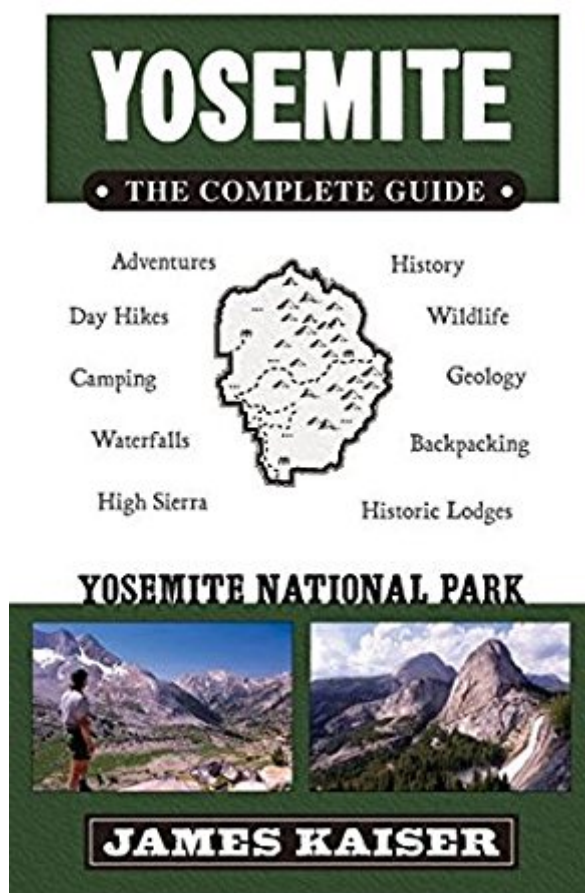


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# Yosemite - The Complete Guide



## Customer Reviews

We really enjoyed using this book when we were in both the Yosemite Valley as well as up in the Tioga Road/Pass area. It was far more useful than the David Page Yosemite book we bought (that one was much more about surrounding areas). This book, on the other hand, had a good overview of lodging, food and hiking options. The only element we would have liked more of is a slight expansion of the pages about the flora and fauna of Yosemite. The maps were useful as well. In sum, it seemed like a carefully researched and well-designed guidebook, so it really enhanced our visit.

Very useful, essential. We got this book after going to Acadia national park and using his Acadia book on that area as a guide. We were deciding on places to go in and around California and just the fact that he had a book helped us confirm a decision on Yosemite. Same experience as before... perfect suggestions and a great attention to detail. The book is also packed full of history concerning the park and the major players who helped it become what it is today. Hits all the notes you would expect but also hides little gems in and along the way. One of the days we had time to completely devote a day to Yosemite valley and his somewhat cautious suggestion (one day is not enough) on what a "perfect day" at Yosemite would be turned out to be great, as well as "another great day". I wish I had the time to pour over details for hours and painstakingly develop an amazing experience crafted all on my own... but I don't have that kind of time or experience in national parks to hold a candle to his guidance. Weather permitting, getting up nice and early and going to Mariposa Grove before the crowds, when the trees released some kind of chocolatey sweet aroma... was just a crazy good moment. If you go to see the sequoias, do it at the right time... the smells of that place were transcendent - plus the trees are gigantic. This book is great for the spontaneous vacation type, but deep enough to pull you in on a nice long planning session.

Bought this book back in March for a trip in early May. At the time, there was only one review, but I bought it anyway as it was the most recently published guide available. Wow - the day it arrived, I sat down and read it front to back. The history of the park, the geology, the history of the Native Americans who lived on the land ... I was so impressed that it was more than just a "camp here" and "eat here" kind of guide. What this book has over the others out there:- The most gorgeous photos. It made me giddy with excitement to go and see those places for myself!- a small but helpful section with pictures of the most common wildlife and plantlife that you encounter in the park (ended more than one debate about "what flower is this?!")- Information about the native tribes' names and

legends for the features in the park, or other important history of a particular place, highlighted in boxes set off from the main text.- A sizeable section on the High Sierra Camps and hikes around them. Absolutely made me want to do the whole circuit (maybe next year...)- This guidebook was clearly a labor of love for the author. This wasn't compiled from a bunch of staff travel writers ... it was written by someone who obviously knows the park extremely well and has chosen to highlight only the best parts, to give readers the best experience in Yosemite. Why this might not be the book for you:- There are no compass markings on the detailed mini-maps. This bothered others in my group more than me.- Very few details on lodging. Not a problem for me, as I already had accommodations booked, and the lodging choices in the park are few anyhow, but this book is better for planning your TRIP, not your STAY.- The descriptions of the hikes are kind of vague. If you are going to Yosemite to back-country hike, this isn't the book for you. If you want the best day (or 2-day) hikes, he hits the great ones. I was relieved to see how well-marked they are once you're on the trail. I thought this guidebook was absolutely cream of the crop. So did my mother and sister-in-law - they each wanted to steal it from me and keep it as a coffee table book! (I bought them each a copy once we returned home)

I purchased James' book on Acadia and it helped us plan one of the most complete trips to a national park ever! Even though I'd been to Yosemite before, I bought and read this book before returning and I'm glad I did. I'd say I saw about 90% more of the park this time around with James' help. James always gives you the history, best bang for your buck hikes, and stunning ecology and photos of the area. Cathedral Beach, Sentinel Beach, the trail just up from Tunnel View, and Dewey Point along the Pohono Trail were all highlights of our trip that nobody else seemed to know about. And in an over-crowded park like Yosemite, finding places where you could be all alone with stunning views is worth its weight in gold! I was able to tell our friends with us about the Ahwahneechee people, the physical geography of Yosemite Valley, Ansel Adams, and even Grizzly Adams all thanks to James book. It makes the trip so much more than just a "go look and see" vacation and truly helps you understand your surroundings better. Thank you James. I'll keep purchasing your books for as long as you keep publishing them.

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