

## **Nevada falls (top)**

Mist Trails or John Muir Trail

**Distance:** 5.4 miles (via Mist Trail).

**Type of trip:** Out and back.

**Elevation:** +2296 ft., -324 ft. (out).

**Difficulty:** Strenuous

**Time:** 5-6 hours

You can also take the John Muir Trail to the top of Vernal Fall (via the Clark Point cutoff) and the top of Nevada Fall, or combine the Mist Trail and John Muir Trail into a loop.

**Begin at:** This very popular hike originates near Happy Isles in eastern Yosemite Valley (shuttle stop #16).

**Seasonality:** You can hike to both waterfalls all year. However, in winter, there is a specific route that remains open while some sections of trail are closed. The lower portion of the Mist Trail along Vernal Fall closes in winter due to risk of falling ice and rock. The upper portion of the John Muir Trail between Clark Point and the top of Nevada Fall is closed in winter due to treacherously icy conditions. Keep in mind that the sections of trail that remain open in the winter may be icy and/or snowy.

**Trail notes:** The John Muir and Mist Trails offer spectacular, up-close views of two large waterfalls and unique views across Yosemite Valley. This first paved mile of trail is busiest and accesses the Vernal Fall Footbridge. Almost entirely uphill, you can appreciate views along the way, and during spring, when the water levels are at their peak, you can also glimpse Illillouette Fall from this first section of trail.

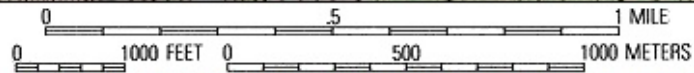
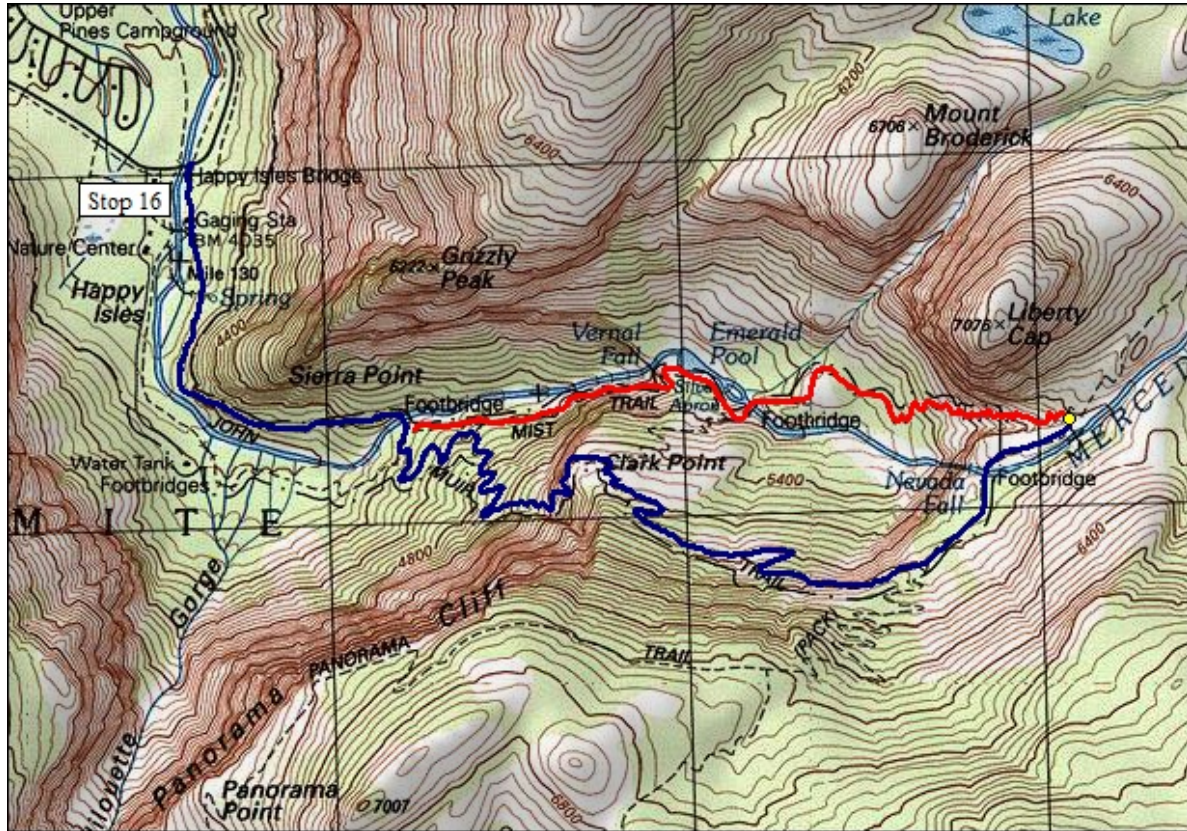
You'll find an excellent view of Vernal Fall from the footbridge at 0.8 miles. About 0.2 miles beyond the bridge, the Mist Trail and the John Muir Trail diverge. To proceed directly to the top of Vernal Fall, follow the Mist Trail 0.5 miles up a steep granite stairway. Prepare for slippery footing, high steps, and a tremendous amount of waterfall spray in spring and early summer. Continue uphill on the Mist Trail to the top of Nevada Fall another 1.5 miles of steep, rocky switchbacks. At the top of the climb, head right to reach the footbridge that crosses the Merced River above the fall, allowing you a closer view of it.

From here, you can either return down the Mist Trail, or continue over the bridge to the John Muir Trail for an alternate route back to Yosemite Valley. If you choose the John Muir Trail, you will enjoy different scenery, with great views of Liberty Cap and different views of Nevada Fall. The John Muir Trail is longer.

<https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/vernalnevadatrail.htm>

## Nevada falls (top)

### Mist Trails or John Muir Trail



Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic ([www.nationalgeographic.com/topo](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/topo))

