Highlights

KINGS CANYON

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GRANT GROVE

Before taking to the trail, review safety advice on page 5. Carry a map, warm clothes, and water. Orient yourself before going and tell someone where you are headed.

GENERAL GRANT TREE: One of the world's three largest trees and a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. President Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926. Also visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. Northwest of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

NORTH GROVE LOOP: This lightly traveled, 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) trail provides a close look at the Big Trees and a quiet walk through conifer forest. Starts at lower Grant Tree parking area.

DEAD GIANT LOOP: Along this trail, guess at what killed this sequoia and view an historic mill pond. Follow the old road from the lower Grant Tree parking area for about a mile. The trail branches off, creating a 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) round trip.

NEARBY TRAILS & VIEWPOINTS

PANORAMIC POINT ROAD leads to a spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the intersection signed "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." Walk 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the view. Trailers and RVs not recommended on this steep, narrow road. Park Ridge Trail (4-mile / 6.4 km round-trip)begins here.

REDWOOD MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK: Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction, it looks west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. Studies here proved the positive relationship between fire and sequoia reproduction.

REDWOOD CANYON is the world's largest uncut sequoia grove. Acres of rejuvenating forest result from 30 years of prescribed fires, showing the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat/ Hume Lake junction (7 miles/11.2 km south of Grant Grove), turn southwest at Redwood Saddle. Go right for 2 miles (3.2 km) on a bumpy dirt road (not plowed).

KINGS CANYON OVERLOOK: For a view to the northeast of the high Sierra wilderness, stop at this overlook about 7 miles (11.2 km) south of Grant Grove.

BUENA VISTA PEAK: Begin just south of Kings Canyon Overlook on Generals Highway, miles (11 km) south of Grant Grove. 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and High Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

BIG BALDY: Great views and a look down into Redwood Canyon from this ridge. The trail winds 2 miles (3.2 km) to the summit at 8,209 feet (2502 m). From Grant Grove, go 8 miles (13 km) south on the Generals Highway to Big Baldy Trailhead. Elevation gain 600 feet (183 m); round trip 4 miles (6.4 km).

KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

Take time to see at least part of this spectacular gorge. Be very careful around the water! The road to it closes in mid-November.

CANYON VIEW: The "U" shape of Kings Canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village turnoff.

KNAPP'S CABIN: During the Roaring '20s, Santa Barbara businessman George Knapp commissioned lavish fishing expeditions here, using this small cabin to store gear. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles (3.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

ROARING RIVER FALLS: A shady five-minute walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a narrow granite chute. Three miles (4.8 km) east of the Village turnoff. Paved, relatively accessible.

ZUMWALT MEADOW: This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail offers high granite walls, a lush meadow, and the meandering Kings River. Park at trailhead 4-1/2 miles (7.2 km) east of the Cedar Grove Village turnoff. Purchase a trail guide at the trailhead or visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

ROAD'S END: Here where the pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra. East of the Village turnoff 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km).

TAKE A HIKE!

MIST FALLS: One of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road's End.

DON CECIL TRAIL: The main route into the canyon prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180. It starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village, climbs a north-facing slope past Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up) to good views. Lookout Peak (13-mile/21-km round trip, 4000 foot/ 1220 m elevation gain) has a great panorama. Strenuous; allow all day.

HOTEL CREEK TRAIL: Starts .2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Climbs through chaparral to forest and views from Cedar Grove Overlook. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3 -4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest (see page 2).

CONVERSE BASIN: Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a monarch they spared (6 miles north of Grant Grove), or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, a tree cut for exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (2 miles north of Grant Grove).

INDIAN BASIN: A one-mile accessible trail and one-mile unpaved trail offer a look at how this meadow and forest are recovering after logging a century ago. Take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove ; turn into Princess Campground. Trail begins by the host's site.

HUME LAKE, formed by a rare, historic, multiple-arch dam, supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) to Sanger. An easy 2 1/2-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 Forest Road 13S04.