

Collector's Journal

A Service of Collectors Alliance

2010 Yosemite National Park Quarter - California

Third in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection

The Yosemite National Park Quarter is the third coin issued in 2010 in the America the Beautiful Quarters Program, as well as the third coin in the overall collection. It was preceded by the coins featuring Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas and Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, and it will be followed in 2010 by the coins for Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona and Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon.

Between 2010 and 2021, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories will be honored on America the Beautiful Quarters. All coins will feature a National Park or other national site. Five coins will be issued each year until 2020, with the 56th and final coin (Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Alabama) to be issued in 2021.

According to the law that authorized the program, the design of each coin is selected by the Treasury Secretary after consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

America the Beautiful Quarters are struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. A small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) under "In God We Trust" identifies the Mint where the coin was struck.

More than 3.5 million people per year are attracted to the magnificent scenery and unspoiled wilderness that encompass the 748,000 acres of Yosemite National Park. The park lies in east-central California, about 195 miles east of San Francisco and 175 miles south of Sacramento.

The first Americans began to pass through Yosemite in the mid-1800's, especially on their travels to take part in the California "gold rush." The beauty of the region soon made it a popular tourist destination, and President Abraham Lincoln signed an Act of Congress in 1864 that preserved



Yosemite for public use. Thanks largely to the work of naturalist John Muir, Yosemite National Park was established on October 1, 1890.

Yosemite is known for its numerous waterfalls, massive granite rock formations, groves of giant sequoia trees, as well as deep valleys and sprawling meadows. The most popular section of the park is the Yosemite Valley, a valley formed by glaciers which includes Yosemite Falls (the highest waterfall in North America), the Half Dome and El Capitan granite blocks, and the park's Visitor Center.

The reverse of the Yosemite National Park Quarter depicts the sheer rock face of El Capitan, which rises more than 3,000 feet above the valley floor. It is the largest granite monolith in the world. The California State Quarter, issued in 2005, also showed a scene from Yosemite National Park. It features Half Dome, along with John Muir.

There were four proposed designs for the Yosemite National Park Quarter. After input from representatives of Yosemite National Park and two coin design advisory boards, the final design was selected by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. The design of this and the other 2010 coins was announced on March 24, 2010. One of the three additional Yosemite National Park designs featured Half Dome, while the other two showed dramatic waterfalls with wildlife in the foreground.

The Yosemite National Park Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in the summer of 2010.

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