

Review safety tips on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers, even when the water is low. Bring a map or trail guide (sold at visitor centers). Nights are cool; carry layers. 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!

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 to keep it away 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

At Buckeye Flat Campground, take the path across from site #28 across the footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1½ miles (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

Mineral King

Open late May until October 28 (weather permitting). The winding, steep road to this valley ends at 7800', the park's highest road. Trails there lead to the High Sierra and excellent summer hiking. Weather can be severe on the passes; ask for a

weather report. No gasoline or electricity in the area. Until spring, the road is gated at the park boundary (about 9 miles from Hwy 198); for a pass through this gate, ask at Foothills Visitor Center.

Giant Forest

Giant Forest Museum

Daily 9am-5pm through 9/28, then 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits about the sequoias and the grove. No payphone; closest payphones are at Lodgepole Visitor Center & at Wolverton.

Big Trees Trail

A level, 2/3-mile (1km) loop with colorful trailside panels describing sequoia ecology. Start at Giant Forest Museum; parking at the trail is only for cars with placards. 1 hour round trip. Restroom.

General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

- **Main Trail** - This trail, which has some stairs, runs 1/2 mile down to the tree, making the walk back to your car uphill. Its large parking lot closes later in the fall. Drive two miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Highway for those with disabled placards only). Turn right on Wolverton Road and follow signs.

 **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from Generals Highway to the Sherman Tree has parking for those with disabled placards only. If you have no placard but can't make the walk on the main trail, ask at any visitor center for a temporary permit. When the upper lot closes for winter, anyone can park here.

Congress Trail

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

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. This road closes mid-November, unless it snows sooner. Page 5 has road details. Highlights:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular view of the Great Western Divide. 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** - Towering sequoias around a fragile meadow. Stay on designated trails; use only fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here. Try the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia, or the High Sierra Trail (60 miles/97 km to Mt. Whitney, at 14,494 feet /4417 m, the highest peak in the lower 48 states).

- **Auto Log** - Once you could drive a car onto this fallen giant sequoia, but rot in the log has put an end to the tradition.

Lodgepole

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Film about park bears; exhibits on geology & park life. Hours on page 2. Last day open 10/14.

Tokopah Falls

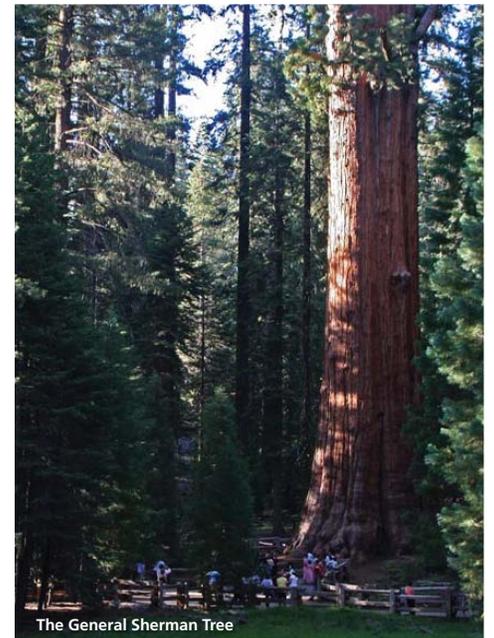
1.7 miles (2.7 km) along a river, ending at cliffs & a waterfall. Be careful by the water! Start in Lodgepole Campground. For the 500-foot/152-meter elevation gain, allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

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.

Crystal Cave

See page 5 for details.



The General Sherman Tree

Upcoming Free Holiday Shuttle



- Thanksgiving:

November 28 - December 1

- Christmas holidays: to be scheduled

Shuttles will run between the Giant Forest Museum, the Sherman Tree parking area along the Generals Highway, and Wuksachi Lodge. Plan a holiday visit to your parks!