

Yosemite National Park Trip Assistant

How Much Time?

Winter is the quiet season (Yosemite Valley remains open and weather is reasonably comfortable). Spring is waterfall season. Summer is peak season (and fire season). Fall is prime hiking season, although waterfalls will be greatly diminished if not dry.

In summer, the trade-off for incomparable scenery is often overwhelming crowds and traffic. The [park shuttle](#) makes things better, but

it also amplifies crowds at already popular places. The opening of Tioga Road helps ease the crush of human traffic, and, with more than 750 miles of trails, you can use your legs to get away from it all. So, how much time? If you love hiking and are willing to get up early and get after it, you cannot have too much time here. If you want to check off the essentials and move on, spend a night in the valley and carry on (maybe to the Eastern Sierra).

Need to Know

- A [Timed-Entry Permit](#) is required to drive through the park during periods of peak visitation.
- [Reservations](#) are required for camping.
- It gets very hot in Yosemite Valley in summer. It's 15-20°F cooler along Tioga Road and in the High Sierra.
- [Free shuttles](#) simplify getting around the park.

Maps

Yosemite National Park Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Yosemite Valley: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Region: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

[Google Map w/ Trails and Attractions](#)

All 63 National Parks Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Western National Park Service Units Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Highlights

Yosemite Valley

Tunnel View

Glacier Point

Washburn Point

Valley View

Olmstead Point

Mariposa Grove

Hetch Hetchy



Favorite Trails

Easy

[May Lake](#)

[Lower Yosemite Falls](#)

[Bridalveil Falls](#)

[Grizzly Giant](#)

Moderate

[Sentinel Dome](#)

[Cathedral Lakes](#)

[Taft Point](#)

[Elizabeth Lake](#)

[Glen Aulin](#)

[Gaylor Lakes](#)

Mono Pass

[Lembert Dome](#)

[Wapama Falls](#)

Strenuous

[Vernal & Nevada Falls](#)

[Yosemite Falls](#)

[Panorama](#)

[Cloud's Rest](#)

[Ostrander Lake](#)

[Ten Lakes](#)

Extreme

[Half Dome](#)

Activities

Hiking

Backpacking

Rock Climbing

Rafting

Biking

Horseback Riding

See this [Google Map](#) for pins to favorite trails and attractions.

Highlights

[Alabama Hills](#)

[Parker Lake](#), [June Lake](#),

[Convict Lake](#), [Big Pine](#)

[Lakes](#), Palisades, Minarets,

[Whitney Portal](#), etc.

[\(Inyo National Forest\)](#)

This is an area where I don't know enough as I should to make a good suggestion on what to do. With that said, I feel very confident that exploring the Eastern Sierra is a great use of your time and monney. Stanislaus, El Dorado, Tahoe, and Plumas National Forests looked like they're filled with potential but there wasn't enough time to figure things out.

Road Trip

Here's a [Google Map](#) to help plan road trips from the east (Death Valley), north (Lassen Volcanic), west (San Francisco, CA), and south (Kings Canyon). It's a good start, but I'd highly recommend making your own.

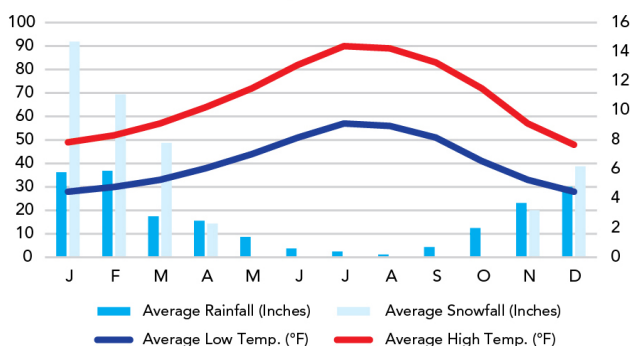
There's much more to our country. Here's another [Google Map](#) with points of interest across all types of public land.

For campers, here's a [Google Map](#) with National Forest campgrounds. National Park campgrounds are difficult to reserve (there are about 200!). With nearly 5,000 national forest campgrounds, you can usually pull in and find a spot.

When To Go

Weather

Yosemite Valley: 3,996 ft Elevation



Visitation

Yosemite Visitation

