Note on Route Tracks and Distances

An invaluable resource for anyone planning a hike in Yosemite is the National Park Service's "YOS GIS" file which contains trail segment centerlines for every trail in the Park. It is available for download here in a variety of GPS mapping formats (CSV, Shapefile, GeoJSON, KML) and these in turn can be converted into whatever other format (e.g. GPX) you prefer using free online tools such as MyGeodata. Using this information you can create a GPS track for virtually any hike in the Park.

I used the KML format of the YOS GIS file and imported it into Google Earth. In constructing the tracks for the routes to the top of El Cap discussed herein I retraced and combined these official route tracks and relied on Google Earth for waypoint elevation data and route elevation profiles. Some variances in distance between the tracks and the route summaries are to be expected due to differences in route starting and end points. Nonetheless, the tracks will provide useful route guidance for anyone who uses them.

DISCLAIMER: Full reliability cannot be guaranteed for any GPS track, including the ones on this website. Anyone undertaking a hike must use his own judgment as to whether and how far to trust a downloaded GPS track.