

Review safety tips on page 10. Be careful near rivers, even during low water. Carry a map or guide (sold at visitor centers). Nights are cool; carry layers. It can snow in these parks any time of year. Store food properly while you explore. You are on your own in the parks—be safe!

The Foothills

The low elevations host more different plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined! Get to know this wild, less familiar part of the parks!

Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Get Crystal Cave tickets here. Hours on page 2.

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 in the metal boxes provided to keep it from bears.

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

Paradise Creek

Park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area, walk 0.8 miles to Buckeye Flat Campground. Take the path across from site #28 to cross a footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

Giant Forest

Giant Forest Museum

Open all year. See page 2 for details.

Big Trees Trail

A level, 2/3-mile (1km) paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start at Giant Forest Museum. Parking at the trail is only for cars with disability placards. 1 hour round trip.

Congress Trail

A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the grove. Begins at the Sherman Tree.

General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

- **Main Trail** - This 1/2-mile trail down to the tree has some stairs; the walk back is uphill. Beware of wet or icy spots. Drive 2 miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Hwy only for those with disability placards). Turn right on Wolverton Road; follow signs.

 **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from the Generals Hwy to the Sherman Tree. Parking here is only for those with disability placards. If you have no placard but can't make the hill on the main trail, ask at a visitor center for a temporary permit.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. Highlights:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot eleva-

tion gain). Spectacular mountain views. Two miles from Generals Highway. Do not climb if steps are icy/snowy.

- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. Bypass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles from the Museum.
- **Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias tower over this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails; use only fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here, including the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia; and the High Sierra Trail (60 miles/97 km to Mt. Whitney (14,500'/4419 m), highest in the lower 48 states.

Lodgepole

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Exhibits, film. See page 2.

Tokopah Falls Trail

1.7 miles (2.7 km) to cliffs & a waterfall. Be careful! Start in Lodgepole Campground. 500-foot/152-meter elevation gain; 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

Little Baldy

Ascends 700 vertical feet in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit and grand view. Start at Little Baldy Saddle, on the Generals Hwy 9 miles north of General Sherman Tree. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.

Mineral King

This steep, winding road closes October 27 (last Monday in October); it reopens the Wednesday before Memorial Day (5/20/15) - weather permitting. See page 8 for more details; page 4 for camping.



Photo courtesy of Russell Miller

Upcoming Free Holiday Shuttle

- Thanksgiving: 11/27-30
- December holidays: 12/26-1/4

Shuttles will run during daylight hours from the Giant Forest Museum to Wuksachi Lodge and points in between. Plan a holiday visit to your parks!

