## 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.