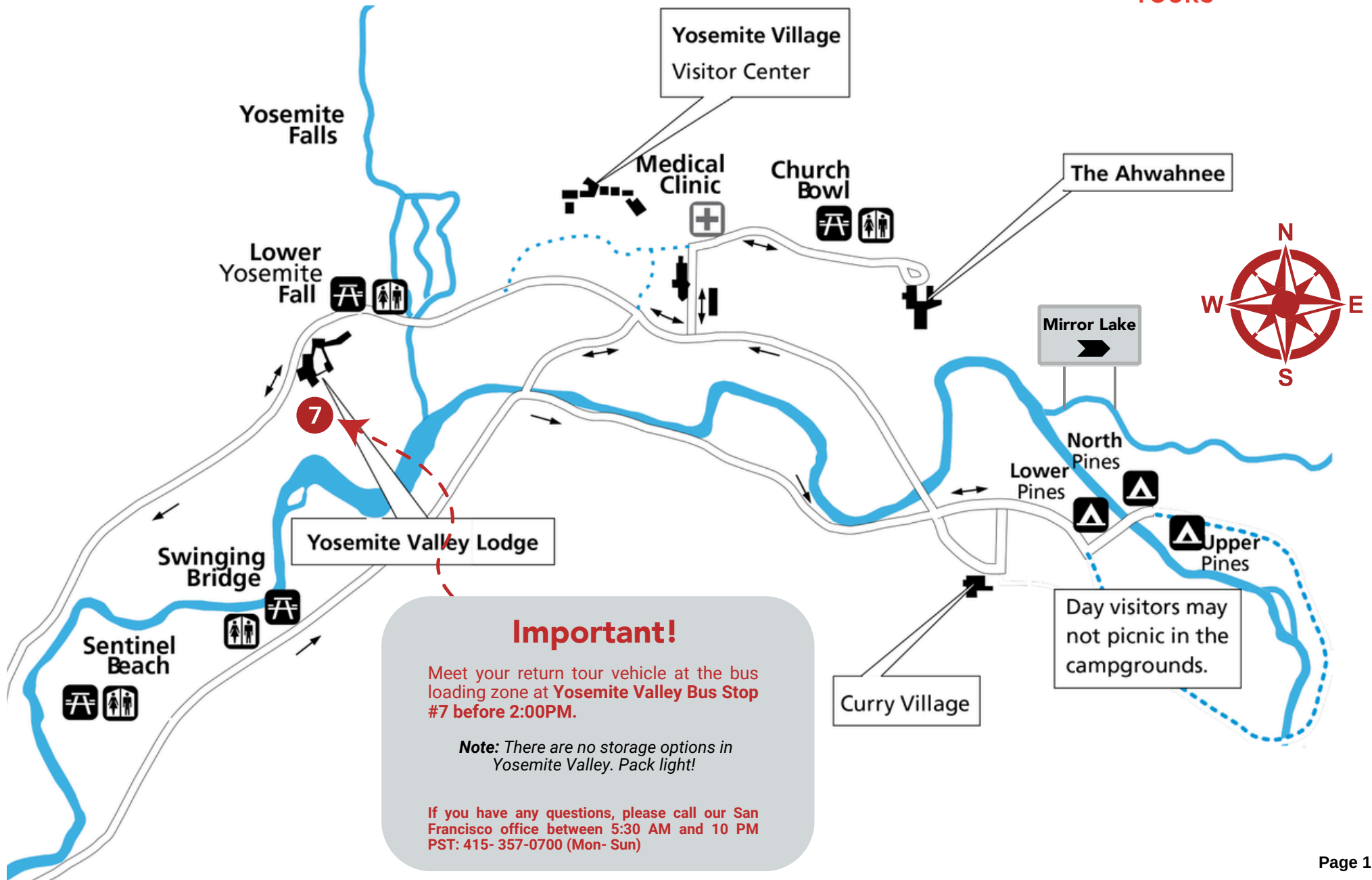


# Overnighter's Guide to Yosemite by **extranomical** TOURS



## THINGS TO DO

### 2 Day Tour

Spend some time at the **Yosemite Valley Visitors Center**. This ranger-staffed center is a good place to pick up souvenirs, books, and maps. Nature lovers will enjoy the museum's Native American cultural exhibit and the environmental talks at the Conservation Heritage Center (closed in winter).

Art lovers will want to check out the **Ansel Adams Gallery's** classes and workshops.

Have afternoon tea or dinner at **The Ahwahnee**. This national historic landmark offers great cliff views, a gift shop, decadent sweet shop, and comfortable bar and dining room. The hotel is located near YARTS stop #3 on Ahwahnee Drive.

Have some fun in **Curry Village**. Find seasonal activities like an outdoor swimming pool (summer), an ice-skating rink (winter), entertainment amphitheater, ranger programs, and bike rentals. Curry Village is located just below Half Dome and Glacier Point on Southside Drive.

Ride a bike to **Mirror Lake**. Mirror Lake offers stunning glassy views of Tenaya Canyon and a different perspective of Half Dome. The paved biking trail near shuttle stop #17 leads directly to Mirror Lake. The best time to visit is spring and early summer. Rent bikes at Curry Village or Yosemite Valley Lodge.

Hike the **Mist Trail** to Nevada and Vernal Falls. The 3-mile loop includes a strenuous granite stairway of 600 steps leading to the top of Vernal Falls. Be careful, footing can be slippery in winter and spring. Start early in the morning so you make it back in time to have lunch and meet your afternoon return bus.

Take photos from the **Swinging Bridge**. Don't be surprised when you arrive at a bridge that no longer "swings". This is a beautiful place to gaze down into the Merced River's crystal-clear waters and take pictures with Yosemite Falls and Sentinel Rock in the background.

Go Climb a Rock with the Yosemite Mountaineering School. The beginners' "Welcome to the Rock" class will have you climbing and rappelling on your first day. The school and guide service is located in Curry Village.

Stand at the base of Lower Yosemite Falls. This easy 1-mile (1.6 km) round trip loop to the tallest waterfall on the continent meanders through a pine and oak forest before opening to a rocky platform where you can view the picture-perfect falls.

Photograph wildlife and wildflowers on **Cook's Meadow Loop**. This flat, easy 2.3-mile (3.6 km) path treats hikers to several different views of Yosemite Falls. The trail crosses the Swinging Bridge where you can see iconic monuments reflected in the calm waters of the Merced River.

Take the **Yosemite Valley Floor Tour**. This two-hour, park ranger-led tour of Yosemite Valley operates all year round. A naturalist guide will tell the story of Yosemite and point out flora, and fauna throughout the park. Tickets can be purchased at Yosemite Valley Lodge.

### 3 Day Tour

**NOTE:** There is not time to do these activities on a 2-day tour.

Hike to the **Mariposa Grove** of Giant Sequoias (spring, summer and fall). This grove is home to over 500 mature giant sequoias including the Bachelor, Three Graces and the 2700-year-old Grizzly Giant. YARTS provides public transportation to the Mariposa Welcome Plaza but does not operate in winter.

See it all on the ranger-led **Grand Tour** (spring, summer and fall). This full-day tour visits Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Includes a picnic lunch. Tours are also available to Glacier Point and Tuolumne Meadows. Tickets may be purchased at the Yosemite Valley Lodge.

Raft down the **Merced River** (summer). A totally entertaining summertime way to enjoy Yosemite park's major attractions is on a raft floating down the lazy Merced River. Lie on your back, trail your fingers in the water, and gaze up at Yosemite's granite walls as they pass by. You can rent a raft and safety equipment at Curry Village.

## DINING

### YOSEMITE VALLEY LODGE

#### FOOD COURT

*Counter-serve offering simple, eclectic eats, from pizza to grilled entrees, plus grab-and-go options.*

### THE AHWANEE

#### DINING ROOM

*Famed, old-school venue for American dining amid cathedral windows and a soaring, cross beam ceiling. Dinner dress is on the formal side.*

### CURRY VILLAGE

#### PAVILION

*Features fast food and cafeteria service for pizza, tacos, ice cream and coffee.*

### YOSEMITE VISITOR'S CENTER

*Offers places to purchase snacks and beverages. Casual dining is available at Degnan's Deli.*

## ACCOMMODATION TIPS

	<b>Yosemite Valley Lodge</b>	<b>The Ahwahnee Hotel</b>	<b>Curry Village</b>	<b>Yosemite View Lodge</b>	<b>Cedar Lodge</b>	<b>Bug Lodge</b>
<b>How to get there</b>	The tour bus will drop you off at Yosemite Shuttle stop #7 which is across the street from the lodge	Take the Free Yosemite Valley Shuttle to bus stop #3: The Ahwahnee Hotel	Take the Free Yosemite Valley Shuttle to bus stop #13: Curry Village	Take the YARTS bus (Blue Line) from one of the four stops in Yosemite Valley. Hop off at the Yosemite View Lodge stop	Take the YARTS bus (Blue Line) from one of the four stops in Yosemite Valley. Hop off at the Yosemite Cedar Lodge stop	Take the YARTS bus (Blue Line) from one of the four stops in Yosemite Valley. Hop off at the Yosemite Bug Resort stop and follow the signs up driveway approximately .3 mile (.5 kilometer)
<b>Transportation Fees &amp; Distance</b>	2-minute walk	Allow 30 minutes since the Free Valley Shuttle runs approximately every 15-20 minutes	Allow 30 minutes since the Free Valley Shuttle runs approximately every 15-20 minutes	Approximately 1-hour ride on the YARTS bus. You can buy tickets on the bus (cash and Visa/Master Card accepted). \$8 one-way	Approximately 1-hour ride on the YARTS bus. You can buy tickets on the bus (cash and Visa/Master Card accepted). \$8 one-way	Approximately 1 hour and 30 min ride on the YARTS bus. You can buy tickets on the bus (cash and Visa/Master Card accepted). \$12 one-way
<b>Food Options</b>	Has an on-site food court and a restaurant	Has a lobby bar and a fine dining restaurant. It is strongly recommended to book your dining reservations in advance	There is a small grocery store. Dining options available at Seven Tents Pavilion and the Meadow	There is on-site dining and several nearby restaurants, including The River Restaurant & Lounge, Parkside Pizza, and Yosemite View Convenience Store	The an on-site Cedar House restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily	June Bug Café serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily

# TRANSPORTATION

## YARTS (YOSEMITE AREA RAPID TRANSIT)

Provides bus transportation from four locations in Yosemite Valley (Half Dome Village, Majestic Yosemite Hotel, Visitor Center, or Yosemite Valley Lodge) to lodging and transit centers in El Portal, Mariposa and Merced.

Walk-on service is available for YARTS on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to make your travel more convenient, YARTS offers reservations. Passengers are allowed to bring bags on the YARTS buses, including backpacks of any size. However, larger bags may need to be stored in compartments located under the passenger seats.



## YARTS SCHEDULE



## YOSEMITE VALLEY SHUTTLE

Provides free service around Yosemite Valley, including stops at or near all overnight accommodations. This shuttle operates all year from 7 am to 10 pm.

There are two routes that run continuously in a loop:

### **Valleywide shuttle:**

Route serves all stops in Yosemite Valley, including lodges, food service, campgrounds, and trailheads. Buses arrive every 12 to 22 minutes from 7 am to 10 pm.

### **East Valley shuttle:**

Route covers Yosemite Village, Curry Village, Pines campgrounds, and trailheads in eastern Yosemite Valley. Buses arrive every 8 to 12 minutes from 7 am to 10 pm.



## SHUTTLE MAP

