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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



David

# In love in Yosemite

## **Yosemite National Park, 3 Days**

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** One of the first books about Yosemite was called, "In the Heart of the Sierras." Later, John Muir wrote that, "Nature seems to have put all her best treasures in one place, to draw her lovers closer to her." Today it's still a place we love, and a perfect place to be with that special partner on the trail of life. Whether hiking, snowshoing, or sitting by the campfire together, this park has many ways for catalyzing emotional connections. For this weekend of romance we'll stay at the expansive Tenaya Lodge on the park's southern boundary and make excursions in to the awesome chasm of Yosemite Valley and to the edge of the sky.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1

**DAY NOTE:** This is an extremely comfortable place to stay, especially if you're coming in from southern California or Sequoia National Park. Tenaya is a deluxe resort with very nice rooms, great dining options, a pool, trails that take off from the hotel, and terrific placement adjacent to the park boundary. It's surrounded by miles of deep forest.

Center before hitting the road for home in the afternoon. It's all about being in love here...

## Day 2 - Yosemite National Park

**DAY NOTE:** The two of you have a fine adventure ahead today. After breakfast, drive about an hour into Yosemite Valley, park at the Day Use Parking lot and take the free shuttle to Yosemite Lodge. Walk downstream along the river until you pick up the loop trail that continues west to El Capitan Bridge. Cross the Merced River here and return on the southside bridle trail. This makes an easy few miles for a morning's introduction to the Valley. A table for two at the luxurious Ahwahnee dining room relaxes you for a mellow afternoon. Get a fancy picnic supper at Degnan's Deli and drive up to Glacier Point. A short walk here provides jaw-dropping views and a grand place to watch the sunset together before returning to your hotel.

	<b>Center Valley Loop Trail</b> An easy, quieter walk in the middle of Yosemite Valley
	<b>Ahwahnee Dining Room</b> Elegant atmosphere and food
	<b>Degnan's Delicatessen</b> Sandwiches & Groceries
	<b>Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point</b> Scenic views and a strenuous 3-4 hour hike

	<b>Mariposa Grove</b> Largest living things on earth
	<b>Wawona Hotel Dining Room</b> Fine Food & 19th-Century Decor

## Day 3 - Yosemite National Park

**DAY NOTE:** Take your time over breakfast at Tenaya Lodge this morning. Make the short hop into the park and up into the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. Stroll beneath the towering trees to the inspiring Grizzly Giant and the tunnel in the California Tree. Cruise downhill to the historic Wawona Hotel for lunch, then maybe wander through the adjacent Pioneer Yosemite History

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# Day 2 - Yosemite National Park

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### contact:

tel: 209-372-0200

fax: 209-372-0220

[www.nps.gov/yose/](http://www.nps.gov/yose/)

### location:

P.O. Box 577

Yosemite CA 95389

## 1 Center Valley Loop Trail

**DESCRIPTION:** This route is part of the little-used but very worthy bridle trail that loops the edges of the whole Valley floor. The least used west end is described elsewhere. It gains little elevation as it leads through the central chamber of Yosemite Valley. This trail can be accessed from Camp Four Campground, Sentinel Beach Picnic Area, El Capitan Bridge, Cathedral Picnic Area, Four Mile Trail or Yosemite Lodge. One way to do this is to begin the hike by following the trail that leads west out of the Yosemite Lodge/ Yosemite Falls area. A half mile from the Lower Yosemite Falls area the Upper Yosemite Falls Trail heads up the wall to the right. The center Valley loop leads westward from Camp Four, where a new Indian Cultural Center is being built, then crosses Northside Drive. The trail follows the Merced River through Leidig Meadow to El Capitan Bridge. This stretch of trail provides sweeping views of the Merced River and the Valley's cliffs. Cross the El Cap Bridge and head east on the trail there. The trail crosses Southside Drive then continues eastward through the forest toward Sentinel Rock. The crossing of Sentinel Creek can be tricky in May. Shortly beyond it is the junction with Four-mile Trail. East of this junction the trail either crosses Southside Drive to the Swinging Bridge picnic area and back to Yosemite Lodge, or continues east in deep woods to emerge behind the Yosemite Chapel. No bikes or pets are allowed on this route.



Photo courtesy of Center Valley Loop Trail

### contact:

tel: 1 209 372 1489

[http://www.yosemitepark.com/dining\\_ahwahneediningroom.aspx](http://www.yosemitepark.com/dining_ahwahneediningroom.aspx)

### location:

Northside Drive

Yosemite National Park CA 95379

### hours:

## 2 Ahwahnee Dining Room

**DESCRIPTION:** A Yosemite tradition this huge and elegant dining room somehow feels intimate, despite its 34-foot ceilings. For breakfast, you can choose from frittatas or omelets, or enjoy a variety of salads or sandwiches for lunch. The dinner menu features entrees such as Salmon Ahwahnee served with Dungeness crab with bearnaise sauce and wild rice. The restaurant has an extensive and award-winning wine list. Reservations are essential for dinner, and the evening dress code calls for jackets or sweaters for men older than 12 and dresses or pantsuits for women. © wcities.com



Ahwahnee Dining Room

Mon-Sat 7-10am,  
11:30am-3pm, and  
5:30-9:15pm; Sun 7am-3pm  
and 5:30-9:15pm

**contact:**  
tel: 1 209 372 1000  
www.yosemitepark.com

**location:**  
9015 Village Drive  
Yosemite National Park CA  
95389

**hours:**  
8a-6p daily

### 3 Degnan's Delicatessen

#### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

If you're lunching outside, don't let those ground squirrels get any crumbs; keep them wild.

**DESCRIPTION:** Degnan's is a social hub for Yosemite Village and it's overflowing at lunchtime.&nbsp; There's a lot to choose from, but their sandwich selection (all named for park landmarks) is great and the soups are just the thing on a chilly mountain day.&nbsp; Lots of beverage fridges, ice cream novelties, chips and candy can round out a meal for a picnic table outside or will fill your daypack for a hike to Mirror Lake or up Yosemite Falls.&nbsp; Open year-round.&nbsp; © NileGuide



wcities

**contact:**  
tel: +1 209 372 0200  
[http://www.nps.gov/yose/plan\\_yourvisit/glacierhikes.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/plan_yourvisit/glacierhikes.htm)

**location:**  
Southside Dr  
Yosemite CA 95389

### 4 Four Mile Trail to Glacier Point

#### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Believe it or not, the Four Mile Trail is 4.6 miles long.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Four Mile Trail is a very strenuous hike with an altitude gain of 3,200 feet.&nbsp; Of course you can drive to Glacier Point, but the trail is lovely, and you will feel virtuous because you spent two - five hours hiking. Take water with you and wear a hat as well as comfortable hiking shoes or boots. For your safety, it is recommended that you complete this hike before dark. The trail is closed in winter.&nbsp; Many people pay (about \$20) for a bus ride from Yosemite Lodge to Glacier Point and then hike back down the Four Mile to the Valley floor again.&nbsp; If you park up top and hike down, be aware that there are NO afternoon buses back up.&nbsp; © NileGuide



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# Day 3 - Yosemite National Park

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**contact:**  
tel: +1 209 372 0200  
<http://www.nps.gov/yose>

**location:**  
Mariposa Grove Road  
Yosemite CA 95389

## 1 Mariposa Grove

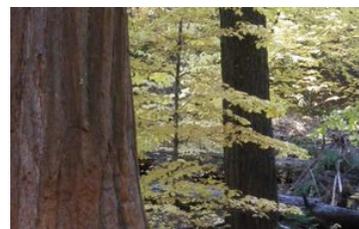
### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Snowshoe or XC ski through these giants in the winter for an otherworldly experience.

**DESCRIPTION:** This grove was part of the world's first 'national park,' protected by the US government 8 years before Yellowstone. It's open all year, but you can only drive in during the summer and fall. In winter it's a couple mile walk, ski or snowshoe along the access road - very worthwhile. These trees are huge, up to 300' tall, and 25-30' across at the base. The Grizzly Giant is a main attraction, a mile's walk from the parking area. The famous Tunnel Tree fell down in 1969, but there's a second tree with a tunnel cut through it next to the Grizzly Giant. Walking trails lace the grove of several hundred trees, and a small museum in the upper grove makes an informative and scenic stop. Those who don't want to hike on these slopes can take a 1.5 hour tram tour for \$26, with headset narration in 6 languages.

Parking is limited so for much of the summer, plan to park at the Wawona Store and take a free shuttle every half hour. Trailers and RV's should not go up the narrow road into the grove.

© NileGuide



**contact:**  
tel: 801 559-4884  
[http://www.yosemitepark.com/dining\\_wawonadiningroom.aspx](http://www.yosemitepark.com/dining_wawonadiningroom.aspx)

**location:**  
Wawona Hotel  
Yosemite National Park CA  
95379

**hours:**  
summer

## 2 Wawona Hotel Dining Room

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Check out the lampshades overhead, with sequoia cones dangling from them.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Wawona Hotel's dining room mirrors the hotel's ambience -- wide open, lots of windows and sunlight. And the fare is great. For breakfast choose from a variety of items, including the Par Three, a combo of French toast or pancakes, eggs, and bacon or sausage -- just what you need before hitting the golf course. Lunch features a variety of sandwiches and salads. Dinner is delectable. In addition to some exceptional entrees, such as brown sugar-rubbed pork loin with apple-onion relish and bourbon sauce, prime rib, and several seafood and veggie dishes, there are amazing appetizers. The cumin-crusted ahi,



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roasted whole garlic, and rock shrimp and potato risotto are sumptuous. ©  
Frommer's

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# Yosemite National Park Snapshot

## Local Info

The globally recognized landscape of Yosemite National Park is a stunning natural phenomenon, a crux element in environmental history, and a visitor-friendly playground. The park is almost 1200 square miles, the same size as Rhode Island and it gets about 4 million visitors a year. Most people focus their visit on Yosemite Valley where the most dramatic terrain is found, but the attractions extend far beyond this part of the mountains.

## Yosemite Valley

Most tourism infrastructure is concentrated in the two square miles of the Valley's east end. This goes along with a density of remarkable scenery, which includes Yosemite Falls, Glacier Point and Half Dome. You may have heard that it gets too crowded here, but there are good reasons for this; you must see this part of Yosemite.

A natural starting place on any visit to the park is to park your car in one of the two Day Use Parking Lots and take the free shuttle to the Valley Visitor Center, located in Yosemite Village. Look at the big Valley map, ask a ranger some questions, see the excellent park film, explore the Visitor Center exhibits and those of the Yosemite Museum and the Indian Village. It's not too far to stroll a nice trail to the base of Lower Yosemite Falls. You can also take the shuttle to/from The Ahwahnee, Yosemite Lodge, Curry Village, Happy Isles and Upper, Lower and North Pines campgrounds.

The free shuttle can also deliver you to several trailheads. Easy walks, short hikes and more strenuous climbs open up breathtaking sights including Yosemite Falls, Mirror Lake and Vernal Falls. There is a lot of useful literature on Yosemite's natural history, photography, rockclimbing and quite a few excellent guidebooks available in the Valley Visitor Center, which can provide you with great nighttime reading or references along the trail.

## Wawona and Southern Yosemite

The Highway 41 corridor runs south from (or north to) Yosemite Valley and includes features that are worthy of national park status in their own right. Wawona is a small historic settlement that could serve as a base of operations for an extensive

park visit. The historic Wawona Hotel is found here, with its adjacent 9-hole golf course, stables and cooling South Fork Merced River. Just south of Wawona is the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, a part of Yosemite's original preserved tract.

Along your way south is the Glacier Point Road which winds past the Badger Pass Ski Area, 16 miles to the breathtaking Glacier Point. This provides a view off a 3000' cliff, the spread of the high country, an interesting angle on Half Dome and 3 major waterfalls. Glacier Point is open all winter- just not to cars. Cross-country skiers follow groomed tracks to this snowy, solitary aerie.

Other worthwhile destinations along Highway 41 include Wawona's Pioneer Yosemite History Center, where park staff creates a living account of Yosemite's fascinating past, and the community of Yosemite West, where house and condo rentals can serve as cozy basecamps. Beyond the park boundary, Sierra National Forest has camping, Fish Camp has a big motel and B+B's, and Oakhurst has a range of hotels and restaurants, as well as grocery, hardware and clothing stores.

## Tuolumne Meadows and the High Country

The historic Tioga Road provides unique access to the middle of Yosemite, the alpine peaks, alluring trailheads for hikers, and the through route to the completely different landscape of what locals call the East Side.

The road starts about a half-hour uphill from Yosemite Valley, runs through the beloved Tuolumne Meadows and over the highest highway pass in California, Tioga Pass.

The route leaves from Crane Flat where there's a gas station, campground and convenience store, and goes by the hidden charm of White Wolf where you'll find a campground and a small lodge. The intimate Siesta Lake and expansive Tenaya Lake lie beside the road, and a land of granite domes awaits between there and Tuolumne Meadows. Tuolumne has its own visitor center, a large campground and a rustic lodge as well as other amenities. It's well worth planning to spend some time in this cool high country locale.

Beyond 10,000' Tioga Pass is the precipitous drop to Lee Vining, Mono Lake, high desert terrain and relatively young volcanic vents. Year-round resorts of June Lake and Mammoth Lakes are fine destinations at the foot of the steep eastern escarpment of the Sierra on the backside of Yosemite.

© NileGuide

## History

Ore-bearing Paleozoic metamorphic belts border the east and west edges of the park, while Mesozoic granitic intrusions comprise the main area of Yosemite. Uplift driven by powerful continental drift lifted the granite bodies to the surface, mostly within the past 5 million years, when a fracture along the east side of the Sierra Nevada opened up. During the Ice Age, starting about 2 million years ago, glaciers covered the highest parts of the park and slid down the river-carved canyons of the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers. Ice was as much as 4000' deep at times- a potent erosional agent. Over the 20,000 years since the last glaciers retreated, various elements of erosion sculpted (and continue to shape) the Yosemite area into the spectacular scenery you see today.

Perhaps 9,000 years ago, American Indians moved into the Sierra, adjusting subsistence patterns to rich seasonal resources. Later, Miwok-speaking people moved into the region from California's Central Valley and Paiutes came in from the east. The two cultures shifted territories and intermarried and for centuries they thrived in a 'hunter-gatherer-trader' life in the greater Yosemite/Mono Lake region. People spent summers in the higher terrain and Yosemite Valley, which they called 'Ahwahnee' and moved to the lowlands when winter came. The Indians aren't gone; they and their cultures are still here today.

Euro-Americans swarmed into the Sierra in the 1850's looking for gold. They forced the First People out of their homelands through disease and one-sided warfare. As the aggressive search for gold continued, clashes between the Indians and Euro-Americans increased, with the Euro-Americans either killing or rounding up

## Yosemite National Park Snapshot continued

bands of Indians and forcing them into reservations and rancherias outside the mountains. By the 1870's, there were only a few dozen Miwoks/Paiutes in the Yosemite Valley area. A visit to the Indian Village of Ahwahnee will give you some of the history and the ongoing story of Yosemite's Indians.

Awareness of the wonders of Yosemite spread slowly at first. In 1855, English expat James Mason Hutchings brought the first group of tourists to the Valley and the party's artist, Thomas Ayres helped spread the fame of the area even more rapidly with his sketches. Hutchings stayed around and realized that ecotourism could be his livelihood.

Early conservationists, Israel Ward Raymond and Fredrick Law Olmsted (the landscape architect who previously helped establish New York's Central Park) believed this unusual landscape should be preserved. Raymond worked with Congress and Olmsted with the state to protect the area. In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill that granted Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees to the State of California, essentially the world's first manifestation of the national park concept.

A wandering laborer named John Muir stumbled in to work in Yosemite and catalyzed a passion that still lives on today. His intelligence and his strong sentiment for environmental protection won him important allies in the idea of protecting more of the Sierra Nevada and other places. He wrote several influential articles, then books, which brought more people to the cause of preserving public lands simply because they were beautiful.

In 1890, the federal government created a huge national park that surrounded the two state parcels. The U.S. Army (including the legendary African-American Buffalo Soldiers) was put in charge of the park, and their work lives on today. They blazed trails, explored unknown areas, ran out shepherders, fought fires and prepared maps.

President Teddy Roosevelt came to visit Yosemite and go camping with John Muir in 1903, and Muir helped persuade Roosevelt to unify Yosemite wholly under federal control. This gave us more or less the park borders we know today.

Along with American prosperity and California's population growth, tourism grew. The scattered hotels and private camps were eventually unified under one concession company, which made commercial tourism easier to manage.

After what may have been the first national environmental battle, the city of San Francisco was given Congressional permission to build a large dam in the park on the Tuolumne River.

Another landmark moment came from Washington, D.C. in 1916 with the creation of the National Park Service, now the most admired agency of the federal government.

Its mandate was to 'conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations'. All of our national park lands are still governed by this notion that resources are to remain forever unimpaired and that people should come see them.

In 1984, 95% of Yosemite was designated as Wilderness and the United Nations recognized Yosemite National Park as being worthy of inclusion on the World Heritage Site list. Today about 20% of visitors come from other nations and Yosemite has sister national parks in Chile and in China.

The biggest challenge for the Park Service now, is keeping the park accessible to about four million people a year without harming its resources. With those things in mind science and citizen input inform the challenging mandate of the NPS. Caring for Yosemite involves everyone who visits; all who are inspired by the astonishing beauty should be stakeholders in the stewardship of this unique resource.

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### Hotel Insights

Yosemite is a very popular place and travelers are advised to look into lodging and camping reservations as far in advance as possible. If you show up early in the morning you can usually find something on a walk-in basis.

### Yosemite Valley and Wawona

Depending on how you count facilities and what season you're looking at, there

are over a dozen hotels or lodges within the park itself. The two nicest are the Ahwahnee and Yosemite Lodge, both about a mile apart in Yosemite Valley. Each has dining within, stunning views and good access to trails and shuttle buses.

At the southern end of the park is what most might say is the very nice#3 for Yosemite lodgings, the Wawona Hotel. It dates back over a hundred years and is considered to have a 'southern charm.'

In Yosemite Valley simpler accommodations include Curry Village and the Housekeeping Camp. These open cabins, with canvas roofs and walls and shared restrooms, feature direct access to the river and are hugely popular. Not only are they relatively inexpensive, but they also offer the 'roughing it' element. Despite some modern amenities, the property is primitive, allowing guests to reflect on how conditions were for the Park's first visitors.

There are five campgrounds in the Valley set up for just tents or both tents and recreational vehicles. All of these are located at the eastern end of the Valley, clustered on both sides of the Merced River. North Pines, Upper Pines, and Lower Pines, are for tent or RV camping. The two walk-in camps, Camp 4 and Backpackers, are both designed to facilitate backpackers and climbers. In the summer there are another dozen campgrounds located outside the Valley or just outside the park.

### Tuolumne Meadows and the High Country

Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and White Wolf Lodge aren't what many people expect, but they're full all the time nonetheless. Both are collections of simple tent cabins with central bathing and shared dining facilities. Too 'rough' for some, but beloved by generations of Yosemite fans.

A chain of 5 High Sierra Camps connected by a day-long hike in-between each makes a marvelous loop of fine mountain scenery. Rangers lead some parties on a full loop, or you can pick just one camp to hike into for a few days.

### Outside the Park

Yosemite is surrounded by gateway communities that host numerous hotels and rely on Yosemite visitors. Tioga Pass Road closes to cars in the winter, so places on the East Side become altogether separated from park tourism for part of the year.

## Yosemite National Park Snapshot continued

In Lee Vining, a range of simple accommodations provide grand views of the austere Mono Lake. Resort towns of Mammoth Lakes and June Lake are enjoyed by mountain lovers for many reasons.

On the Highway 41 corridor, Fish Camp and Oakhurst have lots of motels and B+B's from which to choose. Along Highway 140 Yosemite View Lodge and Cedar Lodge are closest, then the Bug in Midpines, and then many more properties are found in Mariposa. Groveland and Big Oak Flat on Highway 120 west provide a Gold Rush flavor in places to stay, and some Yosemite visitors will stay over in Sonora, about an hour and a half away.

© NileGuide

### Restaurants Insights

Generally, when people visit Yosemite National Park, their goal is to experience the spectacular scenery and see at least some of the Park's world-famous sights. Lots of people take tours, many come in cars for the day, and others camp and backpack for several days. The focus here is truly more on adventure and exploration than on food. However, after a few hours or days in the mountain air, you are sure to get hungry.

#### Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village

The most interesting, elegant, and classiest is the historic Ahwahnee Dining Room. This huge, vaulted room is open for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and afternoon tea. The menus vary with the seasons and in the evening you must dress in something more elegant than shorts and T-shirts, but you will experience a taste of the original park both in dishes and decor. Yosemite Lodge has the almost equally fancy Mountain Room, and the simple Yosemite Lodge Food Court. Visitors will not have to wander very far in the Village to find some sort of restaurant or snack bar.

#### Wawona and the High Country

Three restaurants are in the park, but outside of the Valley. On the east side, you can have breakfast and dinner at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Restaurant (make reservations for evening meals); its prime rib and New York steak dinners are highly praised and sought after by hungry hikers.

Off Highway 41 is the Wawona Hotel Dining Room. Like the hotel, the dining room is full of light and airy ambience. The food has a good reputation for both quality and quantity. Breakfast is bacon or sausage and eggs, or French toast; lunch is a buffet that changes with the seasons and often includes local fresh vegetables and herbs. At dinner, you will find some amazing delicacies including Indian Tom's South Fork Trout or crackling roast duckling.

On the west side of the park, along Highway 120, is the White Wolf Lodge Restaurant. Open for breakfast and dinner, its casual dining room serves the usual bacon and eggs for breakfast and has a dinner menu that changes with the season—most days offer dinner specials that can include fish, chicken, beef, pasta or vegetarian dishes. The portions are large; the quality is excellent; and, the staff is happy to share 'secret vantage points' within the park.

#### Outside the Park

Variety abounds as you travel to and from the Park. If you are coming from Lee Vining, you will find several casual and fun places there, like Niceley's Restaurant, Bodie Mike's Barbeque or a top-drawer Tioga Lodge Restaurant on Mono Lake. Keep in mind that the eastern side of the Sierra often gets heavy snow in winter, so your selection during those months may be limited due to road closures. Do not miss out on the startling "Mobil Station" restaurant just where 120 leaves Lee Vining.

Mariposa is an interesting little historical town on the west side of the park. You can enter the park on either the south or west side from here. Here you will find Gold Rush charm and the upscale Charles Street Dinner House where you will want to wear something a bit more formal than shorts and T-shirts. Midpines is in between Mariposa and the west entrance of the park and Recovery Bistro & Cafe.

Oakhurst is a foothill town that is south of the park that offers a variety of dining choices. It also has some gold rush influence. Castillo's Mexican Food has the look and feel of a real Mexican cantina. You can have great scones, coffee, and ice cream, as well as regular meals at

the casual Yosemite Coffee and Roasting Company.

©

### Fun Facts

#### Top 12 Facts About Yosemite

1. Scary fact: The largest glacier on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada is melting quickly. It's Yosemite's Lyell Glacier. Day hikers can get their binoculars on it from the top of Lumbert Dome in Tuolumne Meadows.
2. Strange fact: The tallest pine tree on our planet just died in the past year. It is a sugar pine that grew near Hodgdon Meadow in Yosemite.
3. Believe-it-or-not fact: The Ripley's resource cites a pinecone from this same area of Yosemite as the largest ever found in the world.
4. International fact: Hundreds of Chinese laborers built two of Yosemite's important early roads- dozens of miles were carved through the mountains in a matter of months. Now Yosemite has two sister national parks in China.
5. Interesting fact: Scholars consider Yosemite to be the first 'national park' on earth; the US Congress and President Lincoln protected the land here for all time. This was 8 years before Yellowstone was protected.
6. Random fact: As of 2011, the Yosemite Medical Clinic is operated by the US Public Health Service, a branch of the federal Department of Health and Human Services.
7. Wierd fact: Most fatalities in Yosemite are not lost hikers or falling rock climbers; they're people in cars. After car wrecks the number two cause of deaths in Yosemite is water: drowning, being swept over waterfalls, etc. Be careful!
8. Fun fact: Every national park ranger in the US wears a leather uniform belt embossed with sequoia cones, emblematic of the Mariposa Grove, part of the origin of our park system, in 1864.
9. Multicultural fact: African-American cavalry troops- the famed Buffalo Soldiers- were assigned to protect Yosemite in its early days as a national park.

## Yosemite National Park Snapshot continued

10. Bureaucratic fact: The National Park Service will celebrate its Centennial in 2016.

11. Huge fact: Giant sequoias are considered by many to be the largest

living thingsever. They're bigger than blue whales or dinosaurs. Yosemite has three groves of these floral monsters.

12. True fact: The most important thing about your visit to Yosemite is YOU. The expectations you bring, the curiosity you

display while in the park, and your care for it as a citizen are what matter most. It's your park...

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