



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon  
National Parks

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## Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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### Plan Ahead for a Fun and Safe Labor Day Weekend at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Be sure to spend a little extra time planning your vacation to ensure a safe and fun Labor Day holiday weekend at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Visit the park website, [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki), for up-to-date information about activities, road and weather information, and more. Once in the park, be sure to stop at one of our park visitor centers for the latest details on various activities, from camping to hiking to ranger-led programs.

Please be aware of the following considerations:

- If you plan to enter or exit Sequoia National Park during the holiday weekend, you will find 20-minute delays between the Hwy. 198 entrance to Sequoia National Park and the Giant Forest (11 miles in the park), which is located near the General Sherman Tree, the largest giant sequoia tree in the world.
- If you stay and visit the park beyond the holiday weekend, be aware of potential delays of 5 minutes to 1 hour in length during the daytime on weekdays in both Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. In addition, Panoramic Point Road at Kings Canyon National Park will be temporarily closed on September 6, from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. due to roadwork. Night work is scheduled between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. from Monday nights through Friday mornings with only one opportunity to pass through the construction area each night at 11:30 p.m.
- **RVs AND TRAILERS:** The main road (Generals Highway) to the General Sherman Tree/Giant Forest/Lodgepole is closed to vehicles longer than 22 feet (total combined length) shortly after the Sequoia National Park entrance. Longer vehicles should come into the parks via Kings Canyon National Park/Hwy 180.
- **MOTORCYCLES AND BICYCLES:** Road project work may cause slick, oily, and hazardous road conditions. Slow down and be safe!

Consider leaving the driving to us and avoid parking hassles during the busy holiday weekend. Several in-park free shuttles operate in Sequoia National Park in the Giant Forest/Lodgepole area from approximately 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. *While most parking lots in the Lodgepole/Giant Forest area of the park may be full this weekend, lots of parking will be*

— continued from page 1 —

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*available a few minutes down the road at the Wuksachi Lodge. Park and ride the free shuttle to your favorite destinations, including General Sherman Tree, Giant Forest Museum, Moro Rock, Crescent Meadow, and Lodgepole!* The shuttle will operate every 15-20 minutes from the Wuksachi Lodge parking area. Note: The free shuttle is the only way to access Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. during the holiday weekend.

In addition, until September 25, you can ride the Sequoia Shuttle between the City of Visalia and Sequoia National Park's Giant Forest Museum. The shuttle has possible pick-up locations in the towns of Visalia, Exeter, and Three Rivers, CA. A round-trip ride, which includes the park entrance fee, costs \$15. For details and reservations, visit [www.sequoiashuttle.com](http://www.sequoiashuttle.com) or call 1-877-BUS-HIKE. Once in Giant Forest, you can transfer to the free in-park shuttle.

Fire danger in the parks is high, but visitors are able to build small campfires in designated areas. Please exercise caution, and be sure fires are "dead out" when you leave your campfire. Do not smoke in construction zones. Please always extinguish your cigarettes, and dispose of them safely.

In the park, always plan ahead to:

- Carry water on your hikes.
- Follow requirements to store food in bear-proof containers, not your car, even during the day. Bear-proof containers are available next to most popular parking lots in the park. If you plan to go backpacking, learn about food-storage requirements in the wilderness.
- Use extreme caution along rivers and creeks, even when the water looks calm. **Drowning is the most common cause of death at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.** Moving water is always more powerful than it may appear.
- Avoid personal contact with wildlife. Wild animals are meant to be "wild." Do not try to feed, pet, or touch them. This will help keep you from being injured and save the life of a wild animal.

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## **ABOUT SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS**

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains 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.