

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 in the area. Until spring, the road is gated at the park boundary (~9 miles from Hwy 198); ask at the Foothills Visitor Center about a pass through this first gate.

Free Holiday Shuttle

December 26 through January 4

In-park shuttles will run every 10 minutes or so 10am - 4:30pm between the Giant Forest Museum, the Sherman Tree parking area along the Generals Highway, Wolverton, and Wuksachi Lodge. Routes change in snowy conditions; check bulletin boards at shuttle stops. Restrooms are available at each stop.

Park your car and enjoy the scenery!



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

Wolverton

Wolverton Road starts two miles north of the Sherman Tree (see page 8). It is plowed Friday-Sunday plus Wednesdays and holidays. Sledging 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 page 9). Snowplay is prohibited in the Grant Tree Trail area. Azalea Campground is for campers only, not those who are just snowplaying. Pay telephones are located outside visitor center, market, & gift shop.