



"Getting to Yosemite via YARTS is Awesome! I discovered YARTS last year and am kicking myself for not finding it earlier. It's turned my vacation travel into a cheap, easy commute. It couldn't be better, as Yosemite is one of the best places on earth. Here's my route: BART from my downtown Oakland apartment to Richmond, Amtrak to Merced, and the YARTS bus to Yosemite Valley. Leave at 7AM, arrive at 1PM, for well under \$50. The ride is smooth, I get to catch up on my sleep or watch the winding vistas of the Bay. When we near the Valley, no need to stare at the road - my face is pinned to the window, gazing at cliffs. The return is just as easy - leave paradise around 4 in the afternoon, and I'm back home (planning my next trip) by 10 PM.

"One thing I must comment upon is the quality of YARTS drivers: excellent. It's really nice leaving the driving to them. They do a great job keeping the bus on time, negotiating roadblocks, and organizing riders through the stops. Half of the traffic is folks who work in the Valley - sharing their commute makes tourists like me feel like an insider.

"The drivers do a great job providing information, but aren't overly chatty, they keep their eyes on the road. Ride a few times and they even remember your name. Last winter, even through some fairly long road construction delays, they got me back to my Amtrak connection on time every time. The drivers can phone in to the trains.

"Apart from that, the connections are a total snap - no worries there. As well, the amenities offered on Amtrak are very welcome when you are coming back in from the trail. I'm really lucky to be connected to a national treasure via efficient public transportation. No need to worry about leaving a car at a trailhead. But I'm mad at myself for not discovering YARTS earlier!

Thanks BART/Amtrak/YARTS !!!" - **Joe, Oakland, CA – USA**

*June 20, 2008*