



2008 Winter Activities

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Yosemite National Park offers visitors unparalleled access to some of the most beautiful vistas on earth. Breathtaking seasonal landscapes, discounted lodging rates and a wide variety of recreational activities make Yosemite a spectacular fall and winter destination.

Winter visitors should be aware that automobile tire chains may be required from October through March due to weather and road conditions. For 24-hour ski conditions, call 209-372-1000. For road and weather information, call 209-372-0200, or visit www.BadgerPass.com.

Yosemite Valley Activities

Ice Skating – The Curry Village outdoor ice skating rink offers guests the pleasure of ice-skating under the shadow of two of Yosemite's most dramatic sites – Half Dome and Glacier Point. First established in 1928 when the Yosemite Winter Club flooded a parking lot, the rink is located in the western part of Curry Village and offers all the amenities of a modern skating surface. A large supply of rental skates is maintained and skaters may take advantage of the warming hut, cubbies for shoe storage and hot drinks and snacks. Helmets are available at no charge. For those not skating, a large open area adjacent to the rink offers a warm fire pit where guests can gather, watch the activities, sip hot chocolate and revel in the beauty of Yosemite in winter. Subject to conditions, skating sessions are from 3:30 to 6 p.m., and 7 to 9:30 p.m. early November through March. The rink is open for an additional morning (8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.) and afternoon session (noon to 2:30 p.m.) on weekends. For ice conditions and more information, call 209-372-8341.

Interpretive Programs – The number of free and fee-based interpretive programs offered by DNC has doubled since the company created an interpretive services department in 1999. Winter programs include Wee Wild Ones for kids six and under, Full Moon snowshoe walks with interpretive messaging, Historic Ahwahnee tours and a number of wildlife and ecology-based programs.

Guided Sightseeing Tours – The best way to see and learn about Yosemite's spectacular sights is by guided sightseeing tour. The two-hour Valley Tour, conducted in a heated coach, stops frequently at Yosemite's most popular and picturesque locations. For pricing and reservations, call the tour office at 209-372-1240.

Photography Walks – Spend time with a professional photographer and learn how to capture memories of your Yosemite winter vacation on film. Guides, provided by the Ansel Adams Gallery, discuss photo tips at all levels of competency and advise on such topics as lighting, composition, effects and technique. The photography walks range from approximately 90 minutes to two hours, and take participants along a flat or slightly elevated one-mile route.

Badger Pass Activities

Since opening in 1935, Yosemite's Badger Pass Ski Area has been a favorite ski destination for generations of winter adventurers. Fewer crowds, family-friendly activities and a dedicated and skilled staff combine to make your time at Badger Pass fun and fulfilling. Open daily 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. mid-December through late-March (weather permitting), Badger Pass Ski Area is accessible via free shuttle bus from all Yosemite Valley hotel units.

Downhill Skiing – With five lifts, spacious groomed runs and quick access to the slopes, Badger Pass has been the learning ground for generations of skiers. Eighty-five percent of Badger's slopes are beginner and intermediate level, including several runs that are perfect for the first-time skier. Lift tickets and rentals are available at Badger Pass.

- The **Yosemite Ski School**, recognized as one of the best for 70 years, teaches both beginner's basics and refresher courses with a staff of 25 American and international instructors – all members of the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA.) A variety of learn-to-ski packages are available daily for both children and adults. For more information, contact Yosemite's Badger Pass Ski & Snowboard School Desk at 209-372-8430.
- The **Badger Pups Program** for children ages four to six is designed to accommodate the needs of preschool students and introduce them to downhill skiing. The Pups program includes group ski lessons, rental equipment and admission to the Badger Pups Den, where certified babysitters/ski instructors provide a range of activities and games for children to enjoy while their parents are out on the slopes. Parents are required to lunch with their child.

Snowboarding – Badger Pass is a great place to learn the secrets of snowboarding. You'll find enhanced terrain, plenty of room to practice new maneuvers and up-to-date rental equipment and instruction. Beginning, intermediate and advanced instruction is available from qualified instructors who make learning and improvement fun and easy. Snowboarding equipment rental is available in the Badger Pass rental shop. For more information, call 209-372-8430.

Snow Tubing – Snow tubing combines the thrill of a roller coaster with the childhood joy of sledding, making it ideal for snow enthusiasts of all ages. One of Badger Pass' newest offerings, snow tubing was introduced in the 2002 season and has proved to be a fun and affordable activity for people of all ages. Tube rental is available at the Badger Pass cross-country center.

Cross-country Skiing – Beginning cross-country skiers find the 25 miles (40 km) of machine-set track at Badger a great way to start, and 90 miles of marked trails leave plenty of room for exploration and improvement. Founded in 1970, Yosemite's Cross-Country Ski School is manned by PSIA-certified instructors who teach all ski levels and also lead ski tours into the Yosemite backcountry and overnight excursions to Glacier Point. Skiers may rent striding, skating and Telemark equipment at the school. For more information and equipment-specific rates, call 209-372-8444.

- **Overnight Cross-Country Ski to Glacier Point Ski Hut** – A guided ski trip on intermediate groomed terrain through Yosemite's magnificent snow-country takes you to the rustic accommodations of the beautiful stone-and-log Glacier Point Ski Hut. Overlooking Yosemite Valley, Half Dome and the Yosemite High Country, this newly renovated ski hut is located 10½ miles beyond Badger Pass Ski Area along Glacier Point Road. The Alpine-inspired hut has wood heat, indoor lavatory facilities and sleeps up to 20 skiers dormitory style. Meals are included on both one-night and two-night trips.

Snowshoeing – With snowshoes and powder snow, you're set for some great hiking in Yosemite's winter wonderland. National Park Service naturalists lead snowshoe walks several days a week from the Badger Pass ranger station. Each walk takes approximately two hours and participants learn about snow physics and plant and wildlife adaptations in winter. There is no rental fee for these walks, but there is a small maintenance fee. For those interested in exploring on their own, snowshoes may be rented from the Yosemite Cross-Country Ski School Center, or from the Yosemite Mountaineering Center at Curry Village when conditions permit.

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