

Cultural Walking Adventure

# Yosemite National Park

California's Crown Jewel







“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## Yosemite National Park

Yosemite is extraordinary: A valley millions of years in the making, soaring granite peaks meet groves of teetering sequoias, and the Merced River thunders down some of the tallest waterfalls on the planet.

Visit every year and you'd still discover new places—or explore the Classic Journeys way to experience the best of everything in six spectacular days.

A Yosemite local, your guide walks you through the sculpting effects of the ice age, the lives of natives, the great California gold rush, and the future of one of the world's last wild spaces. Spend your days walking, cycling and rafting through this UNESCO World Heritage wonderland, where enchanting wildlife encounters abound from bear cubs to butterflies. Enjoy hearty Californian cuisine at some of the most panoramic picnic spots in America. And in the evenings, stargaze worlds away from city lights in the region's loveliest lodges.

## DAY 1

FISH CAMP

---

- Walk a winding trail at Mariposa Grove
- Settle in to your mountain lodge accommodation

After meeting your local guide in Fresno, you're off to see some of the largest living things on the planet. Hundreds of hulking sequoias make up Yosemite's Mariposa Grove, teetering almost as tall as the Statue of Liberty. As you walk a winding trail between them, your guide will explain their mindboggling history—some feature in famous war photographs, while others have been alive since the days of the Roman Empire. Gazillions of bright and tiny monkeyflowers exaggerate the incredible scale of nature here, while wildlife abound: listen for the scatter of chickarees and chipmunks on the forest floor, as well as the rustle of grazing mule deer and grizzly bears, and the rat-a-tap-tap of woodpeckers.

After, journey onwards to Fish Camp on the outskirts of Yosemite. The charming hamlet is home to tonight's mountain lodge, where you're welcomed with a dinner of local, organic fare.

**Overnight:** Tenaya Lodge

**Meals:** D

## DAY 2

YOSEMITE VALLEY

---

- Scenic drive into Yosemite Valley
- Join your naturalist guide on a walk through the valley park
- Afternoon bike ride past meadows and river banks
- Evening stargazing

Fuel up on a classic Californian breakfast (think filled-to-bursting burritos, syrup-drenched buttermilk pancakes, and hearty oatmeal), before a scenic drive into the Yosemite Valley. You're welcomed by a naturalist guide from the Yosemite Association. Hear how Yosemite played a key role in the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916, as you join them on a walk loaded with lookouts of some of the park's most iconic peaks and waterfalls.

We've picked out our favorite spot for a picnic lunch where you can soak up the scenery and tuck into fresh farm-to-table fare.

Later, on a bike ride through the valley, pedal past meadows of grazing deer, lush forest and river banks. Interesting places to stop include the Happy Isles Nature Center (to learn about the biodiversity all around you), the Ansel Adams Gallery (for engaging photography exhibitions), Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge – a Tudor Revival building and the valley's oldest public information center) and Yosemite Museum (dedicated to the cultural history of the native Miwok and Paiute people).

Your bike ride's end point is your Yosemite Valley lodging for the next few nights. But the day isn't done yet—once night falls, spend an hour soaking up splendidly starlit skies with your astronomy guide, who'll point out the planets and constellations made vivid from a complete lack of city lights.

**Overnight:** Yosemite Valley

**Meals:** B, L

## DAY 3

MIST TRAIL / GLACIER POINT

---

- Mist Falls Trail
- Visit Glacier Point and hike up to Sentinel Dome

Start the day on foot. You'll be following the legendary Mist Trail. Yosemite's signature hike takes you almost within touching distance of the thunderous Vernal and Nevada Falls, connected by nature's 'giant staircase'. The rainbows formed when the sunlight hits the spray are a sure sight to behold. You'll continue along Panorama Cliff (to see how it earned its name), then loop back to the valley via the famous John Muir Trail, which showcases the same waterfalls from a different angle.

Later, a short drive takes you up to one of California's most legendary lookouts: Glacier Point. You'll peer over Yosemite Valley, with your guide pointing out the monolithic Half Dome and Yosemite Falls. En route, keep watch for sightings of Yosemite's bird life—including spotted and great gray owls, and the peregrine falcon.

**Overnight:** Yosemite Valley

**Meals:** B, L

## DAY 4

### TUOLUMNE MEADOWS

---

• **Scenic drive up Tioga Pass to Tuolumne Meadows** • **On your walk, enjoy staggering views of the Cathedral and Unicorn peaks**

Cameras ready! Today, you're heading into the high country to explore one of Yosemite's most photogenic regions. Guarded by giant peaks and granite domes, Sierra Nevada's Tuolumne Meadows are a wildflower wonderland—awash with the pinks and purples of shooting stars, columbines and dog violets. Just getting here is a feast for the eyes: traversing the park, the Tioga Pass climbs to almost 10,000 feet and teems with views of lakes, meadows and mountains. With a driver taking care of the wheel, you're free to sit back, soak up the sights and spy grazing deer, grizzlies and golden eagles. Your local guide will pick the perfect walk and picnic spot for the time of year you're visiting, and they'll be spoilt for choice. Footpaths galore follow every direction, featuring peaceful pastures, bubbling springs, gushing waterfalls, glassy lakes, and the meandering Tuolumne River. Enjoy staggering views of the Cathedral and Unicorn peaks, spot some of over 100 species of butterfly, and listen out for songbirds like the American Dipper. Later, continue your journey west. You'll stop, if time permits, for a detour through sugar pines, where a peaceful trail takes you to the micro grove of mammoth trees that makes up ancient Tuolumne Sequoia Grove. This evening, settle into your forest lodge and enjoy California fare followed by some after-dinner stargazing from your private deck or hot tub.

**Overnight:** Rush Creek Lodge

**Meals:** B, L, D

## DAY 5

### HETCH HETCHY

---

• **Scenic drive to Hetch Hetchy**  
• **Follow a picturesque trail to Wapama waterfall**

After a hearty breakfast (don't miss the lodge's legendary Challah French Toast), you'll venture through the forest to Yosemite's peaceful northwest corner.

Hetch Hetchy heaves with history: a sacred valley, submerged in the twenties to form the O'Shaughnessy Dam. Big restoration plans are in the pipeline, and as your local guide explains more, soak up sights of wilderness, wildflowers, craggy cliffs and hidden canyons.

One picturesque trail takes you along the shoreline to the two-tiered Wapama waterfall, while another wildlife walk leads to a lookout point with views of cascades, canyons and the reservoir, often with sightings of black bears and bighorn sheep spotted along the way. Take a break at your guide's favorite picnic spot, where you'll devour deli sandwiches made with fresh bread and local cheeses, meats and salads.

Later, enjoy downtime back at your lodge, soaking up a Sierra sunset from your private deck or scenic saltwater pool. This evening, farm-to-table food and California wines form a delicious farewell dinner for you to reflect on your time in Yosemite.

**Overnight:** Rush Creek Lodge

**Meals:** B, L, D

## DAY 6

### CARLON FALLS / FRESNO

---

• **Join a sunrise walk option to Carlon Falls for early risers** • **Transfer back to Fresno**

Sleep in, soothed by the sounds of the forest, or get up early, grab a fresh-brewed coffee and go off on a short morning hike to nearby Carlon Falls. The idyllic riverside path forms a lovely last look at the nature surrounding the Tuolumne river, passing ferns and flowers, and finishing at a tapered 35-foot waterfall. Blue herons and kingfishers can be seen fishing for rainbow trout in the river along the way, and at this time of day, it's likely to be just you and the surroundings. Later on, transfer back to Fresno and bid farewell to your guide before continuing your journey home.

## DAILY ITINERARY

Yosemite National Park: California's Crown Jewel | Cultural Walking Adventure

---





## Tour Hotels



### Tenaya Lodge

Tenaya Lodge is one of Yosemite's two AAA 4 diamond rated luxury mountain resorts, located just outside the park's south entrance. This beautiful lodge offers 302 recently renovated rooms, decorated with Native American patterns, colors, and artwork.

**OVERNIGHT:** Fish Camp | **NIGHTS:** 1



### The Ahwahnee Hotel

The Ahwahnee shines as the crown jewel of the national park lodges. Known for its stunning interior design and architecture. This National Historic Landmark was specifically designed to highlight its natural surroundings.

**OVERNIGHT:** Yosemite Valley | **NIGHTS:** 2



### Rush Creek Lodge

Featuring a contemporary, rustic look with a breathtaking expanse of nature surrounding its 20-acre wooded hillside setting, the lodge marries an authentic, timeless feel with modern amenities. All appointed lodge rooms feature a deck overlooking nature.

**OVERNIGHT:** Groveland | **NIGHTS:** 2

## DAILY ITINERARY

Yosemite National Park: California's Crown Jewel | Cultural Walking Adventure

### Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price	Single Supplement
	Starting at	Starting at
Jun 12, 2022 - Jun 17, 2022	\$4895	\$1195
Jul 30, 2022 - Aug 04, 2022	\$4895	\$1195
Aug 13, 2022 - Aug 18, 2022	\$4895	\$1195
Sep 04, 2022 - Sep 09, 2022	\$4895	\$1195
Jun 11, 2023 - Jun 16, 2023	\$5095	\$1195
Jul 29, 2023 - Aug 03, 2023	\$5095	\$1195
Aug 12, 2023 - Aug 17, 2023	\$5095	\$1195
Sep 03, 2023 - Sep 08, 2023	\$5095	\$1195

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

### Trip Essentials

**TRIP LENGTH** 6 Days, 5 Nights

**START** Lobby of Hotel, Fresno, CA, USA

**END** Airport or city center hotel, Fresno, CA, USA

**TERRAIN** The terrain on this trip ranges from fairly flat to challenging strenuous climbs and steep downhill on longer options. Most of our hikes are on well-maintained trails. Some activities take place at 8,000 feet, so they can feel more challenging.

### What's Included

- Well-sited boutique hotels and lodges that provide you unrivaled access to the people and places, culture and natural environment you came to experience
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

### Above & Beyond Benefits

- Privileged Access Events

**READY TO BOOK?**  
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

### Or give us a call

**1-800-200-3887**

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)

*Travel for Free*

Your trip is free when you organize a Classic Journeys trip with 10 or more travelers (including you)! Or you can share your savings with other group members.

### TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference



## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.

At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

*Samuel*  
President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



### Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



### Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



### Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



### Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



### Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



### Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Yosemite National Park...

"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

-Bert and Jo Ann E.,