



Discover the excitement in Madera County, Yosemite National Park's southern gateway. Experience the Summer of Celebration as the nation's 250th anniversary coincides with Bass Lake's 125th birthday. Attend unique festivals and events, including the Yosemite Celtic Festival & Highland Games, and taste your way through California's heartland. From year-round entertainment to peaceful stays in brand new accommodations, this is the time to explore.

Fresno Yosemite International Airport is the closest gateway to Yosemite, making it a convenient starting point for exploring the region.

- Fresno: 46 miles | 53 min
- Las Vegas: 441 miles | 6.5 hours
- Los Angeles: 271 miles | 4.25 hours
- Sacramento: 182 miles | 3.25 hours
- San Francisco: 193 miles | 4 hours



The South Gate
Uncover a vibrant artist community in Oakhurst and year-round fun at Bass Lake.

Gold Country
Delve into the echoes of the history and Native American heritage in Coarsegold.



Central Valley
Explore Madera's Wine Country, a region that offers diverse varietals and fascinating stories.

High Sierra
Visit the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad, find California's Exact Geographical Center, then tour the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway.





Explore Beyond Yosemite Valley

Yosemite National Park is home to 800+ miles of pristine hiking trails throughout its nearly 1,200 square miles. In southern Yosemite, explore the historic Wawona region with over 500 mature Giant Sequoias in Mariposa Grove, the Yosemite History Center, the Chinese Laundry Building, and one of the oldest covered bridges in the West! After a day of exploring, enjoy some of the best BBQ in the USA according to Yelp at Smokehouse 41, and take in a spectacular sunset from your cabin at Outbound Yosemite, opening Fall 2026.



Celebrate at Bass Lake

Celebrate America's 250th at Bass Lake with lakeside BBQs, parades on land and water, and fireworks displays that are sure to amaze. The festivities don't end in July; Bass Lake turns 125 this August 15th with a huge birthday bash! Every resort around the water will host its own special celebration, making this a truly lake-wide birthday bash you can explore from shore to shore. With three resorts, countless vacation rentals, campsites, three full-service marinas, and amazing shopping, dining, hiking, biking, and boating, there is something for everyone anytime you visit.



Off-Season Spotlight

Autumn brings crimson and gold leaves, sunny days, and scenic views with fewer crowds to the southern Yosemite region. Beyond the park, see feats of strength at the Yosemite Celtic Festival & Highland Games, catch the Coarsegold Tarantula Festival, the last weekend in October, and explore artistic expression during ARTober and Sierra Art Trails. Fall is one of the most ideal times to visit the region.

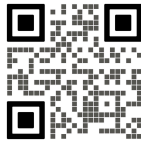




Madera County is more than California's southern gateway to Yosemite, whether zipping along trails high above Bass Lake on an ATV, sipping local wine along the Madera Wine Trail, or chasing wildflowers along the Sierra Vista Scenic Byway, the adventures are endless.



Explore Yosemite National Park



Itineraries for Yosemite in every season. With vibrant autumn hues, thrilling winter sports, booming waterfalls in spring, and summer hikes.



Carved Bear Capital of the World



Oakhurst's carved bears are more than just charming art pieces; they symbolize strength, resilience, and a deep connection to nature.



Fossils To Falls Road Trip



Explore 10 exciting stops on a four day road trip. From the Fossil Discovery Center to Yosemite Falls, this itinerary is packed with stunning sights!



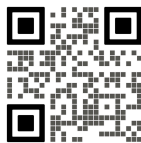
Sierra Vista Scenic Byway



This nearly 100-mile journey through the Sierra National Forest boasts a secret sequoia grove, unique rock formations and mouthwatering pie.



41 Things To Do Near Highway 41



Plan your perfect vacation beyond the park, from live music and live theatre to secret fishing spots and spa treatments.



California's Majestic Mountain Loop



A self-drive itinerary or bookable guided tour, experience Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks in three or more days.



America 250 Summer of Celebration



Toast to America's 250th with a special wine release, catch incredible fireworks displays, and celebrate Bass Lake's 125th birthday with loved ones.



Where To Eat & Drink



Delight in the region's top dining spots! Savor local flavors from cozy cafes to vibrant bars—there's a taste for every palate!

