



Yosemite National Park – Summer-Fall Itinerary

Summer in Yosemite is a very popular time. The weather is warm, everything is accessible, and families are able to take some vacation time. To have the best experience at the most popular sites in Yosemite (such as Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove) start early in the morning or after 2 pm in the afternoon especially on weekends and holiday periods. Fall time in Yosemite is a quieter time and the fall colors are breathtaking.

YOSEMITE IN A DAY:

STOP 1: MARIPOSA GROVE

Meet the star of Mariposa Grove—the Grizzly Giant—the largest giant sequoia in the grove, with a diameter of 31 feet and a circumference of nearly 100 feet. Mariposa Grove has 470 of these behemoths, many of which are nearly 2,000 years old. Several trees stand nearly 300 feet tall with a diameter of 15 feet or more. Located at the South Entrance off Highway 41.



STOP 2: WAWONA

The Wawona area tells the story of Yosemite’s human history and pioneer past. The charming 19th century Wawona Hotel and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center are a history buff’s delight. Lots to do in Wawona, you can play a round of golf, splash in the river or hike to Chilnualna Falls. Located just 6 miles from the South Entrance off Highway 41.

STOP 3: GLACIER POINT

Glacier Point is open late spring through late fall. Once at Glacier Point, go to the railing’s edge and catch your breath at one of the most exhilarating overlooks on Earth. From this perch on the rim of Yosemite Valley, you can look down 3,214 feet to the valley floor for an eagle’s view of many of the popular features of Yosemite. Located off Highway 41 just 14 miles from Wawona.



STOP 4: TUNNEL VIEW

On Hwy 41 is one of the most photographed vistas in the world. It provides a panoramic view of Yosemite Valley, including El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridalveil Falls. Be prepared to pull into the parking area to the right or left immediately past the tunnel.

STOP 5: YOSEMITE VALLEY

An unlimited array of possibilities awaits you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. Tip: Park your vehicle in the Day Use parking area and hop on the FREE Valley Shuttle for the opportunity to see the many sites of Yosemite Valley.

YOSEMITE FALLS - Feast your eyes on the highest waterfall in North America. It is among the top 10 highest waterfalls in the world (Sentinel Falls is also in that group). A spectacular view awaits you from a short footpath to Yosemite Falls, which plunges 2,425 feet. This hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired. (Shuttle Stop #6)



YOSEMITE VALLEY: ARTS AND CULTURE (Shuttle Stop #5)

Yosemite Museum - Next door to the Valley Visitor Center, the Indian Cultural Exhibit displays the cultural history of the Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present. An Indian Cultural Demonstrator is on site. Rotating exhibits in the Museum Gallery continue to foster the arts in Yosemite. The Museum Store, operated by the Yosemite Conservancy, features traditional American Indian crafts.

Indian Village of Ahwahnee - Behind the Valley Visitor Center, this outdoor exhibit, open year-round, is where traditional cultural presentations come to life.



Ansel Adams Gallery - The gallery is located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center and is open daily from 9 to 5 pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, contemporary photographers, and other fine artists.

THE AHWAHNEE - Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987, The Ahwahnee opened in 1927, it is lauded even by today's architects as "masterful". Tour the grounds with breathtaking views, dine in the majestic dining room, shop in the gift store or sweet shop, and sip hot beverages by the fireplace. (Shuttle Stop #3)

OTHER THINGS TO SEE AND DO IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME:

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS - Located in the heart of Yosemite's high country (off Highway 120 near the Tioga Pass Entrance) at an elevation of 8,575 feet, Tuolumne Meadows is the largest subalpine meadow in the Sierra Nevada and a popular spot for High Sierra day hikes, fishing, camping and ranger programs.



SENTINEL DOME AND TAFT POINT LOOP – This is a 5 mile loop and moderate hike located off Glacier Point Road. Both Sentinel Dome and Taft Point have amazing views of Yosemite Valley. Near Taft Point you'll see the Fissures – narrow fractures in the granite called joints. Watch for drops near these fractures of up to 2,000 feet!

YOSEMITE CHAPEL - Located in Yosemite Valley, the Yosemite Chapel became listed on the prestigious National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The chapel, which is the oldest structure in Yosemite Valley began services June 7, 1879.

SOUTHERN GATEWAY ATTRACTIONS - Visit the many attractions that make the southern gateway the most popular entrance to Yosemite National Park. Family owned wineries on the Madera Wine Trail, Bass Lake, museums, art galleries, Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad, casino, events and more. See www.YosemiteThisYear.com for more information.



**For Lodging, Tours & more information visit:
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(Photos courtesy of: Annie Starkey, Kristal Leonard, Nancy Robbins, and Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts)