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.
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.

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; 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.

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.

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.

Shower availability in Grant Grove. Public showers are available seasonally at Lodgepole and Cedar Grove villages.

You must store food correctly all year due to bear activity. 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; 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.

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground Area</th>
<th>Elevation 2100' - 3600'</th>
<th>Low-elevation oaks and chaparral.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground Area</th>
<th>Elevation 6650' - 7500'</th>
<th>Road closed until late May. No electricity or gas.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground Area</th>
<th>Elevation 6700'</th>
<th>*Reservations available in summer. Conifer forest.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorst Creek - 212 sites</td>
<td>$22. *Reservations available now for 5/22/19 - 9/24/19.</td>
<td>Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Generator use 8-11am &amp; 5-8pm only. Large group sites for 15-50 $70, for 15-40 $60, for 15-30 $50.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground Area</th>
<th>Elevation 6400'</th>
<th>Road closed until mid-April. No RV tank dump stations.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheep Creek - 111 sites</td>
<td>$18.</td>
<td>Flush toilets. Food, pay showers &amp; laundry nearby in summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canyon View: 16 group sites</td>
<td>$18.</td>
<td>Flush toilets. Food, pay showers &amp; laundry nearby in summer. Many dead trees have been cleared.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moraine - 121 sites</td>
<td>$18.</td>
<td>Flush toilets. Food, pay showers, laundry nearby.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (Forest Service)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground Area</th>
<th>Elevation 4000' - 5900'</th>
<th>Between Grant Grove &amp; Cedar Grove. * Reservable in summer.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campground Area</th>
<th>Elevation 6400' - 7500'</th>
<th>Between Grant Grove &amp; Wukaschi Lodge. Open with snowmelt.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Meadows &amp; Stony Creek</td>
<td>$25 single, $50 double reservable in summer.</td>
<td>Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge (summer). Extra car $7. Food-storage boxes ~47&quot;long, 17&quot;deep, 16&quot;high.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Meadow - 45 sites</td>
<td>Closed. $21 single, $42 double.</td>
<td>Vault toilets. Big Meadow food boxes ~47&quot;long, 33&quot;deep, 28&quot;high.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. 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. 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)

Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

Big Meadows Cabin (USFS)

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)

Neighboring Towns

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging & camping. Ask at visitor centers or see www.nps.gov/seeki/planyourvisit.

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!

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

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 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/seeki/learn/education. And ask about the “Every Kid in a Park” free pass for 4th-graders and their families!
Exploring Sequoia National Park

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 & Winter

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 payphone 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. Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove Market. Get a ski trail map (see Finding Your Way). 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 down to the town of Sanger in the valley below! Page 9 lists facilities there, including a gas station (see page 9). Six miles north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles 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.

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.

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.

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 unpaved 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–4:30 pm. 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.
- **Shower 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!
In National Forests
See page 2. Movie, exhibits in English & Spanish.

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.
- Public showers are no longer available in Grant Grove.

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can I…</th>
<th>In National Parks</th>
<th>In National Forests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk my leashed pets?</td>
<td>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 <a href="http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010">www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010</a></td>
<td>Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collect things to take home?</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>You may keep a few cones or rocks for personal use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunt?</td>
<td>Not in the Parks. Visitors are responsible for understanding &amp; complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park.</td>
<td>Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drive off-road?</td>
<td>Not in these parks. Stay on roads.</td>
<td>Get specific information on off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut wood?</td>
<td>Not in these parks.</td>
<td>Call Hume Lake Ranger District for wood permits &amp; guidelines: 559-338-2251.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build fires?</td>
<td>In park, only in fire grills in some campgrounds &amp; some picnic areas.</td>
<td>Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves &amp; lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go fishing?</td>
<td>In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 &amp; up. Ask for copies of park regulations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ride a bicycle?</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile?</td>
<td>Not in these parks.</td>
<td>Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, &amp; Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fly a drone?</td>
<td>Not in any national park.</td>
<td>Only in accordance with FAA guidance, and not in wilderness areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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 mosquitoes. 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.
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.

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.

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/seqk/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): 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.

• 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.

**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.

**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:** $60 admits all passengers in a private vehicle.
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): Closes; 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: 559-625-7700. 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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giant Forest</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodgepole</td>
<td>1 hour minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visalia</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral King (MK)</td>
<td>1½ hours</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

From Giant Forest to Grant Grove via Generals Hwy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Grove</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fresno</td>
<td>1½ hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosemite south entry (via Hwy 41)</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
</tr>
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The Generals Highway in winter. Photo by Kirke Wrench.