

## 5 New Ways to Explore Yosemite

One of America's oldest national parks has a whole lot of newness nowadays.



Firefall Ranch. Photo courtesy of Alpenglo Productions.

**I**t's hard to contemplate the idea of newness when it comes to a place that's been around for millions of years like Yosemite National Park. The magnificent granite formations that make up its iconic monoliths, like Half Dome and El Capitan, were first formed during Cretaceous period, and in its more recent history it was designated as the third national park in the U.S. in 1890, after Yellowstone (1872) and Sequoia (1890). But within the last year, several new adventure hotels and [glamping options](#) have cropped up, offering new and exciting ways to see Yosemite through a different lens.

These new accommodations are catering to a continually growing interest in Yosemite National Park. On average, about 4 million people visit each year—hikers, climbers, campers, bikers, photographers, and [nature lovers](#) of all kinds—many of whom are drawn by its awe-inspiring beauty and natural splendor. But with the recent cuts to the national park's staffing, it's more important than ever to be sure to recreate responsibly, leaving no trace and giving back where you can. Here's a look at what's new in Yosemite.



# Firefall Ranch



Alpenglo Productions

Just outside Yosemite’s northwest gate in the Gold Rush town of Groveland, the ranch is set on the original 19th-century stagecoach route that led to the park. Despite its historic roots, [Firefall Ranch](#), which is named after the natural phenomena where Horsetail Falls appears to flow with lava in late February, is now decidedly modern. There’s plenty to do in your downtime, from hopping on the complimentary beach cruisers to lounging in the hammocks or challenging your travel buddies to a round of ping-pong in the game room. For a luxe option, book into its three-bedroom homes which come equipped with double-sided indoor-outdoor gas fireplaces, private decks, and heated bathroom floors.

## Evergreen Lodge



Alpenglo Productions

[Evergreen Lodge](#) introduced 22 new high-end canvas tents at their historic lodge located near the Hetch Hetchy Valley on the western border of Yosemite off Highway 120. Once you’ve gotten your fill of exploring the park, head back to basecamp for lawn games including [bocce ball](#) and forest disc golf, then soak your sore self in their saltwater pool and jacuzzi and enjoy a nightcap with their daily offering of fireside s’mores.