

Around Yosemite National Park

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Best Views

- Minaret Vista (p152)
- Conway Summit (p144)
- Alabama Hills (p156)
- → Merced River Canyon (p136)
- Mono Lake (p146)
- → Little Lakes Valley (p152)

Best Places to Stay

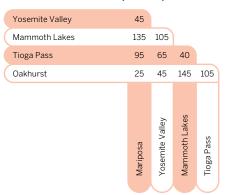
- Tioga Pass Resort (p143)
- → Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort (p137)
- → Blackberry Inn Bed & Breakfast (p139)
- → Yosemite Gateway Motel (p145)

Why Go?

Though many consider Yosemite the crème de la crème of the Sierras, you may just find you prefer the flavor of other regions around it. You'll find many who'd argue the unbeatable merits of the Eastern Sierra, which is home to sights such as Mono Lake, Mammoth Lakes, hidden hot springs, shimmering alpine lakes and some of the state's most dramatic mountain scenery.

Heading to Yosemite by car or bus, you'll travel along one of four primary approaches. To the west, Hwys 120 and 140 provide the main access routes, with wonderful little gold-rush-era towns and groovy old-time saloons. To the south, Hwy 41 passes by pastoral fishing lakes and mountain roads, and the eastern route over Tioga Pass is the highest auto pass in California.

Road Distances (miles)



Note: Distances are approximate

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MONO LAKE

A unique and fragile ecosystem that nurtures vast populations of migratory birds, its mirrored surface reflects stark Sierra peaks, Paddle around the eerie tufa formations or hike the shores of this massive alkaline lake. (p146)

Humboldt-National Forest Fales Hot

BODIE STATE HISTORIC **PARK**

The Wild West lives on in this sprawling high-altitude ghost town, where hundreds of decaying wooden buildings bring to life a lawless 19th-century mining boomtown. (p144)

Springs (182) **Bodie State** Bridgeport Historic losed in Winter Park a Pinecrest Emigrant Wilderness 270 Stanislaus Wilderness Conway National **Dunderberg Peak** Summit

(8143ft) Black Mountain (11.797ft) Mono Hetch Hetchy Lake 0 Lee Vining Hetch Hetchy Yosemite Entrance Station National

120

Closed in

Winter



BISHOP

Tioga Pass

Entrance

June Mountain

June Lake

Ansel Adams

Wilderness

In-the-know climbers and hikers flock to this unassuming Owens Valley town, a gateway to High Sierra trails and passes, renowned Buttermilk Country bouldering and hidden troves of ancient petroglyphs in the Volcanic Tablelands. (p153)

Mountain

MAMMOTH LAKES

(167)

120

A four-season recreation hot spot, this town is catnip for the outdoorsy set. Shred fresh powder at the Mammoth Mountain resort, soak in natural hot springs and ramble along its phenomenal hiking trails. (p148)



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Kings Canyon

National Park

Cedar

Grove

Village

Kanawyers

• Bishop (168) Aspendell 395 Inyo National •Big Pine Forest

MERCED RIVER

Merced (99

(30mi)

(180)

Merced

(14mi)

Bounce and splash through white-water rapids in the spectacular Merced River Canyon. When the Sierra snowmelt courses from the mountains, springtime rafting reaches its frothy apex. (p136)

Oakhurst •



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99

Tulare 🗸

ALABAMA HILLS & MT WHITNEY

Wilsonia

Pinehurst

Peer above the blazing orange landscape popularized in countless shoot-'em-up Westerns and admire the wall of stark peaks harboring the highest pinnacle in the continental US. (p156 & p157)

ANCIENT BRISTLECONE **PINE FOREST**

(41)

Clovis

Fresno

At 10,000ft and higher, the gnarled and wizened boughs of this haunting forest's trees have weathered centuries - and some a few millennia - but continue to thrive in this inhospitable terrain. (p154)

Lone Pine Death Whitney 0 (14,505ft) Valley Sequoia Park

Independence