



Appalachian Mountain Club Adventure Travel Trip #1822

The Best of Yosemite

Thursday, June 28th – Saturday, July 7th 2018



Yosemite is known the world over as an incomparable natural wonder with its 3000' granite walls, leaping waterfalls and abundant trails. It offers world class vistas of mountains, canyons, meadows and rivers with extraordinary variations of color, shading and shadows as the sun moves across the horizon. Join AMC as we explore the High Sierra, Yosemite Valley and the incomparable falls of Yosemite – the legendary landmarks in one of our grandest national parks. Stay at a historic hotel and Sierra Camp for a well-rounded experience.

Day Hikes/Qualifications:

Daily hikes are all Intermediate Level: Length 6 –10 miles, with elevation gains of up to 2,500 ft. We expect to be on the trail about five to seven hours each day. We hike at a moderate pace and maintain a slower but steady pace on grades. Participants should have strength and endurance demonstrated by recent and regular mountain hiking experience.



Hiking in Yosemite:

Breathtaking! June is one of the best months to visit Yosemite. The waterfalls will be abundant and the scenery is fantastic, and we will be there just before and during the July 4th holiday. Frequently seen wildlife includes mule deer, big horn sheep, coyotes, beaver, black bears, fox, and marmots along with Peregrine falcons, owls, dippers and blue grouse. The trails can be narrow and rocky, possibly lightly covered with snow. Some grades are steep and rocky. Some optional trails may allow you to practice your scrambling technique. The elevation range of our activities will be 4,000' to 13,000'. Most of the time we are above the tree line with sweeping 360 degree views. Rain is unusual. Temperatures range from cool to hot so must be prepared for a variety of temperatures.

Hike Selection:

We hike the most beautiful and spectacular trailheads and most are within 30 minutes of our lodging. Our final selection depends on the advice of the Park Ranger. Conditions that close trails are: high water at stream fords, deep snow, wet conditions, mud, slippery footing and wildfires. We try to avoid crowded trails. Our selections are from the excellent Moon Handbook, Yosemite, 2nd edition, March 2006 by Ann Brown available at most bookstores or [www. Moon.com](http://www.Moon.com). This book identifies the most popular hikes and describes notable features of the park. Its compact size is compatible with travel. Those who prefer more detailed information regarding hikes in Yosemite might consider browsing through the Yosemite books at local major book stores. Another source is 50 Day Hikes in Yosemite, www.Wildernesspress.com. The trails we will hike are on the Yosemite Trail Map #206 from National Geographic. Hikes are subject to change without notice. Each evening and morning we will review the completed hike and the next day's hike.

We want each participant to return in great condition. Safety is a major consideration. We do our best to avoid undue risk. We hike together as a group. The Park rules require groups to stay together. We are "[Leave No Trace](#)" hikers and follow the seven principles.

** Note: Yosemite hiking can be subject to sudden changes in weather or smoke from forest fires in the general area. In the event of road or trail closures the leaders will work with local rangers to determine other activities suitable for the group. We must be flexible. YOU are responsible for your safety and the leaders expect that you will not hike alone while on this group trip.

Trip Review by Day

Thursday, June 28(one night)

Note: All participants MUST arrive at the car rental counter at the San Francisco airport at least two hours before **1 pm**, when will we depart from the airport. If you cannot get there by then, please plan to arrive a day early and stay over in San Francisco.

Our vehicles will head west from the airport on the ~ 4 hour drive to the Sierra Nevada.

This is the region that captivated John Muir with “glorious floods of light.” Our first destination is the [Big Trees Lodge](#), formerly known as the Wawona, inside the park for one (1) night. Reminiscent of European-style hotel rooms, these historic rooms are elegantly furnished giving guests the opportunity to experience the former Wawona Hotel on a more economical budget. These rooms feature a shared bath house located



nearby, making this an affordable steal for lodging in the park. These rooms feature either one double bed or one double and one twin bed. We plan to arrive in time for our welcome dinner. We will accommodate two people per room of same gender unless otherwise noted.

Friday, June 29 - Friday, July 6 (seven nights)

On Friday morning, we will start off by hiking in Mariposa Grove. We will hike in the lower and upper groves and see awe-inspiring Giant Sequoia trees. In the early afternoon, we will drive about ½ hour and hike up Sentinel Dome, enjoying the Half Dome and El Cap panoramas from the top. We’ll do a very short drive on mountain switchbacks to Glacier Point for photos. We will then drive to [Half Dome Village](#), formerly known as Curry Village for seven (7) nights at this popular Sierra Camp. We will be staying in the famous Yosemite tent cabins, 2 people to a tent. True to the original intent of Half Dome Village, the tent cabins feature wooden frames wrapped and covered with canvas, wooden floors and wooden doors. While they do have electric lighting, they don’t have electrical outlets, phones, TVs or plumbing. Guests are provided with sheets, wool blankets, pillows and towels during their stay. Bringing a sleeping bag is recommended for comfort. Over the next few days our options are to gradually hike higher each day. Each day we will talk about appropriate sun protection, hydration and pacing in order to acclimate as quickly as possible. We will dine at the Tuolumne Lodge, White Wolf Lodge or the gourmet Mobil Station in Lee Vining near Mono Lake and Half Dome Village cafeterias.

Friday, July 6

We will bid Yosemite farewell with a quick walk through Tuolumne Sequoia Grove and move on to our SF airport hotel for your Saturday departure or you may extend your trip (optional and leader led, additional costs TBD).

Saturday, July 7

The hotel van will take you to the airport or you may extend your trip.

Note: Participants may consider arriving early or staying an extra day to explore fascinating San Francisco. Leader will make arrangements post trip for a Saturday night stay in the spectacular city of San Francisco exploring the tourist attractions. Departing Sunday.

Proposed Hikes (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Day	Lodging	Hike	Miles (RT)	Gain ft	Max Altitude	Comment
Thursday Day 1	Big Trees Lodge	none			4,007	Depart SF airport by 1pm. ~4 hr drive to Big Trees Lodge
Friday Day 2 (transfer)	Half Dome Village Tent Cabins	Mariposa Grove	5.0-6.0	500	4,003	Giant Sequoia trees including the Grizzly Giant
		Glacier Point, Sentinel Dome	2.0	1,000	8,100	Spectacular overlook, 360 degrees Half Dome view
Saturday Day 3	Half Dome Village Tent Cabins	Cathedral Lakes, Mt. Treadwell	8.0	1,500	10,000	The most scenic lake side in Yosemite (until tomorrow)
Sunday Day 4	Half Dome Village Tent Cabins	Ascend Gaylor Peak, the high alpine tundra, and the High Sierra mines.	8.4	1,000+	11,400	The most scenic spot in Yosemite, hard to leave (until tomorrow!)
Monday Day 5	Half Dome Village Tent Cabins	Mt Tioga	7.0	1,800	11,500	Alpine lakeside, sensational with significant above tree line vistas
Tuesday Day 6	Half Dome Village Tent Cabins	Ascension of Mt Dana – second highest point in Yosemite or Mt Hoffman	6.0	3,000	13,060	Super view of surrounding peaks. You'll feel like you are flying!
			7.0	2,000	11,000	
Wednesday Day 7	Half Dome Village Tent Cabins	Yosemite Valley delights.....	4.0	200	11,000	Enjoying the fabulous scenery of Yosemite Valley
Thursday Day 8	Half Dome Village Tent Cabins	Hiking the Mist Trail to Nevada and Vernal Falls	8.0	2,000	7,000	Two of Yosemite's iconic waterfalls
Friday Day 9 (transfer)	SF Hotel	Tuolumne Grove	2 hr	500 feet of up/down		Giant Sequoias and then drive to SF airport hotel

About [Yosemite Valley](#):

It's a busy place, but well-ordered. We will dine primarily at the cafeterias and delis which offer a wide variety of food. The sprawling valley floor and village includes a visitor center, shopping, a pizza place, coffee bar, grocery store, sandwich shop, outdoor equipment shop and an amphitheater with evening programs. Frequent shuttles stop at Valley trailheads and other popular destinations.

Naturalist/Conservation Elements:

We will invite our colleagues at the Yosemite Conservancy to join us and talk about important conservation issues in the Sierra Nevada. You will have time to tour the Visitors Center in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadow.

For More Information:

<https://www.nps.gov/YOSE/planyourvisit/index.htm>

<http://www.travelyosemite.com/>

<http://www.yosemite.com/>

Cost of the Trip:

The trip will cost **\$2850**. The airfare is not included. The trip fee includes 9 nights lodging, meals from Thursday dinner until the final Friday dinner. The trip fee also includes emergency medical and evacuation insurance coverage, which is required by the AMC. It does not include insurance for travel delay, interruption, cancellation, or for baggage loss. The **\$1000** non-refundable deposit is due for consideration on the trip and the balance of **\$1850 is due by December 1, 2017**.

Cancellation Policy:

Our cancellation policy is based on several considerations. First, cancellation shall not raise the cost to the other participants or to the leaders. Second, we will charge a canceling participant for the expenses already incurred on his/her behalf and any unavoidable future expenses that will be incurred as a result of his/her cancellation, unless they can be applied toward another acceptable participant. We strongly encourage trip insurance.

How to Proceed: To apply, you must request, complete and submit the Application, Confidential Medical Form, and Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk and Release Form. Enclose a non-refundable deposit of \$1000. Contact barbaraadyer@gmail.com. Your leaders will then call to discuss the trip to make sure this trip is the right fit for you. Please be honest with your abilities and open to discussion.

Land Cost Includes: All meals, park entrance fees and permits, tax, and meal gratuity; airport transfers and transportation throughout the trip; leadership and naturalist. Be aware that in accordance with the AMC policy you are subsidizing much of the volunteer leader's costs, but not all.

Not Included: Airfare to/from San Francisco, airline baggage fees, any additional hotel nights, beverages and snacks during the day and alcoholic beverages, optional travel insurance and items of a personal nature.

Optional Travel Insurance: We highly recommend the purchase of trip insurance through Travel Insurance Services. Additional insurance information will be provided upon sign-up.

Conditioning: This is a trip for experienced hikers who enjoy an active vacation. You should be in good physical condition and have a committed training program prior to this trip. Participants will be hiking at a steady pace each day with elevation gain and loss. This trip is appropriate for strong hikers who have spent time building strength on hikes in the White Mountains or similar terrain. If you want to hike at a very fast pace or hike alone, this trip is not a good fit for you. Lastly, by participating in group travel, each hiker will be expected to volunteer to help the group maintain steady, safe progress and help carry group gear. We will hike at the pace of the slowest hiker in a group.

Wildlife: You may encounter diverse wildlife throughout the park including 400 species of vertebrates including fish, amphibian, reptiles, birds and mammals. Some common sightings include black bear, gopher, marmot, shrew, ringtail, gopher, and marmots.

Equipment: A full gear list is sent upon sign-up.

Leadership:

Roger Scholl has been a trip leader with the AMC New Hampshire chapter since 1987 and has led AMC Adventure Travel trips since 2003. He is an avid hiker, climber, Nordic skier, fly fisherman, and cyclist. He has hiked and climbed in the Alps, the Pacific Northwest, the Rockies, and Alaska. He is a member of the Southeast Mass Chapter 2000 mile cycling club and has completed the New England 100 Highest in winter. Roger has led trips to Yellowstone (12&15), Yosemite (07, 08, 11, 13, 15), Joshua Tree NP (09) and Alaska (17) and has climbed in Europe/Denali. He is Advanced Wilderness First Aid and CPR certified. When not tracking fish he is a Corporate Account Manager for Crown Healthcare and is a certified spinning instructor at his local health club. He is a Registered Maine Guide and authorized guide for Yellowstone. He is a leader for the New Hampshire chapter, President's Society, Echo Lake Camp at Acadia and Adventure Travel. He enjoys traveling to National Parks, The Maine Wilderness, and the New Hampshire High Peaks.



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Barbara Dyer has been an active trips and backpack four season leader for the Worcester Chapter since 2004 and Adventure Travel program since 2012. She has traveled extensively through the US National Parks and has been to Yosemite several times and climbed the famous “Half Dome”. She has worked in Yellowstone and is an authorized guide for Yellowstone. She is a graduate of Outward Bound in North Carolina, and the American Wilderness Leadership School in Wyoming. She has led AT trips to Yellowstone (12&15), and Alaska (17) with Roger, Wales/England (16), and upcoming to Switzerland and France (18). She has led over 100 trips with the AMC in the White Mountains, and serves on the Boy



Scouts Leadership Committee and Worcester AMC Executive Committee. She is a middle school computer technology teacher. She volunteers on the AMC Hut Fill In Croo and serves as a hut naturalist and information volunteer in the White Mountains. She is Advanced Wilderness First Aid and CPR/Epi-pen certified. When not leading trips or in the classroom, she enjoys camping with her family and two rescue dogs.

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