

Yosemite National Park
Arriba! Detailed Trip Information
July 14 through 18, 2021



View from Glacier Point

Trip Description

The trip departs on Wednesday July 14 and returns on Sunday July 18, 2021. Lodging on Wednesday night is just outside the south entrance of the park at the Tenaya Hotel. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights are reserved at the Yosemite Lodge property in Yosemite Valley.

2021 Trip Pricing and Sign-Up Requirements

The cost for this year's trip is **\$700 per person double occupancy**. The booking is two persons per room. Some King bedded rooms are available, the balance of rooms are two bedded Queens or Doubles.

Do Not send any payment now. Payment information and due dates will be provided in May and a PayPal link opened on the Arriba website.

Covid 19 Challenges and Park Service Limitations

Covid 19 effects on park service restrictions and policies are *rapidly* changing as a result of mass vaccination efforts and other changing government guidelines. It is expected that by July most of the current restrictions will no longer apply. We will continue to monitor the situation. It is recommended that all trip participants consider getting vaccinated to ensure safety for all.

- The Yosemite Valley free shuttle busses are currently Not running. In July, if busses are available, masks may be required even if you are vaccinated.

- The Mariposa Grove of Sequoia Trees is currently closed due to damage and downed trees from a severe wind storm last January. There is no info on a projected opening date.
- In Yosemite Valley, Bridalveil Fall trail and parking area is under renovation scheduled to complete in the Fall of 2021. Some access may be possible however by the end of May.
- Glacier Point Road was planned to be closed for the entire 2021 season for renovation. However, roadwork and updates for Taft Point parking have been re-scheduled for 2022. So the area will be open.

Things You Need to Bring

- Mosquito Repellant (25% DEET recommended). Mosquitos vary from year to year. This is available in the Yosemite shops if needed
- Sunscreen
- Comfortable hiking boots – it's possible there could be wet areas on the trails
- Plastic or canvas bags to re-pack muddy shoes or wet clothing if needed
- A plastic poncho – available at shops in Yosemite or from any camping store. When you are hiking near major waterfalls, the spray is very dense and pretty cold. You will get wet.
- A flashlight – nights get really dark
- Layered attire – days should be very warm but evenings can get cool especially in the higher elevations
- Business casual attire for the Ahwahnee Hotel if you are attending a dinner there. (refer to info near the end of this document)

How to Get There

The South Entrance to Yosemite Park is roughly 320 miles north of Los Angeles. Take the 405 freeway north and connect with Interstate 5 north. After descending the Grapevine, junction with Hwy 99 (stay to the left) and continue north on Hwy 99 towards Fresno. As you come into Fresno, junction with Hwy 41 (Yosemite Hwy) and continue north about another hour toward the park entrance. The Tenaya Hotel is just about 1 mile before the Park entrance and will be on the right hand side of the Hwy.

Assuming average LA traffic at your departure time, and a 1 hr. stop for lunch or whatever, allow approximately 6 hours travel time.

The Yosemite National Park entrance fee is \$35 per vehicle and good for 7 days for all occupants in your vehicle. Save your receipt! Multiple entry and exit is permitted. You may also use a National Park Pass if you have one. On entry ask for a Yosemite Park Guide and map.

NOTE: Cell phone service generally drops-out once you enter the park. There is very spotty or no cell service around the Wawona area. Yosemite Valley has service depending on your carrier. Free Wi-Fi is provided at both hotel properties.

If you can manage a mid-morning departure from LA on Wednesday, a few of us will possibly stop at Bravo Cheese Farm in Traver for BBQ lunch. It's right off of HWY 99 north of Visalia. Watch for the signs. It's a little over 3 hrs from LA. www.bravofarms.com/traver

Arrival Times/Check-In/Check-out

Standard Check-In time is 4:00pm, however rooms **may** be available as early as 3:00pm.

All accommodation reservations are pre-paid and the front desk should have Your Name assigned to the room you booked. **You will need a credit card at check-in for security deposit and any incidentals you may charge.** You are responsible for all additional charges.

The properties require a parking pass for each vehicle – 1 per room. You will be provided the pass at check-in.

Standard Check-Out time is 11:00am.

REMEMBER – Due to bear activity ***no food or toiletry items with a smell (toothpaste, chewing gum or food wrappers, etc.) may be left in your vehicle*** and must be taken into your room. Bears have also learned what ice chests are. Keep any ice chest out of sight and in the trunk even if it is empty. Rangers check vehicles each night and you may receive a citation if you don't follow this. You are responsible for any damage as a result of bears.

Our contract also requires us to advise you of the possible presence of **Hantavirus** in field mice or other small rodents and contact should be avoided. Information can be found at www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hantavirus.htm

Tenaya Lodge Hotel



Tenaya Lodge

The Club has secured 10 rooms in the main Lodge for the night of July 14. The property has a pool and spa and multiple dining room options both casual (Jackalope's Grill) and upscale (Embers).

Yosemite Park South Entrance Activities

Yosemite Sugar Pine Railroad – A few people have expressed interest in the Moonlight Ride dinner train for **Wednesday evening**. It is located just south of the Tenaya Lodge. Cost is \$63 per person with limited availability and includes a BBQ dinner and musical show under the stars. Let me know if you have interest or have other questions. The Club previously did this on the 2019 trip.

Mariposa Grove of Sequoias (*Currently Closed due to storm damage last January. Opening TBD.*)

The Mariposa Grove of giant Sequoia trees is located at the Park's South Entrance. It is accessed only by shuttle bus. There is a parking area for your vehicle near the shuttle.

Wawona Area (4 miles from the South Entrance)

The Wawona area hosts the Wawona Hotel, a nearby general store, gas station, and equestrian stables. The South Fork of the Merced River flows through this area.

The Wawona hotel was originally built in the late 1800's at the site of a stagecoach stop for visitors traveling into Yosemite Valley. It retains the character of the late 19th century in its buildings, furnishings, and grounds.

The Wawona Hotel facilities include a 9-hole golf course situated in an alpine meadow. There is a main dining room, and cocktails are served in main lodge parlor room and outdoor front porch area.

Dinner is available in the dining room from 5:30pm to 9pm. Reservations cannot be made for parties less than 6.



Other points of interest include Glacier Point for spectacular views of the Sierra Nevada, and easy hikes to Sentinel Dome and Taft Point. Glacier Point is also the start point of the Panorama Trail and the Four Mile Trail straight down to Yosemite Valley.

Yosemite Valley Lodge

Yosemite Lodge is the largest of the three accommodation properties located within Yosemite Valley. It is located very near the base of Yosemite Fall.

The center complex consists of the Main Lodge, Base Camp Eatery cafeteria and coffee house, full size swimming pool, bike rentals, gift and supply shop, the Mountain Room restaurant, and a separate bar also serving pub style food and appetizers.

The Yosemite Lodge Tour Desk in the main lobby is the central booking point for all tour buses:

- Yosemite Valley tours
- Glacier Point tour and one-way hiker bus to Glacier Point or round trip for non-hikers
- Tuolumne Meadows tour bus and one-way hiker bus to the Yosemite Fall trailhead
- YART transportation to Fresno airport or Merced Amtrak station

Free Shuttles

In Yosemite Valley, a free shuttle bus service runs every 15 minutes to many points around the Valley and Yosemite Village including Yosemite Lodge where we are staying. Shuttle bus route maps are available in the hotel lobby.

Stops are numbered from 1 to 21. Yosemite Lodge is stop # 8. Shuttles run from 7am to 10pm



A Yosemite Lodge standard 2 bed room with outdoor patio area. Upstairs rooms have a balcony sitting area.

Park Hiking Information

There are many hiking opportunities in Yosemite and too many to list individually. I have electronic hiking trail maps including level of difficulty, trailhead location, and distances for the following areas:

- Wawona Area – includes trail to Mariposa Grove
- Glacier Point Area – includes Panorama trail, Taft Point, Sentinel Dome, 4 Mile Trail
- Crane Flat/White Wolf area – includes the Tuolumne Grove of Sequoias, Lukens Lake
- Hetch-Hetchy Area – Tueeulala Fall, Wapama Fall, Rancheria Fall
- Yosemite Valley Area – Upper and Lower Yosemite Fall, Mirror Lake, Vernal and Nevada Fall
- Tuolumne Meadows Area – includes access to the top of Yosemite Fall trailhead (8 miles), Tenaya Lake, May Lake, Olmsted Point
- Picnic Areas in Yosemite Park

If you would like to have any of these, please send me a note and I will forward.



At Nevada Fall Looking
Down 594 ft.

Optional Dinner at the Ahwahnee Hotel

The Club has historically booked a Saturday night group dinner at the Ahwahnee Grand dining room. Due to current Covid restrictions we are not able to confirm a reservation for July. This will change but I don't expect to be able to confirm before late May or even June. It is also possible we may be asked to split across several tables. When you sign-up for the trip please indicate if you have interest in this option.

For Dinner service, the Ahwahnee requests a dress code of 'business casual'. **No shorts, jeans or tennis shoes.** Please be sure to pack accordingly. The **cost for the dinner is not included** in the trip and is your responsibility. Depending on your choices for starter, entrée, and drinks, the cost could be around \$100 or more. Individual checks for groups of this size is not practical. Please plan accordingly.



The Ahwahnee Grand Dining Hall

FAQ's

1. **Is there gas available?** There is no fuel in Yosemite Valley itself. I would recommend filling up in Oakhurst or Coarsegold (Hwy 41) before entering the Park. Wawona has a 24 hr credit card fuel station near the general store. Prices in the Park are significantly higher than elsewhere.
2. **Is there a medical facility?** Yes, in Yosemite Valley near the Village center.
3. **Can I bring my own food?** Yes. Please remember the rule to ***not leave any food in your vehicle***. For hiking, pre-packaged sandwiches and other food items (chips, trail mix, water, etc) are available from any general store or gift shop including the shops at Wawona, Glacier Point, and Yosemite Lodge.
4. **Will Tioga Pass and Tuolumne Meadows be open?** Very high probability it will be. Our trip this year is later in the season than past trips. Points of Interest include Tenaya Lake, Olmsted Point, the Meadows and Tuolumne River. There is a Visitor Center in the Meadows.
5. **Why does Vinney write these ridiculously long letters?** Unclear, but probably an obsessive disorder of some type.

