



**YOSEMITE**  
— MARIPOSA —  
**COUNTY**



**YOSEMITE MARIPOSA COUNTY  
VACATION PLANNER**



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*Iconic Yosemite Valley with El Capitan,  
Half Dome and Bridalveil Fall seen from  
Tunnel View*

# WHERE GRANITE MEETS GOLD

Nestled among monuments of rock and plunging water, among sun-ripened vineyards and historic Gold Rush landmarks, sits an oasis unlike any other. Yosemite Mariposa County. Home to Yosemite National Park, the natural riches of this region continue to be discovered yet somehow feel untouched by the passing of time. With each visit comes a welcome surprise — a new trail to hike, a new lake to swim, a new road to explore.

Called “the Range of Light” and “a great, solemn cathedral” by poets and presidents alike, Yosemite National Park is a sacred place where you can stand beneath the shadowy branches of millennia-old giant sequoias, watch black bears amble across wildflower-dotted meadows, and feel the cheek-kissing mist from two-thousand foot waterfalls as they plunge over element-chiseled granite cliffs...all in the same day.

Just outside the Park, Mariposa County wears its

legendary Gold Rush history on its time-woven flannel sleeve. From recreational activities like whitewater rafting and fishing to museum-hopping and antique shopping, from panning for gold with the kids to prospecting for the best foodie lunch in town, Mariposa County offers a wide range of only-in-California experiences and is the perfect four-season staging area for your Yosemite visit.

Yosemite Mariposa County.  
Where granite meets gold.

*View of Half Dome at sunset  
from Glacier Point*





# A GOLD MINE OF ADVENTURE

Attracting travelers of all ages and interests, Yosemite Mariposa County is known for its iconic landscapes, deep history and welcoming locals. What sets it apart? An exhilarating array of both indoor and outdoor adventure and a warm, sun-kissed climate that makes for a delightful year-round destination.



Thrill-seekers come for whitewater rafting, skydiving and world-class rock climbing. Nature enthusiasts marvel at the variety of wildlife, from delicate butterflies (“mariposas”) to nearly 300 species of birds and the always popular black bears. Trekkers fan out, exploring the vast network of wilderness trails leading to unforgettable vistas. With its unique light and dramatic rock formations,

Yosemite Mariposa County is a fount of inspiration for photographers as well as artists. Interested in the days of yore? History buffs will enjoy our museums, authentic 19th century architecture, and Gold Rush-era remnants such as working stamp mills and vintage railroads. Whether extreme or serene, you’ll find the perfect pace and feel as though you’ve stepped back in time to a place that’s rich in adventure.

- Gold panning*
- Stamp Mill*
- Whistling Billy steam engine*



# ABOUT YOSEMITE MARIPOSA COUNTY

Located three and a half hours east of San Francisco and five to six hours north of Los Angeles, Yosemite Mariposa County is an essential addition to any tour of the American West. With deep Native American and Gold Rush roots — not to mention its distinction as a living testament to the preservation of our public lands — this is a destination with a difference.

Travelers might hear Mariposa County referred to as the “Mother of Counties.” This isn’t an idle boast, but a historical fact. When California was granted statehood in 1850, Mariposa County was by far the largest, comprising about one-fifth of the state. Soon after, the discovery of gold lured prospectors by the thousands, all with dreams of striking it rich. The easy gold only lasted for a couple of decades, but long enough for roads and railroads to be built. Communities continued to evolve as the local economy shifted to quartz mining, ranching, farming and logging.

Then, in October 1890, with the establishment of Yosemite as one of America’s first national parks, tourism stepped onto this rare and beautiful stage. Encompassing 1,200 square miles (311,000 hectares) — about the size of Rhode Island or the nation of Luxembourg — and featuring a diverse wilderness ranging from 2,000 feet (609 meters) above sea level in El Portal on its western boundary to 13,114 feet (3,997 meters) at its highest point, Mt. Lyell, the majesty of Yosemite was forged into history. As railroads gave way to the automobile and word got out, an increasing number

of curious visitors came to explore this protected gem. Today, about four million people experience Yosemite National Park each year.

In addition to its geologic wonders, visitors to Yosemite Mariposa will find the Gold Rush spirit intact while still enjoying modern amenities. The welcoming bunch who call this place home are more than willing to share their local knowledge, adding a refrain of Sierra authenticity to any adventure. An appreciation for the needs of today’s traveler imbue Yosemite Mariposa hospitality, whether

that’s providing the comforts of home, Wi-Fi connectivity or a commitment to ecology with **EV charging stations**. From preserved landmarks and obscure ruins all the way to resort hotels, farm-to-table dining and friendly, local festivals, Yosemite Mariposa’s precious past has been engraved with a jeweler’s precision onto the medallion of today’s travel.

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*Red barn on Highway 140  
in Mariposa*

# FOUR SEASONS, FOUR MOODS

Yosemite Mariposa County reveals something extraordinary in each season. Peaceful, muted winters that beg reflection lead to vibrant, kinetic springs where snowmelt feeds the waterfalls and the rolling, Gold Country hills turn an electric green.

Summer is time to get out and play as the warm days and cool nights make for perfect hiking in the High Country, and the rising mercury at the lower elevations inspires chilling with friends be that water sports or enjoying a cold beverage on one of many inviting outdoor patios in town.

Autumn denotes the quiet season — fewer visitors, yet the leafy stage comes alive in a bold gold/red palette.

With so many moods to explore, the best time to visit Yosemite Mariposa depends wholly on your passions and pursuits.

Fall color along the Merced River from Valley View in Yosemite Valley



## WEATHER

Temperatures in Yosemite Mariposa County vary by season, but also by its unique range of elevations. Check out our weather-wise chart below to get a feel for what to expect when you visit.

	<b>WINTER*</b> December–February Average High/Low	<b>SPRING*</b> March–May Average High/Low	<b>SUMMER</b> June–August Average High/Low	<b>FALL</b> September–November Average High/Low
<b>Mariposa, CA</b> ELEVATION 1,949 FT / 594 M	58° / 37° F 14.4° / 2.8° C	69° / 44° F 20.7° / 6.7° C	91° / 61° F 32.8° / 16° C	77° / 49° F 24.8° / 9.6° C
<b>Yosemite Valley</b> ELEVATION 4,000 FT / 1219 M	50° / 29° F 9.8° / -1.9° C	65° / 38° F 18.5° / 3.3° C	87° / 54° F 30.8° / 12.1° C	71° / 41° F 21.7° / 5° C
<b>Fish Camp</b> ELEVATION 5,000 FT / 1524 M	46° / 27° F 8° / -3° C	56° / 32° F 8° / -3° C	78° / 48° F 25.6° / 8.7° C	64° / 37° F 17.6° / 3° C
<b>Tuolumne Meadows</b> ELEVATION 8,600 FT / 2621 M	42° / 9° F 5.4° / -13° C *snow closure	50° / 17° F 9.8° / -8.1° C *snow closure	69° / 34° F 20.6° / 1.1° C	57° / 23° F 13.7° / -4.8° C

Source: NOAA

# WINTER

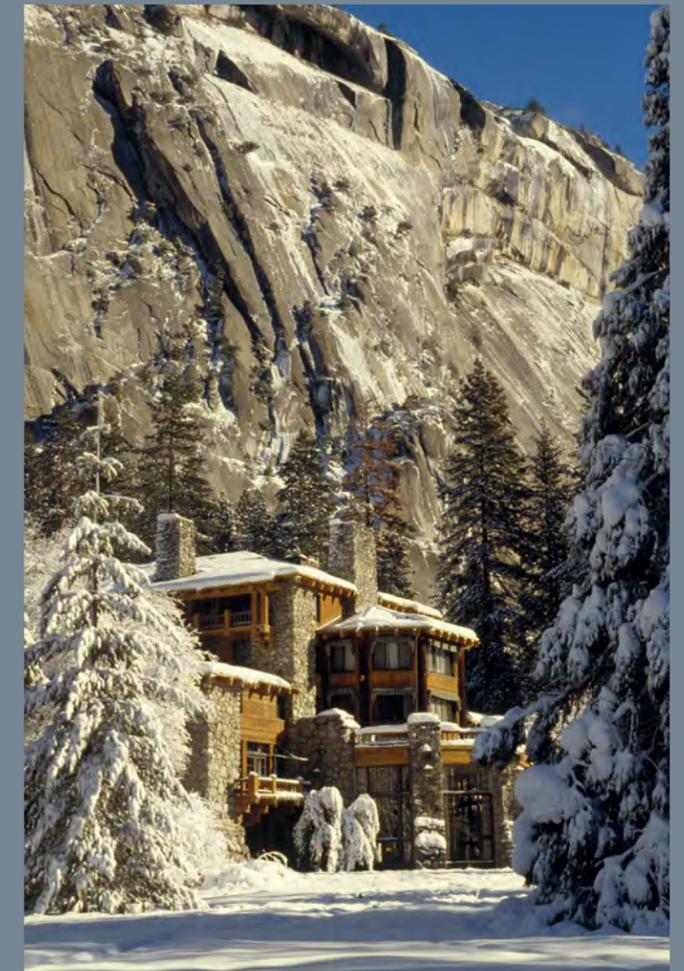
Winter in Yosemite Mariposa County is an almost mystical experience. The serene landscape of Yosemite Valley (sometimes snow-blanketed, often not) is punctuated by the sights and sounds of visitors frolicking, their voices echoing off the surrounding towers of granite. Photographers can take advantage of the **dramatic dance between cloud, light and rock** by snapping images that nearly frame themselves. In the Gold Country, winters are mild offering a cool respite for **winter hikes** while the infinitely black Sierra night sky creates the perfect backdrop for **winter stargazing**. For those rainy days, there is an abundance of indoor activities ranging from museum-hopping to shopping to simply relaxing in your vacation rental next to a crackling fireplace and watching the raindrops fall between the trees outside your window.

At higher elevations, skiing and snowboarding provide a full day of excitement at **Badger Pass Ski and Snowboard Area**. If flatter terrain is desired, visitors can glide on cross-country skis and **snowshoe through the giant sequoia** of Mariposa Grove, or out to the unforgettable cliff top view from Dewey Point. A family fun day of tubing at Badger Pass is punctuated by the giggly whoosh of kids careening down the gentle slope, while ice skating Yosemite Mariposa County is a timeless — and festive — winter pursuit. Afterward? Nothing beats warming up next to a cozy fire with a steaming cup of hot chocolate.

**LOCAL REPORT:** *Winter sees fewer visitors, creating more room to roam. It's also the best time to take advantage of **special offers**.*

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Merced River and El Capitan  
Historic Ahwahnee Hotel  
Yosemite Valley



# SPRING

Spring is a season of uplifting change. As winter recedes and March showers slowly give way to May sunshine, **Yosemite Mariposa County comes to life** in dramatic fashion. **Rushing waterfalls** such as Yosemite Falls and Vernal Fall hit their peak in the Valley, the dogwoods bloom while hibernating bears emerge from their forested dens, and butterflies alight on **blooming wildflowers** — first in the Gold Country, then “uphill” to the High Country. This unique range of elevations creates a season-within-a-season, with skiers still hitting the slopes at the same time other visitors are enjoying an explosion of sun-kissed poppies along the popular **Hite Cove Trail**.

In **Southern Mariposa County**, the rolling, Sierra foothills turn an emerald green as cattle graze on fresh grass and grass-fed cattle graze between stately oaks. For thrill-seekers, the rapid waters of the Merced River bounce and swirl, providing **world-class whitewater rafting**. Add it all up and spring in Yosemite Mariposa is, simply put, a must-see/must-do.

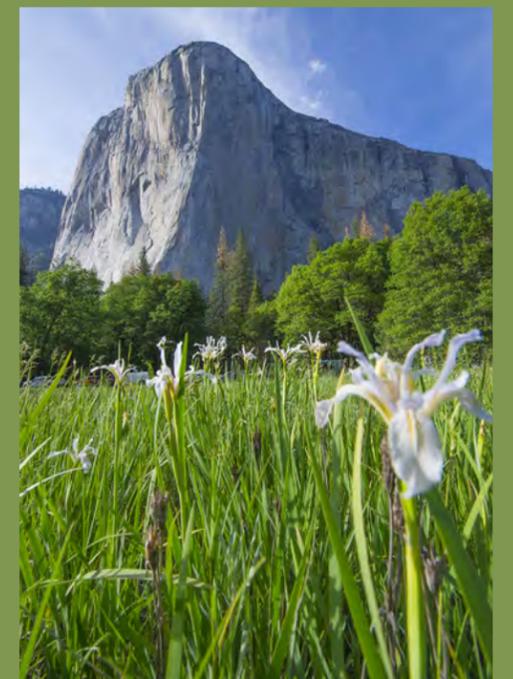
**LOCAL REPORT:** Remember to **gear up for Yosemite Mariposa County** with an essential packing list that includes a waterproof shell for spring rain showers as well as all that invigorating waterfall mist!

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Vernal Fall Mist Trail  
View of Yosemite Falls from  
Glacier Point

Whitewater rafting on the  
Merced River

El Capitan towers over a meadow  
with wild iris in Yosemite Valley



# SUMMER

Summer in Yosemite Mariposa County is escape season. The kids are out of school, and visitors from all over the globe gather here to share their travelers' tales amid a sun-drenched wonderland under deep blue Sierra skies. Average summer rainfall? Essentially zero, though you might get an afternoon thunder-shower in the High Country. With summer comes hiking as the **vast network of Yosemite Mariposa County trails** opens up completely. If you're a water lover, **swimming in Yosemite Mariposa County** offers any numbers settings to refine your stroke while water sports are the name of the game at **Lake McClure** and **Lake McSwain**. Want to tout some trout? We've got **fishing** whether that's lake or stream, fly or bait. After spring's whitewater rush, the summer rafting season mellows into a gentle, family-friendly affair along the Merced River. Inside the Park with granite behemoths watching over you, or **outside the Park along beautiful Highway 140** with fewer crowds and warmer temps, the decision to hop off your raft for a refreshing dip is always an easy one to make. If your tastes lean more epicurean, the leisurely pursuit of **Yosemite Mariposa County picnicking** is always basket-ready in summer with countless photo-worthy spots to lay down your blanket along the Merced River and beyond.

Summer travel wouldn't be complete without the opportunity to chill and beat the heat. **Restaurants and bars bustle**, perfect for **enjoying a hand-crafted brew or local wine** on the patio while recounting your unforgettable day with friends, or while sipping in repose and people-watching on the streets of old town Mariposa surrounded by Gold Rush history. Heading indoors for **Yosemite Mariposa County shopping** offers everything from vintage chic to local art, while the County's **seven museums** provide historical sagas for all ages. When the siren's song of the Sierra lures you back outside, try heading up **Tioga Road to Tuolumne Meadows** for cooler weather and more solitude, or secure a **wilderness permit** and backpack the High Country for pure alpine bliss. After your trek consider a **well-deserved spa treatment** to soothe and rejuvenate — an astute preparation for the next day's adventure!

**LOCAL REPORT:** Summer is peak visitation in Yosemite. For the most popular trails and destinations, get an early morning start for a cool, peaceful opening act to your day.



*Kayaking on Tenaya Lake  
Yosemite Valley Tour  
Town of Mariposa  
Last light on El Capitan  
Theresa Ho on Turtleback Dome*



# FALL

Yosemite Mariposa County in the fall is all about slowing down, regaining balance. Autumn color brings out the leaf peepers with a fireworks display of reds, oranges and yellows. For amateur and professional photographers alike, no filters are necessary when capturing this brilliant display. As crowds begin to thin, it's a **great time for biking** in the Valley or sampling the local harvest along the **Triangle Tasting Tour** outside the town of Mariposa. The **spas and wellness centers of Yosemite Mariposa County** offer a full menu of restorative treatments and classes, all set in a grand Sierra landscape where rejuvenation overlays the granite and gold with prideful poise. With little rain, fall lends itself to **Yosemite Mariposa County camping** as kids are back in school and more sites become available. If roughing it isn't your thing, then consider the tent cabins at Curry Village in Yosemite Valley or a private cabin rental through the county. Looking to rekindle family traditions or build new ones? Why not come up for a holiday gathering to give thanks and — just as importantly — **eat great food.**

**LOCAL REPORT:** Seek out Cook's Meadow at dawn to experience the "awe" in autumn, and be sure to layer your clothing — temperatures vary by season and by elevation!

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*Day of the Dead celebration at  
Hornitos Cemetery*

*Fall leaves float on the Merced River  
in Yosemite Valley*

*Yosemite Valley fall color with  
El Capitan backdrop*

*Merced River (???)*



# THE JOURNEY

The “Open Road.” The very words invoke powerful imagery — freedom, adventure, horizon-pushing travel.

The highways and byways to Yosemite Mariposa County accentuate these themes with every fresh fruit stand, riparian picnic area, roadside attraction, scenic vista and curving country road along the way.

When driving to Yosemite Mariposa County, there is an atlas of options. This is a road trip that can take many paths (some extra-epic). Taking the fast ways on all-season highways is the conventional option that many travelers select. These “direct” routes can trim minutes off your travel time. *Just minutes!* But it’s the classic express — no stopping unless necessary and unilaterally approved by the person in the driver’s seat. Pack your snacks and beverages, and pray that there’s time for a perfectly-placed convenient restroom stop along the way.

Here’s the trade-off. Freeways are not generally built through the prettiest parts of towns, cities and states. They are all about speed and straight lines. On the other hand, there are the scenic routes where vistas and points of interest along the way can actually *amplify* overall journey happiness. The steel-belted hum of your tires rolling at a calmer RPM is the perfect background music to conversation and wonder. Spontaneous stops: encouraged and rewarded.

The most memorable journeys often follow the road less traveled. By now, perhaps you see the path we advocate. Get that vacation vibe rolling from the moment you leave home! Get creative with your map app. Yosemite Mariposa County is laced with inspiring, spur-of-the-moment detours. Leave the interstate behind; take the interesting backroad to that **quirky roadside attraction** or crazy bend in the road. Explore, discover, and marvel at what’s passing by. Sure, you might get lost (in a good way). And, chances are you’re still going to arrive in Yosemite Mariposa County in time to catch a beautiful sunset and settle in for a happier hour.

## Traveling from the San Francisco Bay Area

Driving from the San Francisco Bay Area, the GPS mapping gods will present several mainstream travel routes leading you across the state. They’re similar in time and distance and generally unremarkable in every way (until those jagged Sierra Nevada peaks pop into view).

In the spirit of the “journey,” we suggest that you resist these routes! There’s so much to see and explore once you drive away from the Bay and crest the Altamont Pass. Follow I-580 to Highway 132 east. Your reward: a scenic ribbon of two-lane highway and the Great Central Valley, which John Muir called “...the floweriest piece of world I ever walked” (and he walked a good deal more than most!). Keep an eye out for signs to the **San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge**, a great place to get out and stretch your legs, walk your leashed pet, maybe even spread out a picnic blanket.



*All-weather Highway 140 along the Merced River*

*San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge*

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:** take an intentional wrong turn anywhere along 132 and drive a few miles north or south. Say “woops!,” reset your map and see what amazing gems and vistas you will find when you’re off-track, but far from lost. More like found! Everywhere along Highway 132 are country roads lined with fresh produce stands, fruit and nut tree orchards, dairy farms, ranches, friendly folks and happy farm animals. For a proper lunch check out the **Twin Rivers Saloon**, famous for its homemade fare just west of Modesto.

Highway 132 keeps rolling right through Modesto, setting for the Lucas-Coppola film classic, **American Graffiti**. Cross Highway 99 and stay on 132 east, which becomes the historic John Muir Highway east of Modesto. This route takes you through Snelling, an old mining town with gas, markets, and post office. Park, stretch your legs, and check out the tiny Snelling Courthouse building, California Historic Landmark #409, built in 1857.

Back on the road, you're on the way to **Lake McSwain /Lake McClure** and the historic town of **Coulterville**. From Coulterville, options sparkle like gold: travel south along historic Highway 49 to Mariposa, or north-east to connect with Highway 120 on the way to the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park.

Another way to Yosemite Mariposa County out of Modesto: take Highway 99 south to Merced, exiting at Highway 140 bound for Mariposa. From Mariposa, 140 may be Yosemite's best final approach, the all-season highway that rolls along at lower elevation to provide a straight shot into Yosemite Valley. Along the way, the fantastically steep walls of the Merced River Canyon elevate the wow-factor. Plenty of quality



lodging options abound in Midpines, Briceburg and El Portal.

Between El Portal and Yosemite's Arch Rock entrance, keep an eye out for the first Yosemite National Park signs where you can carefully pull over and snap IG-worthy pics. See if you can spot one of several granite formations that cantilever over 140 and, to many passers-by, resemble the face of a bear.

## Traveling from Southern California

California's most populous region, Southern California is famous for busy freeways driven at either breakneck or bumper-to-bumper pace, depending on time and day (or, not). There are many ways to escape from L.A. for Yosemite-bound travelers. The 280 miles that separate Los Angeles and Yosemite Mariposa County are star-studded with historic outposts, cuisine, music, and a still-booming farming and ranching scene.

Taking Interstate 5 out of the L.A. basin to the "Grapevine" is the most direct route for "point A to point B" if getting out of L.A. is the overarching priority. As I-5 drops down from the Grapevine into the mighty Central Valley, it's decision time. How far north to travel before feeling the High Sierra's eastward pull?

The most direct path is merging with Highway 99 where it splits from I-5, and taking 99 to Fresno. While generally nondescript as most direct routes tend to be, there are still several interesting off-ramp detours to explore along 99: **Bravo Farms** near Tulare (local handcrafted cheese and burnt-ends brisket burritos); **Buck Owens' Crystal Palace** (country music mecca) and **Forestiere Underground Gardens** (subterranean world hand-forged by a visionary Sicilian) in Fresno; and the **Fresno Chaffee Zoo** (Zoorassic Park!).

A more interesting option: continue on I-5 north until reaching the high-octane truck stop that is Kettleman City. After your lunch break at In-N-Out Burger (there are many other choices in K-City, too), continue on Highway 41 north for a classic Central Valley country drive on the way to Fresno. You want roadside attractions, we got you! **Giant Transformer Robot**, anyone? And, the **Santa Rosa Nursery** is the perfect place to pull over and smell the roses. As you roll into Fresno, Yosemite's southern entrance is only about an hour away from Fresno by staying on Highway 41.

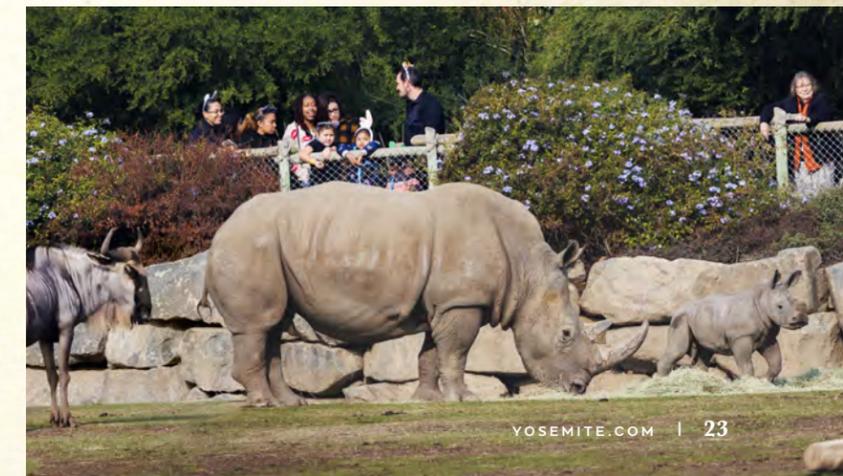
Bypassing the Grapevine altogether is an even wiser option for road trip wonder. From Los Angeles' northeastern flank, routes through the Angeles National Forest and Highway 15 will bring travelers to either Central Valley or Eastern Sierra paths to Yosemite Mariposa County. In the summer, take the opportunity to take Highway 195 north through the austere Eastern Sierra high desert to Mono Lake and then west over Tioga Pass. Of all the scenic byways in Yosemite, Tioga Road rises above them all (literally, as well). The 46-mile drive from Lee Vining to Crane Flat gains 4,000 feet in elevation as it cruises through a glaciated granite wonderland of immense vistas such as **Olmsted Point**, roadside domes and peaks, the glittering sapphire jewel of **Tenaya Lake** and picturesque **Tuolumne Meadows**. Before making your Tioga ascent, pull over at the Mobil to fuel up at the **Whoa Nellie Deli**. (Try the fish tacos. You won't regret it.)

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*View of Half Dome from Olmsted Point*

*Arch Rock entrance to Yosemite National Park*

*Fresno Chaffee Zoo*



And for something completely rock-n-roll, dial in some Beach Boys or Eagles and cruise up 101/Pacific Coast Highway out of L.A. In Ventura, veer over to Highway 33, the Maricopa Highway, north through the heart of the Central Valley up to Highway 99. Or continue on 101 through Santa Barbara to San Luis Obispo and Paso Robles, before bearing east at Atascadero on Hwy 46 to Hwy 41, continuing on to Fresno.

Fresno offers the opportunity to call a true audible. Put the town of “Raymond” or “Catheys Valley” in your GPS and redirect to these tiny historic Yosemite stage stops and cattle towns. From there, no matter your final destination, you’ll be in for a treat of narrow country lanes, rolling oak studded Sierra foothills, and Norman Rockwell-approved ranch and barn backgrounds to savor on your way to Yosemite Mariposa County.

## Yosemite Mariposa County Highways & Hubs

Here’s a highway-by-byway profile of Yosemite Mariposa County’s principal California State Routes (SR) and the towns and hubs along the way. Settle into those bucket seats and buckle up for the discoveries ahead.

### HIGHWAYS WEST / EAST California State Route 140 – The All-Weather Highway

Highway 140, the “All-Weather Highway” is the surest route to Yosemite National Park and Yosemite Valley from Merced. Relatively level and lower-elevation, it delivers you directly into the mouth of Yosemite Valley (4,000 feet). Out of Merced, Central Valley farms give way to rolling Sierra foothills around **Catheys Valley**, some of the richest grazing ranch land in the West. Roll down your windows, take in the surrounding foothills, and with a little luck spot a flock of sheep, herd of longhorn or team of horses off the road.

At the Catheys Valley junction, take Hornitos Road to historic Hornitos, in the day a bawdy Gold Rush



town sprinkled with gold dust. Back in its mining heyday, this was one of the wildest spots in California, with gaming tables, fandango halls, and shooting scrapes in abundance. Joaquin Murrieta, the infamous Gold Rush-era outlaw who gained Robin Hood-like notoriety, is said to have frequented saloons like the still-standing Plaza Bar and made many an escape through a secret passageway under the Campodonica store. The Hornitos Masonic Hall, Chirardelli & Co. store ruins and St. Catherine Catholic Church make this town an essential detour off 140.

Another, shorter detour off 140 just three miles west of Mariposa is Agua Fria, the original county seat and bustling gold mining town. Named for the cold underwater springs it was built upon, Agua Fria is mostly a memory now save for some fascinating **historical plaques**.



The history-rich town (and county seat) of **Mariposa** sits astride the crossroads of SR 140 and SR 49, built on bedrock Golden State history. Many of Mariposa’s splendid streets and structures are among the oldest in California. Several disastrous fires early in the settlement’s history convinced settlers to rebuild with stone, brick and adobe. Many of those structures still exist today and have been in more or less continuous use without need for major restoration. Mariposa also boasts a number of excellent wineries, restaurants and shops. The town is dotted with great indie markets and cafés, curio shops, and character. There are plenty of **lodging options** in every budget category to stay the night.

Continuing northeast out of Mariposa, Highway 140 climbs to the Midpines summit (elev. 2,966 ft.) before dropping down toward the picturesque suspension bridge at Briceburg and the Wild & Scenic Merced River Canyon to El Portal.

**Midpines and Briceburg** keep the small-town vibe humming along 140 by offering numerous turnouts and picnicking opportunities along the Wild & Scenic Merced River Canyon. Day-use picnic areas such as Red Bud, Cranberry Flat, Indian Flat, and McClendon Beach are great highway respites.

**El Portal** is literally “the portal” to Yosemite, the last small town before the Arch Rock entrance. El Portal also served as the terminus for the historic Yosemite Valley Railroad. One of the highlights of the town is its display of equipment and buildings from these railroading days.



### California State Route 132 – The John Muir Highway

For travelers arriving from the north and west, Highway 132 provides a scenic, “take it easy” route to Yosemite’s north entrance. From Modesto, 132 travels through **Northwest Mariposa County’s** “lakes district,” skirting Lake Don Pedro and Lake McClure. **Lake McClure / Lake McSwain** are fed by the mighty Merced River with protected swim areas, day-use picnic tables and roadside aquatic recreation including the floating obstacle course called the **Splash-n-Dash Aqua Park**. Who says a mid-trip swim is out of bounds?

132 meets Highway 49 at **Coulterville**, an historic town with a bohemian vibe. Get out, stretch your legs and take the downtown walking tour to see why Coulterville has been named a California State Historic Site. In fact, Coulterville features more than 40 historical buildings.

Coulterville is a good place to be hungry. The **Coulter Café & General Store** has a metro foodie menu and gorgeous flagstone, dog-friendly patio. Before continuing the journey, discover another road trip food find — the **Cakewalk Cake Shop & Bakery**, an heirloom haven for breakfast, lunch and gourmet coffee.

Continuing northeast from Coulterville, Highway 132 officially becomes the John Muir Historic Route (J132) in honor of the sage of the Sierra, who took the same route into Yosemite over 100 years ago (on foot, of course). Talk about a **journey!** After Coulterville, J132 climbs toward Greeley Hill, with impressive Central Valley and High Sierra vistas. It joins Highway 120 just west of Buck Meadows.

*Coulterville Museum and History Center  
The McCauley and Meyer barns in Foresta  
Briceberg bridge*

### California State Route 120 – The High Road

Not for the faint of heart, Highway 120 to Yosemite National Park climbs in serpentine aspect from Groveland through Buck Meadows, past **Foresta** and on to Yosemite Valley. This road was regarded as a marvel of engineering when completed in the 1930s, as it was carved into the sheer cliffs and through tunnels of hard Sierra granite. When taking this route, you will be rewarded with stunning first glimpses of Yosemite Valley on the way to Yosemite National Park's Big Oak Flat entrance.

Buck Meadows marks the northern edge of Yosemite Mariposa County along SR 120. Here you will discover numerous vacation rentals, Blackberry Inn Bed and Breakfast and the **Buck Meadows Restaurant and Lodge**, a great place to fuel up before or after Yosemite.



### HIGHWAYS NORTH / SOUTH

#### California State Route 49 – Golden Chain Highway

Highway 49 is California's golden brick road, a 277-mile stretch of small towns that encompasses all the hope, heartbreak and dreams of the California Gold Rush. It's even named after the 49ers, the wave of immigrants, entrepreneurs and misfits who swept into California seeking fame and fortune. Charming mining towns dot the "Golden Chain Highway," graced by the panoramic vistas and burbling streams of the western Sierra Nevada foothills.

The highway carves a path through Gold Country like a vein of precious historic ore. When driving it, we recommend keeping to the original route. When a modern bypass option is offered, stay the course and resist the fast lanes! The nearly century-old highway has been modernized and straightened out in sections for the sake of saving drive time — often "by-passing" old 49's charm and history. Much like fabled Route 66, the original Highway 49 traveled through each small historic town and village along its way.

Highway 49 crosses all major western highways leading to **Yosemite Mariposa County**. If you're heading south on 49 from Sonora or Angels Camp, Coulterville is the first town you enter in Mariposa County. John Muir traveled through this tiny mining town on his first walking journey from San Francisco to Yosemite. The town seems marvelously frozen in time. Slip into the **Northern Mariposa County History Center** for a great look into the region's rich gold-dusted history.

We've been encouraging side trips, here's another. The Bear Valley Road (county road J16) spurs off to connect Bear Valley with Hornitos. At the crossroads of Highway 49 and J16, Bear Valley is the original site of Colonel John C. Fremont's empire.

*Wapama Fall*

*Mono Lake tufa towers*

*Mule deer at Tuolumne Meadows*

Tucked into Yosemite's peaceful northwest corner, **Hetch Hetchy Valley** is one of the Park's less-visited treasures. Soaring peaks, steep canyons, and thundering waterfalls are here. O'Shaughnessy Dam, at the west end of the valley, provides a nice overlook of the reservoir and wilderness beyond, including 1,000-foot-plus **Wapama Fall**.

As Highway 120 rises into **Northern Yosemite**, it becomes Tioga Road, the main artery connecting the Sierra Nevada's western and eastern flanks. The 46-mile (62 km) drive from Crane Flat to Tioga Pass tops out at nearly 10,000-ft. elevation at Tioga Pass as it cruises through a glacial and granite wonderland of immense vistas such as **Olmsted Point**, the glittering sapphire jewel of **Tenaya Lake** and idyllic **Tuolumne Meadows**. Travelers from Southern California can opt for Yosemite's east gateway by taking Highway 395 north to SR 120 east at Lee Vining.

**Crane Flat** is at the crossroads of Big Oak Flat Road and Highway 120, the last best place to fuel up before heading toward Yosemite high country or the Hetch Hetchy Valley. The **Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias** rises just off Highway 120, a half mile from Crane Flat. This is a smaller grove of Giant Sequoias is considered moderately accessible, with a hike of 2.5 miles each-way. Nearby **Merced Grove** is another

chance to see some majestic superflora.

Approaching Yosemite from the east, Highway 395 is a grand tour of the Cali high desert as it rolls northward to Highway 120. Mono Lake, the June Lake Loop and the Town of Mammoth Lakes are notable points of interest along 395. The whistle-stop of Lee Vining marks the turn to Highway 120/Tioga Pass. Before your ascent, stop in for fuel at Lee Vining's **Whoa Nellie Deli**, an oasis-like restaurant and gas station at the base of Highway 120.

**Tioga Road** opens in late May or June, depending on the winter snowpack and road repairs. It typically closes in late October or November, depending on winter storm conditions.



Fremont arrived here after the conclusion of the **Bear Flag Revolt**, bought a 44,000-acre parcel of the Mexican land grant, Rancho Las Mariposas, and renamed it Bear Valley. Look for the **Bear Valley Historical Marker** on 49 and the original buildings from the mining days including the BonTon Saloon, Trabucco Store and Odd Fellows Hall.

The drive from Coulterville to Mariposa on highway 49 is curvy and narrow with numerous steep grades. We do not recommend this route to large vehicles or RVs. That said, it is an incredibly scenic route and is a top drive for folks on motorcycles or driving sporty cars.

Roughly mid-way between Mariposa and Coulterville is the **Bagby Campground & Recreation Area**. Located where the Wild & Scenic Merced River widens and flows into **Lake McClure**, this is a great place to swim, kayak, camp or fish. Bagby Campground has great water views of the steep Merced River canyon and gorge beyond. In the fall when the lake water level gets low the foundations of the old mining town of Bagby become exposed at the entrance of the campground on the north side of the river.



### California State Route 41 – Sea to Sierra

Crossing California from Morro Bay on the Pacific Coast to High Sierra Yosemite, Highway 41 is the popular southern approach to Yosemite National Park. For many this route will begin in Fresno and heads northeast through rolling foothills. Extra credit for spirited SoCal road trippers picking up 41 way out west at Highway 1 before journeying east to Fresno.

With Fresno in the rear-view mirror, 41 takes a



hub for hiking and biking. The Fish Camp Store is well-stocked pre-Park supply stop.

And there you are, at the South Gate to Yosemite National Park. This is Mariposa County's **Southern Yosemite** region, rich in history and dotted with attractions. After entering the Park, 41 is also known as Wawona Road. **The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias** is the perfect stop just inside the Park gate. *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, the Giant Sequoia is among the largest and oldest living things on earth. Mariposa Grove is home to about 500 of these mature titans!

Continue north through the Park to historic Wawona and the Victorian-era **Wawona Hotel**, the **Yosemite History Center**, and the **Wawona Golf Course**. Those who take time to linger in Wawona are always rewarded. Walk the Wawona Meadow Loop trail and amble over Wawona's historic covered bridge, one of the very few in California. The South Fork of the Merced River at Wawona is a lovely place to camp, meditate, or swim. Vacation rentals are abundant here, many in close proximity to **Chilnualna Falls**.



serpentine bent as it cruises toward Oakhurst. Soon nature's air conditioner kicks in as you gain elevation and the scent of sugar pine mingles with fir and incense cedar. Roll down those windows as you head toward Mariposa County's southern border on Highway 41!

Leg stretching opportunities expand as you approach Mariposa County, including the **Nelder Grove of Giant Sequoias** just a few miles off 41. The **Yosemite Sugar Pine Railroad** is another rewarding place to turn off the engine and turn on discovery mode!

Up ahead is the historic mill town of **Fish Camp**, just two miles from the Yosemite National Park boundary. Home to charming bed-and-breakfast inns, cabin rentals, and the magnificent Four-Diamond Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite, Fish Camp is surrounded by stands of conifers and a network of unpaved **Sierra National Forest** fire roads. It's an outdoor lover's

Highway 41 continues on to Yosemite Valley, passing by Yosemite West, where a number of privately-owned mountain homes and condos are offered as vacation rentals. At Chinquapin, Glacier Point Road leads to Badger Pass Ski Area in winter, to Glacier Point in summer, and to remarkable Valley rim overlooks year-round.

Highway 41's closing act is one of the world's most photographed vista points: **Tunnel View** and its renowned panorama of Yosemite Valley, bejeweled by scenic titans including Bridalveil Falls, Half Dome and El Capitan. Continue into Yosemite's fabled valley. You have arrived.

**Yosemite Sugar Pine Railroad**  
**Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias**  
**Chilnualna Falls**

# GETTING HERE

## Fly Here

Fresno International Airport (FAT) is the closest international airport to Yosemite and Mariposa County. There are also other choices from the Bay Area that are available. See the chart below:

### AIRPORTS — DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL

**Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FAT)**  
www.Fresno.gov/DiscoverFresno/Airports

**Sacramento International Airport (SMF)**  
www.Sacramento.Aero/SMF

**San Francisco International Airport (SFO)**  
www.FlySFO.com

**Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC)**  
www.FlySanJose.com

**Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)**  
www.FlyLAX.com

### DRIVE TIME — From Airport to Yosemite Entrance

Highway 140 – West Entrance	2 hours
Highway 41 – South Entrance	1.25 hours
Highway 140 – West Entrance	3.5 hours
Highway 120 – North Entrance	3 hours
Highway 140 – West Entrance	4 hours
Highway 120 – North Entrance	4 hours
Highway 140 – West Entrance	4 hours
Highway 120 – North Entrance	4 hours
Highway 140 – West Entrance	6 hours
Highway 41 – South Entrance	5.5 hours

## Travel Tips

**BE CAREFUL WITH GPS** — Yosemite National Park encompasses 1,200 square miles (310,798 hectares) of mostly wilderness — so typing “Yosemite” in your GPS may take you to some far out places — literally! Instead, make sure you use the exact address of where you are going and stay on major highways — do not take shortcuts. There are four entrances to Yosemite and all but one remain open year-round. Highway 120 East (Tioga Pass) closes from approximately October–May each year due to snow.

**ARE TIRE CHAINS REQUIRED?** — Yosemite is open year-round but the park service recommends carrying tire chains when visiting from **November through March**. Chains are also available for purchase or rent in Mariposa. Chains may become required at any time if conditions call for them. Call 209-372-0200 (press 1 then 1) for current road conditions.

**TAKE YARTS** — No chain experience? No problem! Take the Yosemite Area Regional Transit System (YARTS) bus. YARTS has daily, year-round routes with affordable rates all along the Highway 140 corridor with stops near hotels in Mariposa, Midpines, and El Portal. Routes from Highway 41, Highway 120 and Tioga Pass are available seasonally. YARTS has connections to Yosemite from Amtrak and Greyhound stations. Visit [www.YARTS.com](http://www.YARTS.com) for more information.

## Park Entrance Locations

**SOUTH ENTRANCE** is on Highway 41 — 64 miles (100 kilometers) north of Fresno

**WEST ENTRANCE** is on Highway 140 — 75 miles (120 kilometers) northeast of Merced

**NORTH ENTRANCE** is on Highway 120 — 88 miles (140 kilometers) from Manteca

**EAST ENTRANCE** is on Highway 120 — 10 miles (16 kilometers) west of Lee Vining

## MARIPOSA COUNTY CALIFORNIA



## More Travel Tools

Visit our website to explore live webcams, find tips to avoid summer traffic congestion, and more at [www.Yosemite.com](http://www.Yosemite.com).

### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK IS OPEN YEAR-ROUND

— However, Tioga Pass, Glacier Point, and Mariposa Grove roads are closed from October/November through May/June due to snow. Other roads may close temporarily due to heavy snow, rockslides or road repairs. Call the National Park Service information line at 209-372-0200 for the latest road and weather updates.

**YES, YOU CAN BRING YOUR DOG!** — Yosemite National Park is among the most pet-friendly of all National Parks — but that doesn't mean Fido can go anywhere. Dogs are allowed on most paved trails and must be kept on a six foot leash to keep it and Yosemite's other four-legged inhabitants safe.

## Getting In

### ENTRANCE FEES

<b>General Entrance Fee per vehicle</b> (7 days)	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>Annual Pass</b> (1 year)	<b>\$70.00</b>
<b>Senior Pass</b> (Lifetime)	<b>\$80.00</b>

**THE BEST TIME OF DAY TO VISIT** — Your best bet is to arrive early and leave late. Even on the busiest driving days in Yosemite Valley, traffic does build up around 9 or 10 am and then subsides at 6 or 7 pm. Take advantage of the quiet times to get in and out of the valley. Get into the valley and park — then take the **free hybrid shuttles** to your destinations and trailheads within the valley floor.

**TAKE YARTS** (Yosemite Area Rapid Transit System) If you prefer relaxing in an air-conditioned, state-of-the-art coach on your journey, then YARTS (Yosemite Area Rapid Transit System) is the option for you. YARTS operates 365 days each year on the Hwy. 140 corridor (Merced to Yosemite National Park, through Mariposa County) with multiple runs each day.

YARTS also operates during the summer in Tuolumne and Mono counties. For schedules and ticket information contact [www.YARTS.com](http://www.YARTS.com).

Once you arrive into Yosemite you can still take advantage of stress-free sightseeing by hopping on the Yosemite Shuttle in the valley floor. The shuttles are free and you can find the schedules on [www.NPS.gov](http://www.NPS.gov).

### TRAVEL TO PARK ENTRANCE

	MILES	KILOMETERS	TIME
<b>Fresno</b> to South Entrance	62	160	1 hour
<b>Mariposa</b> to West Entrance (Arch Rock)	32	51	45 minutes
<b>Monterey</b> to West Entrance (Arch Rock)	187	301	3 hours
<b>Los Angeles</b> to South Entrance	318	512	4.75 hours
<b>Los Angeles</b> to East Entrance (Tioga Pass)*	279	449	5.5 hours
<b>Lake Tahoe</b> to North Entrance (Big Oak Flat)	185	298	4.25 hours
<b>Lake Tahoe</b> to East Entrance (Tioga Pass)*	124	200	2.5 hours
<b>Las Vegas</b> to East Entrance (Tioga Pass)*	342	550	5.5 hours
<b>Las Vegas</b> to South Entrance	456	734	7 hours
<b>San Diego</b> to South Entrance	399	642	6.75 hours
<b>Sacramento</b> to North Entrance (Big Oak Flat)	142	229	2.75 hours
<b>San Francisco</b> to West Entrance (Arch Rock)	197	317	3.5 hours
<b>San Jose</b> to West Entrance (Arch Rock)	183	295	3.5 hours

\*East Entrance (Tioga Pass) closed from October/November through May/June due to snow.

## Transportation

### AIRPORTS

#### Fresno Yosemite International Airport

800-244-2359

5175 E. Clinton Way, Fresno, CA 93727

[www.Fresno.gov/DiscoverFresno/Airports](http://www.Fresno.gov/DiscoverFresno/Airports)

#### Los Angeles International Airport

310-646-5252

1 World Way, Los Angeles, CA 90045

[www.LAWA.org](http://www.LAWA.org)

#### San Francisco International Airport

800-435-9736

PO Box 8097, San Francisco, CA 94128

[www.FlySFO.com](http://www.FlySFO.com)

#### Sacramento International Airport

916-929-5411

690 Airport Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95857

[www.Sacramento.aero/SMF](http://www.Sacramento.aero/SMF)

#### San José Mineta International Airport

408-392-3600

1701 Airport Blvd., San Jose, CA 95110

[www.FlySanJose.com](http://www.FlySanJose.com)

### GROUND

#### Greyhound

800-231-2222

710 W. 16th Street, Merced, CA 95340

[www.Greyhound.com](http://www.Greyhound.com)

#### YARTS – Yosemite Area Regional

#### Transportation System

877-989-2787

Drop-Offs / Stations: Mariposa, Midpines, Merced, Catheys Valley, El Portal, Yosemite

[www.YARTS.com](http://www.YARTS.com)

### RAIL

#### Amtrak

800-872-7245

[www.Amtrak.com](http://www.Amtrak.com)

Yosemite Falls



# REGION BY REGION

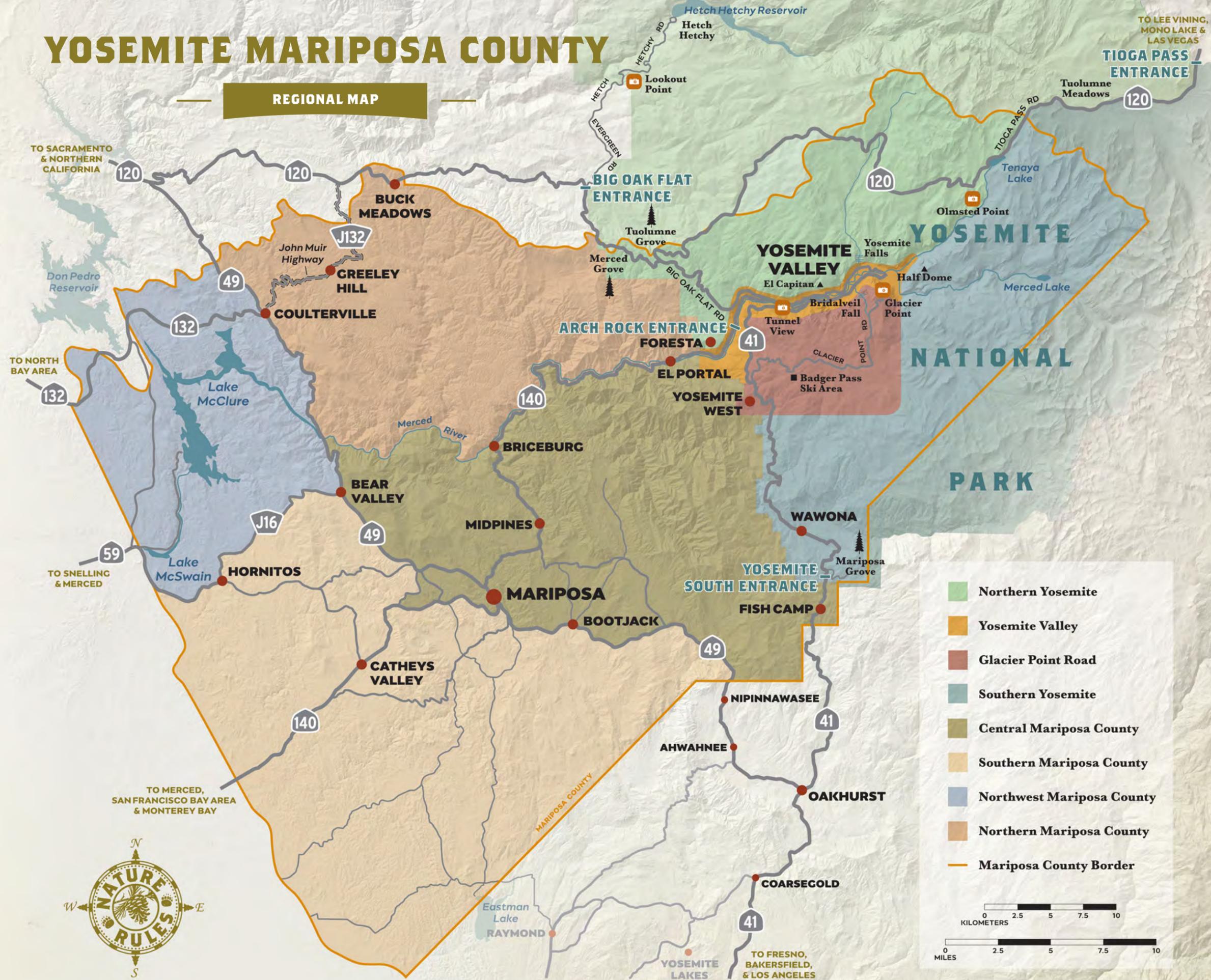
Yosemite Mariposa County covers more than 1,460 square miles of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada, rising from the edge of California's Central Valley through golden foothills and all the way up to the alpine heights of Yosemite National Park and the High Sierra.

When California was granted statehood in 1850, Mariposa County was easily the largest of the 27 original counties, covering 20% of the state from the Sierra Nevada to the Pacific Ocean! Eventually, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern and portions of Mono, Inyo, San Bernardino, Los Angeles and San Benito would split off from "The Mother of Counties," Mariposa's well-deserved nickname.

Today, Mariposa County is known as the "Home of Yosemite" and remains a rambling, recreation-rich, topographically diverse realm. Experiencing the entire county is a Herculean goal – there's just too much to see in a day (or even three)! Considering the county as eight geo-distinct regions can help when planning your epic road trip.

# YOSEMITE MARIPOSA COUNTY

## REGIONAL MAP



- Northern Yosemite
- Yosemite Valley
- Glacier Point Road
- Southern Yosemite
- Central Mariposa County
- Southern Mariposa County
- Northwest Mariposa County
- Northern Mariposa County
- Mariposa County Border

0 2.5 5 7.5 10 KILOMETERS

0 2.5 5 7.5 10 MILES

## YOSEMITE VALLEY

Carved by glaciers and spectacularly framed by granite walls and thundering waterfalls, Yosemite Valley is the heart of the Park. The valley floor is an enchanted confluence of some of the world's tallest waterfalls, forests, meadows, and the Merced River, flowing along the valley's east to west contour.

Yosemite's A-list monuments — Half Dome, El Capitan, Cathedral Rocks, Mirror Lake, Yosemite Falls, Vernal Fall, Nevada Fall, Bridalveil Fall, et al — tightly clustered within these 2¼ square miles is staggering. A hub for Park services as well, it follows that the level of visitation here is the highest in the Park. Timing your arrival is everything. Early-mornings, cool fall days and nights and pristine winter conditions, and midweek visits will help to optimize your experience.

### LODGING

A While Yosemite Valley isn't the only location for lodging inside of Yosemite National Park, it is the hub for the Park's lodging and services. Here you'll find hotels, camping and cabins available that suit a variety of needs and budgets, plus you're right in the heart of Yosemite.

While staying in the heart of Yosemite is most travelers' first choice, fewer than 5% of the Park's visitors in summer will be able to make a reservation in Yosemite Valley. While this is a great place to stay, don't be dismayed if you can't get a reservation here.

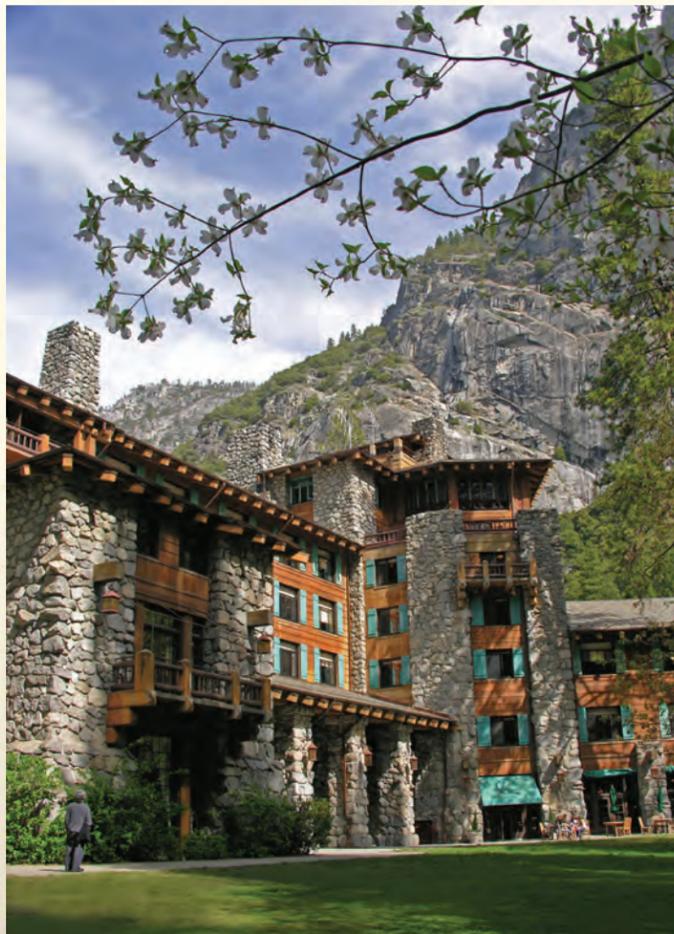
The two key hotel options in Yosemite Valley are the historic Ahwahnee and Yosemite Valley Lodge. Many consider The Ahwahnee to be the pinnacle of national park lodges. Known for its signature architecture, The Ahwahnee was designed for picture-frame views of Yosemite Falls, Half Dome and Glacier Point. The hotel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. Open to guests and visitors alike are The Ahwahnee's dining room and bar, a decadent sweet shop and a gift shop with a focus on local artisans. The Ahwahnee also has private cabins on site just a few steps from the hotel. Yosemite Valley Lodge is a larger primary hotel/motel



style lodging facility, the major transportation hub and tour desk for all Yosemite Valley tours and busses to Glacier point or Badger Pass, as well as being the arrival and departure point for parking, YARTS, outside tour busses and free NPS valley shuttles. This busy area of the park houses one of the dining facilities in the valley called the Base Camp Eatery and a Starbucks. It also houses one of our favorite upscale dinner-only restaurants in the park called the Mountain Room Restaurant and its separate Mountain Room Lounge. There is also a bike rental stand. Yosemite Valley's Curry Village adds to the mix with hundreds of heated and unheated tent cabins as well as traditional cabins and a handful of motel style rooms for a cozier stay. Nearby services such as a grocery store, Yosemite Mountaineering School, the largest dining room in Yosemite Valley and other restaurants make Curry Village an incredible base-camp for Yosemite stays.

The camping options are far and away the most coveted campgrounds in all of Yosemite Mariposa County. Upper Pines, North Pines and Lower Pines occupy the eastern end of Yosemite Valley near sites

like Half Dome, Mirror Lake and the Mist Trail. Near the Upper Yosemite Falls Trailhead is Camp 4, which like The Ahwahnee, also holds National Historic Register status. For an easier camping option, consider Housekeeping Camp, which provides beds and three walls to its guests as well as a comfy home right along the Merced River — beach included.



*Yosemite Valley seen from Tunnel View*

*The Ahwahnee in summer*

*The Great Lounge at The Ahwahnee*



### HIGHWAYS

Highway 41  
Highway 140  
Highway 120 West

### HUBS

Yosemite Lodge	Merced River
Tunnel View	Curry Village
The Ahwahnee	Yosemite Village

### SEE & DO

Approaching Yosemite Valley on Wawona Road/ Highway 41, **Tunnel View** provides a signature Yosemite Valley vista. From here you can see **El Capitan** and **Bridalveil Fall** framing Yosemite Valley, and **Half Dome** rising with monumental drama in the background.

For a great orientation to this celebrated valley, walk part or all of the 13-mile **Yosemite Valley Loop Trail**. Parking is not available at the trailhead; the trail begins at the Lower Yosemite Fall Trailhead (near shuttle stop #6). Primary parking is available at the Yosemite Village and Yosemite Falls parking areas. Trail access is also available from various roadside parking areas throughout Yosemite Valley.

The **Merced River** drops over Nevada Falls and Vernal Falls, meeting up with Illilouette Creek before flowing into Yosemite Valley. The Merced River adds an aquatic counterpoint to Yosemite Valley's sheer rock walls.

**Curry Village Raft Rentals** provides the gear to float the Merced during summer months when it becomes what must be the world's most scenic lazy river.

Yosemite Village is the valley's grub hub as well, with several casual restaurants. This is also a great area to get to know the history of Yosemite National Park and the people that helped craft it. The Yosemite Valley Visitor Center and Museum is great point to learn about the thousands of years of history that crafted the iconic valley. Just behind it is the Indian Village of the Ahwahnee where visitors can walk through a replica village of the Valley's original inhabitants. A stop at the Ansel Adams Gallery is great not only to see the works of the photographer that helped popularize the National Park, but also pick up a souvenir or work of art. Yosemite Valley parking is available at Yosemite Village, Curry Village, and near Yosemite Falls.



Curry Village

Mist Trail to Vernal Fall

Yosemite Lodge pool

# YOSEMITE VALLEY DETAIL MAP

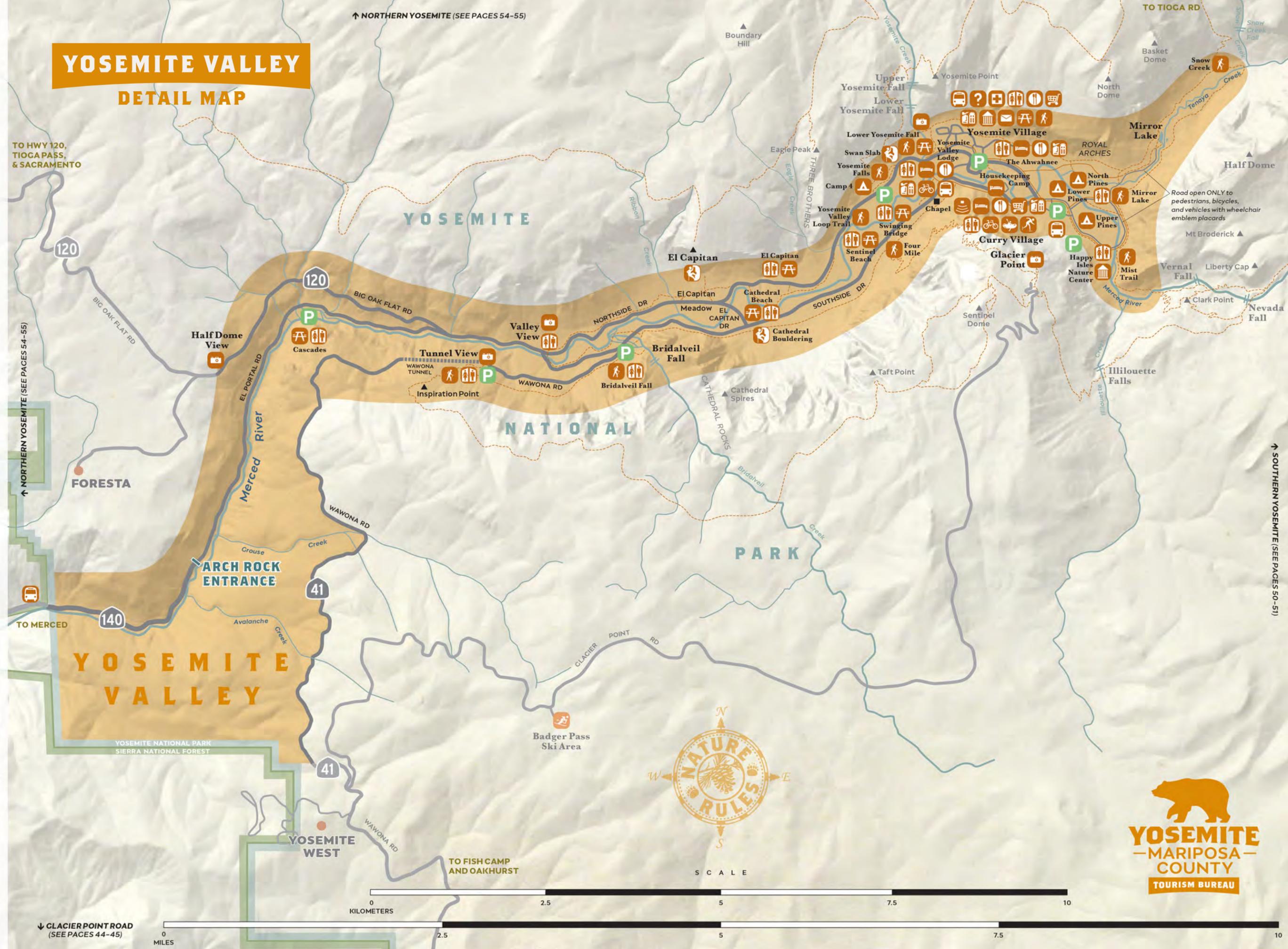
- Yosemite Valley Region
- Mariposa County Border
- National Forest Border
- Yosemite National Park Border
- Hiking Trail
- Biking Trail
- Public Parking
- Public Restrooms
- Visitor Information
- Ranger Station
- Amphitheater
- YARTS Bus Stop
- First Aid
- Lodging
- Dining
- Grocery Store
- Shopping
- Museum or Historic Site
- Post Office
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Hiking Trailhead
- Technical Rock Climbing
- Bike Rentals
- Rafting Rentals
- Ice Skating

Locations of individual vacation rentals are not shown on this map.

Free shuttle system in Yosemite Valley. For info and maps, see [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).



Maps may not be complete or accurate. These maps are for use as point of interest general locations. For detailed maps, including accessible restrooms, see [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).



TO HWY 120, TIOGA PASS, & SACRAMENTO

↑ NORTHERN YOSEMITE (SEE PAGES 54-55)

TO MERCED

↓ GLACIER POINT ROAD (SEE PAGES 44-45)

↑ NORTHERN YOSEMITE (SEE PAGES 54-55)

↓ SOUTHERN YOSEMITE (SEE PAGES 50-51)



SCALE



## GLACIER POINT ROAD

Glacier Point delivers one of the most spectacular vistas of any national park. Situated at the end of 16-mile-long Glacier Point Road, it overlooks Yosemite Valley, Half Dome and numerous, majestic waterfalls. Recreational opportunities abound as well, with hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country ski trails spurring off into the beautiful surrounding wilderness. The road usually closes in November some five miles off Highway 41 at Badger Pass Ski Area. At Chinquapin, the start of Glacier Point Road, you will find a restroom facility at the intersection of Highway 41 called The Glacier Point Road Junction Restroom. It is a recommended stop when headed in any direction.

### LODGING

Vacation rentals and camping are the two types of lodging options you'll find in the region of Yosemite National Park around Glacier Point Road.

The main lodging hub for the region is Yosemite West. This tiny treasure of a neighborhood is located inside the gates of Yosemite National Park. Yet it's hidden from view — mostly obscured by magnificent 150-foot tall pines, firs, and cedars. There can be no doubt that you're in the High Sierra here.

Yosemite West boasts lodging for a wide variety of groups — from studio apartments ideal for a solo retreat or romantic couple's getaway to large luxury homes perfect for hosting extended family reunions. With so many homes to choose from, your group can even divide into multiple houses close to each other, creating a temporary neighborhood gathering in the mountains with just the right amount of privacy and togetherness.

While there is no single source for all lodging in Yosemite West, Scenic Wonders manages the largest number of homes in the neighborhood, including the full range of options from small to expansive and budget-minded to luxury. Scenic Wonders is also headquartered in Yosemite West, so you can rest assured that helpful staff will be on hand if you happen to need anything, from winter snow removal to extra supplies.

For camping options, there is one quiet and secluded campground. Bridalveil Creek Campground occupies a quiet section of Glacier Point Road near McGurk Meadow. It's one of the highest elevation campgrounds in Yosemite National Park and the only lodging option directly on Glacier Point Road.

### HIGHWAYS

Glacier Point Road  
Highway 41

### HUBS

Glacier Point	Sentinel Dome
Badger Pass Ski Area	Taft Point

### SEE & DO

Follow Glacier Point Road off Highway 41 to reach the **Glacier Point visitor area**. The stone overlook is expansive and includes a number of interpretive maps and displays, as well as a visitor center, restrooms and bear-proof metal lockers. It's also a good starting or finishing point for some of Yosemite's most popular trails, including the **Four Mile Trail** and the **Panorama Trail**.

**Badger Pass Ski Area**, located just off Glacier Point Road with peak elevation of 8,000 feet, is the oldest ski resort in California! Touted as one of the Sierra's most family-friendly slopes, Badger Pass Ski Area, which opens during the winter months, offers downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing, snowboard terrain park, tubing and more. It's intimate with just five lifts providing access to mostly beginner and intermediate runs, making this a great place to learn to ski.

Trailheads along Glacier Point Road lead to a number of expansive Yosemite Valley vista points, including **Sentinel Dome and Taft Point**, McGurk Meadow and **Dewey Point**, popular for hiking and snowshoeing.

**Washburn Point** — Prior to arriving at Glacier Point, Washburn Point is a smaller stop and parking area that will reward you with fantastic views of the southern stretching Sierra Nevada and valley below. This area is often mistaken for Glacier Point, so enjoy this epic pull-out and then continue on.



*Hikers at Taft Point*

*Badger Pass Ski Area*

*Half Dome view from Glacier Point Road*

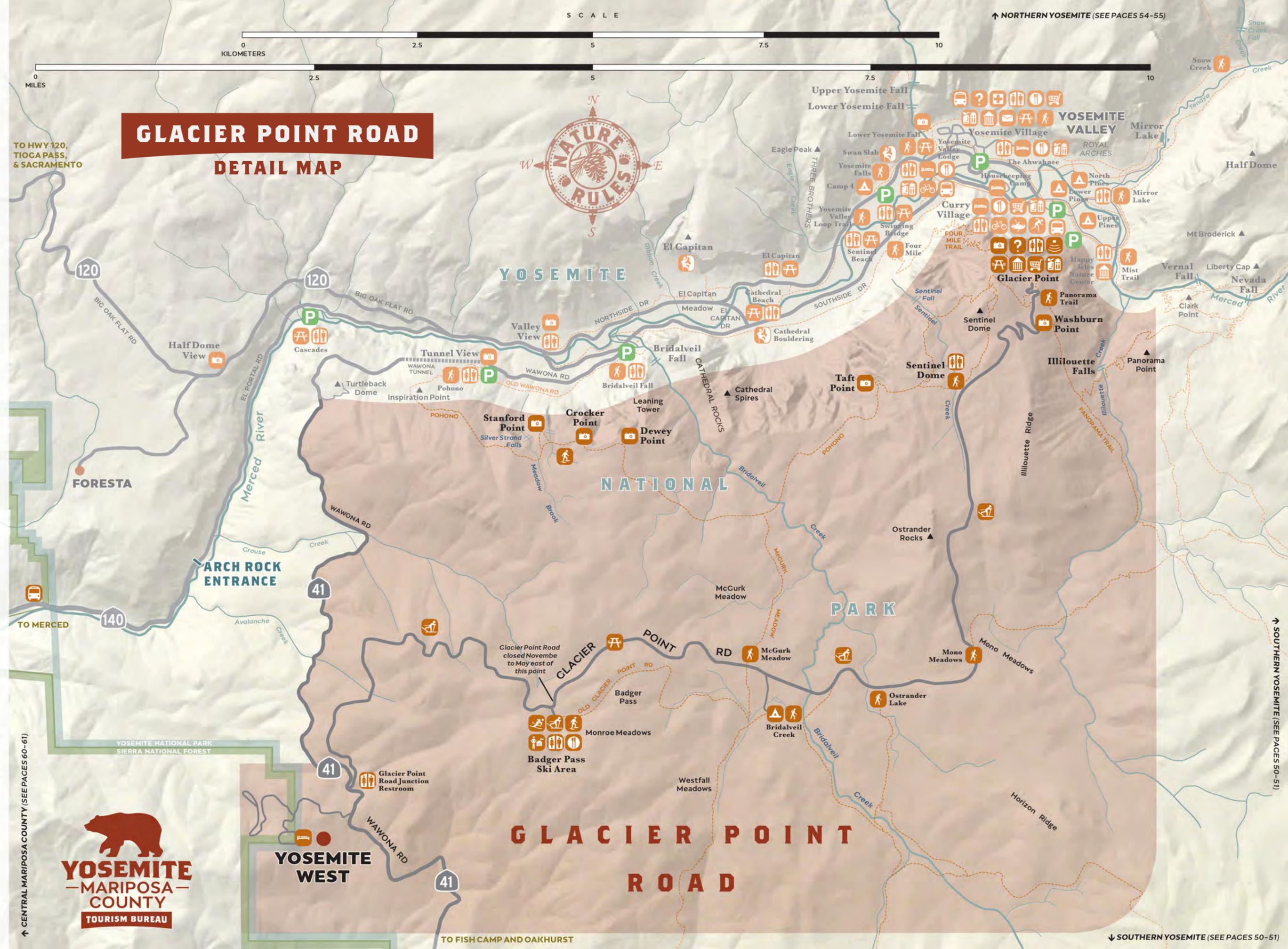


- Glacier Point Road Region
- Mariposa County Border
- National Forest Border
- Yosemite National Park Border
- Hiking Trail
- Biking Trail
- Public Parking
- Visitor Information
- Ranger Station
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- Post Office
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Hiking Trailhead
- Technical Rock Climbing
- Bike Rentals
- Rafting Rentals
- Ice Skating
- Skiing & Snowboarding
- Cross Country Skiing
- Snowshoeing

Locations of individual vacation rentals are not shown on this map.



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TO HWY 120, TIOGA PASS, & SACRAMENTO

TO MERCED

↑ CENTRAL MARIPOSA COUNTY (SEE PAGES 60-61)



TO FISH CAMP AND OAKHURST

↓ SOUTHERN YOSEMITE (SEE PAGES 50-51)

↑ NORTHERN YOSEMITE (SEE PAGES 54-55)

↑ SOUTHERN YOSEMITE (SEE PAGES 50-51)



## SOUTHERN YOSEMITE

Highway 41's serpentine path leads south from Yosemite Valley, past Glacier Point Road through bucolic Wawona and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, on the way to Yosemite National Park's South Gate. This is Mariposa County's Southern Yosemite region, rich in history and dotted with attractions. Its mid-elevation terrain rewards visitors with milder temperatures and year-round access.

### LODGING

Wawona has historically served as a waystation for travelers to, from and within Yosemite, a time-honored tradition that continues today. With options ranging from an iconic national park lodge to vacation cabin rentals and riverfront camping, Wawona is extra accommodating.

The Wawona Hotel serves as one of Yosemite National Park's keynote lodges. A National Historic Landmark and one of California's original mountain resort hotels, the property was originally established in 1856 with the main building opening in 1879. Today, travelers can select from 50 hotel rooms with private baths and 54 rooms with shared bathrooms. Rooms open up to splendid verandas that wrap around the first and second floors.

Cabin Life is well on display at Wawona's The Redwoods In Yosemite, a collection of vacation home rentals plus a wedding & event center located off Chilnualna Falls Road. There are more than 120 unique Yosemite National Park cabins and spacious luxury homes on offer, many pet-friendly. Options range from cozy one-bedroom cabins to the Yosemite Luxury Estate, an eight-bedroom, seven-bath cluster of grand vacation living.

The Wawona Campground is located along a forested bend of the South Fork Merced River just across the street from the Yosemite History Center. There are almost 100 sites with space for tents, RVs, and trailers up to 35 feet. Each site is outfitted with a fire ring, picnic table, food locker, and bathrooms nearby (with water). The setting is dreamy, with a beautiful river running along the length of the campground, majestic granite peaks all around, and an extra-dark sky full of stars, making Wawona one of Yosemite National Park's most prized campgrounds.

---

*Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias*

*Historic Wawona Hotel Moore Cottage*



## HIGHWAYS

Highway 41

## HUBS

Wawona                      Yosemite History Center  
Chilnualna Fall            Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias

## SEE & DO

Wawona is quite literally a hub of Yosemite history. The mid-elevation bowl (approx. 4,000 feet, similar to Yosemite Valley) was originally home to Native Americans who thrived here. Later, the Wawona area became a prosperous settlement and primary way-station for early tourists traveling to Yosemite Valley.

Established in 1918, the **Wawona Golf Course** claims to be one of the few organic golf courses in the world. No pesticides are applied to the course and only reclaimed gray water is used for watering the greens. Designed to blend into expansive Wawona Meadow — one of Yosemite's largest — the 9-hole, par-35 track measures just over 3,000 yards with a pair of par-5s.

Wawona's **Yosemite History Center** is a showcase of Park history. Historic buildings, horse-drawn

wagons, a covered bridge, and authentic buildings from Yosemite's early days are here. The visitor center explains how Yosemite was the inspiration for national parks across America and throughout the world.

**Chilnualna Falls** is one of the relatively few Yosemite waterfalls flowing year-round. Pronounced "Chil-noo-al-na," it's comprised of five large cascades sliding across sheer granite formations. The strenuous trail along Chilnualna Falls rewards with views of the tumbling torrents, and Wawona below.

**Wawona Stables** offers two hour and half-day horseback rides.

Located near the South Gate of Yosemite, **Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias** is the Park's largest collection of giant sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) in the park with more than 500 mature specimens. Trails ranging from easy to strenuous lace through the grove, and include ADA accessible trails. Wander among these soaring, ruddy-barked titans and see why "cathedral" is an oft-used metaphor for the grove. Plan for a little over an hour's drive from Yosemite Valley to Mariposa Grove.



*Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias  
Wawona Covered Bridge at the Yosemite History Center  
Tunnel Tree at the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias  
Winter on the Merced River*

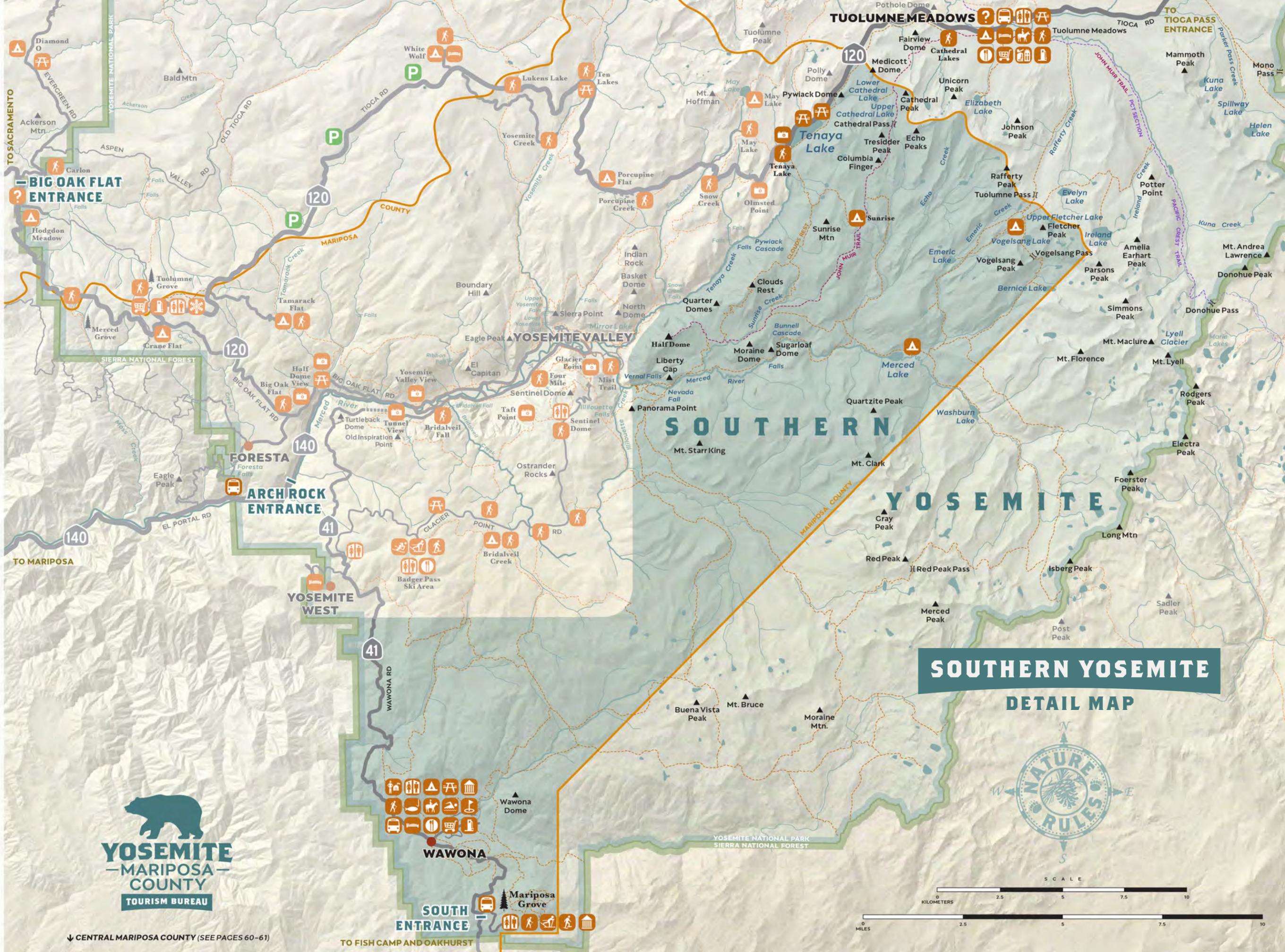


- Southern Yosemite Region Inside Mariposa County
- Southern Yosemite Region Outside Mariposa County
- Mariposa County Border
- National Forest Border
- Yosemite National Park Border
- Hiking Trail
- Biking Trail
- Visitor Information
- Ranger Station
- YARTS Bus Stop
- Gas Station
- Public Parking
- Public Restroom
- Lodging
- Dining
- Grocery Store
- Shopping
- Museum or Historic Site
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Hiking Trailhead
- Horseback Riding
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Golf Course
- Snowplay Area
- Ski & Snowboard Area
- Cross Country Skiing
- Snowshoeing

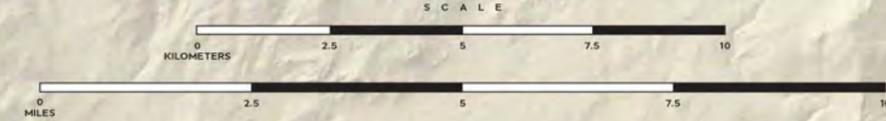
Locations of individual vacation rentals are not shown on this map.



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# SOUTHERN YOSEMITE DETAIL MAP



← CENTRAL MARIPOSA COUNTY (SEE PAGES 60-61)

TO FISH CAMP AND OAKHURST

## NORTHERN YOSEMITE

Northern Yosemite is the national park's high country, fundamentally alpine with rugged terrain for hiking, camping and exploring. Here, giant granite domes, craggy peaks, stands of ancient trees and wildflower-studded meadows embody the austere beauty of the High Sierra. As Highway 120 rises toward Northern Yosemite, it becomes Tioga Road, the main artery through the region. The elevation gradient is steady and significant, rising from about 6,000 feet at Crane Flat to nearly 10,000 feet at Tioga Pass. Tioga Road opens in late May or June, depending on the winter snowpack and road repairs. It typically closes in late October or November, depending on winter storm conditions.

### LODGING

Choosing lodging in Northern Yosemite means a choice between two types of stays: vacation rentals and camping. Foresta, a small community just north

of Yosemite's Arch Rock Entrance, is the hub for most lodging in the region where a small grouping of vacation rentals boast views of El Capitan.

For camping options, coveted Yosemite National Park campsites are available at locations like Crane Flat, Tamarack Flat and Porcupine Flat. For a more comfortable camping experience, White Wolf, just north of Tioga Pass, and Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, Yosemite's highest elevation lodging, offers heated tent cabins with beds to its guests like those at Curry Village.

For adventure seekers, the High Sierra Loop in Northern Yosemite offers a backpacking experience made easy at the five High Sierra Camps like May Lake and Glen Aulin. The full High Sierra Camps experience is open to those who enter and win the High Sierra Camps lottery and provides backpackers with a tent cabin, a bed to sleep on, breakfast and dinner service

in the Yosemite Back Country and portage of your overnight belongings from camp to camp so you just have to hike to each camp in the loop with a day pack on your back.

### HIGHWAYS

Tioga Road / Highway 120

Big Oak Flat Road

### HUBS

Crane Flat                      Hetch Hetchy Reservoir

Tuolumne Grove              Olmsted Point

Merced Grove                Tuolumne Meadows

### SEE & DO

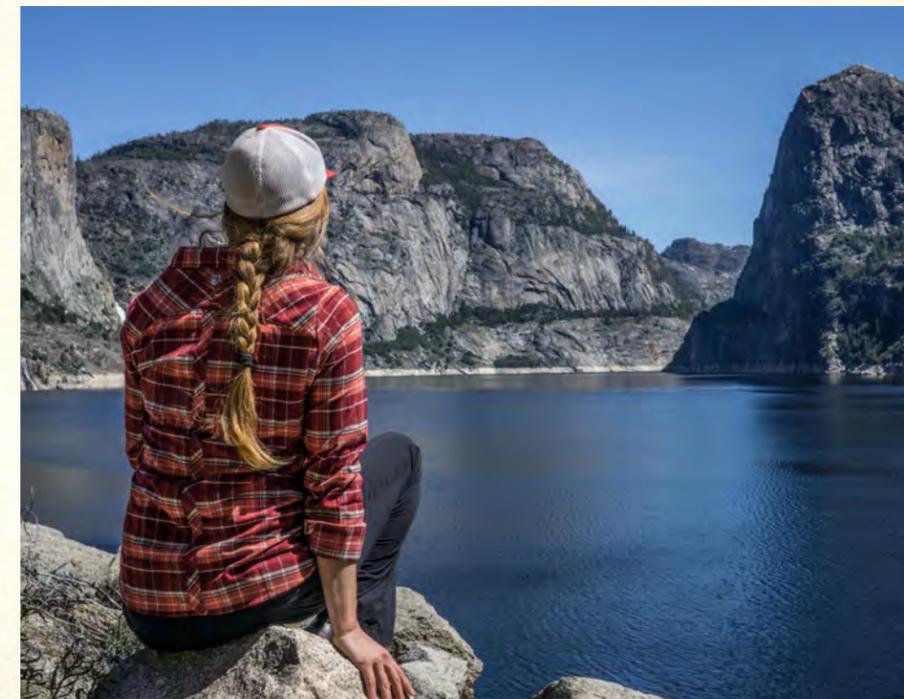
Heading away from Yosemite Valley, Big Oak Flat Road is the runway to Northern Yosemite's high country. An arborist's dream, the road is a sylvan parade of trees as it gains elevation towards Crane Flat. Oak, fir, pine and ancient stands of giant sequoias such as the **Merced** and **Tuolumne** groves rise just off the road.

Crane Flat is a meadow-covered setting where myriad varieties of wildflowers (and bears) call home.

The Crane Flat Snow Play Area is a popular place for sledding and snow play, located just south of the **Crane Flat gas station and market**, the ideal stop for refueling and picking up some road snacks.

Tucked into Yosemite National Park's peaceful northwest corner, Hetch Hetchy Valley is one of the park's less-visited treasures. Soaring peaks, steep canyons, and thundering waterfalls are here. O'Shaughnessy Dam, at the west end of the valley, provides a nice overlook of the reservoir and wilderness beyond, including 1,000-foot-plus Wapama Falls.

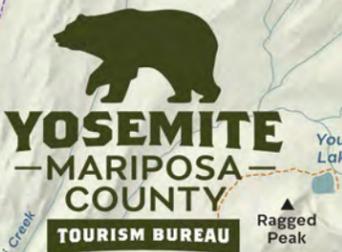
Of all the scenic byways in Yosemite, Tioga Road rises above them all (literally, as well). The 46-mile (62 km) drive from Crane Flat to Tioga Pass gains 4,000 feet in elevation as it cruises through a glaciated granite wonderland of immense vistas such as Olmsted Point, roadside domes and peaks, the glittering sapphire jewel of Tenaya Lake and picturesque Tuolumne Meadows.



*Tuolumne Meadows alpen glow*  
*Hetch Hetchy Reservoir*  
*Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias*



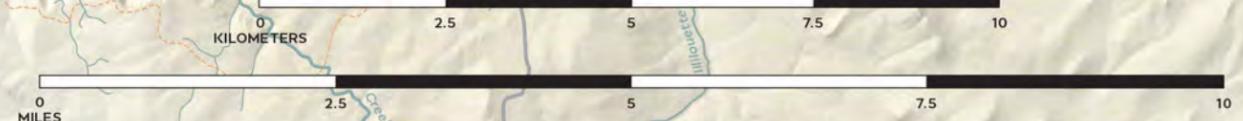
# NORTHERN YOSEMITE DETAIL MAP



- Northern Yosemite Region within Mariposa County
- Northern Yosemite Region outside Mariposa County
- Mariposa County Border
- National Forest Border
- Yosemite National Park Border
- Hiking Trail
- Visitor Information
- Ranger Station
- YARTS Bus Stop
- Gas Station
- Public Parking
- Public Restrooms
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- Lodging
- Dining
- Grocery Store
- Shopping
- Hiking Trailhead
- Horseback Riding
- Snow Play Area



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TO SACRAMENTO  
TO MARIPOSA COUNTY (SEE PAGES 72-73)

TO TIOPA PASS ENTRANCE  
TO MARIPOSA COUNTY

ARCH ROCK ENTRANCE  
TO MERCED

FORESTA

SCALE

TO SACRAMENTO

TO TIOPA PASS ENTRANCE

GLACIER POINT ROAD (SEE PAGES 44-45)

SOUTHERN YOSEMITE (SEE PAGES 50-51)

## CENTRAL MARIPOSA COUNTY

California history glitters all across the “Golden State,” but Mariposa County has something special in store. From the rich Gold Rush history and ever-present Western Cowboy cattle culture of old-town Mariposa and charming main streets of its satellite towns, Central Mariposa County offers time-travel treasure with a Wild & Scenic Merced River bonus.

### LODGING

In Central Mariposa County are the communities of Mariposa, Fish Camp, El Portal and Midpines and majority of lodging options running that span from hotels to cabin rentals, Inn’s to motels, camping to bed and breakfasts. The towns in the region such as Mariposa, Midpines and El Portal flank Highway 140 heading to and from Yosemite National Park from the California Central Valley. Also in the region is the mountain hamlet of Fish Camp, the last stop on Highway 41 heading into the park’s southern entrance.

The town of Mariposa is the home to the majority of Yosemite Mariposa County’s services. Here you’ll find a variety of restaurants, local shops, grocery stores and of course, lodging options. Mariposa is home to familiar hotel brands such as Best Western and Quality Inn as well as boutique options bursting with

western flare like the Mariposa Hotel and the historic town’s oldest lodging option, River Rock Inn.

For a bed and breakfast, consider options like Yosemite Plaisance Bed and Breakfast, Windham House Bed and Breakfast and Highland House Bed and Breakfast. For that quiet, more secluded stay where you and your group have the place to yourself, enjoy one of the many vacation rentals on the side streets or quiet neighborhoods surrounding Mariposa.

Just one mile from the Yosemite Arch Rock entrance, El Portal provides the lodging closest to Yosemite Valley while still not actually being in Yosemite National Park, though the beauty of the Merced River Canyon where El Portal sits is still National Park worthy. El Portal is also home to all the types of lodging that Mariposa County offers. Hotels like Yosemite View Lodge and Cedar Lodge with in-room kitchenettes that are perfect for families make staying near Yosemite simple including on-site restaurants and shops to supply your days exploring a UNESCO World Heritage site. At Yosemite View Lodge, there are rooms and suites with views of the Merced River Canyon or balconies overlooking the Wild and Scenic Merced River Canyon. The onsite River Restaurant is



open for breakfast, lunch and dinner making it a short shuffle back to your room after a day hiking in Yosemite. Just a few miles downriver, Cedar Lodge also boasts an onsite restaurant as well as Merced River beach access just across the road from your room.

Also found in El Portal is the Yosemite Blue Butterfly Inn, which has the distinction of being the closest bed and breakfast to Yosemite Valley as well as stunning views just over the Merced River which can be enjoyed with a full gourmet breakfast. There are a number of campgrounds along the Merced River near El Portal. While these sites are limited, they are certainly worth considering as they are less known than the coveted ones in Yosemite National Park and easier to reserve.



In between Mariposa and El Portal is the mountain community of Midpines which has its own perks including great lodging options, a grocery store and gas station as well as nearby recreation at Briceburg along the Merced River. The two key lodging properties here are AutoCamp Yosemite and Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort. AutoCamp features modern and luxury camping options in Mariposa County with iconic Airstream trailers and beyond. AutoCamp is not just focused on providing an upscale true glamping experience, the company is dedicated to providing environmentally-sustainable, small-space designs that make connecting with the outdoors easy for anyone who has the desire to get out and enjoy it.

Just up the road in Midpines is the Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort, a hillside place to stay with uniquely bohemian inspired decorated cabins all with their own theme. On site is an outstanding June Bug Café restaurant loved by locals and visitors alike and the Yosemite Health Spa, which provides steam room, sauna and massage services to those looking to relax and rejuvenate during their stay. Add in the on-site hiking trail and a hidden swimming hole and “The Bug” is a favorite of those that have chosen it as their Yosemite stay.



*AutoCamp Yosemite  
Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite  
Best Western PLUS Yosemite Way Station  
Mariposa Hotel Inn*



South of Highway 140, the postcard-pretty hamlet of Fish Camp, CA is located just two miles from Yosemite National Park's South Gate in Mariposa County, making it the closest town to any entrance to Yosemite.

Fish Camp is best known for the four-diamond rated Tenaya at Yosemite, the Southern Sierra Nevada's most celebrated fully-featured family resorts with a breadth of activities from hot tubs and in-door and outdoor swimming pools, outstanding children's programs, to snowshoeing and an archery range. Tenaya at Yosemite offers three different types of lodging experiences. First, you'll find hotel rooms and spacious modern suites at Tenaya. That keeps you close to services and amenities like restaurants, pools, and other activities. The Cottages are a short walk from Tenaya's main lodge. These cozy triplex cabins have private entrances, outdoor sitting areas, and fireplaces. For even more privacy, try the Explorer Cabins at Tenaya. These two-bedroom cabins offer a more secluded upscale experience with a comfortable living room and a private deck. Fish Camp also offers charming vacation and rustic cabins rentals.

#### HIGHWAYS

Highway 49  
Highway 140

#### HUBS

Mariposa	El Portal
Midpines	Fish Camp
Briceburg	Bootjack

#### SEE & DO

A fully loaded vault of landmarks and legends, the authentic legacy of the California Gold Rush runs like a vein of ore through charming small-town main streets in Mariposa (the county seat), Midpines, Bootjack and Briceburg, and Yosemite gateway towns El Portal and Fish Camp.

Authentic California history is present in the town of Mariposa's splendid streets and structures, many among the oldest in California. The Schlageter building, Fremont Adobe, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, escape-prone Old Mariposa Jail and Mariposa Hotel Inn make the town a time-travel masterpiece. Don't miss the stately **Mariposa County Courthouse** (the oldest courthouse in continuous operation west of the Mississippi and listed on the National Register of Historic Places), and the **Mariposa Museum & History Center**, a "Best Little Museum" according to the Smithsonian Institution, the **California State Mineral & Mining Museum** and the **Yosemite Climbing Association Museum**.

Small-town charm continues along Highway 140 with **Midpines, Briceburg, El Portal**, all set along the Wild & Scenic Merced River canyon with numerous turnouts and picnicking opportunities. Day use picnic areas such as Red Bud, Cranberry Flat, Indian Flat, McClendon Beach and Briceburg Put-In are all great choices. This area is also the county's hub for **white-water rafting**. In spring here, the Merced River turns



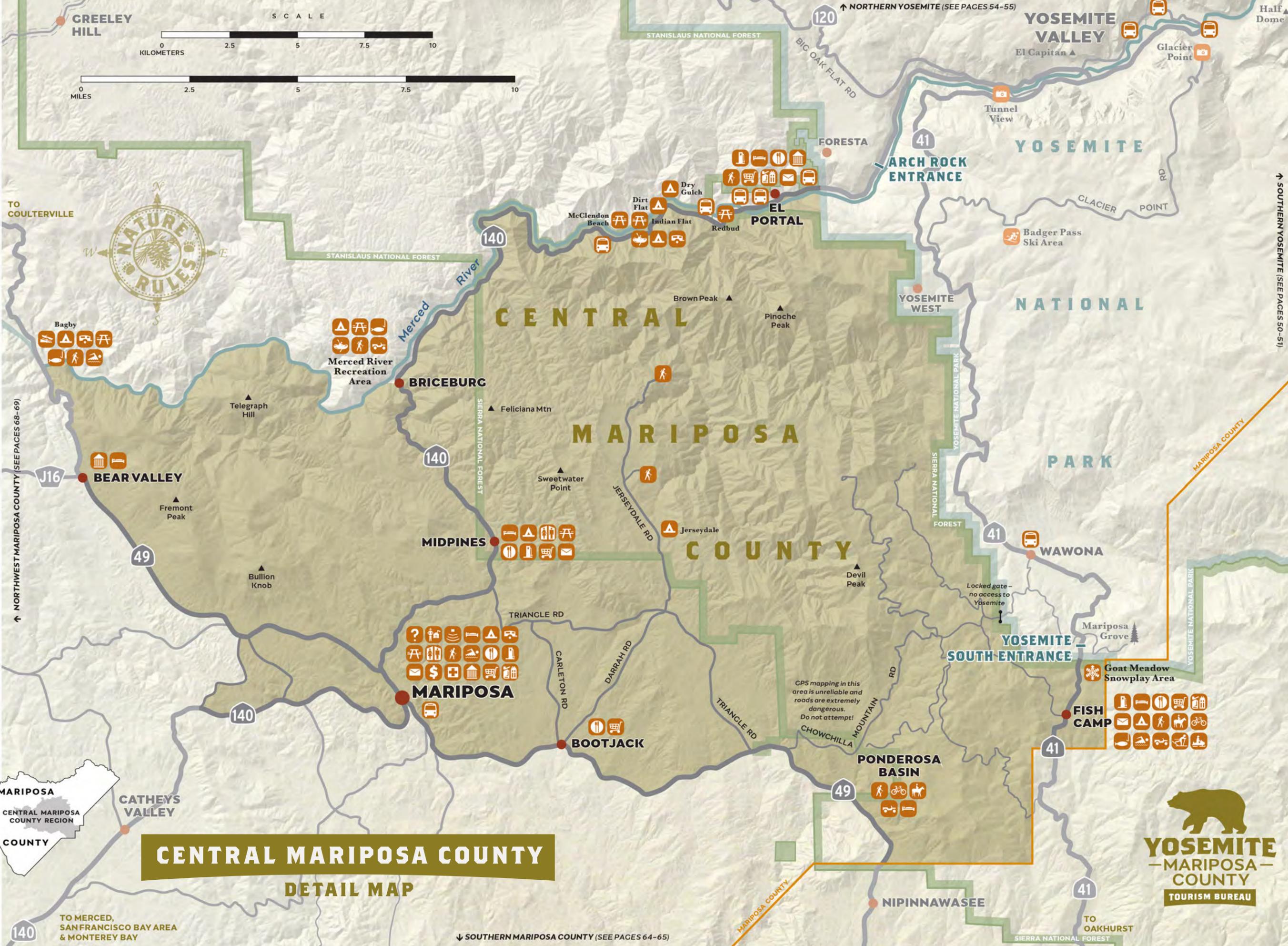
*Merced River snorkeling*  
*Shopping in downtown Mariposa*  
*Yosemite Trails Horseback Adventures*  
*Whitewater rafting on the Wild & Scenic Merced River*  
*Mariposa County Courthouse*

into a churning whitewater playground where several rafting guides ply their trade. The Highway 41 hamlet of **Fish Camp**, two miles from Yosemite National Park's South Gate and home to Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite, is a hub for hiking, biking and a great pre-Park supply stop. **Goat Meadow Snowplay Area** is under the radar for many travelers — yet cherished by sled-heads who take its nondescript turnoff between Fish Camp and the southern entrance to Yosemite National Park.

Fish Camp is the county's jumping off site to the Sierra National Forest where horseback riding, swimming, fishing and mountain biking are all activities that can be enjoyed. Yosemite Trails Horseback Adventures, which operates out of a high-country pack station, leads daily horseback riding tours into the Sierra National Forest and Yosemite National Park's Giant Sequoias. For off-road enthusiasts, Jackson Road is a great way to get the tires of your 4x4 or mountain bike dirty and if that just wets the whistle of adventure for you, the Sierra National Forests spiderwebbing roads make for great exploration opportunities!



- Central Mariposa County Region
- Mariposa County Border
- National Forest Border
- Yosemite National Park Border
- John Muir Highway
- Locked Gate
- Visitor Information
- Ranger Station
- Amphitheater
- YARTS Bus Stop
- First Aid
- Gas Station
- Public Restroom
- Lodging
- Dining
- Grocery Store
- Shopping
- Museum or Historic Site
- Post Office
- Bank
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- RV Park
- Hiking Trailhead
- Horseback Riding
- Mountain Biking
- Fishing
- Boat Ramp
- Rafting
- Swimming
- 4WD / OHV
- Snowplay Area
- Ski & Snowboard Area
- Cross Country Skiing
- Snowmobiling



**CENTRAL MARIPOSA COUNTY  
DETAIL MAP**



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## SOUTHERN MARIPOSA COUNTY

Southern Mariposa County is a rambling, rawboned realm bisected by Highway 140 and topped off by Highway 49. This is where the Great Central Valley begins to roll up to the foothills in undulating waves as farming gives way to ranching and the first glints of the Sierra Nevada range come into view over the eastern horizon. Roll down your windows, take a deep breath of wildflower-carpeted foothills in spring, and with a little luck spot a flock of sheep, herd of Angus cattle or herds of working horses grazing off the road.

### LODGING

Staying in Southern Mariposa County means a classic western vibe in the ranchlands of the Sierra Nevada foothills at either a cabin rental or bed and breakfast.

The solo Bed and Breakfast option in the region is Posada Mariana Bed and Breakfast which offers four rooms with private bathrooms and their own private entrance through a central courtyard.

### HIGHWAYS

Highway 49  
Highway 140

### HUBS

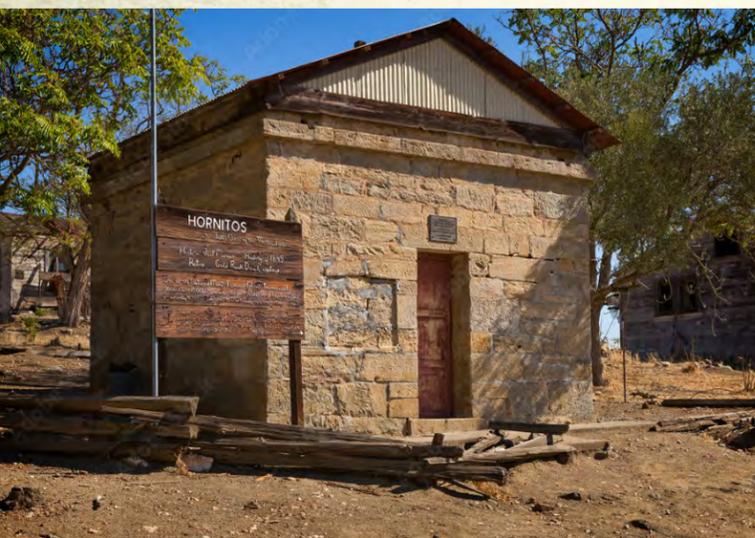
Catheys Valley  
Hornitos  
Bear Valley

### SEE & DO

Catheys Valley (elevation 1,325-feet) is a big bowl of agricultural greatness with some of the richest grazing ranch land in the American West. Among Mariposa County's historical markers, Catheys Valley is "best in show," with multiple panels and a wealth of information displayed roadside. In earlier times the Miwuk Indians wintered here in this big, blue-sky valley.

A rough-and-tumble Gold Rush town, Hornitos in the 1870s reached a population of almost 15,000 and had the first Wells Fargo stagecoach office in the county. The still-standing Plaza Bar, Hornitos Masonic Hall and St. Catherine's Catholic Church make this town a worthy detour for historic architecture buffs. Legend has it that bandit hero Joaquin Murrieta built a tunnel from a local dance hall to his private horse stable to evade lawmen.

About 11 miles northwest of Mariposa, Bear Valley is the original site of Colonel John C. Fremont's empire. Fremont arrived here after the conclusion of the Bear Flag Revolt, bought a 44,000-acre parcel of the Mexican land grant, Rancho Las Mariposas, and re-named it Bear Valley. Look for the Bear Valley Historical Marker on Highway 49 and the original buildings from the mining days including the BonTon Saloon, Trabucco Store and Odd Fellows Hall.



*Ranching in Southern Mariposa County*  
*Historic Hornitos Jail*  
*St. Catherine's Catholic Church*  
*Ruins of Chirardelli's first store*

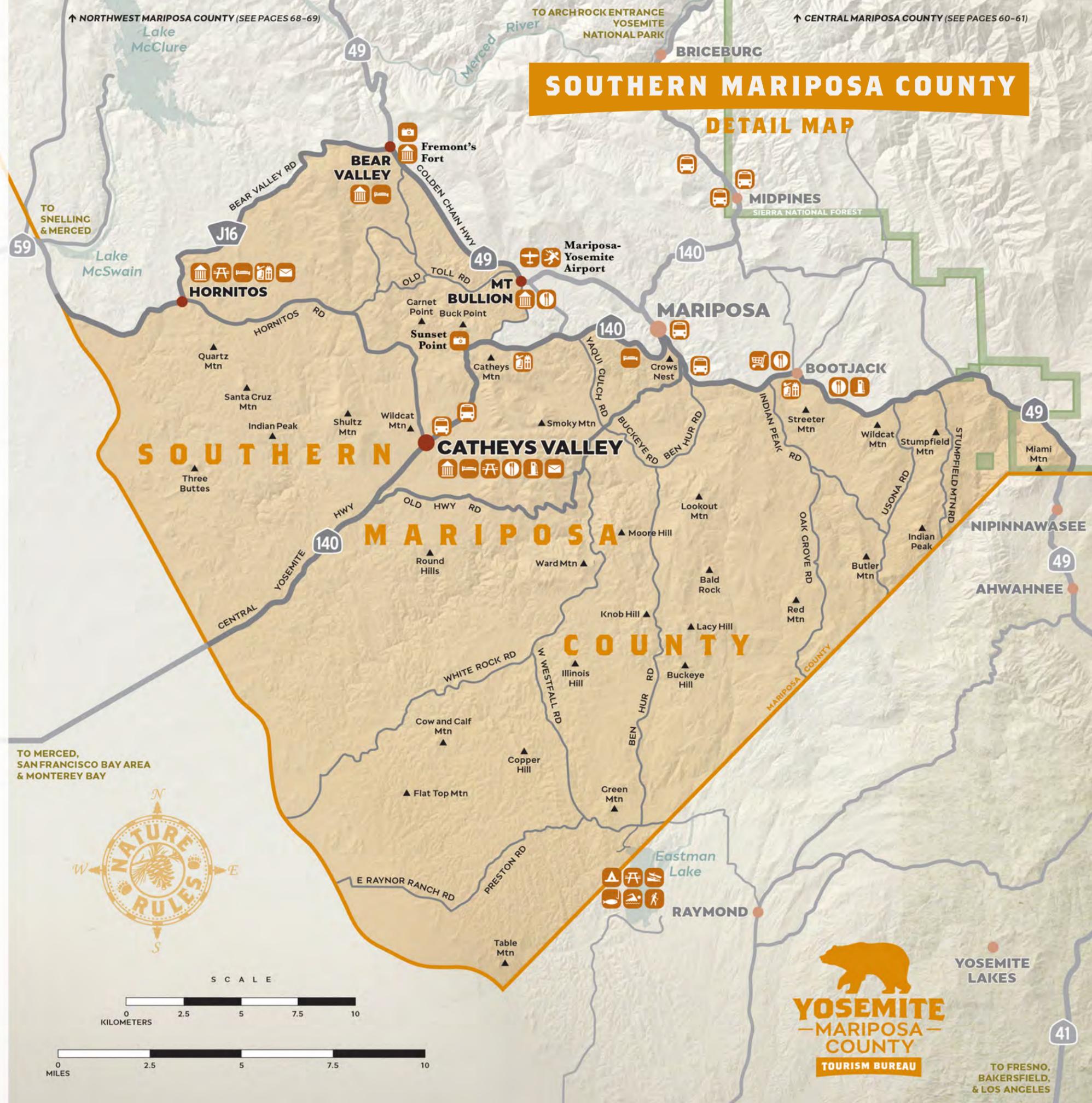


-  Southern Mariposa County Region
-  Mariposa County Border
-  National Forest Border
-  YARTS Bus Stop
-  Airport
-  Gas Station
-  Lodging
-  Dining
-  Grocery Store
-  Shopping
-  Museum or Historic Site
-  Post Office
-  Scenic Viewpoint
-  Campground
-  Picnic Area
-  Hiking Trailhead
-  Fishing
-  Boat Ramp
-  Swimming
-  Skydiving

Locations of individual vacation rentals are not shown on this map.

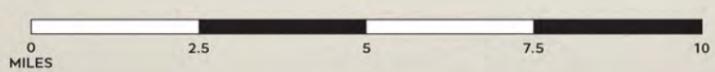
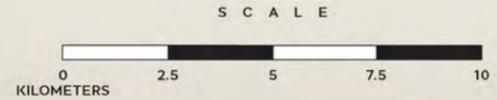


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# SOUTHERN MARIPOSA COUNTY

## DETAIL MAP



# NORTHWEST MARIPOSA COUNTY

Mariposa County's northwest corner is foothill, canyon and crag country. The bedrock landscape is marked by ruddy outcroppings and plunging valleys along its highways. Big blue reservoirs here are fed by the Wild & Scenic Merced River and provide ample opportunities for water recreation.

## LODGING

In this region of Yosemite Mariposa County, the lodging is all about proximity to the lakes like McClure, McSwain and Don Pedro and options include camping and vacation rentals.

The majority of lodging options are around Lake McSwain and Lake McClure where the Merced Irrigation District operates one of the largest camping and RV campgrounds in the region including the Lake McSwain Recreation Area, Barrett Cove Recreation Area and Horseshoe Bend Recreation. These sites range from typical campsites for popping a tent or parking an RV to cabins for small families on the waterfront.

Further upriver, Bagby Camping & Recreation Area is located just below the Wild & Scenic Merced River at the inlet of Lake McClure, offering a wide range of campsites and boat launch.

## HIGHWAYS

Highway 49  
Highway 59  
Highway 132

## HUBS

Lake McClure  
Lake McSwain  
Lake Don Pedro  
Bagby Recreation Area

## SEE & DO

At an elevation of 867 feet, sun-soaked **Lake McClure** and **Lake McSwain** are nestled in the oak-studded Sierra foothills in Mariposa County's northwestern sector. Lake McClure and smaller Lake McSwain are fed by the Merced River and offer full-

service family resorts featuring protected swim areas, day-use picnic tables and even a floating obstacle course called the **Splash-n-Dash Aqua Park**. Camping, fishing and waterskiing are also popular here, and the lower elevation provides a blast of summer heat that makes the water more inviting than ever.

Nearby **Exchequer Mountain Bike Park** has 700 acres of crunchy, chain-stretching joy overlooking Lake McClure. The Barrett Cove Recreation Area is an inviting venue for a lakeside camping trip.

The Bagby Camping & Recreation Area is located just below the Wild & Scenic Merced River at the inlet of Lake McClure, offering a wide range of campsites and boat launch.



*Hiking among the oaks*  
*Lake Don Pedro sunset*  
*Exchequer Mountain Bike Park*  
*Splash-n-Dash Aqua Park*

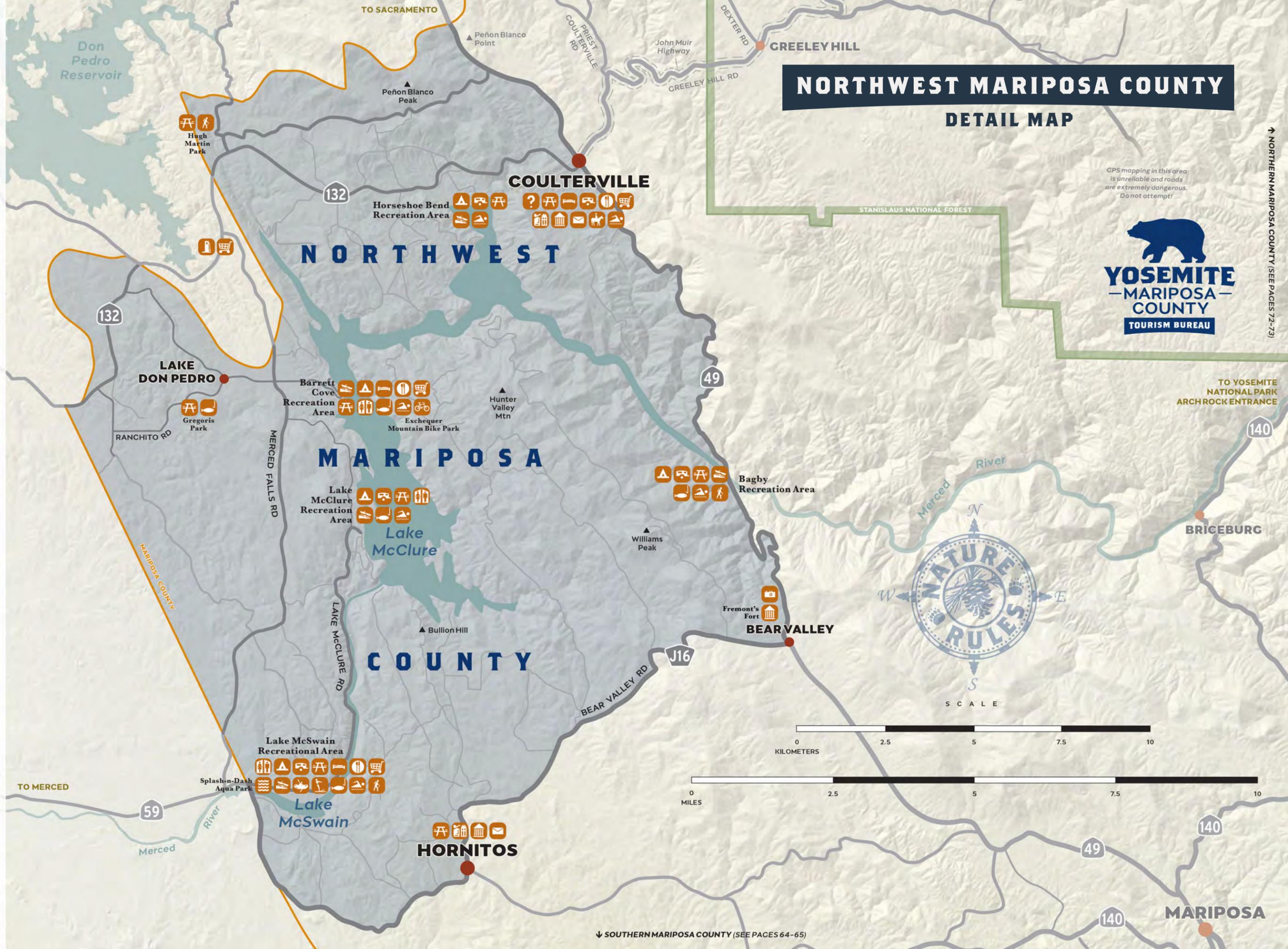


-  Northwest Mariposa County Region
-  Mariposa County Border
-  National Forest Border
-  John Muir Highway
-  Visitor Information
-  Gas Station
-  Lodging
-  Dining
-  Grocery Store
-  Shopping
-  Museum or Historic Site
-  Post Office
-  Campground
-  Picnic Area
-  RV Park
-  Hiking Trailhead
-  Horseback Riding
-  Mountain Biking
-  Fishing
-  Boat Ramp
-  Aqua Park
-  Rafting
-  Swimming

Locations of individual vacation rentals are not shown on this map.



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# NORTHERN MARIPOSA COUNTY

Mariposa County's off-beat northern towns of Coulterville, Greeley Hill, and Buck Meadows are studded with history, characters and charm. Northern Mariposa connects with the county's hard-rock legacy via its museums, curio shops, tours and more.

## LODGING

Northern Mariposa County is home to a few different hubs for lodging located mostly in the towns of Coulterville and Buck Meadows and like Central Mariposa County, all of the four types of lodging are available here along highways J132 and H120.

Stay the night in Coulterville at one of its many lodging options ranging from the historic Hotel Bluey, **formally** the Hotel Jeffery, home rentals, inns, B&Bs, and category-defying stays such as the Vacation Station — a 1964 boxcar and caboose lovingly reappointed as a comfy studio with deck and raised seating in its cupola.

Prefer to sleep under the stars? Camping is available at Yosemite Westlake Campground and RV Park which has 21 full-hookup RV/tent spaces 24 miles from Yosemite National Park.

Along Highway 120, Buck Meadows is one of the last stops visitors will encounter before reaching Yosemite National Park's Northern Entrance. In Buck Meadows there are hotel options including Yosemite Westgate Lodge and Buck Meadows Lodge which have a nearby locally praised restaurant and small grocery store.

Also in Buck Meadows is the Blackberry Inn Bed and Breakfast. This four-diamond rated bed and breakfast offers spacious accommodations, with vaulted ceilings and large windows that bring the beauty of the Sierra Nevada inside.

Camping is also available through the region along the Merced River in the Merced River Recreation Area as well as higher up in elevation at campgrounds like Lost Claim and Pines near Buck Meadows.

## HIGHWAYS

Designated John Muir Highway (J132)

Highway 120

Highway 140

## HUBS

Coulterville      Buck Meadows

Greeley Hill      Stanislaus National Forest

## SEE & DO

Charming **Coulterville, CA** is a historic Mariposa County town with a bohemian vibe. The historic Hotel Jeffery, est. 1851, entertained many famous guests including Teddy Roosevelt, Mark Twain and John Muir, when Coulterville was a primary stage stop for travelers on their way to Yosemite. Up the street, the former site of the Coulterville Hotel is today the **Northern Mariposa County History Center**, offering visitors a glimpse of the life and times of early California.

Chances are you'll be hungry in Coulterville. The **Coulter Café & General Store** has a metro foodie menu and gorgeous flagstone, dog-delightful patio with summer live music on the menu & seasonal outdoor live entertainment.

Highway 132 provides a scenic path for Yosemite-bound travelers as it skirts Lake Don Pedro and Lake McClure. Heading northeast from Coulterville, Highway 132 officially becomes the John Muir Highway as it climbs towards Greeley Hill, offering impressive Central Valley and High Sierra vistas.

Buck Meadows sits astride Yosemite Mariposa County along Highway 120 and is the gateway to both Yosemite National Park's Big Oak Flat Entrance and the Hetch Hetchy Valley Entrance.

Encompassing nearly 900,000 acres and bordering the western edge of Yosemite National Park, the **Stanislaus National Forest** is filled with soaring crests, sparkling mountain lakes, towering trees, and canyons carved by wild and scenic rivers. It's one of the oldest national forests in America (established 1897) and a vaunted recreational area with camping, hiking, fishing, OHV trails, water play and winter sports.

**Blackberry Inn  
Bed and Breakfast**

**Historic Hotel Jeffery  
in downtown Coulterville**

**Whistling Billy steam engine**

**Downtown Coulterville**

**Lake McClure**



- Northern Mariposa County Region
- Mariposa County Border
- National Forest Border
- Yosemite National Park Border

- John Muir Highway
- Visitor Information
- Ranger Station
- YARTS Bus Stop
- Gas Station
- Public Restrooms
- Lodging
- Dining
- Grocery Store
- Shopping
- Museum or Historic Site
- Post Office
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Campground
- Picnic Area
- RV Park
- Hiking Trailhead
- Horseback Riding
- Fishing
- Boat Ramp
- Rafting
- Swimming
- 4WD / OHV

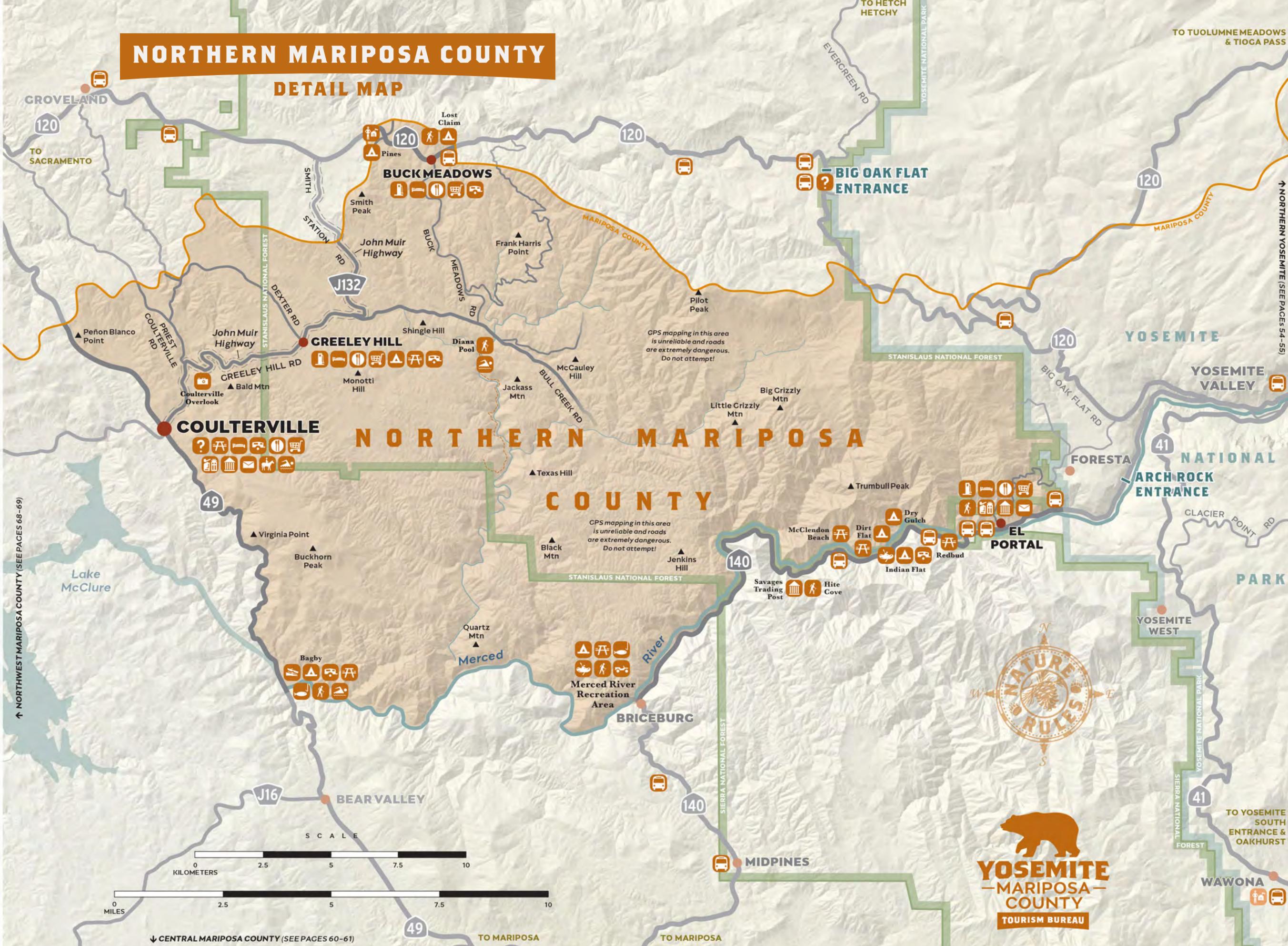
Locations of individual vacation rentals are not shown on this map.



Maps may not be complete or accurate. These maps are for use as point of interest general locations. For detailed maps, including accessible restrooms, see www.nps.gov.

# NORTHERN MARIPOSA COUNTY

## DETAIL MAP



TO TUOLUMNE MEADOWS & TIOGA PASS

TO HETCH HETCHY

YOSEMITE VALLEY

YOSEMITE WEST

TO YOSEMITE SOUTH ENTRANCE & OAKHURST

WAWONA

GPS mapping in this area is unreliable and roads are extremely dangerous. Do not attempt!

GPS mapping in this area is unreliable and roads are extremely dangerous. Do not attempt!

CENTRAL MARIPOSA COUNTY (SEE PAGES 60-61)

TO MARIPOSA

TO MARIPOSA

NORTHWEST MARIPOSA COUNTY (SEE PAGES 68-69)

NORTHERN YOSEMITE (SEE PAGES 54-55)

# YOSEMITE MARIPOSA COUNTY LODGING

## SIERRA DREAMIN'

Just as a healthy breakfast is key to starting your day, reliable lodging is a key first step in planning any well-curated vacation.

Here in Yosemite Mariposa County the menu of overnight accommodations brims with REM-worthy choices that range from rustic vacation rentals to **one-of-a-kind stays** and first class resorts.

Whether inside Yosemite National Park with its icons of granite or just outside the gates in Mariposa County where the vein of Gold Rush history runs deep, whether a crackling campfire to roast your s'mores or a grand fireplace to rest your drink, there's one thing for certain: soothing slumbers await beneath the star-dappled night skies of Yosemite Mariposa County. Sierra dreamin,' indeed.

### Hotels & Motels

With its focus on comfortable travel, Yosemite Mariposa County boasts hotels & motels to suit every itinerary and budget. For those seeking a first class stay with modern amenities and activities to entertain the whole family, hotels inside the Park such as the esteemed Ahwahnee Hotel, waterfall-adjacent Yosemite Valley Lodge and historic Wawona Hotel offer up-close-and-personal nature access. Just outside the Park, Gold Country gems such as the boutique River Rock Inn, the oak & antique Mariposa Hotel and the Yosemite View Lodge perched on the banks of the Merced River offer the perfect balance of **things to do** and **places to eat**. Need a spa treatment to complete your quest for ultimate Sierra relaxation? The world-class resort Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite offers luxury steeped in Mariposa County history, and as winner of the Sunset Travel Award for

Best Resort for Pets welcomes the furriest member of your family with open arms.

For visitors seeking a clean, affordable place to catch some zzzz's after a satisfying day exploring, there are plenty of Yosemite Mariposa County motels that fit the bill. Situated in the dramatic **Merced River Canyon**, the Yosemite Cedar Lodge is just 8 miles from the Park's Arch Rock Entrance. For a granite-grounded hostel-meets-spa experience, the Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort attracts travelers from all over the world and offers a selection of natural treatments not to mention tasty food at the June Bug Cafe. From hot tubs to swimming pools, from shock-corded tent poles in your basecamp hideaway to beamed ceilings in decadent dining halls, there's comfort in knowing you have comfortable choices in Yosemite Mariposa.

### Cabin & Vacation Rentals

For those visitors who want a more "homey" experience, Yosemite Mariposa cabin and vacation rentals provide a great option for everything from weekend getaways to family gatherings and longer-term **work/study vacations**. Whether it's in-Park stays booked through Yosemite's Scenic Wonders or the Redwoods in Yosemite, or an even larger selection in surrounding Mariposa County, there are hundreds

to choose from, offering privacy and a range of amenities from well-appointed kitchens (for controlling your own culinary destiny) and space for larger groups, not to mention friendly owners who will share local recommendations and to cap it all off the ability to share costs with your crew. Add a hot tub and it's "wins" all around!

### Bed & Breakfasts

Ah, the storybook sanctuaries we've all come to know as B&Bs. Here in Yosemite Mariposa County there are dozens, the perfect hubs for quilted comfort while exploring all that Mariposa County has to offer from history to hiking to shopping and sightseeing. These intimate refuges feature such perks as individually appointed decor, private decks, parlors for gathering with like-minded travelers, and some are in unique settings such as ranches and farms. Look for those certified by the **Yosemite-Mariposa Bed & Breakfast Association** to get a deeper dive and speak with helpful staff who can answer your questions about the area. What else do Yosemite Mariposa County B&B's offer? A delicious breakfast served by gracious hosts, of course!

### Camping & Campgrounds

When people think of Yosemite, they often think of camping. With its one-of-a-kind natural splendor, there's no better place to zip your toasty sleeping bag and count the **infinite Sierra Nevada stars**.

While camping inside Yosemite National Park is popular, reservations can be difficult. The solution? Camping options outside the Park in beautiful Mariposa County or booking a tent cabin in Curry Village. Here, campsites are abundant and much easier to secure. Whether they have views of a foothill lake or are secluded in the Wild and Scenic Merced River Canyon, whether a High Sierra spot minutes from the sequoias of Yosemite or minimalist camping in the **Sierra National Forest**, Yosemite Mariposa County has a campsite for everyone. Want a pretty place to park your RV? We've got **van life** covered, too.

*Blackberry Inn, Groveland*



## LODGING BY REGION

LODGING TYPE	Northwest Mariposa County	Northern Mariposa County	Central Mariposa County	Southern Mariposa County	Northern Yosemite	Yosemite Valley	Glacier Point Road Yosemite	Southern Yosemite
Hotels, Motels and Resorts	•••	•••	••••			••••		•••
Cabin Rentals	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••	••••	••••
Bed & Breakfast	••••	••••	••••	•••				
Camping & Campgrounds	••••	••••	••••	••	••••	••••	•••	••

• indicates zero to numerous lodging facilities

## CAMPGROUNDS

CAMPGROUND	Business Phone	Location	Region	RVs Allowed	RV Hookups	Campsites	Cabins	Seasonal
<b>McCabe Flat Campground</b>	None	Briceburg/ Merced River	Central Mariposa County	Yes		Yes		No
<b>Railroad Flat Campground</b>	None	Briceburg/ Merced River	Central Mariposa County			Yes		No
<b>Willow Placer Campground</b>	None	Briceburg/ Merced River	Central Mariposa County			Yes		No
<b>Dry Gulch Campground</b>	877-444-6777	El Portal	Central Mariposa County			Yes		Yes
<b>Indian Flat RV Park</b>	209-379-2339	El Portal	Central Mariposa County	Yes	Yes	Yes		No
<b>Dirt Flat Campground</b>	877-444-6777	Foresta	Central Mariposa County			Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Bagby Campground and Recreation</b>	855-800-2267	Mariposa	Central Mariposa County	Yes	Yes	Yes		No
<b>Mariposa Fairgrounds RV Park and Campgrounds</b>	209-966-2432	Mariposa	Central Mariposa County	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Horseshoe Bend Camping &amp; Recreation</b>	855-800-2267	Coulterville	Northern Mariposa County	Yes	Yes	Yes		No
<b>Yosemite Westlake Campground and RV Park</b>	209-878-3847	Coulterville	Northern Mariposa County	Yes	Yes	Yes		No
<b>Crane Flat Campground</b>	877-444-6777	Groveland	Northern Mariposa County	Yes		Yes		Yes
<b>Barrett Cove Camping &amp; Recreation</b>	855-800-2267	La Grange	Northern Mariposa County	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Lake McSwain Camping &amp; Recreation</b>	855-800-2267	Snelling	Northern Mariposa County	Yes	Yes	Yes		No
<b>McClure Point Camping &amp; Recreation</b>	855-800-2267	Snelling	Northern Mariposa County	Yes	Yes	Yes		No

## CAMPGROUNDS

CAMPGROUND	Business Phone	Location	Region	RVs Allowed	RV Hookups	Campsites	Cabins	Seasonal
<b>Hodgdon Meadow Campground</b>	877-444-6777	Tuolumne Meadows	Northern Yosemite	Yes		Yes		No
<b>Tamarack Flat Campground</b>	None	Tuolumne Meadows	Northern Yosemite			Yes		Yes
<b>Tuolumne Meadows Campground</b>	877-444-6777	Tuolumne Meadows	Northern Yosemite	Yes		Yes		Yes
<b>Summerdale Campground</b>	877-444-6777	Fish Camp	Southern Mariposa County			Yes		Yes
<b>Bridalveil Creek Campground</b>	877-444-6777	Wawona	Southern Mariposa County	Yes		Yes		Yes
<b>Wawona Campground</b>	877-444-6777	Wawona	Southern Mariposa County	Yes		Yes		Yes
<b>Yosemite Creek Campground</b>	None	Wawona	Southern Mariposa County			Yes		Yes
<b>Camp 4</b>	877-444-6777	Yosemite Valley	Yosemite Valley			Yes		No
<b>Curry Village</b>	877-444-6777	Yosemite Valley	Yosemite Valley	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Housekeeping Camp</b>	877-444-6777	Yosemite Valley	Yosemite Valley				Yes	Yes
<b>Lower Pines Campground</b>	877-444-6777	Yosemite Valley	Yosemite Valley	Yes		Yes		Yes
<b>North Pines Campground</b>	877-444-6777	Yosemite Valley	Yosemite Valley					Yes
<b>Porcupine Flat Campground</b>	None	Yosemite Valley	Yosemite Valley			Yes		Yes
<b>Upper Pines Campground</b>	877-444-6777	Yosemite Valley	Yosemite Valley	Yes		Yes		No
<b>White Wolf Campground</b>	None	Yosemite Valley	Yosemite Valley	Yes		Yes		Yes

# GEARING UP:

## YOSEMITE MARIPOSA PACKING LISTS

With Yosemite Mariposa County's lush forests, babbling brooks and granite-girded valleys it's easy to imagine that Mother Nature will wrap you in her loving arms and keep you cozy and warm. But alas, like most things in life, a little planning goes a long way, especially when it comes to properly packing for the kaleidoscope of Sierra Nevada weather conditions and bountiful outdoor activities.

With this in mind, and inspired by baseball-philosopher Yogi Berra who quipped "if you don't know where you're going, you'll end up someplace else," we've created a series of Yosemite Mariposa packing lists to help make your upcoming journey a success.

Yosemite Falls

## Pack Factors

Packing for Yosemite Mariposa County can be distilled down to four key factors:

1. Length of Trip
2. Destination
3. Season
4. Accommodations

### LENGTH OF TRIP

This is obvious yet crucial when it comes to packing. Are you taking a day trip, a weekend getaway or extending your stay? Determining the length of your trip impacts everything from how many pairs of socks to what type of food and overnight medications.

### DESTINATION

Destination has increased importance when visiting Yosemite Mariposa County due to the varying elevations, from the temperate/hot foothills of western Mariposa County to the cool/cold Yosemite High Country. This effects packing strategy from type of clothing you bring to activity-specific gear.

**PRO TIP:** Many combine warm and cool layers year-round if visiting multiple destinations.

### SEASON

The seasons in Yosemite Mariposa County are distinct, and play off of destination/elevation. Monthly averages for **Mariposa, CA** range from toasty and dry in summer, to mild winters with moderate rain moving up the Sierra from the Pacific Ocean. **Yosemite Valley**, at 4,000 feet of elevation is surprisingly hot in the summer months, reaching temps in the mid-90s, with occasional billowing, blink-and-they're gone, thunderstorms, while winter brings a mix of rain and snow. In **Tuolumne Meadows and the Yosemite High Country** at 8,600 feet of elevation the deep blue skies are complimented by cool summers — barely 70 degrees — with nights that are downright brisk (dress the part!) while winters are predictably cold, bringing heavy snow to the High Country.

(Note: Tuolumne Meadows is not reachable by car in winter with the **seasonal closing of Tioga Road, Highway 120**)

## ACCOMMODATIONS

There are essentially three categories with regards to packing based on accommodations: car (day trip), camping and hotel/vacation rental. Will you be snacking in the car, cooking at your campsite or eating out in town? Will there be laundry service at the hotel or will you need fast-drying hiking socks you can wash in a stream?

Factoring in packing's Fab Four as you consider your gear and clothing will streamline your suitcase/backpack while freeing up more time to explore the peaks, creeks and historic main drags of Mariposa County.

## Yosemite Mariposa County Packing Lists

These lists are based on local experience but of course can be added to/subtracted from based on your personal needs. No two people pack alike!

Pack a paper map and don't trust that your phone will always work! Printed maps are essential when driving anywhere in the region. Mapping software apps can often lead to unsafe locations in remote areas with no cell or data coverage.

### ESSENTIAL MARIPOSA COUNTY PACKING LIST

- Hiking Boots/Athletic Shoes: for **getting out on the trail**.
- Clothing: warm layers, hat, gloves, extra socks and waterproof shell for Sierra thunderstorms and waterfall mist!
- Backpack/Hydration Pack
- Food/Snacks
- Water: in reusable bottles (vs. single-use) if possible.
- Picnic Supplies: blanket, plates, utensils and basket filled with your favorite outdoor treats! (Be Bear Aware: food is required to be kept out of your car in special storage containers in some areas of Yosemite)
- Kids Activities: Yosemite Mariposa **Landmark** and **Animal Games**, sketch pad (take a break from the screens!)
- Swimsuit & Towel: for **taking a dip** in the pure Yosemite Mariposa water.
- Eco-Friendly Sunblock



- Hand Sanitizer
- Sunglasses
- Binoculars
- Camera
- **Maps:** printed/downloaded for areas without cell coverage.
- Toiletries: wet wipes, toothbrush, prescription medications.
- First Aid Kit: bandaids, moleskin for blisters, aspirin, antibiotic ointment (Neosporin®).
- Mosquito Repellent
- Portable Cell Phone Charger
- **Dog Supplies:** portable food & water bowl, leash, poop bags, tags with contact information.
- **Reliable Transportation:** whether using public transportation or your own vehicle.



Be sure to learn about the local environment and how to lessen your footprint on the natural environment by checking out these "know before you go" tips @ "Nature Rules."

### STOWED & ON THE ROAD

Yosemite Mariposa County's unique weather and countless **things to do** demand that paradise has a plan. Hopefully sharing our experience will help visitors know exactly where they're going...and how to arrive perfectly packed. For more inside scoop try our **Yosemite Mariposa Vacation Planner** to help take the guesswork out of your travels!

# ACTIVITY

	FALL September– November	WINTER December– February	SPRING March– May	SUMMER June – August	Northwest Mariposa County	Northern Mariposa County	Central Mariposa County	Southern Mariposa County	Northern Yosemite	Yosemite Valley	Glacier Point Road	Southern Yosemite
Adventure Activities	••••		••••	••••			••••					
Art History and Culture	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	•••	•••	••••	•••	••••
Attractions	••••	••••	••••	••••	•••	••	•••	•	••••	••••	••••	••••
Biking	••••	•••	••••	••••	••••	••	•••	•••	•	••••	•	••
Cliffs and Domes	••••	••••	••••	••••					••••	••••	••••	•••
Fishing	••••	••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••		••••	••••		••••
Gold Panning	••••	•••	••••	••••			••••					
Golf	•••		••	••••								•••
Hiking	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••	••••		••••	••••	••••	••••
Horseback Riding	••••	•	••	••••			••••					••••
Ice Skating		••••					••••			••••		
Museums	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••			••••		••••
Photography	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••
Plants & Wildflowers	••		••••	•••	•••	••••	••••	•••	•••	••••	•••	••••
Rafting & Water sports			••••	•••	••••	••••	••••			••••		••
Restaurants & Dining	••••	••••	••••	••••	••	••	••••			••••	•	•••
Rock Climbing	••••	••	••••	••••			••			••••	•••	••
Shopping	••••	••••	••••	••••	••	••	••••	•	•	••••	••	•••
Skiing & Snowboarding		••••	•								••••	
Snow Play		••••	••				••••			•••	••••	•••
Spas & Wellness	••••	••••	••••	••••			••••					
Tasting & Breweries	••••	••••	••••	••••			••••			•		
Tours	••••	•••	••••	••••		•	••••			••••	••••	••••
Waterfalls	••	•••	••••	•••						••••		•••
Wildlife	••••	•••	••••	••••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••
XC Skiing & Snowshoeing		••••	••				•••			••	••••	•••

• indicates zero to numerous activities



Wawona Golf Course  
Fishing along the Merced River



## TOURS

### Park Tours

**Valley Floor Tour** is a two-hour tour of Yosemite Valley that operates all year. From approximately April through October, this is an open-air tram tour (weather permitting). From around October through March, this is a bus tour.

**Glacier Point Tour** is a four-hour round-trip tour to Glacier Point and back. (One-way tickets are available. This tour operates when the Glacier Point Road is open (typically, late May until sometime in November, conditions permitting).

**Grand Tour** is a full-day tour (~ 8 hours) that visits Yosemite Valley, Glacier Point and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. This tour operates during late spring through summer (May - September, conditions permitting).

**Tuolumne Meadows Tour** is an all-day tour to Tuolumne Meadows and back. (One-way tickets are also available.) This tour operates from July through early September, conditions permitting.

### Private Tour Companies

**YExplore Yosemite Adventures** — offers exclusive custom experiences with a local guide that help you connect to the natural world of Yosemite National Park. 209-532-7014

**Incredible Adventures** — A Yosemite tour from San Francisco is an excellent complement to your visit to the Bay Area. Our Yosemite Tours are conducted in environmentally friendly biofuel mini-coaches, in a small-group format (15 passengers maximum per tour) to make the experience more personal. Our guides are hand-picked and specifically trained to know everything you want to know about the park's features and rich history. 415-642-7378

**Discover Yosemite Tours** — Exploring Yosemite National Park should be on everyone's "bucket list." Discover Yosemite makes your visit to our wonderful National Park both relaxing and unforgettable. 559-642-4400

*Mariposa Grove of  
Giant Sequoias*

## RANGER PROGRAMS

### Ranger and Interpretive Programming

Yosemite National Park offers a range of free informative and inspiring walks or talks to learn about Yosemite led by park rangers. All regularly scheduled programs are listed in the **Yosemite Guide**.

**Yosemite Hospitality** — offers a wide range of guided tours and programs from twilight strolls and stargazing tours, to natural and cultural history programs, tours at The Ahwahnee, photography and camera walks, and programs for young children. Sign up for Yosemite Valley tours at any Tour and Activities Desk or call 888-413-8869 or visit **www.TravelYosemite.com**.

*Yosemite Conservancy guided  
hike in Yosemite Valley*

**Yosemite Conservancy** — is dedicated to enhancing the visitor experience and providing a deeper connection to the park through outdoor adventures, volunteering and arts programs. Join a Conservancy art workshop, volunteer program or guided hike with a naturalist on a variety of subjects from photography to cultural history. Every program you enjoy helps provide essential funding for the continued preservation of the park. Learn more at **www.YosemiteConservancy.org** or call 209-379-2317 ext. 10.

**Nature Bridge** — The largest educational partner of the National Park Service. Nature Bridge provides children aged 10-17 with customized, hands-on, educational adventures in the world's greatest classroom: Yosemite National Park. To find out more, call 209-379-9511 or visit **www.NatureBridge.org**.



# NO FILTER NECESSARY:

## PHOTOGRAPHING YOSEMITE

With its unique light, misty trails and cathedrals of granite, **Yosemite National Park** is a shutterbug's dream. Through the keen eyes of such masters as Ansel Adams, Eadweard Muybridge and Carleton E. Watkins, Yosemite has been immortalized for over a century with striking photographs that lure visitors to come see — and snap — for themselves. Whether your rig is a phone, SLR or large format camera, there's nothing quite like photographing Yosemite Mariposa County's diversity of stunning landscapes, abundant wildlife and an interesting cast of local characters.

*Photographing Half Dome at sunrise from Glacier Point*



### Where to Get the Shot

Though Yosemite Mariposa photography can be as intimate as a fallen leaf floating on the Merced River, it can also be as epic as Half Dome engulfed in clouds. There are breathtaking shots around every corner, but also some **tried-and-true spots** to capture that unforgettable image. **Tunnel View** and **Glacier Point** are popular destinations where a greatest hits of Yosemite landmarks such as El Capitan and Half Dome can be brought to light. The floor of **Yosemite Valley** is a literal plunge pool for such wonders as Yosemite Falls, Sentinel Falls and Bridalveil Falls, creating a moody pastiche of sunlight through the mist.

For ancient trees that each have their own personalities, visit the **Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias** for landscape photography that borders on portraiture. Want a quiet corner of Yosemite National Park for the photo-less-taken? Try **Hetch Hetchy** during spring when Wapama Falls is raging, or capture some summer thunderheads reflected in the still waters of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Outside of the Park, **Mariposa County** provides a fascinating range of photographic options from historic adobe & stone cabins to stately oaks and rolling foothills where wildflowers bloom and horses play. You might even find an old prospector or two who'll fill your frame with pure Gold Rush character!

### Seasons & Spectacles

Photography in Yosemite Mariposa is not just about its landmarks, but also about its seasons and rare natural phenomena. From blankets of pure white snow in winter where ice-crusting granite cliffs create a medieval mood to rolling, hillsides that turn a brilliant green in spring and the fireworks display of oranges, yellows and browns come autumn, there are countless frame-worthy images that require no filters, only an eye to discover them. Add this seasonal renewal to the rare natural phenomena of the **Yosemite Firefall** and the **Yosemite Moonbow**, and you've got your answer as to why Yosemite Mariposa is a top destination for photographers from all over the world.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See below for a small selection of events happening throughout the year. Please visit [www.Yosemite.com/Events](http://www.Yosemite.com/Events) to see what's happening during your visit!

## JANUARY

**Chef's Holidays**  
[www.TravelYosemite.com](http://www.TravelYosemite.com)

## FEBRUARY

**Chef's Holidays**  
[www.TravelYosemite.com](http://www.TravelYosemite.com)

## MARCH

**Hornitos Enchilada Feed**  
[www.HornitoSPC.com](http://www.HornitoSPC.com)

## APRIL

**Mariposa Gem & Mineral Show**  
[www.MariposaFair.com](http://www.MariposaFair.com)

**Civil War Reenactment**  
[www.TheCivilWarDays.com](http://www.TheCivilWarDays.com)

## MAY

**The Mariposa Butterfly Festival**  
[www.MariposaButterflyFestival.org](http://www.MariposaButterflyFestival.org)

**Mariposa County Indian Council  
 POW WOW**  
[www.VisitMariposa.net](http://www.VisitMariposa.net)

**Art and Wine Festival**  
[www.MariposaRotary.org](http://www.MariposaRotary.org)

## JULY

**Yosemite Music Festival**  
[www.YosemiteMusicFestival.com](http://www.YosemiteMusicFestival.com)

## SEPTEMBER

**Mariposa County Fair**  
[www.MariposaFair.com](http://www.MariposaFair.com)

**CoyoteFest**  
[www.CoultervilleHistoryCenter.org](http://www.CoultervilleHistoryCenter.org)

## SEPTEMBER

**Mariposa County Fair**  
[www.MariposaFair.com](http://www.MariposaFair.com)

**CoyoteFest**  
[www.CoultervilleHistoryCenter.org](http://www.CoultervilleHistoryCenter.org)

## OCTOBER

**Mariposa Yosemite Hot Rod  
 & Custom Car Show**  
[www.MariposaChamber.org](http://www.MariposaChamber.org)

## NOVEMBER

**Vintners' Holidays**  
[www.TravelYosemite.com](http://www.TravelYosemite.com)

## DECEMBER

**Merry Mountain Christmas  
 Festival & Parade**  
[www.MariposaChamber.org](http://www.MariposaChamber.org)

**Bracebridge Dinner**  
[www.TravelYosemite.com](http://www.TravelYosemite.com)

**Vintners' Holidays**  
[www.TravelYosemite.com](http://www.TravelYosemite.com)

**Holiday Events at The Tenaya  
 Lodge at Yosemite**  
[www.TenayaLodge.com/Holiday-Events.aspx](http://www.TenayaLodge.com/Holiday-Events.aspx)

## ONGOING EVENTS

**Mariposa Symphony Orchestra**  
 (see website for schedule)  
[www.Arts-Mariposa.org](http://www.Arts-Mariposa.org)

**Mariposa Concerts in the Park**  
 (June through August)  
[www.Arts-Mariposa.org](http://www.Arts-Mariposa.org)



*Bracebridge Dinner  
 performance  
 Mariposa Indian  
 Council Pow Wow  
 CoyoteFest  
 Mariposa Indian  
 Council Pow Wow*

# WEDDINGS

Anticipation of celebratory life events like **weddings** runs high no matter where they're happening. When these events are placed within a wow-factor destination, the anticipation builds "naturally" to a new level. Of course, weddings are not the only romantic celebrations in the playbook. Couples "heart" Yosemite Mariposa County for everything from engagements to anniversaries, honeymoons, vow renewals and recommitment ceremonies. Making promises and honoring family ties are signed, sealed and delivered with zeal.

The best settings for celebrations are places that, over time, become woven into memories of the day, inseparable and enduring. Yosemite Mariposa County has dozens of locations that will elevate your wedding, honeymoon, reunion, and family gathering into a dreamy and rarified realm. From the soaring granite peaks and walls of **Yosemite National Park** to the **Wild & Scenic Merced River**, from country & western chic to classic Sierra grandeur, Yosemite Mariposa County has romance laced into its destination DNA. National park cathedrals? Check. Evergreen photo backdrop? Check. Half Dome, El Capitan, Tunnel View and Yosemite Falls? All in with wonderful scenes for your only-in-Yosemite gathering. (Note: Be sure to apply for a **wedding permit** multiple months before the big day, as Yosemite National Park weddings are often booked for wedding permits over three months in advance.)

Nestled within Yosemite Mariposa County's iconic setting, there's the perfect venue for everything from big weddings to intimate close friends and family affairs. Weddings that blur the line between ballroom and garden are a local sweet-spot. At the heart of it all is the crown jewel of the national park system, Yosemite and its wildflower meadows, alpine lakes, towering granite cliffs, ancient stands of Giant Sequoias and breathtaking overlooks. Indoor options are every bit as inviting. The storybook **Yosemite Valley Chapel**, est. 1879, is the oldest public-use



structure in the Park. **The Ahwahnee** is one of America's most cherished national park lodges.

**Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite** is an exquisite wedding destination backed by skilled professionals (and the fabulous **Ascent Spa**). The **Wawona Hotel** projects pure Victorian style with clapboard exteriors and wraparound verandas.

**WEDDING PHOTO LOCATION TIP:** *the Wawona Hotel is across the street from the largest wildflower meadow in Yosemite and boasts one of only 12 covered bridges in the Golden State.*

## Dream Teams

Professional, friendly and knowledgeable local vendors stand ready to facilitate your magical day, from **local wedding planners to caterers**, wedding **photographers** to videographers, artisan bakeries, mountain musicians to award-winning **wineries and craft brewers**. Mind/body **wellness** practitioners will keep the chi flowing.

**Photography** is an essential element of any celebration, and Yosemite Mariposa offers Insta-splasy background material from corner to corner. From classic to avant garde, bridal party, wedding and family photos taken here will be album-worthy. Local photographers know the best secret locations for your hero shot.

All this is to say that even though you are surrounded by soaring natural beauty and wide-open spaces, Yosemite Mariposa wedding and celebrations are supported by highly skilled and experienced professionals prepared to make everything come together seamlessly. The bride and groom's only concern may come down to which calming hiking trail to take the day before (make the decision easier with our **Mariposa** and **Yosemite** hiking guides), and where to have brunch the day after.

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*Yosemite Valley Chapel  
and Yosemite Falls*

# MEETINGS

Yosemite Mariposa County presents the perfect trio of setting, venue and service for meetings and conferences. Business conferences elevate when your delegates and guests gather within this gold, granite and conifer wonderland. Over-the-top optics and bracing Sierra oxygen will inspire minds, setting the stage for that magical state of “flow,” when engaging mountain-moving agendas glides along with an electric energy and natural buzz.

Soaring cliffs, ancient forests, and evocative vistas set the stage for meetings and conferences that embrace the surrounding natural environment. Experienced local meeting, event and catering professionals ready to make your day. There’s no place like Yosemite Mariposa County for taking things to another level.

## Meetings

Meetings in Yosemite Mariposa County come with a natural upgrade: connection with the crown jewel of America’s national park system and an authentic California Gold Country vibe. This is a destination that will naturally motivate attendees so any conference, meeting or executive retreat inspires enduring results.

Great meetings start with **great venues**. Whether you are planning a board meeting for ten executives or multi-day conference for hundreds, Yosemite Mariposa County offers the ideal blend of flexible, state of the art flexible indoor event space and highly adaptable outdoor venues. There are places for meetings from just a few people to 10,000 square foot ballrooms that can accommodate up to 800 guests. Take a look at a few of the leading local venues and properties for **planning inspiration**.

Yosemite Mariposa County gets top reviews for all groups, and extra credit for those with a love of the outdoors, an ethos of environmental consciousness, an appreciation of California history. Groups of all size and stripe will discover that inspiration flows



freely in the California Sierra. Yosemite conference and meeting venues are designed to facilitate productivity and foster breakthrough moments, all while embracing the world-famous environment they share. Takeaways from company meetings, retreats, and team-building outings are amplified by the fresh mountain air and thought-provoking high-country horizons.

## Professional Support, Personal Service

The best facilities are only as good as the teams that run them. Yosemite Mariposa County is renowned for its seasoned conference planning professionals and leadership. Unlike most urban locations that see 100% staff turnover annually, teams tend to stay

together here. From year to year, meeting planners are greeted by name by the same friendly engaged faces from the front desk to conference service staff and property management.

In addition to technology-rich meeting spaces, many local venues have on staff or can help resource professional event planners, culinary artists, audio/visual and tech experts ready to help your gathering reach its greatest potential. Details such as bus charters, public transit tips, Yosemite permits, even local nature guides and musician contacts are available to ensure everything is going to come together like a perfectly-timed symphony.

*Colonial Meeting Room and Ballroom Theater, Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite*





Yosemite Falls under the stars

Front cover: Mule deer graze in front of Half Dome

Back cover: Cathedral Lake, Yosemite National Park



# VISITOR WELCOME & LODGING INFORMATION CENTERS

## Mariposa

Mariposa County  
Visitors Center  
209-966-7081

## Coulterville

Coulterville Visitors Center  
209-878-3074

## Briceburg (seasonal)

Briceburg Visitors Center  
209-379-9414

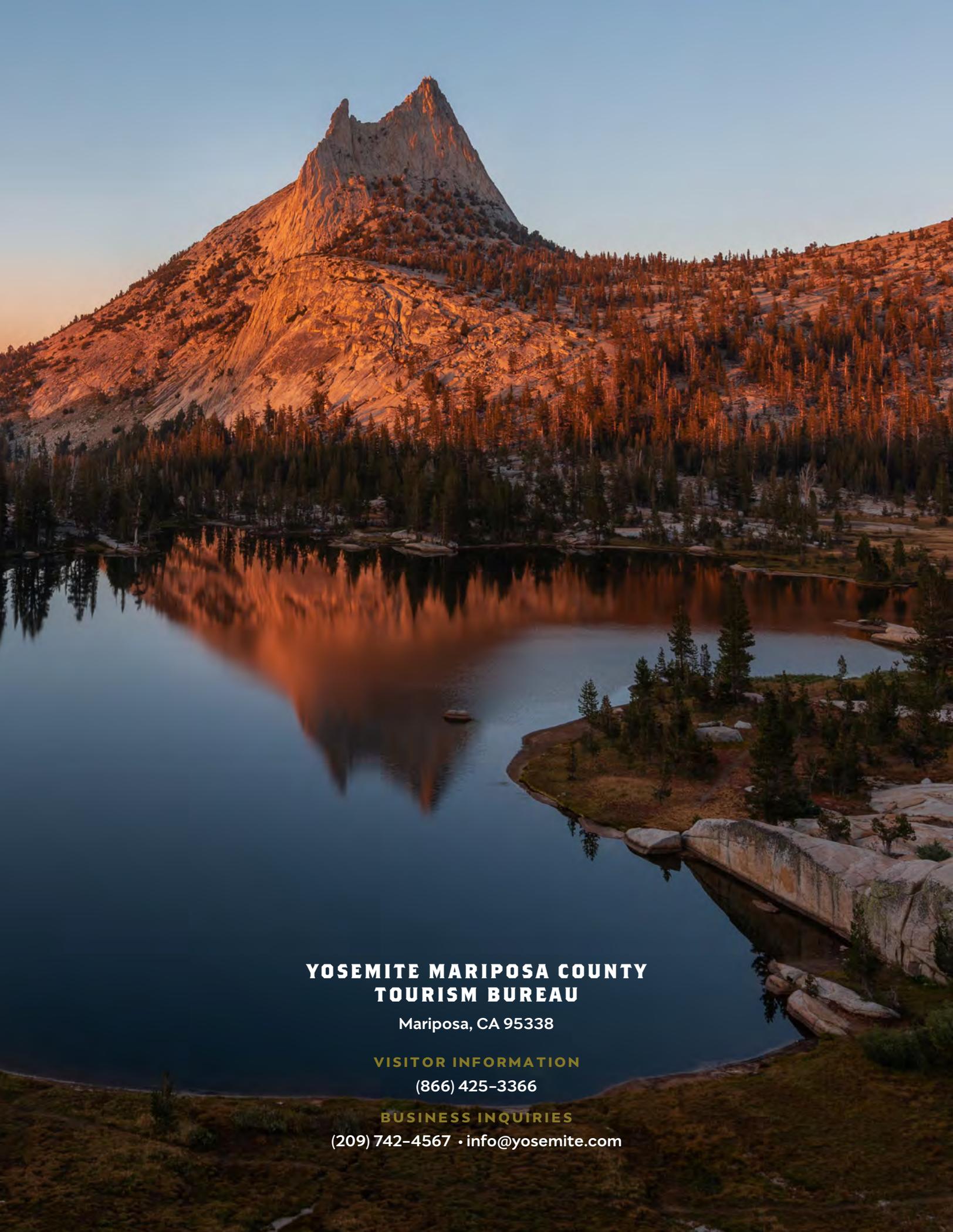
## Yosemite National Park

Big Oak Flat Information Station  
209-379-1899

Tuolumne Meadows Visitors Center  
209-372-0263

Wawona Visitor Center at Hill's Studio  
209-375-0631

Yosemite Valley Visitors Center & Bookstore  
209-379-2646



**YOSEMITE MARIPOSA COUNTY  
TOURISM BUREAU**

Mariposa, CA 95338

**VISITOR INFORMATION**

(866) 425-3366

**BUSINESS INQUIRIES**

(209) 742-4567 • [info@yosemite.com](mailto:info@yosemite.com)