



California's Most Charming Small Town Has A Top National Park On Its Doorstep



By **Felix Ngeso** – Published Jun 17, 2025

Felix Ngeso is a travel writer who loves creating new adventures and staying up-to-date on food trends. He inspires readers to travel through his writings, whether in their country or around the world. He believes everyone should remind themselves of how precious life i...

Yosemite National Park, which attracts approximately four million visitors each year, is a destination that many adventurers long to visit. And for those who have, it's a place they yearn to explore again to witness more of its grandeur. Groveland, one of California's most charming towns, is a 30-minute drive from Yosemite's Big Oak Flat entrance.

As one of the small towns in America that are right on the doorstep of national parks, Groveland acts as a scenic base camp, offering comfort and a taste of California's Gold Rush past. Founded during the 1849 gold boom, this town still carries the echoes of its rough-and-tumble beginnings. Its preserved buildings, including the state's oldest continuously operating saloon, now serve as landmarks of a town that's developed into a quiet but vibrant hub for travelers.

Groveland's history and key details

Groveland's roots trace back to the mid-1800s, when fortune-seekers flooded into the region during California's Gold Rush. Originally named *Garrote*, which is a nod to the lawless justice of the time, the town eventually adopted the more inviting name of Groveland. Like many mining towns of the era, Groveland saw a surge in population and industry, followed by a decline as gold became harder to find. Today, Groveland is a living museum of California's boomtown past, well-preserved in weathered wood, iron signs, and restored buildings.

Groveland

Population	<u>588</u>
Best places to stay	<u>The Groveland Hotel</u> , <u>Yosemite Westgate Lodge</u> , <u>Inn at Sugar Pine Ranch</u> , <u>Rush Creek Lodge & Spa and Evergreen Lodge</u>
Historic highlights	Home to The Iron Door Saloon, California's oldest saloon