

NATIONAL PARK · UNITED STATES · CALIFORNIA

Yosemite

at a glance

A granite valley with walls 1,400 metres (4,600 ft) high, surrounded by a wilderness that makes up 95 per cent of the park.

95

PER CENT

of the park is designated wilderness

747,956 2

ACRES

of land, from about 600 to more than 3,900 metres (2,000 to 12,800 ft) high

2

RIVERS

the Tuolumne and the Merced, both Wild & Scenic

1984

SINCE

UNESCO World Heritage

BEFORE YOU GO

**The park is always open**

Yosemite is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The exception is the Hetch Hetchy entrance, which is open only in daylight.

**No entry reservation in 2026**

On 18 February 2026 the park announced that it will not use a timed-entry reservation system in 2026.

**The three roads from the west**

Highway 140 from Merced becomes El Portal Road inside the park, Highway 120 from Manteca becomes Big Oak Flat Road, and Highway 41 from ...

**The waterfalls peak in May**

Snowmelt decides everything: runoff typically peaks in May or June.

**Food belongs in the bear box, not in the car**

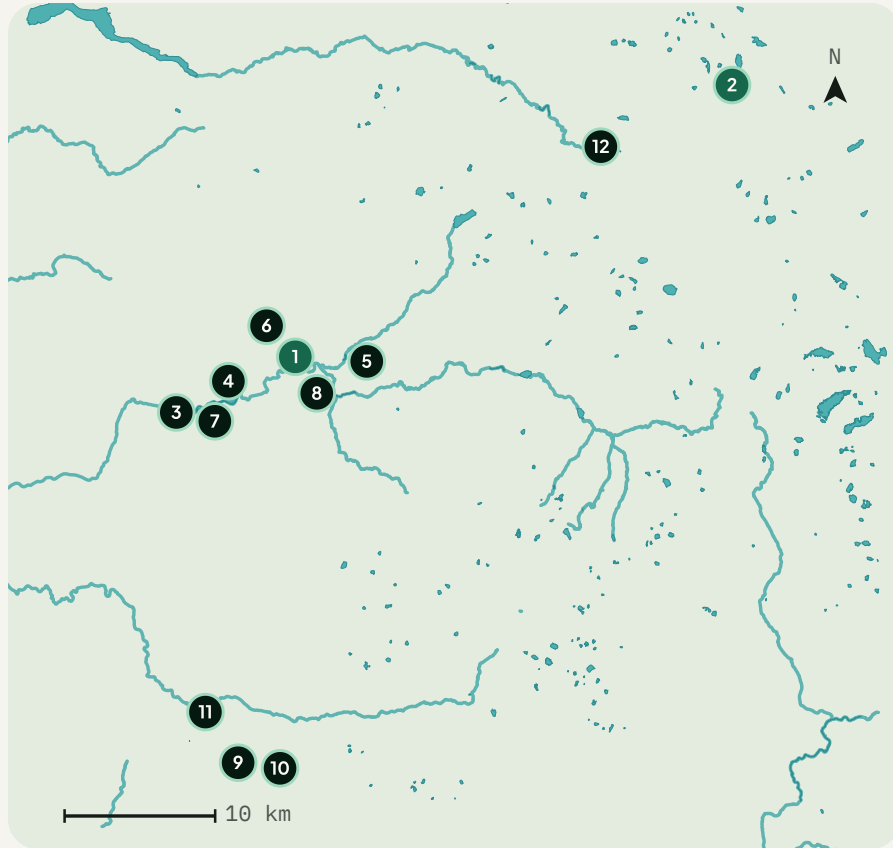
The food storage regulations are legally binding: if you ignore them, you risk having your food or vehicle impounded, a fine of up to 5,000 ...

**“Food” means anything with a scent**

The park explicitly includes things you might not think of as food: packaging, crumbs in a child seat, wet wipes, tins, drink cans.

**Fees and opening hours, up to date**

Fees and times change. The park page lists them with source and date: nationalparksatlas.com/en/usa/yosemite



- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Yosemite Valley Visitor Center | 7 Bridalveil Fall |
| 2 Tioga Pass | 8 Glacier Point |
| 3 Tunnel View | 9 Mariposa Grove Welcome Plaza |
| 4 El Capitan | 10 Grizzly Giant |
| 5 Half Dome | 11 Wawona |
| 6 Upper Yosemite Fall | 12 Tuolumne Meadows |

Green: entrances. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL).



THINGS TO DO

Half Dome: permit, lottery, 14 to 16 miles

The hike is 14 to 16 miles (23 to 26 km) long, climbs 4,800 feet (1,460 m) and takes most people ten to ...

The cables are up only in summer

They usually go up on the Friday before the last Monday in May and come down on the day after the second ...

Mariposa Grove: by shuttle, not by car

You do not drive into the sequoia grove yourself: the road is reserved for vehicles with a disability ...

Two Wild & Scenic Rivers begin here

The Tuolumne and the Merced rise in the park and flow west into the Central Valley.

[More on the park page](#)

How to get a permit

The preseason lottery runs on recreation.gov from 1 to 31 March, with results in mid-April.

Glacier Point without effort

From the car park, a short, paved, wheelchair-accessible path leads to the viewpoint 3,214 feet (980 m) above ...

World Heritage since 1984

UNESCO added Yosemite to the World Heritage List in 1984.

The national park idea began in a sequoia grove

Mariposa Grove has been protected since 1864, earlier than any national park.

TOURS AND GETTING THERE · AD



FROM SELECTED HOTELS IN
SAN FRANCISCO

**From San Francisco:
Yosemite day trip with
hotel pickup**

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



FROM HOTEL PICKUP IN
SAN FRANCISCO.

**From San Francisco: 2-
day Yosemite tour with
lodging**

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



FROM HOTEL PICKUP IN
SAN FRANCISCO.

**Yosemite day trip with a
walk among the giant
sequoias**

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



FROM FISH CAMP ON
HIGHWAY 41

**Narrow-gauge railway in
Fish Camp near the South
Entrance**

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



FROM PICKUP AT HOTELS
IN OAKHURST

**From Oakhurst: Yosemite
full-day tour with lunch
and hotel pickup**

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



FROM IN THE PARK

**Yosemite: private sunset
tour with s'mores**

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



Partner links: we may earn a commission if you book. Dates and prices are set by the provider. Checked 20 Sep 2026.