



# LOCAL SWIMMING HOLES

YOSEMITE  
**RUSH CREEK**  
— LODGE —

*Safety Note: Be careful walking on rocks and river beds near water, as they can often be wet and slippery.*

## CARLON FALLS

This is a great hike along the South Fork of the Tuolumne River to a gorgeous 20-foot waterfall. It is about 1.5 miles each way and climbs 300 feet as you near the falls. Small sandy beaches, great for picnics, can be found along the way; the falls also make for an enjoyable picnic and swimming spot. At the front of the lodge turn right on Hwy 120 and drive half a mile towards Yosemite National Park. Turn left on Evergreen Road and drive one mile. Park on the right just after the bridge. There is marked trailhead, and you'll see a clear path. The trail climbs along the left side of the river. For the Day Use areas that do not require hiking, park just before the bridge on the left or right. There are picnic tables by the river.

## MIDDLE FORK OF THE TUOLUMNE

If your time is limited, consider heading to the Middle Fork of the Tuolumne. Here you can splash around in gorgeous granite pools and enjoy the shade of the pines for a quick nap or a picnic overlooking the river. At the front of the lodge turn right on Hwy 120 and drive half a mile towards Yosemite National Park. Turn left on Evergreen Road and drive five miles until you pass over the second bridge. You'll find a day-use area with picnic tables on the right. There are several options for parking on both sides of the road and you can explore the river going upstream or downstream.

## RAINBOW POOLS

This day-use site, originally a toll stop in the stagecoach days and later a resort, is now a popular swimming and picnic area. Rainbow Pools is a series of natural swimming holes along the South Fork of the Tuolumne River where you can dip your feet, take a plunge or just watch courageous kids jump from the rock-lined ledges into the largest of the inviting pools. To get there, take a left out of Rush Creek Lodge's parking lot onto Hwy 120. Drive 7 miles to the big bridge just past signs for Cherry Lake Road. Slow down on the bridge and take an immediate left at the end of it to enter the parking area.

## PRESTON FALLS

This trail follows the Tuolumne River upstream for 4 miles to Preston Falls. Those wishing for a shorter hike can stop at numerous spots along the way to relax and swim. Note that this trail is exposed and gets very hot in summer. To get to the trailhead, take a right at the front of the Lodge onto Hwy 120, continue a 1/2 mile on Hwy 120 and turn left onto Evergreen Rd. Follow Evergreen Rd for eight miles to the stop sign at Camp Mather. Turn left and follow Cherry Lake Road for 7 miles. Take a sharp right at the stop sign, descending to the Tuolumne River. After crossing the bridge, take a right, drive to the end of the road and park at the marked trailhead.