

Crystal Cave tours rock!

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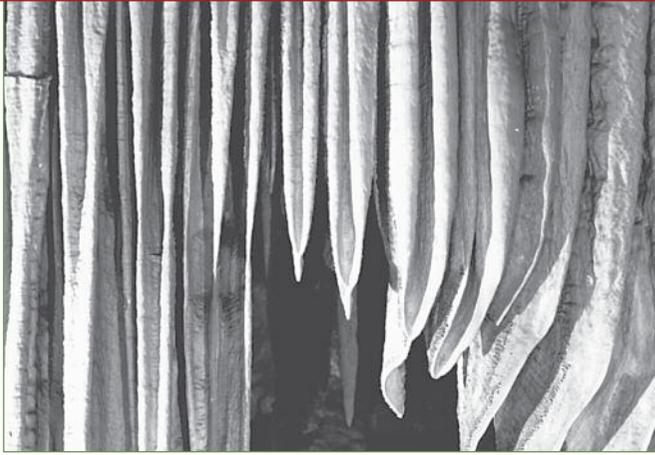
Late winter storms have delayed the opening of some roads and facilities.

For updated information, visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/currentcond.htm

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance at Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree (see page 12 map). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m) on the road to the cave.

Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring a jacket; the ½-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep and it's 50°F (10°C) inside.

No strollers, tripods, or baby backpacks. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about group reservations and Wild Cave Tours at SNHA: 1-559-565-3759.



Learn how these curtains of stone formed! NPS Photo

• 45-minute Cave Tours daily starting May 8th

From 5/8 through 6/11: Weekdays 11am, noon, 2pm, & 3pm.

Saturday & Sunday 11am- 4pm on the hour.

Memorial Day weekend (5/29-31): every ½ hour, 10:30am- 5:30pm.

Starting 6/12: Weekdays 10:30am- 4:30pm every ½ hour.

Saturday, Sunday & July 4th weekend (7/3-5) every ½ hour 10am-5pm.

Fees: Age 5-12 \$6.50; age 13-61 \$13; under 5 free; age 62 & up and Golden Access passholders \$12. National Park, Interagency, and Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a discount!

• 1½-hour Discovery Tours start June 21st

Weekdays only, starting at 4:15pm. Enjoy a more in-depth tour of this fabulous cave! Limited to 16 people aged 13 & up. Fee: \$20 each (SNHA members \$18).

• 1½-hour Historic Candle-Light Cave Tours start June 24th

Thursday-Friday at 5:30 pm; Saturday-Sunday 6pm. Limited to 40 people, ages 12 and up. Experience Crystal Cave in a different light. Explore using candle lanterns and see Crystal Cave as its discoverers did! Fee: \$20 each (SNHA members \$18).

FREE WALKS & TALKS: Ranger-led talks and walks may be offered at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, the Foothills, and Cedar Grove. See pages 8-9 or check bulletin boards and visitor centers for details and schedules.

VISITOR CENTERS & STORES: Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. Park stores in each visitor center sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Remember: All your purchases in visitor centers help to support the parks! See pages 8-9 for details.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

FREE for all ages: Earn a badge while protecting resources. If you are 5 to 8 years old, work for the Jay Award. Those 9 to 12 years old earn a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn an Arrowhead Award. Get a free Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center, follow the instructions and have fun!

TEACHERS- BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE

PARKS! Fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th grades in spring and fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, and other cultural history. For details or to reserve a date: 1-559-565-4303.

WHERE CAN I...

Your visit may include both a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest and Monument (USFS). Some activities that are illegal in the Park may be legal in the Forest (see page 2 for details). Know which one you are in (see page 12)!

• WALK A PET: In the Parks:

Not on any trails but it's o.k. 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads).

In the National Forest:

Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.

• **RIDE BICYCLES:** In the Parks: Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). In the National Forest: Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Be careful & courteous near

pedestrians & horses. People younger than 18 must wear helmets.

• GO CAMPING: In the Parks:

Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. In the National Forest: In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.

• COLLECT THINGS: Not in

Parks: Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. In the National Forest: Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted.

In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.

• HUNT: Not in the Parks.

Firearms must be unloaded, inoperable and stored in way that prevents ready use prior to entering national parks. In the National Forest: Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.

• GO CAMPING: In the Parks:

Only in numbered sites in

designated campgrounds.

In the National Forest: In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.

• DRIVE OFF-ROAD: Not in the parks.

Stay on roads. In the National Forest: Off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes available. Get specific information at USFS Hume Lake office (in Dunlap on Hwy 180) or Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove).

• GO PICNICKING:

See picnic symbols on back-page map. Due to bears, never leave food unattended! Most sites have tables, restrooms and fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills and Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Halstead, Powdercan, Lodgepole, and Crescent Meadow.

• HAVE A FIRE: In the Parks:

Only in fire grills in campgrounds and some picnic areas. In the National Forest: Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves and lanterns. Some areas are more restricted than others. Get permits at

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (Grant Grove) or USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.

• **CUT WOOD: Not in the Parks.** In the National Forest: Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit and guidelines: 559-338-2251.

• **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 HORSEBACK

Hourly rides, backcountry spot trips or guided trips. Opening dates depend on weather:

• **Cedar Grove - late May**
1-559-565-3464 summer
1-559-337-2314 off season

• **Grant Grove - early June**
1-559-335-9292 summer
1-559-799-7247 off season

• **Horse Corral - late May**
at Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest
1-559-565-3404 summer
1-559-564-6429 off season
1-559-679-3573 cell