

EXPERIENCE YOSEMITE LIKE A LOCAL

WHY CHOOSE MARIPOSA COUNTY FOR YOUR DREAM GETAWAY?

ADVENTURE AWAITS

PLAN YOUR TRIP TO YOSEMITE TODAY

ALL LODGING

10/26/2026

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BOOK NOW

AFFORDABLE LODGING OPTIONS NEAR EVERYTHING

WHY STAY IN MARIPOSA COUNTY?

There's no arguing that one of the top reasons people visit our region is to explore the wonders of Yosemite National Park. With so many iconic landmarks around the park — from **Half Dome** to **Glacier Point** — it's easy to see why millions of visitors flock to our region each year.

But there's something that long-time visitors and returning travelers have discovered: the Yosemite Mariposa County regions outside the park also make for the perfect leaping-off point, thanks to the variety of affordable lodging, dining and entertainment found here.

Yosemite National Park is flanked by historic western communities with a mix of outdoor adventures, local shops, dining, and nightlife – you'll be at the heart of wow-level wilderness and authentic local culture. Before planning a trip to Yosemite, consider basing yourself here in Mariposa County. Here are some of the top reasons to visit Mariposa County, along with some of the best places to stay outside of Yosemite. Pack your favorite road trip bag, it's go time!

VACATION RENTALS ABOUND

There are around 600 vacation rentals in Mariposa County, ranging in size from romantic hideaways for two, to large chalets that can accommodate a multiple family get together. With a wide variety of different vacation rental options — including **cabins** — you're sure to find something that will make the whole family happy.

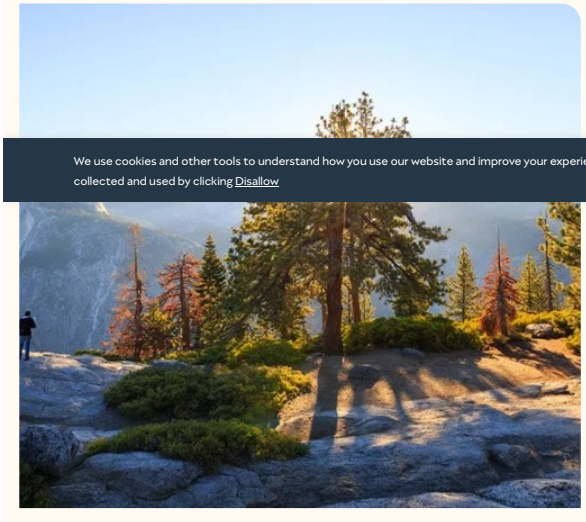


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YEAR-ROUND ACCESS TO YOSEMITE

airports. For a soul-resorting vacation that is easy to navigate and small-town affordable, Mariposa County is your getaway within reach.

While many folks visit Yosemite in summer, it's fantastic to experience the park in any season because each brings a different vibe. Fall and winter are particularly beautiful and peaceful. The weather is still mild in the fall and great for hiking and climbing when the air becomes crisp and clear. As fall begins to progress into early winter, waterfalls start flowing again, rejuvenated by the rain and snow. That same moisture simultaneously amplifies a classic pine tree aroma to pair with the smell of campfires nearby. In spring, the park's waterfalls burst with melting snow from the high country and the meadows pop with color from wildflowers in bloom.

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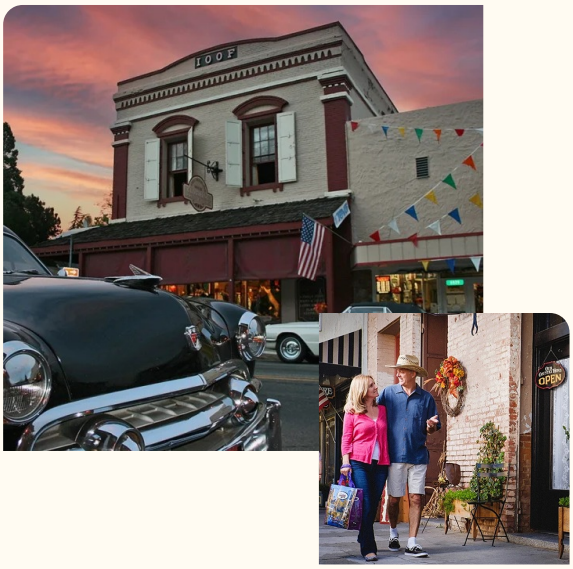
ACCEPT

ENDLESS NATURE OPPORTUNITIES

You don't have to go far to see beautiful scenery and views. They can likely be found right at your cabin rental or hotel, just by walking around the property. There are also many spectacular hikes and biking trails to enjoy throughout Mariposa County. Check out the **Stockton Creek** trails just outside the town of Mariposa.



GATEWAY TOWNS NEAR YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



MARIPOSA

Mariposa stays alive and vibrant during weekends and the holiday season. Go **shopping** in Old Town, see some live music, check out the festivities at one of the restaurants in town or sample locally made craft beer, cider, wine, and even olive oil.

Discover Mariposa at the crossroads of Highways 49 and 140, the historic county seat built on a bedrock of Golden State history. Way too interesting to simply zoom by on your way to Yosemite National Park, Mariposa offers a "mother lode" of attractions, from **museums** to live **music venues**.

Sip local wine at tasting rooms steps from your hotel, dine at farm-to-table local restaurants, window-shop Mariposa's Main Street boutiques, and recap the day with a relaxing **nightcap**. This **USA Today Top 10** Small Town Culture town is studded with great independent markets, cafés, bars, shops, and character. And "All-Season" Highway 140 is your runway to **Yosemite day tripping**.

MIDPINES

Just a ten-minute drive east from Mariposa toward Yosemite National Park, Midpines is a recreation haven with a zen vibe. Chief among the reasons to "be here now": mid-elevation hiking trails to explore the surrounding **Briceburg and Merced River** environs.

With Yosemite National Park just 25 miles away, Midpines is perfectly situated as a playfully rustic base camp for a golden California getaway. Spring entertains a signature Yosemite Mariposa County pursuit: **whitewater rafting** on the protected Wild & Scenic Merced River. And summer is high season for **picnicking** along "Wa-ka-la," the Ahwahneechee name for the **Merced**.



WHITEWATER RAFTING ON THE WILD & SCENIC MERCED RIVER.



EL PORTAL



El Portal is literally "the portal" to Yosemite, the last small town before the Park's Arch Rock entrance. Along the way, keep an eye out for the first Yosemite National Park signs where you can carefully pull over and snap post-worthy pics. After a day of **Yosemite Valley** adventures, on your return trip keep an eye out for the granite formations that cantilever over Highway 140. You might even see the profile of a dog welcoming the crew back to town.

El Portal served as the terminus for the historic **Yosemite Valley Railroad**. A free town highlight is the open-air display of equipment and buildings from these railroading days. The turntable, historically restored by the Yosemite Conservancy, is fully functional and can be moved by a few people; give it a push!

FISH CAMP

Fish Camp is a whistle-stop hamlet along Highway 41 on the southern approach to Yosemite National Park. Logging played a role in Fish Camp's development, and the **Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad** offers narrow-gauge train tours and a wonderful rail museum. Big Creek burbles cold and clear through town on its merry way to the South Fork of the Wild & Scenic Merced River, and the surrounding **Sierra National Forest** offers hiking, biking trails and **horseback riding**.

Fish Camp is minutes away from the **Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias**. Grizzly Giant, the tallest Sequoiadendron giganteum in Yosemite National Park, soars over 200 feet tall and is thought to be 2,700 years old. Tucked inside the Park's South Gate, see Mariposa Grove – and the rest of Yosemite's nearly 1,200 square miles of wilderness wonder – for $35 per car, the Park pass is good for seven days. Now that's old-growth vacation value.

WAWONA

For many, Yosemite is all about Yosemite Valley, but in fact, the Park sparkles well beyond the Valley Rim. A shining example is historic **Wawona**. Wander in Wawona's golden bowl of timeless attractions and discover the **Yosemite History Center**, **Wawona Golf Course and Meadow**, and the stately **Wawona Hotel**. Photographers get snap-happy over Wawona's historic **covered bridge**, one of just a few in California. Built in 1857 by Galen Clark, steward of the Yosemite Grant, the bridge was covered in 1879 by the proprietors of the new Wawona Hotel. The bridge spans the South Fork of the Merced River, a lovely place to camp, meditate or swim. And **Chilnualna Falls**, one of Yosemite's rare year-round waterfalls, flows steadfastly above town.

YOSEMITE WEST

Located inside Yosemite National Park, the small neighborhood of **Yosemite West** provides easy access to many of Yosemite's most iconic locations. It's nestled into the forest midway between **Yosemite Valley** and **Wawona**'s **Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias**, and the top of the community is just a half-mile from the intersection that leads to **Glacier Point** (or **Badger Pass Ski Area** in the winter).

The turn-off to Yosemite West can be easy to miss, but you'll find a wide variety of vacation rental cabins in this area, ranging from small condos to sprawling log homes as well as a few scenic hikes, including a short walk to a historic fire tower with gorgeous views into the south fork of the Merced River and up to Buena Vista Crest.

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