Spring 2014 Visitor Guide

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

& Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument

Spring tidings, summer celebrations

• **California's drought** challenges all of us to conserve water—and to not be surprised if it runs short in places. After three very dry years, limited water may affect availability of some park facilities during the course of the summer. Your help in reducing water waste—in campgrounds, lodgings, RVs, and showers—can make a big difference. Thank you for your efforts.

• **Celebrate Wilderness!** Like national parks, wilderness areas are part of our heritage, held in trust for us and for our descendants. These landscapes protect natural and cultural treasures, dark skies and untamed sounds, wildlife and its wild habitat. In wilderness lives America's frontier past, side by side with a future that still has room for nature, wide open spaces, challenge, and exploration.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The result of this law, the National Wilderness Preservation System, preserves lands where "man himself is a visitor who does not remain." It adds, even within places like these parks, an important layer of protection to the wildest array of the national terrain.

• **Dark Sky Festival -** Speaking of wilderness, join us July 25th through 27th to revel in the wild spaces overhead. Seeing millions of stars wheeling in a sky free of unnatural light stands as one of the great experiences in large, natural parks such as these. A weekend of events designed to inform and delight includes meeting astronomers, using large telescopes for deep sky viewing, making solar observations, and more. See www.sequoiahistory.org for details, and plan to visit then!

***Heaven*, by Daniel Jeffcoach: One of the winners of the parks' annual Facebook photo contest, this image captures the sense of vastness, solitude, and self-reliance offered by wilderness.**

See details inside

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Telephone & Internet

911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
No coins needed in payphones.

Limited Cell Signals & Service
See pay-phone locations, 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 traffic here. Check 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 inWuksachi 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.

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

Cedar Grove Visitor Center in Kings Canyon
(NPS) Open 5/22. Daily 8:30am-5pm. 559-565-3793.

Foothills Visitor Center in Sequoia
(NPS) Daily 9am-4:30pm. Starting 5/10, Crystal Cave tickets sold only here & at Lodgepole Visitor Center (see page 5). 1-559-565-4212. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center through 5/23, then at Wilderness Office.

Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia
(NPS) Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits on sequoias, book store. 1-559-565-4480. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside through early May. No payphone; closest are outside at Lodgepole Market & Wolverton.

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center
(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 9am-noon & 1-4:30pm. Starting 5/5, 8am-5pm. Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. Local wilderness permits: self-issue outside through 5/24, then issued indoors 8am-4:30pm. 1-559-565-4307.

Lodgepole Visitor Center in Sequoia
(NPS) Open 5/9. Daily 8am-4:30pm through 5/24, then 7am-6pm. Movie on bears. Starting 5/10, Crystal Cave tickets sold only here & at Foothills Visitor Center (details on page 5). 1-559-565-4436. Local wilderness permits issued here.

Mineral King Ranger Station in Sequoia
(NPS) Self-issue wilderness permits on the porch until the station opens 5/24 (conditions permitting). Daily 8am-4pm. 1-559-565-3768.

USFS 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. 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.
- Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

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

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

Geological Survey (USGS) - federal agency in Dept. 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: 559-739-1668, sequoiaparksfoundation.org

DNC Parks & Resorts at Sequoia & Kings Canyon (DNC) - concessioner in both parks (lodging & food services): 1-888-252-5757, visitsequoia.com

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. Education programs are standards-based and free! See http://www.nps.gov/seki/forteachers.

Connect to your national park!

Sequoia Natural History Association

The Sequoia Natural History Association - the 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 natural and cultural history at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

SNHA offers all this:

- EdVenture & 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
- Low-cost school programs
- Ranger program supplies
- Exhibit, research, & black-bear protections funding
- 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.

Food must be stored correctly all year, due to black bears. See page 11.

Summer reservations: See * on chart to the right for reservable campgrounds in Sequoia National Park (NPS) and in National Forest (FS). 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, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove in the national park or in the national forest: 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov.

Campfires & Firewood

Always check bulletin boards at each area.

- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees.
- Firewood: Please don't transport 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, please burn it.
- Fires must be out before you leave.
- The national forest (FS) requires free campfire permits from Hume Lake Office, a FS ranger, or download at www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia.

Propane Canisters

Do not put propane or fuel canisters in park trashcans 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 over 30 feet.

Campgrounds in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Foothills Area	**Elevation 2100' - 3600'**	**Low elevation.**
*** Potwisha - 40 sites** All year	$18. Reservable in summer	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
*** Buckeye Flat - 28 sites** Open 4/16 through 9/28.	$18. Reservable in summer. 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 All year. No drinking water.	$12 May - October No RVs or trailers.	Piped non-potable water 5/21 through 10/14. Vault toilets. River nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high.
Mineral King Area	**Elevation 6650' - 7500'**	**Road opens 5/21. No RVs or trailers. No electricity or gasoline.**
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Open 5/21-10/15.	$12 No water starting 10/17.	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 Open 5/30-10/15.	$12 No water starting 10/15.	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City. Bear boxes in varied sizes.
Lodgepole Area	**Elevation 6700'**	***Reservations recommended in summer**
*** Lodgepole - 205 sites** Open 4/16 through 10/20.	$20 in reservation period, (5/21-9/24) then $18.	Pay phone, flush toilets, RV dump station. Food, showers, laundry, river nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long, 33"deep, 28" high.
Dorst - 210 sites Open 6/18 through 9/2.	$20. No advance reservations this year.	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33" deep x 28" high. Free shuttle to Giant Forest starts 7/3; see page 6.
Grant Grove Area	**Elevation 6500'**	
Azalea - 110 sites Partially open all year.	$18 ($10 when snow limits services)	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Crystal Springs - 50 sites Open 5/21-27 & 7/2-9/2.	Tent/RV standard sites $18 Group sites $35 open 5/22 on.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, showers in summer. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Sunset - 157 sites Opens 5/21 through 9/2.	$18	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, showers in summer. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Cedar Grove Area	**Elevation 4600'**	**Road opens 4/24: limited camping & few facilities until 5/21.**
Sentinel - 83 sites Limited sites 4/24-5/21.	$18	All loops open 5/21-28 then as needed. Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Open 5/21 through 10/13.	$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Canyon View - 12 sites Opens by 5/21 through 9/28.	$35, No RVs or trailers. Groups of 7-19 only	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Moraine - 120 sites Open 5/21 through 9/1.	$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.

NOTE: DROUGHT MAY AFFECT AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES.

Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (FS)

Hume Lake Area	**Elevation 4000' - 5900'**	**Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.**
*** Princess - 88 sites** Open 5/9.	$24 single, $48 double Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Dump station $10. Extra car $7. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
*** Hume Lake - 74 sites** Open 5/9.	$24 single, $48 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car $7. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Tenmile - 13 sites Open 5/9.	$20 single, $40 double No drinking water.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car $7. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Landslide - 9 sites Open 5/9.	$20 single, $40 double	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car $7. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Opens 4/24.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	**Elevation 6400 - 7500'**	***Reservable in summer.**
*** Stony Creek - 49 sites** Call for opening date.	$24 single, $48 double Reservable in summer.	Programs. Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge. Extra car $7. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high. For opening dates, call 559-338-2251.
*** Upper Stony - 18 sites** Call for opening date.	$20 single, $40 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, laundry, & showers nearby. Extra car $7. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11, Big Meadow - 45 sites	Free. No water. Close with snowfall.	Vault toilets. Big Meadow has bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.

For information on camping in wilderness, see page 11.

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 (DNC):

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

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (DNC)
Reservations 1-877-436-9617; visitsequoia.com.

· Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge
All year. Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts at 6500'. Pay showers (summer only). 1-559-335-5500.

· Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon
Open by May 23. Motel, eatery, market, pay showers, laundry 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.*

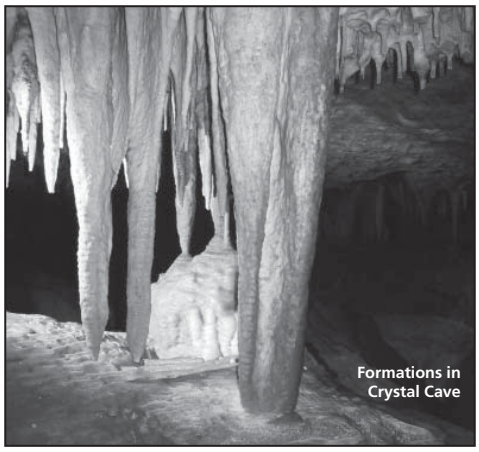
*** Silver City Mountain Resort (private)**
Opens May 24. www.silvercityresort.com; 1-559-561-3223. Cabins, supplies, showers. No gas. Store, restaurant/bakery.

*** Kings Canyon Lodge (private)**
Open mid-April to as late as mid-November. 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 - Spring 2014


Formations in Crystal Cave

Crystal Cave Tours

Opens 5/10. Tickets sold only at Lodgepole & Foothills visitor centers, not at the cave. Buy tickets at least 1½ hours in advance (see traffic-delay information on back page).

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'. 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 bags/packs of any kind, strollers, or tripods; no flash/lighted photography/video. Not wheelchair aeeccessible. Ask about group, wild-cave, & school tours: 1-559-565-3759. Tours are weather-dependent and subject to change.

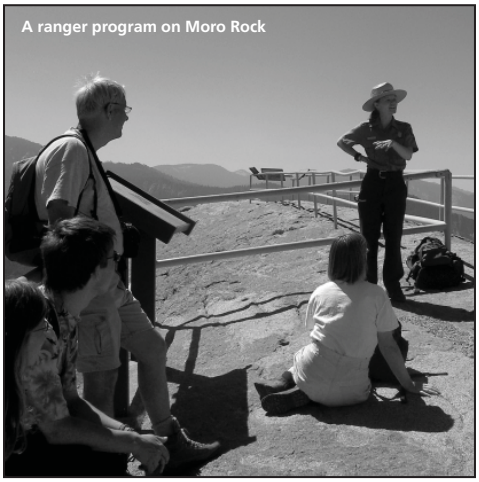
Family Cave Tour Daily - 45 minutes

- **Saturday/Sunday**: **5/10-6/1**, 11am-4pm on the hour. Starting 6/7, every 1/2 hour 10am-5:30pm. Extra tours Memorial Day weekend (Fri-Mon).
- **Weekdays 5/12-6/6:** 11am, noon, 2pm, 3pm. Starting 6/9, every 1/2 hour 10am-5:30pm.

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

Special tours for special interests:

- **Junior Caver Tour** 6/24-8/20, Tuesday-Wednesday 1pm. Ages 8 to 12. $30.
- **Explorer's Lantern Tour** 6/26-8/17. Thursday-Friday 5:30pm, Saturday-Sunday 6pm. $16.
- **Discovery Tour** 6/23-8/15. Weekdays at 4:45pm. $16.
- **Adult Tour** Age 13 & up only. Friday-Sunday mornings, 1st tour of the day, 6/1 through 9/1.


A ranger program on Moro Rock

Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Check schedules in the Foothills, Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove for schedules of ranger-led activities. Watch for more activities as summer progresses.

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. See Junior Caver tours, left.

Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

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

Dark Sky Festival - July 25-27

See, celebrate, and learn about the night sky!

Touring on Horseback

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

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

Grant Grove Early June to September: 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

6 Explore on your own: Sequoia National Park

Review safety tips on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers. Carry a map or trail guide (sold at visitor centers).

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 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

Giant Forest

Giant Forest Museum
Opens 5/11. Lodgepole Visitor Center is open; see page 2 for details). Shuttle stop starting 5/22.

Big Trees Trail ♿
A level, 2/3-mile (1km) paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start at Giant Forest Museum. Parking at the trail is only for cars with 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** - Open by 3/28, weather permitting. This 1/2-mile trail down to the tree has some stairs; the walk back is uphill. Drive two miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Hwy only for those with disabled placards). Turn right onWolverton Road; follow signs. Shuttle stop starting 5/22.

♿ **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from the Generals Hwy to the Sherman Tree. Parking there is for those with disabled placards only. If you have no placard but can't make the hill on the main trail, ask at a visitor centers for a temporary permit. Shuttle stop starting 5/23.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road
Open 5/21 at the latest. No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. See page 12 for details on weekend/holiday closures of this road. Highlights:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular mountain views. Two miles from Generals Highway. Do not climb if steps are icy/snowy. Shuttle stop starting 5/22.
- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. Bypass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles from the Museum.
- **Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias tower over this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails; use only 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 feet/4419 m), highest in the lower 48 states. Shuttle stop.

Lodgepole

Lodgepole Visitor Center
Exhibits, film. Details, page 2. Shuttle stop.

Tokopah Falls Trail
1.7 miles (2.7 km) to cliffs & a waterfall. Be careful! Start in Lodgepole Campground (shuttle stop). 500-foot/152-meter elevation gain; 2-1/2 to 3 hours. Nearby shuttle stop at Lodgepole Campground.

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.

Mineral King

See page 8 for details.

See Sequoia By Shuttle

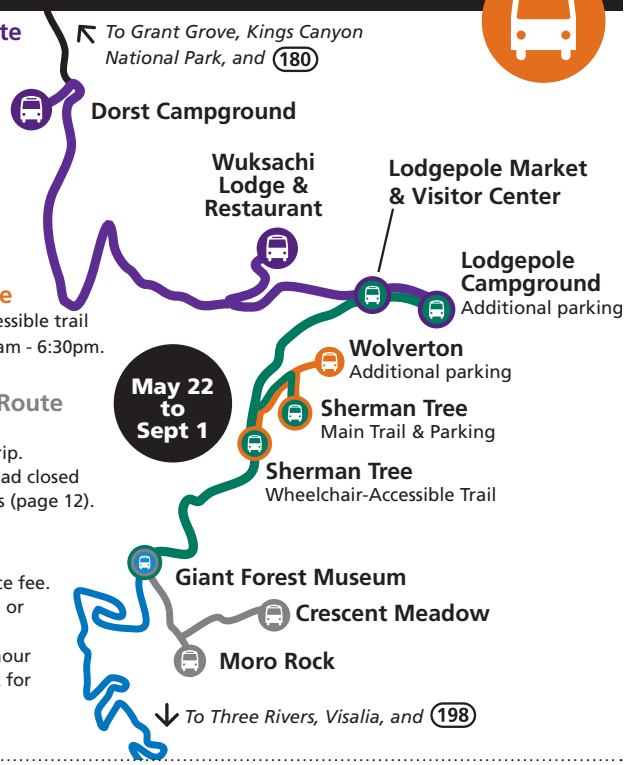
Lodgepole-Wuksachi-Dorst Route
Free. Hourly; leaves Lodgepole 9am - 6pm. Starting 7/3 it leaves Dorst on the ½ hour 9:30am-6:30pm.

Giant Forest Route
Free. Giant Forest Museum to Lodgepole, stopping at the Sherman Tree. Every 15 minutes 9am - 6pm. ½-hour ride one way.

Wolverton - Sherman Tree Route
Free. Stops at main Sherman trail & at accessible trail on Generals Hwy every 20 minutes from 9am - 6:30pm.

Moro Rock - Crescent Meadow Route
Free. Leaves Giant Forest Museum every 15 minutes 9am - 6pm. 15-minute round trip. Moro Rock stop only on outbound trip. Road closed to private vehicles on weekends & holidays (page 12).

Giant Forest - Visalia Route
$15 round trip. No additional park entrance fee. Reservations required; call 1-877-BUS-HIKE or sequoiashuttle.com. 2-hour ride each way. Buses leave Visalia for Giant Forest every hour from 6am - 10am. Buses leave Giant Forest for Visalia every hour from 2:30pm - 6:30pm. In-park shuttle questions: 559-565-4436.



Explore on your own: Kings Canyon National Park & nearby forest lands

Review safety tips on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers. Carry a map or trail guide (sold at visitor centers). 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).

North Grove Loop

This lightly traveled, 1½-mile (2.4 km) trail offers a close look at Big Trees and a quiet forest walk. Start at Grant Tree overflow-parking area.

Panoramic Point Road

Open by 5/21. A narrow road up to a Sierran vista. Trailers/RVs not recommended. Go east through visitor-center parking & follow signs. Park Ridge Trail (4 miles/6.4 km round-trip) begins here.

Redwood Mountain Sequoia Grove

Dirt road opens in spring. One of the world's largest groves. 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 road into this park area opens 4/24 at noon. Drought conditions may affect facilities. If there is sufficient water, limited camping begins 4/24; other facilities open later.

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 4½ 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. Don't get close to the edge! 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 loop.

National Forest (USFS)

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest which abuts the park.

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 ½-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

Formed by a rare, historic dam, the lake supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) to Sanger. An easy 2½-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Eight miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on High way 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on HumeLake 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.

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.

The 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)

Exhibits on sequoias. Hours & details on page 2.

Crystal Cave (NPS)

A major park highlight! Tours start May 10. Buy tickets well in advance at Foothills or Lodgepole visitor centers. Details, page 3.

Giant Forest Shuttle (NPS): Starts 5/22, 9am to 6pm. Details & map, page 6.

Lodgepole

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

Lodgepole Visitor Center (NPS)

Hours & details on page 2. Buy cave tickets here.

Village Center Shops (DNC): Opens April

- Market, Gift Shop, & Laundry: Open 4/12. Daily 10am-5pm through 4/25; 9am-6pm through 5/22, then 8am-8pm. Last laundry in 1 hour before closing.
- Snack Bar: Open by 4/26; weekends 9am-6pm. Starting 5/23, daily 8am-7:45pm.
- Deli: Open by 5/23. Daily 11am-6pm.
- Showers: Open by 4/26; 9am-1pm & 3-5:45pm through 5/22, then 8am-1pm & 3-7:45pm.

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

Dining Room: Through 5/22: daily 7:30-9:30am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8:30pm; lounge 5-8:30. Starting 5/23: 7-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-10pm, lounge 4-10pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070.

Wuksachi Lodge

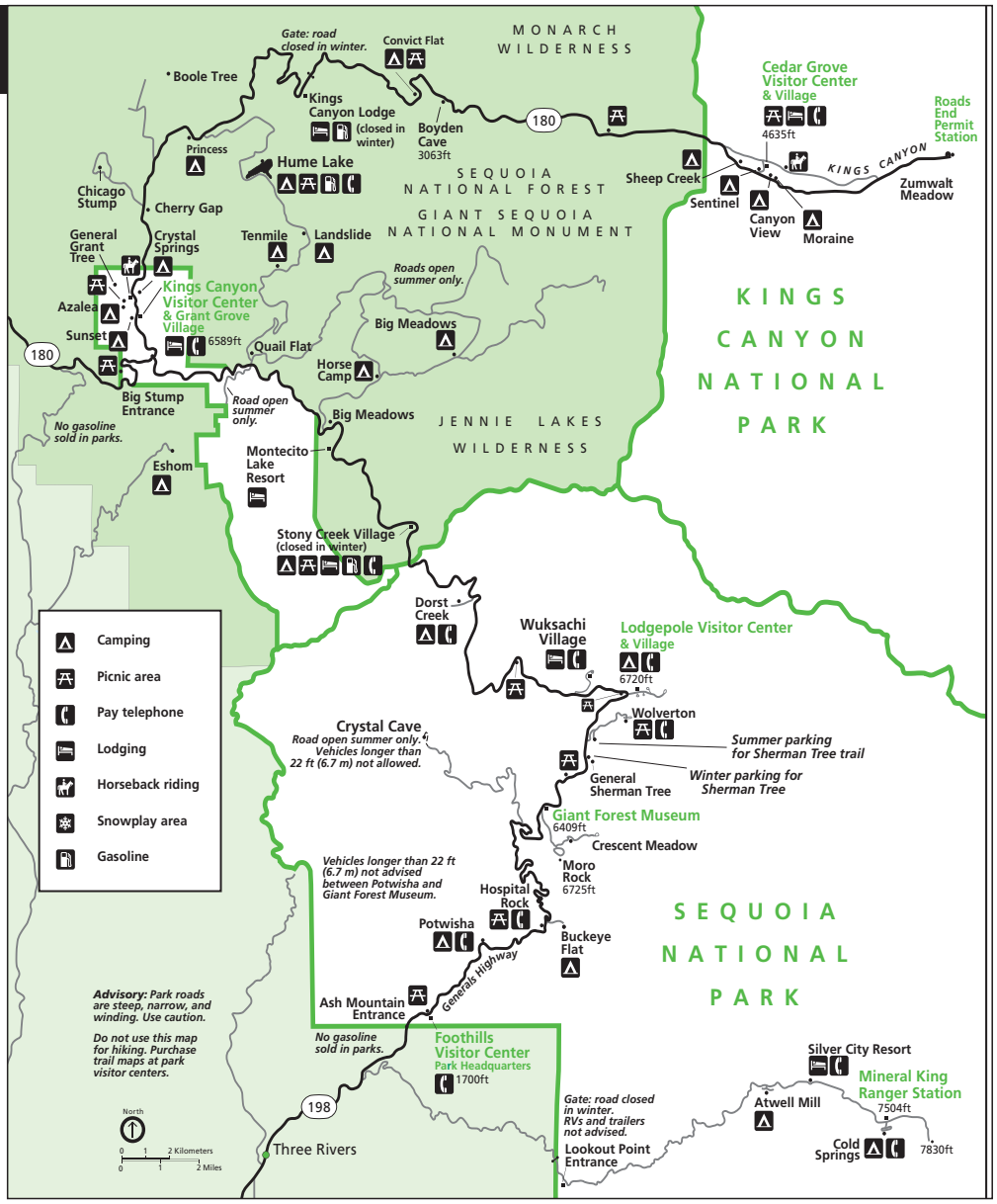
Details on page 5. Pay telephones at main lodge.

Gift Shop

Daily 8am-8pm in main lodge.

Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Summer picnic area. Shuttle stop starting 5/22.



Wolverton BBQ & Dinner Theater (DNC): Nightly 6/13-9/1 if weather permits; 6-7pm (time shifts with sunset). All-you-can-eat outdoor dining while hearing family-friendly tales of park history. Tickets at Lodgepole Market or Wuksachi Lodge.

Mineral King Area

Road to the area opens May 22, if conditions permit. 7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, winding road to a subalpine valley. No electricity or gasoline.

Ranger Station (NPS)

Opens 5/24; 8am-4pm. Until then, self-issue wilderness permits on the station porch. See page 2.

Pay Telephones

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

Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Opens May 23, conditions permitting. Pay telephone. 1-559-561-3223; silvercityresort.com.

Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Park headquarters is at Ash Mountain.

Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8am-4:30pm. See page 2. Buy cave tickets here.

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 & one that was logged in the 1800s.

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS)

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

Village Center (DNC)

- Restaurant: Daily 7:30-10:30am, 11:30-2:30pm, 4-7:30pm through 4/25, then later hours. Pizza parlor starting 5/23, 3-9pm.
- Gift Shop & Market: Daily 8am-6pm through 4/25, then 8am-7pm (9pm starting 5/23). Supplies, clothing, food, sandwiches.
- Lodging: Desk 24 hours. 1-559-335-5500. Details on page 5.
- Showers: Starting 5/23, 8am-1pm & 3-7:45pm.

U.S. Post Office

Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-3:30 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); outside gift shop & market.

Road into Cedar Grove opens 4/24; limited facilities until 5/22

4600' elevation. **Drought conditions may affect facilities.** If there is sufficient water, limited camping will begin 4/24, with other facilities opening later. This road opens in stages; page 12 has details.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (NPS)

Open 5/22. Near Sentinel Campground. See page 2.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside lodge & visitor center.

Village Center (DNC): Open by 5/23

- Restaurant: Counter-service meals & snack bar; not full service. Daily 8-10:30am, 11am-2:30pm, 3-8pm.
- Gift Shop/Market: Daily 8am-9pm. Sandwiches, supplies, gifts.
- Showers: Daily 8am-1pm & 3-8pm.
- Lodging: See page 5. Open by 5/23.

Wilderness Permits (NPS)

At Road's End, 6 miles east of the village. Self-issue permits through 5/24, then daily 7am-3:30pm.

Horseback Riding: Details on page 5.

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.usda.gov/sequoia

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 Hume Lake below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

Lodging - Details on page 5.

Hume Lake (on private land)

All year. Open to the public: 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card); closed 4/14 through 4/20. Market & snack shop. North of Grant Grove 8 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

Boyden Cavern Tours (FS permittee)

Opens 4/25, daily cave tours 11am-4pm. Gift shop. Ask about evening flashlight tours & other trips. On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Ages 13 & up $13.50; 4-12 $8.50; 3 and younger free. AAA discount. Senior/access pass discounts do not apply. School/group reservations: 888-965-8243.

Stony Creek Resort (FS permittee)

On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. Opens early May. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. Market daily 8am-7pm; pizza parlor/salad bar 11am-7pm (both open 1 hour later on Friday-Saturday. Showers/laundry 9am-6pm. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3909.

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, children's activities. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

Horseback Riding - Details on page 5.

Gasoline Sales

All year at Hume Lake; summer at Stony Creek & Kings Canyon Lodge. Hours on page 12.

Basic Rules & Regulations:

National Parks & National Forests lie next to each other here. Some activities are illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. Which are you in now?

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)	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 wood permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
Build fires?	Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. Restrictions change; always check first.	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).	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.
Snowmobile?	Not in the parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.

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 extra 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.

DISEASE CAUTIONS
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.

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.

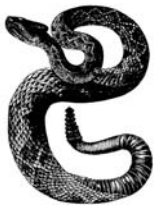
WEST NILE VIRUS is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

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 on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest 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 or your food. 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 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).

Wilderness

Over 800,000 acres of designated wilderness in these parks provide outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

Knowing and following minimum-impact regulations helps to protect both the wilderness and your experience. Wild places are hazardous and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant.

Permits are required for all overnight trips. They are limited during the summer quota period (late May through late September) and cost $15. 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 (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/planyourvisit/wilderness 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):** Open June 13 to September 20, snow permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) taken by phone starting 7am on the first business day in January: 866-807-3598. See www.visitsequoia.com.

• **Pear Lake Ski Hut (SNHA):** Access has changed; the Wolverton Road is plowed only weekends and Wednesdays — 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. Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759.

Driving Park Roads: Spring 2014

Gasoline Stations

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

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770. Year-round 24 hours with credit card (closed 4/14 through 4/20). 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village: 1-559-565-3909. Open early May. 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: 1-559-335-2405. Opens after 4/10. Gas sold 9am-dark, usually. 17 miles (27 km) from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

Rules & Recommendations

Don't Lose Your Brakes

If you keep a foot on the pedal, brakes may overheat and fail. Instead, downshift on the downhills. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder but 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.

Prevent Car Fires

Hot brakes & mufflers can easily start fires. Stop only on paved areas, not on grasses.

Use Turnouts; Let Others Pass

Bicycles

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

Go Slow for Wildlife!

Animals may start across the road unexpectedly. Wildlife is too often hit by cars.

Icy Roads & Trails

Cold spring temperatures can mean slippery areas, especially in the morning and in the shade. If it snows, watch out for plows. Recorded road information: 1-559-565-3341.

Vehicle Length Limits

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

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

Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car, camp in the foothills and use the car. See page 4 for camping.

Narrow Winding Roads & Spring Road Openings

Timing: Openings usually occur at noon. All dates depend on weather-related conditions.

In Kings Canyon & National Forest/Monument:

- **Hwy 180 East** as far as Junction View/Kings Canyon Lodge opens 4/10. It opens to Boyden Cavern and beyond to Cedar Grove at noon on 4/24, but facilities are limited until late May.
- **Panoramic Point** opens 5/21 at the latest.
- **Redwood Mountain road (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin** (USFS): Rutted, unpaved, unplowed.

In Sequoia:

- **Crystal Cave Road**: Opens 5/10. Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m).
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow**: Open no later than 5/21. Vehicle-length limit 22'; no trailers or towed units. When the shuttle operates (starting 5/22; see page 6). On weekends and holidays, private vehicles are prohibited on the road from 9am to late afternoon. Exception: those with valid disabled-parking placard or a current local wilderness permit.
- **Mineral King**: Open 5/21. RVs/trailers not recommended (not allowed in campgrounds).
- **South Fork/Middle Fork roads:** Partly unpaved; slippery when wet.

Foothills wildflowers

Construction Delays

Delays on park roads this year

See bulletin boards at visitor centers, visit www.nps.gov/seki, or contact the park for updates and details. Beware: narrow, rough roads in construction areas. Always use low gear on downhills. Thank you for your patience!

Generals Highway Reconstruction

From early June into the fall, this affects portions of the main park road between Eleven Range (south of Giant Forest) and Wolverton Road (north of the General Sherman Tree, south of Lodgepole). Occasional night closures may be needed. This spring, except on weekends and holidays:

- expect 15-minute delays in the Giant Forest area.
- south of (or below) Giant Forest, expect up to one-hour delays, with pass-throughs on the hour.

Other Road Repairs

Expect intermittent delays or brief closures on weekdays through summer in several park areas. Repaving is scheduled to take place starting after Memorial Day through June in the Grant Grove area of Kings Canyon National Park: on Hwy 180, the Grant Tree Road, and Big Stump Picnic Area. In Sequoia National Park, work will be done in the Halstead Meadow area north of Lodgepole.

Driving Times in good weather

From Foothills to:

Giant Forest	**1 hour minimum**
Lodgepole	**1½ hour minimum**
Visalia	**1 hour**
Mineral King (MK)	**1½ hours**
(MK Road opens May 22)	

From Giant Forest to:

Grant Grove via Generals Hwy	**1 hour**

From Grant Grove to:

Cedar Grove	**1 hour**
Notice: Cedar Grove Road opens 4/24 to day use only; see page 9. No drinking water, food, beverages, camping, or lodging available there until 5/22XX.	
Fresno	**1½ hours**
Yosemite south entry (via Hwy 41)	**3 hours**