

## YOSEMITE 5-Day Itinerary:-

Following is a tentative schedule for your hiking tour in Yosemite National Park. It may change depending on trail conditions, time of year, weather, group needs or other unforeseen circumstances. We believe the ability to change hikes allows us to offer you Yosemite's best at any given time of year. Please note that we try to fit in a lot during our short time in Yosemite. With that in mind, on this trip we will start our days early: 7:00 - 7:30 AM breakfast times are the norm rather than the exception.

### **Day 1:-** Arrival Day

Airport pickup is at Fresno Yosemite International Airport at 2:30 p.m. in the baggage claim area. Orientation will be at 5:30 p.m. at Tenaya Lodge, our lodging for the first two nights. See logistics for complete travel and pick-up information. Dinner will be at the Narrow Gauge Inn.

## **HIKING DAYS**

### **Day 2:-** Giant Sequoias

Welcome to your first day hiking in Yosemite! Today we will explore the southern edge of the Park, visiting some of the famous giant sequoia trees in the Mariposa Grove. Some of the 500+ trees in the Grove are over 2,000 years old. Others reach 300 feet into the sky. Still others are more than 30 feet in diameter. A typical mature sequoia weighs over 2 million pounds! We will have two hiking options today, the longer hike will take us approximately 7.5 miles from bottom of the Mariposa Grove all the way through the upper Grove, gaining approximately 1,200 feet in elevation. For those who want a shorter option, we will hike a loop through the Grove that allows us to see many of the most famous trees while covering 6 miles and gaining approximately 800 feet.

### **Day 3:-** Sentinel Dome, Taft Point, The Fissures and Glacier Point

Today we will travel from the southern side of the Park to Glacier Point where we will enjoy panoramic views of the Yosemite Valley, the world's best example of a glacier-carved canyon. This is a vista you will not soon forget. From the top of Sentinel Dome we will have 360 degree views and, on a clear day, be able to see past the Central Valley all the way to the Coast Range. When we are finished enjoying the views from Sentinel Dome, the group will head out to Taft Point and The Fissures: narrow, deep cracks in the granite that are not noticeable until you are on top of them. Look down through the cracks and you will see the Valley floor 3,000 feet below! Those opting for the longer hike will continue on foot on the Pohono Trail to Glacier Point. Those opting for the shorter hike will retrace their footsteps back to the van and drive to meet the rest of the group at Glacier Point. Total distance on the longer hike is approximately 7.5 miles and the shorter hike, 4.5 miles.

### **Day 4:-** Vernal Falls/Nevada Falls

On our first day in the Valley we will undertake a classic Yosemite hike. Voted the most scenic trail in the country, the Mist Trail starts at the eastern end of Yosemite Valley and accesses both Vernal Falls and Nevada Falls. The Mist Trail is so named due to the fact that it follows the banks of the Merced River which throws a dousing mist on hikers in the spring and early summer months. Bring your raingear on this hike just in case! The longer, more strenuous hike will take us on a loop to the top of Nevada Falls, gaining over 2,000 feet in elevation, and then back down to the Valley floor via a portion of the famous John Muir Trail, the 211-mile trail that follows the crest of the Sierra Nevada between Yosemite and Mt. Whitney. The shorter hike will take us to the top of Vernal Falls, up to Clark's Point and then back down to the Valley floor, also via the John Muir Trail. The shorter hike gains approximately 1,400 feet in elevation. Time permitting, some members of the group may want to check out the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite Village or head to the main Valley Visitor's Center. Since the Valley is serviced by a hybrid shuttle service, people can choose to do whatever they would like.

#### **Day 5:- Tuolumne Meadows**

Today we will have an early breakfast and drive from the Valley up to beautiful Tuolumne Meadows. Sitting at approximately 8,500 feet, Tuolumne Meadows is the largest subalpine meadow system in the Sierra Nevada. There are countless spectacular hiking opportunities in the Tuolumne Meadows area but we will offer two of our favorites, both to stunning high alpine lakes above the meadows. The shorter hike will follow the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River. This is a beautiful trail that intermittently is deep in the lodgepole pine forest then crossing a meadow strewn with glacial erratic (boulders). This hike will cover approximately 6 miles and gain 100 feet in elevation on an out-and-back route. The longer hike will start on the south side of Tuolumne and travel up to 9 miles out-and-back to Cathedral Lakes and/or Cathedral Pass, gaining up to 1,200 feet along the way.

#### **Day 6:- Mirror Lake**

On our final morning we will take a walk along Tenaya Creek in the northeast corner of the Yosemite Valley. Along the hike we will pass seasonal Mirror Lake in Mirror Meadow, formed about 300 years ago as boulders fell from the canyon wall, partially damming Tenaya Creek. The lake is now more of a meadow than a lake as sand and gravel have filled it in over the years. Along the way we will be treated to spectacular views of Half Dome, North Dome, Mount Watkins, Washington Column and Royal Arches, among other landmarks. Our final hike offers great opportunities for last minute photos of some of the gems of Yosemite. Then it's onto the vans and our drive to the airport in Fresno where we will say our goodbyes.

**Departure from the Valley at approximately 11:30 am for drop off at the Fresno Yosemite International Airport at 2:30 pm.**

## **Yosemite Hiking Logistics & Packing List**

### **5 Days/ 5 Nights**

#### **Arrivals:-**

**2:30 p.m. pick-up at Fresno Yosemite International Airport in the baggage claim area.**

If you have scheduled a pick-up with us and are going to be delayed please call our office (800-869-0949) and leave a message. Guides will check messages if they do not find you at the airport at the scheduled time.

Luggage: We assume each person will be traveling with one medium-sized suitcase and one small carry-on. Van space is limited. Please let us know in advance if you are traveling with more bags so we can do our best to accommodate your extra luggage.

If arriving by private car, the check-in time at Tenaya Lodge (888) 514-2167 is 4:00 p.m.

Please join us in the lobby of the Tenaya Lodge by the reception desk at 5:30 p.m. for orientation.

#### **Departures:-**

**Drop-off at Fresno Yosemite International Airport is at 2:30 p.m.**

Those guests departing by private car may need to follow group to the last hike's trailhead in their car.

#### **Private Shuttles:**

Private shuttles to Yosemite from the airport are very limited. If your travel plans do not coincide with our shuttles, you have a few alternatives: 1) Private shuttle driver, George Shipp (209) 966-6781 or 2) rental car. All of the major car rental companies have branches at the Fresno Yosemite International Airport.

#### **Inns:-**

Tenaya Lodge (559) 683-6555 or (888) 514-2167 in Fish Camp just outside the south entrance of Yosemite National Park. We will be here for the first two nights. [www.tenayalodge.com](http://www.tenayalodge.com)

Yosemite Lodge At The Falls (209) 372-1274 or (866) 875-8456 ([www.yosemitepark/accommodations](http://www.yosemitepark/accommodations)) in heart of Yosemite Valley. We will be here for the final three nights. Note: Some guests find the Yosemite Lodge "rustic", especially compared to the 4-star Tenaya Lodge and compared to the charming lodging options available on some of our other tours. For instance, the Yosemite Lodge rooms do not have air conditioning. We believe the proximity to our activities and the spectacular scenery make up for any rusticity especially since there is only one other lodging option in the Valley (besides camping out) and rooms are about \$500 per night!

If you would like additional information about the inns we visit we recommend visiting their websites or calling the inns for a brochure.

If you would like to book extra nights in the area we recommend:

In Fresno: Airport Holiday Inn (800) 465-4329, Airport Picadilly Inn (800) 468-3522, Courtyard by Marriott (800) 321-2211.

In and around Yosemite: In addition to the inns we have chosen (see contact info above): Narrow Gauge Inn (559) 683-7720 (in Fish Camp), Cedar Lodge (209) 379-2612 (in El Portal).

### **Yosemite Hiking & Walking Packing Information:-**

We assume each person will be traveling with a maximum of one medium-sized suitcase and one small carry-on. If you will have more bags please let us know in advance as van space may be limited. With advance notice, we will do our best to accommodate extra luggage.

Please pack for Yosemite's weather. Our inns are situated at 5,000 and 4,000 feet above sea level. Daytime temperatures in July, August and September can reach the high 80s, with nighttime temperatures dipping into the 50's. We recommend warm layers in addition to your normal attire. Most Yosemite summer days are dry and entirely delightful, but please come prepared to be comfortable in a blizzard, in the rain, or under the hot sun. Humidity is very low here and the sunshine is intense so bring sunglasses, plenty of skin moisturizer, and sun-protection lotion.

For dinners. Most of the restaurants we dine at are mountain casual. Nice pants and shirts are great. Our final dinner at the historic Ahwahnee Hotel does have a stated dress code which is "collared shirt, slacks for gentlemen, dress or pants for ladies. No jeans, t-shirts, shorts or tennis shoes."

For hiking. People tend to prefer shorts, but be aware of the sun's intensity at high altitudes. We often hike in light-colored T-shirts that wick away moisture. You may wish to bring comfortable long pants for the mornings.

#### **Suggested Equipment & Clothing List**

Water bottles or hydration system (2 quart capacity minimum)VERY IMPORTANT!

Day pack – large enough to carry extra clothes, water, and snacks.

Hiking Boots – We recommend comfortable, above the ankle, lightweight hiking boots. Tennis or walking shoes made for flat surfaces are not recommended. Breaking in boots prior to your trip will make your days hiking much more enjoyable.

Rain gear – Lightweight and waterproof layer for carrying and wearing on the trail. Top and bottoms. Bottoms are always good to throw on over shorts for

warmth even if it is not raining.

Jacket – Heavy fleece or other warm parka for cold days, summits, and nights.

Evening wear – Casual (see dining attire above).

Hiking attire – T-shirts and shorts (see hiking attire above).

Socks – Enough pairs to keep your feet dry. Socks that wick away moisture (made with a good percentage of nylon, wool, or polypropylene) are best.

Swimsuit

Warm hat and gloves – for high altitude or in case of a cold snap

Sun hat or visor – VERY IMPORTANT!!

Miscellaneous Personal Items

Toiletries – include plenty of high-SPF sunscreen and lip balm

Medications

Insect Repellent – occasionally needed at night

Sunglasses – should have UV protective lens VERY IMPORTANT!

Optional

Camera, film

Hiking poles

Binoculars

Tevas or sandals

If you should need any help with your travel plans, please call our travel service Better Travel at 1-800-869-0949.