



Encouraging Adventure And Defining Relaxation.

Yosemite National Park: What to Bring with You to YNP

When my wife and I travel we will research where we are going to understand what there is to do and what the conditions will be like when we are there. Very often we plan where we are going based on what we want to do. Kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, backpacking, site seeing, are often in very different environments requiring a combination of things you bring on every trip and things you bring specific to your activities when you get there.

Not only does the destination and the activity require specialized packing, but the time of year is a big factor to include in your planning. Kayaking a warm lake in summer, is very different from Kayaking the San Juan Islands in the winter, and requires different gear and knowledge. In this case gear for cold water survival, knowledge of tides and currents and calorie use and intake are things to be considered.

Yosemite National Park is a very unique environment offering a variety of things to do. Mountain climbing, day hiking, river rafting, back packing, skiing, and road biking are just a few things the park offers. Add to activity time of year and where you are lodging and the list of things to bring can be very different. I am assuming our readers are or will be our guest in the Peregrine Lodge. We have guests who will have a varied itinerary. They will do a little back packing or car camping, or even stay in a 5 star hotel in the valley before or after arriving at our lodge.

In the course of speaking with guests who are making reservations for our lodge I will be asked what to bring to the lodge and to the Park. Since the answer really depends on your interest and activity level I have organized what to bring into a few basic categories relevant to the lodge and the park. Note that some of the suggestions are in more than one category.

We have decades of experience coming to Yosemite National Park. We have hiked, biked, climbed, kayaked, skied, lodged and camped in pretty much every environment the park offers. These suggestions are a result of trial, error, inspiration, lessons learned from friends and from mistakes. But by no means are these suggestions and lists complete. We continue to experience and learn and these suggestions continue evolve and change.

After 30 years of coming, exploring, and adventuring in the park there is still a lot we have not seen or done.

We are always open to suggestions and input from others. If you would like to add to any of these lists please feel free to contact us and let us know.

Planning

- Real-time advice from a park ranger about trail conditions - if the station is closed check the board by entrance station or ask at one the lodges
- An official weather forecast for each day you will be there (thunderstorms or snow in off summer months?) - lodges will note this by the front desk
- USGS trail map and guide, preferably with elevation profiles
- Driving directions to and from the park
- Maps for inside the park - if the park ranger station is open, you can get a visitor guide with major routes on it
- Local maps for outside the park
- Stargazing guide or map
- Your itinerary

- Yosemite National Park Road Guide - published by the National Geographic Society (optional) and there are other guides such as Yosemite National Park - Lonely Planet. We also have numerous guides in our library.
- Trails Illustrated Map of YNP - published by the National Geographic Society
- Yosemite Guide - you can get a copy in the park or download and print a copy before you leave home
- America the Beautiful Inter agency Pass - The pass is optional as you can also pay for as you can also pay Yosemite Fees instead.

Clothing

- Poncho or hooded rain jacket - for waterfall trails or just in case it rains (optional if summer and not doing falls trails)
- Convertible cargo pants - pants with zip-off legs and a lot of pockets
- Cargo shorts - shorts with a lot of pockets
- Clothing made of quick-drying material (polyester blends or 'wicking' fabric) rather than cotton
- Sun hat or visor
- Comfortable, but sensible, shoes, if you're going to be walking any distance. Yosemite's trails won't be much fun in flip flops!
- Extra pair of shoes
- Jacket or sweater - for evening
- Resort casual if you are planning to go to dinner at the Ahwahnee Restaurant.
- Rain gear (optional - check the 10 day weather forecast in advance)

Food and Drink

Water LOTS! (for hikers a bladder type water bag works well to keep your hands free for hiking)

For others who want to picnic, hike, etc. some other suggestions are:

- Picnic supplies
- Water purification system
- Personal water purification / filtration sports bottles
- Fruit (oranges, etc.)
- Power bars
- Granola bars
- Nuts
- Lots of snacks

Things to Bring if Hiking

- Real-time advice from a park ranger about trail conditions
- USGS trail map and guide, preferably with elevation profiles
- Basic first aid kit, including an ACE bandage and moleskin for blisters
- Bug spray - more than you think you will ever need
- Insect sting kit - if you were bitten in places that the bug spray didn't cover - or if you're allergic to insect bites
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Whistle
- Signal mirror
- More energy/protein snacks than you think you will need - in case you are out longer than you anticipate
- Space blanket - has many uses in an emergency and is light weight

- Matches and some tinder in a DRY container - in case you have to hole up
- Toilet paper and a Ziplock (plastic) bag to carry it out!!
- Swiss Army knife / multitool
- Hiking stick or poles
- Compass with signal mirror
- Yosemite National Park Road Guide - published by the National Geographic Society
- Trails Illustrated Map of YNP - published by the National Geographic Society
- Gloves with a good grip on the palm and fingers if you plan to climb Half Dome using the cables; you can't be sure that there will be suitable gloves in your size at the base of the cables.
- Sunglasses
- Alcohol-based, quick-drying disinfecting hand cleaning liquid

Other

- Bug spray - in the springs and early summer, more than you think you will ever need.
- Insect sting kit - if you were bitten in places that the bug spray didn't cover
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Towel
- Sunglasses
- Binoculars (several people suggested this)
- Camera - with extra film or memory cards and extra batteries or a way to charge the one you have
- Day pack
- Sunscreen
- Multi-socket electrical extension cord - in case there's only one electrical outlet in your room / tent cabin
- Dramamine - for motion sickness
- Lip emollient (Chapstick, Blistex, etc.)
- Tent - if you want to camp

Things to Bring if Driving to YNP from Home

- Comfortable chair and / or great blanket - to just go out and enjoy Yosemite meadows
- Your own bikes - beats waiting around for buses
- Your own padlock(s) for bear proof food locker - otherwise, people are opening and closing (or not) your locker to check for space all night long! Note: if you are leaving food at a trail head then you are not allowed to use a lock; it will be cut off by rangers. ***This suggestion about a lock only applies to folks who have a "private" bear food locker at their campsite or lodging.***
- Your own down pillow (optional)
- A telescope if you will be in the high country