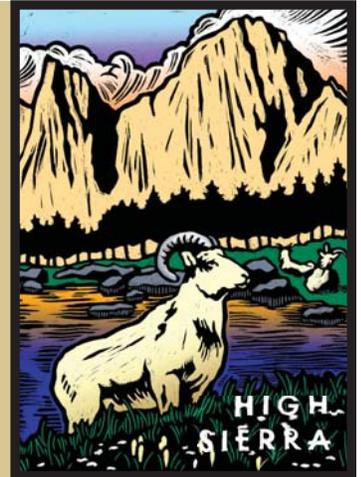


Visitor Guide: Fall 2013

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



Autumn Park Updates

WELCOME to a beautiful autumn in your national parks! So much changes during this season – for visitors, wildlife, and the park environment:

Most animals are hurrying to eat what they can or to cache food before winter comes. Others move downhill or head south to their wintering grounds.

Tarantulas emerge to wander the foothills in fall, while deer sport new antlers. Long-tailed weasels living in snowy areas begin to turn white.

Black bears busily feast on acorns and whatever else they can find (be sure to store your food; see page 11). Once snow gets deep, many bears (especially pregnant females) will den up for winter, but some stay active throughout the year. Please drive slowly; wildlife often appears unexpectedly on the roads.

For humans in the park, autumn may mean a time of slowing down. Quiet trails offer solitude and slanted sunlight makes peaceful vistas glow. Park

facilities reduce hours or close down, and most seasonal employees leave for winter. Three visitor centers stay open, however, offering exhibits and answers to your questions (see page 2).

For the hardy, Lodgepole Campground is open until November 3; then Grant Grove's Azalea takes over as the coldest campground in the parks. Once snow is deep enough, Wolverton will be open for snowplay, but the road to it will only

be plowed Friday through Sunday, plus holidays.

Fall can seem like the end of a cycle, but in the foothills it signals a beginning. A few October rains prompted a start to spring's growth already! Given the huge range of elevation in these parks—1300 to 14,494 feet—snow may be falling on the peaks while wildflowers sprout at lower levels. Enjoy the variety!



IT'S FALL IN THE FOREST. Pink dogwood leaves, the yellow of ferns and thimbleberries, and golden leaves of black oak grace the woods briefly before winter sets in. Photo © Brent Paull

Details Inside:

Activities: Crystal Cave tours, programs	5
Bears & food storage	11
Camping	4
Exploring:	
Sequoia NP.....	6
Kings Canyon NP & USFS ..	7
Facilities & hours	8-9
Lodging	5
Map of park roads	8
Nature & ecosystems	3
Phone numbers	2
Rules & regs: some basics.....	9
Road information	12
Safety	10
Visitor centers	2
Wilderness permits	11

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 in this area. 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

At lobbies in Wuksachi and John Muir lodges, Grant Grove Restaurant, and at Montecito Lake Resort (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 visita.

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

Willkommen - Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher-zentrum erhältlich.

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

Visitor Centers

Each offers different exhibits and films. They sell many items including books, maps, and postcards. All purchases support the parks!

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK:

Foothills Visitor Center

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm. 1-559-565-4212. Crystal Cave tickets sold here & at Giant Forest Museum through 12/1 (see page 5). Self-issue local wilderness permits available outside the visitor center.

Giant Forest Museum

(NPS) Daily 9am-4:30pm. Starting 12/2, open only Friday-Sunday & holidays. No payphone; closest payphones are at Wolverton & outside Lodgepole Market. Crystal Cave tickets sold here through 12/1.

Lodgepole Visitor Center

(NPS) Closed for the season. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center. No restrooms; closest are at Wolverton and Sherman Tree. Pay phone outside the market in the building next door.

Mineral King Ranger Station

(NPS) Closed until spring. Self-issue wilderness permits on the porch. 1-559-565-3768. The road to area closed. See page 8 for details.

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK:

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 9am-4:30pm; 9:30am-4pm starting 11/3 (may be closed 12-1pm). Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside. 1-559-565-4307.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center

(NPS) Closed until summer 2014. Local wilderness permits available at Road's End until noon, 11/12.

IN USFS NATIONAL FOREST/MONUMENT: Hume Lake District Office

(FS) 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251.



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: SNHA (see below).
- Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.



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

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

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

Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) - non-profit park partner designated by Congress: 1-559-565-3759, sequoiahistory.org

Sequoia Parks Foundation (SPF) - non-profit park partner: 1-559-739-1668, sequoiaparksfoundation.org

DNC Parks and Resorts @ Sequoia (DNC) - concessioner: 1-888-252-5757, visitsequoia.com

Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS) - concessioner: 1-866-KCANYON (522-6966), sequoia-kingscanyon.com

Connecting you to your national park!



The Sequoia Natural History Association - or SNHA - is the park's partner in enriching visitor experience and promoting awareness of public lands. They offer educational programs, publications, and financial support for preserving the natural and cultural history at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

SNHA offers all this:

- EdVenture classes, Sequoia Field Institute (SFI) courses, guide services - see page 5!
- Bear-resistant food container rentals
- Park Partnership & in-park volunteer program
- Visitor-center stores & Pear Lake Ski Hut
- Free & low-cost school programs
- Supplies for ranger programs
- Exhibit, research, & black-bear protections funding
- Park books, maps, & this guide
- Visitor information



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 frequently as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes. Two of these resulted in 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. Natural fires used to burn these away frequently. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels feed bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous

for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. Now, to protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service works 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 that we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists 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.

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 gear. Check boots & waders 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 Park & the National Forest (see details on page 9). Each standard campsite has a table & fire ring with grill. No hook-ups in the park.

Black-bear habitat: Food must be stored correctly all year. See page 11.

Summer reservations for Lodgepole & Dorst (in Sequoia NP) & reservable campgrounds (* on chart to the right) in National Forest (FS) are available up to 6 months in advance of date desired: 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, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove in the national park or in the national forest: 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov.

Campfires & Firewood

- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees.
- Firewood: Please don't bring it into the park or travel with it. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find or buy wood close to where you will use it. If you brought wood to the park, please burn it up before you go.
- Fires must be out before you leave.
- The national forest (FS) requires free campfire permits from Hume Lake Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), a FS ranger, or download at www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia.

Propane Canisters

Do not put propane or fuel canisters in park trash-cans or leave them here. Recycle them at home.

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

Check limits & advisories on back page. There are limited spaces for RVs more than 30 feet long.

Campgrounds in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Footfalls Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low elevation. Usually snow-free.
Potwisha - 40 sites Open all year	\$18	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Buckeye Flat - 28 sites Closed until spring.	\$18 No RVs or trailers	River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
South Fork - 10 sites Open. No water.	\$12 May - October No RVs or trailers, no water.	Piped non-potable water turned off 10/15. Vault toilets. River nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	Area closed. No RVs/trailers. No electricity/gasoline.
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Closed.	\$12	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food, showers nearby at Silver City. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Cold Springs - 40 sites Closed	\$12	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City. Bear boxes in varied sizes.
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700'	Area closes 11/3. *Reservations recommended in summer.
*Lodgepole - 205 sites Last night open 11/2.	\$20 during reservation period, then \$18	Looking for winter camping? Go to Azalea or Potwisha. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Food, showers nearby, laundry, river.
*Dorst - 210 sites Closed	\$20	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33" deep x 28" high.
Grant Grove Area	Elevation 6500'	Only available camping that is usually snowy in winter.
Azalea - 110 sites Open all year.	\$18 (\$10 when snow limits services)	Flush toilets. Village nearby with food & seasonal showers nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Crystal Springs - 50 sites Closed.	Tent/RV sites \$18 Group sites \$35	Flush toilets. Village nearby with food & showers. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Sunset - 157 sites Closed.	\$18	Flush toilets. Village nearby with food & showers in summer. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	Area closes noon 11/12. Last water system shuts down 10/25.
Sentinel - 83 sites Closed.	\$18	Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Closed.	\$18	Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Canyon View - 12 sites Closed.	\$35, No RVs or trailers. Groups of 7-19 only	Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Moraine - 120 sites Closed.	\$18	Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
No overnights in Cedar Grove until spring. No water or food available; bring it with you.		
Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (FS)		
Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
*Princess - 88 sites Closed.	\$20 single Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Dump station \$10. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
*Hume Lake - 74 sites Closed.	\$22 single Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Tenmile - 13 sites Open until snowfall.	\$18 single No drinking water.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high. No services after 10/1.
Landslide - 9 sites Open until snowfall.	\$18 single	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Last night 11/11	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	*Reservable in summer. Not open once snow falls.
*Stony Creek - 49 sites Closed.	\$22 single Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high.
*Upper Stony - 18 sites Closed.	\$18 Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, laundry, & showers nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11, Big Meadow - 45 sites Close with snow.	Free. No water. Close with snowfall.	Vault toilets. Big Meadow has bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Closings and openings depend on weather.		

Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9.

Lodging is available in three areas within these parks, and in several adjacent locations in neighboring national forest:

In these National Parks

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK:

·Wuksachi Lodge

(DNC) All year. Reservations 1-888-252-5757; www.visitsequoia.com. North of Lodgepole two miles at 7200'. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

(DNC) Reservations 1-877-436-9617; www.visitsequoia.com/kings-canyon. Lodging in two areas:

·Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge

All year. Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts at 6500'. Showers (summer only).

·Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon

Closed until spring. 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 early 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)

Closed until spring. www.silvercityresort.com; 1-559-561-3223. Cabins, supplies, showers. No gas. Store, restaurant/bakery.

* Kings Canyon Lodge (private)

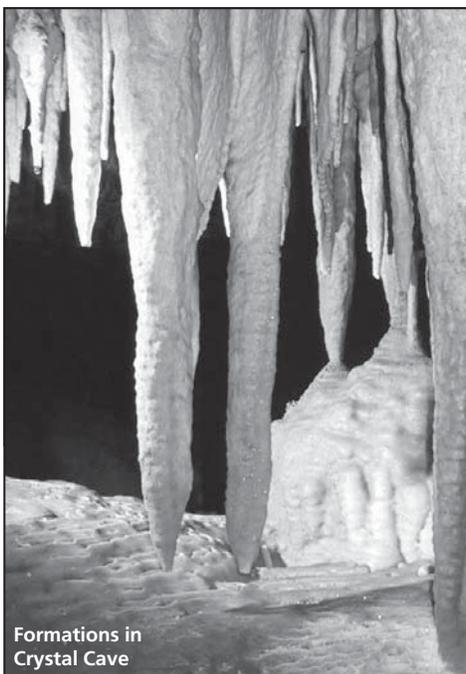
Open April to as late as mid-November. Call for reservations: 1-559-335-2405. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove. Lodge, food, gasoline.

Neighboring Towns

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

Programs & Tours - Fall 2013

5



Formations in
Crystal Cave

Crystal Cave Tours

Tickets sold only at visitor centers: Foothills & Giant Forest Museum. No tickets sold at the cave. Buy tickets at least 1½ hours in advance. Tour operations are weather dependent.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles from the Sequoia Park entrance at Hwy 198; 3 miles south of Sherman Tree (map, page 8). Maximum vehicle length on the road is 22'.

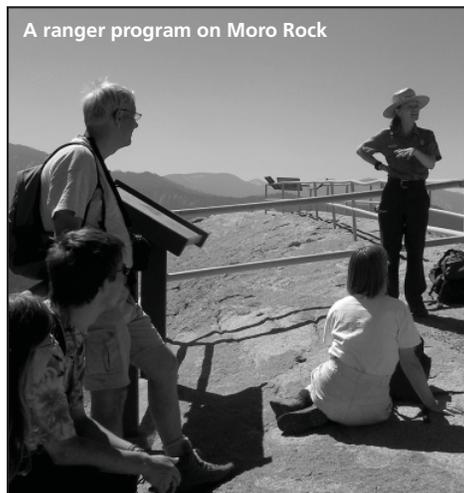
Before the tour: Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes; the ½-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Wear a jacket; it's 50°F (10°C) inside. No backpacks, fannypacks, strollers, or tripods.

Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about group, wild-cave, and school tours, plus other options: 1-559-565-3759. Tours are weather-dependent and subject to change.

45-Minute Cave Flashlight Tours

THROUGH DECEMBER 1 (if weather permits): Thursday-Friday 1pm, 2pm, 3pm. Saturday-Sunday noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm. Closed Monday-Wednesday. Gate open 1-1/2 hours before tours start.

Fees: Age 5-12 \$8; age 13-61 \$15; age 4 & under \$3; Golden Age (age 62 & up) & Golden Access pass-holders \$13. Veteran, military & SNHA member discounts! Park & Interagency passes do not apply.



A ranger program on Moro Rock

Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Occasional ranger-led programs may take place in Giant Forest, Foothills, or Grant Grove. Ask at visitor centers.

Junior Ranger Program - Free!

For ages 5 and up! Pick up a free booklet at any visitor center and finish the activities for your age group to earn a badge. Ask about special programs!

Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Join SFI guides to see, paint, photograph, or write while on trail, ski, snowshoe, boat! SNHA members get discounts on many programs & activities. Contact 1-559-565-4251 or sfi@sequoiahistory.org!

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! See <http://www.nps.gov/seki/forteachers>.

Touring on Horseback

Closed until spring. Hourly rides, spot trips, guided trips.



Cedar Grove

May to mid-October: 1-559-565-3464 summer, 1-559-337-2413 off season

Grant Grove

Early June to mid-September: 1-559-335-9292

Horse Corral

In Sequoia National Forest. 1-559-565-3404 summer, 1-559-679-3573 cell.

Review safety tips on page 10. Be careful near rivers, even during low water. Carry a map or 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

Closed October 28 until spring. (weather permitting). The winding, steep road to this valley ends

at 7800'. Get a weather report before hiking there. 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

See page 2 for hours. 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** - Open through 12/1. This trail & parking area, 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.

During the holidays, see shuttle schedules.

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. Road open until November 12 or later, until snow fall. Page 12 has road details. Highlights:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to grand views at the top (300-foot elevation gain). 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).

Lodgepole

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

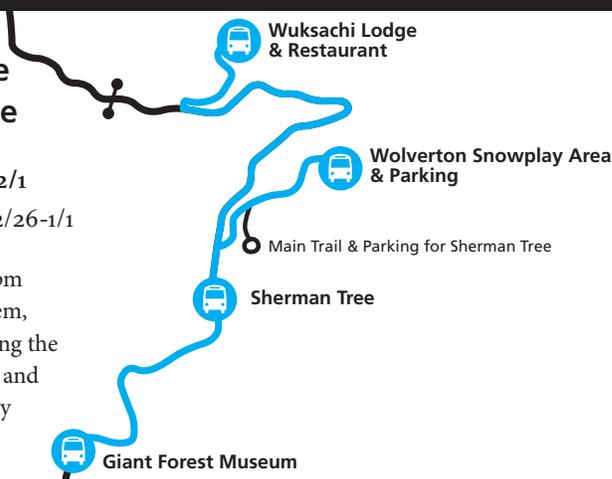
Climbs 700 vertical feet in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit and great view. Start at Little Baldy Saddle, on Generals Hwy 9 miles north of Sherman Tree. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.



Upcoming Free Holiday Shuttle

- Thanksgiving: 11/28 - 12/1
- December holidays: 12/26-1/1

Shuttles will run 10 am - 4:30 pm between the Giant Forest Museum, Sherman Tree parking area along the Generals Highway, Wolverton, and Wuksachi Lodge. Plan a holiday visit to your parks!



General Sherman Tree

Review safety tips on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers, even when water is low. Bring a map or trail guide. Nights are cool; carry layers. Store food properly while you explore. Be safe!

Grant Grove

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (NPS)

Exhibits/film in English & Spanish. Details, page 2.

Grant Tree Trail

This 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail visits one of the world's three largest trees and the Nation's Christmas Tree since 1926. Trail guides sold at visitor center. North then west of the center 1 mile (1.6 km). Ask about the Christmas Tree Ceremony on 12/8.

North Grove Loop

This lightly traveled, 1/2-mile (.24 km) trail offers a close look at Big Trees and a quiet forest walk. Start at Grant Tree overflow-parking area.

Panoramic Point Road & Trail

A steep, narrow road until snow closes it; then it's a ski trail. Trailers/RVs not permitted. Go east through visitor-center parking; follow signs. At parking area, find a short, paved, accessible trail to an overlook. The Park Ridge Trail (4 miles/6.4 km round-trip) begins there.

Redwood Canyon Sequoia Grove

One of the world's largest; road closes with snow. Research here revealed the positive link between sequoias and fire. Across Generals Highway from Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (7 miles south of Grant Grove). Turn right (west) at Redwood Saddle; go 2 miles to parking lot.

Big Baldy Ridge

Great views over Redwood Canyon from the top (8209 feet); elevation gain 600 feet (183m). Round trip 4 miles (6.4km). From Grant Grove, go 8 miles (13km) south on Generals Highway to trailhead.

Kings Canyon & Cedar Grove

The area closes completely at noon, 11/12. All facilities are closed in the canyon; open for day use only. Bring water and food. Toilets are at Road's End.

Canyon View

The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village Road.

Knapp's Cabin

During the Roaring '20s, a California businessman

stored gear in this small cabin for lavish fishing trips. Two miles east of the village road.

Roaring River Falls

A very short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. East of the 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 4 1/2 miles east of Cedar Grove Village road. Buy a trail guide at the visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

Mist Falls

One of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4 - 5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip from Road's End. 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles.

Hotel Creek Trail

Starts .2 mile north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Climbs through chaparral to forest and views from Cedar Grove Overlook. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3 -4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

National Forest (USFS)

Explore this part of the Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, until snow closes many of its side-roads and trails.

Converse Basin

Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop, 6 miles north of Grant Grove to a monarch they spared, or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, cut for exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (2 miles north of Grant Grove).

Indian Basin

A one-mile accessible trail & one-mile unpaved trail. Take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Turn left past the dump station to trailhead parking area.

Hume Lake

Open year-round. Formed by a rare, historic dam, the lake supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) to Sanger. An easy 2 1/2-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Eight miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on HumeLake Road.

Buck Rock Lookout

A 1916 tower. Approximately 6 miles off Big Meadows Road 14S11, then take Forest Road 13S04.



The Kings Canyon

The Generals Highway

Driving this 80-year-old roadway is part of the experience of these parks. It carries you up almost a mile in elevation, and connects the General Sherman Tree to the General Grant Tree, thereby earning its name.

An intense effort to upgrade the highway is underway. For decades, a skin of pavement barely improved the original wagon road. Today's work is building a route that can handle today's large numbers of modern vehicles, without losing the joys of a mountain road.

Wayside exhibits at overlooks along this historic road offer insight into these parks. Stop, read, and enjoy the views at these and other overlooks:

Kings Canyon Overlook

View the High Sierra wilderness from this overlook about 6 miles (9.5km) south of Grant Grove.

Redwood Mountain Overlook

Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove on the southwest side of the Generals Highway. Views of one of the world's largest sequoia groves.

Eleven Range Overlook

South of the Giant Forest, this turnout offers views to the west over the foothills and the distant valley.



Generals Highway in Giant Forest

8 Facilities: Sequoia

Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

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

Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Daily through 12/1; details on page 2. Crystal Cave tickets sold here.

Crystal Cave (NPS)

A major park highlight! Buy tickets in advance at Foothills Visitor Center or Giant Forest Museum. Open through 12/1; see details, page 5.

Lodgepole

6700' elevation. North of Giant Forest along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River.

Lodgepole Visitor Center (NPS) & Village Shops (DNC)

Closed until spring.

U.S. Post Office

Weekdays 10:30-2:30pm; lobby 24 hours. Address visitor mail: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262. 1-559-565-3678.

Lodgepole Campground

Last night for camping 11/2, then camping is available at Potwisha or Azalea.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside doors to market & visitor center.

Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. (DNC) Year-round service, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree.

Dining Room: Daily 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.

Wuksachi Lodge

Details on page 5. Pay telephones at main lodge.

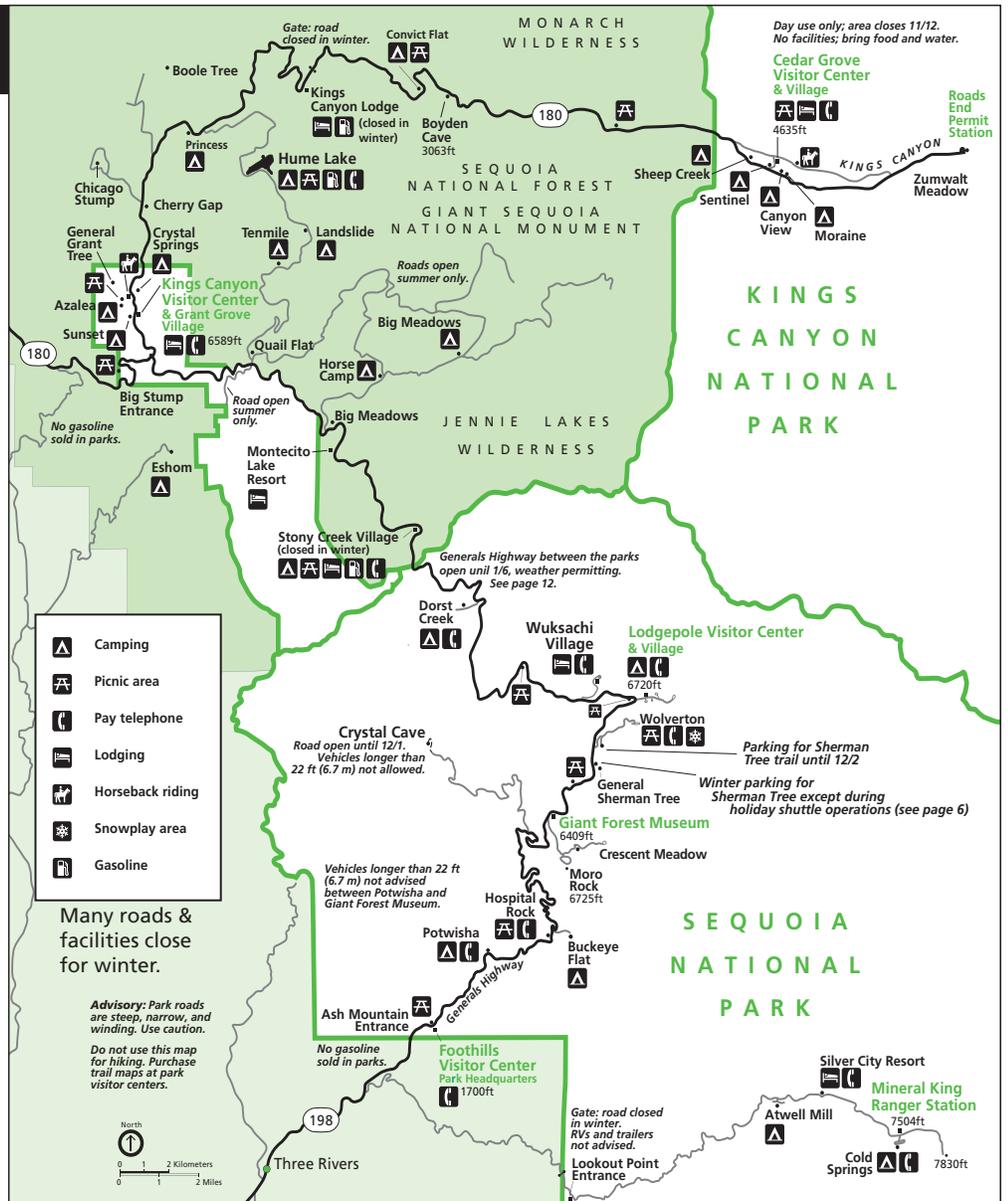
Gift Shop

Daily 8am-8pm in main lodge. Alta Market & Ski Shop winter services start 10/22. Limited groceries and convenience items. Ski and snowshoe rental.

Wolverton Picnic & Snowplay

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Picnic before the snow piles up, or cross-country ski and snowplay in winter. All-year pay telephone & restroom.

The road and parking area will be plowed Friday-Sunday and holidays. Snow play is also available near the Giant Forest Museum parking area. Planning a trip to Pear Lake Ski Hut? Check SNHA's website www.sequoiahistory.org for changes.



Mineral King Area

The road to this area is closed. See page 6 for more information. 7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, winding road to a subalpine valley. Trailers & RVs not permitted in campgrounds. No electricity or gasoline.

Ranger Station (NPS)

Closed. Self-issue wilderness permits on the porch. Check weather before heading up the trails: page 2.

Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area. Cell phones rarely work.

Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Pay telephone. Closed. See details, page 5.

Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Wildflowers start appearing in January; be sure to visit. Park headquarters is at Ash Mountain.

Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8am-4:30pm. See page 2. Buy cave tickets here until 12/1, weather permitting.

Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Native California Indians who lived here. Store your food from bears.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

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

Grant Grove

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

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS)

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

Village Center (DNC) - Daily

Now open daily. The hours below start 11/1:

- Restaurant: Daily 7:30-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm, & 4-7pm (hours extended on holidays).
- Gift Shop/Convenience market: Daily 9am-5:30pm. ATM. Limited supplies, clothes, gifts, food. Main market reopens in March.
- Lodging: Desk 7am-11pm. Next to restaurant. 1-559-335-5500. Page 5.

U.S. Post Office

Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-4 pm; 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); and outside gift shop & market.

Cedar Grove Road

Day-use only, until the road closes November 12 at noon. Facilities are closed and water systems are off; bring water and food with you. Vault toilets at Road's End.

A glaciated U-shaped valley with granite cliffs and the South Fork of the Kings River.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)
Outside lodge & visitor center.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (NPS) & Village (DNC)

Closed. Reopen next spring. 4600' elevation.

Wilderness Permits (NPS)

At Road's End, 6 miles east of the village. Self-register at Road's End kiosk.

Horseback Riding: Details on page 5. Closed until spring.

National Forest & Monument

Hume Lake & Big Meadows Areas: You enter Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, between Lodgepole and Grant Grove and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove.

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.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

- Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove: Summer only at Big Meadows trailhead.
- Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove: Hume Lake (year round; see Hume Lake below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

Hume Lake (on private land)

All year. Open to the public: 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card). Market & snack shop. On public land north of Grant Grove 8 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. On public land. On Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Meals 8am-9am, 12-1pm, 6-7pm. Cabins, hotel, winter & children's activities. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388; page 5.

Horseback Riding

Closed for the season. Details on page 5.

Gasoline Sales

All year at Hume Lake; into November at Kings Canyon Lodge (call ahead). Hours on page 12.

Boyden Cavern Tours (FS permittee)

On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Closed for the season. 1-888-965-8243.

Stony Creek Resort (FS permittee)

Closed for the season. On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. See page 5 for details.

Some Basic Rules & Regulations: National Parks (NPS) & National Forests (USFS) lie next to each other here. You may well visit both. Some activities are illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. Where are you now?

Where can I...	In National Park 	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 (<i>not</i> assistance or therapy animals)	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.	Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.
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 the 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 the Parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
Build fires?	In established campfire rings only. Ask why bringing firewood in from far away is not advised.	Restrictions in place. When permitted, free fire permits required, even for gas stoves/lanterns, at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.
Go fishing?	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California state fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for information on 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: Be careful & courteous near people & horses.	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.



You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Icy or uneven ground, wild animals, and changing weather pose dangers. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims just walking or climbing near rivers 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*. *West Nile virus* is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. 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.

RATTLESNAKES

Found in much of these parks; especially common in the foothills and near water. Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill them; this is when most bites occur. 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 the parks, but you are unlikely to see one. Attacks are rare, but be aware. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. Cautiously move away if you find a partially buried animal carcass. If you see a cougar, convince it that you are not prey:

- Don't run; that may trigger pursuit.
- 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 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 a map and a jacket.
- Watch and listen for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.
- Beware of trails and sidewalks slippery with sand, water, ice, or leaves.
- Slow down. Share the road with people 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 (or "lockers") are provided.

Picnickers

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

Lodge Guests

Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.



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 canister. 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 or buy a canister 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.

Wilderness

11

Wilderness Overnights

Wild places are hazardous and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Know and follow restrictions, as they protect both the environment and your experience.



Permits

Required for overnights (not day hikes). Issued in summer (reservations available) and self-issued the rest of the year at locations near your trailhead. Be sure to ask about fire restrictions and smoking.

Quotas & Permits: Each trail has a daily entry quota and a required wilderness camping fee (\$15) between late May and late September. Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date within the quota season are accepted starting March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date. Permits must be picked up the afternoon before (starting at 1pm) or by 9am on the day of departure at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead.

Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (FS): Permits are not required but please complete a registration card at Jennie Lakes trailheads. Information is used to manage the wilderness effectively. USFS requires a free fire permits for any open flame; downloadable from www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia. Check for fire restrictions.

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.

See www.nps.gov/seki or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.
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 (DNC):** Operated by DNPS mid-June to mid-September, weather permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) taken starting at 7am on January 2; www.visitsequoia.com, 1-888-252-5757.

• **Pear Lake Ski Hut:** Access has changed; check www.sequoiahistory.org. Winter only. The hut sits high above Lodgepole at 9,200 feet elevation. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. Operated by SNHA. Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759.

Your fees help the Parks & the Forest!

Most fees get invested right here, improving and protecting these parks: They repair roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They update visitor centers, exhibits, and slide programs. For more on these and commercial fees, ask park staff or search www.nps.gov/seki for "fees."

Passes to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks plus Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest):

• **7-day pass:** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.

• **12-Month Pass:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle. Not valid at Crystal Cave).

Passes to National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands Nationwide:

• **Annual:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Annual Military:** Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD1173.

• **Seniors:** \$10 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Accessibility:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documents to entrance stations (not valid at Crystal Cave).

Rules & Recommendations

Icy Roads & Trails

Cold fall temperatures can mean slippery areas, especially in the morning and in the shade. Check antifreeze, battery, wipers, chains and road conditions before you come. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids; allow 6 seconds of stopping distance between cars. **24-hour recorded road information** 1-559-565-3341 (press 1, then 1 again).

Don't Lose Your Brakes

Frequent braking causes overheating and brake failure. Instead, always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes.

Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 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.

Use Turnouts

Let others pass. Use turnouts, not grassy areas.

Bicycles

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

Always Carry Chains that fit your tires and comply with signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are often required; most cars have them. Check the side of the tire for M/S, M+S, or a snowflake symbol.

Get Snow Off Car Roofs

It may slide onto the windshield and block the driver's vision.

Let Wildlife Cross Safely!

Animals appear unexpectedly. Driving slowly is one of the best ways to protect them. Scan roadsides ahead; watch for the glow of eyes at night. Never feed animals along roads; they are often hit by cars.



Snow Plows, Road Openings

Snowplows rule. They may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, watch for signals from the plow operator. Slow down but do not stop.

Plows clear roads in priority order, starting with the Generals Hwy from Hwy 198 entrance to Wuksachi, and from Hwy 180 entrance to Hume Lake and Montecito. Other roads open later. Any road may close at unscheduled times, depending on conditions. Other roads stay closed for the season:

Winter Road Closures

All dates depend on weather:

Generals Highway:

- **From Wuksachi Lodge (in Sequoia) north to Montecito Resort (near Kings Canyon National Park)** will be plowed until January 6, weather permitting. Depending on snow, it may take several days to open.
- **The highway will open for spring as late as April 15, depending on weather.**

In Kings Canyon & National Forest:

- **Hwy 180 to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon:** Closed for winter by Caltrans 11/12 just below Kings Canyon Lodge. The upper gate at Hume Lake junction closes 12/2.
- **Panoramic Point Road:** Motorhomes/trailers not permitted. Closes with snow.
- **Redwood Mountain road (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS):** Unpaved. Close with snow.

In Sequoia National Park:

- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Vehicle-length limit is 22'; no trailers or towed units. Road open until 11/12, weather permitting. See more information on page 6.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Maximum vehicle cumulative length 22' (6.7m). Closed when cave tours not being offered (see page 5). Road closes for the winter 12/1.
- **Mineral King Road:** Closed. Steep, winding, not completely paved. RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds). More information on page 6.
- **South Fork & Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet. Middle Fork closes in winter (park at Hospital Rock).

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

closes 10/31

From Giant Forest to Grant Grove

via Generals Hwy **1 hour**
open until 1/6, weather permitting

From Grant Grove to:

Cedar Grove	1 hour
--------------------	---------------

closes 11/12

Fresno	1½ hours
Yosemite south entry	3 hours

(via Hwy 41)

Finding Gasoline

No gas stations lie within the park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770. Year-round 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: 1-559-335-2405. Closes no later than 12/2; call to ensure availability. Gas sold 9am-dark, usually. 17 miles (27 km) from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village: Closed for winter.

Vehicle Length Advisory

Vehicles longer than 22' are not advised between Potwisha Campground and Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia National Park due to Federal Highways advisories on this curving road.

Vehicles longer than 24' are not advised between Foothills Visitor Center and Potwisha Campground in Sequoia National Park.

