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# LAKE TAHOE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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Stopovers permitted on all Overland and Pullman tickets.

Low side-trip rates to this gem of the Sierra—twenty-three miles long, thirteen wide, over two thousand feet deep.

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 Stopovers allowed on all Rail and Pullman Tickets.  
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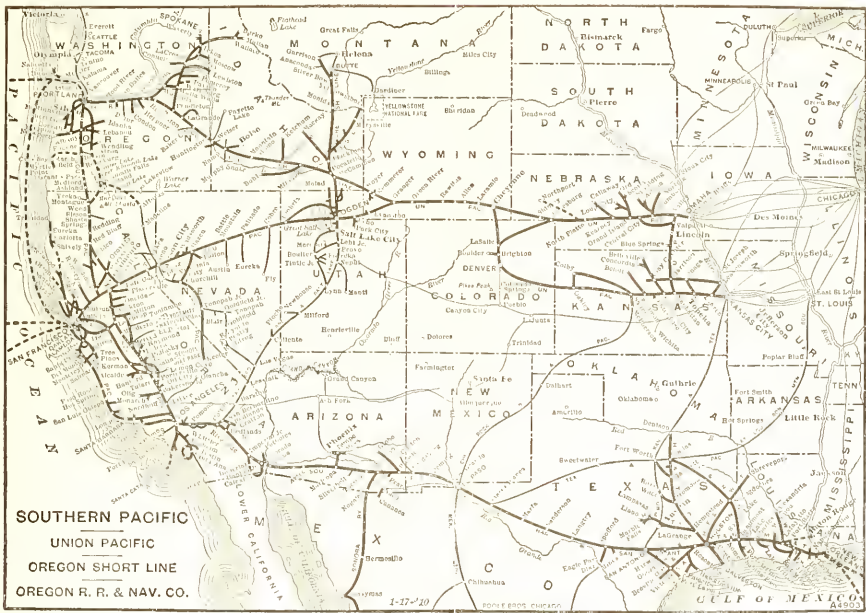
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THE SIERRA NEVADA—Snowy Range has been well-renamed by John Muir the Range of Light; for these mountains of California are the Illumined Mountains. Their mural walls rise to over thirteen thousand feet, and the battlemented peaks and domes fifteen hundred feet higher in the clouds. On their flanks and lower sides are the dark covers of the

old, gratest, coniferous forest, above, the High Sierra snow, amber like in the afternoon sun of summer, graced with lines of pearl like mountain lakes and each high peak throated with a scarf of snow. These high granite walls are here and there river by great chasms, ice sculptured on a mighty plan. In these deep Sierra rifts, the greatest in sheer walls and mighty waterfalls is the Yosemite.

The Yosemite National Park is in the heart of the Sierra in central eastern California, and is now easy of access—none of the American wonderlands more so. From north and south the Southern Pacific joins the Yosemite Valley Railroad at Merced, and the latter with a journey of eighty miles up the beautiful Merced River takes the traveler to the park line—El Portal. A stage ride of fourteen miles completes the trip to the heart of the Valley. Both at El Portal and in the Valley are such ties to civilization the year round as steam heated, electric lighted hotels with telephone, telegraph and express offices. There are comfortable tent villages in summer for those who would be out of doors, and for others, nearer to the wildness and who would rest beneath night stars, there is the white width of the Sierra, with dry, clear summer winds and sunny days.

The Yosemite is more accessible in winter, as well as an immense bonus to the attraction is added the singular impression of early snowdrifts. To the Californian to whom some quality evergreen and purple blossoms, rose henna and several kinds of wild flowers that accessibility brings the beauty of the winter sky, to the snow and kindred joys.

The Yosemite National Park covers a domain thirty-six by forty miles across, the Valley itself is a great *dissect* about seven miles long by three quarters of a mile wide. Its center is a snow peak the windings through which a tuncful river runs, a general plain below, here the streams bend alder, willow, balsam poplar, cottonwood, California and other water loving

trees, where groves of tall pines and group of black oaks are interspersed with carpets of emerald verdure made colorful by many varieties of wild flowers, such as lupines, daisies, golden-rods, mints, with green ferns in secluded dells; altogether a quaint, flowered landscape of trees and plain and stream with stretches of shrubs—the red-stemmed manzanita, the chinquapin, the beautiful California lilac (*ceanothus*), gold-cup oak and their kind.

Above this level, tranquil loveliness rise mile-high, cloud-supporting walls, grim and gray in place, here and there colored marvelously. Sculptured giant-fashion into domes and half-domes, spires and pinnacles and frowning precipices, recessed for dropping rivers, these Sierra walls encompass our meadow and make of it the flowerful floor of a great chasm.

Yet brook and meadow, green and flowering color of wild blossom, owe the sunshine and are not overborne by the carved mountains above; the daisy is as much at home in the Yosemite as is the cloud-like Half Dome at the head of the Valley. In waterfalls and sheer cliffs the Yosemite is supreme. Nowhere else do rivers thunder over cliffs a half-mile high! nor in any other place have the snow-waters of high mountains found such variety and beauty of courses down mountain walls to unity in a valley river. Out from beneath the great snow mantle of the High Sierra in spring pour the snow-waters into the cup of the Yosemite, and all summer, though in lessening volume, these forested, flowering, lake-dotted mountains, great reservoirs of crystal clear water, continue to feed the streams of the Valley. With lessening waters are compensatory advantages; the regions of the upper air are more accessible and the weather "guaranteed fine."

Entering the Valley, on the south wall are Bridal Veil Falls. Its water slips over the top of granite rock, white, ethereal, and seems to drop its tenuous film into the treetops, appearing small and feeble at first, so overpowering is the impression of the masher wall. Nearer, and there comes a sense of great power. The highest European falls is said to be the Staubbach or Dust Brook in Switzerland; but this one is higher, leaps out of a smoother channel, has greater volume of water and is seen in the midst of lofty precipices. The stream is full thirty feet wide, and falls first a distance of six hundred feet, then rushes over a sloping pile of debris and drops a perpendicular distance of three hundred feet more. But from the chief points of view it seems to make but one plunge, and the effect, Prof. J. D. Whitney said, "is that of being nine hundred feet in vertical height."

Around the shoulder, behind which Bridal Veil Creek makes



NEVADA FALLS



CATHEDRAL ROCKS

to way to the brink, are Cathedral Rocks. They get their name from their resemblance to the Duomo at Florence, and reach an elevation of 2,660 feet above the Valley floor, our spire rising sheer and solitary for 700 feet.

Across the Valley, and nearly opposite, is El Capitan. It rises 3,300 feet with an apparently vertical front, and has two faces nearly at right angles with each other. It projects into the Valley like a buttress, and presents to the visitor at a single glance a superficial area of more than four hundred acres. It is said that the stupendous bulk of El Capitan is such that it can be seen from a certain vantage-ground in a distance of many miles.

The Three Brothers and a Splintered Tower of 1,100 feet stand El Capitan and Sentinel Dome, and are the most prominent peaks of the Valley. They are the Three Brothers. The Three Brothers are the Three Brothers. The Three Brothers are the Three Brothers. The Three Brothers are the Three Brothers.

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Sentinel Rock faces Three Brothers from the south wall, and is a splintered granite tower or spire, very slender, and for about 1,500 feet below its apex is nearly perpendicular. The whole height above the river at its base is 3,059 feet.

Back of this natural and majestic monument stands Sentinel Dome, whose storm-worn top is 4,142 feet above the Valley. We will walk over its conoidal or onion-like layers when we scale the rim of the Valley.

We are now at the social center of Yosemite, and the hotel, the camps, the little postoffice, a few shops and offices, are gathered near here and opposite the great waterfall called after the Valley.

Seen from the Valley center, Yosemite Falls seem insignificant. It is, in fact, about thirty five feet wide, and when the stream is full the roar can be heard all over the Valley, and the shock of its descent shakes windows a mile away. The volume of the Valley is hard to realize that this volume of water plunges 2,600 feet—half a mile. As you walk toward the top of the path it is seen between the trees, and



HALF DOME AND GLACIER POINT



BRIDAL VEIL FALLS



seem almost an unbroken fall from its granite lip to the final surface of the Valley floor. And from this point the height, the volume of water, the gray and yellow granite wall, the green herbage that frames the picture and the gradations of color and movements of the descending torrent, combine to make it the most wonderful and beautiful waterfall in all the world. In reality it is not one, but three. Time was, doubtless, when it leaped from the topmost edge of the cliff 3,000 feet to the Valley floor, but some convulsion has shaken down the original front to a point halfway down and the first fall is now 1,600 feet of sheer descent. Then comes a series of cascades, partly hidden through 600 feet downward, and a final leap, straight down, of 400 feet.

Across the Valley the south wall thrusts out a massive shoulder, which is well named Glacier Point. At no other point is the wall so bare and sheer, and you look up, almost from its solid foot, 3,234 feet. The flag which sometimes floats from the brink of the precipice is eighteen feet long, but it is seen dimly, looking no larger than a lady's handkerchief. An iron railing at the point protects visitors, and from here fireworks are often displayed.

Once more crossing on the north or left-hand side as we go up the Valley, stands Yosemite Point, flanked on the east by Indian Canyon, so called because by means of it the Indians of early days used it to enter or leave the Valley.

The Royal Arches are near the head of the Valley, in the vast vertical wall whose highest summit is North Dome. The arches are recessed curves in the granite front, very impressive because of their size, and made by the action of frost. Much of the rock here is formed in layers like the structure of an onion, and the arches are the fractured edges of these layers. Washington's Column is the angle of the wall at this point—a tower completing the massive wall at the very head of the Valley.

Over against it, but looking down the Valley, stands the highest rock of all the region—the great South Dome, or Half Dome, as it is often called. It is 8,927 feet above sea-level, or nearly 5,000 feet above the Valley. Its massive front is cleft straight down for about 2,000 feet, and the fractured face turned outward is polished by wind and storm. The side of the Half Dome turned toward the southwest has the curve of a great helmet and is so smooth and precipitous as to almost defy the most adventurous mountain climber. Milton wrote of

"A rock piled up to the clouds  
Conspicuous afar,"



SENTINEL ROCK AND CAMP WHELAN



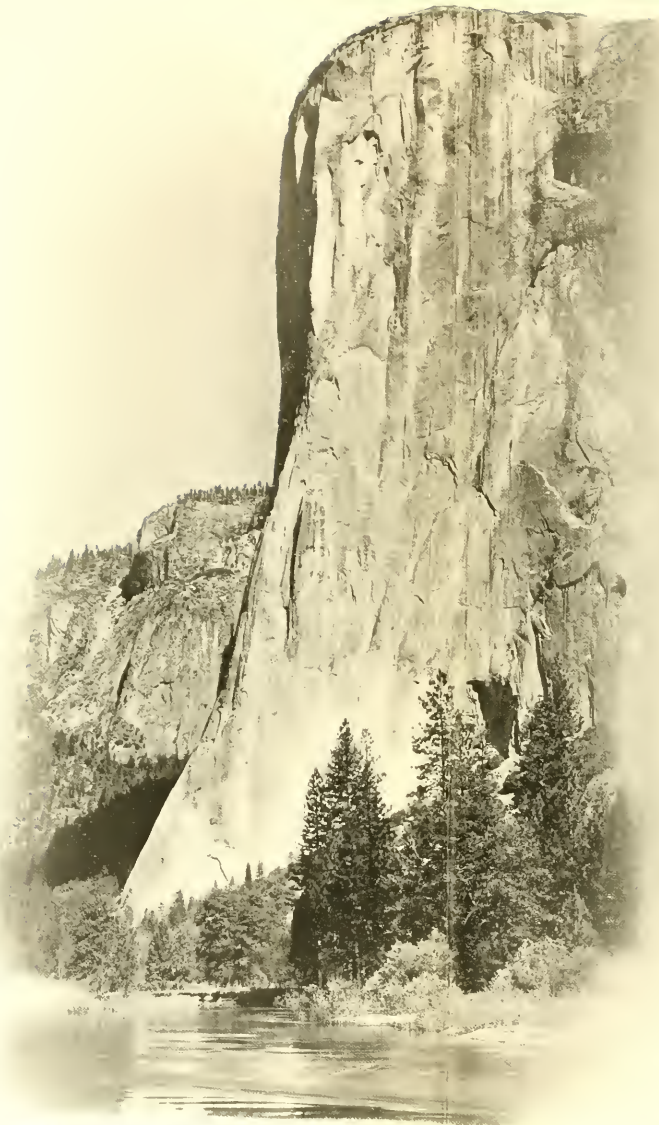


MIRROR LAKE

excursion beyond the rim of the Valley, and away from the frequented paths will reward the flower-lover with azaleas, wild roses, gillias, phloxes, lupines, potentillas, daisies, harebells, iris, the brodiaea and especially the calochortus, or Mariposa tulip, finer than any ever seen in Europe. There are five or six varieties, the *Calochortus albus* perhaps the loveliest of the

family. Muir says, "It puts the wildest mountaineer on his good behavior. With this plant the whole world would seem rich, though none other existed."

The great Valley is a tragedy of the days of wild unrest, when Nature's forces were destructive. Today she is covering the scars of the old wounding with verdure. You will be struck



with the persistence of life. Where glaciers plowed the rocky field the tenderest flowers spring; where awful forces shattered the granite walls, are now swarming files of pine, fir and balsam. High up in granite cliffs, shrub, flower and tree are clinging, content with a handful of soil, as if to live were enough. Life marches up the gorges, climbs the precipices, camps on the sides of splintered peaks and braves the storms in exposed situations, as if just to spread soft petal, notched leaf, feathery plume or green branch were enough. You will miss something in the Valley if over the beauty and music of stream and waterfall, you do not see the marching files of plant-life conquering the granite, covering the nakedness, and hear tree, shrub and flower whisper from the heights of the rapture of living. It was all ugly once—a chaos of rock and denuded gorge. We might have wondered, we could not have admired. Now all is healed with bloom and beauty—all geological terribleness veiled under grass and fern, flower and leafy verdancy of the rejoicing trees. The whole movement today is toward beauty, and you will come away rested, renewed and recreated.

For ages this great chasm, whose birthday none can tell, has lain in the heart of the Sierra, unknown and unvisited. It was but yesterday, when men were feverishly searching these western mountains for gold, that Nature gave to the world this other treasure, beautiful beyond the dreams of men, which all may share and none be poorer for the sharing.

Probably the first white man who saw it, was Dr. Hunnell, in the winter of 1850. His first glimpse was from El Capitan, and from a long way off. It is a fine view from the old Bear



YOSEMITE FALLS





YOSEMITE VALLEY FROM OLD INSPIRATION POINT







VERNAL FALLS





THE ROYAL ARCHES





SENTINEL HOTEL

## HOTELS AND CAMPS

**SENTINEL HOTEL.** J. B. Cook, Proprietor. Rates from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per day, \$20.00 to \$25.00 per week. The hotel is electric-lighted and steam-heated throughout. Wells-Fargo Express, telegraph and postoffice, stage office, barber shop and laundry will be found at the hotel. Open all the year.

**CAMP LOST ARROW.** J. B. Cook, Proprietor. Rates \$2.00 per day, at the foot of Yosemite Falls in a beautiful grove of oaks. Miss Frances A. Hickey is in charge. Open during summer season.

**CAMP CURRY.** D. A. Curry, Proprietor. Rates \$2.00 per day, at the foot of Glacier Point on the road to Happy Isles, Vernal and Nevada Falls. Open during summer season.

**CAMP AHWAHNEE.** William M. Sell, Proprietor. Rates \$3.00 per day. Beautifully located on the main road into the valley in the meadows, and about one mile from the village. Open during summer season.

**GLACIER POINT HOTEL AND CAMP.** J. B. Cook, Proprietor. Rates, hotel, \$4.00 per day. Camp, \$2.00 per day. On the top of Glacier Point commanding unsurpassed view. Mrs. Nettie Lewis is in charge. Open during summer season.

**WAWONA HOTEL.** Washburn Brothers, Proprietors. Rates \$3.50 to \$4.50 per day. Stopping place for Big Trees. Reached by stage from Sentinel Hotel or Glacier Point. Fare for round trip, including trip to Big Trees, \$15.00. Open during summer season.

**HOTEL DEL PORTAL.** Rates \$4.00 per day. At the end of the railroad and beginning of the stage ride into the valley. Open all the year. C. A. Bebb, Proprietor.

All Camps provide covered tents, comfortable beds, tables and good sanitation. Mail, express and parcels are delivered at the Camps, which also have telephone connections with all places in and about Yosemite.

# TABLE of ALTITUDES ABOVE FLOOR of VALLEY

## WATERFALLS

Broad Falls	9940 feet
Five Falls	8270 feet
Sandy Falls	7000 feet
Yosemite	5300 feet
Nevada	4600 feet
Vernal	5000 feet
Glacier	
Upper Fall	16000 feet
Middle Fall	6000 feet
Lower Fall	2000 feet
Total	23000 feet
Yosemite	8000 feet

## POINTS, PEAKS and DOMES

Yosemite Falls	4000 feet
Commercial Peak	2800 feet
Wahatchee Spring	4350 feet
Yosemite Spring	4275 feet
Sagehen Falls	4100 feet
Sagehen Falls	4125 feet
Yosemite Falls	3250 feet
Mt. Snow Peak	3000 feet
Gate of Lincoln	2000 feet
Half Dome	8000 feet
North Dome	7000 feet
Three Brothers	4800 feet
East Peak	5000 feet
El Capitan	3300 feet
Liquorice Point	1200 feet
Road to El Portal	1400 feet
Glacier Rest	6000 feet
Yosemite Falls	3220 feet
Floor of Valley, Merced	4000 feet



MAP OF YOSEMITE VALLEY

- 1 } THE THREE GRACES
- 2 }
- 3 }
- 4 BRIDAL VEIL FALLS
- 5 LEANING TOWER
- 6 MERCED RIVER
- 7 WAWONA ROAD
- 8 EL PORTAL ROAD
- 9 RIBBON FALLS
- 10 EL CAPITAN
- 11 }
- 12 } THE THREE BROTHERS
- 13 }
- 14 CATHEDRAL SPIRES
- 15 SENTINEL ROCK
- 16 UNION POINT
- 17 SENTINEL DOME
- 18 GLACIER POINT
- 19 YOSEMITE FALLS
- 20 ROYAL ARCHES
- 21 WASHINGTON COLUMN
- 22 NORTH DOME
- 23 BASKET DOME
- 24 MT. WATKINS
- 25 HALF DOME
- 26 MIRROR LAKE
- 27 VERNAL FALLS
- 28 NEVADA FALLS
- 29 LIBERTY CAP
- 30 ILLILOUETTE FALLS
- 31 MT. STARR KING
- 32 LITTLE YOSEMITE
- 33 CLOUDS' REST
- 34 TENAYA CANYON
- 35 SENTINEL HOTEL
- 36 CAMP AHWAHNEE
- 37 CAMP CURRY
- 38 CAMP LOST ARROW



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF YOSEMITE VALLEY, SHOWING SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL POINTS



THE "GRIZZLY GIANT" TROOPS AT BASE

The Big Trees (*Sequoia Gigantea*) are found only in the Sierra Nevada Range, at an altitude of from 3,500 to 8,000 feet. They are the largest and oldest living things in the world. Their only near relative is the *Sequoia Sempervirens*, found in the Coast Range of California. The Big Trees of the Sierra Nevada grow to an altitude of 340 feet, and have a base circumference of over one hundred feet. The bark sometimes exceeds forty inches in thickness. The Big Tree unquestionably antedated the Christian era. The age is determined by counting the annular rings from the center, each ring indicating a year's growth. When John Muir, best known of California scientists, carefully examined a tree burned part way through, it was found to be over 3,000 years of age.

It is believed that many of them greatly exceed that age, and Dr. David Starr Jordan, of Stanford University, thinks there is no reason why the oldest of them should not have been living seven or eight thousand years. The trunk of the Big Tree is columnar, fluted perpendicularly, and in appearance and color varies from a very light brown to cinnamon. The older trees usually have little foliage for the first hundred feet, save feathery sprays. The rule is not absolute, however, and some of the larger trees, especially those in exposed places, branch near the earth. The limbs reach an enormous size, one, eighty feet from the ground on the Grizzly Giant in the Mariposa Grove, having a diameter of nearly seven feet. The best grove is the Calaveras, South Park, Tuolumne, Mariposa and Fresno, ranging from thirty trees in the Tuolumne to thirteen hundred in the Calaveras. But along the Kings, Kaweah and Tuolumne rivers the groves become forests, and the Big Trees are distributed by thousands over wide areas, it being estimated that in the Giant Forest alone there are over six thousand trees with a diameter equaling or exceeding fifteen feet each. The best view of all the groves, however, is the Mariposa, reached by a delightful daylight stage from the Yosemite Valley, with forests all the way. Daily services are maintained during the summer months, and a well conducted resort at Mariposa sends the Big Trees to the visitors.





THE "WAWONA"—MARIPOSA GROVE OF BIG TREES

# YOSEMITE VALLEY



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# YOSEMI VALLEY



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