



Backpacking Adventures

Family Notes

A Service for Members of the 'Bears Den.'

Yosemite

"Winter in Yosemite is breathtaking!"

If you can afford the time, visiting Yosemite in the Winter is absolutely breathtaking. The valley appears abandoned and as a result, much of the wildlife not seen during the other seasons are plentiful. You will still see deer and coyotes and even a bear or two. During the day you can walk the valley floor or certain low elevation hikes will be accessible (ice and snow cover many trails – bust a pair of snowshoes will eliminate this obstacle). If you are a novice skier or wish to learn, take a bus to Badger Pass Ski Resort only a thirty-minute drive. If your are a cross country skier or wish to learn, Badger is an excellent place to access remote, isolated and beautiful areas of Yosemite. Try cross country skiing to Glacier point where



you will have a panoramic view of Half Dome, El Capitan, the Valley Floor, Yosemite, Vernal and Nevada Falls. Upon your return to the valley in the evening, you can ice skate in Curry Village next to a roaring fire and a tub of hot chocolate. Accomodations are accessible this time of year.

Recommended hike: In the valley, hike to Happy Isles, continue up the trail to the bridge that views Vernal Falls. On your return, head to Mirror Lake and circle back via the bike trail. Phone numbers: Lodging: (209) 252-4848; Badger Ski Area (209)372-1000; Camp Sites: 1(800)436-PARK.

Pinnacles

"Walking on an extinct Volcano."

If there is one hike you plan to take this winter, make it the Pinnacles National Monument. The hikes will wind you through the remains of an ancient volcano that was ripped in half by the San Andreas Fault and then eroded away over time. Begin your hike in the caves (flashlight required), and proceed to the reservoir and then on to High Peaks – the view is breathtaking.

Phone Number: (408) 389-4485



Yosemite Snow Camping

– "Privacy is guaranteed."

If you are an experienced cross-country skier and have snow camped, then you will love the Badger to Glacier Point (22 miles round trip). The National Park Service creates tracks for the skiers on the snow-covered road. On arrival, pick a campsite on the rim overlooking the valley, Yosemite Falls or even Half Dome. One thing is guaranteed, your privacy.

To reserve backcountry permits, call (209) 372-1000