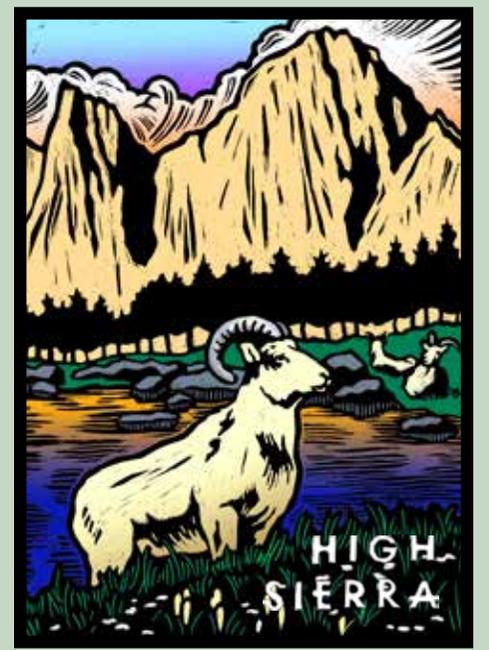




Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument 

Sequoia Parks Conservancy 



Healthy Parks, Healthy People

By Malinee Crapsey
NPS Interpretive Media Specialist,
retired

You knew that amazing scenery awaited you in these parks. But did you consider the possible health benefits of your visit?

Across the country, people are making the connection between outdoor activity and their health. Enjoy that activity in the inspirational setting of a national park, and your benefits grow.

“Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees,” said naturalist John Muir back in 1898. “The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like autumn leaves.”

Not only that, Muir might have added, you'll feel healthier!

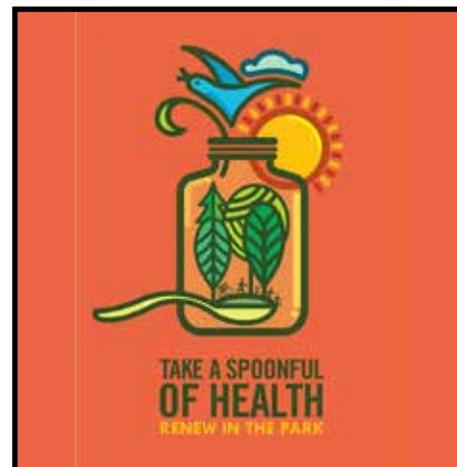
Let Sequoia and Kings Canyon remind you of how good it feels to move outside. You don't have to go far or go fast. Ask any ranger about the range of trails here, from paved and level to rugged and steep.

A huge variety of options await you. Stroll in the shade of a sequoia grove. Amble around a sunny meadow. Climb to the open spaces above treeline or walk a foothills trail along the river. Try a bike ride below the granite walls of the Kings Canyon.

Whether you are walking, biking, or jogging, tune your senses to the natural world around you. In the open, feel the wind in your face and the sun on your skin. Let the deep quiet of the forest become part of your walk. You may notice how the smells and sounds change with each environment.

As you go, some aspect of this special place is likely to stir your interest. Stop at any visitor center, where rangers will be happy to help find answers to questions you may have. As our former National Park Service director once said, “National parks are amazing places where exercise is disguised as adventure, and we sneak in some learning too.”

Here's to your health!



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Telephone & Internet

911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
No coins needed in payphones.

To Report a Wildfire — 559-565-3195

Limited Cell Signals & Service

See pay phone locations by area, pages 8-9.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

1-559-565-3341 (24 hour): Press 1 for an information menu then press 1 for roads/weather/fire; press 2 for camping/lodging; 4 for 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



Facebook
Sequoia and Kings
Canyon National Parks



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

Sequoia National Forest/Monument (USFS)

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

WiFi Locations

Foothills Visitor Center (Sequoia National Park),
Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove)

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 erhaltlich.

Benvenuti - La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

Visitor Centers, Park Stores, & Information Desks

Each center offers orientation, varied exhibits and films, and many sales items: books, maps, gifts, cards.... All profits from stores in park visitor centers support these parks!

Foothills Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Exhibits on life in the low elevations. 1-559-565-4212. *Muchas veces hay rangers aqui quienes hablan Español.* Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center through 5/23, then find the Wilderness Office.

Giant Forest Museum (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 9:00 am-4:30 pm, then 9:00 am-6:00 pm beginning May 18th. Exhibits on sequoias. 1-559-565-4480. No payphone; closest are outside at Lodgepole Market & Wolverton.

Kings Canyon Visitor Center, Grant Grove

(NPS) Daily 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Exhibits, movie in English & Spanish, & park store. Starting May 20: Daily 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Exhibits, movie in English & Spanish, & park store. 1-559-565-4307. Self-issue wilderness permits outside. Payphones at market and visitor center.

Lodgepole Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Opens May 13 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Closed 5/20-21, then open 7:00 am-5:00 pm beginning 5/24. 1-559-565-4436. Payphone at the market nearby.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (in Kings Canyon)

(NPS) Highway 180 into Cedar Grove opens at noon on April 26, 2019. Visitor center opens 5/24. Daily 9:00 am-5:00 pm. 1-559-565-3793.

Mineral King Ranger Station (Sequoia)

(NPS) Beginning in late May, open daily from 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Wilderness permits issued until 3:15. Payphone in Cold Springs Campground.

Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in the Forest Service office in Dunlap, 19 miles west of the Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251, www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia



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*.

Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

National Park Service (NPS) - federal agency in the Department of the Interior: 1-559-565-3341



U.S. Forest Service (USFS) - federal agency in the Department of Agriculture: 1-559-338-2251



Geological Survey (USGS) - federal agency in the Department of the Interior: 1-559-565-3171, werc.usgs.gov

Delaware North Parks & Resorts at Sequoia & Kings Canyon (DNPR) - the concessioner providing lodging & food services: 1-888-252-5757, visitsequoia.com

Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC): The official non-profit park partner! Members get a discount on some activities. See below or call 1-559-565-4251.



**Connect to
your national park!**

The Sequoia Parks Conservancy is a proud partner of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and at USACE Lake Kaweah. The Conservancy offers engaging and educational programs, activities, and retail shopping for park visitors. In addition to the informative products and services, the Conservancy provides thousands of dollars in philanthropic support for park projects. To find out more about enriching experiences, philanthropic opportunities, and products with a purpose, visit www.sequoiaparksconservancy.org.

Support the Conservancy as it:

- Seeks funding for park improvement projects, resource protection, and research;
- Provides activities & tour-guide services through their Field Institute;
- Supports park programs & activities;
- Increases accessibility of park trails;
- Conducts Crystal Cave tours;
- Expands park outreach;
- Accepts donations for search & rescue efforts;
- Manages the Pear Lake Winter Hut; and
- Funds park books, maps, and this guide!

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, as 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 often as every 5 to 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.

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 any waterway 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 to your gear. Check boots, waders, and boats thoroughly for this little invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



For more information on fire management, visit go.nps.gov/sekifire. To report a wildfire: 559-565-3195.

Camping

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.

Showers are no longer available in Grant Grove. Public showers are available seasonally at Lodgepole and Cedar Grove villages.

You *must* store food correctly all year due to black bears. The park supplies bear boxes; most are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high.

Reservations: See * on chart for reservable campsites. Reservations are available from 6 months to 2 days before your stay: www.recreation.gov; 1-877-444-6777. Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

Group Sites & Maximum Group Sizes

· **Mid-size group sites (7 to 19 people):**

Reservable at Crystal Springs and Canyon View.

· **Large-group sites: (15 - 40 people):**

Reservable at Dorst Creek, Sunset, or Canyon View.

Group sites are also available in the national forest.

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/buy wood close to where you will use it. Please burn any wood you brought in.
- Fires must be out cold before you leave.
- On Forest Service (USFS) land, 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.
- Fire restrictions are subject to change during this time of year. Check locally.

Roadside Camping?

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

Quiet & Generator Hours

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

RV & Trailer Length Limits on Roads

Restrictions are in effect; check the back page.

Propane/Fuel Canisters

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

Campgrounds: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

We expect delays with campground opening dates this season due to a deep snowpack and tree hazards. Please check www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm for details.

Foothills Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low-elevation oaks and chaparral. *Reservable in summer.
* Potwisha - 40 sites	\$22. * Sites reservable.	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station.
* Buckeye Flat - 28 sites	\$22. * Sites reservable.	No RVs or trailers. River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha.
South Fork - 10 sites	\$6. No drinking water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Drinking water is not available.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	Road closed until late May. No electricity or gas.
Atwell Mill - 21 sites	\$12.	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food and pay showers nearby at Silver City in summer. Road is narrow and winding.
Cold Springs - 40 sites	\$12.	No RVs or trailers. River. Pay phone, vault toilets.
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700'	*Reservations available in summer. Conifer forest.
* Lodgepole - 203 sites	\$22. * Sites reservable.	Pay phone, flush toilets. River. Food services nearby. Generator use: 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Dump station. Road is narrow and winding.
* Dorst Creek - 212 sites	\$22. * Sites reservable.	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Generator use 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Large group sites for 15-50 \$70, for 15-40 \$60, for 15-30 \$50.
Grant Grove Area	Elevation 6500'	Showers are no longer available here.
Azalea - 110 sites	\$18.	Flush toilets. Village nearby with food services. No showers.
Crystal Springs - 49 sites.	\$18 for standard sites \$40 for mid-size group sites	*14 sites for mid-sized groups of 7 to 15 people. Food nearby in summer. Flush toilets, no showers.
* Sunset - 156 sites	\$22. \$50 for large group sites	Flush toilets. Nearby food service. No showers.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	Road opens at noon on April 27. No RV dump stations.
* Sentinel - 82 sites	\$18. * Sites reservable.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer.
* Canyon View: 16 group sites No RVs or trailers.	\$40 mid-size groups (7-15); \$50 large groups (15-30); \$60 large groups (15-40).	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby. No standard sites.
Moraine - 121 sites	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers, laundry nearby.

Campgrounds: Sequoia National Forest (USFS)

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
* Princess - 88 sites	\$27 single, \$54 double Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. RV dump station \$10. Extra car \$7. Opens when snow melts.
* Hume Lake - 64 sites	\$27 single, \$54 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car \$7. Opens when snow melts.
* Tenmile - 11 sites	\$23 single, \$46 double. Reservable in summer.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. No potable water. Opens when snow melts.
Landslide - 9 sites	\$23 single, \$46 double. First-come, first-served.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7. Opens when snow melts.
Convict Flat - 5 sites	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Reopens with the spring opening of Highway 180 to Cedar Grove.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	Between Grant Grove & Wuksachi Lodge. Open with snowmelt.
* Stony Creek - 48 sites Opens with snowmelt.	\$27 single, \$54 double Reservable in summer.	Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge (summer). Extra car \$7.
* Upper Stony - 18 sites Opens with snowmelt.	\$23 single. Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Food, laundry, showers nearby. Extra car \$7.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets.
Big Meadow - 43 sites	\$23 single, \$46 double. Reservable in summer.	Vault toilets.

Lodging

For hours & other details, see pages 8-9.

Three park areas offer lodging, along with several sites in the nearby national forest:

In these National Parks (NPS)

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK:

Wuksachi Lodge

Open all year. Reservations 1-866-807-3598; www.visitsequoia.com. North of Lodgepole two miles at 7200'. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts, ATM, WiFi.

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK:

Reservations 1-866-807-3598; www.visitsequoia.com. Lodging is available in two areas:

Grant Grove Cabins & John Muir Lodge

Open all year. Hotel (with WiFi), cabins, restaurant, market, gifts, ATM. Register at the John Muir Lodge. 6500' elevation.

Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon

Mid-May to mid-October. Motel, restaurant, market at an elevation of 4600'.

Sequoia National Forest (USFS)

Montecito Sequoia Lodge (USFS permittee)

All year. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388; www.mslodge.com. On the Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, WiFi, seasonal & children's activities.

Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

Mid-May to mid-October. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. On the Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Hotel, gasoline, market, showers, laundry.

Big Meadows Cabin (USFS)

July to mid-October. 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov. Historic station south of Grant Grove.

On Private Land within Park

These lodges, on private land surrounded by national park, cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by these agencies. Details, pages 8-9.

Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

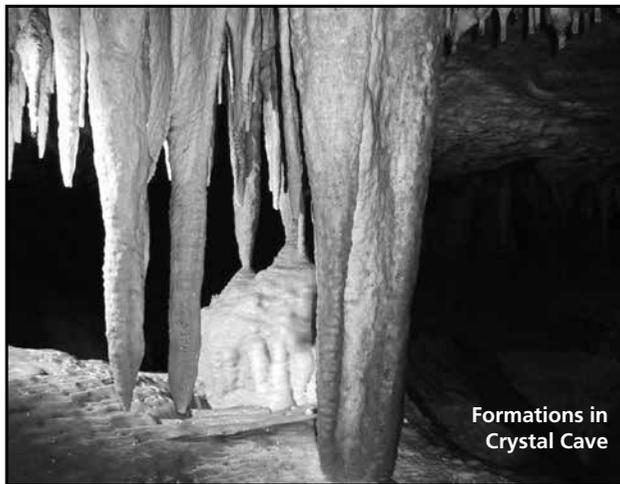
Open from late May to late September. 1-559-561-3223, www.silvercityresort.com. Cabins, supplies, showers. No gas. Store, restaurant/bakery.

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

5



Formations in
Crystal Cave

Crystal Cave Tours Start May 24

Reserve tickets online at 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/video. Not wheelchair accessible. Tour times are subject to change. For school tours & large groups, visit sequoiaparksconservancy.org/crystalcave.

Family Cave Tour Daily - 45 minutes

Extra tours on holiday weekends (Friday-Monday).

May 24 - June 15

- 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.

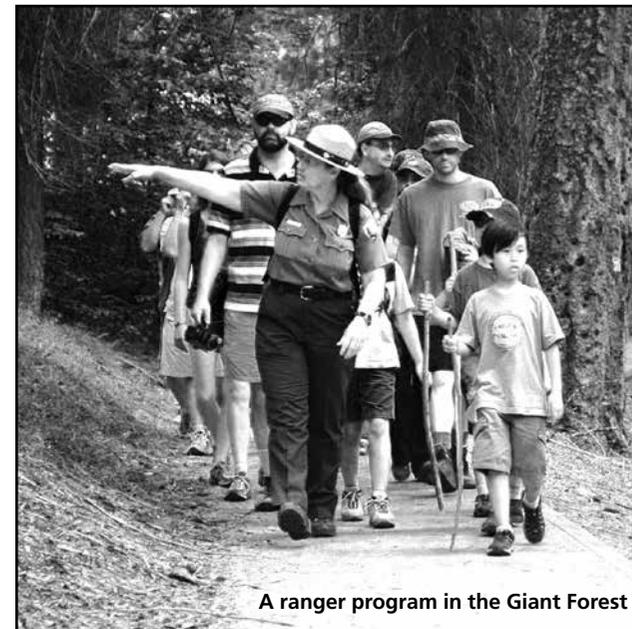
June 16 - August 25

- Saturday: Every 1/2 hour 10:30 am-5:30 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. Monday-Friday at 4:30 pm, Sundays at 5:00 pm (except holiday weekends). \$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.



A ranger program in the Giant Forest

Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Offered in the Foothills, Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, Mineral King, Cedar Grove, and other locations! See 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!

Junior Ranger Day

Junior Ranger Day is April 20, 2019. Celebrate with free special activities throughout the park. Check the calendar on nps.gov/seki to find specific events. Earn a free patch! This is an entrance fee-free day.

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

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.

Review safety advice on page 10, including warnings about tree hazards. Be extra careful near rivers. Carry water and a map (sold at visitor centers). Always store food properly before leaving your car or campsite.

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.

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.

Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the California Native Americans who once lived here. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade. Please be careful; drownings occur here too often!

Paradise Creek

Park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area (not in the campground). Walk 0.8 miles (1.3 km) to Buckeye Flat Campground. Take the path across from site #28 to cross a footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

Mineral King

The road to this area opens at noon on the Wednesday before Memorial Day (May 23). The steep, winding road ends at 7800'. No gasoline or electricity is available in this remote area.

Giant Forest

Giant Forest Museum & Lodgepole

Visitor Center Hours and details are listed on page 2.

Big Trees Trail

A level, 2/3-mile (1 km) paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start your walk at Giant Forest Museum (parking at the trail is only for cars with disability 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** - This 1/2-mile trail down to the tree has some stairs; the walk back is uphill. Beware of slippery or wet spots. Drive 2 miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Hwy is only for those with disability placards). Turn right on Wolverton Road; follow signs. The trailhead is a shuttle stop starting 5/23.

-  **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from the Generals Highway to the Sherman Tree. Parking here is only for those with disability placards. If you have no placard but can't walk the main trail's hill, ask for a temporary placard at any visitor center. Shuttle stop starting 5/24.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

Opens by May 22. This 3-mile dead-end road

begins at Giant Forest Museum. The road is closed weekends & holidays starting 5/25, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm, when the shuttle runs. Stops include:

- **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. See lightning warning on page 10. Shuttle stop starting 5/23.
- **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 surround this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails; use fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here, such as 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'/4419 m). Shuttle stop starting 5/23.

Sequoia By Shuttle: May 23 - September 8



Check bulletin boards at shuttle stops for details.

Giant Forest: Green Route 1 - Free.

Giant Forest Museum to Lodgepole, stopping at the Sherman Tree in each direction. 1/2-hour ride one way. First pickups at 8:00 am and 8:30 am; then every 15 minutes 9:00 am - 6:00 pm.

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). 1/2-hour round trip. Weekdays: 8:00 am, 8:45 am, then every 20 minutes 9:00 am-6:00 pm. Weekends 8:00 am, 8:45 am, then every 10 minutes 9:00 am-6:00 pm. Road closed to private vehicles on weekends & holidays (page 12).

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

Leaves each stop every 20 minutes from 8:00 am - 6:00 pm. 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 every 15 minutes 8:00 am - 6:00 pm.

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

Visalia to Giant Forest (no additional park entrance fee). Reservations required; sequoia shuttle.com or 1-877-BUS-HIKE. Buses leave Visalia for Giant Forest every hour from 6am-10am; 2-hour ride each way. Buses leave Giant Forest for Visalia Transit Center every hour from 2:30-6:30 pm.



Be extra careful near rivers, even when water is low. Store food properly while you explore.

Grant Grove

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (NPS)

Browse exhibits and watch a park film in English or Spanish. Purchases at the park store support park operations.

Grant Tree Trail

General Grant, one of the world's largest trees, grows along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. The tree is also a living national shrine. One mile/1.6km from the visitor center: north on Highway 180 then follow signs.

North Grove Loop

This 1½-mile (2.4 km) trail offers a quiet forest walk and a close look at sequoias. It's a great place to see effects from the Rough Fire. Start at Grant Tree overflow parking area.

Panoramic Point Road

Opens with snowmelt. A narrow road to a trail to a beautiful Sierran vista. Go east through visitor center parking; follow signs to the paved, accessible trail to an overlook. Park Ridge Trail (4.7 miles, 7.5 km round-trip) begins here. No trailers or RVs.

Big Stump Basin

Stumps from late 19th-century logging include the Mark Twain Stump. You can climb steps to see the growth rings of this giant. Slabs of this tree are in museums. 1.5 miles (2.4 km) round trip.

Kings Canyon & Cedar Grove

The road to this canyon opens 4/26 at noon, but few facilities open then. Many drought-weakened trees here have succumbed to insects. Be very careful with fire!

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 and relatively level.

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. Allow 4 - 5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip from Road's End. 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles.

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. To the waterfall, it's 2 miles (3.2 km) round-trip.

Sequoia National Forest (USFS)

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

Converse Basin

North of Grant Grove 2 miles. Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Ask at the visitor center about trails. The road to this feature opens with snowmelt.

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, this 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 Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake 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.



A view of Hume Lake from Panoramic Point.
Photo by Alison Taggart-Barone.



The Kings Canyon

The Generals Highway

Driving this 80-year-old roadway is part of the park experience. It carries you up almost a mile in elevation and, by connecting the General Sherman Tree to the General Grant Tree, earns its name.

For decades, narrow lanes and rough pavement caused problems for parkvisitors. Recent construction efforts mean the road system is better equipped to handle today's large numbers vehicles, without losing the joys of a mountain driving.

Wayside exhibits at overlooks along this historic road offer insight into these parks:

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 out over 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.

Amphitheater Point

View the sweep of life zones from high to low from this spot between Giant Forest and the Foothills.



Generals Highway in Giant Forest

Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

6400' elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees.

Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Hours & details on page 2.

Crystal Cave (NPS)

A major park highlight! Buy tickets in advance at Foothills Visitor Center or Giant Forest Museum. Tours begin May 25th; see details, page 5.

Lodgepole

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

Lodgepole Visitor Center (NPS)

Open beginning May 18th, daily 9:00 am-4:30 pm, then 9:00 am-6:00 pm beginning May 18th.

Lodgepole Village (DNC)

Limited services:

- Market & Gift Shop: Daily 9:00 am-5:00 pm through 5/9, then 7:00 am - 9:00 pm. Supplies, clothing, groceries, grab-and-go food, ATM.
- Food Service: Daily 9:00 am-5:00 pm through 5/9, then 8:00 am - 8:00 pm.
- Showers & Laundry: Beginning 5/11, open daily from 7:00 am-6:00 pm. Closed daily for cleaning from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Phones are in the alcove outside the market doors.

Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. (DNC) Year-round service, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree.

The Peaks Dining Room

Open daily 7:30-10:00 am, 11:00 am-2:30 pm, 5:00-9:00 pm. Reservations recommended for dinner. Box lunches available. 1-559-625-7700.

Wuksachi Pizza Deck

Open daily beginning 5/10 from 11:30 am - 9:00 pm.

Wuksachi Lounge

Open daily 2:30 pm - 9:00 pm through 5/9, and 11:30 am - 9:00 pm beginning May 10.

Gift Shop

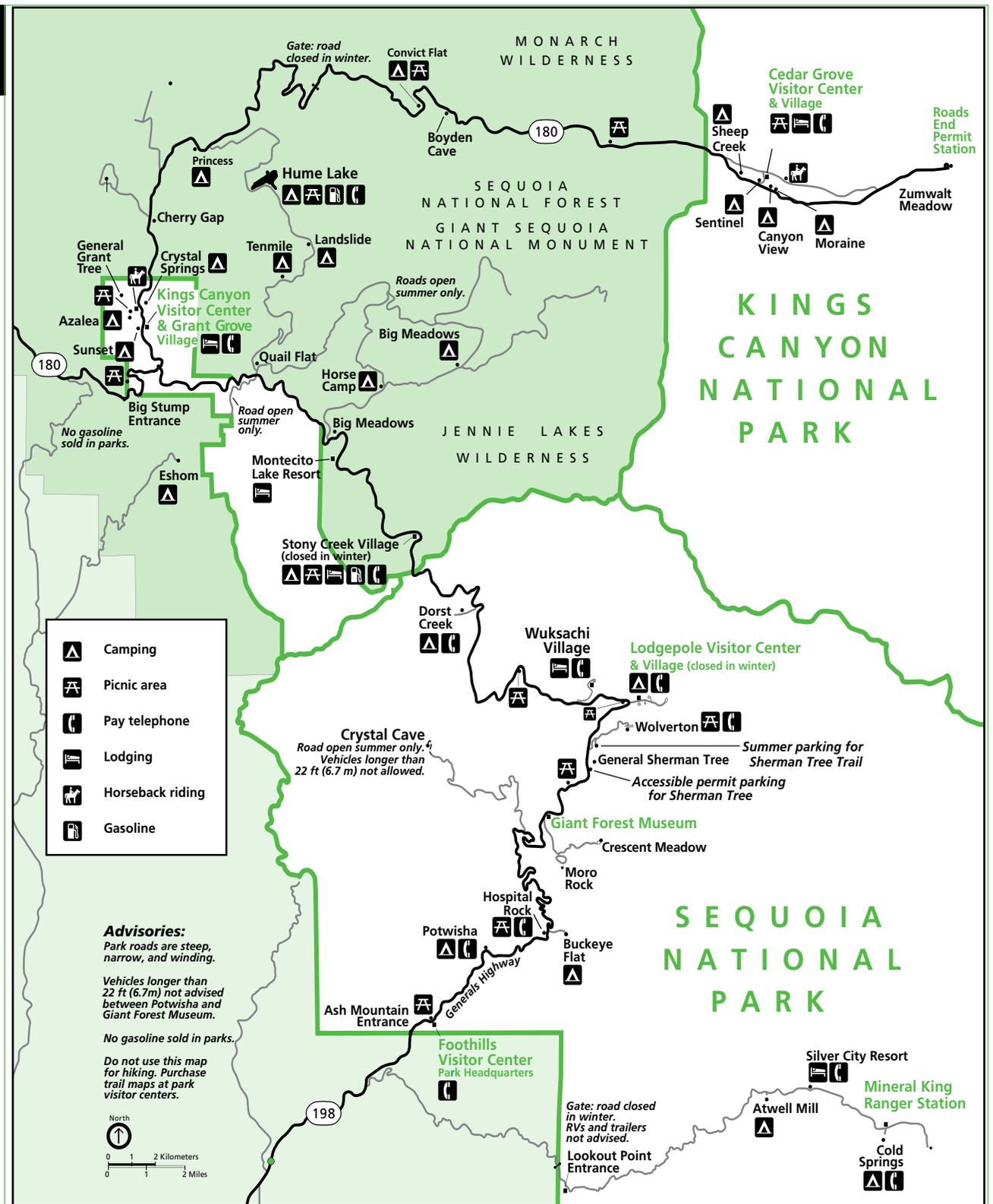
Open daily from 8:00 am-5:00 pm through 5/9, and 8:00 am-9:00 pm beginning 5/10.

Wolverton Area

7000' elevation. (DNC) Limited food service.

Sherman Food Cart

Open daily beginning 5/27 from 11:30 am - 5 pm at the Upper Sherman Parking Area. Trail ready meals and beverages. Wolverton Picnic Area is nearby.



Mineral King Area

The road to this area opens at noon on May 23. 7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, winding road to a subalpine valley. No electricity or gasoline.

Ranger Station (NPS)

Open 8:00 am-4:00 pm through mid-September.

Pay Telephones

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

Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Food, pie, lodging, supplies, and pay phone. Opens in late May, depending on conditions.

Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers and snow-free winters. Fantastic wildflowers starting in January. Park headquarters is by the Foothills Visitor Center.

Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

Open 8:00 am-4:30 pm. See page 2 for details.

Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Native California Indians who lived here. Store your food from bears.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Visitor Center near front door. Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom).

Exploring on Horseback

Hourly rides, spot trips, or guided trips at three locations. Opening dates depend on conditions.

- **Grant Grove**, weather permitting, May 15-June 15, Sat-Sun, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Open daily beginning June 15, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm: 1-559-335-9292. Off-season: 1-559-799-7247
- **Cedar Grove**, May 15-27, Sat-Sun, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Open daily beginning May 27, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm: 1-559-565-3464. Off-season: 1-559-337-2413.
- **Horse Corral** at Big Meadows (USFS) Open late May. Summer: 1-559-565-3404 Cell: 1-559-667-8499

Grant Grove

6600' elevation. Experience a pristine sequoia grove and one that was logged in the 1800s.

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

Movie, exhibits in English & Spanish.

Grant Grove Village

- **Market:** 8:00 am-6:00 pm through May 10, then 8:00 am - 9:00 pm. Grab-and-go food. Groceries, supplies, ATM.
- **Restaurant:** Daily 7:00-10:00 am, 11:30 am-3:30 pm, & 5:00-8:00 pm through May 10, then 7:00-10:00, 11:30-4:30, 5:00-9:00pm.
- **Courtyard Dining:** Open daily beginning May 24 from 7:00 am - 9:00 pm.
- **Gift Shop:** 8:00 am-6:00 pm through May 10, then 8:00 am-9:00 pm. Souvenirs, supplies, clothing, and an ATM.
- **John Muir Lodge:** 1-559-335-5500. Lodge is open year-round. Tent Cabins reopen May 11.
- **Showers:** No longer available in Grant Grove. The nearest public showers are at Lodgepole and Cedar Grove.

U.S. Post Office Monday-Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm; 24-hour lobby. Send visitor mail c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work) Public telephones are located in the village, outside the market and visitor center.

Cedar Grove

4600' elevation. Along the Kings River on the floor of the glacial Kings Canyon. The lodge, market, and grill opens May 10.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (NPS)

Opens 5/24. By Sentinel Campground. See page 2.

Pay Telephones (cell phones do not work) Pay phones are located in the village and outside both the market and the visitor center.

Village Center, Lodge (DNC): Opens May 11

- **Grill:** Limited-service snack bar. Open daily 7:00-10:00am, 11:30 am-2:30 pm, 5:00-9:00 pm.
- **Gift Shop/Market:** Open daily 7:00 am-10:00 pm. Groceries, supplies, souvenirs.
- **Showers and Laundry:** Open daily 7:00 am-1:00 pm and 3:00-8:00 pm.

Wilderness Permits (NPS)

At Road's End, 6 miles east of the village. The station is open daily from 7:00 am-3:30 pm beginning 5/24. Until then, self-register outside.

National Forest & Monument

Hume Lake & Big Meadows areas are in Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. You pass through the monument when you drive between Lodgepole and Grant Grove and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove.

USFS Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) 19 miles west of park entrance. Weekdays 8am-4:30 pm. 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

Hume Lake Services (on private land)

Open all year. Gas, market, and meals. Hours vary. North of Grant Grove 8 miles on Highway 180, then right on Hume Lake Road. 1-559-305-7770.

Montecito-Sequoia Resort (USFS permittee)

Open daily. All-inclusive lodging, meals, and activities. Cabins, hotel, children's camp; winter activities. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

Opens in early May. Market, restaurant, gasoline, and showers. 800-227-9900; 559-565-3909.

Basic Rules

National Parks & National Forests lie side by side here. Some activities are illegal in one but not in the other.

Can I...	In National Parks 	In National Forests
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); see www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010	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. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.	You may keep a few cones or rocks for personal use.
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 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.
Cut wood?	Not in these parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for wood permits & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
Build fires?	In park, only in fire grills in some campgrounds & some picnic areas.	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). In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles.
Snowmobile?	Not in these parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.
Fly a drone?	Not in any national park.	Only in accordance with FAA guidance, and not in wilderness areas.

You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Cold temperatures, icy or uneven ground, wild animals, and changing weather all pose dangers. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions. GPS directions may mislead you here.

Water is the main cause of death here. In addition to swimmers, many drowning victims walking or climbing near rivers unexpectedly fall 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 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, even during low water. Ask at visitor centers about river conditions.

PLAGUE, HANTAVIRUS & WEST NILE

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*. *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 foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself for these little animals after a walk. Their bite is painless, but some carry *Lyme disease*. Remove them carefully with tweezers and seek a doctor's advice.



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 react 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 clothes, sleeping bags, and shelter. Especially keep an eye on children who are wet or cold.

RATTLESNAKES

Found in much of these parks; especially common in the foothills, in the Kings Canyon, 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 and call 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 such as a tent or RV.

OZONE POLLUTION

See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra Nevada on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest from 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.

GPS & WEAK CELL SIGNALS

Cell phones rarely work here, and GPS may misdirect you. Don't rely on them. Note location of pay telephones (pages 8 & 9), and use maps.

MOUNTAIN LIONS

Cougars roam throughout these 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 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.

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, including marijuana growing and fireworks! Report 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 and trees may fall, whether or not they are dead, even 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.

Explore Safely

- Avoid going alone, and tell someone your plans and return time.
- Take a map, water, flashlight, and layers of clothes.
- Watch and listen for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.

Bear Habitat: Proper food storage is the law!

Wilderness

11

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 are provided.

Picnickers

Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

Lodge Guests

Remove food from your vehicles.

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 container. 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/buy a container at visitor centers or markets.

Everyone

Don't let bears approach you or 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. Easily abandoning your food teaches bears that it is acceptable to approach humans; it may hurt someone in the future. If a bear does get food, however, *never* try to take it back.



Your entrance fee helps the Parks!

Most of your entrance fee goes to projects related to your visit here. Save time at the entrance by paying your fee in advance at www.yourpassnow.com/parkpass and showing it as you go in. Ask about Every Kid in a Park passes for 4th graders!

Passes to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest

- **7-day pass:** \$35 per vehicle (private, non-commercial). \$20 per person on foot, bicycle, or bus. \$30 per motorcycle (not per person).
- **12-Month Pass:** \$70 admits all passengers in a private vehicle.

Passes to National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands Nationwide

- **Annual:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide.
- **Annual Military:** Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD1173. Crystal Cave has its own fee, but offers a discount.
- **Seniors:** \$80 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or older.
- **Accessibility:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documents to entrance stations.

Passes are not valid for Crystal Cave tickets.

Over 800,000 acres of these parks are designated wilderness. They offer outstanding opportunities for you to enjoy both solitude and challenge. Thank you for following minimum-impact, no-trace guidelines to protect the wilderness!

Wild places include hazards, and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Many trees have died from drought, which may increase hazards from falling trees and branches; be careful where you linger or camp. See Be Safe, page 10.

Wilderness permits are required for all overnight trips. Permits are required for all overnight trips, and they 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. Outside of the quota period, permits are free and can be self-issued at the permit station or visitor center closest to your trailhead.

Jennie Lakes and Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (USFS): 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 permit for any open flame; downloadable from www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia.

Camping in the park's "frontcountry" is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

See nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness or:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
1-559-565-3766
seki_wilderness_reservations@nps.gov

Seasonal Wilderness Lodging

Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNC)
Open late May into late September, conditions permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) taken by phone starting 7:00 am on the first business day in January: 866-807-3598. For more information, visit www.visitsequoia.com.

• **Pear Lake Winter Hut (SPC)**
Winter only. This historic cabin is high above Lodgepole at an elevation of 9,200 and sleeps ten people. Six strenuous miles on skis/snowshoes get you to its cozy stove and 10 bunkbeds. Reservations are required: 1-559-565-4251.

Gas Up Outside the Parks

No gas stations are available within park boundaries. Fill up in Three Rivers (5 miles from the Highway 198 park entrance), Clingan's Junction (20 miles outside the Highway 180 park entrance). 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: 1-559-565-3909. 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.

Rules & Recommendations for Traveling in the Parks

Tire Chains May Be Required

Snow can fall anytime at higher elevations. When roads are slippery or icy, tire chains may be required, even for vehicles with snow tires or 4WD/AWD. Rent or buy chains in local communities before you enter the parks.

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 won't overheat.

Prevent Car Fires

Hot brakes and mufflers can easily start car and forest fires. Stop and park *only* on paved areas, not on grass or other vegetation.

Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Helmets are required for riders under 18 years old.

Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow, call 1-559-565-3341 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 1-559-625-7700.

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 in these parks.

Seasonal Road Information and Vehicle Length Limits

All openings depend on weather conditions.

On 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, consider using this entrance.

Other Sequoia National Park Roads:

- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Scheduled to open on 5/22. Vehicle-length limit 22'; no trailers or towed units. *From May 23 - September 8, the road closes to private vehicles on weekends & holidays, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.* Take the shuttle (see page 6), walk, or bicycle at those times. Exception: those with valid disabled-parking placard or a current local wilderness permit.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Opens 5/24. Maximum vehicle length on this narrow, winding road is 22 feet (6.7 m).
- **Mineral King Road:** Scheduled to open on 5/22 at noon, weather permitting. For partial access before that, contact the Foothills Visitor Center. RVs and trailers are not recommended, and are not allowed in Mineral King campgrounds.

In Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Forest:

- **Highway 180 to Cedar Grove in Kings Canyon:** Caltrans plans to open the road on 4/26 at noon.
- **Panoramic Point Road:** Scheduled to open by 5/22, depending on snow conditions. Motorhomes and trailers are not permitted.
- **Redwood Canyon Road (NPS):** This unpaved, rough, unplowed road is scheduled to open by 5/22, but may close with additional snow.
- **Converse Basin (USFS):** Unpaved, rough, unplowed. Opening to be determined.
- **Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile (USFS):** Unplowed. Open with snowmelt.



Photo courtesy of Kiel Maddox.

Go Slow for Wildlife!

Never feed animals by the road. Cars often hit wildlife that waits for handouts on roadsides.

Road Construction

A large road construction project that caused road delays between the Sequoia park entrance and the Giant Forest is complete.

A smaller project will be taking place between Lodgepole and Grant Grove in summer 2019, and short delays are possible.

Driving Times

When roads are clear and open:

From Foothills to:

Giant Forest	1 hour
Lodgepole	1 hour minimum
Visalia	1 hour
Mineral King	1½ hours

From Giant Forest to Grant Grove

via Generals Hwy 1 hour

From Grant Grove to:

Cedar Grove	1 hour
Fresno	1½ hours
Yosemite south entry	3 hours
(via Hwy 41)	

Note: GPS often misdirects travellers in this area. Follow signs, use maps, or ask.