

6 Exploring Sequoia National Park: Late Spring 2016

Review safety advice on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers. Carry water and a map (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.

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.

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!

Paradise Creek

Park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area (no non-camper parking in Buckeye Flat Campground). Walk 0.8 miles to the 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 until last Wednesday in October, weather permitting. The steep road ends at 7800', the park's highest road. No gasoline or electricity. Use the machine at Lookout Point entrance to pay your fee.

Giant Forest

Giant Forest Museum

See page 2 for details. Shuttle stop.

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.

 **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.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

No drinking water available along this 3-mile dead-

end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. Road open weekdays; closed weekends/holidays 8am to 7pm, when the shuttle runs:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular mountain views. Keep close watch on children. 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.

Sequoia By Shuttle - 10 years of service!

See bulletin boards at shuttle stops for more.

• Giant Forest: Green Route 1 - Free.

Giant Forest Museum to Lodgepole, stopping at the Sherman Tree in each direction. 1/2-hour ride one way. Every 1/2-hour 8am & 8:30am; every 15 minutes 9am - 6pm.

• Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow: Gray Route 2 - Free.

Giant Forest Museum, Moro Rock, Crescent Meadow, Giant Forest Museum (stops at Auto Log and Tunnel Log on weekends only). 1/2-hour round trip. Weekdays: 8am, 8:45am, then every 20 minutes 9am-6pm. Weekends 8am, 8:45am, then every 10 minutes 9am-6pm. Road closed to private vehicles on weekends & holidays (page 12).

• Lodgepole /Wuksachi /Dorst: Purple Route 3 - Free.

Leaves each stop every 20 minutes 8am - 6pm. The Dorst portion of the route opens 6/20.

• Wolverton/ Sherman Tree: Orange Route 4 - Free.

Connects Wolverton picnic area & trailhead to both the main and the accessible trails to the Sherman Tree every 15 minutes 9am - 6:30pm.

• Giant Forest /Foothills/ Visalia - \$15 round trip

Visalia to Giant Forest (no additional park entrance fee). Reservations required; sequoiashuttle.com or 1-877-BUS-HIKE. Buses leave Visalia for Giant Forest every hour from 6am-10am; 2-hour ride each way. Buses leave Giant Forest for Visalia Transit Center every hour from 2:30-6:30pm.

In-park shuttle questions: 559-565-4436.

