

## Glacier Point

By way of Four Mile Trail

**Distance:** 4.8 mi one way to Glacier Point. 9.6 mi round trip.

**Type of trip:** Point to point or out and back.

**Difficulty:** Strenuous

**Elevation:** +3426 ft., - 662 ft. (out).

**Hiking Time:** 3-4 hours one-way, 6-8 hours round trip.

**Begin at:** Four Mile Trailhead along Southside Drive in Yosemite Valley.

**Seasonality:** The Four Mile Trail typically opens for the season sometime in May and closes below Union Point due to treacherous conditions after significant snow accumulation (usually by November or December). After major snowfalls, the entire trail may close.

**Trail notes:** This trail begins near the base of Sentinel Rock and climbs to the top of Yosemite Valley at Glacier Point. The trail maintains a continuous steep grade, following the path of an old toll trail that was completed in 1872. The trail has changed a bit over the years; it is now closer to five miles than four. Spectacular views of Yosemite Valley, El Capitan, Yosemite Falls, and, eventually, Half Dome await those willing to tackle this strenuous trail. Don't skip the side trip to enjoy the view of Yosemite Valley from Union Point, located a bit over two-thirds of the way up.

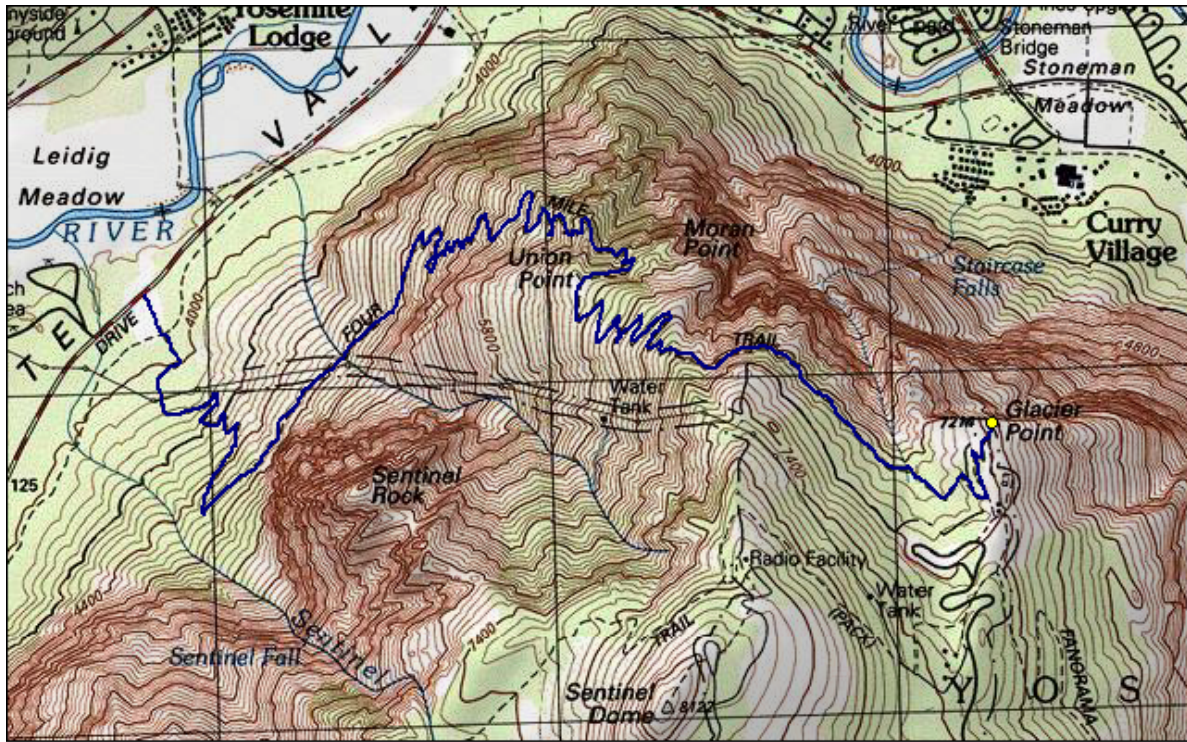
The Four Mile Trail ends at Glacier Point, where restrooms, parking, and a snack stand (summer only) are available.

If you want to hike one way, make sure you have another member of your party available to drop you off or pick you up at the other end. There is no free shuttle system between Glacier Point and Yosemite Valley. The park concessioner runs three daily guided bus tours that include a stop at Glacier Point—you can purchase a tour bus ticket from any tour desk to ride the bus to Glacier Point (hiking back to the Valley). You should purchase this ticket in advance to guarantee your space, but advance tickets are only available if riding the bus from Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point. There is no way to guarantee space riding from Glacier Point to Yosemite Valley; tickets in this direction can only be purchased in cash from the bus driver if space is available.

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

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