

California Family – Yosemite National Park



Trip Summary

Stand at the base of a tumbling 2,425-foot waterfall, a soaring 8,842-foot granite dome, a 3,000-year-old, 300-foot Giant Sequoia and experience for yourself why John Muir described Yosemite as “...by far the grandest of all the special temples of Nature I was ever permitted to enter.” Hike, swim, and explore the largest subalpine meadow in the Sierra Nevada. Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife like black bears, bighorn sheep, and foxes. Find out why granite will be your new stone of choice as a rock climber. Discover just how huge a Giant Sequoia really is by standing at the base of one of these forest monsters and looking up skyward. Explore Yosemite National Park with the experts in adventure travel!

Itinerary

Day 1: Fresno / Mariposa Grove / Yosemite National Park

Sunday morning pick up in Fresno • Shuttle north toward the famous Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias where we'll take a short, peaceful hike amongst these gentle giants • Following lunch we drive into the park, stopping for a picnic lunch and photo ops at Tunnel View • Tunnel View is the classic view that Ansel Adams made famous showcasing El Capitan, Half Dome, and Bridalveil Fall • Late afternoon, check into Rush Creek Lodge, your home for the next two nights • *Overnight at Rush Creek Lodge (L, D)*

Day 2: Hetch Hetchy Valley

After breakfast, shuttle to Hetch Hetchy Reservoir for our trek to Wapama Falls • Along this fascinating trek, listen as your guides tell you stories of John Muir's time in Yosemite • He claims the Hetch Hetchy Valley was every bit as beautiful as Yosemite Valley until the 1920s; then the Tuolumne River was dammed to create a water supply for San Francisco • After lunch we will head out for another pleasant hike along the Tuolumne River on the lookout for the perfect swimming hole • Return back to the lodge for relaxation and then dinner • *Overnight at Rush Creek Lodge (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Yosemite Valley

This morning, we shuttle to the trailhead of the Mist Trail in Yosemite Valley • A 3.3 mile hike takes us to the top of Vernal Fall, tackling 1,000 feet of elevation gain that includes an unforgettable stretch of steep stone steps in the midst of a waterfall • Picnic lunch back in the valley • Later, we'll transfer south towards Tenaya Lodge • On the way, we stop to take a two-hour horseback ride in the midst of 2,000 year-old redwood trees • Arrive to your home for the next three nights and continue your exploration of this amazing area tonight as you spend dinner and the rest of the evening on your own • *Overnight at Tenaya Lodge (B, L)*

Day 4: Half Dome Village / Yosemite Valley

Fuel up with a warm, fresh meal before we head out to Half Dome Village, where we'll grab some climbing shoes for a fantastic day of rock climbing and rappelling – no trip to Yosemite would be complete without it! • Classes are designed for climbers of all levels, so everyone from beginners to experts will take away a new skill-set • You'll spend the better part of the day learning everything there is to know about rock climbing – from tying knots to rappelling, and everything in between • After a pizza lunch at your climbing site, we'll continue our uphill ascent through early afternoon • Tonight we eat an early dinner and take in a sunset from Sentinel Dome before making our way back to Tenaya • *Overnight at Tenaya Lodge (B, L, D)*



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Day 5: Upper Yosemite Falls

Today, embark on an all-day hike along one of Yosemite's oldest historic trails (built 1873 to 1877) • This trail starts along the Valley Loop Trail, and immediately begins its climb, switchback after switchback, through oak woodland • At a mile in, you'll be rewarded with spectacular views of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome, and Sentinel Rock • From here, we continue another half mile to our lunch spot to get a stunning view of Upper Yosemite Falls • Enjoy a well-earned trailside lunch and continue down the way you came • Transfer back to Tenaya for a final dinner with the group • *Overnight at Tenaya Lodge (B, L, D)*

Day 6: Tenaya / Fresno

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the lodge • This morning you can take advantage of some last minute pool or spa time • Reluctantly we say good bye to the park and start our way back to Fresno • Hotel and airport drop offs in the early afternoon (no flights before 3 pm) • *(B)*

***Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

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Activities

Hiking – 1 to 5 miles per hike, easy to strenuous in difficulty on varying terrain (dirt trails, smooth granite, wet stone, etc.) Sometimes multiple hikes will be done in a day.

Rock Climbing – Introductory class on the basics of climbing. No experience necessary – shoes, rope, harnesses and instruction provided by professional rock climbing instructor.

Horseback Riding – Two-hour ride with an experienced wrangler. No experience necessary.

Discovery – John Muir named this place the ‘range of light’ and for good reason. You’ll learn how glaciers formed this valley as you stand under granite monoliths rising thousands of feet above you. You’ll understand why this place is commonly called the ‘Incomparable Valley.’ Listen as your guides delve into the controversy over the Hetch Hetchy Valley: Should the valley remain dammed providing water for the nearby city of San Francisco or should it be restored to its formal glory as what John Muir described as “one of nature’s rarest and most precious mountain temples.” Visit the famous *Yan-o-pah (little cloud)* or Vernal Fall as it’s called today to witness its massive cascade of tumbling whitewater drop 317 feet over a cliff. Discover why Yosemite National Park is a rock climber’s mecca as you stare in awe at granite monoliths like Half Dome and El Capitan. Examine black and white photographs from Ansel Adam’s time spent in the park in the 1910’s. Discover for yourself this place they call “The Golden State”.

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions, and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that’s right for you.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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Distinctive Accommodation

Nights 1 & 2: Rush Creek Lodge

Recently opened in 2016, The Rush Creek Lodge is the first new resort in Yosemite National Park in over 25 years! These brand new accommodations feature two queen beds, private bathroom, and a private deck with scenic views of the forest at sunset. Keeping in the spirit of an authentic, rewarding mountain experience, you won't find televisions or other electronic distractions in room. Instead, you'll find radio streaming, games, and the option of renting a portable DVD player and movies. Hoping to catch the big game? The Tavern offers a selection of local craft brews and sports broadcasts, along with live music or karaoke. And don't forget the pool! The lodge hosts a salt water pool, hot tubs, The Pool Bar, and cozy fire pit lounge. All in all, the pristine luxury of the Rush Creek Lodge is the perfect way to begin our trek through Yosemite.

Nights 3 – 5: Tenaya Lodge

Named after the legendary Chief Tenaya this lodge is located near the park's south gate in the Sierra National Forest. Tenaya Lodge is an all-season resort that offers AAA Four-Diamond Yosemite accommodations, a rich range of recreational activities, and awe-inspiring beauty at every turn. Located only two miles from Yosemite National Park, Tenaya offers the cozy feel of a mountain retreat – but features a full range of world-class amenities. The luxurious spa features 12 treatment rooms and signature organic treatments, men's and women's steam rooms and saunas, relaxation rooms and a fitness center. You'll also find two indoor heated pools and a newly expanded outdoor pool, adjacent to a kids' splash pool and adults-only soaking pool. The five dining venues on site range from casual to candlelit – all serving fresh, local, sustainable fare.

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Arrival & Departures

Please plan on arriving at least one day prior to your trip departure. Day one of your itinerary starts at 7:45 AM or 8:00 AM depending on your hotel. Your trip ends with a drop-off at either the Fresno airport 1:00 PM or your area hotel 1:30 PM. Please book your flights for after 3:00 PM out of Fresno Airport.

Trip Price

\$3,798 (\$680 single supplement)
Child Price \$3,038 to \$3,418

Trip Length

6 days/5 nights

2020 Dates

July 5 – 10
July 12 – 17
July 19 – 24
July 26 – 31

Host City

Fresno, California
Airport code: FAT

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Yosemite National Park has inspired poets,
painters, photographers and conservationists
for centuries – how will it inspire you?*



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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions.
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- One dinner on your own.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. **some restrictions may apply*

Child Age and Pricing on Family Adventures

Family Adventures are suitable for children seven years old and up (six years and older for our Costa Rica and Yellowstone Family Adventures). Children who share a room with one or more adults receive reduced rates. The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.