Medical Center
1441 Florida Avenue
Modesto, CA 95352
209/578-1211

Discrimination on the basis of disability in federally conducted programs or activities of the Department of the Interior is prohibited.

To request additional information or file a complaint of discrimination, write to:
EEO Program Manager
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 5th Floor
org code 2652
Washington, DC 20005

For additional information regarding the National Park Service and accessibility, check online at www.nps.gov/access/