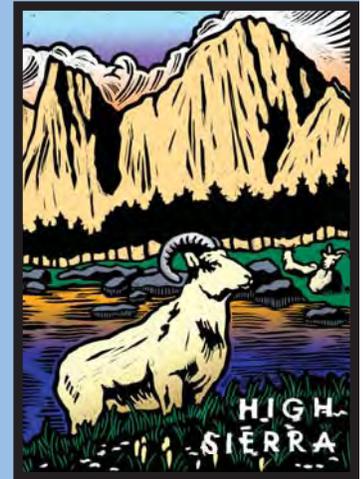
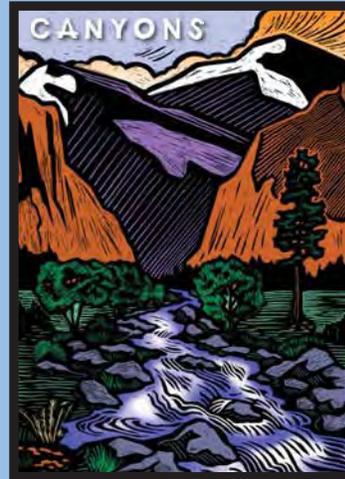




## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



### Winter in the Land of Giants

COLD AIR ALONE makes a visit to these parks more invigorating – and more dangerous. Layer the landscape with a carpet of snow, and both the beauties and the hazards increase.

Weather often changes suddenly here. Temperatures drop 3-5° every 1000 feet you climb. Storms move in and out quickly, and road conditions may get worse or better as the day goes by. Check the weather report before you travel, and again when you get to the park. Make sure your radiator and windshield fluid have sufficient antifreeze. Bring jackets, blankets, and a flashlight in case you get stuck.

Frequently required here in winter, tire chains make driving in snow much safer. Four-wheel drive isn't always enough. Buy or rent chains and learn to put them on to lower your risk of accidents. Page 12 has road-safety tips.

Did you come to go sledding? Don't let an accident on the slopes ruin your

fun! See page 7 for ways to reduce the chance of injuries. Page 10 offers more notes on staying safe.

Winter tests wildlife, too. Animals that can't find food in the snow have several options. Bears and marmots sleep through winter. Pikas and some squirrels survive on food they cached during summer. Many others leave, migrating short or long distances to get out of the snow. Watch for signs of

creatures that spend winter here.

Generally snow free, the foothills offer great winter walks. Wildflowers start popping open by late January. These low elevations offer their own hazards, though: Learn what poison oak looks like and how to avoid ticks.

Celebrate winter's beauties and fun in this landscape of giant trees, mountains, and canyons. And keep safe!



Snowy giant sequoias

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## Telephone & Internet

**911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911**  
No coins needed in payphones.

**Limited Cell Signals & Service**  
See pay-phone locations, pages 8-9.

### Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

1-559-565-3341 (24 hour): Press 1 for an information menu, then for roads/weather/fire, press 1; camping/lodging 2; wilderness 4; and more.

### Web & Social Media

The only official park information sources online:



Website:  
[nps.gov/seki](http://nps.gov/seki)



Facebook:  
Sequoia and Kings  
Canyon National Parks



Twitter:  
[SequoiaKingsNPS](https://twitter.com/SequoiaKingsNPS)

### Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)

1-559-338-2251, [fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

### Yosemite National Park (NPS)

1-209-372-0200, [nps.gov/yose](http://nps.gov/yose)

### California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

1-800-427-7623, [dot.ca.gov](http://dot.ca.gov)

### Wi-Fi

At lobbies in Wuksachi and John Muir lodges, Grant Grove Restaurant, and at Montecito Lake Resort (see *Lodging* page 5).

## Translations

**Welcome** - You may borrow a Braille copy of the park map & guide at visitor centers.

**Bienvenidos** - Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

**Bienvenue** - Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

**Willkommen** - Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher-zentrum erhältlich.

**Benvenuti** - La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

## Visitor Centers, Book Stores, & Information Desks

Each offers different exhibits and films. They sell many items including books, maps, and postcards. All profits from purchases made in park visitor centers go to support the parks!

### Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 9am-4:30pm (may close 12-1pm). Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. Book store. Local wilderness permits issued up to 1/2 hour before closing. 1-559-565-4307.

### Lodgepole Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Friday - Monday 9am-4:30pm (daily 12/21-1/1 & again starting in April). Movies & exhibits on geology & park life. Book store. 1-559-565-4436. Cave tickets sold through 11/25, weather permitting (see details, page 5). Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center. Pay phone.

### Foothills Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits on the diverse foothills area. Book store. 1-559-565-4212. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center. Cave tickets sold through 11/25, weather permitting.

### Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in the Forest Service office in Dunlap, 19 miles west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251, [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

### Giant Forest Museum (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Closed until mid-May. No payphone; closest phones are at Lodgepole & Wolverton.

### Cedar Grove Visitor Center

(NPS) Closed for the season. 1-559-565-3793.

### Mineral King Ranger Station (Sequoia)

(NPS) Closed for the season. Self-issue wilderness permits on the porch. 1-559-565-3768.



## Partners in the Parks

The following organizations work together to protect these lands, provide services, and publish this guide, first printed in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*. Editor: NPS - Malinee Crapsey. Publisher: SNHA. Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

**National Park Service (NPS) - federal agency**  
1-559-565-3341, [nps.gov/seki](http://nps.gov/seki)

**Forest Service (FS) - federal agency**  
1-559-784-1500, [fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

**Geological Survey (USGS) - federal agency**  
1-559-565-3171, [werc.usgs.gov](http://werc.usgs.gov)

**Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) - non-profit**  
1-559-565-3759, [sequoiainhistory.org](http://sequoiainhistory.org)

**Sequoia Parks Foundation (SPF) - non-profit**  
1-559-739-1668, [sequoiaparksfoundation.org](http://sequoiaparksfoundation.org)

**DNC Parks and Resorts @ Sequoia (DNC) - concessioner**  
1-888-252-5757, [visitsequoia.com](http://visitsequoia.com)

**Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS) - concessioner**  
1-866-KCANYON (522-6966), [sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://sequoia-kingscanyon.com)



## Make connections to your national park with SNHA

The Sequoia Natural History Association commits itself to enriching visitor experiences and promoting awareness of public lands through educational programs, publications, and financial support. This non-profit funds education, interpretation, research, and preservation of the natural and cultural history at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

### The SNHA:

- Provides the Park Partnership program
- Operates visitor center stores
- Provides free & low-cost school programs
- Purchases supplies for ranger programs
- Operates Beetle Rock Education Center
- Funds exhibits & research projects
- Manages Pear Lake Ski Hut
- Provides visitor information
- Rents bear-resistant food canisters
- Publishes park books & maps
- Supports protection of black bears
- Provides volunteer opportunities for park projects
- Offers EdVenture & SFI courses plus guide services
- Publishes this guide



## Change: Natural & Unnatural

We often think of parks as outdoor museums. Caretaking a living ecosystem, however, is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone monitor that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear management.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process; Nature decides the timing of many of these actions. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now and in the future.



Prescribed fire in a sequoia grove

## Fire: A Natural Change

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as frequently as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes. Two of these resulted in big problems:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: Fires leave behind a seedbed fertilized with ash and they open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, the amount of dead wood and dense growth of small white-fir trees increased tremendously. Natural fires used to burn these away frequently. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels feed bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous

for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. Now, to protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service works with fire to restore the benefits it brings.

We still put out fires that threaten life and property but, when and where it's appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows that we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." We once thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

## Unnatural Change: Alien Invaders

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often, they keep each other in check.

When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly. This is because the competitors, predators, and diseases that keep them in check in their home communities are not here. This imbalance breaks links in the local web of life, badly disrupting native species that depend on each other. Sometimes the non-native aliens completely replace local plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks.

The natives will thank you!

### Imminent Alien Threats!

**Star thistle** is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny growth completely excludes native plants and limits wildlife movements. It is not yet established in these parks, but it is close!



If you recognize its yellow flower and thorny spines from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in. If you see it here, tell a ranger.

**New Zealand mud snails** completely



take over and change waterways that they invade. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! These tiny light-brown animals—less than 1/8-inch long—stick on gear. Check boots & waders thoroughly for this little invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.

# 4

## Camping

Check regulations at each campground. Rules vary between the Park & the National Forest (see details on page 9). Each standard campsite has a table & fire ring with grill. No hook-ups in the park.

**Food storage must be done correctly all year, due to black bears.** See page 11.

**Summer reservations** for Lodgepole & Dorst (in Sequoia NP) & reservable campgrounds (\* on chart to the right) in National Forest (FS) are available up to 6 months in advance of date desired: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov); 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST, 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

### Group Sites & Maximum Group Sizes

**Up to 6 people:** Many campgrounds limit a site to 1 vehicle & 6 people. Check locally for variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.

**7 to 19 people:** Summer only, first-come/first-served sites: groups of 7-15 at Crystal Springs; groups 7-19 at Canyon View, \$35/site.

**Larger groups:** Call ahead to request summer group tent sites. For Sunset or Canyon View: 1-559-565-3792 (extension 4335 in winter). Group-site reservations in Dorst or national forest: 1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

### Fire Restrictions

Always check bulletin boards at each area.

- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees.
- Firewood: Please don't transport it. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find or buy wood close to where you will use it. If you brought wood, please burn it.
- Fires must be out before you leave.
- The national forest (FS) requires free campfire permits from Hume Lake Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), or a FS ranger.

### Propane Canisters

Do not put propane or fuel canisters in park trash-cans or leave them here. Recycle them at home.

### Roadside Camping?

Not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument: Permitted unless posted otherwise.

### Quiet & Generator Hours

Music should be audible in your site only.

Use generators 9am-9pm only. At Lodgepole & Dorst use them 8-11am & 5-8pm only.

### RV & Trailer Length Limits

Check limits & advisories on back page. There are limited spaces for RVs over 30 feet.

## Campgrounds in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Foothills Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low elevation.
<b>Potwisha - 40 sites</b> Open all year	\$18	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high. Join in summer nature programs.
<b>Buckeye Flat - 28 sites</b> Closed	\$18 No RVs or trailers	River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
<b>South Fork - 10 sites</b> Open all year	\$12 May - October No RVs or trailers	River nearby. Vault toilets. <b>No drinking water</b> , non-potable water available through 10/9. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high.
<b>Mineral King Area closed 11/1</b>	<b>Elevation 6650' - 7500'</b>	<b>No RVs or trailers. No electricity or gasoline.</b>
<b>Atwell Mill - 21 sites</b> Closed	\$12 No water starting 10/19	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food & showers nearby at Silver City (into October). Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
<b>Cold Springs - 40 sites</b> Closed	\$12 No water starting 10/12	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City (into October). Bear boxes in varied sizes.
<b>Lodgepole Area</b>	<b>Elevation 6700'</b>	<b>*Reservations recommended in summer</b>
<b>Wolverton Winter Camp</b> Open 11/26 - late winter	\$10. Camp area may close sooner; depends on conditions.	No designated sites. Flush toilets. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high. Pay phone. <b>Note:</b> Area not plowed until main roads are plowed.
<b>* Lodgepole - 205 sites</b> NEW CLOSURE: Last night 11/25	\$20 during reservation period, then \$18. Reopens in May.	Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Showers, laundry, food nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high. Summer nature programs.
<b>* Dorst - 210 sites.</b> Closed.	\$20	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Bear boxes.
<b>Grant Grove Area</b>	<b>Elevation 6500'</b>	
<b>Azalea - 110 sites</b> Open all year	\$18 (\$10 when snow limits services)	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
<b>Crystal Springs - 50 sites</b> Closed	Tent/RV sites \$18 Group sites \$35	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, showers in summer. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
<b>Sunset - 157 sites</b> Closed	\$18	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, showers in summer. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
<b>Cedar Grove Area closed</b>	<b>Elevation 4600'</b>	<b>Scheduled to reopen in mid-May.</b>
<b>Sentinel - 83 sites</b> Closed	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
<b>Sheep Creek - 111 sites</b> Closed	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
<b>Canyon View - 12 sites</b> Closed	\$35, No RVs or trailers. Groups of 7-19 only	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
<b>Moraine - 120 sites.</b> Closed.	\$18	Flush toilets. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.

## Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (FS)

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
<b>*Princess - 88 sites</b> Closed	\$18 single Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Dump station \$10. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
<b>*Hume Lake - 74 sites</b> Closed	\$20 single Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
<b>Tenmile - 13 sites</b> Closes with snow	\$16 No drinking water.	In fall, no trash pickup or restroom supplies. River, sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
<b>Landslide - 9 sites</b> Closed	\$16	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
<b>Convict Flat - 5 sites</b> Closed	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
<b>Big Meadows &amp; Stony Creek</b>	<b>Elevation 6400 - 7500'</b>	<b>*Reservable in summer.</b>
<b>*Stony Creek - 49 sites</b> Closed	\$20 single Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, & showers nearby at lodge. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high.
<b>*Upper Stony - 18 sites</b> Closed	\$16 Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, laundry, & showers nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high.
<b>Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11, Big Meadow - 45 sites</b> Close with snow.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. Big Meadow has bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high. A pay-phone in summer.

For facility hours, see pages 8-9.

## Sequoia National Park

### Wuksachi Village

(DNC) All year. Reservations 1-888-252-5757; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). North of Lodgepole two miles. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

## Kings Canyon National Park

### Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge

(KCPS) All year. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts, showers.

### Cedar Grove Lodge in Kings Canyon

(KCPS) Mid-May through mid-October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). Motel, restaurant, laundry, market, showers.

## Sequoia National Forest

### Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; desk 1-559-565-3388; [www.mslodge.com](http://www.mslodge.com). On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, seasonal/children's activities.

### Stony Creek Lodge (FS permittee)

(KCPS) Early May into October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Hotel, restaurant, market, showers, gasoline, laundry.

### Big Meadows Cabin (FS)

July to mid-October. 1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Historic station south of Grant Grove.

## Private Land within National Park/Forest

\* **Note:** These two facilities on private land cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by the National Park or National Forest.

### \* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Late May into October. Summer: 1-559-561-3223; Winter: 1-805-528-2730; [www.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com). Cabins, chalets, store, restaurant, bakery, gifts, showers. No gasoline.

### \* Kings Canyon Lodge (private)

Open mid-April to mid-November. Reservations: 1-559-335-2405. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove. Lodge, food, gasoline.

## Neighboring Towns

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging & camping. Ask at visitor centers or see [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit).

## Ranger Talks & Snowshoe Walks

Free programs may be offered, depending on weather and staffing. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for schedules and locations.

**Walks & Talks** may be offered on weekends.

**Evening Programs** may be offered on weekends at John Muir Lodge in Grant Grove, Wuksachi Lodge near Lodgepole, or in the foothills of Sequoia. You don't need to be a lodge guest to attend; all are welcome!

### Snowshoe Walks

May be offered on weekends or holidays when snow conditions permit. Snowshoes are provided for free. They are large and awkward, so walks may be strenuous and are difficult for small children. Group size is limited and reservations are required: for Kings Canyon/Grant Grove 1-559-565-4307; for Lodgepole/Sequoia 1-559-565-4436. Snowshoes are also available for rent (see pages 8 & 9).



**Education Programs** are available for schools in neighboring communities from October through June. Call 1-559-565-3132 for details.

## 87th Annual Trek to the Tree

December 9, 2012 at 2:30 pm. Held annually at the base of the General Grant Tree on the 2nd Sunday of December, this event celebrates two honors given to the General Grant Tree:

- President Coolidge designated it the official Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926 (the "National Christmas Tree" is lit on the Mall in Washington, D.C.); and
- In 1956, President Eisenhower proclaimed the tree the only living National Shrine, and had his personal representative, Fleet Admiral Nimitz, officially dedicate it on Veteran's Day that year.

During the ceremony, park rangers place a wreath at the base of this giant sequoia in memory of those who gave their lives in service to their country. Caroling and readings also take place.

The event is sponsored by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce. Parking is limited. Chartered buses from Sanger are available. For information, contact 1-559-875-4575 or [www.sanger.org](http://www.sanger.org).



## Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly explore the parks and Lake Kaweah with SFI guides. These guides help you see, paint, photograph, or write as you walk, ski, snowshoe, boat, and enjoy! SNHA members may get a discount on SFI activities: 1-559-565-4251; [sfi@sequoiahistory.org](mailto:sfi@sequoiahistory.org)

## Junior Ranger Program

**FREE** for all ages, from age 5 to 105! To earn your badge, pick up a free booklet at any visitor center and complete the activities for your age group.

## Touring on Horseback

Closed until spring. Openings depend on weather.

- Cedar Grove 1-559-337-2314
- Grant Grove 1-559-335-9292
- Horse Corral in National Forest 1-559-679-3573

## Crystal Cave Tours

If weather permits, tours are offered through 11/25. Get tickets **only** at Foothills or Lodgepole visitor centers (hours on page 2).

- Thursday-Friday 1pm, 2pm, 3pm (on 11/23, one additional tour at noon).
- Saturday-Sunday noon, 1pm, 2pm, 2:30pm, 3pm. Tours start again May 11, weather permitting.

**Fees:** Age 5-12 \$7; 13-61 \$13; 4 & under \$2; Golden Age (62 & up) & Golden Access passholders \$12. Ask about military and SNHA member discounts! National Park and Interagency passes do not apply.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles from the park entrance at Hwy 198 (see map, page 8). Maximum vehicle length is 22'. Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes; steep 1/2-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave. Wear a jacket. No backpacks/fannypacks, strollers, tripods. Not wheelchair accessible. Group reservations, wild cave tours, school tours, & other special options: 1-559-565-3759. Tour times subject to change.



Review all safety advice on page 10. Carry a map and warm clothes. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going.

## The Foothills

These lower elevations offer wonderful winter visits—green and usually snowless!

**Foothills Visitor Center:** 8am-4:30pm.

## Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always store food to keep it away from bears.

**Marble Falls Trail** climbs 3.7 miles (6 km) to a waterfall. Park across the highway from Potwisha (no non-camper parking in campground). Near site #14, follow a dirt road across a concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

## Paradise Creek

At Buckeye Flat Campground, take the path across from site #28 across the footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1½ miles (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

## Mineral King

Open late spring through October, weather permitting. The steep road ends at 7800', the park's highest road. Trails there lead to the High Sierra. Weather can be severe; get a weather report before going. No gasoline or electricity in the area. Until spring, the road is gated at the park boundary (about 9 miles from Hwy 198); for a pass through this first gate, ask at the Foothills Visitor Center.



## Giant Forest & Lodgepole

Winter parking is across from the closed Giant Forest Museum. Closest restroom is at the Sherman Tree. Once snow accumulates, rent snowshoes and cross-country skis at Wuksachi Lodge. Snowshoe walks may be offered on weekends (page 5).

## Lodgepole Visitor Center

Friday-Monday 9am-4:30pm (daily 12/23-1/2 & starting in April). See page 2.

## Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road closes in winter to become a ski and snowshoe trail. It begins at Giant Forest Museum on Generals Highway and ends at Crescent Meadow. Walkers and snowshoers: Please don't walk in ski tracks. Highlights:

- Moro Rock: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot /91 m elevation gain). Don't climb if any ice or snow is on the stairs; it is very dangerous. Spectacular views. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.
- Tunnel Log: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

- Crescent Meadow: Several walking and ski trails connect here. It is 1 mile (1.6 km) from here to Tharp's Log.

## General Sherman Tree

As long as conditions permit, the upper trail and parking stay open (take the Wolverton Road between the Sherman Tree and Lodgepole and follow signs). From there you walk down to the tree. Once much snow flies, access to the world's largest tree is only from the parking area along the Generals Highway. The trail from there may not be plowed; snow is usually packed down enough to walk on it. If the upper trail is too steep, you can walk down and have someone pick you up at the lower parking area on the Generals Highway.

## Big Trees Trail

Walk or ski this 2/3-mile (1 km) trail (no yellow markers) that circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology.



## Snowplay Areas

### Wolverton

Sledding hill at the end of Wolverton Road, two miles (3.2 km) north of the Sherman Tree (see page 8). After storms, plows open the main road first, so it may take hours to open this road. Pay telephone is located outside the building next to the restrooms. Snowplay is prohibited in the Sherman Tree Trail area.

### Grant Grove

Use Big Stump & Columbine picnic areas (see page 9). Snowplay is prohibited in the Grant Tree Trail area. Azalea Campground is for campers only, not people who are just snowplaying. Pay telephones are located at visitor center, market, & gift shop.

## Free Winter Holiday Shuttle

### Shuttle Schedule

- November 22-25 (Thursday-Sunday)
- December 26-January 1 (Wednesday-Tuesday)

Shuttles run every 15 minutes between the Sherman Tree parking area along the Generals Highway, Lodgepole Village, and Wuksachi Lodge from 10am - 3:30pm daily. Additional stops may be offered. Restrooms available at each stop.



**Review all safety advice on page 10. Carry a map and warm clothes. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going.**

## Grant Grove

Grant Tree Trail is the only intermittently plowed trail. Beware of slippery ice! Once snow is deep, rent skis or snowshoes at Grant Grove Market. Buy a ski trail map and follow the colored markers on trees. Guided snowshoe walks may be offered on weekends.

## Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Explore exhibits and see a film about this park (in English & Spanish). Daily 9am-4:30pm (may close 12-1pm). Details, page 2.

## General Grant Tree Trail

May be plowed in winter. General Grant, one of the world's largest living trees, stands along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

## Panoramic Point Road

Once snow flies this becomes a ski or snowshoe trail to a spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Park at Grant Village, go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the sign "Panoramic Point 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." It's 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint.

**Very serious injuries** occur every year. Fast sledding and collisions cause most injuries.

### Safe Sledding:

Slide feet first. Don't sled or ski into roads. Steer clear of trees, rocks, people, and other obstacles. After you slide, move out of the way of other sledders. Page 10 has more safety tips.

### Play only in Designated Areas.

Snowplay is prohibited in park residential areas and other areas as signed.

### In Case of Emergency:

Dial 911 from the nearest pay phone (cell signals are usually poor).

## Overlooks & Views

- **Kings Canyon Overlook:** For a view of the High Sierra, drive about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway.

- **Vista of the Kings Canyon:** Drive Hume Lake Road, 8 miles (13 km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

- **Redwood Canyon Overlook:** About 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, this overlook faces west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves.

## Kings Canyon & Cedar Grove

Highway 180 down into the canyon closes in winter due to rock falling from the canyon walls onto the road. You can get a good view out over the canyon between Hume Lake Road junction on Hwy 180 and Hume Lake. The road reopens mid-April.

## National Forest (USFS)

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, a part of Sequoia National Forest. Check page 12 for road closures.

Three USFS trailheads offer snowplay, cross-country ski trails, and snowmobile routes. Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove or Montecito Lake Resort (page 9 has details). Get information and a map at Kings Canyon Visitor Center.

- **Cherry Gap** is on Highway 180 2.5 miles (4km) north of Grant Grove. It offers 10 miles (16km) of marked winter routes, including a ski trail to the Chicago Stump at the edge of Converse Basin grove. Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. The stump is a remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

- **Quail Flat** (on the Generals Highway, 6 miles/9.6km south of Hwy 180) has 23 miles (37km) of trails and snowmobile routes. Some connect to Big Meadows.

- **Big Meadows** (on the Generals Highway, 8 miles/13km south of Hwy 180) offers 23 miles (37km) of marked, groomed trails and routes that traverse meadows and forest. One route goes to the 1916 Buck Rock Fire Lookout (the tower is closed in winter).



## The Generals Highway

Driving this 80-year-old roadway is part of the experience of these parks. It carries you up almost a mile in elevation, and connects the General Sherman Tree to the General Grant Tree, thereby earning its name.

An intense effort to upgrade the highway is underway. For decades, a skin of pavement barely improved the original wagon road. Today's work is building a route that can handle today's large numbers of modern vehicles, without losing the joys of a mountain road. (Traffic delay details, page 12.)

Wayside exhibits at overlooks along this historic road offer insight into these parks. Stop, read, and enjoy the views at these and other overlooks:

### Kings Canyon Overlook

View the High Sierra wilderness from this overlook about 6 miles (9.5km) south of Grant Grove.

### Redwood Mountain Overlook

Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove on the southwest side of the Generals Highway. Views of one of the world's largest sequoia groves.

### Eleven Range Overlook

South of the Giant Forest, this turnout offers views to the west over the foothills and the distant valley.



In winter, some facilities are closed. Be sure to stop at Foothills and Lodgepole visitor centers for information, books, and exhibits. For food and other commercial services, head to Wuksachi.

## Lodgepole

6700' elevation. North of Giant Forest along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River.

### Lodgepole Visitor Center (NPS)

Hours, phone, & details on page 2.

### U.S. Post Office

Year-round. Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. May shut down in 2012. 1-559-565-3678. Lobby open 24 hours. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside visitor center & market.

### Village Center (DNC)

Closed; reopens in April.

## Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. (DNC) Year-round lodging & food service in Sequoia, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree.

**Dining Room:** Daily 7:30-9:30am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8:30pm. Dinner reservations are required. Box lunches are available. Lounge 5-8:30pm. 1-559-565-4070.

### Alta Market & Ski Shop

Daily 10am-5pm. Limited supplies, snowplay sales. When conditions permit, cross-country ski/snowshoe rentals start at 9am.

### Lodging

Details on page 5. Desk 24 hours: 1-559-565-4070. Pay telephones at main lodge.

### Gift Shop

Daily 8am-8pm. Souvenirs, clothing, crafts.

## Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

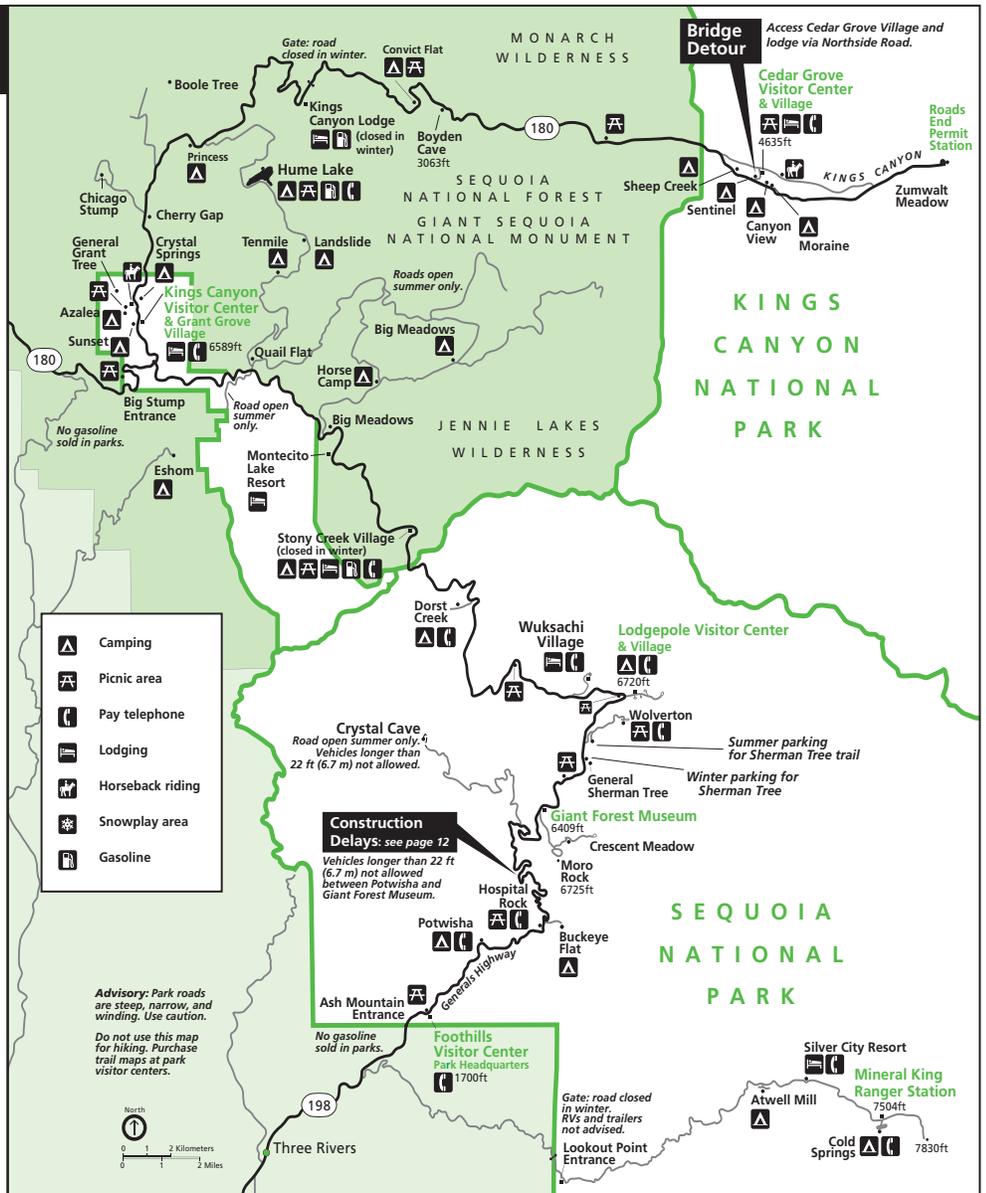
6400' elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees. See page 6. for information on exploring.

### Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Closed until spring. Details, page 2. No pay phone.

### Crystal Cave (NPS)

Closed until spring. Details, page 5.



## Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Winter snow play area (see page 6).

## Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Park headquarters is by the Foothills Visitor Center.

### Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8am-4:30pm. Phone & details on page 2.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

## Mineral King Area

Road, camping, ranger station, and Silver City Mountain Resort (see page 5) closed until late May or June, weather depending. Area details on page 6.

### Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area.



In winter, facilities are more limited than in summer. Be sure to stop at the visitor center in Grant Grove for information, exhibits, and a film.

## Grant Grove

6600' elevation. Near a pristine sequoia grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

### Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS)

9am-4:30pm. Phone & details on page 2.

### Village Center (KCPS)

- Restaurant: Daily 8am-2pm & 5-7pm (8pm on Friday - Saturday).
- Gift Shop & Market: Daily 9am-6pm (7pm Friday-Saturday). Souvenirs, clothing, ATM. Food, supplies, sandwiches, bear canisters, emergency gasoline.

### U.S. Post Office

Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-3:30 pm; Saturday 10-noon. Lobby open 24 hours. Send mail for visitors to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

### Lodging (KCPS)

Desk 7am-10pm. 1-559-335-5500. Details on page 5.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); outside gift shop & market.

## National Forest & Monument

**Hume Lake & Big Meadows Areas:** Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, lies between Lodgepole and Grant Grove and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove.

### USFS Hume Lake District Office

Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Phone & details on page 2.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

- Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove: Summer only at Big Meadows trailhead.
- Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove: Hume Lake (year round; see Hume Lake below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

### Lodging

Details on page 5.

### Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. On public land, along Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Meals 8am-9am, 12-1pm, 6-7pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities, cross-country skiing. From January 1 - April 1, accessible only from Highway 180/Grant Grove area. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

### Hume Lake

All year. Open to the public: 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card). Market & snack shop. On private land north of Grant Grove 8 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

### Gasoline Sales

All year at Hume Lake; summer at Stony Creek & Kings Canyon Lodge. Hours on page 12.

### Boyden Cavern Tours (FS permittee)

On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Cave tours begin again in April. 888-965-8243.

### Stony Creek Resort (FS)

On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. Reopens spring 2012. 1-559-565-3909.

### Horseback Riding

Details on page 5.

## Cedar Grove

Highway 180 to Cedar Grove is closed at Yucca Flat. It will close below the Hume Lake junction starting 11/26. The road will reopen in May, 2012.



Your visit may include both a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Some activities that are illegal in the Park may be legal in the Forest. Know which one you are in!

Where can I...	In National Parks 	In National Forest 
Walk my leashed pets?	Not on any trails but o.k. 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads).	Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.
Collect things to take home?	Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem.	Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.
Hunt?	Not in the Parks. Visitors are responsible for understanding & complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park.	Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.
Drive off-road?	Not in the parks. Stay on roads.	Get specific information on off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
Cut wood?	Not in the Parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
Build fires?	Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. Restrictions change; always check first.	Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves & lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.
Go fishing?	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
Ride a bicycle?	Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). In both areas: Be careful & courteous near people & horses.	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.
Snowmobile?	Not in the parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.

## You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Icy or uneven ground, wild animals, and changing weather pose dangers. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims just walking or climbing near rivers unexpectedly fell in.

The National Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

### DROWNING

The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be extra careful around water; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible: Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Currents are always stronger than they appear.

### DISEASE CAUTIONS

Do not feed or touch ANY wild animals. Avoid areas of rodent activity, as fleas on rodents can carry plague and deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

**TICKS** are common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



**WEST NILE VIRUS** is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

### GIARDIA

This protozoan in lakes and streams causes intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water from waterways for at least 3 minutes.

### POISON OAK

A common shrub up to 5000 feet elevation. Red leaves and whitish berries in fall; bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away.



### HYPOTHERMIA

This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry; snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

### RATTLESNAKES

Found in much of these parks; especially common in the foothills and near water. Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill them; this is when most bites occur. Bites are rarely lethal, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



### LIGHTNING

See dark clouds or lightning? Hear thunder? Get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above your surroundings, such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

### CARBON MONOXIDE

This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces, e.g. a tent or RV.

### OZONE POLLUTION

See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/federal standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

### WEAK CELL SIGNALS

Cell phones rarely work here; don't rely on them. Note location of pay telephones (pages 8 & 9).

### MOUNTAIN LIONS

Cougars roam throughout the parks, but you are unlikely to see one. Attacks are rare, but be aware. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. Cautiously move away if you find a partially buried animal carcass. If you see a cougar, convince it that you are not prey:

- Don't run; that may trigger pursuit.
- Pick up children.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the cougar.
- If the cougar acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back! Report any sightings.



### DRINKING WATER

We test the 13 park water systems to ensure that they meet federal and state standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available.

### ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities! Prevent illegal marijuana growing. Report any suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

### KEEP ANIMALS SAFE

Pets are vulnerable to wildlife, ticks, and overheating in vehicles. Keep wildlife safe from pets, too.

### TREE HAZARDS

Branches may fall, whether or not they appear dead. When under trees, stay aware. Run if you hear cracks or snapping overhead. Don't linger under dead, cracked, or broken branches. Report falling branches or trees to a ranger.

## Explore Safely

- Avoid going alone, and tell someone your plans and return time.
- Take a map and a jacket.
- Watch and listen for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.
- Beware of trails and sidewalks slippery with sand, water, ice, or leaves.
- Slow down. Share the road with people and wildlife.

## Bear Habitat: Proper Food Storage is the Law!

**Bears can grab unattended food or easily break into cars that have food in them. They become bold and sometimes aggressive in attempts to get more. Too often these bears must be killed.**

This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly. Follow the rules below to reduce (but not eliminate) the risk of a bear break-in.

### Drivers

Never leave any food or scented item in cars where food-storage boxes (or "lockers") are provided.

### Picnickers

Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

### Lodge Guests

Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.



### Campers

Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (avoid bringing coolers that won't fit; most boxes are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even non-food) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, seal food to reduce odors, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food. Take baby seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

### Backpackers

Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few wilderness locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at visitor centers or markets.

### Everyone

Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Abandoning your food teaches bears that approaching humans is acceptable. However, if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

## Wilderness

11

### Wilderness Overnights

Wild places are hazardous and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Know and follow restrictions, as they protect both the environment and your experience.

### Permits

Required for overnights (not day hikes). Issued in summer (reservations available) and self-issued the rest of the year at trailhead locations near where you are starting your trip.

**Quotas & Permits:** Each trail has a daily entry quota and a required wilderness camping fee (\$15) between late May and late September. Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date within the quota season are accepted starting March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date. Permits must be picked up the afternoon before (starting at 1pm) or by 7am on the day of departure at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead.

**Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (FS):** Permits not required but the FS requires free fire permits for any open flame.

**Camping in the park's "frontcountry"** is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

See [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.  
47050 Generals Highway #60  
Three Rivers, CA 93271  
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766  
Fax 565-4239

### Pear Lake Ski Hut

Operated by SNHA 12/21-4/28, the hut sits in a basin high above Lodgepole. At 9,200 feet elevation, in winter glistening snowfields and icy granite walls surround it. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. Experience winter in the High Sierra! Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759. Check [www.sequoiahistory.org](http://www.sequoiahistory.org) for this and SNHA's other winter-travel EdVenture opportunities.

### Bearpaw High Sierra Camp

Operated by DNPS mid-June to mid-September, weather permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) taken starting at 7am on January 2; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com), 1-888-252-5757.

## Your Fees Help the Parks & the Forest!

Most fees get invested right here, improving and protecting these parks: They repair roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They update visitor centers, exhibits, and slide programs. For more on these and commercial fees, ask park staff or search [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) for "fees."

**Passes to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks plus Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest):**

• **7-day pass:** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.

• **12-Month Pass:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle. Not valid at Crystal Cave.

**Passes to National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands Nationwide:**

• **Annual:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Annual Military:** Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD1173.

• **Seniors:** \$10 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Accessibility:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documents to entrance stations (not valid at Crystal Cave).

## Rules & Recommendations

### Limited Gasoline Stations

There are no gas stations within 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 on Generals Hwy from Hospital Rock Picnic Area and Giant Forest Museum: 22 feet.
- 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 with an RV, camp in the foothills and use the car.

## Winter Road Closures

### Plowing

Snowplows clear roads in priority order, starting with the Generals Hwy from Hwy 198 to Wuksachi, and from Hwy 180 to Grant Grove Village and the park's north boundary. Roads may close during plowing.

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

Snow may close the road between Wuksachi Lodge and Montecito Resort (8 miles south of Hwy 180) for weeks at a time. The lodges remain open.

### In Kings Canyon Park & National Forest

- Cedar Grove area closed. Gate on Hwy 180 at Hume Lake junction closes 11/26 at noon.
- Redwood Mountain Road: Unpaved, unplowed.
- Panoramic Point Road closes with first snow; reopens by mid-May. No trailers or motorhomes.
- Big Meadows, Converse Basin (USFS): All are partially unpaved; closed for winter.

### In Sequoia National Park

- Crystal Cave Road closes 11/26 at the latest. Reopens in May.
- Mineral King Road reopens late May to mid-June, conditions permitting.
- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road closes with snow; reopens mid-May. No drinking water is available along this road.
- South Fork Road: partially unpaved; slippery when wet.
- Road to Middle Fork Trail: Unpaved; slippery when wet. Road closes for winter; park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area.
- Parking in Giant Forest area: Across from the Giant Forest Museum (closed). Closest restroom & some additional parking: General Sherman Tree.
- Lodgepole Campground: Campsites & road close 11/26 until late spring.
- Main Sherman Tree Trail & Parking: Road to this lot closes when snow accumulates.

## Construction Delays



See [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki), or bulletin boards at visitor centers for updates and details. Thank you for your patience.

### Generals Highway Reconstruction

Amphitheater Point to Deer Ridge (between Hospital Rock & Giant Forest):

- **Daytime on weekdays:** Expect delays up to 1 hour between 7am and 5pm. Later in winter, delays are expected to decrease.
- **All other times:** Signal lights may be controlling traffic for up to 20 minutes at a time into December, then may be removed.

Vehicles longer than 22' cannot travel between Hospital Rock and Giant Forest Museum; long vehicles cannot make the tight curves in the construction zone.

The Generals Highway in the foothills



## Driving Times in good weather

### From Foothills to:

<b>Giant Forest</b>	<b>1½ hour minimum</b>
<b>Lodgepole</b>	<b>1½ hour minimum</b>
<b>Visalia</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Mineral King (MK)</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>
(MK Road closed late October - late May/June)	

### From Giant Forest to:

**Grant Grove** via Generals Hwy **1 hour**

### From Grant Grove to:

<b>Cedar Grove</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
(Road open mid-May to October 29)	
<b>Fresno</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>
<b>Yosemite south entry</b>	<b>3 hours</b>
(via Hwy 41)	