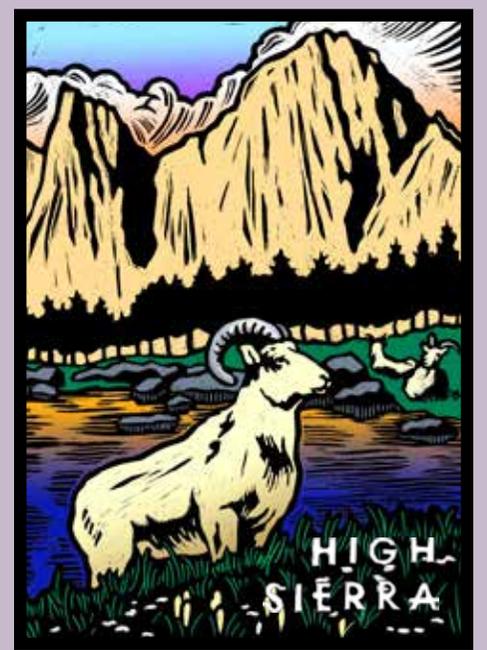
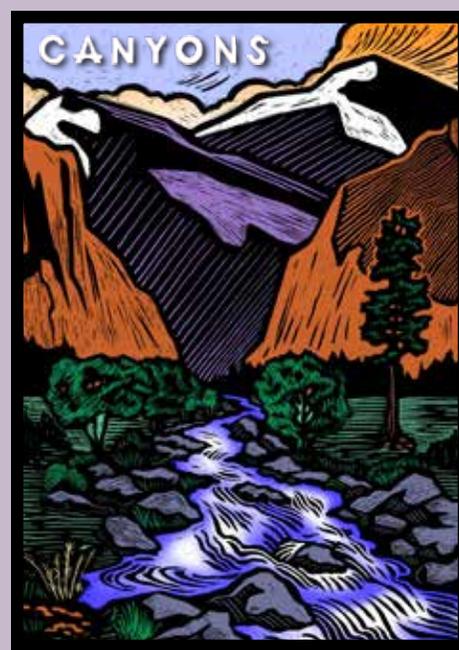




# Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument 

Sequoia Parks Conservancy 



## Winter Welcome

Many people see the cold winter face of these parks and shiver at the thought of a visit. Those who come anyway figure out the secret: Winter welcomes us with some of the greatest beauty, mystery, tranquility, challenge, and just plain fun these parks can offer.

Enjoying the parks in winter may not be as easy as a summer visit: You may need to “chain up.” In fact, if you are in the park now and want to see sequoias but don't have tire chains in the car, check the weather forecast and think again. The suddenness and unpredictability of Sierran weather can be daunting. But if you've got chains, layers of warm clothes, and you're willing to take the roads slowly, then winter awaits you!

If there's enough snow and you enjoy social fun, head to one of the bustling snowplay areas. Take your fun seriously, though, and play safe.

People get hurt snowplaying every year. Some of the injuries are devastating; don't let one happen to you!

Want to be active but not in a crowd? When the snow is deep enough, snowshoe or cross-country ski into the wintry heart of a sequoia grove. Whether you find misty fog or bright sunshine, the peace and clean, clear beauty will refresh your spirit while your legs get pleasantly tired. Not enough snow? Take a hike!

Stay safe on the trails, too. Carry a

map and tell someone where you are going. Get back before winter's early sunset. Didn't bring a sled, snowshoes, or skis? You can rent or buy them at Grant Grove Market and Wuksachi Lodge.

If you've had enough of cold, the snow-free foothills are in their glory in winter. Take advantage of the lower-elevation trails now; they'll be very hot by summer!

So welcome to winter in the Sierra. We're glad you didn't let the cold keep you away.



The Giant Forest in winter. Photo by Alison Taggart-Barone.

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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](http://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](http://fs.usda.gov/sequoia)

**Yosemite National Park (NPS)**

1-209-372-0200, [nps.gov/yose](http://nps.gov/yose)

**California Road Conditions (CalTrans)**

1-800-427-7623, [dot.ca.gov](http://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 erhältlich.

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

## Visitor Centers & Park Stores

Each one offers information, exhibits, films, and a park store with books, maps, gifts, cards, and more. All profits from park visitor centers support the parks!

Pay phones: All visitor centers have one outside except Giant Forest Museum.

**Foothills Visitor Center in Sequoia**

(NPS) Daily 9:00 am–4:00pm until March 8.

Exhibits on life in the low elevations. Park store. 1-559-565-4212. *Muchas veces hay rangers aqui quienes hablan español.* Local wilderness permits: Self-issue at permit box outside the visitor center.

**Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia**

(NPS) Daily 9am–4:30pm. Exhibits on sequoias. 1-559-565-4480. No payphone; closest are outside at Lodgepole Market & Wolverton. Local wilderness permits: Self-issue at permit box outside the museum.

**Kings Canyon Visitor Center, Grant Grove**

(NPS) Daily 9am–4pm (may close one hour at lunch) through December 31. January 1–March 11, 10am–3pm, Starting March 12 9am–4pm. Exhibits, movie in English & Spanish, & park store. 1-559-565-4307. Local wilderness permits: Self-issue at permit box outside the visitor center.

**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 8am–4:30pm. Maps, books. [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia); 1-559-338-2251.

**Lodgepole Visitor Center in Sequoia**

(NPS) *Closed until May 10. Until then, self-issue local wilderness permits at Giant Forest Museum. Pay phone outside the market nearby.*

**Cedar Grove Visitor Center in Kings Canyon**

(NPS) *is closed until late May. Highway 180 into Cedar Grove opens at noon on April 27, 2019.*

**Mineral King Ranger Station in Sequoia**

(NPS) *Station & area are closed until late May. Payphone in Cold Springs Campground. Local wilderness permits: Self-issue at permit box outside the ranger station.*

## 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](http://werc.usgs.gov)

**Delaware North Parks & Resorts at Sequoia & Kings Canyon (DNPR)** - the concessioner providing lodging & food services: 1-888-252-5757, [visitsequoia.com](http://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 (SPC) works with these parks to enrich your experience and awareness of public lands. It offers educational programs, publications, and financial support for preserving the natural and cultural history of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and nearby Lake Kaweah. Visit [sequoiaparksconservancy.org](http://sequoiaparksconservancy.org) and [exploresequoiakingscanyon.com](http://exploresequoiakingscanyon.com) for activities and programs or to donate to a great cause. 1-559-561-4251.

**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.

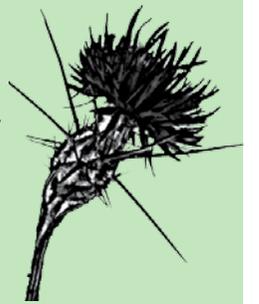
When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly. This is because the competitors, predators, and diseases that keep them in check in their home communities are not here. This imbalance breaks links in the local web of life, badly disrupting native species that depend 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!

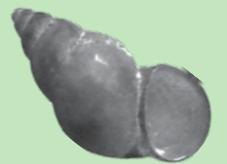
### Imminent Alien Threats!

**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](http://go.nps.gov/sekifire). To report a wildfire: 559-565-3195.

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. See page 11.

**Reservations:** See \* on chart for reservable campsites in the parks (NPS) and in Sequoia National Forest (USFS). Reservations are available from 6 months to 2 days before your stay: [www.recreation.gov](http://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

- Fires restrictions may prohibit campfires at lower elevations when conditions are dry.
- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees. Please don't transport firewood. It can carry diseases that threaten living trees.
- 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), a USFS ranger, or read about and download them at [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

### Roadside Camping?

Not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument (USFS): Permitted unless posted otherwise; see fire-permit requirement info above.

### 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)

Foothills Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low-elevation oaks and chaparral.
* Potwisha - 40 sites Open all year.	\$22. *Reservations available now for 5/1/19 - 9/24/19.	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station.
* Buckeye Flat - 28 sites Closed until 3/20/19.	\$22. *Reservations available now for 5/22/19 - 9/24/19.	No RVs or trailers. River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha.
South Fork - 10 sites Open all year.	\$12. No drinking water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Food-storage boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high. Non-drinkable water may be available.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	Road closed until late May. No electricity or gas.
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Closed until 5/22/19.	\$12. See road info, page 12.	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food, pay showers nearby at Silver City (summer only).
Cold Springs - 40 sites Closed until 5/22/19.	\$12. See road info, page 12.	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food-storage boxes in varied sizes.
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700'	*Reservations available in summer. Conifer forest.
* Lodgepole - 203 sites Closed until 4/17/19.	\$22. Reservations available now for 5/22/19 - 9/24/19.	Pay phone, flush toilets. River. Food services nearby. Generator use: 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Dump station.
* Dorst Creek - 212 sites Closed until 6/19/19.	\$22. Reservations available 12/19 for 6/19/19 - 9/3/19.	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 Open all year.	\$18. Self-register near site #29.	Flush toilets. Village nearby with food services (no showers).
Crystal Springs - 49 sites. Closed until 5/22/19.	\$18 for standard sites \$40 for mid-size group sites	Food nearby in summer. Standard sites are first-come, first served. *Reserve group sites from 5/22-9/4/19. Flush toilets, no showers.
* Sunset - 156 sites Closed until 5/22/19.	\$22. \$50 for large group sites	Flush toilets. Nearby food service. Regular sites reservable for 6/26 - 9/4/19; large sites for 5/22 - 9/4/19. No showers.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	Road closed until mid-April. No RV tank dump stations.
* Sentinel - 82 sites Closed until 4/26/19.	\$18. Sites reservable for 5/22/19 - 9/3/19.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Closed until 5/22/19.	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer. Many dead trees have been cleared.
Canyon View: 16 group sites No RVs or trailers. Closed until 5/22/19.	\$40 mid-size groups (7-15); \$50 large groups (15-30); \$60 large groups (15-40).	No RVs or trailers. Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby. No small (family) sites.
Moraine - 121 sites Closed until 5/22/19.	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers, laundry nearby.

**Note: Opening and availability may change with weather and other conditions.**

## Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (Forest Service)

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
* Princess - 88 sites Closed.	\$25 single, \$50 double Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. RV dump station \$10. Extra car \$7.
* Hume Lake - 74 sites Closed.	\$25 single, \$50 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car \$7.
* Tenmile - 13 sites Closed.	\$21 single, \$42 double. Reservable in summer.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. No potable water. Reopens when snow melts.
Landslide - 9 sites Closed.	\$21 single, \$42 double	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7. Reopens when snow melts.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Closed.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Reopens with 2019 spring opening of Hwy 180 to Cedar Grove.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	Between Grant Grove & Wuksachi Lodge. Open with snowmelt.
* Stony Creek - 49 sites Closed.	\$25 single, \$50 double. Reservable in summer.	Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge (summer). Extra car \$7. Food-storage boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high
* Upper Stony - 18 sites Closed.	\$21 single. Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Food, laundry, showers nearby. Extra car \$7. Food-storage boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11. Big Meadow - 45 sites Closed.	Closed. No water. \$21 single site, \$42 double.	Vault toilets. Food-storage boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high. Vault toilets. Big Meadow food boxes ~47" long, 33" deep, 28" high.

## Lodging

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

Three park areas offer lodging, as do several sites in the nearby national forest:

### In these National Parks (NPS)

#### IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK:

##### Wuksachi Lodge

All year. Reservations 1-866-807-3598; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). North of Lodgepole two miles at 7200'. Lodge & restaurant with lounge, limited WiFi, gifts, and ATM.

#### IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK:

Reservations 1-866-807-3598; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). Lodging is available in two areas:

##### Grant Grove Cabins & John Muir Lodge

All year. Hotel (with WiFi), cabins, restaurant, market, gifts, ATM. Register at the John Muir Lodge. 6500' elevation. 1-559-335-5500.

##### Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon

Mid-May to mid-October. Motel, restaurant, market at 4600'. Registration 7:00 am-9:00 pm.

### Sequoia National Forest (USFS)

#### Montecito Sequoia Lodge (USFS permittee)

All year. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388; [www.mslodge.com](http://www.mslodge.com). On the Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel (wi-fi), seasonal & children's activities.

#### Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

Mid-May to mid-October. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit).

## Programs & Tours

5

### Free Snowshoe Walks

When snow permits, walks may be offered on weekends or holidays (snowshoes provided free). Check bulletin boards for schedules at Giant Forest and Grant Grove. When snow is plentiful, you can also rent snowshoes at Lodgepole and Grant Grove (see pages 8 & 9) and head out on your own. See page 10 for safety tips and enjoy!



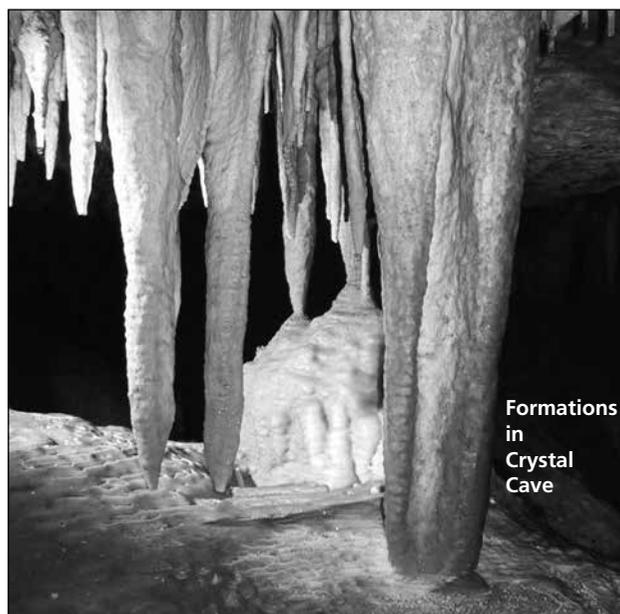
Join a ranger for a walk on the snow!

### National Junior Ranger Day

On April 20, drop in to a festival at Foothills Visitor Center or ask about special activities in Grant Grove and the Giant Forest. Earn a special patch!

### Crystal Cave Tours start 5/24/19

Get tickets online starting in January through [Recreation.gov](http://Recreation.gov). Visit [sequoiaparks.org](http://sequoiaparks.org) for details. Tickets are not available at the cave. Limited tickets may be available at Foothills and Lodgepole visitor centers at least two hours in advance.



Formations in Crystal Cave

### Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Stop at Foothills or Kings Canyon visitor centers or Giant Forest Museum, or check bulletin boards! Some programs may be offered on weekends and holidays.

Evening campfire programs are offered most Saturdays at Potwisha Campground. Check bulletin boards for times and topics.

### Free Junior Ranger Program

For ages 5 to 105! Pick up a free booklet at any visitor center, finish the activities, & earn your badge.

### Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly explore the parks and Lake Kaweah with SFI guides. These experts help you see, paint, photograph, or write as you walk, ski, snowshoe, boat, and enjoy! Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) members may get a discount on activities: 1-559-565-4251; [sfi@sequoiaparks.org](mailto:sfi@sequoiaparks.org)

### Touring on Horseback

*Closed for the winter.* Hourly rides, spot trips, guided trips. Opening dates depend on weather.

**Cedar Grove** Mid-May to mid-October  
1-559-565-3464 summer, 1-559-337-2413 off season.

**Grant Grove** Mid-June to early September  
1-559-335-9292 summer, 1-559-799-7247 off-season.

**Horse Corral** Late May through September:  
At Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest (USFS): 559-565-3404 summer, 1-559-679-3573 cell

### Interested in volunteering?

Log in to [volunteer.gov](http://volunteer.gov) and enter keywords "Sequoia and Kings Canyon" to see available opportunities, or call the volunteer office: 1-559-565-4232. Volunteers are needed for invasive plant control, special events, and routine clerical and maintenance tasks. Individuals and groups welcome!

### Teachers & Parents, Take Note!

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). And ask about the "Every Kid in a Park" free pass for 4<sup>th</sup>-graders and their families!

**PLEASE EXPLORE SAFELY!** Enjoy these parks and return in one piece to family and friends. Review advice on pages 10 and 12, and take charge of your welfare. Always store food properly before leaving your car or camp.

## The Foothills

These low elevations offer wonderful winter visits—green and usually snowless! More different plants and animals live here than in other park areas combined. Wildflowers may start blooming by January. Avoid ticks and poison oak (*see page 10*).

### Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Details, page 2.

### Marble Falls Trail

A 3.7-mile climb (6km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park across the highway from Potwisha Campground (no non-camper parking in campground). Near site #14, follow the dirt road across a concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

### Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who still honor this place as home. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade on the river. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always store food in the metal boxes provided to keep it from bears.

### Paradise Creek

Park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area (no non-camper parking in campground). Walk 0.8 miles 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 until the trail grows faint.

## Giant Forest

Once snow builds up, rent snowshoes and cross-country skis at Lodgepole Market. Rangers may offer free snowshoe walks (snowshoes provided) on weekends and/or holidays (*see page 5*).

### Giant Forest Museum

Park across from Giant Forest Museum, then enjoy the exhibits and warm up! Page 2 has details. Walking and ski-trail maps are sold here. Next-closest restroom is at the Sherman Tree.

### Big Trees Trail

Walk from Giant Forest Museum to this level 2/3 mile paved trail circling Round Meadow. Trailside panels describe sequoia ecology. Ski or snowshoe once snow gets deep (no yellow ski-trail markers here).

### Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow Road

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road closes with snowfall to become a ski and snowshoe trail. It begins at Giant Forest Museum. *Walkers & snowshoers: Please don't walk in ski tracks; the footprints can trip skiers.*

**Ask at the museum about snow conditions and distances to Tunnel Log and Crescent Meadow.**

- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through; the only “tree you can drive (or ski) through” in these parks.

- **Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias surround this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails; use fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here, including a 1-mile path to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia, and the High Sierra Trail to Mt. Whitney (60+ miles).

### General Sherman Tree

Two miles north of Giant Forest Museum. Two trails lead to the tree. Main trail: From Generals Hwy take Wolverton Road (between Sherman Tree and Lodgepole); follow signs to trailhead parking. This 1/2-mile trail closes once there is much snow, and access to the tree is only from the parking area along the Generals Hwy. This parking is only for those with disability placards when the main trail is open or when the shuttle is running (*see Holiday Shuttle information below*). The short, paved, fairly level trail from there may be plowed or the snow packed down enough to walk on; it is often slippery. Snowplay is prohibited in this area.

### Lodgepole

The market and gift shop are open most days (*see page 8*). Get snowplay gear, hot drinks, and rent skis here. The visitor center is closed until May 10.

### Mineral King closed until spring

The road closes late October to late May at the park boundary approximately 9 miles from Highway 198 (*see page 8*).



## Upcoming Free Holiday Shuttle

- Thanksgiving: 11/22 - 11/25
- December holidays: 12/23-1/1

Shuttles will run 10 am - 4:30 pm between the Giant Forest Museum, Sherman Tree parking area along the Generals Highway, Wolverton, and Wuksachi Lodge. Plan a holiday visit to your parks!



## Snowplay Areas & Wint

### Avoid Injuries!

People are seriously hurt *every* year.

- Slide feet first, on slopes clear of trees, rocks, people, and other obstacles. After you slide, quickly get out of the way of other sledders. Fast sledding and collisions cause most injuries. Please see page 10 for more safety tips.
- Play only in designated areas. Don't sled or ski into roads. Snowplay is prohibited in park residential areas, the Sherman Tree area, and other areas as signed.
- In an emergency, dial 911 (*pages 8 & 9 give pay-phone locations*). Cell signals are usually poor.

*To most enjoy the beauty and fun of the winter forest, be prepared for a range of conditions: snow, cold, ice, and wet. See safety advice on pages 10 and 12, and warm up in the visitor center or restaurant.*

## Grant Grove

Free guided snowshoe walks may be offered on weekends/holidays (*ask at the visitor center; see page 2*). Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove Market (*details, page 9*). Get a ski trail map (*see Finding Your Way, below*).

## Grant Tree Trail

This is the only intermittently plowed trail in the area. Beware of slippery ice and packed snow! General Grant, one of the world's largest trees, grows along this 1/3-mile (0.5 km) paved trail. Designated the Nation's Christmas Tree, this giant is also the only living national shrine honoring those who died for our country. Trail guides are sold at visitor centers & the trailhead. One mile (1.6km) from Grant Grove Village; go north on Highway 180 and follow signs.

## Panoramic Point Road

Paved but narrow, this leads to a paved, accessible trail with a spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Closed to cars once snow flies, the road becomes a ski or snowshoe trail. Park at Grant Village, go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the sign "Panoramic Point 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." No trailers or RVs.

## Cedar Grove

Closed until late April. 4600' elevation. Cedar Grove Village, on the floor of the Kings Canyon next to the South Fork of the Kings River, has camping, a visitor center, and commercial facilities.

The area usually reopens the 4th Friday in April. Lodge, market, and grill typically open reopen May 10.

## National Forest by Grant Grove

USFS - Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. See page 12 for road closures, and page 9 for ways that the national parks and the national forests differ.

## Hume Lake

This man-made lake once supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) down to the town of Sanger in the valley below! Page 9 lists facilities there, including a gas station (*see page 9*). Six miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

## Area Overlooks & Viewpoints

- **McGee Vista Point:** Westerly/sunset views; 3 miles north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180.
- **For a vista of the Kings Canyon:** Go north of Grant Grove 8 miles via Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road. Watch on your left for an opening that reveals the chasm of the Kings River.
- **Redwood Mountain Overlook:** Look west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. South of Grant Grove 6 miles, across Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction.

- **Kings Canyon Overlook:** A view NE across the Kings Canyon to the High Sierra. On Generals Highway, 7 miles south of Grant Grove.

From many of these overlooks you can see evidence of the 2015 Rough Fire. The lightning-caused fire started at the end of July, high on the slope north of the Kings River canyon, and burned for almost 5 months. Ultimately, it grew to over 151,623 acres, one of the largest fires in California history. Most of the fire was on national forest land outside these parks.



**Tire chains or cables are essential when chain control is in effect and roads are snowy. Rent or buy chains in nearby towns before you get here.** Photo by Alison Taggart-Barone.

## Winter Trails: Play It Safe & Clean!

### Snowplay at Wolverton

Wolverton Road starts two miles north of the Sherman Tree (*see page 8*). It is plowed during daylight hours Fridays through Sundays plus Wednesdays and holidays, through March 17. After storms, it may take hours to open this road as plows must clear the main road first.

Sledding is at the end of the road. Call 911 in case of emergency from the pay telephone outside the building next to the restrooms.

**Please don't leave broken sleds & trash behind!** Too often spring melt reveals piles of trash left thoughtlessly in the snow.

### Snowplay at Grant Grove

Use Big Stump & Columbine picnic areas only (*see map on page 9*). Snowplay is prohibited in all other areas in Grant Grove. Big Stump may close due to utility issues. Azalea Campground is for campers only, not those here only for snowplay. Pay telephones are located outside the visitor center and the market.

Have fun and stay safe!

### Nearby Forest Service areas:

Areas at the Quail Flat, Big Meadows, and Cherry Gap trailheads are open for snowplay. Ask for directions at the visitor center.

### Finding Your Way

When snow makes it hard to follow a trail on the ground, be careful not to get lost. It may be easier to follow ski-trail markers. Find these colored markers intermittently on trees, above eye level. When you are standing by one marker, you should be able to see another one; each points in the direction of the next marker. Thank you for not walking in the ski tracks; the footprints can trip skiers.

Buy a map at the visitor center if you plan to use unplowed trails, and get advice about the current conditions.

In winter, several facilities and roads close. Stop at Foothills Visitor Center on your way into the park for updates.

### Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & usually snow-free winters. See page 10 for highlights. Park headquarters is behind Foothills Visitor Center.

#### Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

9:00 am-4:00 pm until March 8. Details are on page 2.

#### Pay Telephones

Cell phones rarely work here. Look for pay phones at Foothills Visitor Center; at Potwisha Campground; and at Hospital Rock Picnic Area.

### Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

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

#### Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Call to ask about snowshoe walks: 1-559-565-4480, 9:00 am-4:30pm. Exhibits on sequoias. Park store.

#### Giant Forest Shuttle (NPS)

Operates during the winter holidays (see page 6).

### Lodgepole

6700' elevation. North of Giant Forest along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. Lodgepole Visitor Center is closed for the season.

#### Lodgepole Village (DNC) - limited services:

- **Market & Gift Shop:** Market & Gift Shop: Open Thursdays-Mondays (daily during holiday periods: 12/21-1/8, & 2/19-26). Supplies, clothing, groceries, grab-and-go food, ATM. Ski & snowshoe rentals when enough snow is on the ground. On Tuesdays & Wednesdays, go to Wuksachi Lodge for supplies.
- **Lodgepole Grill:** Now being remodeled and expected to reopen late spring/ early summer.
- Showers and laundry reopen in mid-April.

#### U.S. Post Office

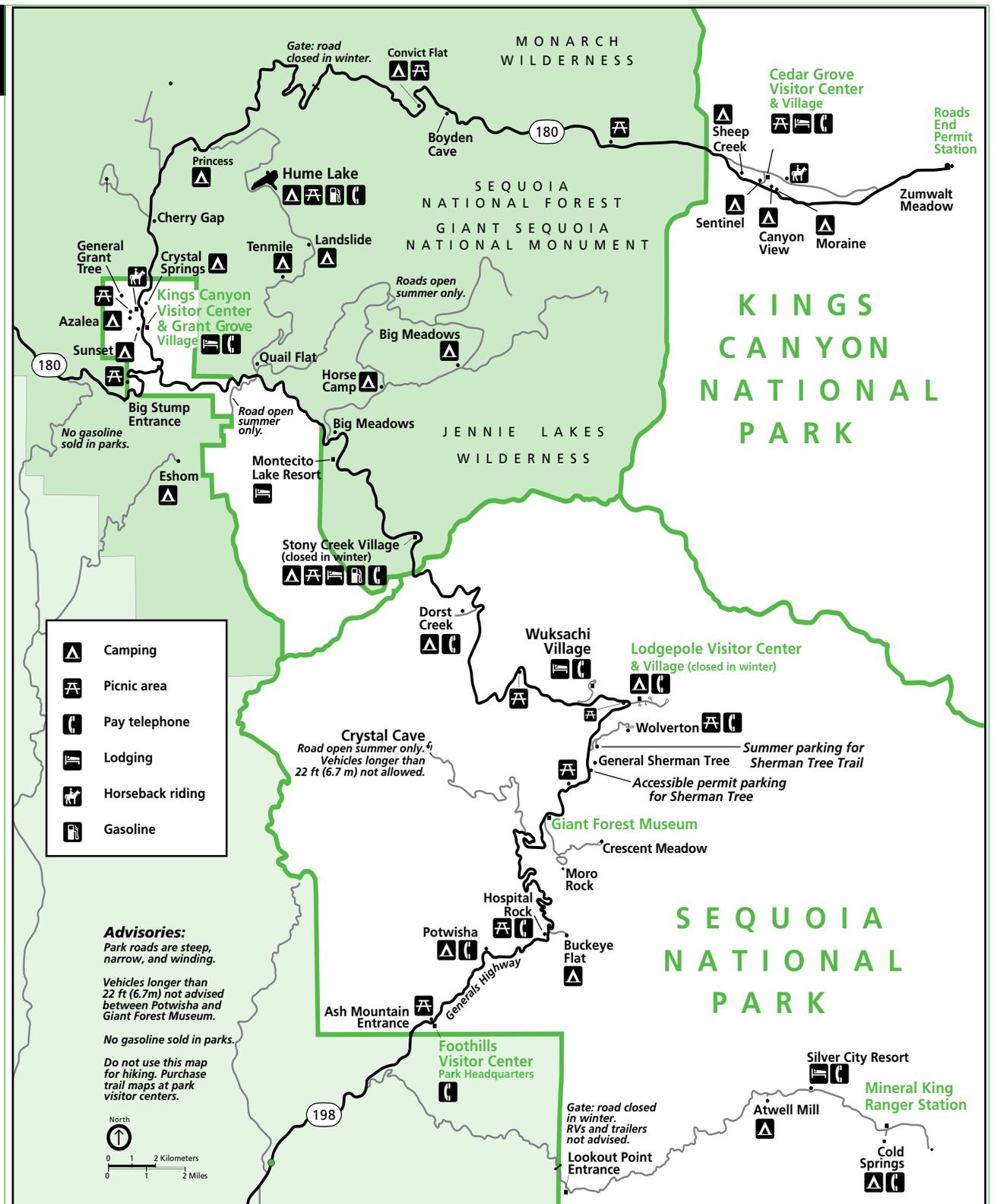
Mail drop only, behind visitor center. Full postal services at Grant Grove.

#### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside visitor center & market.

### Wolverton

7200' elevation. Look for Wolverton Road two miles north of the Sherman Tree. This is a snow-play area once enough snow falls (see pages 6-7). It's also a good open area for viewing night skies!



### Wuksachi Lodge & Dining (DNC)

7200' elevation. Year-round, 4 miles north of the Sherman Tree. The only sit-down dining experience available in Sequoia this winter.

- **The Peaks Dining Room:** Daily 7:30-10:00 am, 11:00 am-2:30 pm, 5:00-9:00 pm, & lounge 2:00-9:00 pm. Reservations recommended for dinner. Box lunches available. 1-559-625-7700.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8:00 am-5:00 pm. Limited supplies. Snow-play gear & rentals at Lodgepole.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** Details on page 5. Desk 24 hours. Pay telephones at main lodge. ATM. Ask about naturalist programs.

### Mineral King Closed until spring

7800' elevation. Road closed at the park boundary until late May. A steep, narrow, winding road to a subalpine valley. No electricity or gasoline. You can ask at Foothills Visitor Center for access to get through the first gate. Enjoy!

#### Pay Telephones

Look for phones in Cold Springs Campground, and in the Sawtooth and Eagle/Mosquito parking areas.

#### Silver City Mountain Resort

Closed until late May. Page 5 has details.

In winter, fewer facilities are available. Stop at the visitor center in Grant Grove for information, exhibits, and a beautiful film about Kings Canyon National Park.

## Grant Grove

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

### Kings Canyon Visitor Center

See page 2. Movie, exhibits in English & Spanish.

### Grant Grove Village

- **Grant Grove Restaurant:** Hours vary during winter, open until 8:00 pm Fri-Sun, limited hours Monday-Thursday. Hours are posted.
- **Market:** Daily 9:00 am-6:00 pm. Grab-and-go food, groceries, supplies, ATM.
- **Gift Shop:** 9:00 am-6:00 pm. Souvenirs, supplies, clothing, ATM.
- **Lodging:** 1-559-335-5500. Details, page 5.
- **Public showers are no longer available in Grant Grove.**

**U.S. Post Office** Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-4pm; 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) In the village, outside both the visitor center and the market.

## Cedar Grove

4600' elevation. Cedar Grove Village, on the floor of the Kings Canyon, has camping, a visitor center, and commercial facilities. The area usually reopens the 4th Friday in April. The lodge, market, and grill reopen in May.

## National Forest & Monument

**Hume Lake & Big Meadows are in Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest.** You pass through the monument when driving between Lodgepole and Grant Grove, and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove. See below for details on differences between National Forests and National Parks.

**Lodging** - Details on page 5.

**USFS Hume Lake District Office (USFS)** 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) 19 miles west of park entrance. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. 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 (year round; see Hume Lake below).

**Gasoline Sales** Outside the parks or at Hume Lake. See page 12.

**Hume Lake (on private land)** Open all year to the public. Facility hours vary. Gasoline sold when store is open (limited days & hours in winter; generally open 9am - noon and 1-5pm. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday through March 7. North of Grant Grove 8 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

**Montecito Sequoia Resort (USFS permittee)** All year. Daily. On Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. All-inclusive lodging, meals, and activities. Meals 7:30am-9am, 12-1pm, 6-7:30pm. Cabins, hotel, cross-country skiing, children's & winter activities. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

**Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)** *Closed until spring.* On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. 1-800-227-9900; 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 
<b>Walk my leashed pets?</b>	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.
<b>Collect things to take home?</b>	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.
<b>Hunt?</b>	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.
<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.
<b>Cut wood?</b>	Not in these parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for wood permits & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
<b>Build fires?</b>	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.
<b>Go fishing?</b>	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
<b>Ride a bicycle?</b>	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.
<b>Snowmobile?</b>	Not in these parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.
<b>Fly a drone?</b>	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!

**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](http://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:** \$60 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.

## Wilderness

11

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.

**In winter, permits are free and self-issued 24 hours a day outside the visitor center closest to your trailhead (except Lodgepole Visitor Center).** Information you provide on the permit may be helpful should search and rescue be needed. The 2019 quota period is 5/24 to 9/21/19; the permit fee during that time is \$10 plus \$5/person. Permits can be reserved by email or U.S. mail beginning March 1.

**Jennie Lakes & 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](http://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, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

See [nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness](http://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](mailto: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 7am on the first business day in January: 866-807-3598. See [www.visitsequoia.com](http://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.

## Winter Roads & Closures

*Availability of roads and facilities varies with conditions. GPS often misdirects travelers in this area; follow signs, maps, or ask.*

### Generals Highway between the parks:

- **From Wuksachi Lodge (in Sequoia) north to Highway 180 (in Grant Grove):** The road is not plowed during storms or between 4:30pm and 8:00 am. Between January 2 and mid-March, the road will not be plowed and may be open only if there is no snow.

### In Kings Canyon (NPS) & National Forest:

- **Highway 180 down to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon:** Closed for winter by Caltrans at the Hume Lake junction. Reopens, conditions permitting, in April.
- **Panoramic Point Road in Grant Grove:** Closes with snow; reopens by late May. Motorhomes/trailers are not permitted.
- **Redwood Mountain (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile roads (USFS):** Closed for winter. Unpaved, unplowed, rutted.
- **Converse Basin & Cherry Gap (USFS):** Closed; usually reopens by late May. Unpaved, rutted, unplowed.

### In Sequoia National Park:

- **Giant Forest:** Restroom by Giant Forest Museum open 24 hours; parking is across from the Museum. Sherman Tree parking varies with conditions: See page 6 for details.
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Closes with snow; reopens by late May (*details on page 6*).
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Closed. Reopens late May (see page 5).
- **Wolverton Road & Snowplay Area:** The road is plowed Fridays–Sundays, Wednesdays, and some holidays. The area is open other days if the road is passable and safe (*see page 6 for details*).
- **Mineral King Road:** Closed until late May. For access past the first gate, contact Foothills Visitor Center (*see page 2*).
- **South Fork & Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved; slippery when wet. Middle Fork closes in winter; park at Hospital Rock.

## Rules & Recommendations

### Chains May Be Required at Any Time

Always carry chains that fit your tires and obey signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are also required often, but most cars have them. Check the side of your tires: If you see *M/S*, *M+S*, or a snowflake symbol embedded in the rubber, it's a snowtire.

### Expect Icy Roads

Slow down. Watch for ice in shade or where the road looks wet. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids. Keep extra distance between cars.

### Check Conditions before Going Uphill

Call for 24-hour recorded road information: 1-559-565-3341, then press 1, then 1 again. Check your antifreeze, battery, and wipers, and carry clothing layers and a flashlight.

### Clear Snow Off Car Roof & Hood

It may slide onto the windshield, blocking vision.

### Snowplows Rule

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, slow down but do not stop. Watch the plow operator for signals; they often cannot stop. They usually plow 6am–6pm.

### Slow Down without Losing Your Brakes

Downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes and cause less skidding than braking.

### Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 559-565-3341 then press 9 to be transferred to park dispatch (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 1-559-625-7700.

### Use Turnouts & Let Others Pass

### Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Under age 18: helmet required.

### Go Slow for Wildlife!

Animals may run or fly across your path any time. Never feed animals near the road; it makes them more likely to linger and get hit by cars.

## Road Construction

Road construction is taking place along the Generals Highway between the Sequoia park entrance and Giant Forest Museum. Until the project is completed, there may be driving delays and night closures.

During road construction, vehicles longer than 22 feet are prohibited on the stretch of road between Hospital Rock and the Giant Forest.

### Vehicle Length Limits After the Construction Project Ends

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

**Alternatives:** Highway 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car with an RV, camp in the foothills and use the car.

## Driving Times

*These time estimates apply when roads are clear and open. If roads are icy or snowy, allow additional time.*

### From Foothills to:

Giant Forest	1 hour
Lodgepole	1 hour minimum
Visalia	1 hour
Mineral King (MK)	1½ hours

### From Giant Forest to Grant Grove

via Generals Hwy	1 hour
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### From Grant Grove to:

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



The Generals Highway in winter. Photo by Kirke Wrench.