Visitor Guide: Late Summer 2016

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

& Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument

One hundred years!

One hundred years. Not long in geologic time, but long enough to imprint the idea of national parks in the heart of America. And like our hearts, the park system can grow to include more stories, more people, more of our treasured landscapes.

Nature, history, sacred sites: Like many national parks, Sequoia and Kings Canyon have them all. Sequoia and the forerunner of Kings Canyon, the tiny General Grant National Park, were designated in 1890 — the second and third national parks in this country. Over time, with the creation of more parks, the country realized that it needed a professional agency to oversee their care, and in 1916 the National Park Service was born. Yet the early influence of these two parks remains clear. Look closely at the symbols of the park service: You'll see a sequoia tree on the national parks' arrowhead emblem and sequoia cones on the belts and hatbands of park rangers.

At the heart of the park system lies stewardship, the commitment to protect something not only for ourselves but for the future; the willingness to care for something above and beyond our own lives. You play a critical role in stewardship here! Your efforts not only ensure the parks' longevity; they protect surrounding areas, as well.

Explore these parks with friends and family. Take trails, read exhibits, and join in ranger-led programs. Take care of this place, and take that sense of ownership and stewardship home with you. Let it grow to include safeguarding other histories, people, and landscapes in your own community and in other parks.

Then give it another 100 years. Who knows what future celebrations may grow from your efforts?

Join these and other programs celebrating 100 years of national parks:

- **August 25 - Founders Day**: *The actual 100th birthday of the National Park Service! Special activities and programs, flashlight cave tours.*
- **August 26-28 - Ersa of the Red Trees**: *Renactment of a historic pageant once performed here, under the giant sequoias, in 1926. Join in!*
- **September 10 - Spirits and Stumps**: *A living-history event along the Big Stump Trail in Grant Grove. Free reservations required: 559-565-4307.*
- **December 17 - The Great Annual Bird Count / Centennial Bioblitz:** *This takes place at these parks and at other places all over the country. Find one near you. Beginners welcome!*

Other events take place outside the parks; see www.sequoiaparksconservancy.org and www.nps.gov/seki/learn/news for details.

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Finding Information: Late Summer 2016

Telephone & Internet

911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
No coins needed in payphones.

Limited Cell Signals & Service
See pay-phone locations by area, pages 8-9.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)
1-559-565-3341 (24 hour): Press 1 for an information menu then: for roads/weather/fire, press 1; camping/lodging 2; wilderness 4; and more.

GPS, Web & Social Media
GPS programs sometimes misdirect travellers here. Use maps and signs, or ask for directions.

The only official park information sources online:

Website:
nps.gov/seki

Facebook:
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Twitter:
SequoiaKingsNPS

Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)
1-559-338-2251, fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Yosemite National Park (NPS)
1-209-372-0200, nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions (CalTrans)
1-800-427-7623, dot.ca.gov

Wi-Fi
In lobby at Wuksachi Lodge, Grant Grove Village Market, and at Montecito Lake Resort for guests (see *Lodging* page 5).

Translations

Welcome - You may borrow a Braille copy of the park map & guide at visitor centers.

Bienvenidos - Hay un folleto en español disponible en los centros de visitante.

Bienvenue - Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

Wilkommen - Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher-zentrum erhaltlich.

Benvenuti - La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

Visitor Centers, Book Stores, & Information Desks

Each offers park and area information, varied exhibits and films, and many sales items: books, maps, gifts, postcards. All profits from park visitor centers support the parks!

Foothills Visitor Center (in Sequoia)
(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits on life in the low elevations. 1-559-565-4212. *Muchas veces hay rangers aqui quienes hablan español*. Local wilderness permits: On weekdays get them at the Wilderness Office behind the visitor center; on weekends, self-register near the visitor center door.

Giant Forest Museum (in Sequoia)
(NPS) Daily 9am-6pm through 9/4, then 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits on sequoias. 1-559-565-4480. No payphone (closest outside Lodgepole Market & Wolverton).

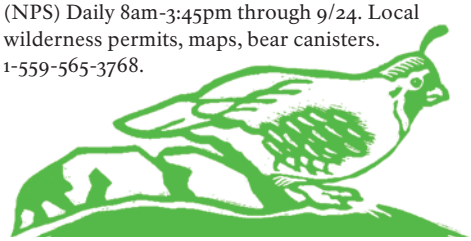
Kings Canyon Visitor Center
(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 8am-5pm through 9/30, then 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. 1-559-565-4307. Local wilderness permits 8am-4:30pm.; self-issue outside starts 9/25.

Hume Lake District Office (USFS)
35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in the Forest Service office in Dunlap, 19 miles west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251, www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Lodgepole Visitor Center (in Sequoia)
(NPS) Daily 7am-7pm through 9/4, then 7am-5pm through 9/24. Starting 9/25, 8am-4:30pm. Closed starting 10/11. Films, exhibits. Local wilderness permits inside through 9/24. Payphone outside.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (in Kings Canyon)
(NPS) Daily 9am-5pm through 9/11. 1-559-565-3793. Wilderness permits issued at Road's End through 9/24, then self-issue there.

Mineral King Ranger Station (Sequoia)
(NPS) Daily 8am-3:45pm through 9/24. Local wilderness permits, maps, bear canisters. 1-559-565-3768.



Partners in the Parks

The following work together to protect these lands, provide services, and publish this guide, which was first printed in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*.

- Editor: NPS - Malinee Crapsey
- Publisher: Sequoia Parks Conservancy (below)
- Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

National Park Service (NPS) - federal agency in the Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3341, nps.gov/seki

Forest Service (USFS) - federal agency in the Dept. of Agriculture: 1-559-784-1500, fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Geological Survey (USGS) - federal agency in the Dept. of the Interior:1-559-565-3171, werc.usgs.gov

Delaware North Parks & Resorts at Sequoia & Kings Canyon (DNPR) - the concessioner providing lodging & food services: 1-888-252-5757, visitsequoia.com

Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC): This new non-profit park partner was formed by the merger of the Sequoia Natural History Association and Sequoia Parks Foundation. See below or www.sequoiaparksconservancy.org, & www.exploresequoiakingscanyon.com for activities and programs. 1-559-561-4803.

Connect to your national park!

The Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) works with these parks to enrich your experience and promote awareness of public lands. They offer educational programs, publications, and financial support for preserving the natural and cultural history of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

Support the Conservancy in all it does:

- Seeks funding for park improvement projects, resource protection, and research;
- Provides activities & tour-guide services through Sequoia Field Institute (SFI; page 5);
- Supports park programs & activities;
- Increases accessibility of park trails;
- Conducts Crystal Cave tours;
- Expands park outreach;
- Accepts donations for search & rescue efforts;
- Manages the Pear Lake Winter Hut;
- Funds park books, maps, & this guide!

Change: Natural & Unnatural

We often think of parks as outdoor museums. Caretaking a living ecosystem, however, is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone monitor that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear management.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process; Nature decides the timing of many of these actions. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now and in the future.

Prescribed fire in a sequoia grove

Fire: A Natural Change

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as often as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this practice. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes, which led to big problems:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: Fires leave behind a seedbed fertilized with ash, and they open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, the amount of dead wood and dense growth of small white-fir trees increased tremendously. In the past, frequent natural fires burned these away. Now, after fire's long absence, these serve as fuels, feeding bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at these parks, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. To protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, we now work with fire to restore the benefits it brings.

We still put out fires that threaten life and property but when and where it's appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The national parks exist to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." We once thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

Note: The effects of the 2015 Rough Fire continue to influence the Kings Canyon area (page 7).

For more about fire management, visit http://go.nps.gov/sekifire. To report a wildfire: 559-565-3195.

Unnatural Change: Alien Invaders

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often, they keep each other in check.

When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly. This is because the competitors, predators, and diseases that keep them in check in their home communities are not here. This imbalance breaks links in the local web of life, badly disrupting native species that depend on each other. Sometimes the non-native aliens completely replace local plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks.

The natives will thank you!

Imminent Alien Threats!

Star thistle is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny growth completely excludes native plants and limits wildlife movements. It is not yet established in these parks, but it is close! If you recognize its yellow flower and thorny spines from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in. If you see it here, tell a ranger.

New Zealand mud snails completely take over and change waterways that they invade. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! These tiny light-brown animals—less than 1/8-inch long—stick on your gear. Check boots, waders, and boats thoroughly for this little invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.

4 Camping

Check regulations at each campground. Rules vary between the National Park and National Forest (details on page 9). Each standard campsite has a table and fire ring with grill. No hook-ups in the park.

You must store food correctly all year due to black bears. The park supplies many 47" long x33" deep x28" high food-storage boxes. See page 11.

Summer reservations: See * on chart (to the right) for reservable campgrounds in this area. Reservations available up to 6 months in advance: www. recreation.gov; 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST, 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

Group Sites & Maximum Group Sizes

· **Up to 6 people**: Many campgrounds limit a site to 1 vehicle & 6 people. Check locally for variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.

· **7 to 19 people:** Summer only, first-come/first-served sites: groups of 7-15 at Crystal Springs; groups 7-19 at Canyon View, $35/site.

· **Larger groups**: Reservations for large-group sites in Dorst Creek, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove in the national park or in the national forest: 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov.

Fire Restrictions, Campfires, & Firewood

· Restrictions are in place in these parks and surrounding national forests. See page 12.

· Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs or trees. Please don't transport firewood. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find or buy wood close to where you will use it. Please burn up any wood you brought in.

· Fires must be out cold before you leave.

· The national forest (FS) requires free campfire permits from their Dunlap Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (in Grant Grove), a FS ranger, or you can download it from www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia.

Ranger-Led Programs - Free

May be held in or near campgrounds.Check locally.

Take Propane Canisters Home

They cannot go in park trashcans or be left here.

Roadside Camping?

Not permitted in the park; camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument: Permitted unless posted otherwise.

Quiet & Generator Hours

Music should be audible in your site only.
Use generators 9am-9pm only. At Lodgepole & Dorst use them 8-11am & 5-8pm only.

RV & Trailer Length Limits - See back page.

Campgrounds: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Foothills Area	**Elevation 2100' - 3600'**	**Low-elevation oaks and chaparral.**
*** Potwisha - 40 sites** Open all year.	$22. *Some sites reservable all year.	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station.
*** Buckeye Flat - 28 sites** Open. Last night 9/27.	$22. *Sites reservable for 5/25-9/27.	No RVs or trailers. River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha.
South Fork - 10 sites Open all year.	$12. No drinking water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Food-storage boxes ~47"long, 17"deep, 16"high. Non-drinkable water 5/25-10/12.
Mineral King Area	**Elevation 6650' - 7500'**	**Area open 5/25 through 10/25. No electricity or gas.**
Atwell Mill - 21 sites	$12. See road info, page 12.	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food, pay showers nearby at Silver City (summer only).
Cold Springs - 40 sites	$12. See road info, page 12.	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food & pay showers at Silver City (summer only). Food-storage boxes in varied sizes.
Lodgepole Area	**Elevation 6700'**	***Reservations available in summer. Conifer forest.**
*** Lodgepole - 203 sites** Open to late November.	$22. Sites reservable 5/25-9/27.	Pay phone, flush toilets. River. Food services nearby. Generator use: 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Dump station.
*** Dorst Creek - 211 sites** Open 6/15 through 9/6.	$22. Sites reservable 6/15-9/6. Shuttle stop through 9/6.	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Generator use 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Large group sites for 15-50: $70, for 15-40: $60, for 15-30: $50.
Grant Grove Area	**Elevation 6500'**	**Conifer forest near sequoias.**
Azalea - 110 sites Open all year.	$18. Self-register near site #29.	Flush toilets. Village nearby with food services. Pay showers (summer).
Crystal Springs - 49 sites. Last night standard sites 9/6.	$18 Standard sites *Mid-size group sites $40.	Village nearby: food; pay showers in summer. *14 sites for mid-sized groups (7 to19) reservable 5/25 through 9/27.
*** Sunset - 156 sites** Last night 9/6.	$22. *Large-group sites (15-30 people) $50.	Flush toilets. Nearby with food service; pay showers in summer. Regular sites reservable 7/1-9/6 & large-group sites 5/25-9/6.
Cedar Grove Area	**Elevation 4600'**	**In the canyon of the Kings. No RV tank dump stations.**
Sentinel - 82 sites Open.	$18	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer. One loop open until road closes; remainder opens as needed.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Open. Last night 9/20.	$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer. Many dead trees have been cleared. Closing schedule may change.
***Canyon View: 16 group sites** No RVs or trailers. Open.	*$40 mid-size groups (7-19); *$50 large groups (15-30); *$60 large groups (15-40).	No RVs or trailers. Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby. * Mid-sized group sites reservable 5/25-9/6; large-group sites 5/25 - 9/27. No small (family) sites.
Moraine - 121 sites Open. Last night 9/6.	$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers, laundry nearby. Many dead trees had to be cleared before opening.

Opening/closing dates depend on weather, roads, and other conditions.

Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (Forest Service)

Note: Some Forest Service campgrounds may close while hazard trees are removed.

Hume Lake Area	**Elevation 4000' - 5900'**	**Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.**
*** Princess - 88 sites**	$24 single, $48 double Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. RV dump station $10. Extra car $7.
*** Hume Lake - 74 sites** Open.	$24 single, $48 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car $7.
*** Tenmile - 13 sites** Open.	$20 single, $40 double. Reservable in summer.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets.
Landslide - 9 sites	$20 single, $40 double	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car $7.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Open.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	**Elevation 6400 - 7500'**	**Between Grant Grove and Wuksachi Lodge.**
*** Stony Creek - 49 sites** Open.	$24 single, $48 double. Reservable in summer.	Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge (summer). Extra car $7. Food-storage boxes ~47"long, 17"deep, 16"high
*** Upper Stony - 18 sites** Open.	$20 single, $40 double. Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Food, laundry, showers nearby. Extra car $7. Food-storage boxes ~47"long, 17"deep, 16"high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. Food-storage boxes ~47"long, 17"deep, 16"high.
Big Meadow - 45 sites, new fee:	$21 single site,$42 double.	Vault toilets. Big Meadow food boxes ~47"long, 33"deep, 28"high.

Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9.

You can find lodges in three areas within these parks, and in several locations in the neighboring national forest:

In these National Parks

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (DNPR):

· Wuksachi Lodge
All year. Reservations 1-888-252-5757; www.visitsequoia.com. North of Lodgepole two miles at 7200'. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts, wi-fi.

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK
(DNPR) Reservations 1-877-436-9617; www.visitsequoia.com. Lodging in two areas:

· Grant Grove Cabins & John Muir Lodge
All year. Hotel, cabins, food service, market, gifts at 6500'. Register at John Muir Lodge. 559-335-5500

· Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon
Motel, eatery, market at 4600'.

Sequoia National Forest

Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)
All year. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; desk 1-559-565-3388; www.mslodge.com. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, seasonal & children's activities.

Stony Creek Resort (FS permittee)
(KCPS) Mid-May to mid-October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Hotel, gasoline, pizza, market, showers, laundry.

Big Meadows Cabin (FS)
July to mid-October. 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov. Historic station south of Grant Grove.

On Private Land in Park/Forest

** Note: These two lodges on private land surrounded by national park or forest cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by these agencies.*

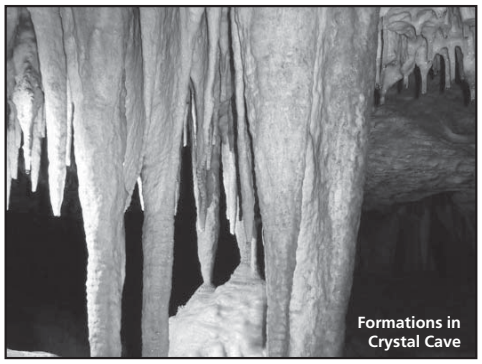
*** Silver City Mountain Resort (private)**
Late May to late October. www.silvercityresort.com; 1-559-561-3223. Cabins, supplies, showers. Store, restaurant/bakery. No gasoline.

*** Kings Canyon Lodge (private)**
Closed. 1-559-335-2405. On Hwy 180.

Neighboring Towns

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging, camping, and gasoline stations. Ask at visitor centers or see www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit for details.

Programs & Tours - Late Summer 2016


Formations in Crystal Cave

Crystal Cave Tours

Reserve tickets online at www.recreation.gov at least 48 hours in advance. Need a ticket today? Check first thing in the morning at Lodgepole or Foothills visitor centers (*not* at the cave). Allow for wait times at park entrances, especially on weekends and holidays.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles from Sequoia Park's entrance at Hwy 198; 3 miles south of Sherman Tree (map, page 8). Maximum vehicle length on this narrow, winding road is 22'. Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes; the 1/2-mile trail to the cave is steep. Wear a jacket; it's 50°F (10°C) inside. No bags/packs of any kind, strollers, or tripods; no flash/lighted photography/video. Not wheelchair accessible. Tours times subject to change. For school tours & groups larger than 21, visit www.explorecrystalcave.com. Tours operated by the Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC).

Family Cave Tour - Daily, 50 minutes

June 6 - September 5:
- **Saturday**: Every 1/2 hour 10:30am-6pm
- **Sunday:** Every 1/2 hour 10:30am-5pm
- **Weekdays:** Every 1/2 hour 10:30am-4:30pm

September 6- 25:
- **Saturday & Sunday**: 11am; 12 noon; 1, 2, 3, 4 pm
- **Weekdays:** 11am; 12 noon; 2pm, 3 pm

Sept. 26- Oct. 16 (tours continue into November)
- **Saturday & Sunday**: 11am; 12 noon; 1, 2, 3pm
- **Weekdays:** 11am; 1pm, 2pm

Fees: Ages 0-5 $5; 6-12 $8; 13-61 $16; 62 & up $15. National Park & Interagency passes do not apply.

Special tours for special interests:

- **Junior Caver Tour** 6/21-8/17, Tuesday-Wednesday 1-3:30pm. Ages 10 to 15. $30.
- **Discovery Tour** 6/23-8/21. Thursday-Friday at 5:15pm, Sundays 5:45pm (except holiday week ends). $18.
- **Early-Bird Tour** Age 13 & up only. Daily 10am 6/6-9/5 (except holiday weekends).

Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Offered in the Foothills, Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, Mineral King, Cedar Grove, and other locations! See bulletin boards for schedules of ranger-led activities.

Junior Ranger Program - free

For ages 5 to 105! Pick up a free booklet at any visitor center, finish the activities for your age group, & earn your badge.

Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly explore the parks and Lake Kaweah with SFI guides. These experts help you see, paint, photograph, or write as you walk, ski, snowshoe, boat, and enjoy! Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) members may get a discount on SFI activities: 1-559-565-4251; sfi@sequoiaparks.org

Touring on Horseback

Hourly rides, spot trips, guided trips. Opening & closing dates depend on conditions.

Cedar Grove May to mid-October, 9am-4pm. 559-565-3464 summer, 559-337-2413 off season

Grant Grove June to mid-September, 9am-4pm: 1-559-335-9292 summer

Horse Corral Late May through September: At Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest 1-559-565-3404 summer, 1-559-679-3573 cell

Teachers & Parents, Take Note!

Expand your classroom: Invite a ranger to your class, visit the parks with your school group, download lesson plans, and participate in distance learning. All education programs are standards-based and free! Visit nps.gov/seki/learn/education.

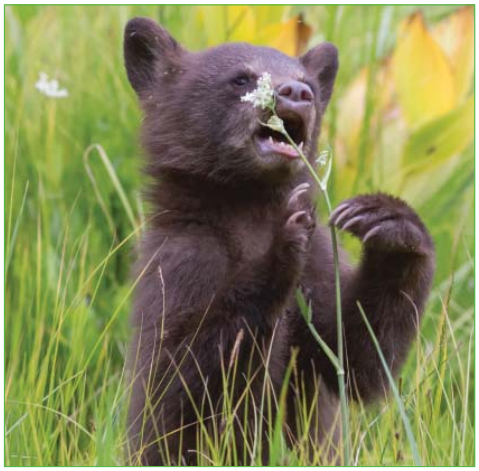


Photo courtesy of Kiel Maddox.

6 Exploring Sequoia National Park: Late Summer 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 through 9/11.

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 onWolverton Road; follow signs. Shuttle stop through 9/11.

♿ **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 through 9/11.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

No drinking water is 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 views. Keep close watch on children. Two miles from Generals Hwy. Shuttle stop through 9/11.
- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through; 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. Shuttle stop through 9/11.

Sequoia By Shuttle

SEQUOIA SHUTTLE SERVING SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK 10 CELEBRATING TEN YEARS

See bulletin boards at shuttle stops for details.

· **Giant Forest: Green Route 1 - Free.** Giant Forest Museum to Lodgepole, stopping at the Sherman Tree in each direction. ½-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.

· **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; 1-877-BUS-HIKE or sequoiashuttle.com. 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.

Exploring Kings Canyon National Park & nearby forest lands

The large 2015 Rough Fire burned in this area. Exploring it may seem inviting, but burned-out stumps and ash areas are unstable. Dead standing trees can fall at any time. Stay on trails to avoid crushing new growth, and give the plants and animals a chance to recover.

Also review safety advice (page 10). Be careful near rivers and with fire. Always store food properly before leaving your car or campsite. Carry a map and water.

Grant Grove

Kings Canyon Visitor Center - See page 2.

Grant Tree Trail
General Grant, one of the world's largest trees, grows by this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. The tree is also a living national shrine. Trail guides are sold at visitor centers & the trailhead. One mile/1.6km from the visitor center: north on Hwy 180 then follow signs. Shuttle stop through 9/5.

North Grove Loop
This 1½-mile (2.4 km) trail offers a close look at Big Trees and a quiet forest walk. Start at Grant Tree bus/RV parking. Shuttle stop through 9/5.

Panoramic Point Road
A narrow road to a trail to a beautiful Sierran vista. Trailers/RVs prohibited. Go east through visitor-center parking; follow signs to the paved, ¼-mile accessible trail to an overlook. Park Ridge Trail (4 miles/6.4 km round-trip) begins here.

Big Stump Basin & Picnic Area
Late 19th-century logging left stumps here, including the giant Mark Twain Stump you can climb on. Slabs of this tree are in museums in New York and London. 1.5 miles, easy. Shuttle stop through 9/5.

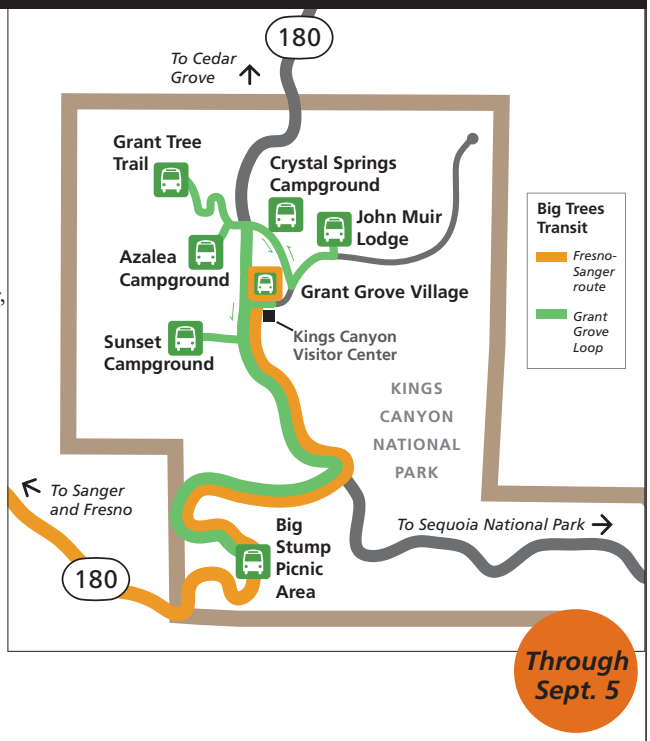
Grant Grove By Shuttle

See bulletin boards at shuttle stops for schedules. Each bus can carry two bicycles and is wheelchair-accessible; some can kneel.

• Grant Grove Loop (green): Free. Daily 9:20am through 5:16pm, these buses make a 20-25 minute loop, stopping at:

- just north/across the parking lot from Kings Canyon Visitor Center, in front of the gift shop;
- John Muir Lodge (closest stop to Panoramic Point);
- Crystal Springs Campground;
- Grant Tree/North Grove parking;
- Azalea Campground;
- Sunset Campground;
- Big Stump Picnic Area (on Hwy 180 near entrance);
- back to the gift shop.

Buses come to each stop every 15 to 35 minutes (only one is 45 minutes). Last bus leaves the gift shop at 4:45pm.



• Big Trees Transit:
Highway 180 to Grant Grove (orange) - $15 round trip (no additional park entrance fee). Reservations strongy recommended; www.bigtreestransit.com. Questions: 1-800-325-RIDE (7433). Buses leave Fresno at 7am and 9am, stopping at the Fresno Greyhound and Amtrak stations, Fresno State University, the Fresno Airport, Sanger Depot Museum, and Squaw Valley / Clingan's Junction. The entire ride to the giant sequoias in Grant Grove takes 2-1/2 hours. Buses leave Grant Grove for the valley at 3:30pm and 5:30pm, making the same stops as they did on the way up.

Redwood Mountain Sequoia Grove
Rutted dirt road to one of the world's largest Big Tree groves. Research here revealed the positive link between sequoias and fire. Across Generals Hwy from Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction; 7 miles south of Grant Grove. Turn right (west) at Redwood Saddle; 2 miles to parking lot. Loop trails up to 10 miles long.

Area Overlooks & Views
• **McGee Vista Point**: Sunset views. North of Grant Grove Village 3 miles on Hwy 180.
• **Kings Canyon Overlook**: View of the high country. On Generals Hwy, 7 miles south of Grant Grove.
• **Redwood Mountain Overlook**: Look west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. South of Grant Grove 6 miles on the Generals Hwy.

Kings Canyon & Cedar Grove

See where the 2015 Rough Fire burned along the road. Many drought-weakened trees here succumbed to insects.

Roaring River Falls
A very short, shady walk to a waterfall rushing through a granite chute. East of Cedar Grove Village 3 miles. Paved, accessible with assistance.

Zumwalt Meadow
This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop passes high granite walls, lush meadows, and the Kings River. Parking is 4½ miles east of Cedar Grove Village road. Buy a trail guide at the visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

National Forest / Monument

Giant Sequoia National Monument is part of Sequoia National Forest next to these parks. Page 9 details how national parks and forests differ. **A few areas remain closed due to effects of the Rough Fire; watch for signs & ask for updates.**

Converse Basin
North of Grant Grove 2 miles. Most sequoias in this huge grove were cut early in the 1900s.

Hume Lake
Formed by a rare, historic dam, the lake supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles to Sanger. An easy 2½-mile trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Six miles north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles south on Hume Lake Road.

Buck Rock Lookout
A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11, then take Forest Road 13S04.

8 Facilities: Sequoia

Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Park headquarters is by the Foothills Visitor Center.

Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8am-4:30pm. See page 2. Ask about cave tickets.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

6400' elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees.

Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Hours on page 2. Shuttle stop through 9/11.

Crystal Cave (NPS)

Details, page 3. Tickets *not* sold at cave.

Giant Forest Shuttle (NPS): See page 6.

Lodgepole

6700' elevation. North of Giant Forest along the Kaweah River. Shuttle stops through 9/11.

Lodgepole Visitor Center (NPS)

Hours, page 2. Ask about cave tickets here (page 5).

Lodgepole Village Shops (DNPR):

- Market & Gift Shop: Daily 8am-9pm through 9/5, then 8am-6pm. Supplies, clothing, food.
- Grill: Daily 8 -11am & 11:30am-8pm through 9/5, then 9am-6pm.
- Deli: Daily 11am-6pm through 9/5 then closed.
- Showers & Laundry: Daily 8am-12 noon & 2-8pm. Last laundry in 1 hour before closing.

U.S. Post Office

Mail drop only. Behind visitor center. Full postal services at Grant Grove.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

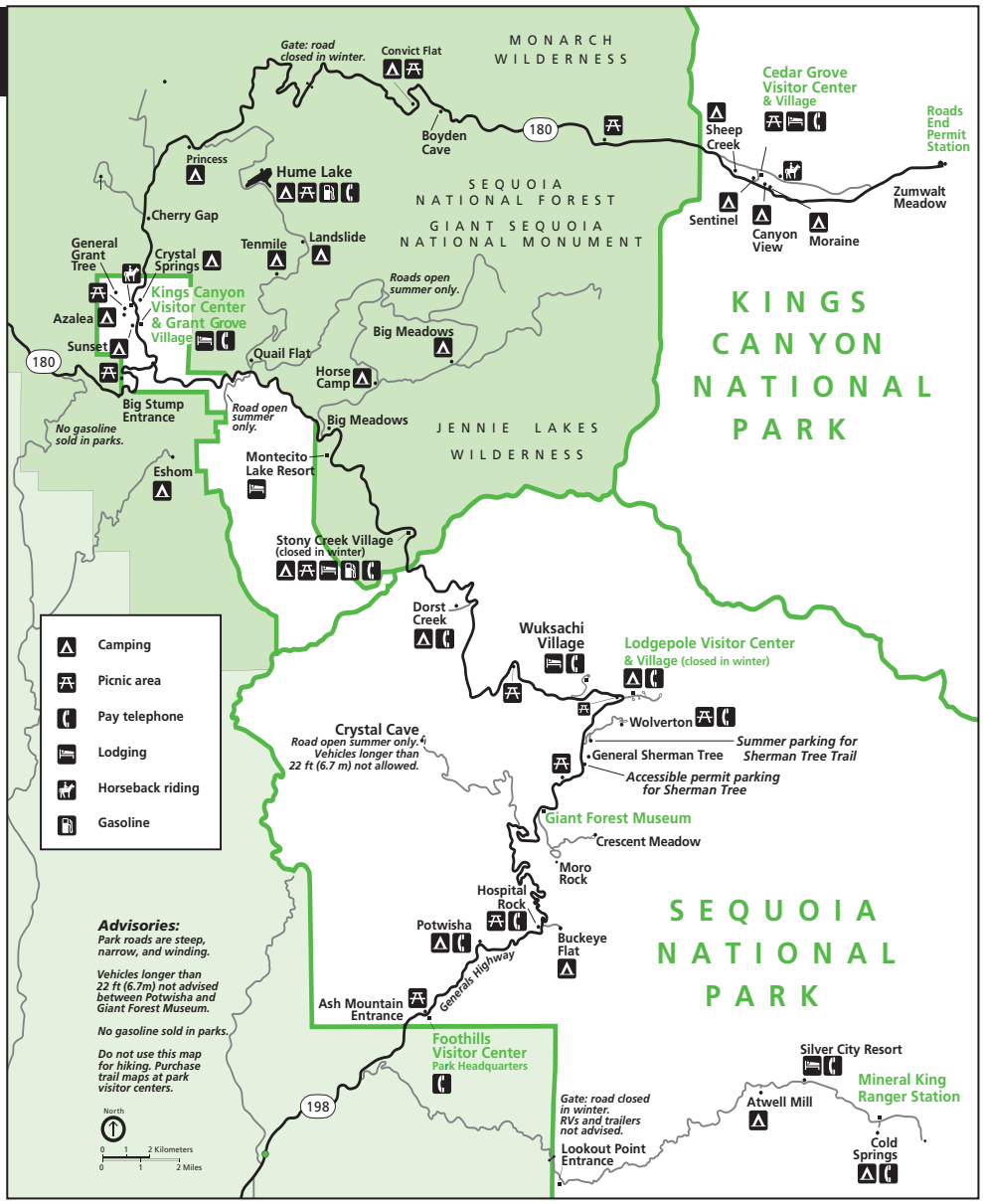
Outside visitor center & market.

Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. (DNPR) Year-round, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree. Pay phones at main lodge. Check for naturalist programs. Shuttle stop through 9/11.

The Peaks Dining Room & Gift Shop

Dining daily 7-10am, 11:30am-3pm, 5-9:30pm, & lounge 4-10pm through 10/10. Then 7:30-9:30am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8:30pm, & lounge 4-8:30pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070. Gift shop daily 8am-9m.



See last page for more on roads and for approximate driving times between areas of the parks.

Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. A dam was once planned to flood this area, but the geology could not sustain it. Summer picnic area, good night-sky views. Shuttle stop through 9/11.

Wolverton BBQ & Dinner Theater (DNPR):

Nightly (weather permitting) at 5pm (time shifts with sunset); last night 9/11. Watch *Voices of the Past*, family-friendly tales of park history (free). To enjoy the all-you-can-eat outdoor dinner during the program, buy tickets at Lodgepole Market / Wuksachi.

Mineral King

7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, winding road to a subalpine valley. No electricity or gasoline. Pay your entrance fee at the machine at Lookout Point entrance. See page 2 for ranger station hours.

Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area.

* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Daily. 1-559-561-3223 (see page 5). Cabins, supplies, showers. No gas. Store, restaurant/bakery: Thursday-Monday 8am-8pm (Tuesday-Wednesday 9am-5pm, pie/coffee only). Last night lodging 9/18.

The large 2015 Rough Fire burned in this area. Exploring it may seem inviting, but burned-out stumps and ash areas are unstable. Dead standing trees can fall at any time. Stay on trails to avoid crushing new growth, and give the plants and animals a chance to recover.

Horseback Riding: In Grant Grove, Cedar Grove, and the National Forest. Details, page 5.

Grant Grove

6600' elevation. Near a pristine sequoia grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (NPS)

See page 2. Movie, exhibits in English & Spanish.

Big Trees Shuttle: Through 9/5. Details, page 7.

Grant Grove Village Shops, Lodging (DNPR)

- Food service: Daily. While a new restaurant is being built, an outdoor food court and the market offer options: pizza by the slice, fresh soups, food-truck meals, BBQ. Breakfast 7-10am; lunch/dinner 11am-8pm.
- Market & Gift Shop: Daily 8am-9pm. Supplies, clothing, food, sandwiches, gifts.
- Lodging: 1-559-335-5500. Details on page 5.
- Showers: Daily 9:30am-12:30pm, 2:30-5:30pm.

U.S. Post Office

Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-4pm; 24-hour lobby. Send visitor mail to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)
Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); outside gift shop & market.

Cedar Grove

4600' elevation. Along the South Fork of the Kings River on the floor of the Kings Canyon.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (NPS)

By Sentinel Campground. Last day 9/11 (see page 2).

Pay Telephones Outside lodge & visitor center.

Village Center, Lodge (DNPR)

- Grill: Limited-service snack bar. Daily 7:30-10:30am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8pm. BBQ 11:30am-5pm.
- Gift Shop/Market: Daily 8am-9pm. Sandwiches, supplies, souvenirs.
- Showers: Daily 8am-1pm & 3-8pm.

Wilderness Permits (NPS)

At Road's End, 6 miles east of the village. Permits daily 7am-3:30pm through 9/24, then self-issue.

National Forest & Monument

Some areas remain closed due to effects of the Rough Fire; watch for signs or ask for updates. Hume Lake & Big Meadows areas are in Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest.

USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) 19 miles west of park entrance. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Hume Lake (on private land)

Open to the public year-round: Gas station (24 hours with credit card; not international cards). Market, snack shop. North of Grant Grove 6 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

Boyden Cavern Tours (FS permittee)

Unlikely to open this summer.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

- Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove: Summer near the Big Meadows trailhead.
- Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove: Hume Lake (year round; see above).

Stony Creek Resort (FS permittee)

On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. Daily: Market 8am-8pm; pizza/salads 11am-7:30pm (both open 1 hour later on Friday-Saturday. Showers/laundry 9am-6pm. 1-559-565-3909.

Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles south of Grant Grove. From 5/30-9/1, closed to drop-ins except on Saturdays. Meals 8am-9am, 12-1pm, 6-7pm. Desk 7am-9pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. 1-559-565-3388.

More lodging information is on page 5.

Basic Rules: National Parks & National Forests lie next to each other here. Some activities are illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest.

Can I...	In National Parks	In National Forest
Walk my leashed pets?	Not on any trails. OK 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). Certified service dogs only (not assistance or therapy animals); see www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010	Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.
Collect things to take home?	Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.	You may keep a few cones or rocks for personal use.
Hunt?	Not in the Parks. Visitors are responsible for understanding & complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park.	Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.
Drive off-road?	Not in these parks. Stay on roads.	Get specific information on off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
Cut wood?	Not in these parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for wood permits & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
Build fires?	Restrictions are in effect in the park and forest; always check locally for up-to-date information. In park, only in fire grills in some campgrounds & some picnic areas.	Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves & lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.
Go fishing?	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
Ride a bicycle?	Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles.
Snowmobile?	Not in these parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.
Fly a drone?	Not in any national park.	Only in accordance with FAA guidance, and not in wilderness areas.

You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Cold temperatures, uneven or slippery ground, wild animals, and changing weather all pose dangers. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, and poor decisions. GPS may lead you incorrectly.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims were just walking or climbing near rivers and unexpectedly fell in.

The National Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

DROWNING
The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be careful around water; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible: Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Currents are always stronger than they appear, even during low water. Ask at visitor centers about river conditions.

DISEASE PRECAUTIONS
Do not feed or touch ANY wild animals. Avoid areas of rodent activity, as fleas on rodents can carry *plague* and deer mice feces can carry *hantavirus*. Mosquitos can carry *West Nile virus* and other diseases. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

TICKS are common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry *Lyme disease*. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.

GIARDIA
This protozoan in lakes and streams causes intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water from waterways for at least 3 minutes.

POISON OAK
A common shrub up to 5000 feet elevation. Red leaves and whitish berries in fall; bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away.

HYPOTHERMIA
This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry; snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter. Keep an eye on children who are wet or cold.

RATTLESNAKES
Especially common in the foothills, in the Kings Canyon, and near water (they can swim). Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill them; this is when most bites occur, and they are protected here. Bites are rarely lethal, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.

LIGHTNING
See dark clouds or lightning? Hear thunder? Get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above your surroundings, such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

CARBON MONOXIDE
This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces, e.g. a tent or RV.

OZONE POLLUTION
See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra Nevada on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest from May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/federal standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

WEAK CELL SIGNALS
Cell phones rarely work here; don't rely on them. Note location of pay telephones (pages 8 & 9).

MOUNTAIN LIONS
Cougars roam throughout these parks, but you are unlikely to see one. Attacks are rare, but be aware. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you find a partially buried animal carcass, cautiously move away. If you see a cougar, convince it that you are not prey:

- Don't run; that may trigger it to pursue.
- Pick up children.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the cougar.
- If the cougar acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back! Report any sightings.

DRINKING WATER
We test the 13 park drinking-water systems to ensure that they meet federal and state standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available.

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES
Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities! Prevent illegal marijuana growing. Report any suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

KEEP ANIMALS SAFE
Pets are vulnerable to wildlife, ticks, and overheating in vehicles. Keep wildlife safe from pets, too.

TREE HAZARDS
Branches may fall, whether or not they appear dead. When under trees, stay aware. Run if you hear cracks or snapping overhead. Don't linger under dead, cracked, or broken branches. Report falling branches or trees to a ranger.

Explore Safely

- **Avoid going alone, and tell someone your plans and return time.**
- **Take water, a map and a layers of clothes.**
- **Watch and listen for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.**
- **Trails and walkways can be slippery with sand, water, leaves, or ice.**
- **Slow down. Share the road with cars. bikes, walkers, and wildlife!**

Bear Habitat: Proper food storage is the law!

Bears can grab unattended food or easily break into cars that have food in them. They become bold and sometimes aggressive in attempts to get more. Too often these bears must be killed.

This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly. Follow the rules below to reduce (but not eliminate) the risk of a bear break-in.

Drivers
Never leave any food or scented item in cars where food-storage boxes are provided.

Picnickers
Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

Lodge Guests
Remove food from your vehicles.

Campers
Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (avoid bringing coolers that won't fit; most boxes are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even non-food) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, seal food to reduce odors, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food. Take baby seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

Backpackers
Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a portable container. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few wilderness locations offer backup storage. Rent/buy a container at visitor centers or markets.

Everyone
Don't let bears approach you, your food, picnic area or campsite. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Abandoning your food teaches bears that approaching humans is acceptable. However, if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Your fees help the Parks & the Forest!

Most entrance fees get invested here on projects that enhance your experience, such as improving roads and visitor centers. On January 1, fees increased for the first time since 2006. Ask about free passes for 4th-graders and their families this year!

Passes to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS) plus Hume Lake area of Sequoia National Forest (USFS):

• **7-day pass**: $30 per vehicle (private, non-commercial). $15 per person on foot, bicycle, bus, or motorcycle. Cost per motorcyle (not person) will be changing to $20.

• **12-Month Pass**: $50 admits all passengers in a private vehicle. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

Passes to All National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands:

• **Annual**: $80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

• **Annual Military**: Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD1173. Crystal Cave has its own fee, but offers a discount.

• **Seniors**: $10 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over, Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

• **Accessibility**: Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documents to entrance stations. Not valid at Crystal Cave, which has its own fee.

Wilderness

Over 800,000 acres of these parks are designated wilderness. They offer outstanding opportunities for you to enjoy both solitude and challenge.

Following minimum-impact restrictions helps to protect both the wilderness and your experience. Wild places include hazards, and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Fire restrictions are in place; check locally for details.

Permits are required for all overnight trips, and they are limited during the summer quota period (May 27 through September 24, 2016). The permit fee during that time is $10 plus $5/person. Permits can be reserved by mail or fax beginning March 1. Outside of the quota period, permits are free and can be self-issued at the permit station or visitor center closest to your trailhead (see page 2).

Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (USFS): Permits are not required but please complete a registration card at Jennie Lakes trailheads; information is used to manage the wilderness effectively.

Camping in the park's "frontcountry" is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

Learn more about wilderness and wilderness travel at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

Seasonal Wilderness Lodgings

• **Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNPR):** Open June into September, conditions permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) are taken by phone starting 7am on the first business day in January: 866-807-3598. See www.visitsequoia.com.

• **Pear Lake Ski Hut (SPC):** Winter only. The hut sits high above Lodgepole at 9,200' elevation. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759.

Park Roads: Late Summer 2016

The Generals Highway in Giant Forest

Finding Gasoline

No gas stations are within the park boundaries. Fill up in Three Rivers (5 miles from Hwy 198 park entrance), Clingan's Junction (20 miles outside the Hwy 180 park entrance), or at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770. Year-round, 24 hours with credit card (international cards not accepted). 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village: 1-559-565-3909. 24 hours with credit card through mid-October. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: Closed.

Rules & Recommendations

Don't Lose Your Brakes or Start Fires

If you brake for too long, brakes may overheat and fail. Instead, always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder but will save your brakes. Hot brakes & mufflers easily start fires. Stop *only* on paved areas, not on grasses.

Overheated Engines on the Uphill

If the temperature gauge starts to rise or the light comes on, turn off the air conditioner and turn on the fan. If the engine fails, pull into a paved area, lift the hood, and wait for it to cool. If the problem is vapor lock, this may take care of it after a while.

Use Turnouts; Let Others Pass

Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 559-565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock-outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 565-4070.

Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Under age 18: helmet required.

Narrow Winding Roads & Length Limits

Always keep to the right side. Go slow down for wildlife and never toss out food or litter.

In Kings Canyon & National Forest:

- **Panoramic Point Road:** Motorhomes/trailers not permitted.
- **Converse Basin (USFS) & Redwood Mountain Road (NPS):** Unpaved, rough, unplowed.
- **Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Chicago Stump, and Cherry Gap roads (USFS)**: Open.

In Sequoia National Park:

- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow**: Vehicle-length limit 22'; no trailers or towed units. ***Through 9/11, the road closes to private vehicles on weekends and holidays, 8am to 7pm.*** Take the shuttle (page 6), walk, or bicycle during that time. Exception: those with valid disabled-parking placard or a current local wilderness permit. Take a water bottle; no drinking water is available along this road.
- **Crystal Cave Road**: Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m). Narrow and winding.
- **Mineral King Road**: Very narrow & winding; steep. Partly unpaved. RVs/trailers not recommended (not allowed in campgrounds there).
- **South Fork & Middle Fork roads**: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.

Driving Times

When roads are clear and open:

From Foothills to:

Giant Forest	**1 hour**
Lodgepole	**1 hour minimum**
Visalia	**1 hour**
Mineral King (MK)	**1½ hours**

From Giant Forest to Grant Grove
via Generals Hwy **1 hour**

From Grant Grove to:

Cedar Grove	**1 hour**
Fresno	**1½ hours**
Yosemite south entry (via Hwy 41)	**3 hours**

Vehicle-length Limits on Main Park Road in Sequoia

- **Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum**: longer than 22 feet not recommended.
- **Foothills Visitor Center to Potwisha Campground**: longer than 24 feet not recommended.

Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car with an RV, camp in the foothills and use the car.

For limits on RVs in campgrounds, see the campgrounds table on page 4.

Photo courtesy of Alex Olow

Fire Restrictions in Place

Always check locally for updates, as restrictions are likely to increase. As of August 15:

Charcoal and wood fires are prohibited in Potwisha, Buckeye Flat, and South Fork campgrounds, and at Ash Mountain and Hospital Rock picnic areas. You can use gas, propane, alcohol, or tablet/cube stoves in all established campgrounds and established picnic areas.

Smoking is prohibited below 6000', except within an enclosed vehicle or in campgrounds and picnic areas where wood/charcoal fires are permitted.

Get updates from visitor centers, bulletin boards, and www.nps.gov/seki/learn/nature/fire-restrictions. In wilderness locations, wood and charcoal fires are prohibited below 6000'; ask for details. In neighboring Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument, all fires are prohibited now. Check locally for details.

Never stop a car in dry grass; use paved turnouts. Cigarette butts and matches go in trash cans.