

HEAD FOR THE HILLS

Yosemite's Tenaya Lodge Offers an Easy Escape

BY EMILY GLASER

Walk through the threshold of Tenaya Lodge and enter the past. The grand foyer space brings to mind the hallowed halls of yore, the mead halls of Vikings or the Round Tables of Arthur, exuding the warmth of an eternal gathering space—but with modern comforts for which Arthur would have sold his sword. Glittering candelabras and a glowing fire bask the open room in warm light, ushering valets and stewardesses gather to assist you, and, if you listen carefully, you can even hear the glassy drop of ice into your Old Fashioned in the next room. For a moment, you forget that you're not a great huntsman returning from a foraging trip and that all you have is luggage, not a wagonload of pelts, to unload.

It's this type of artistry, the ability to help guests devise their perfect escape from the everyday, that Tenaya specializes in. Of course, Tenaya understands that the initial draw for visitors is the Lodge's proximity to Yosemite National Park (it's just a short ten minute drive to the Park's entrance), but it's the resort itself that will have you begging for one more day, one more trip. Whether you're looking for an adventure-filled weekend or a relaxing vacation, Tenaya Lodge is the perfect headquarters for you and your family.

Named for Chief Tenaya of the local Ahwahnechee people, Tenaya Lodge opened twenty-five years ago as the High Sierra region's premier Four Diamond resort. Since then, Tenaya has expanded and undergone countless remodels (including a current major renovation and modernization of guest rooms), but never lost sight of its initial intentions: their fealty to the land and history of Yosemite while providing the most comfortable, luxurious experience for every guest.

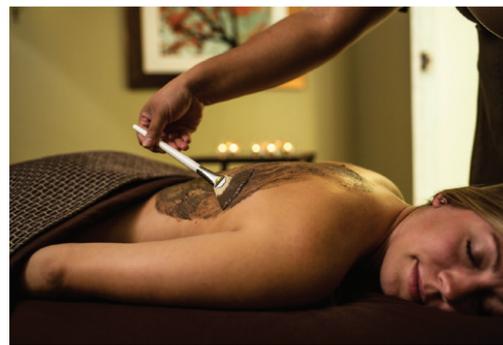
Part of the Lodge's success stems from their skilled, round-the-clock concierge and their chock-full guide to local activities, both on-site and nearby. Everyone knows that Yosemite is a mecca for

hikers, expert and novice alike, but Tenaya's concierge can help you plan countless adventures. If you want to experience nature without leaving the resort, Tenaya's guides can take you on a mountain-biking excursion on the 60 miles of trails surrounding the hotel, strap you in for a quick climb on their own rock-climbing wall, help hone your archery skills, or point out constellations on a night hike. If you've got your sights set on Yosemite, they can set you up with expert fly-fishers and rock-climbers to guide you through the Park's rivers and rocks. Even in winter you can enjoy the great outdoors with sledding, sleigh rides and a roaring fire, complete with fluffy marshmallows and s'more supplies.

After that long day of exploring the surrounding forests and canyons, you'll want more than just a soft place to lay your head. Your aching body and sore muscles will find solace at Ascent Spa. Descend into the lower level of the Lodge, where a calming natural palette and beaming estheticians greet you at the Spa. With a steam room, sauna and plush robes, you'll be completely relaxed before your treatment even begins. Ascent recently unveiled a new spa menu with a variety of treatments gaining their names and ingredients from the local landscape.

Tenaya Lodge is seamlessly set in the natural curves of the High Sierras.





The Bridalveil Massage Renewal is the most pampering massage treatment; bask in the gentle hands of your masseuse as she kneads away knots, then slathers your dry skin and scalp in moisturizing, natural and calming balms. Every treatment at Ascent Spa includes personalized touches and local essences to pamper your trek-worn limbs.

After all that exploring and relaxing, you're sure to have worked up an appetite. With five unique dining options, every palate will be pleased. Drop the kids off with the Lodge's caregivers and head to relaxed Jackalopes Bar & Grill for a signature cocktail or pint from local South Gate Brewery. Couples will love the upscale Embers, a kid-free restaurant with a meticulously designed menu perfected by the resort's Executive Chef, Frederick Clabaugh. Relax in the romantic, intimate atmosphere and savor the local flavors—but make sure to finish the meal with Bananas Diablo, a fiery dish prepared table-side.

If you're looking for a more family-friendly meal, Tenaya provides plenty of casual options. Enjoy fresh and local produce and meats around Sierra Restaurant's limestone fireplace or on the manicured patio; stop in early for the restaurant's sprawling breakfast buffet. In the mood for every family's favorite: pizza? Timberloft Pizzeria is the perfect spot for a slice of pie. And if you're in a hurry to get out on the trail, swing by Parkside Deli for delicious options to-go.

When the sun sets on another day of adventure, return to your room for a night of well-deserved rest. Tenaya's rooms vary from rustic to modern, sleek to homey, but they all share a common element: comfort. Lounge by your own personal fireplace, loll in a steaming bubble bath, or simply climb into downy sheets with a good book; whatever your nighttime rituals, they're sure to be outdone while at Tenaya.

When you pack your bags and prepare to leave the Lodge, lighten your heavy heart with the knowledge that you can always return. Envision your wedding on the Lodge's balcony, the sprawling mountains and pines an everlasting backdrop; picture your company's retreats in the resort's massive ballroom; imagine bringing your kids to Tenaya for the holidays, their faces aglow with the magic of gingerbread houses and sledding and hot chocolate. Tenaya Lodge isn't just a resort to visit or a stop on a road trip; it's a home you can return to for years to come and your ultimate escape from the everyday. 

(Clockwise from left): Start your day with room service and finish it with Cedar Plank Salmon at Embers; the foyer serves a grand entrance; experience the outdoors with suggestions from the concierge, like white water rafting; enjoy rustic comfort in your room; table side preparation wows at Embers; Tenaya specializes in special events like weddings; natural, local elements are infused into spa treatments at Ascent; Summerdale BBQ is a fun dinner experience in the summer.

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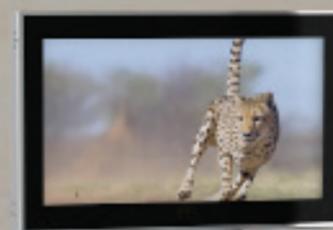
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