

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 occur here too often! 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 May to late October, weather permitting. The steep road ends at 7800', the park's highest road. Check forecasts before heading out. No gasoline or electricity. Until spring, the road is gated at the park boundary (~9 miles from Hwy 198); ask at Foothills Visitor Center for a pass through the gate.



Winter forest near Lodgepole

## Giant Forest

Winter parking is across from the Giant Forest Museum. Next-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).

### Giant Forest Museum

Daily 9am-4:30pm. See page 2. Walking and skiing trail maps available for sale.

### 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: Through a fallen sequoia. 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

If conditions permit, the upper trail and main parking stay open until significant snow falls. From the Generals Hwy, 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, but it is often slippery — be careful.

### Big Trees Trail

Walk this 2/3-mile (1 km) paved trail (no yellow markers) that circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Try skiing or snowshoeing it once the snow gets deep!



## Snowplay Areas & Winter Trails

### Avoid Sledding Injuries!

People are seriously injured *every* year.

- Slide feet first. Steer clear of trees, rocks, people, and other obstacles. After you slide, move out of the way of other sledders. Fast sledding and collisions cause most injuries; Page 10 has more safety tips.
- Play only in designated areas. Don't sled or ski into roads. 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).

### Wolverton

Wolverton Road starts two miles north of the Sherman Tree (see page 8). It is plowed Friday-Sunday plus Wednesdays and holidays. Sledding is at the end of the road. After storms, it may take hours to open this road as plows must clear the main road first. Pay telephone is outside the building next to the restrooms.

Snowplay is prohibited in the Sherman Tree Trail area. See safety messages in the next column!

### Grant Grove

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

### Nearby Forest Service areas:

Quail Flat, Big Meadows, Cherry Gap. See the map on page 8.