



## NEWS RELEASE

### *For Immediate Release*

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## Evergreen Lodge at Yosemite Hosts the Holidays with Two Specials

*Resort Offers Traditional and Creative Christmas and New Year's Cheer*

**YOSEMITE, Calif., Oct. 22, 2009** – [Evergreen Lodge](#), a historic Yosemite resort located on the western border of Yosemite National Park near [Hetch Hetchy Valley](#), announces the return of its popular [Christmas week](#) and [New Year's](#) holiday packages. Guests looking to experience one of America's premier national parks, Yosemite, in its December majesty will enjoy the family-friendly resort as well as its winter activities designed to put everyone in the holiday spirit.

### **Christmas and New Year's Holiday Packages**

Christmas and New Year's at the Evergreen include traditional activities, from cookie decorating to three-course feasts and dancing to champagne toasts at midnight, and some not-so-traditional, from s'mores and snowshoe trips to Christmas Flamingo Decorating.



The holiday season at Evergreen Lodge in Yosemite.

Christmas at the Evergreen is a joyous 12-day affair, full of activities and celebrations. Two- or three-night packages are available Dec. 16-27, 2009, and include cabin accommodations, three-course Christmas feast, daily breakfast, trail lunches, guided tours, hayride, gift basket, holiday kids' crafts, and evening campfires and s'mores. Package rates start at \$340 per couple or \$495 per family (two adults and one or two children ages 2-12) per night.

Celebrate the New Year with Time Traveler-themed dancing, merriment, food and drink. On Dec. 30 guests will be invited to try their luck at classic casino games using "Ever-greenbacks." On New Year's Eve, the resort will host an extravagant three-course Victorian dinner and more casino gaming, followed by its Time Travelers Ball costume party with music, dancing, circus performers, photo booth, time capsule and costume contest. The package includes accommodation, New Year's Eve dinner and party, champagne brunch on New Year's Day, breakfast and a gift basket. Nightly package rates start at \$340 per couple or \$480 for a family.

A two-night minimum is required on both winter packages; extra nights can be added at a discounted rate. Taxes and gratuities are not included. For a full description of each package, valid dates and prices, visit <http://www.evergreenlodge.com/calendar.html>. Guests can call (209) 379-2606 or email [info@evergreenlodge.com](mailto:info@evergreenlodge.com) or book online at [www.evergreenlodge.com](http://www.evergreenlodge.com).

### Late Season Offer

For guests planning trips before the Christmas holidays, the resort has introduced a late-season special of 25 percent off its already low weekday rates. This discount is available Sunday-Thursday, Nov. 3 – Dec. 17, 2009, excluding Nov. 25 and 26.

### Evergreen's Recreation Program

In addition to its holiday activities, the Evergreen is the only Yosemite lodge with its own guide service and an [outdoor recreation](#) program that has expanded to be the most comprehensive in the area since new owners took over the lodge in 2002. Given its moderate elevation, the Evergreen offers a variety of activities throughout the winter season. The resort's winter activities offer guests a rare opportunity to experience the famous valley and surrounding peaks in their seasonal splendor. Returning this winter is a full calendar of trips and activities, including:

- [Sierra Sunset Hike or Snowshoe](#) leaves right from the resort to view wildlife, old-growth forest and vistas down the Tuolumne River Canyon. Offered October to May.
- [Wonders of Yosemite Naturalist Tour](#) features both Yosemite Valley and the giant sequoias in a combination van tour and hike/snowshoe. Offered October to May.
- [Giant Sequoia Snowshoe Walk](#) takes guests to the world's biggest trees, whose reddish color make for a dramatic contrast against the snowy surroundings. Offered November to March.
- [Rim of the Valley Snowshoe Adventure](#) takes guests along a picturesque trail to Dewey Point and provides stunning views of snow-covered peaks in the northern high country. Offered February to March.
- [Range of Light Yosemite Valley Naturalist Tour](#). Offered October to May.
- [Hetch Hetchy Wapama Falls Naturalist Hike](#) explores Yosemite's hidden gem, Wapama Falls. Offered November to May.



Snowshoeing in the Sierras near Evergreen Lodge.  
*Photo courtesy of Evergreen Lodge.*

The Evergreen's experienced recreation staff provides advice and guidance for planning customized adventures. They also offer maps and guides and an array of rental equipment such as mountain bikes, mountain strollers, snowshoes, trekking poles and GPS units.

This past spring, the Evergreen completed an expansion and 24 new family and couples [cabins](#) were added, bringing the total to 90. All cabins are warmly furnished with comfy beds with feather pillows, heat, private bathrooms, spacious decks, SIRIUS satellite radio and more. Located on the western border of Yosemite off Highway 120, it is popular with couples, families, groups, weddings and corporate retreats.

### About Evergreen Lodge

Located near the Hetch Hetchy Valley, the Evergreen is a serene Yosemite destination that blends the modern comforts of a resort, the relaxed approach and activities of a dude ranch and the timeless warmth of a historic 1920s lodge. Evergreen features 90 fully furnished cabins and 15 custom campsites.

First Light Destinations, based in San Francisco and founded by Brian Anderluh, Dan Braun and Lee Zimmerman, purchased the property in 2002 and began to restore, upgrade and expand this historic lodge. The Lodge is a socially minded business that finances and operates an innovative behind-the-scenes on-site Youth Employment Program in which a group of high-potential young adults from urban backgrounds work as paid interns, gaining work experience while receiving career and life counselling.

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Editor's note: Additional photos available upon request.