

Half Dome

Distance: 14.2 mile.

Type of trip: Out and back.

Elevation: +5223 ft., - 507 ft. (out).

Difficulty: Extremely strenuous

Time: 10-14 hours

Permits are required to summit Half Dome.

Begin at: This hike originates near Happy Isles (shuttle stop #16).

Seasonality: Mid-May or early June through Columbus Day weekend in October when the cables are up. You cannot climb Half Dome when the cables are down. Avoid Half Dome on days when there are thunder clouds in the area - it's not worth the risk. Even rain without lightning will make the granite on the cable route dangerously slick.

Trail notes: The John Muir and Mist Trails offer spectacular, up-close views of two large waterfalls, enjoyable scenery along the Merced River, and unique views across Yosemite Valley. You can take the mist trail (2.5 miles) or the John Muir (4.0 miles). The trails rejoin above Nevada falls. Continue past Little Yosemite Valley to the junction of Half Dome and the John Muir trail and follow the sign to Half Dome.

Surviving the Cables on Half Dome

- Wear the grippiest shoes you've got.
- Wear gloves.
- Clip yourself to the cables as you go.
- Take everything out of your backpacks outside pockets.
- Don't guzzle a thermos of coffee before you take on the cables.
- Be patient and look out for your fellow climbers.
- Be prepared for delays getting onto the cables and for delays once you're on the cables.
- Test the poles holding up the cables before you put your weight on them.
- If there are thunderclouds around, get back below tree level.
- Don't try to climb the cables if it's been raining.
- Hit the weights before you go.
- Bring plenty of food.
- Don't forget your permit.

<http://www.yosemitechikes.com/yosemite-valley/half-dome/cables-tips.htm>

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