## Spectacular Scenery

Deep valleys, waterfalls cascading over vertiginous granite cliffs, lush meadows, ancient giant sequoia groves… Yosemite will take your breath away.

## Great Outdoors

Escape from the crowds in Yosemite Valley. Nearly 95% of Yosemite National Park is designated wilderness with thousands of lakes and ponds, clear running streams, and unspoiled forests.

## Abundant Wildlife

Yosemite is home to a wide range of wildlife species, including American black bear, bobcat, cougar, mule deer, chickaree, and Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.

## Birdwatching

More than 260 species of birds have been documented in Yosemite. The towering cliffs provide an important habitat for peregrine falcons. Spring brings flocks of migrant warblers, flycatchers, and brightly colored tanagers.

## Outdoor Activities

Yosemite has more than 800 miles (1,300 km) of hiking trails. Go for a horseback ride, rafting, or rock climbing. There’s plenty to do for all ages and levels of fitness.

## Getting There

Most people visit Yosemite by car. It’s a 4–5 hour drive from San Francisco. Access from the East over the Sierra Nevada is possible from June to October, but can be closed due to heavy snow.

## A Vast Edifice of Stone and Space

Emerging from the Wawona Tunnel at the southern approach to Yosemite Valley, visitors are greeted with a stunning view. A vast carpet of pine trees lies at their feet. Rising majestically to the left is the southwest face of El Capitan, straight ahead in the distance is Half Dome, with Bridalveil Fall cascading down from a cliff to the right.

Fast running rivers millions of years ago carved deep canyons from the granite rock. During the glacial period, glaciers transported vast volumes of rubble, scouring and modifying the landscape. This left U-shaped canyons, jagged peaks, and rounded domes of glacially polished granite that inspire awe and wonder.