

Wild Sierra Trails and Nature Tour

September 8-16, 2028

9 days | 8 nights



The Sierra Nevada stretches nearly 400 miles along eastern California, forming a natural divide between the Central Valley and the Great Basin. The range is home to Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon National Parks, as well as twenty wilderness areas and two national monuments. Among its most notable landmarks are Lake Tahoe, the largest alpine lake in North America, and Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the contiguous United States. Uplifted about four million years ago, the range's ancient granite was shaped by glaciers into the dramatic cliffs, valleys, and peaks seen today.

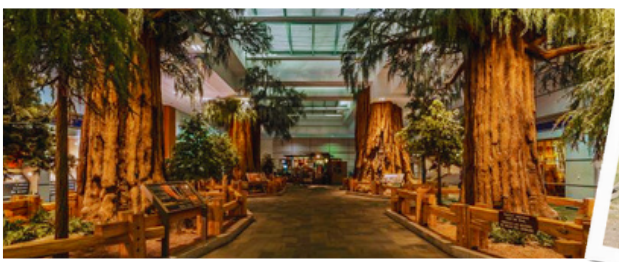
Established in 1890, Yosemite National Park encompasses 1,169 square miles and is renowned for its granite cliffs, waterfalls, giant sequoias, alpine lakes, and diverse ecosystems. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, also established in 1890, are famous for their giant sequoia groves, including the Giant Forest, home to five of the world's ten largest trees.

An extensive trail network, including the Pacific Crest Trail and John Muir Trail, offers exceptional opportunities for hiking and backpacking. Visitors also enjoy mountain biking, whitewater rafting, skiing, camping, and scenic drives. Whether seeking adventure or solitude, millions visit the Sierra Nevada each year to experience its spectacular landscapes and natural beauty.

Day 1

Travel to Fresno, California

Your first day will begin with meeting the group at Fresno Yosemite International Airport. The group will travel by van toward Sequoia National Park where we will spend 4 nights at Wuksachi Lodge. Along the way, we will make a stop at the Big Stump Grove before arriving at the lodge. (L, D)









Day 2

Sequoia National Park

"And into the forest I go, to lose my mind and find my soul" — John Muir

This day will be dedicated to discovering Sequoia National Park. Sequoia is home to some of the largest trees on the planet and we will have the amazing privilege of walking amongst them as we explore Moro Rock and the trails around the Giant Forest Museum. These living, breathing giants span not just size and space, but time. Some of these trees have lived in the Sierras for up to 3000 year! Dinner and free time back at the lodge. (B, L, D)



Day 3

More Big Trees!

Today we will have breakfast at the lodge before traveling to the General Sherman Tree trailhead. This will offer ample hiking opportunities for all ability levels while also meeting the largest single-stemmed tree on planet Earth. The General Sherman Tree comes in at a whopping 275 feet tall with a diameter of 36.5 feet and weighing approximately 2.7 million pounds and is estimated to be 2,300-2,700 years old (B, L, D)





Day 4

Kings Canyon National Park

If you are an early riser, join a tour leader for a sunrise hike on the Little Baldy trail for a 3.4 mile hike to welcome the day, if not, grab a cup of coffee and enjoy a peaceful morning at the lodge. We will be exploring Kings Canyon National Park after breakfast. Along the way we will make some stops at the Kings Canyon Visitor Center, Muir Grove, Kings Canyon Overlook, Panoramic Point, Roaring River Falls, or other scenic spots along the way. (B, L, D)

Day 5

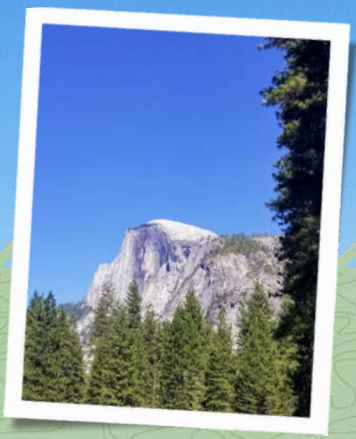
Yosemite National Park

Today we will make our way north to Yosemite National Park. En route, we will stop to explore the Mariposa Grove and Wawona. The grove is home to around 500 mature Giant Sequoia trees including the Grizzly Giant. The Big Tree Loop will give us a chance to stretch our legs and the Yosemite History Center will give us a peak into the past of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. After lunch we will continue on to Yosemite Valley Lodge for a 4-night stay. (B, L, D)









Day 6

Yosemite Valley

"But no temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite. Every rock in its walls seems to glow with life."-John Muir. Today we will explore the Yosemite valley via the park service shuttle to take in some of the hot spots the valley has to offer. There will also be some hiking options available depending on your ability/desire to hike including the valley floor to Glacier Point hike that culminates with amazing views of the valley, Half Dome, El Capitan, and more. (B, L, D)

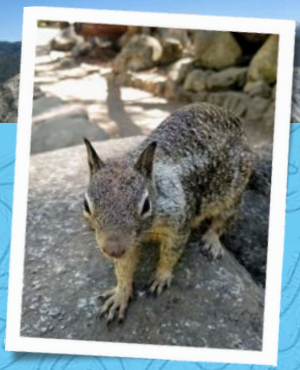
Day 7

Tioga Road - Yosemite NP

Today we will take the Tioga Road; the gateway to Yosemite's Alpine Wonderland, in search of granite peaks, glassy lakes, and lush mountain meadows. On the journey you will see sights such as Touolumne Grove, Yosemite Creek, Luken, May and Tenaya Lakes, Pothole Dome, and Touolumne Meadow. Lunch will be along the way and we should have some free time in the valley in the evening. (B, L,D)



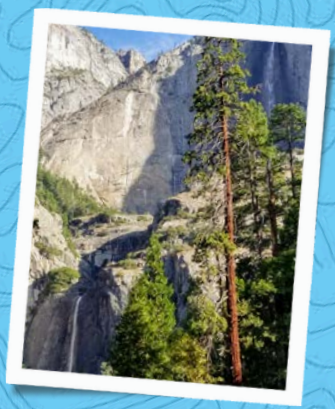




Day 8

Glacier Point Road - Yosemite NP

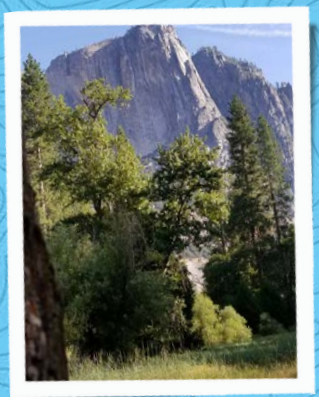
Your last full day in the park will be spent exploring the Glacier Point Road that takes travelers to the rim of Yosemite Valley, some 3,200 feet above the valley floor. Along the 30 mile route we will stop for several excursions to take in the scenery. Hikes may include Summit and McGurk Meadows, Taft Point, Sentinel Dome, Washburn Point, and Glacier Point. These trails offer some of the most breathtaking views in the Sierra Nevada Mountains within two miles of the trailhead. (B, L, D)



Day 9

Headed Home

"Therefore we are all, in some sense, mountaineers, and going to the mountains is going home." - John Muir. However, we must depart from this miraculous place and return having connected more deeply to this planet and gained a greater respect for this interconnected world we live in. Our journey today will take us back to Fresno for an early afternoon flight home. (B, L)



TRIP COSTS



$4,200 per person based on double occupancy - $2,500 single supplement.

Trip cost includes all taxes, park & guide fees, tips, lodging, meals & ground transportation, as well as a collection of high-quality photos from ODC staff. It does NOT include flights to/from Fresno, trip insurance, personal items/souvenirs, or alcoholic beverages.



PAYMENT SCHEDULE:
$1,500 deposit due at registration
$2,000 due November 1, 2027
Balance due April 1, 2028

Please note there is a 4% surcharge for credit card payments

CANCELLATIONS:
Inquire with trip leaders



QUESTIONS:
Mike Graves mikeg@outdoordiscovery.org
or
Jamie Krupka jamie@outdoordiscovery.org

**Itinerary subject to change*