



MAY 1, 2020 to OCTOBER 31, 2020 ONLY!

WHY HALF DOME? This is THE classic hike of Yosemite National Park, taking in Vernal Falls and Nevada Falls and then continuing up to the cabled summit of Half Dome. The summit should not be attempted by folks afraid of heights, or in other than excellent physical condition. The final 400 meters are accomplished by pulling yourself up a 45-degree incline using fixed cables on narrow temporary steps. Bring a pair of good gloves to save your hands. Start this trek early in the morning, hoping to be at the top by noon and back down to the valley before dark. The 5 km option turns around at Vernal Falls, and the 11 km option turns around at Nevada Falls. Pre-purchase of permit required for doing the actual climb of the Half Dome cable/stairs. See page 6 for references.

Special Programs – None

Start: Yosemite National Park, CA. *GPS units do not always provide accurate directions for Park. If you do use a GPS unit, just keep in mind that if there's a conflict between what the road sign says and what your GPS unit says, the road sign is correct (and your GPS unit isn't).*

Directions: Coming from Mariposa, CA Drive EAST on CA-140, to Yosemite National Park (40 miles). Page 5 has various mileages to CA and NV cities. **Gas is not available in Yosemite Valley! Fill up before arrival.**

Note: You will need to pay an entry fee or have a National Parks pass to enter Yosemite National Park. Get the latest NPS Hiking Trails map from the entry gate Ranger.

Year-round Route:
Valley Shuttle

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System

- Campground
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Restroom
- Walk-In Campground

Yosemite Valley Shuttle System

The Yosemite Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7 am to 10 pm and serves stops in numerical order. Shuttles run daily every 20 to 30 minutes, depending on time of day. In the event of snow and ice, buses may suspend service to shuttle stops #15 - #19.

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	Yosemite Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2	Yosemite Village	9	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	The Ahwahnee	10	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	Degnan's Deli	11	Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5	Valley Visitor Center	12	Curry Village		
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	13	Curry Village Parking		
7	Camp 4	14	Upper Pines Campground		

CA-140 East becomes Southside Drive once inside the park. Follow signs for Yosemite Village and day parking. The second bridge you come to, just before Yosemite Village, is Sentinel Bridge (Shuttle Stop 11). Bear Right at Sentinel Bridge (don't cross it) and follow signs for Curry Village. We suggest parking at the Curry Village Skating Rink, although any parking lot near Curry Village will work. After parking, take the free Park shuttle to Happy Isles (Shuttle Stop 16).



AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB

— ESTABLISHED 1976 —

Yosemite National Park – Half Dome

27K/11K/5K Rated: 5E Y0765

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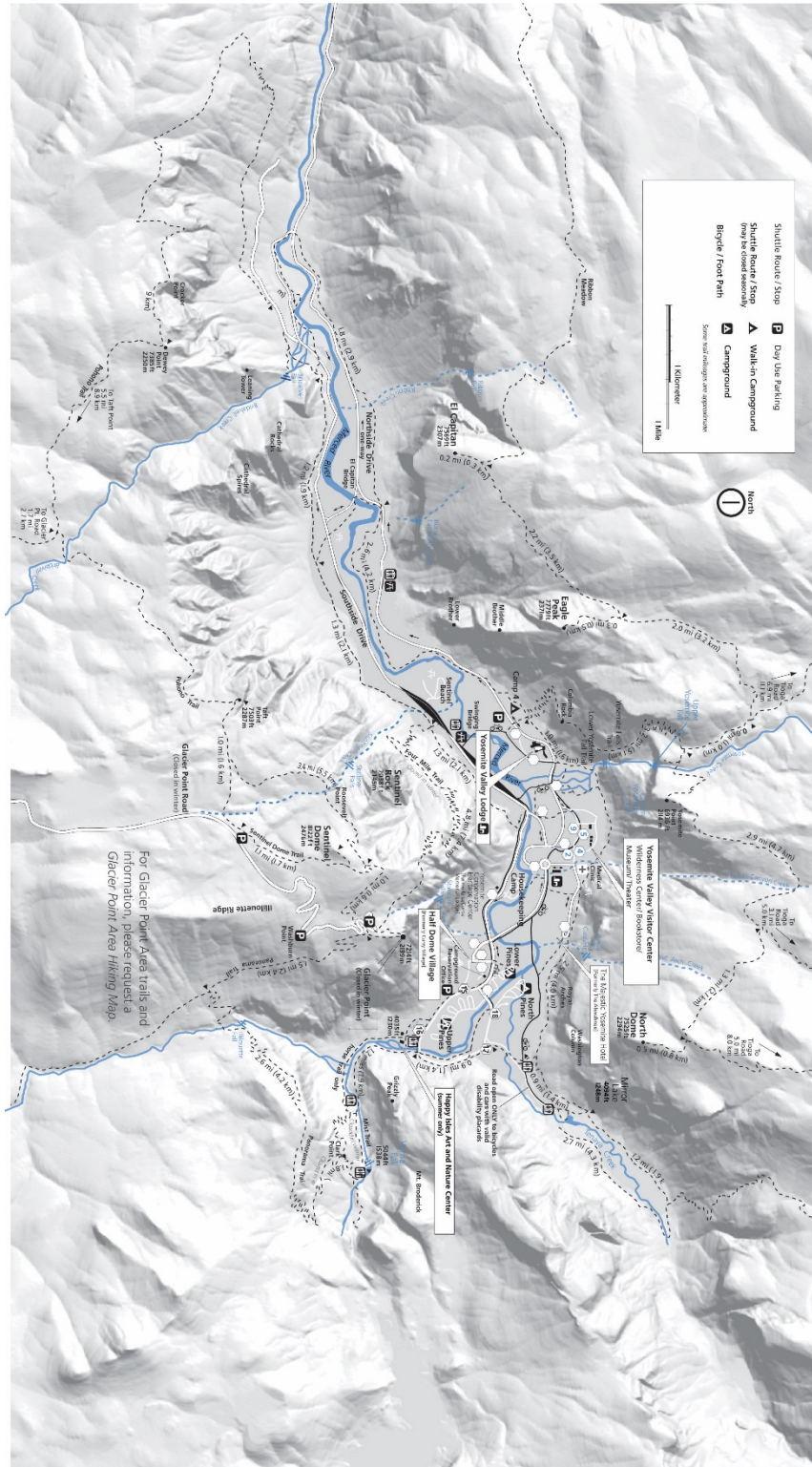
1. Starting from Happy Isles Trailhead, cross the Merced River Bridge and follow signs toward Vernal Falls, Nevada Falls, and Half Dome. Carry lots of water, energy snacks and lunch! To lighten the load, carry a water filtration system to refill bottles – plenty of places to top off. **Plan for the 27K hike to take 12 hours – don't forget the gloves for the cables to the top.**
2. At over 1k, arrive at Vernal Falls Bridge (toilets and water).
3. Continue on Mist Trail to top of Vernal Falls at 2.5k. **5 km option turns back here.** The intersection with the John Muir Trail is at 4k (toilets).
4. At 5.5k, you arrive at the top of Nevada Falls. **11 km option turns right, crosses bridge at the top of the Falls, and returns via John Muir Trail.**
5. Walk past Little Yosemite Valley camp at 6k. Little Yosemite Valley has the last toilet facilities on the hike, and the last drinking water access. Use the river for water if you have a filter.
6. At the next intersection leave the John Muir Trail to start the Half Dome Trail about 8.5k. Soon you will have an incredible view of Half Dome and the infamous cables.
7. The first half of the summit assault is steep and at times you will be scrambling along steep rocky switchbacks. There is a flat spot to rest before the cable ascent, allowing time to contemplate the 400 yards to the top, and pick a time when the crowd Assault temporarily thins out a bit.
8. On the way down, we suggest taking the John Muir Trail back to the Valley. It's not as steep (easier on the knees), and not as wet and slippery from the Falls. *Congratulations on completing an iconic hike!*

Event related assistance or suggestions for improvement please contact:

Carl Cordes (702) 540-6632 or email:

pa_rd@ava.org

Be sure to log back into the OSB system (my.ava.org) to finish/complete your online registration after doing the walk. The OSB system does not deduct any walking fee from a walker's Event Bank until they have submitted walk completion info including the date the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that walker is participating in. (NOTE: The \$2 fee for event PDF Download is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the pdf is downloaded. This prepaid fee is applied against the credit fee(s) at the OSB "Finish Table" when you submit the walk completion info. However, the \$2 "coupon" for the downloaded PDF expires 60 days from download.)



Yosemite Valley Hiking Map
Yosemite National Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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Yosemite Valley Hiking Map

Easy (flat and short)

0.5 miles/0.8 km round-trip, 20 minutes

Bridalveil Fall
Begin at the Bridalveil Fall parking area. A paved trail leads from the parking area to the base of the waterfall, which flows all year. Walk back to the parking area via the same trail. Expect lots of spray in spring and early summer. Trail is icy in winter.

Lower Yosemite Fall

1.1 miles/1.7 km loop trail, 30 minutes **(shuttle stop #6)**
Begin at the Lower Yosemite Fall 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.

Cook's Meadow Loop

1 mile/1.6 km, 30 minutes **(shuttle stop #5)**
Begin at **shuttle stop #5**.

This short walk offers stunning views of Half Dome, Glacier Point, and the Royal Arches. 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 Half Dome (photographed by Ansel Adams) before returning to the parking area. Follow the boardwalk back across the meadow, cross the street, and turn right to get to the Visitor Center (stop #5).

Mirror Lake/Meadow

2 miles/3.2 km round-trip to lake, 1 hour (dry in summer and fall)
5 miles/8 km loop around the lake, 2 hours **(shuttle stop #17)**
Begin at Mirror Lake Trailhead (shuttle stop #17). difficult, flat and long.)

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.

Hiking Safety and Etiquette

- **Wading and/or swimming upstream from waterfalls is extremely dangerous.**
- Each year, unsuspecting visitors drown or are swept over to their deaths.
- Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts causes trail erosion—and is both dangerous and illegal.
- Carry (and drink) plenty of water: a leading cause of injuries on the trail is dehydration. Be sure to treat river, stream, lake, or spring water before drinking.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather and conditions.
- Bears and other wildlife can be present on trails at any time of the day or night. Feeding and approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal. Keep food within arm's reach.
- Rocks in and around waterways are often slippery. Use caution when crossing streams.
- Pets and bicycles are only permitted on paved bike paths.
- Horses and mules have the right of way on trails.
- Park out what you pack in, including toilet paper.
- Trails are often rocky and steep. Travel carefully and at your own risk.

Moderate (flat & long)

1.3 miles/2.0 km round-trip, 45 minutes

Valley Loop trail
This trail follows many of the Valley's first east-west trails and wagon roads. The half-loop trail crosses the Valley on El Capitan Bridge. Continue on to Bridalveil Fall for the full loop. The Valley Loop Trail provides solitude with occasional route-finding difficulty. Hike through meadows, forests, and Yosemite Falls. Bikes and pets not permitted on the Valley Loop Trail.

Strenuous (steep and long)

9.6 miles/15.5 km round-trip, 6 to 8 hours

Four Mile Trail
In summer months, take the El Capitan Shuttle to the trailhead. Trail can also be accessed from year-round shuttle stop #7, adding about 1/2 mile to the total distance. This trail begins near the base of Sentinel Rock and climbs to the top of Yosemite Valley at Glacier Point. To make this a one-way trip, make a reservation (required) at any tour desk for a one-way ticket on the Glacier Point Tour (5), then hike down. Do not expect to return to Glacier Point or the Valley by bus without a reservation.

Panorama Trail

8.5 miles/13.7 km one-way to Valley floor (via Mist Trail); 6 hours for 3,200 ft/975 m descent
Begin at the Panorama Trailhead, Glacier Point.

As its name implies, this trail offers some incredible panoramic views of Yosemite Valley. The trail crosses Illouette Fall after 2 miles (3.2 km) and continues partially uphill along the Panorama Cliff. At the top of Nevada Fall, the trail joins the Mist and John Muir Trails to Happy Isles. You can make a reservation (required) at any tour desk for a one-way ticket on the Glacier Point Tour (5), then hike down.

Upper Yosemite Fall

7.2 miles/11.6 km round-trip, 6 to 8 hours; 2,700 ft/823 m elevation gain
Begin at the Upper Yosemite Fall Trailhead, Camp 4 (shuttle stop #7)

One of Yosemite's oldest historic trails (built 1873 to 1877), the Yosemite Falls trail leads to the top of North America's tallest waterfall, 2,425 feet (739 m) above the valley floor. Do not stray off the marked path, as you will find steep drops adjacent to the trail. Enjoy spectacular views from Columbia Rock (located one mile (and dozens of switchbacks) from the trailhead).

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: 2.4 miles/3.9 km round-trip, 3 hours with 1,000 ft/305 m elevation gain (via Mist Trail)
Nevada Fall: 2.4 miles/3.9 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)

You can see Vernal Fall from the footbridge at 0.8 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.

Half Dome

A permit is required to summit Half Dome
(cables typically up from late May to early October) via **Mist Trail** 14 miles/22.5 km round-trip, via **John Muir Trail** 6.3 miles/10.1 km round-trip, via **Mist and John Muir Trails** 15.2 miles/24.4 km round-trip, 10 to 12 hours; 4,800 ft/1,463 m elevation gain. 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. Continue on the trail, following the signs to Half Dome. The last 900 feet (275 m) of trail is a very steep climb up the east side of Half Dome. Cables assist hikers on the final 400 feet (122 m). They consist of two steel cables, about 3 feet apart and suspended waist high from pipes set in the rock. The top of Half Dome is a fairly large and level open surface. Camping is not permitted on top of Half Dome.

4/2018

Yosemite National Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior





Mileage and Driving Time from Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

Estimated times vary depending on road and weather conditions

Destination	Time	Distance	Destination	Time	Distance
Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest (Schulman Grove)	4 h 15 m	180 mi/288 km	Hetch Hetchy parking	1 h 15 m	38 mi/61 km
Arch Rock Entrance Station	20 m	11 mi/18 km	Kings Canyon National Park		
Badger Pass	45 m	20 mi/32 km	Grant Grove via Highway 41	3 h 30 m	150 mi/242 km
Bakersfield via Highway 41	4 h	201 mi/324 km	Cedar Grove via Highway 41	4 h	180 mi/290 km
Bakersfield via Highway 140	4 h 15 m		Lake Tahoe via Highways 120 and 49	5 h 15 m	200 mi/322 km
Bass Lake	1 h 30 m	57 mi/98 km	Lake Tahoe via Highway 140 and Sacramento	5 h 45 m	265 mi/426 km
Big Oak Flat Entrance Station	45 m	25 mi/40 km	Lake Tahoe via Tioga Road	4 h 30 m	198 mi/319 km
Big Oak Flat/El Portal Roads junction	10 m	6 mi/10 km	Las Vegas via Tioga Road and Highway 95	8 h	399 mi/642 km
Bishop via Tioga Road	3 h 15 m	146 mi/235 km	Las Vegas via Bakersfield and Highway 15	8 h 30 m	475 mi/764 km
Bishop via Bakersfield	7 h 30 m	428 mi/685 km	Lee Vining via Tioga Road	2 h	74 mi/119 km
Bodie SHP	2 h 45 m	107 mi/171 km	Lee Vining via Highways 88 and 395	6 h 15 m	276 mi/444 km
Bridalveil Creek Campground	45 m	25 mi/40 km	Lone Pine	4 h 30 m	200 mi/322 km
Bridalveil Fall parking	10 m	6 mi/10 km	Los Angeles via Highway 41	6 h	313 mi/504 km
Carson City via Tioga Road	3 h 30 m	188 mi/303 km	Los Angeles via Highway 140	6 h 15 m	276 mi/444 km
Chinquapin	30 m	14 mi/23 km	Los Angeles via Tioga Road	8 h	410 mi/670 km
Crane Flat	30 m	16 mi/26 km	Mammoth Lakes via Tioga Road	2 h 30 m	106 mi/161 km
Crescent City	10 h 30 m	536 mi/863 km	Mammoth Lakes via Highways 58 and 14	9 h	464 mi/747 km
Death Valley via Tioga Road	6 h 15 m	270 mi/435 km	Mammoth Lakes via Highways 88 and 395	7 h	340 mi/547 km
Death Valley via Highways 58 and 14	8 h 30 m	447 mi/715 km	Manteca via Highway 120	2 h 45 m	117 mi/188 km
Devils Postpile National Monument	3 h	112 mi/180 km	Manteca via Highway 140	2 h 45 m	133 mi/214 km
El Portal	30 m	14 mi/23 km	Mariposa (town)	1 h 15 m	44 mi/71 km
Eureka via Highway 101	9 h	451 mi/726 km	Mariposa Grove	1 h 15 m	37 mi/60 km
Fish Camp	1 h 15 m	39 mi/63 km	May Lake parking	1 h 20 m	43 mi/69 km
Fresno via Highway 41	2 h 15 m	94 mi/151 km	Merced	2 h	81 mi/130 km
Fresno via Highway 140	3 h	136 mi/219 km	Merced Grove	40 m	21 mi/34 km
Glacier Point	1 h	30 mi/48 km	Modesto via Highway 120	2 h 30 m	112 mi/180 km
Grand Canyon National Park			Modesto via Highway 140	2 h 30 m	117 mi/188 km
North Entrance via Highways 120 & 6	12 h 15 m	636 mi/1024 km	Mono Lake (South Tufa)	2 h 15 m	78 mi/125 km
South Entrance via Highways 120 & 95	13 h	718 mi/1155 km	Monterey via Highway 140	4 h 30 m	204 mi/328 km
South Entrance via Bakersfield	11 h 30 m	705 mi/1135 km	Napa	4 h 30 m	204 mi/328 km
Groveland	1 h 15 m	49 mi/79 km			
Oakdale	2 h 15 m	96 mi/155 km			
Oakhurst via Highway 41	1 h 30 m	55 mi/89 km			
Oakhurst via Highways 140 and 49	2 h	70 mi/113 km			
Oakland via Highway 120	3 h 45 m	186 mi/300 km			
Oakland via Highway 140	3 h 45 m	202 mi/325 km			
Placerville via Highways 120 and 49	3 h 30 m	153 mi/246 km			
Porcupine Flat Campground	1 h 10 m	38 mi/61 km			
Redwood National Park (Orick)	12 h	493 mi/789 km			
Reno via Highways 140 and 80	6 h	322 mi/515 km			
Reno via Tioga Road	4 h	218 mi/351 km			
Sacramento via Highway 120	4 h	160 mi/257 km			
Sacramento via Highway 140	4 h	195 mi/314 km			
San Diego via Highway 41	8 h	441 mi/710 km			
San Diego via Highway 140	8 h 15 m	484 mi/779 km			
San Francisco via Highway 120	4 h	195 mi/314 km			
San Francisco via Highway 140	4 h	211 mi/340 km			
San Jose via Highway 120	4 h	182 mi/293 km			
San Jose via Highway Highways 140 & 152	4 h 15 m	196 mi/315 km			
Santa Cruz via Highway 140	4 h 30 m	200 mi/322 km			
Sequoia National Park					
Lodgepole/Giant Forest via Highways 41 & 180	4 h	175 mi/282 km			
Lodgepole/Giant Forest via Visalia	4 h	185 mi/298 km			
Sonora	2 h	76 mi/122 km			
South Entrance	1 h	35 mi/56 km			
Stockton via Highway 120	3 h 15 m	115 mi/185 km			
Stockton via Highway 140	3 h 15 m	146 mi/235 km			
Tamarack Flat Campground	45 m	23 mi/37 km			
Tenaya Lake	1 h 15 m	47 mi/76 km			
Tioga Pass	1 h 45 m	62 mi/100 km			
Tunnel View	15 m	8 mi/13 km			
Tuolumne Meadows	1 h 30 m	55 mi/89 km			
Tuolumne Grove	30 m	17 mi/27 km			
Wawona	45 m	27 mi/44 km			
White Wolf	1 h	31 mi/50 km			
Yosemite Creek Campground	1 h 15 m	34 mi/55 km			



September 2007



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This unofficial abridged information excerpted from <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hdpermits.htm> as a courtesy. Go to the website for current information on applying and paying for permits.

Half Dome Permits for Day Hikers

Permits to hike to the top of Half Dome are required seven days per week when the cables are up. *The cables are normally up the Friday before the last Monday in May (Memorial Day) and come down the day after the second Monday in October (Columbus Day).* These dates are subject to change based on conditions (check current status). This means that for this May 1 to Oct 31 seasonal walk you will not be able to do the 27K in May prior to Memorial Day weekend and after Columbus Day in October or if you do not have a permit.

A maximum of 300 hikers are allowed each day on the Half Dome Trail beyond the base of the sub dome.

Permits for day hikers are distributed by lottery via www.Recreation.gov, with one preseason lottery having an application period in March and daily lotteries during the hiking season.

Half Dome permits for day hikers do not include any camping, lodging, or overnight accommodations of any kind. Half Dome permit holders and alternates should bring a photo ID and the email confirmation indicating that the permit has been paid.

Preseason Lottery

During the preseason lottery, 225 permits are available for each day. The application period for this lottery is from March 1 through March 31 (eastern time). Applicants will receive an email with lottery results in mid-April or can get results online or by calling Recreation.gov.

Daily Lottery

Approximately 50 permits are available each day by lottery during the hiking season. These permits are available based on the estimated rate of under-use and cancellation of permits (the exact number may change through the summer). The daily lotteries have an application period two days prior to the hiking date with a notification late that night. (So, to hike on Saturday, you would apply on Thursday and receive an email notification of results late on Thursday night. Results are also available online, or by phone the next morning.) The application period is from midnight to 1 pm Pacific time.

Fees

Two separate fees are collected. The first fee, which is charged at the time you submit an application, is \$10. This non-refundable fee, which is per application (not per person), is charged by Recreation.gov for the costs of processing your permit application.

The second fee is \$10 per person and is charged only when you receive a permit. This fee pays for park rangers checking for Half Dome permits and providing Half Dome visitors with hiking and safety information. The \$10 fee is fully refundable if you cancel your permit by 9 pm Pacific time the day before your hiking date or if the cables are not up on the date for which your permit is valid.