



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Planning For an Enjoyable Visit over Memorial Day Weekend

Visitors to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks traditionally celebrate the beginning of the summer season with the Memorial Day holiday. This year, high water is creating an astounding waterfall season and the wildflowers in the foothills and Cedar Grove are simply stunning. Visitors can take these steps to make their vacation enjoyable.

The parks have experienced significant and late-season snow in the parks. Visitors to the parks should anticipate snow and ice in several popular destinations and the nearby trails including the General Sherman Tree, Giant Forest, and Grant Grove. The upper Sherman Tree parking lot will be open. However, the trail to the Sherman Tree from that lot will be closed due to icy conditions. The free shuttle will take visitors to the lower Sherman Tree lot.

The Mineral King Road will be open to Silver City only. The Panoramic Point Road and Redwood Canyon Road remain closed due to snow and ice. Much of the Lodgepole Campground remains under snow. However, sixty sites have been cleared. Within Kings Canyon National Park, visitors are encouraged to camp in Cedar Grove instead of Grant Grove where many sites remain under snow. Atwell Mill Campground will be open.

As the significant snowpack melts and feeds rivers and streams, dangerous high water conditions exist in lower- elevation sites such as Cedar Grove, Potwisha, and Hospital Rock. Visitors should avoid the rivers. Drowning remains the most common cause of death in these parks.

Road construction is underway between Potwisha and Giant Forest on the Generals Highway. This work will be suspended for the Memorial Day weekend, May 28-May 31. However, motorists should expect flagger-controlled single-lane traffic and short delays.

For those visiting before or after these dates, the construction project schedule is one-hour delays between 7 am-5 pm, an half hour delay between 5 pm-5:30 pm. Road openings are at the top of the hour and uphill traffic passes first. For all other hours, expect 20-minute delays and a traffic signal controlled single-lane.

The Giant Forest shuttle begins its fourth season of operation in Sequoia National Park on Thursday, May 27. Changes this year include a limited use of private vehicles on the narrow Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road during weekends and holidays when the shuttle is running. Visitors must use the shuttle between 9 am and 6 pm over Memorial Day weekend to access Moro Rock and Crescent Meadow. City of Visalia operates a shuttle system from Visalia (reservations required) from Visalia, through Three Rivers, to the Giant Forest Museum. For information, go to <http://www.sequoiashuttle.com/>.

Please visit <http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/currentcond.htm> for more information and have a wonderful holiday weekend.

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