



## Visitor Guide *Summer 2019*



Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument 

Sequoia Parks Conservancy 

## Delayed Campground Openings

For nearly a decade, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks experienced periods of severe drought, receiving below-average rainfall. Less precipitation, coupled with increased temperatures and higher numbers of bark beetles negatively affected many park trees, weakening and even killing thousands of them. While giant sequoias were not immune to these effects, most of the affected trees were ponderosa pines, sugar pines, and white firs.

Each year, the Park Forester and his staff survey our campgrounds and other developed areas for “tree hazards.” Tree hazards are whole trees, tops of trees, or limbs that are dead or show signs of weakness, posing a risk to human safety or property.

Once identified as hazardous, these trees are listed for removal, topping, or limbing. Over the last several years, park employees have been working tirelessly to cut

down trees or remove tops or limbs that pose safety risks.

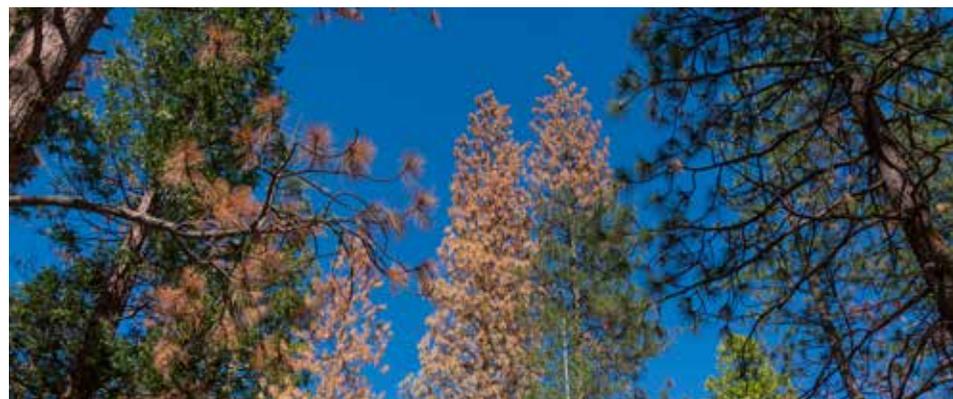
But every year, the number of identified tree hazards is growing, outpacing our ability to remove them. By spring of 2019, we identified more than 5,600 trees that needed removal, topping, or limbing.

Because of strong concerns for public safety, park managers made the difficult decision to postpone the 2019 opening of some park campgrounds until trees can be removed. At the same time, the park significantly increased the

number of employees working on this project.

Expect campground opening delays and consider other lodging options. Campers will notice more downed trees around their campsites. In an effort to get campgrounds open as quickly as possible, cut trees and limbs will remain in place to be dealt with at a later time.

You are welcome to use this downed wood for campfires, unless fire restrictions are in place.



Tree hazards in the Cedar Grove area. Photo by Alison Taggart-Barone.

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## Contacts

### Cell service

Cell service is extremely limited in these parks, and is available near the main entrance stations.

**911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911**  
No coins are needed in payphones.

### Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

559-565-3341 (24 hour): Recorded information is available for road conditions, weather, current fires, camping, lodging, wilderness, and more.

### GPS, Web & Social Media

GPS programs often misdirect travellers here. Use maps and signs, or ask for directions. The *only* official park information sources online are:

#### The Official Park Website

[www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)



#### Facebook

Sequoia and Kings  
Canyon National Parks



#### Instagram

[sequoiakingsnps](https://www.instagram.com/sequoiakingsnps)

### Sequoia National Forest/Monument (USFS)

559-338-2251, [fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://fs.usda.gov/sequoia)

### Yosemite National Park (NPS)

209-372-0200, [nps.gov/yose](http://nps.gov/yose)

### California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

800-427-7623, [dot.ca.gov](http://dot.ca.gov)

### Free Public WiFi Locations

Foothills Visitor Center (Sequoia National Park),  
Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove).  
No password is needed.

## 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 visitante.

**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.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Pets

Pets are not permitted on any trails at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. In campgrounds and picnic areas, pets must be kept on a leash at all times. The leash must be less than 6 feet (1.8 meters) long. Pets cannot be left tied and unattended at any time.

### Drones

Unmanned aircraft are not allowed in these parks. This includes drones and other remotely piloted vehicles.

### Marijuana

Possession or use of marijuana and other controlled substances inside the national parks is prohibited. While California law provides for limited possession and use of marijuana it remains an illegal drug under federal law, which is enforced within the park.

### Fire Restrictions

Because of summer heat and dry conditions, restrictions may be in place to reduce the possibility of accidental human-caused fire. Locations where wood or charcoal fires are prohibited will be signed, especially in park campgrounds.

Restrictions may increase through summer as fire danger increases. Check for updates on park bulletin boards, at visitor centers, or by visiting [go.nps.gov/sekiFireRestrictions](http://go.nps.gov/sekiFireRestrictions)

### Firearms in these National Parks

People with firearms are responsible for understanding and complying with all applicable California, local, and federal firearms laws. People who can legally possess firearms under federal, California, and local laws may possess firearms here.

### Driving Through the Parks

Give yourself plenty of time. To drive only the Generals Highway from the southern entrance to the northern entrance, allow at least two hours plus whatever time you plan to spend outside of the car. If you plan to visit Cedar Grove or Mineral King, allow quite a bit more time.

### Driving to Other Parks

There is no road that crosses the rugged Sierra Nevada mountain range. Check your park driving map or ask at any visitor center for directions to nearby national parks. To drive to Yosemite National Park, plan on at least a three-hour drive from Grant Grove, or longer from other park locations, depending on weather.

## Accessibility

We are committed to a continuing effort to improve the accessibility of our trails and facilities so they can be enjoyed by all. If you have questions or suggestions about accessibility, please email us at [SEKI\\_Interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:SEKI_Interpretation@nps.gov) or call us at 559- 565-3341.

Wheelchairs may be borrowed at no cost at Lodgepole Visitor Center and Giant Forest Museum. They can be used anywhere in the parks but must be returned by the end of the day, before each visitor center closes. Be prepared to provide your address and phone number.

### Visitor Centers

All visitor centers and museums have paved, flat paths leading from parking areas to information desks, exhibits, bookstores, water bottle filling stations, and restrooms. Cedar Grove Visitor Center is small, and may be difficult for people in wheelchairs to navigate. Mineral King Ranger Station has steps leading to the entrance and may not be accessible to people with mobility impairments.

### Wheelchair-accessible Trails

**General Sherman Tree Trail (Giant Forest):** This short trail leads a few hundred feet from an accessible parking area to the General Sherman Tree, the largest tree on earth.

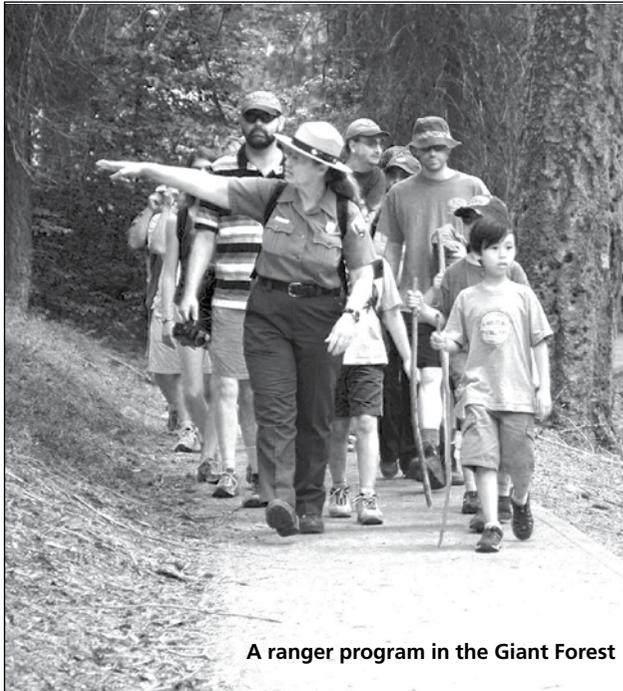
**Big Trees Trail (Giant Forest):** This level, 2/3-mile loop trail circles a meadow surrounded by giant sequoias.

**Panoramic Point Trail (Grant Grove):** This paved trail leads to views that reach deep into park wilderness.

**Roaring River Falls (Cedar Grove):** A very short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the Village road. Paved, relatively accessible. In 2017, the paving was improved and some grades reduced.

**Muir Rock Trail (Cedar Grove):** This short trail leads to the Kings River and Muir Rock, a large granite boulder at the river's edge named in honor of famed naturalist John Muir.





A ranger program in the Giant Forest

## Free Ranger Programs

Free programs are offered in the Foothills, Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, Mineral King, Cedar Grove, and other locations! They include evening programs, walks, demonstrations, talks, living history, and other activities. Check online or at bulletin boards for schedules of ranger-led activities.

## Free Junior Ranger Program

Pick up a free booklet at any visitor center, complete the activities, & earn your badge!

## Teachers & Parents, Take Note!

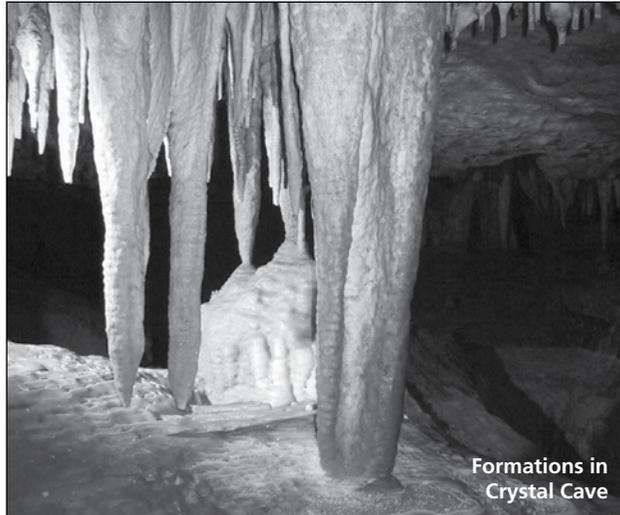
**Expand your classroom:** Invite a ranger to your class, visit the parks with your school group, download lesson plans, and participate in distance learning. All education programs are standards-based and free! Visit [nps.gov/seki/learn/education](http://nps.gov/seki/learn/education).

## Exploring on Horseback

Travel by horse on hourly rides, spot trips, or guided trips that leave from two locations.

Grant Grove: Open daily beginning June 8, weather permitting, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. For details or reservations, call 559-335-9292. In the off-season, call 559-799-7247.

Cedar Grove: Open daily, weather permitting, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. For details or reservations, call 559-565-3464. In the off-season, call 559-337-2413.



Formations in Crystal Cave

## Crystal Cave Tours

Reserve tickets online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) at least 48 hours in advance. Need a ticket today? Check first thing in the morning at Lodgepole or Foothills visitor centers (*not* at the cave). Plan time for delays in getting through the park entrances, especially on weekends and holidays.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles from Sequoia Park's entrance at Hwy 198; 3 miles south of Sherman Tree. Maximum vehicle length on this narrow road is 22'. Use parking lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes for the steep 1/2-mile trail to the cave. Wear a jacket; it's 50°F (10°C) inside. No strollers, tripods, or bags/packs are permitted inside the cave. (They can be used on the trail from the parking area but must be left outside unattended during the tour.) No flash, lighted photography, or video. Not wheelchair accessible. Tour times are subject to change. For school tours & large groups, visit [sequoiaparksconservancy.org/crystalcave](http://sequoiaparksconservancy.org/crystalcave).

### Family Cave Tour Daily - 45 minutes

Extra tours on holiday weekends (Friday-Monday).

**May 24 - June 15 (except June 3 and 4)**

- **Weekdays:** Tours on the hour, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- **Weekends:** Tours on the hour, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, and on the 1/2 hour 11:30 am - 1:30 pm.

**June 15 - August 10**

- **Saturday:** Every 1/2 hour 10:30 am-4:00 pm
- **Sunday:** Every 1/2 hour 10:30 am-4:00 pm
- **Weekdays:** Every 1/2 hour 10:30 am-4:00 pm

**Ticket prices:** Age 5-12 \$8; 13-61 \$16; 62 & up \$15. Ask about SPC member discounts! National Park and Interagency passes do not apply.

### Special tours for special interests:

- **Discovery Tour** 6/15-8/25. Every day at 4:30 pm. \$25.
- **Family Tour** for ages 13 & up. 6/15-8/25. Daily at 10:00 am, 12:30 pm, and 3:30 pm (except holiday weekends). Ages 13-61 \$16, 62 and up \$15.



Sequoia Parks Conservancy welcomes you to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks! As the official nonprofit partner to these parks, we do more than just provide tours and retail services. We help you make a deeper connection to the parks and share your experiences with others. We would love for you to visit us online and learn more about everything we do. We've saved a place for you—come join us.



@SequoiaParksConservancy



@SequoiaParksConservancy



@SeqParksCon

## Dark Sky Festival

On August 23-25, join us for the sixth annual Dark Sky Festival: walks, talks, telescopes, fun, and awe! Participate in a variety of free programs, walks, activities, and events that feature the night sky!

## Field Institute

Over 60,000 visitors annually explore the parks and Lake Kaweah with the Field Institute. These experts guide you through the night sky, Crystal Cave, and park trails. They even bring park history to life! SPC members (see page 2) may get a discount on Field Institute activities. 559-565-4251; [sequoiaparks.org](http://sequoiaparks.org)

Each standard campsite has a table and fire ring with a grill and accommodates up to 6 people and 1 vehicle. There are no RV hook-ups in the parks.

### Reservations

Reservations are strongly recommended and are available from 6 months to two days before your stay.

[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

(877) 444-6777

(877) 833-6777 TDD

(888) 448-1474 customer service

If you don't have a reservation, check below for first-come, first-served campgrounds. Have a backup plan in case camping isn't available, especially on weekends.

### RV & Trailer Length Limits

If you're driving an RV, trailer, or a longer vehicle, check length limits on park roads and at campsites.

### Group Sites

Reservations are strongly recommended for group sites.

- **Mid-size group sites for 7-19 people are reservable** at Crystal Springs and Canyon View campgrounds.
- **Large-group sites for 15 - 40 people are reservable** at Dorst Creek, Sunset, or Canyon View.

National forest campgrounds also have group sites.

### Roadside Camping

Roadside camping is not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In the national forest, it's permitted unless posted otherwise.

### Showers

Public showers are available seasonally at Lodgepole and Cedar Grove villages, and in some national forest areas. Showers are no longer available in Grant Grove.

### Fire Restrictions, Campfires, & Firewood

Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees. Please don't transport firewood. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find or buy wood close to where you will use it. Please burn any wood you brought in. Fires must be out cold before you leave. Fire restrictions are subject to change when weather is hot and dry and there's a danger of wildfire.

### Quiet & Generator Hours

Music and noise should be audible in your site only. Quiet hours are from 10:00 pm-6:00 am (no generators). At Lodgepole & Dorst, generator use is permitted only from 8:00-11:00am and 5:00-8:00 pm.

### Propane/Fuel Canisters

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

## Campgrounds with limited first-come, first-served availability

Campground	Location	Nightly fee	Sites	Toilets	Dump station	Showers	Food nearby	Other information
Atwell Mill	Mineral King	\$12	21	Vault	–	Silver City	–	No RV or trailer sites
Cold Springs	Mineral King	\$12	40	Vault	–	Silver City	–	No RV or trailer sites
Azalea	Grant Grove	\$18	110	Flush	–	–	Yes	Near sequoia groves, open year-round
Crystal Springs	Grant Grove	\$18	35	Flush	–	–	Yes	Near sequoia groves
Sheep Creek	Cedar Grove	\$18	111	Flush	–	At village	Yes	Near the river
Moraine	Cedar Grove	\$18	121	Flush	–	At village	Yes	Near the river
South Fork	South Fork	\$6	10	Vault	–	–	–	For remote camping away from services

## Campgrounds available by reservation with limited availability in summer

Campground	Location	Nightly fee	Sites	Toilets	Dump station	Showers	Food nearby	Other information
Potwisha	Foothills	\$22	40	Flush	Yes	–	–	Open year-round
Buckeye Flat	Foothills	\$22	28	Flush	–	–	–	No RVs or trailers
Lodgepole	Lodgepole	\$22	203	Flush	Yes	At village	Yes	The closest camping to Giant Forest. Free shuttles.
Dorst Creek	Lodgepole	\$22	212	Flush	Yes	–	–	Free shuttles to Lodgepole and Giant Forest.
Sunset	Grant Grove	\$22	156	Flush	–	–	Yes	
Sentinel	Cedar Grove	\$22	82	Flush	–	At village	Yes	Near the river
Canyon View	Cedar Grove	\$40-60	16	Flush	–	At village	Yes	Group sites only. No RV or trailer sites.

# Camping

## Other camping options

Sequoia National Forest (U.S. Forest Service)  
Near Grant Grove

### HUME LAKE AREA

Princess Campground

Hume Lake Campground

Tenmile Campground

Landslide Campground

Convict Flat Campground

### BIG MEADOWS AND STONY CREEK AREAS

Stony Creek Campground

Upper Stony Creek Campground

Horse Camp Campground

Big Meadow Campground

### DISPERSED CAMPING

Self-contained camping, with no water, restrooms, trash cans, or other amenities is permitted in the national forest (not in the national parks). Check with Sequoia National Forest for time and group size limits.

Free fire permits are required. Ask about them at Hume Lake Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), with a USFS ranger, or read about and download them at [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

Lake Kaweah (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)  
Near Three Rivers

Horse Creek Campground



Cold Springs Campground, Mineral King

# Keep Bears Wild and Safe

5

**Bears can grab unattended food or break into cars where food is visible. They become bold and aggressive if they get human food. Too often these bears must be killed. Food storage is key to keeping humans safe and bears alive.**



## In Wilderness

Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a bear-resistant storage container. These containers weigh less than 3 pounds, hold up to 5 days of food, and fit in a backpack. Rent bear-resistant storage containers at park visitor centers. A list of approved containers can be found on our website. Metal boxes are located in a few wilderness locations.

## 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 foods come from humans; the bear may hurt a person in the future to get food. If a bear does get food your food, NEVER try to get it back.

## Touring and Picnicking

Food items MUST be stored in food storage boxes when provided. If no food storage box is available, food items must be inside your car trunk or if no trunk, place food items low in the vehicle, out of sight, and keep windows closed. While picnicking, never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

## Campgrounds

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) must be stored 24 hours a day when not in use. This includes unopened cans and bottles. Make sure food storage boxes are completely latched. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in trash cans or dumpsters. Do not leave garbage unattended! Take child safety seats out of cars—the smells they absorb may attract bears.

## Lodges

Remove all food and child safety seats from your vehicle.

**Bears can smell anything with a scent—such as cosmetics, toiletries, trash, and cleaning supplies—and will mistake these items for food. Store anything with an odor.**

# Wildlife Viewing & Safety

## Keep Wildlife Safe

Do not feed or touch ANY wild animals. All animals in the park are wild. View animals at safe distances (the length of two city buses) or through binoculars—never disrupt, approach, or disturb animals from behaving normally.



## Mountain Lions & Bobcats

Rarely seen, bobcats are larger than house cats and have a bobbed tail; mountain lions are much larger and have a long tail. Cats usually run when seen. If you see a mountain lion that doesn't run:

- Do not run; running may trigger pursuit.
- Pick up children.
- Try to appear as large as possible—don't crouch down.
- 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.**

Explore the golden foothills, home to more species of plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined. Chaparral, oak woodlands, and river canyons offer spring wildflowers, hot summers, and mild winters.

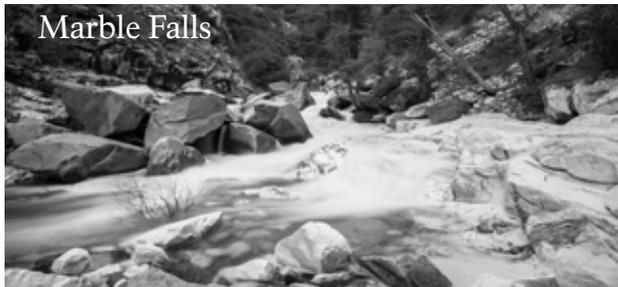
## Services and Facilities

### Foothills Visitor Center

Open 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Browse exhibits on life in the low elevations and the Sequoia Parks Conservancy park store. Payphone, free wifi. *Muchas veces hay rangers aqui quienes hablan Español.* Ask about free ranger programs!

### Wilderness Office

Local wilderness permits are issued from 8:00 am-4:00 pm at the Wilderness Office on weekdays & Saturdays. When the office is closed, self-registration permits are available outside the visitor center.



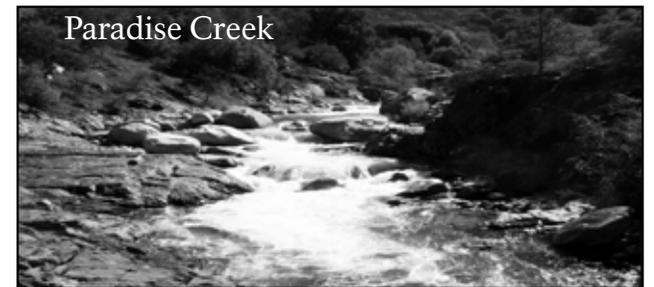
Marble Falls

### Tunnel Rock

Snap a picture at this iconic pullout off the Generals Highway. Walk on the old road under this rock formation, but do not climb. Poison oak is common here.

### Marble Falls Trail

For a short walk along canals or long walk to a waterfall, park across the highway from Potwisha Campground (not in campground). Near site #14, follow the dirt road along canals. Climb 3.7 miles (6 km) through to the waterfall. High temperatures and little shade or water can make this trail dangerous in the summer.



Paradise Creek

### Hospital Rock Picnic Area

See rock paintings and explore exhibits about California Native Americans who once lived here. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Be careful; drownings occur here. Store your food from bears.

### Paradise Creek Trail

For a creekside stroll, park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area (not in campground). Walk 0.6 miles (0.9 km) to Buckeye Flat Campground. Take the path across from site #28 and cross a footbridge over the river. Follow Paradise Creek (not the river) for 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

## Mineral King

Climb the steep, winding road, the parks' highest, to its peak at 7800', Enjoy this remote, rugged place, or follow a trail into a vast wilderness.

## Services and Facilities

### Mineral King Ranger Station

Open 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Get trail and local information. Pay phones nearby at Cold Springs Campground and the Sawtooth Trailhead parking area. Ask about free ranger programs!

### Wilderness Permits

Local wilderness permits are issued at the Ranger Station until 3:45 pm.

### Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Cabins, gifts, showers, store, restaurant/bakery with wifi. No gas. Open 8:00 am-8:00 pm Thursday - Monday, & 8:00 am - 7:00 pm Tuesday - Wednesday. 559-561-3223.

### Protect your car from marmots!

Marmots in this area sometimes chew through vehicle wires and fuel lines. Drive over a tarp and then wrap it around your vehicle, covering wheel wells.



Mineral King Valley

### Cold Springs Nature Trail

Stroll through meadows and aspen groves on this slightly sloped, 1 mile (1.6 km) trail. Start at Cold Springs Campground.

### Eagle Lake

Ascend the west side of the Mineral King Valley to a glacially carved tarn. This steep trail is 3.6 miles (5.7 km) one way, and begins at the end of Mineral King Road. After 2 miles (3.2 km), the trail splits. Turn left for Eagle Lake, or take the right-hand trail another 1.6 miles (2.5 km) for Mosquito Lake.

### Paradise Ridge

Hike through sequoias to a ridge with views of the Great Western Divide. Park in the lot east of Atwell Mill Campground and walk past the campground to the trailhead. Climb 3.7 miles (5.9 km) to the peak of the ridge, or continue into wilderness.

### Atwell-Hockett to Deer Creek

Walk through sequoias and an old sawmill to a waterfall. Park in the lot east of Atwell Mill Campground and walk toward the campground to the trailhead. This trail heads far into wilderness. Turn back in 1.5 miles (2.4 km) at Deer Creek for a day hike.

Welcome to the big trees. Here, free park shuttles will take you through the world's biggest unlogged sequoia grove, home of the world's largest tree. Park your car and discover serene meadows, rocky streams, and towering forests. Shuttles travel throughout the Giant Forest and Lodgepole area, including Wuksachi Lodge, and Lodgepole and Dorst Campgrounds.

## Along Green Route 1

### General Sherman Tree

Take **Green Route 1** or **Orange Route 4** to the General Sherman Tree and Congress Trail. Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

**Main Trail** - This 0.5 mile (0.8 km) trail down to the tree has some stairs; the walk back is uphill. Benches provide rest points along the way. Drive 2 miles (3 km) north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree accessible parking lot). Turn right on Wolverton Road and follow signs.

**Wheelchair-accessible trail from the Generals Hwy**- Parking here is only for those with disability placards. If you have no placard but can't walk the hill on the main trail, ask at a visitor center for a temporary permit.

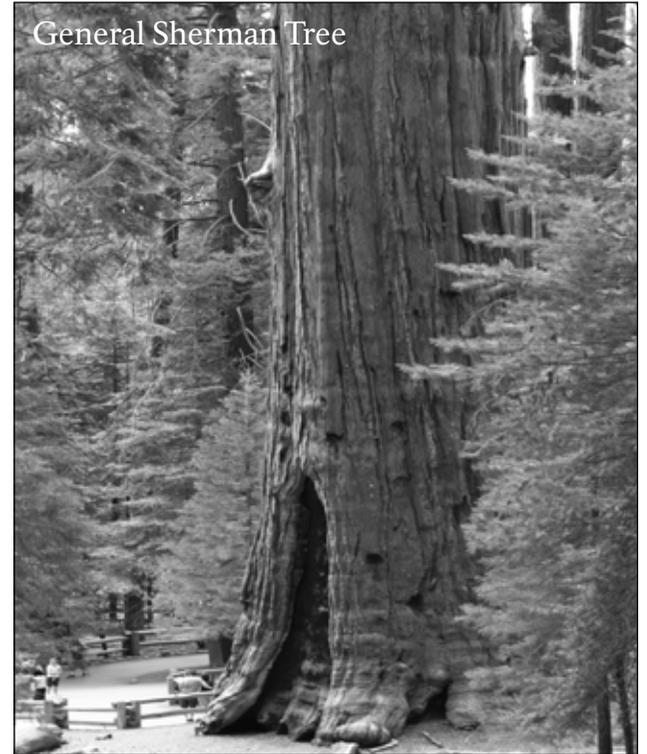
**Congress Trail** - From the Sherman Tree continue along this fairly level 2 mile (3.2 km) loop through the heart of the Giant Forest sequoia grove.

### Big Trees Trail

A level, paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start your walk at Giant Forest Museum for a 1-mile (1.6 km) round-trip walk. If you have a disability placard, park at the trailhead for a 0.75 mile (1 km) loop.

### Tokopah Falls

Take **Green Route 1** or **Purple Route 3** to Lodgepole Campground. The 1.7 mile (2.7 km) trail starts just beyond the Marble Fork Bridge. Walk along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River to the impressive granite cliffs and cascading waterfall of Tokopah Canyon. Tokopah Falls is 1,200 feet (365.8 meters) high, and is most impressive in early summer. Be careful around the water; cold and swift currents are difficult to escape.



General Sherman Tree

## Along Gray Route 2

### Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

This 3 mile (4.8 km) dead-end road begins at Giant Forest Museum. Park shuttles and trails connect these popular stops. On weekends & holidays, the road is closed to private vehicles.

**Moro Rock** - Climb a steep stairway to the top of this granite dome for spectacular mountain views.

**Tunnel Log** - Go under a fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks.

**Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias surround this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails. Several trails start here, such as the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a historic cabin in a fallen sequoia; and the High Sierra Trail (60 miles/97 km) to Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the lower 48 states.

## Wolverton

At 7200' elevation, this picnic area and trailhead also offers good open space for viewing night skies. During the day, the Orange Route 4 shuttle travels from here to the General Sherman Tree Main and Accessible trailheads. The Wolverton Road junction is two miles (3.2 km) north of the Sherman Tree. The picnic area and trailhead are at the end of the road.

## Services and Facilities

### Giant Forest Museum

Open 9:00 am-6:00 pm. Browse exhibits, trail information, and the SPC park store. Ask about free ranger programs!

### Lodgepole Visitor Center

Open 7:00 am-5:00 pm. Watch a movie about bears, learn about the forest ecosystem, get trail information, and browse the SPC park store. Ask about free ranger programs!

### Wilderness Permits

Permits for overnight travel are issued at Lodgepole Visitor Center from 7:00 am-3:30 pm.

### Sequoia Shuttles

Take the free, wheelchair accessible Sequoia Shuttle to sites throughout Giant Forest and Lodgepole. Turn to page 12 for more information.

### Lodgepole Market (DNC)

Open daily 7:00 am-9:00 pm. Supplies, clothing, groceries, grab-and-go food, ATM, payphone.  
**LODGEPOLE GRILL:** Open 8:00 am-8:00 pm  
**SHOWERS & LAUNDRY:** Open 7:00 am-12:30 pm; 2:30 pm- 9:00 pm

### Mobile Food Cart (DNC)

Located at the main General Sherman Parking Area. Open 11:30 am-5:00 pm.

### Wuksachi Lodge (DNC)

The lodge sits at 7200' elevation, 2.3 miles (3.7 km) north of Lodgepole Visitor Center. Open year-round, 24 hours a day. Payphones, wifi, and ATM. Ask about naturalist programs. 866-807-3598

**PEAKS DINING ROOM:** Open 7:00 am-10:00am, 11:30 am-3:00 pm, & 5:00 pm-10:00 pm. Reservations recommended for dinner. Box lunches available. 559-625-7700.

**GIFT SHOP:** Open 8:00 am-9:00 pm. Souvenirs and minimal supplies.

Wander through shady sequoia groves and hike to bird's-eye views of distant wilderness. From busy Grant Grove Village to lofty Big Baldy Ridge, Grant Grove offers a chance to explore with amenities nearby.

### Grant Tree Trail

This 0.3-mile (0.5 km) paved trail leads to the world's second-largest living tree. Along the trail are tactile exhibits about sequoias. Look for the road 1 mile (1.6 km) north of Grant Grove Village.

### North Grove Loop

This lightly traveled, 1.5 mile (2.4 km) loop offers a close look at sequoias and a quiet forest walk. Start at the Grant Tree bus and RV parking area.

### Panoramic Point

A narrow road to a short trail to a viewpoint with beautiful Sierra vistas. RVs and trailers are not permitted on the road, which begins behind John Muir Lodge. Park Ridge Trail (4.7 miles/7.6 km round trip) also begins here.

### Big Stump Basin

Stumps in this meadow from late 19th-century logging include the Mark Twain Stump. Climb the steps to see the growth rings of this giant. Start the 1.5-mile (2.4 km) round-trip trail from Big Stump Picnic Area.



### Big Baldy Ridge

Climb to 8209 feet (2502 m) for great views over Redwood Canyon. You'll gain 600 feet (183m) in elevation over the 2.2-mile (3.5 km) trek to this granite peak. From Grant Grove Village, go 8 miles (13km) south on Generals Highway to the trailhead.

## Services and Facilities

### Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Open 8:00 am- 5:00 pm. Watch a park film, explore exhibits in English & Spanish, and browse the SPC park store. Payphone and free wifi.

### Wilderness Permits

Issued at the visitor center 8:00 am-4:30 pm.

### Grant Grove Village

**MARKET:** Open 7:00 am-9:00 pm. Grab-&-go food, groceries, supplies, ATM, payphone.

**RESTAURANT:** Open 7:00 am-10:00 am; 11:30 am-9:00 pm. Last seating at 9:00 pm.

**GIFT SHOP:** Open 8:00 am-9:00 pm. Souvenirs, supplies, clothing, ATM.

**U.S. POST OFFICE:** Open Monday-Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm; 24-hour lobby. 559-335-2499.

### John Muir Lodge (DNC)

Next to Grant Grove Village; make a reservation to stay in a lodge room or cabins. 866-807-3598.

## Cedar Grove

Quiet and remote, Cedar Grove sits deep in Kings Canyon, surrounded by sheer granite cliffs. Listen for the rushing Kings River, bird songs, and wind rustling through stands of cedar trees.

### 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. Stop two miles east of Cedar Grove Village.

### Roaring River Falls

Take a very short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. The paved, moderately sloped trail begins 3 miles (4.8 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

### Zumwalt Meadow

This partially accessible 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop passes a lush meadow and the Kings River. Park at the trailhead 4.5 miles (7.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village Road.



### Mist Falls

Head through forest and chaparral to one of the parks' largest waterfalls. The 4-mile (6.4 km) trip begins at Road's End and climbs 800 feet (250 m) to a viewing area for the cascade.

### Sheep Creek Cascade

Climb the Don Cecil Trail to a small waterfall. At that point, turn around or continue for a longer hike. Begin at Cedar Grove Visitor Center. Trail to the waterfall is 2 miles (3.2 km) round-trip.

## Services and Facilities

### Cedar Grove Visitor Center

Open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Get trail information and browse the SPC park store. Payphone. Ask about free ranger programs!

### Wilderness Permits

Issued at Road's End from 7:00 am-3:30 pm.

### Cedar Grove Village & Lodge (DNC)

Make a reservation to stay at the Cedar Grove Lodge. 866-807-3598

**GRILL:** Limited food service from 7:00-10:00 am, 11:30 am-2:30 pm, & 5:00-9:00 pm.

**GIFT SHOP/MARKET:** Open 7:00 am-10:00 pm. Groceries, supplies, souvenirs, payphones.

These parks offer over 800,000 acres of wilderness with outstanding opportunities for solitude and challenge.

Thank you for following minimum-impact, no-trace guidelines to protect the wilderness!

Camping in the park “frontcountry” is permitted only in campgrounds. Dispersed camping is only allowed in the National Forest. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the parks.

Wild places include hazards, and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant, and to self-rescue in case of emergency.



Park waterways may contain bacteria, including Giardia. Properly filter or treat water before drinking.



Hypothermia can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If symptoms appear, drink warm sugary drinks and get into dry clothes, sleeping bags, and shelter.

### Wilderness Permits

**SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS:** Permits are required for all overnight trips. No permits are needed for day hikers. Permits are limited during the summer quota period (May 24 through September 21, 2019). The permit fee during that time is \$10 plus \$5/person. Permits can be reserved by email or U.S. mail beginning March 1. Walk-up permits are issued at the permit station or visitor center closest to your trailhead. Outside of the quota period, permits are free and can be self-issued at the nearest permit station. For more information, ask at a ranger station or visit [nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness](https://nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness).

**JENNIE LAKES & MONARCH WILDERNESSES IN THE NATIONAL FOREST:** Permits are not required. Register at Jennie Lakes trailheads. USFS requires a free fire permit for any open flame; these are available online or at the USFS Hume Lake District Office.

### Wilderness Lodging

**Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNC):** Open late May into late September, conditions permitting. Experience rustic wilderness lodging and meals 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations fill early. For 2020, call 866-807-3598 beginning January 1 to reserve a spot for a summer trip.



## U.S. Forest Service

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. Although not managed by the National Park Service, this area connects this immense protected landscape.

### 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 to a spared monarch, or the 0.5 mile (0.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, cut for exhibit at the 1893 World’s Fair.

### Indian Basin

A 1 mile (0.8) trail will take you from Princess Campground into the Indian Basin Sequoia Grove. The first half of the trail is paved.

Can I...	In National Parks	In National Forests
<b>Walk my leashed pets?</b>	Not on any trails. Pets are permitted on paved roads and must be on leash less than 6 feet (1.8 m) long. Service animals are exempted from pet regulations.	Pets can go on trails. They must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.
<b>Collect things to take home?</b>	Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem. Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.	You may keep a few cones or rocks for personal use. Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.
<b>Hunt?</b>	Not in the Parks. You 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. Call 559-243-4005 for more information.
<b>Drive off-road?</b>	Not in these 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.

## Services and Facilities

### Sequoia National Forest Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Highway 180), 19 miles west of the Big Stump national park entrance. Open weekdays from 8:00 am–4:30 pm. Maps, books. 559-338-2251.

### Montecito Sequoia Lodge (permittee)

Open all year. 800-227-9900; 559-565-3388. On the Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, WiFi, seasonal & children’s activities.

### Hume Lake (on private land)

Gas is sold when the store is open. The store is open daily, but hours vary and pumps may close for inspection. Travel 6 miles north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then turn right and travel 4 miles on Hume Lake Road. 559-305-7770. A payphone is just outside the store. The area also offers casual dining, including a snack shop and pizza.

### Stony Creek Resort (permittee)

Market 8:00 am–7:00 pm; restaurant 4:00–6:30 pm (later on Friday & Saturday). Showers & laundry

9:00 am–6:00 pm. On the Generals Highway 13 miles south of Grant Grove. Gasoline is available when the market is open, and may be available after hours with a credit card. 800-227-9900; 559-565-3909.

### Dispersed Camping

In addition to campsites, U.S. Forest Service land offers dispersed camping in the frontcountry. Get a free fire permit online or at the USFS Hume Lake District Office. Learn about dispersed camping areas there, or at any visitor center.

# You are Responsible for Your Safety

Beautiful, yet remote and rugged, these parks present hazards. Changing temperatures, trees fall without warning, and wild animals pose dangers. People cause other hazards by driving poorly, leaving campfires burning, and making bad decisions. Cell phones can't be relied on and GPS directions may send you in the wrong direction. Every day, we help visitors who have emergencies.

*Please help us by being prepared—review these safety warnings and ask a ranger for advice. Your safety is in your own hands!*

## Explore Safely

- **Avoid traveling alone. Tell someone your plans and expected return time.**
- **Take a map, water, flashlight, and extra layers of clothes.**
- **Be alert for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.**

## River Safety



**While swimming in the parks' lakes and rivers can be tempting, drowning is the primary cause of death here!**

Rivers present great danger due to their swift currents and slippery rocks. In river-related deaths, many people did not intend to swim, but fell in. Currents are strong even during low water. Drop-offs and undertows are ever-present. Be vigilant.

Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Cold water rapidly saps your strength and hypothermia can set in quickly even if it is warm outside. If you do swim:

- **Do not swim in during in areas with strong currents, or steep drop-offs.**
- **DO NOT leave children unattended.**
- **Swimming and alcohol or drugs do not mix. Swim sober.**
- **Wear sturdy shoes. Sharp objects in the water can cut bare feet.**
- **During storms, get out of the water and exit beach areas.**
- **NEVER SWIM ALONE.**



### Tree Hazards

Branches and trees may fall, whether dead or alive, and when there is no wind. Keep eyes and ears open. Run if you hear cracks or snapping from roots, trunks, or branches (sometimes there is no sound). Don't linger under dead, cracked, broken, or hanging branches. Avoid spending any time under trees that are rotten at the base or have cracked bark that is peeling off the trunk.



### West Nile Virus & Tick Bites

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 grassy, brushy at low-elevation areas. They can carry diseases that harm humans. Check yourself for these insects after walks; their bite is painless. Remove them carefully with tweezers and seek a doctor's advice.



### Rattlesnakes

Rattlesnakes are common in the Sequoia foothills and in the Kings Canyon at low elevation. 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, don't panic and call 911.



### Poison Oak

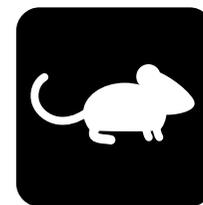
A common shrub up to 5,000 feet elevation. Poison oak has leaves in groups of three. Leaves are red and berries whitish in fall, the plant is bare in winter, and has shiny green leaves in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes with soap and warm water right away.



### Air Quality

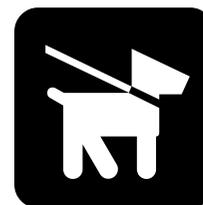
Poor air quality often affects the parks, especially during the summer. In summer months, ozone concentrations often exceed the federal health standards.

Ozone can have negative health effects, particularly for sensitive groups such as children, older people, and those with heart or lung disease. For air-quality forecasts, go to your nearest park visitor center or visit @SequoiaKingsAir on Twitter.



### Plague & Hantavirus

Plague and hantavirus are associated with wildlife found in these parks, but cases of human infection are rare. Rodents and their fleas can be carriers of plague, and humans can get plague if bit by an infected flea. Hantavirus is an airborne virus that comes from infected deer mice. Typically people contract hantavirus pulmonary syndrome after they clean areas or are in enclosed spaces with the feces of deer mice.



### Keep Pets Safe

To keep pets safe, as well as wildlife, animals must be on a leash at all times. Pets are vulnerable to tick and snake bites. Bears and deer have also been known to charge or attack dogs. Pick up all pet waste and dispose of properly. Do not leave pets in vehicles where they can easily overheat.



### Don't Lose Your Brakes

Keep a foot on the brake for too long, and brakes may fail. Instead, always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2, or L. The engine gets louder, but your brakes wont overheat.

## Our Changing Parks

As you travel through the parks, you may notice standing dead trees, or recently cut tree stumps and logs. Many trees of differing species and sizes died during our recent drought. While droughts are a natural part of our climate, the recent drought was made worse by rising temperatures due in part to greenhouse gas emissions. Giant sequoias were also affected and suffered from unprecedented beetle attacks. We are working with USGS and other researchers to learn more about beetle infestations and other threats.

Other, less noticeable changes are also occurring. For example, over 200 species of California

birds now nest earlier each spring. Research suggests that these species are avoiding warming temperatures, which disrupts their natural (established) nesting patterns. These changes, both seen and unseen, surprise us, and are making us uneasy about what the future holds for our parks.

Recent studies suggest that our most treasured places, national parks, are also among the most vulnerable to warming temperatures. Because national parks protect large mountain ranges, expansive deserts, and other sensitive natural habitats, future temperature and rainfall changes in parks will have a greater impact than in other parts

of the United States. Given the elevated risks to our parks, we are working with researchers to study possible impacts of climate change on sensitive species like sequoias and bighorn sheep.

We are already seeing the effects of climate change in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and it concerns us. But it is not too late for each of us to make a positive difference. What are ways you can think of to reduce greenhouse gas emissions during your visit here, and when you return back home? Show your passion for these parks by joining us in the movement to protect them so that giant sequoias will be here for generations to come.



Prescribed fire in a sequoia grove.

## Fire: A Natural Change

For over a century, we tried to banish fire from these lands, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as often as every 5-15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this practice. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes, which led to 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, open the cones, and 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. In the past, frequent natural fires burned these away. Now, after fire's long absence, these

serve as fuels, feeding bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife. For over 40 years at these parks, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. To protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, we now work 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 conditions. Strong evidence shows we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The national parks exist 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's effects tells us that excluding this natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

## We Care About Park Air

As the saying goes, on a clear day you can see forever. But air quality in these parks is often affected by pollutants that come from outside our boundaries. These pollutants can reduce visibility from park overlooks, harm vegetation, and other park resources. In summer, our parks often exceed federal ozone health standards, making air conditions potentially harmful for people who are at risk for respiratory issues. We continually monitor air quality for both the safety of our visitors and park resources. For more information on air quality here, check our daily tweets @SequoiaKingsAir or visit our web pages.

## Who Am I?

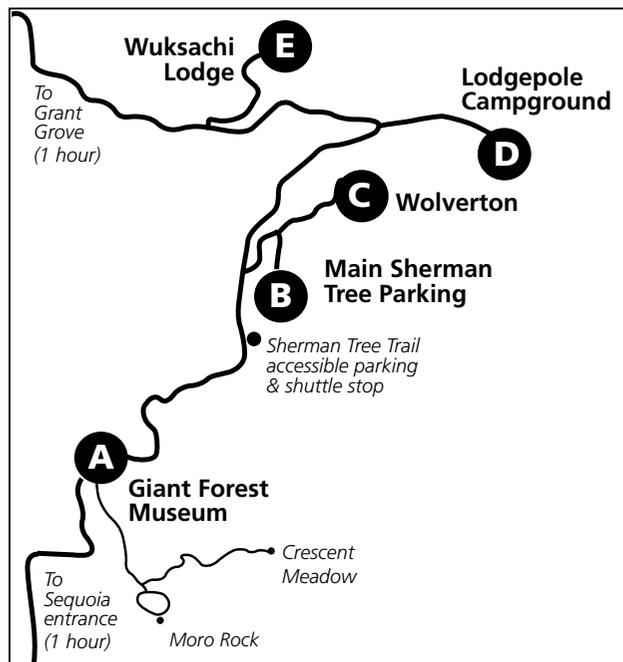
**In these parks, I'm just as likely sit on top of a dumpster or picnic table as as I am to soar the skies above. You see, I'm quite the opportunist, looking for food from anywhere I can get it. So be sure to lock yours up! I'm much bigger than a black-bird, but smaller than a turkey vulture. You may even see me chasing a vulture, trying to get them to drop their food. Who am I? You can call me common raven.**



## Parking in the Giant Forest

In summer, parking may be difficult to find in popular areas. Use this map to find parking options. Free park shuttles stop at each of these parking areas every 10-20 minutes from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

- A Giant Forest Museum**  
This lot usually fills by 10:00 am.
- B Main Sherman Tree Parking**  
Take Wolverton Road and follow signs.
- C Wolverton Picnic Area & Trailhead**  
This lot is at the end of Wolverton Road.
- D Lodgepole Campground**  
Park just beyond the entrance kiosk.
- E Wuksachi Restaurant & Lodge**  
Continue past the lodge for parking.



## Vehicle Length Limits

Generals Highway in Sequoia National Park:

- Foothills Visitor Center to Potwisha Campground: vehicles longer than 24 feet are not recommended.
- Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum: vehicles longer than 22 feet are not recommended.

Alternatives: Highway 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If you have a longer vehicle, use this entrance.

Other roads in Sequoia National Park:

- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow: Vehicle-length limit is 22'; no trailers or towed units. *From May 23 - September 8, the road closes to private vehicles on weekends & holidays, 8:00 am - 7:00 pm.* Take the shuttle, walk, or bicycle. Exception: those with valid disabled-parking placard or a current local wilderness permit.
- Crystal Cave Road: Maximum vehicle length on this narrow, winding road is 22 feet (6.7 m).
- Mineral King Road: RVs and trailers are not advised. Campgrounds do not offer RV sites.

Other roads in Kings Canyon National Park:

- Panoramic Point Road: Motorhomes and trailers are not permitted.

## Gas and Charging Stations

No gas stations are available within park boundaries. Fill up before you enter the parks. If you're already in the park, fill up at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: Near Grant Grove. 559-305-7770. Open all year. Facility hours vary. Gas is sold when the store is open.
- Stony Creek Village: 559-565-3909. Starting in mid-May, gas is available 24 hours with credit card. Other services are listed on page 9. The village is between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on the Generals Highway.

Park lodges may offer outlets for electric vehicle charging. Check in advance.

## Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow, call 559-565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA service is available for minor vehicle issues such as lock outs, jump starts, emergency gas, and minor repairs. Call 559-625-7700.

## Sequoia By Shuttle: May 23 - September 8



Free park shuttles run every 15-20 minutes from 8:00 am - 6:00 pm.

### Giant Forest: Green Route 1 - Free.

Giant Forest Museum to Lodgepole, stopping at the Sherman Tree in each direction.

### Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow: Gray Route 2 - Free.

Giant Forest Museum, Moro Rock, Crescent Meadow, Giant Forest Museum (stops at Auto Log and Tunnel Log on weekends only). The road is closed to private vehicles on weekends & holidays.

### Lodgepole / Wuksachi / Dorst: Purple Route 3 - Free.

The Dorst portion starts when the campground opens in June.

### Wolverton / Sherman Tree: Orange Route 4 - Free.

Connects Wolverton picnic area & trailhead to both the main and the accessible trails to the Sherman Tree.

### Giant Forest /Foothills/ Visalia - \$20 round trip

Visalia to Giant Forest (no additional park entrance fee). Reservations are required; sequoiashuttle.com or 877-BUS-HIKE. Buses leave Visalia for Giant Forest every hour from 6:00 am-10:00 am; 2-hour ride each way. Buses leave Giant Forest for Visalia Transit Center every hour from 2:30-6:30 pm.

