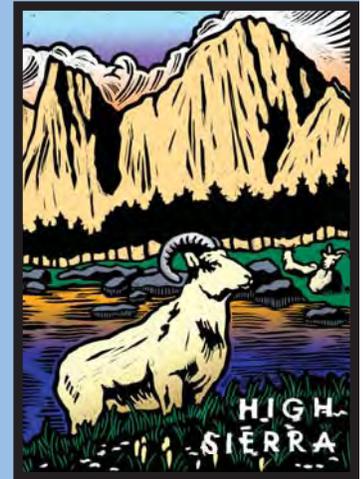
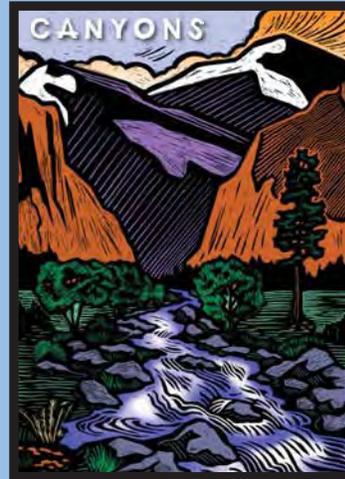




Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



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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