

Rules & Recommendations

Limited Gasoline Stations

There are no gas stations within the park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770. Year-round 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village & Kings Canyon Lodge: Closed.

Expect Icy Roads

Slow down. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids. Allow 6 seconds of stopping distance between cars. Check antifreeze, battery, wipers, chains and road conditions before you come: 24-hour recorded information 1-559-565-3341 (press 1, then 1 again).

Always Carry Chains that fit your tires and comply with signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are often required; most cars have them. Check the side of the tire for M/S, M+S, or a snowflake symbol.

Get Snow Off Car Roofs

It may slide onto the windshield and block the driver's vision.

Snowplows Rule

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, watch for signals from the plow operator. Slow down but do not stop.

Don't Lose Your Brakes

Frequent braking causes overheating and brake failure. Instead, always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes.

Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 565-4070.

Use Turnouts; Let Others Pass

Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Under 18: helmet required.

Go Slow for Wildlife!

Never feed animals by the road. Cars often hit them if they wait for handouts on roadsides.

Vehicle Length Limits

- Maximum is 22 feet between Hospital Rock Picnic Area and Giant Forest Museum on Generals Hwy due to a very narrow single-lane road.
- Between Potwisha Campground and Hospital Rock, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet.
- Maximum limit on other parts of the Generals Highway is 40 feet for single vehicles, 50 feet for vehicle + towed unit.

Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car, camp in the foothills and use the car.

Winter Road Closures

Plowing

Other than closures listed below, roads may close during plowing. Snowplows clear roads in priority order, starting with main park roads.

NEW CLOSURE

Generals Highway (the main park road) between Sequoia & Kings Canyon parks

From Wuksachi Lodge to Montecito Resort (8 miles south of Hwy 180): Closes no later than 1/2; may close earlier, depending on snow. Reopens 4/1.

In Kings Canyon Park & National Forest

- Highway 180 to Cedar Grove is closed mid-November to mid-April due to rockfall.
- Redwood Mountain Road: Unpaved and unplowed.
- Panoramic Point Road closes with first snow. No trailers or motorhomes.
- Big Meadows, Converse Basin (USFS): All are partially unpaved; closed for winter.

In Sequoia National Park

- Crystal Cave Road closed until mid-May.
- Mineral King Road reopens late May, snowmelt permitting.
- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road closes with snow; reopens with spring melt. No drinking water is available along this road.
- South Fork Road: partially unpaved; slippery when wet.
- Road to Middle Fork Trail is unpaved; slippery when wet. Road closes for winter; park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area.
- Giant Forest Museum: Once snow accumulates, parking areas next to the museum and across the road close until spring. Closest winter parking and restroom: Round Meadow/Big Trees Trail.
- Lodgepole Campground: Campsites & road close 11/28 through April.
- Main Sherman Tree Trail & Parking: Road to this lot closes when snow accumulates.

Road Construction

Traffic Delays & Length Limits

Generals Highway Reconstruction

Amphitheater Point to Deer Ridge (between Hospital Rock & Giant Forest). Expect delays through 5/2012. Details at visitor centers or www.nps.gov/seki

• **Daytime:** Delays up to 2 hours on weekdays. See details on bulletin boards and at visitor centers.

• **Night:** Possible night closures 9pm-6am Sunday nights - Friday mornings with one pass-through at 11:30pm. during non-working hours/weekends.

• **During non-working hours, weekends, and holidays,** traffic signals control 20-minute delays.

Vehicles longer than 22' long cannot travel between Hospital Rock and Giant Forest Museum due to physical limitations of vehicles; long vehicles cannot make the tight curves in the one-lane construction zone.



The Generals Highway

Driving Times in good weather

From Foothills to:

Giant Forest	1 hour
Lodgepole	1 hour
Visalia	1 hour
Mineral King	1½ hours

(Road closed Nov. 1 - late May)

From Giant Forest to:

Grant Grove	1 hour
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From Grant Grove to:

Cedar Grove	1 hour
(Road closed mid-Nov. to late April)	
Fresno	1½ hours
Yosemite south entry	3 hours

(via Hwy 41)