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Highlights
SEQUOIA PARK

GIANT FOREST

Review **safety tips** on page 5. Take a map and water. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going. You are on your own in the woods.

GENERAL SHERMAN TREE: **Trails and parking for the world's largest tree have changed!** The main area is via Wolverton Road, off the Generals Highway just north of the tree itself (between Lodgepole and the Sherman Tree). From there, the 1/2-mile (.72 km) trail descends and includes some stairs. Rest on benches along the trail; don't overexert yourself. Handicapped parking and an accessible trail are along the Generals Highway two miles (3.2 km) north of the Giant Forest Museum. You can drop off and pick up passengers here. If you have difficulty walking at this elevation (7000 feet / 175m), stop at a park visitor center for a temporary parking permit.

GIANT FOREST MUSEUM: Start your visit here! It's the best place to learn about the Big Trees before you go exploring.

BIG TREES TRAIL: This 2/3-mile (1km) trail circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Start at Giant Forest Museum and follow the paved, accessible trail from there. Allow 1 hour round trip.

CONGRESS TRAIL: A fairly level, partially paved two-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the sequoia grove, beginning at the Sherman Tree. Use the main parking area off the Wolverton Road (see *General Sherman Tree*).

ALONG MORO ROCK - CRESCENT MEADOW ROAD

This 3-mile (5 km), begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway and explores the southwest portion of the grove. Not recommended for trailers or RVs. Some highlights include:

MORO ROCK: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot /91 m elevation gain). A spectacular view of the Great Western Divide and the western half of the park. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.

TUNNEL LOG: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through. The only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. A by-pass is available for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Generals Highway.

CRESCENT MEADOW lies at the end of this road. Excellent summer wildflowers. Stay on designated trails; walk only on fallen logs to access fragile meadows. Several trails start here, including the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, summer home of the first settler in Giant Forest, and the High Sierra Trail, which runs 71 miles (114 km) to Mt. Whitney (14,494 feet /4417 m; highest peak in the lower 48 states).

AUTO LOG: Once you could drive a car onto this fallen giant sequoia but rot in the log has put an end to the tradition.

NEARBY TRAILS

TOKOPAH FALLS: 1.7 miles (2.7 km) along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, ending below the impressive granite cliffs and waterfall of Tokopah Canyon. Spectacular in early summer, but be careful around the water! Start in Lodgepole Campground, 500 foot/152 m elevation gain. Allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

LITTLE BALDY: Ascends 700 vertical feet (213 m) in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit with a grand view. Starts at Little Baldy Saddle, 9 miles (14 km) north of the General Sherman Tree on the Generals Highway. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.

THE FOOTHILLS

These lower elevations host more different kinds of plants and animals than the rest of the park. Watch for ticks and poison oak on foothills trails.

HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC AREA: Western Mono people once lived here; exhibits offer insight into their lifestyle. A very short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Be careful! Drownings occur here.

MARBLE FALLS: This trail climbs 3.9 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park near site #14 at Potwisha Campground. Follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch. The trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

PARADISE CREEK: Follow the footpath across from site #26 in Buckeye Flat Campground and cross the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail then follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for just over 1-1/2 mile (1.6 km) before growing faint.

MIDDLE FORK: Leading through chapparal to highcountry, the first miles offer views of Moro Rock and Castle Rocks. Take the Buckeye Flat Campground road and turn left on the dirt road before the campground. Go 1.3 miles (2 km) to a parking area. Panther Creek Falls is 3 miles (5 km) beyond that. Park at Hospital Rock if Buckeye Flat is closed; it will be open by 5/20.

SOUTH FORK

Park at South Fork Campground at the end of a 13-mile road leaving Highway 198 in Three Rivers.

LADYBUG: Hike along the South Fork of the Kaweah in the upper foothills (moderately steep). From the campground, cross the river via footbridge. The trail ends 3 miles (5 km) up at one of the lowest-elevation sequoia groves.

GARFIELD: A relatively steep 5 mile (8.3 km) one-way climb to Garfield sequoia grove. Start on the south side of the river in the campground.

MINERAL KING

The winding, steep road to this valley ends at 7800' (2380 m), the park's highest road. Many trails lead to even higher country and excellent — if hilly — hiking. Some passes may remain snowy well into summer; ask a ranger for information. No gasoline or electricity is available along this road. Be sure to learn about marmots, as they often damage cars in early summer. Road open Memorial Day weekend through October 31.