



Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Some Opening/Closing Dates for Services and Facilities at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Have Changed in 2013

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA – Some of the opening and closing dates for facilities and services at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks have changed in 2013 due to two factors: weather and budget cuts. As a result of dry and warm weather, some facilities have opened earlier than expected, but they could close again with significant snowfall until official opening dates. Also, some services may be or have already been reduced due to across-the-board cuts to the federal budget that took effect on March 1. For future updates about specific opening/closing dates, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.

- **Snow or No Snow?** Spring appears to have started earlier than expected at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Very little snow (patchy to no snow) exists in the most visited areas of the parks (up to 7,000 feet) at this time. There is still snow at higher elevations. Check weather/roads info before arrival.
- **Fee Free Days:** April 22-26, 2013 (at all national parks for National Park Week) *PLUS* April 27 (Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks only in honor of National Junior Ranger Day)
- **Roads/Parking Info:**
 - In Sequoia National Park:
 - The main (big) General Sherman Tree parking lot is open and will be kept open, weather-permitting.
 - Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road is open early and will stay open, weather-permitting. Significant snow could close the road until May 22.
 - Visitors may park in one-half to two-thirds of the parking lot across from the Giant Forest Museum.
 - Mineral King Road will open from May 22 - October 28, 2013, weather-permitting.

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- In Kings Canyon National Park:
 - Cedar Grove will be open for day-use only from 12 noon on April 26, 2013, to 12 noon on May 22, 2013. During this time, all campgrounds will be closed, and no overnight camping will be permitted in the Cedar Grove area. Visitors are advised to bring water and food, as none will be available in the canyon. Vault toilets will be available at Lewis Creek, Zumwalt Meadow, and Roads End.
 - Cedar Grove will reopen for overnight use at 12 noon on May 22, 2013. The road to the canyon is expected to close on October 15, 2013.
 - Panoramic Point Road is open for the season. No motor homes or trailers are allowed on this road.
- **Campgrounds:** For a complete list of campground opening and closing dates, be sure to visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm or call 559-565-3341. Some campgrounds will be open later, be closed during part of the season, or may close earlier this year. For example, campgrounds in Cedar Grove will be closed from April 26 (12 noon - when the road to the canyon opens) through May 22 (12 noon).
- **Construction Delays:** Visitors should expect limited road construction delays in Sequoia National Park before Memorial Day weekend.
 - Until further notice, park visitors should expect 30-minute delays from 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on weekdays along the main road (Generals Highway). Delays may be longer during paving operations for this project.
 - Other Road Repairs - Expect intermittent delays on weekdays from spring through summer in several areas of the parks. Some areas may have brief closures. Beware of narrow, rough roads in construction areas. Use low gear on downhills.
 - Construction schedules may change with little or no notice. For more information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/seki/parknews/index.htm>.
- **Crystal Cave:** The cave opens for daily tours on May 11, 2013 - December 1, 2013. Starting May 11, Crystal Cave tickets will be sold only at the Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers.

- **Visitor Centers:** Park visitor centers offer different exhibits and films and sells books, maps, hats, postcards, etc. All purchases support the parks!
 - Foothills Visitor Center in Sequoia – Open daily year-round from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 - Mineral King Ranger Station in Sequoia – Open May 24, 2013 (conditions permitting), from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
 - Lodgepole Visitor Center in Sequoia – Open daily from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. through May 10, 2013. From May 11-24, open from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Starting May 25, open 7 a.m.-6 p.m.
 - Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia – Opens May 11-24, 2013, from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. After May 25, the center will be open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. during summer.
 - Kings Canyon Visitor Center – Open daily year-round from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. through May 23, 2013. After May 24, the center will be open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
 - Cedar Grove Visitor Center in Kings Canyon (NPS) – Open May 23, 2013 - September 4, 2013, from Thursdays-Mondays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Food Service/Markets:** For information about hours, as well as opening/closing dates, for food service and markets, please visit www.nps.gov/seki/parknews/newspaper.htm. (See pages 8-9.)
- **Sequoia Shuttle:** The Sequoia Shuttle will operate from May 24, 2013 - September 8, 2013. Sightsee while you ride to the park during the summer season. The Sequoia Shuttle runs from Visalia, through Three Rivers, and up to the Giant Forest Museum, where you can transfer to the free in-park shuttle. A round-trip ride costs \$15, and covers the park entrance fee. All shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible. For details and reservations online see www.sequoiashuttle.com, or call 1-877-BUS-HIKE. Once at the Giant Forest Museum, you can ride the free in-park shuttle, which operates during the same dates.

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SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.