

The Panorama Trail

Distance: 8.5 miles.

Type of trip: Point to point.

Difficulty: Moderate to hard depending on the direction you hike.

Elevation: +1749 ft., - 2508 ft.

Hiking Time: 4.5 - 7 hours

Begin at: Most people do this hike one way from Glacier Point to Yosemite Valley, which means parking in the valley and taking the Glacier Point bus from the Yosemite Lodge up to the trailhead at Glacier Point. Glacier Point is at the terminus of the 16-mile Glacier Point Road.

Seasonality: The mountain scenery is good whenever the trail's open, but the waterfalls of the Mist Trail are best in the spring and early summer, when the most water is pouring over them. They have a longer primetime than Bridal veil or Yosemite Falls, since they're fed by the Merced River instead of the creeks that feed the other falls, but they've still usually lost a lot of volume by August.

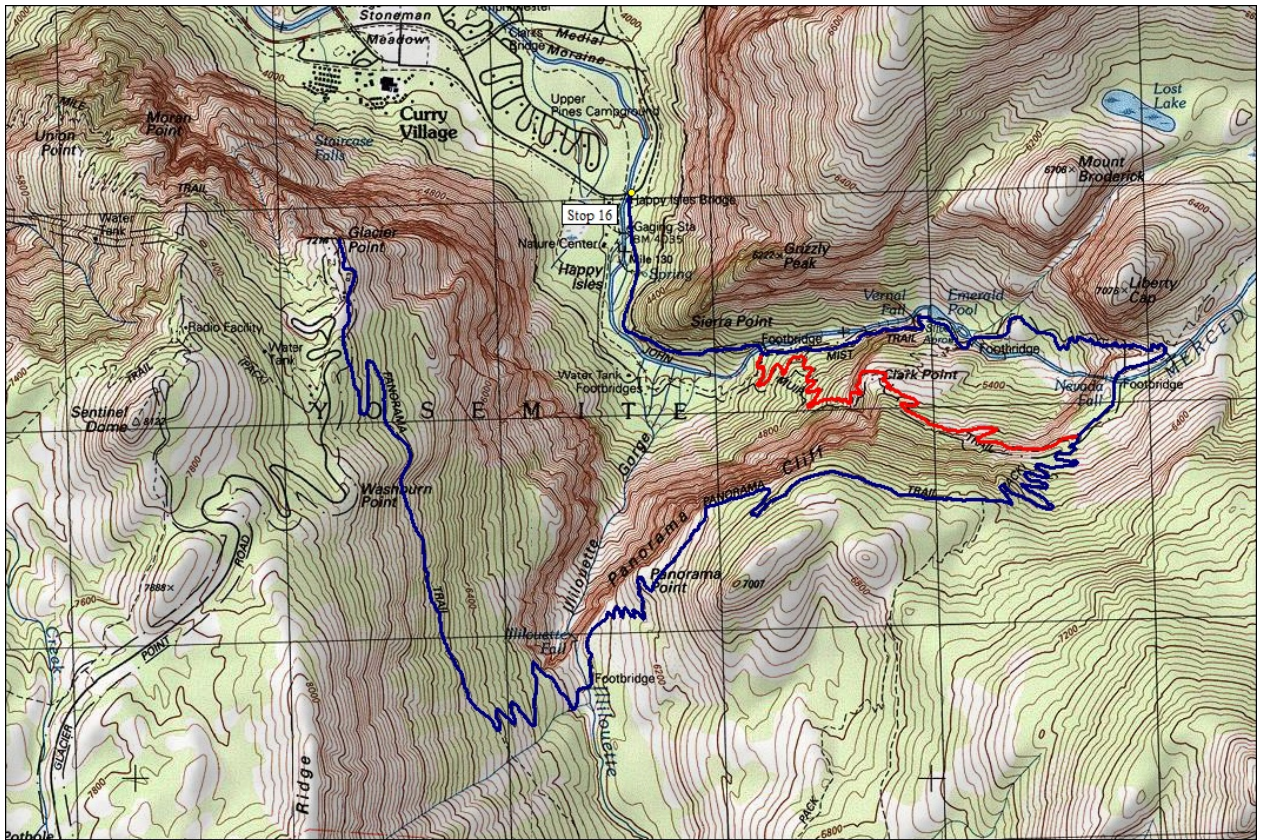
Trail Notes: Two of Yosemite's most spectacular hikes, Glacier Point and the Mist Trail, serve as bookends to a trail that also passes lesser-known gems like Panorama Point and Illilouette. The Panorama trailhead at Glacier Point is at the southern end of the Glacier Point area, near the amphitheater. Once you're on the trail, you'll have at least three forks to navigate over the course of your hike; all are clearly signed and you shouldn't have any trouble figuring out where you need to go.

The Muir Trail is longer but less steep; it's a good choice if you're too fatigued for the stair-step descents of the Mist Trail. The Mist Trail is definitely more scenic, but the beginning of the Muir Trail does have an astonishing view to Nevada Fall, Liberty Cap, and the back of Half Dome.

If you're hiking bottom to top, take the Mist Trail, which is at the southeastern end of Yosemite Valley. Above Nevada Fall, continue towards the John Muir Trail, and you'll soon pass the Panorama Trail fork.

<http://www.yosemitedhikes.com/glacier-point-road/panorama-trail/panorama-trail.htm>

The Panorama Trail



Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

