For your safety, always carry plenty of water and be prepared for sudden changes in weather.

This map should not be used for backcountry trips. Please visit a park visitor center or wilderness center for more information.
Cook's Meadow Loop
1 mile/1.6 km; 30 minutes
Begin at shuttle stop #5 or #9 (Visitor Center)
This short walk offers stunning views of Half Dome, Glacier Point, and the Royal Arches. From the shuttle bus stop at the Visitor Center (stop #5/#9), walk west along the bike path (in the direction of Yosemite Falls). At shuttle bus stop #6, cross the street (watch for traffic!) and follow the bike path, bearing left as the path forks. At the Sentinel Bridge parking area, walk out onto the bridge to enjoy a classic view of the ever-changing Yosemite Valley.

Mirror Lake/Meadow
2 miles/3.2 km round-trip to lake; 1 hour
Begin at Mirror Lake Trailhead (shuttle stop #17)
From the shuttle stop, a paved trail leads directly to Mirror Lake. Hikers may access a loop trail from the paved path. This loop follows Tenaya Creek beyond the lake, crosses two bridges beyond the Snow Creek intersection and returns past Mirror Lake. When filled in winter and spring, the lake offers beautiful reflections of surrounding cliffs. This is a great place to see wildlife. Exhibits detail the story of the area’s lake-to-meadow succession.

Vernal & Nevada Falls
Vernal Fall footbridge: 1.6 miles/2.6 km round-trip; 1.5 hours with 400 ft./122 m. elevation gain
Vernal Fall: 3 miles/4.8 km round-trip; 3 hours with 1,000 ft./366 m. elevation gain (via Mist Trail)
Nevada Fall: 7 miles/11.2 km round-trip; 5 to 6 hours with 2,000 ft./610 m. elevation gain (via Mist Trail)
Begin at Happy Isles (shuttle stop #16)
An excellent view of Vernal Fall is visible from the footbridge at 0.75 miles (1.3 km). Beyond the bridge, at 0.2 miles, the Mist Trail and the John Muir Trail diverge. To proceed directly to the top of Vernal Fall, follow the Mist Trail 0.5 mile (0.8 km) up a steep granite stairway of over 600 steps. Prepare for slippery footing and a tremendous amount of waterfall spray in spring and early summer. The top of Nevada Fall may be reached by continuing 1.3 miles (2.1 km) along the Mist Trail. Nevada Fall may also be reached via the John Muir Trail (bypassing Vernal Fall). Portions of the John Muir and Mist Trails are closed in winter due to hazardous conditions (see inset map).

Half Dome (photographed by Ansel Adams) before returning to the parking area. Follow the boardwalk as the path forks. At the Sentinel Bridge parking area, walk out onto the bridge to enjoy a classic view of Yosemite Valley.

Shuttle Route / Stop
(Visitor Center)
~ Ranger Station
~ Self-guiding Nature Trail
~ Walk-in Campground
~ Paved Road
~ Waterfall

Nature Center at Happy Isles
shuttle stop #5

Half Dome Trail
1 mile/1.6 km; 30 minutes
Begin at the Half Dome Trailhead (shuttle stop #6)
This short, easy walk rewards visitors with spectacular views of Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls. This waterfall may be dry in late summer and early fall. Expect lots of spray in spring and early summer.

Bridalveil Fall
0.5 miles/0.8 km round-trip; 20 minutes
Begin at the Bridalveil Fall parking area
A paved trail leads from the Bridalveil Fall parking area to the base of this waterfall, which flows year round. Walk back to the parking area via the same trail. Expect lots of spray in spring and early summer.

Lower Yosemite Fall
1.1 miles/1.7 km loop trail; 30 minutes
Begin at the Lower Yosemite Fall Trailhead (shuttle stop #6)
This short, easy walk rewards visitors with views of Lower Yosemite Falls. This waterfall may be dry in late summer and early fall. Expect lots of spray in spring and early summer.

Valley Floor Loop
Full loop: 13 miles/20.9 km; 5 to 7 hours. Half loop: 6.5 miles/10.5 km; 2.5 to 3.5 hours
Begin at Camp 4 (shuttle stop #7)
This trail follows many of the Valley’s first-east-west trails and wagon roads. The half-loop cross the Valley on El Capitan Bridge. Continue on to Bridalveil Fall for the full loop. The Valley Floor Loop provides solitude with occasional route-finding difficulty. Hike through meadows, forests, and along the Merced River. Along the way, enjoy striking views of Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, Bridalveil Fall, El Capitan, Three Brothers, and Yosemite Falls.

Cook’s Meadow Loop
1 mile/1.6 km; 30 minutes
Begin at shuttle stop #5 or #9 (Visitor Center)
This short walk offers stunning views of Half Dome, Glacier Point, and the Royal Arches. From the shuttle bus stop at the Visitor Center (stop #5/#9), walk west along the bike path (in the direction of Yosemite Falls). At shuttle bus stop #6, cross the street (watch for traffic!) and follow the bike path, bearing left as the path forks. At the Sentinel Bridge parking area, walk out onto the bridge to enjoy a classic view of Yosemite Valley.

Vernal & Nevada Falls
Vernal Fall footbridge: 1.6 miles/2.6 km round-trip; 1.5 hours with 400 ft./122 m. elevation gain
Vernal Fall: 3 miles/4.8 km round-trip; 3 hours with 1,000 ft./366 m. elevation gain (via Mist Trail)
Nevada Fall: 7 miles/11.2 km round-trip; 5 to 6 hours with 2,000 ft./610 m. elevation gain (via Mist Trail)
Begin at Happy Isles (shuttle stop #16)
An excellent view of Vernal Fall is visible from the footbridge at 0.75 miles (1.3 km). Beyond the bridge, at 0.2 miles, the Mist Trail and the John Muir Trail diverge. To proceed directly to the top of Vernal Fall, follow the Mist Trail 0.5 mile (0.8 km) up a steep granite stairway of over 600 steps. Prepare for slippery footing and a tremendous amount of waterfall spray in spring and early summer. The top of Nevada Fall may be reached by continuing 1.3 miles (2.1 km) along the Mist Trail. Nevada Fall may also be reached via the John Muir Trail (bypassing Vernal Fall). Portions of the John Muir and Mist Trails are closed in winter due to hazardous conditions (see inset map).

Half Dome (cables are down, 2) there is any chance of rain (moisture makes the granite too slick for safety, or 3) there is any chance of lightning. Follow the Mist Trail or John Muir Trail to Nevada Fall. Begin at Happy Isles (shuttle stop #16)

DO NOT BEGIN THIS ASCENT IF: 1) the cables are down, 2) there is any chance of rain (moisture makes the granite too slick for safety, or 3) there is any chance of lightning. Follow the Mist Trail or John Muir Trail to Nevada Fall. Begin at Happy Isles (shuttle stop #16)

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