

Photography Club Field Trip

Yosemite – Horsetail Falls “Natural Firefall” & Spectacular Winter Scenes

February 16, 17 & 18, 2016

What: Photography Club Field Trip – Yosemite’s famous Horsetail Falls + spectacular winter scenes. Yosemite is majestic any time of the year; however, winter holds extraordinary benefits.

Why: Photographers from around the world converge for this event; it is right in our backyard. If this adventure is not on your “bucket list”, look in your bucket and add this adventure.

Who: Everyone from beginners to pros. From point & shoot, phones to more complex cameras; all will work well as composition is most important. You are also welcome to bring a guest.

When: The “Natural Firefall” only happens for about 10 days in February. It can be elusive to photograph because of cloud cover & waterfall flow, thus the challenge that brings photographers from all over the world. Our visit will be at the best time. We are going mid-week and avoiding the crowds and President’s Holiday price gouging.

Where: Yosemite National Park (in the valley floor) – 200 miles, about a 5 hour drive.

Walking: Very little walking is required. No long hiking but there will likely be snow on the ground. We will carpool to the prime photography vantage points from a central point to minimize the hassle of longer walks.

Winter Scenes: Stalking the “Firefall” will only take about an hour at sunset plus early arrival if parking is limited by the NPS. Other classic views waiting for your own photo interpretations will be on our menu for your consideration including: Ansel Adam’s famous Tunnel View, Bridalveil Falls, El Capitan, Cathedral Rocks, Valley View, Ahwahnee Lodge, Half Dome, Meadow Chapel, Three Brothers, Rainbows, Moonglows, etc. We will also offer night photography, light painting and other techniques we are learning in our Club activities & SIGs.

Clothing & Weather: It will be winter at 4,000’. **Rest rooms:** There are many.

Cost: Only cost will be your personal expenses for your lodging, food and transportation. We will **not** incur guided tour fees – these run from \$595 to over \$1,500 per person. We will have our own expertise of the best times and places to shoot famous winter scenes. Our pre-trip party/class will have an overwhelming offering of apps, maps, guide books, and websites. We know the 14 “secret locations” of the highly paid guides.

Meals: There are many options from frugal to great memories. Lunch in the world famous Grand Dining Hall at the Ahwahnee will be on the list. A great memory for about \$20!

Limited number of participants: For photo field trips, the NPS limits the group sizes to 12 participants. We can work around this limit but please sign up early for this trip.

Advance Sign Up: Lodging is critical. We are two months away from our trip, but openings for rooms & cabins will disappear.

There will be two lists: (1) Your name will go on the “Guaranteed I’m going” list after you have a room reservation and (2) the “Oh dear! I can’t decide waiting list”. First come, first to be on the Guaranteed List until we reach 12, then we will have a waiting list.

Interested? Read the **“Yosemite Lodging” attachment** to this email for details to save money or if you have better suggestions, let me know. Also Google the many websites for additional information including risks of weather, professional workshops and lodging. The key is to make your decision quickly.

Pre-Trip Party & Workshop. We will schedule a pre-trip party and planning workshop to best accommodate everyone who is planning on going on this trip. The date will be announced after we talk with some of the “early-in participants”.

If you would like to go or have questions: Read the Lodging attachment first, then Email Les Thomas at: 7thomas33@gmail.com or call (916) 698-7783.

“If not now, when?”

Live life to the fullest as long as you are able

This is an opportunity to have a life enhancing adventure