

Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road

This byway offers a spectacular passage over the Sierra Nevada. Drive through the highest automobile pass in California and experience an elevation change of over one mile. Experience glacier-carved granite peaks, pristine lakes, wildflower-covered meadows, and lush evergreen forests with Giant Sequoia groves in this serene yet rugged landscape.



Length: 64 miles / 102.4 km

Time Take 90 minutes to drive or to three hours to visit places

Allow: along the way.

Local Information

Yosemite National Park

209-372-0200 (visitor info)

(209) 379-1075 (roads & trails)

Visitor Services

Fees



There is a fee to enter Yosemite National Park.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



Due to the nature of Yosemite National Park, it is common to see pedestrians and mountain bikes along the byway. National Park entrance fees are reduced for people entering on foot, bicycle, or motorcycle.

Camping



For nearby campground reservations: *

[ReserveUSA.com](http://www.reserveusa.com/jsp/search/simple_search.jsp) (National Forest Campgrounds) *

[ReserveAmerica.com](<http://www.reserveamerica.com>) (State and Federal Campgrounds)

Food



Food services can be found at White Wolf and Tuolumne Meadows.

Gasoline



Gas is available at Crane Flat, located at the intersection of Big Oak Flat Road and Tioga Road, except in the winter. White Wolf and Tuolumne Meadows also offer fuel services.



Lodging

Lodging services can be found at White Wolf and Tuolumne Meadows.

Special Considerations

The maximum speed limit is 45 mph along the byway. There are limited fueling opportunities, and there is a National Park entrance fee. To protect Yosemite's wilderness, there are quotas for overnight use. Free wilderness permits are required and are available at ranger stations and visitor centers. Be sure to read the information you receive with your permit and observe all regulations.

The byway is closed by snow in late winter. Please call ahead for conditions at 209-372-0200.

Restrictions

Tioga Road is closed during the winter from Crane Flat Junction to Lee Vining due to snowfall. Please call 209-372-0200 for updated road and weather information. Also, there is a National Park entrance fee.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

The best time to drive the byway is from mid- to late May through mid-November.

High Season

June, July, and August are the busiest months to drive the byway.

Map and Directions



Legend:

Point of Interest	Campground	Featured Byway	Water	State Border
Park	Picnic/Rest Area	America's Byways	Wildlife Refuge	Urban Area
Mountain	Interstate	Other Byway	Wilderness Area	Tribal Nation
City	U.S. Highway	Other Road	Other Federal Lands	Military Base
Capital	State Highway	Trail	Other State Lands	

Driving Directions

- Begin at the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park, at the State Route 20 junction south of Mather.

- Follow SR 120 as it winds through Yosemite National Park.
- End at the Tioga Pass gate.

Getting to the Byway



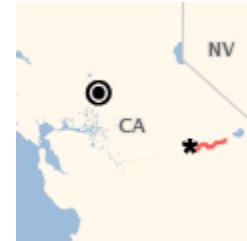
Nearby cities

Sacramento, CA (136 miles / 218.87 km, 2 hours 45 minutes)

Start: ● 2892 N St. Sacramento, CA
 N 38.569° W 121.470° [?]

- Directions:**
- Get on CA-99 south.
 - Turn left on CA-4 east.
 - Turn right on CA-4 east.
 - Turn onto CA-120.
 - Stay on CA-120 until you reach Yosemite National Park.
 - The byway begins on CA-120 at Yosemite National Park.

Junction with byway: * CA-120 at the N entrance of Yosemite National Park near Aspen Valley, CA
 N 37.810° W 119.873° [?]

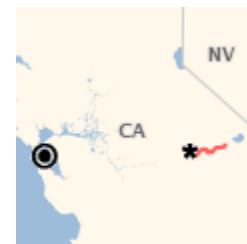


San Francisco, CA (132 miles / 212.43 km, 3 hours 15 minutes)

Start: ● 500 5th St. San Francisco, CA
 N 37.778° W 122.400° [?]

- Directions:**
- Get on I-80.
 - Merge onto I-580 east.
 - Continue straight as you merge onto I-205.
 - Get onto I-5 north and get off on CA-120 east.
 - Stay on CA-120 until you reach Yosemite National Park where the byway begins.

Junction with byway: * CA-120 at the N entrance of Yosemite National Park near Aspen Valley, CA
 N 37.810° W 119.872° [?]



Road Trip: National Park Tour: Yosemite National Park

Departure: Tuolumne Meadows, California

Destination: Big Oak Flat Station, California

Time to allow: 2 days

The Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road National Scenic Byway is nestled within the borders of Yosemite National Park. Full of scenic, natural and historical treasures, the byway offers numerous opportunities for both learning and recreation.

Travel time along the byway itself is about 90 minutes, however, visitors will want to dedicate an entire day or more to really discover the unique treasures of Yosemite National Park. This tour of Yosemite along the Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads and Highway 41 (Wawona Road) will take you through the following:

- The nearly 10,000 ft. Tioga Pass from the Inyo National Forest into Yosemite
- The beautiful Tuolumne Meadows
- Views of Tuolumne Peak, Tenaya Lake, and Mt. Hoffmann
- Crane and Big Oak Flat
- The Merced and Tuolumne Sequoia Groves
- Hetch Hetchy Reservoir
- Yosemite Valley (including Bridalveil Falls, Glacier Point, and Half Dome)
- Historic Wawona
- The Tunnel Trees of Mariposa Grove

Day 1

- **Start: Tuolumne Meadows**



Suggested time at this stop:

30 minutes

Get out here and take advantage of all the the tours and tram rides available. Expect to spend several hours learning and exploring. You might also take advantage of the concessions offered by the Park. There are many sights to see and various activities not mentioned here, but take your time and enjoy this national treasure.

- **Stop 2: Tenaya Lake**

From previous stop: 30 minutes / 15 mi (24.0 km)

Directions: Continue along the Byway.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

Surrounded by forest, grassland, and granite cliffs, Tenaya Lake is the perfect spot to stop along the Byway. If it's hot out, brave the alpine waters or just relax on the sandy beach.

- **Stop 3: Tuolumne Grove**

From previous stop: 20 minutes / 10 mi (16.0 km)

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

The former route of the Big Oak Flat Road leads downhill from Crane Flat into the Tuolumne Grove of Big Trees, a cluster of about 25 sequoias. A self-guided nature trail guides visitors.

- **Stop 4: El Capitan**



From previous stop: 30 minutes / 15 mi (24.0 km)

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

World-famous for rock climbing, BASE jumping, and other frightening activities, El Capitan is the tallest cliff in the valley. Watch the climbers from a distance for a few minutes, or spend a week clinging to the finely textured granite.

- **End: Yosemite Village**

From previous stop: 10 minutes / 5 mi (8.0 km)

Directions: Continue along Big Oak Flat Road for a few miles.

Yosemite Village is the heart of the National Park. Here you'll find lodges, gift shops, and all kinds of amenities.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 45 miles / 72.0 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 2 hours 30 minutes

Day 2

- **Stop 1: Yosemite Falls**

From previous stop: 30 minutes / 15 mi (24.0 km)

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

At 1,430 feet, Yosemite Falls is the tallest waterfall in North America. Take a short walk to the lower falls or embark on the all-day hike to the upper falls for a rewarding view.

- **Stop 2: Half Dome**



From previous stop: same location

Directions: From Yosemite Village, take the shuttle to the trailhead.

Suggested time at this stop: 20 minutes

One of the most famous sights in the valley, Half Dome's unique shape soars over 1300 feet from the valley floor. Take a couple of days to climb the 8.5 mile trail and cable climb to Half Dome's top or just photograph it from the bottom.

- **Stop 3: Merced Grove**

From previous stop: 45 minutes / 2 mi (3.2 km)

Directions: Park at the trailhead and hike in to Merced Grove.

Suggested time at this stop: 20 minutes

The Merced Grove is one of three sequoia groves in Yosemite Park. Merced is the only grove in the park that is not accessible by car. A rewarding two-mile hike leads the traveler to the grove of about 20 trees.

- **End: Big Oak Flat Station**

From previous stop: same location

The Big Oak Flat Information Station offers an immense amount of information about Yosemite National Park and is a definite stop for those wanting to learn more about the area.

Totals for Day 2

Total Distance Traveled: 17 miles / 27.2 km



Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 1 hour 10 minutes