



She Ascends and Off The Beaten Path Present:
Yosemite National Park
September September 29th - October 4

Giant Sequoias, Waterfalls and Welcoming Trails

Yosemite was meant to be seen afoot—hiking mountain trails, walking among giant sequoias, standing in a waterfall mist, and gazing across the granite-hewn valley. Abraham Lincoln recognized Yosemite as a true national treasure and designated the valley as our country's first-ever protected parkland in 1864.

You'll feel the long reach of history and see the grandeur of the High Sierras on fun hikes and interesting explorations that open new perspectives into this iconic park. Walking in the Mariposa Grove among the gargantuan trees—perhaps the largest living things on Earth—is a moving experience you'll never forget. With your female guides in the lead, you'll also take in the park's other iconic features, such as El Capitan, Half Dome, Bridalveil Fall, and Lower Yosemite Falls.

This insider's experience also gets you farther off the beaten path and deeper into the park. Venture up the Tioga Road to Tuolumne Meadows, with its great views of the Cathedral Range and gorgeous subalpine hiking. If you've always wanted to see really see, feel, smell, hear—Yosemite, come with us.

Itinerary Subjected to Change As Details Are Refined

Your Itinerary

your Journey begins & ends in Fresno, Ca

Day 1 / Meet your guide and our S.A. Host, Wendy, as you land in Fresno. They will help you travel to Yosemite National Park where you will settle in at the National Historic Landmark Wawona Hotel.

Day 2 / Yosemite National Park

You will hike among the giant sequoias of the Mariposa Grove— some of the largest and oldest living things on earth—is a soul-stirring experience. This is the largest grove of giant sequoias in Yosemite, with some 500 trees.

One of those trees, the famous Grizzly Giant, is 209 feet tall, has a diameter of 25.5 feet, and is probably around 2,000 years old. Your guide will explain the ecology and conservation of the trees and describe the 3-year renovation project that wrapped up in the spring of 2018.

We head back to Wawona for lunch. The rest of the afternoon will be spent exploring the southern portion of the park on guide's choice hikes in the area.

Dinner this evening is in the hotel's gracious dining room, known for its culinary excellence and gracious ambiance.

Day 3/ Yosemite national park This morning we pull up stakes and head into the heart of Yosemite Valley for a look at the classic features of El Capitan, Half Dome, Sentinel Peak, and other iconic and breathtaking natural attractions. Our guide will choose the best hikes based on weather and trail conditions. Destinations might include Bridalveil Fall, and Lower Yosemite Falls. As we explore the valley, the guide weaves in stories of the park's creation and in the wider American conservation movement. Knowing the stories instill a greater appreciation for the landscape around us. The day winds down at our lodge where you'll have Time to relax or explore the surrounding area.

Stay: Yosemite Valley Lodge

LODGING



Wawona Hotel, Yosemite National Park

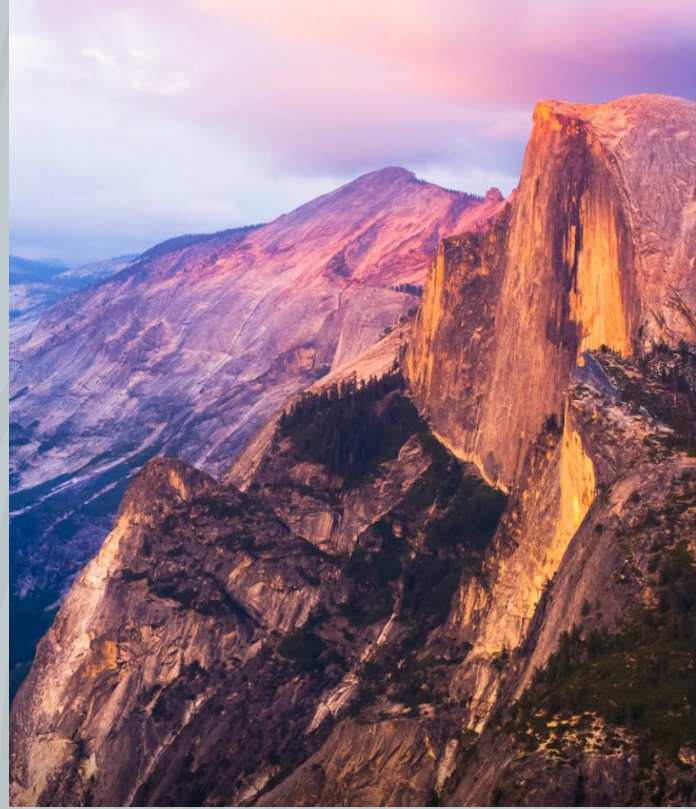
Situated on a rushing stream in a green meadow, this historic Victorian hotel complex offers tranquility and charm—and Adirondack chairs on the veranda and antiques in the rooms.



Yosemite Valley Lodge, Yosemite national park

With a view of Yosemite Falls, and landscaped with native trees, shrubs, and flowers, this lodge offers comfort in an idyllic setting. Its architectural emphasis on wood and glass brings the outdoors inside.

Day 4 / Yosemite National Park Season, weather, conditions, and our guide's sense of serendipity dictate where we explore and hike today. One possibility is the Hetch Hetchy area, a glacial valley within the park that sees far fewer visitors than Yosemite Valley. A controversial dam was built there in 1925, raising the ultimately futile objections of the budding conservation movement. We would probably hike to Wapama Falls along a quiet trail leading to the 1,000-foot two-part cascade. Another option would take us up the Tioga Road to Tuolumne Meadows, with its high-elevation meadows and great views of the Cathedral Range. The Tuolumne River winds through the picturesque 2-mile long meadow, the largest subalpine meadow in the Sierra Nevada. We could enjoy any number of hikes in this gorgeous part of the park. We return to our lodge to enjoy dinner. Stay: Yosemite Valley Lodge



Day 5 / Yosemite National Park

Most of this day is reserved for hiking and valley exploration. Guide's choice trails for the day might include the famed "mist trail" to Vernal Falls, Mirror Lake, or Cook's Meadow. If we're lucky we'll see some of Yosemite's resident wildlife. Later we can drop by the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center to learn how the distinctive landscape was formed and how the park has evolved over its nearly 150-year existence. We may also visit the rustic and historic Yosemite Museum. No Yosemite visit is complete without a stop at the Ansel Adams Gallery, and you can stop in to see original Ansel Adams prints as well as contemporary photographs. Last thing this afternoon, we have the pleasure of a private tour of the majestic Ahwahnee Hotel. Queens, presidents, and movie stars have stayed in this architectural junction of history, hospitality, and elegance. The Ahwahnee has a candy store with the most delectable truffles, but don't eat too many - our festive farewell dinner is in the hotel's famously elegant dining room. Stay: Yosemite Valley Lodge

Day 6/ Departures home from Fresno With a trove of memories and a fond farewell to Yosemite, catch your transfer to the Fresno airport for afternoon flights home.

Journey highlights

Giant sequoias: The Mariposa Grove holds some 500 giant trees, one of which is 210 feet tall, 30 feet in diameter, and probably more than 2,000 years old.

Distinctive lodging: Stay at lodges within the national parks for easy access to hiking and daily activities.

Top-notch guide: Your expert guide will lead you deep into the history and natural wonders of this very special place.





What's included in the Trip?

includes all lodging, meals, ground transportation, airfare, guide services, and activities as described in this itinerary. An end-of-trip gratuity for your guide is also included and will be taken care of by our S.A. Host. Alcohol at meals is not included.

We recommend that you purchase trip insurance. More details will be given to the S.A. final group that will be traveling on this adventure.

TOTAL PACKAGE COST:

Includes Airfare, Registration Fees & Gratuities

S.A. Members Discounted Rate: \$5,500

Non-members: \$6,696

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Yosemite Valley, to me, is always a sunrise, a glitter of green and golden wonder in a vast edifice of stone and space.

-Ansel Adams

Travel in Off the Beaten Path style

Allow us to satisfy your good tastes for the unique and intimate: the lesser-traveled ways, personal connections, and consistent, impeccable quality that add up to a five-star experience. We've been delivering exceptional travel experiences since 1986.

Join us on an unforgettable trip! We've partnered with She Ascends to offer an exclusive discounted rate, available only for S.A. members. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity.

What to expect & how to prepare

Q. What will the weather be like?

A. September and October are also beautiful months to be in Yosemite. Crowds have dispersed, fall colors are coming on, temperatures are in the 70s and 80s, and rain is unlikely.

Q. How much hiking does this trip involve?

A. This is a hiking-focused trip, with daily hikes of four or more miles. The hikes are easy to moderate and may include some elevation gain or loss. Your guide will gauge the interest and abilities of the group.

Q. Will I need a day pack?

A. Yes, bring a day pack to carry water, snacks, sunscreen, a light rain jacket, camera, binoculars if you wish, and clothing layers.