



# Around Yosemite

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Narrow Gauge Inn (p142)
- » Lakefront Restaurant (p151)
- » Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort (p137)
- » Savoury's (p136)
- » Whoa Nellie Deli (p145)

## Best Places to Stay

- » River Rock Inn (p136)
- » Groveland Hotel (p139)
- » Narrow Gauge Inn (p142)
- » Sierra Sky Ranch (p140)

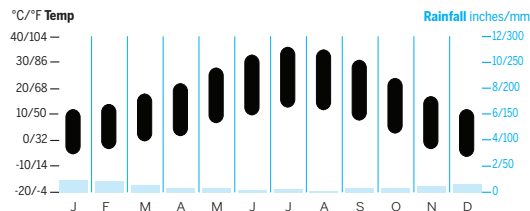
## Why Go?

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 through pastoral fishing lakes and mountain roads, and the eastern route over Tioga Pass is the highest auto pass in California.

## When to Go

### Mammoth Lakes



#### Dec-Mar

Take a wintertime romp through snowy forests.

#### Jul & Aug

Head for the mountains for wilderness adventures and high-altitude sunshine.

#### Sep & Oct

Brilliant fall foliage lights up the woods and canyons.

**i Information**

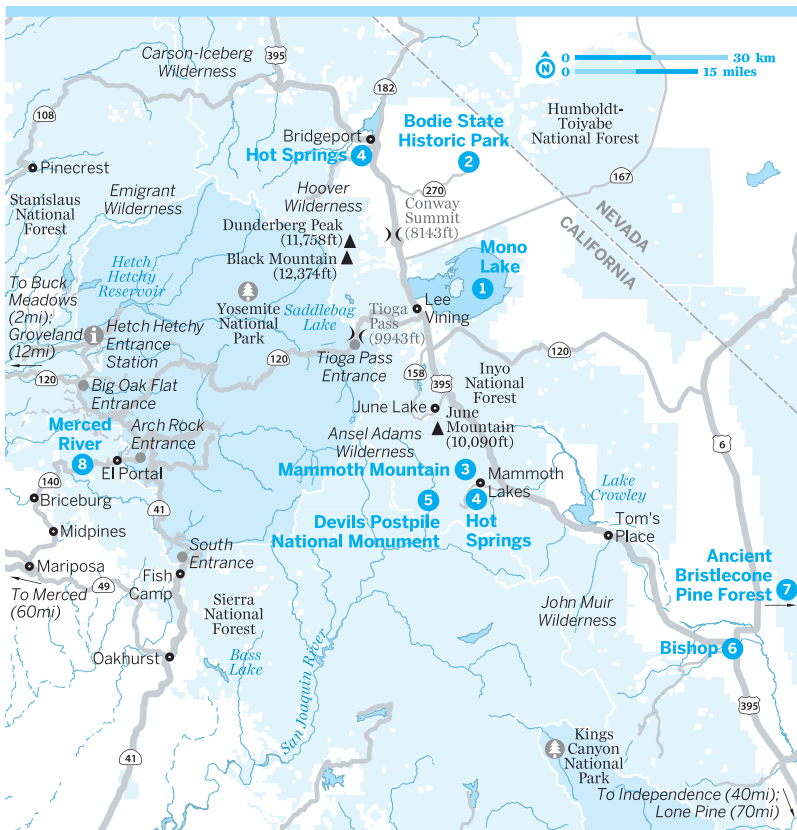
**Roadside Heritage** ([www.roadsideheritage.org](http://www.roadsideheritage.org)) Free audio downloads about the history and sights along Hwy 395; excellent for road trips.

**Sierra Web** ([www.thesierraweb.com](http://www.thesierraweb.com)) Area events and links to local visitor information in the Eastern Sierra.

**US Forest Service** ([www.fs.fed.us/r5/forests.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/forests.shtml)) Comprehensive portal for national forests in California.

**i Getting Around**

Hwys 120 and 108 both lead over the Sierras to Hwy 395, the main north-south artery through the Eastern Sierra. Due to heavy snowfall, both are only open roughly May or June through

**Around Yosemite Highlights**

**1** Marvel at the tufa formations at **Mono Lake** (p145) against the backdrop of the Eastern Sierra

**2** Amble around the evocative ghost town of **Bodie** (p146)

**3** Shred a path through fresh powder from the dizzying peak of **Mammoth Mountain** (p149)

**4** Soak in an Eastern Sierra **hot spring** under a glittering night sky near Bridgeport or Mammoth (p150)

**5** Shuttle out to the bizarre volcanic formation of **Devils Postpile** (p152)

**6** Go bouldering in the dramatic landscape near **Bishop** (p152) at the

Buttermilks or Volcanic Tablelands

**7** Detour to the high-altitude groves of the ethereal **Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest** (p155)

**8** Raft the **Merced River** (p136) in the swift white-water near El Portal