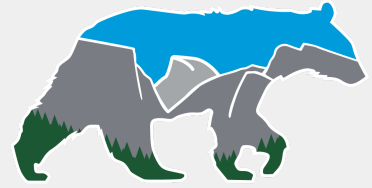


March 2 - 4, 2022

# YoSAMEite

Sasa Camargo, Aaron Sossin, Maddy Fish, Eric Liu



## YOU ARE HEREBY INVITED TO THE SAME YOSEMITE EXCURSION

<b>Who</b>	The SAME crew: Sasa, Aaron, Maddy, and Eric
<b>What</b>	A 3 day hiking excursion in the beautiful, God given natural wonder of Yosemite
<b>When</b>	March 2 - 4 2022
<b>Where</b>	<a href="#">Yosemite</a>   Lodging in Yosemite West AirBnB
<b>Why</b>	A celebration of Sasa and Eric's anniversary, Maddy and Eric's 13 month friendaversary, Aaron and Sasa's 13 month friendaversary, Maddy and Aaron's 12.x month friendaversary, Aaron and Eric's 136.x month friendaversary, Maddy and Sasa's 65.x month friendaversary

**Invite extended** Feb 9, 2022

## Details

Hello important SAME member! You are hereby invited to the 2022 YoSAMEite excursion, a wonderful 3 day event to explore the beautiful natural wonder of Yosemite national park. We will be leaving on Friday morning (tentative, may be Friday night if people are unable to get time off) and carpooling for a splendid 4 hour road trip to our AirBnB in Yosemite West. If we have time on Friday, we can do some smaller hikes before getting groceries and other necessities for the weekend.

We will be taking Eric's car (sorry back seaters), departing from Redwood City with a stop at Stanford for those who need it. We'll be returning home on Sunday night, after a glorious day of hiking. Perhaps even a stop at a Black Bear Diner on the way back is in the cards 🐻.

## Lodging

We will be staying in a beautiful 2 bed 2 bath studio apartment in Yosemite West. You can see photos [here](#). This apartment is about a 30 minute drive from Yosemite valley, and is inside the park premises. The two beds are directly next to each other, so there will be no silly business happening at night.

## What to bring

Yosemite will be quite cold during our visit, with lots of snow and ice expected and close to freezing temperatures. Here is a list of recommended things to bring:

- Warm clothing
  - Tights, pants, warm socks, sweaters, jackets, hats, gloves
  - The weather will get warmer as we hike so be prepared to take it all off 🥵
- Good hiking shoes if possible (might wanna shop for some, as the trails can be icy and steep with little traction ⇒ don't wanna slip and die)
- Big water bottles; some of the hikes can last quite long, with no water sources along the trail. 2-4L capacity is advised

- Headlamp in case; in the event we get lost or thrown about and are returning from one of our hikes late, a headlamp will be useful as it can get dark relatively fast
- Alcohol; we will be staying in an AirBnB after all, and this is basically a cottage trip. Let's get wavy 🍷 100
- Desired snacks, eg. trail mix, chips, fruits, trader joe's prepackaged meals

## Itinerary

<https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/valleyhikes.htm>

### Friday, March 2

Regardless of what time we arrive, the main focus will be getting the necessities to survive the weekend (eg. groceries, alcohol). If we happen to leave in the morning, then we can do a few easy hikes to ramp up.

#### Bridalveil Fall Trail

This hike is 20 minutes long, easy, with barely any elevation gain. This trail leads us to the base of the Bridalveil waterfall. It is paved, and really just for sight-seeing.

#### Lower Yosemite Fall Trail

This hike is 30 minutes long, easy, with barely any elevation gain. Similarly, it leads us to the base of Lower Yosemite Fall, and provides a nice view of North America's tallest waterfall!

#### Cook's Meadow Loop

This hike is 30 minutes long, easy, with barely any elevation gain. It offers great views of the surrounding points of interest (eg. Half Dome, Glacier Point), and is a meadow we can frolic and saunter in!

### Saturday, March 3

Gear up and get ready for the best hike of your life folks, cause this is gonna be an all-dayer. We will arise early in the morning, ideally before 6am to give us time to drive to the valley and start the hike during sunrise. There are three main options to choose from:

#### Yosemite Falls Trail

There are two separate hikes that comprise this trail, with the first subsumed in the second.

The first is up to Columbia Rock, and is 2-3 hours long round trip, with 1000 ft in elevation gain. It's a moderate difficulty hike, and leads to a great view of the valley, Half Dome, and Sentinel Rock. A small detour also allows us to see Upper Yosemite Fall.

The second is from Columbia Rock up to the Top of Yosemite Falls. This adds another 4-5 hours of strenuous difficulty due to the 1,700 ft elevation gain. This section is steep and rocky, but apparently worth the incredible views at the top, where you get to see the source of the waterfall.

Should we choose this option, I recommend we do the entire hike, at around 6-8 hours total round trip, 7.2 miles, and a whopping 2,700 ft elevation gain.

#### Vernal Fall and Nevada Fall Trail

There are two separate hikes that comprise this trail, with the first subsumed in the second as well.

The first is the hike to the top of Vernal Fall, at roughly 3 hours round trip and an elevation gain of 1000 ft. The difficulty is allegedly strenuous, with a stairway of over 600 steps making up for the majority of the elevation. At the top, we can experience jaw-dropping views of the 317 foot waterfall.

Continuing along from the top of Vernal Fall, we have the option to continue hiking to the top of Nevada Fall. This second portion adds another 1000 ft of steep, rocky switchbacks, for an added 2-3 hours round trip. In total, if we choose to hike to the top of Nevada Fall, the hike would last about 5-6 hours round trip.

Similarly, I'd recommend the entire hike instead of just the first fall. The loop back can also take a different trail than the one we take up, allowing for new views at just an extra 1.5 miles distance.

## Yosemite Valley Loop Trail

This bad boy is just as its name suggests, a loop of Yosemite Valley that provides stunning views of the different landmarks in the Valley. However, it is probably one of the less interesting hikes difficulty wise.

It is a moderate difficulty trail, at roughly 5-7 hours round trip (or 2.5-3.5 hours for the half loop), with mostly level elevation (yawn). It gives a good view of El Capitan (one of the most famous climbing mountains in the world), so if we take this route I'm gonna climb it free solo.

## Other

The last three hikes in the Valley (Snow Creek, Four Mile, and Half Dome) are all of strenuous difficulty, slightly longer (with Half Dome being 10-12 hours), and for more seasoned hikers. I suggest we hold off on these until our next visit.

There are a few more trails that are in different sections of the park, such as the sequoia groves. These are mostly less difficult and more for sightseeing the humongous trees 🌲, but are on the table should we want a more relaxed hike. I propose we explore these on Sunday, if at all, if we're running out of gas.

## Sunday, March 4

On Sunday, we can do whichever trail of the above that we haven't yet done. We should plan to leave around dinner time, to get back to the lower Bay before midnight. We can stop at Black Bear Diner on the way for a scrumptious dinner.

Checkout time from our AirBnB is at 10am, so we'll have to leave bright and early and keep all our things in the car.

## Cost

Free of course! This is a gift to celebrate our wonderful 12, 13, and 136.x months of respective friendships. I am so thankful to have you all in my life, and wouldn't trade it for the world 🙌🙌. However, if you're feeling generous, you can volunteer your annual park pass xD. Love you all!