

6 Exploring Sequoia National Park - Early Summer 2015

Review all safety advice on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers. Carry a map or guide (sold at visitor centers). Orient yourself before going and tell someone your plans. Always store food properly before leaving your car or campsite.

The Foothills

The low elevations host more different plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined!

Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. 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 (not in campground). 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.

Mineral King

Open May 20 to late October, weather permitting. The steep, winding road ends at 7800'; be sure to keep to the right as you drive. There is no gasoline or electricity in the area or en route; be prepared. Use the automated fee machine to pay your entrance fee at Lookout Point. Free ranger-led programs start 5/22; please join us!

Giant Forest

Giant Forest Museum

See page 2 for details. Shuttle stop starting 5/21.

Big Trees Trail

A level, 2/3-mile (1km) paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start your walk 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 slippery or wet 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. Shuttle stop starting 5/21.

 **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 walk the hill on the main trail, ask at a visitor center for a temporary permit. Shuttle stop starting 5/21.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

Open. No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road, which begins at Giant Forest Museum. Road is closed weekends/holidays starting 5/21, 9am to late afternoon, when shuttle runs:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular mountain views. Two miles from Generals Highway. Shuttle stop.
- **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 surround this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails; use 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. Shuttle stop starts 5/21.

See Sequoia By Shuttle

See bulletin boards at shuttle stops for details. Buses are wheelchair-accessible; some can kneel. All can carry two bikes.

• Giant Forest: Green Route 1 - Free.

Giant Forest Museum to Lodgepole, stopping at Sherman Tree. Every 15 minutes, 9am - 6pm. 1/2-hour ride one way.

• Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow: Gray Route 2 - Free. Leaves Giant Forest Museum every 15 minutes 9am - 6pm. 15-minute round trip. Moro Rock stop only on outbound trip. Road closed to private vehicles weekends & holidays (page 12).

• Lodgepole /Wuksachi /Little Baldy /Dorst: Purple Route 3 - Free. Leaves each stop every 20 minutes, 9am - 6pm. The Little Baldy / Dorst portion starts 6/17.

• Wolverton / Sherman Tree: Orange Route 4 - Free. Wolverton picnic area & trailhead to Sherman Tree every 30 minutes, 9am - 6pm.

• Potwisha /Giant Forest: Red Route 5 - Free. Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum every 2 hours, approximately: Uphill 8am - 4pm, downhill 9am - 4:40pm. 45-minute ride one way.

• Giant Forest /Foothills / Visalia - \$15 round trip Highway 198 to Giant Forest (no additional park entrance fee). Reservations required; 1-877-BUS-HIKE (287-4453) or sequoia shuttle.com. Leaves Visalia Transit Center every hour 6am-10am; 2-hour ride each way. Leaves Giant Forest for Visalia every hour 2:30-6:30pm.

