

12 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	3 hours
(via Hwy 41)	

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.

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.



Photo courtesy of Alex Olow