

# TIAGA TALES

6 July 2010

Yosemite National Park, California

## Granite Grandeur



Yosemite National Park's Tenaya Canyon as seen from Olmsted Point (8,300 feet) on the Tioga Pass Road. Cloud's Rest (9,926 feet) is the tallest peak on the left. Half Dome (8,836 feet) is on the right.

## Our stoned cold picnic

High country hiking was our original goal for the Fourth of July weekend.

Higher country is what we got in Sequoia National Park, where the best scenic trails are still impassible because of snow and ice.

We got highest in Yosemite National Park.

Even though the best high-country trails there are also wet or snow covered, the Tioga Pass Road over the top of the Sierra offered a taste of what we wanted from a car.

We indulged Monday on our drive back from the mountains.

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# Our stoned cold picnic

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Yosemite Valley was jammed by holiday crowds. Tioga was not only a place Emily and Rayyan had not been, it is Yosemite's road less taken. Fewer than 5 percent of the park's visitors ever leave the valley.

If you're going to be cooped up in a car, the Tioga Pass Road is a very nice place for the car to be.

The road climbs to the park's eastern entrance at the pass at 9,945 feet. It offers a glimpse of the terrain where the glaciers that carved the valley and sculpted most of the rest of the park were born and began their slide to the lowlands.

And it allowed us to get our daily bear fix near the junction of the Tioga Pass and Big Oak Flat roads.



California's national parks, monuments, seashores and recreation areas

## Selected facts and stats from our trip

**Length of trip:** 3 days, 2 nights

**Days we saw bears:** 3

**No. bears seen:** 6

**Avg. bears / day:** 2

**No. bear encounters:** 5

**Avg. encounters / day:** 1.67

**Highest temp inside parks:** 79°

**Highest temp outside parks:** 99°

**Nationality of people met in parks:** United States, United Kingdom (England), Spain, Denmark, Slovenia, Ukraine, China, Japan, India, Pakistan, Mexico, Iran.

**Girls met who believed hiking would improve their abs:** 2

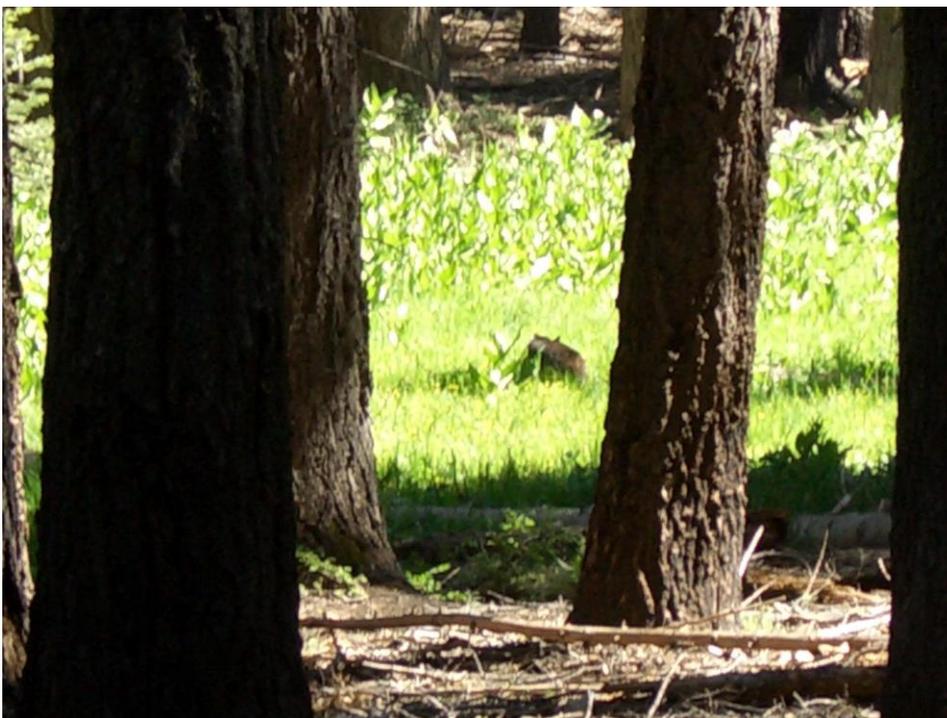
**People afraid of meeting up with a bear:** 1

**People afraid of meeting up with a bear after meeting up with a bear:** 0

# Today's picture pages



**Dana Meadow at Tioga Pass (9,945 feet). Mount Dana (13,057 feet) at right is Yosemite's second tallest.**



**Our daily bear**



**Rayyan samples Tenaya Lake**

## How about these names?

**Dana Meadow, Mount Dana:** James Dana (1813-95) of Yale studied the geology and mountain-building forces of the Pacific Coast and Hawaii.

**Olmsted Point:** Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) is considered the father of landscape architecture. His work includes New York's Central Park, San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, master plans for the campuses of the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University, and the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C.

**Tenaya Lake, Canyon:** (ten-EYE-yah) Chief Tenaya (d. 1853) and his Ahwahnee tribe were forced out of Yosemite Valley by California's Mariposa Brigade.

**Tioga Pass:** (tie-OH-gah) This area of Yosemite was the scene of early mining attempts, given an Iroquois name meaning "where it forks" by miners from Tioga County, N.Y.

**Tuolumne Meadow, River:** (to-ALL-o'-me") is an American Indian word having to do with stone, exact meaning unknown.

**Yosemite:** Dr. Lafayette Bunnell of the Mariposa Brigade named the valley with the Miwok word "yohhe'meti," meaning "they are killers," which referred to the Ahwahnee.



**The two forks of the Tuolumne River merge here in Tuolumne Meadow, just below Tioga Pass, at 8,620 feet. One quarter of the Bay Area gets its water from the Tuolumne.**

# Goodbye from Yosemite National Park



Emily at Tenaya Lake (8,150 feet) in Yosemite National Park.