

Law Day Yosemite 2015 Hike

The Law Day Yosemite Committee is sponsoring a **guided, multiple-option**, hike to, around and beyond Mirror Lake.

The hike will be open to all and will begin once lunch is finished. We hope to have a experienced naturalist lead the hike, answer your questions, and point out interesting fauna, flora, geology and history.

Participants can choose from several options with regard to distance travelled and exertion required. They are, in order of increasing physical demand:

1. **Least Demanding.** One can take the free Yosemite shuttle bus to the Mirror Lake trailhead on the Happy Isles Loop. The bus stop is just beyond Curry Village and the Upper and Lower Pines campgrounds. From the bus stop, it is about a one mile walk up a gradual grade to Mirror Lake where you may join the ranger-led group and learn about the lake and surrounding area, and then return to the bus stop. (One also can drive and park at Curry Village. That will add about 1/2 mile to the walk from Curry Village parking to where the bus drops people off for Mirror Lake.)
2. **Longer Walk around Mirror Lake.** Once at Mirror Lake, one can take a well-marked loop trail that circles up above and then around the Half Dome side of Mirror Lake. The hike around the lake is less demanding than the hike up the grade to Mirror Lake. The total distance, including walking to and from the bus stop, makes this hike approximately 5 miles long.
3. **Adventure.** Those seeking the adventure of an off-trail experience can leave the Mirror Lake loop trail at the wooden foot bridge and follow the creek up to Hidden Falls, a relatively short distance. **WARNING:** Anyone undertaking this hike is advised in no uncertain terms NOT to go to the top of the falls. Although only 15 or so feet high and easily accessible, the surface is extremely and imperceptibly slippery even when dry. It has caused many serious injuries and death even among experienced hikers.
4. **Walk to Mirror Lake.** Walking, rather than bussing or driving, from the school yard site of our Law Day festivities, to Mirror lake will add about 2 ½ miles and another 2 ½ miles to return to the school yard. There are three easy choices for walking:
 - a. One can walk along the flat Village Road, through the Village, past the Ahwahnee Meadow (with the houses looking out over the meadow and up at Half Dome) to the wooded area on the left just past Ahwahnee Meadow and there pick up the paved path on the left to Mirror Lake.

- b. One can do the above, but cross the meadow and proceed to and by the front of the Ahwahnee Hotel and keep walking another ½ mile in that direction to pick up the paved path to Mirror Lake closer to Mirror Lake.
- c. The **most interesting** route to Mirror Lake, but one on which there is about 1/3 or ½ mile of moderate uphill hiking/exertion near its beginning.
Directions: The school yard backs up onto Oak Lane. Judge Seng's house is on Oak Lane. Turn left on Oak Lane and walk up toward the stables at the end of the street. At the end of Oak Lane, veer slightly to the left and walk up along the left side of the stables. Next to the corral will be a well groomed trail leading up to the base of the granite. At the fork in that trail, turn right (going left will take you to the base of Yosemite Falls) and stay on the path all the way (about 2+ miles) to Mirror Lake. As noted, there is some heavy breathing at the beginning, but the remainder is a very gentle path, with interesting rock fall areas, right along the face of the granite cliffs north of Yosemite Village. This trail goes all the way to Mirror Lake.

Please let someone know if you travel to Mirror Lake other than with the main, ranger-led group, so we will know to wait for you before beginning our hike around the lake.