



Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument 

Sequoia Parks Conservancy 



A Feast for the Senses

All of nature begins to whisper its secrets to us through its sounds. Sounds that were previously incomprehensible to our soul now become the meaningful language of nature.

-RUDOLF STEINER

When you visit Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, what do you hear? Wind blowing through the treetops, birdsongs, water cascading over river boulders, or a grouse drumming to impress his mate? While you may know these parks for their impressive trees and mountainous landscapes, natural sounds are a key part of the experience.

The National Park Service considers natural sounds, or “acoustic resources,” one of the many values

worth conserving. While humans usually value sounds based on life experiences and positive memories, sounds can also have a measurable scientific value.

In these parks, we use specialized audio equipment to record sounds in nature. With this equipment, we can monitor animal species and diversity. We can also measure changes in plant and animal populations that are affected by fires or nonnative species. We record high-

quality sounds of wildlife, geology, and other events so that you can experience them in our visitor centers and during ranger programs. And the park is even developing an interactive, web-based map where people can explore not only the sights, but also the sounds of the park, from right at home.

For more information about our soundscapes program, visit go.nps.gov/seki-sounds.



Many animals, like the yellow-bellied marmot pictured here, make distinct sounds that are easy to recognize in audio recordings. Photo © Donald Quintana.

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Telephone & Internet

911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911
No coins needed in payphones.

To Report a Wildfire — 559-565-3195

Limited Cell Signals & Service

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

Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

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

GPS, Web & Social Media

GPS programs often misdirect travellers here.

Use maps and signs, or ask for directions.

The *only* official park information sources online are:



The Official Park Website
www.nps.gov/seki



Facebook
Sequoia and Kings
Canyon National Parks



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

Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)

1-559-338-2251, fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Yosemite National Park (NPS)

1-209-372-0200, nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

1-800-427-7623, dot.ca.gov

WiFi Locations

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

Translations

Welcome - You may borrow a Braille copy of the park map & guide at visitor centers.

Bienvenidos - Hay un folleto en español disponible en los centros de visitante.

Bienvenue - Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

Willkommen - Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher-zentrum erhältlich.

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

Visitor Centers

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK:

Foothills Visitor Center

(NPS) Daily 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Exhibits on life in the low elevations. 1-559-565-4212. *Muchas veces hay rangers aqui quienes hablan español.* Local wilderness permits: Weekdays & Saturdays 8:00 am-4:00 pm through 9/22 at the Wilderness Office. Self-register outside the visitor center when the office is closed.

Giant Forest Museum

(NPS) Daily 9:00 am-6:00 pm through 9/9, then 9:00 am-4:30 pm. Exhibits on sequoias. 1-559-565-4480. Local wilderness permits: through 9/22 at Lodgepole Visitor Center, then self-register here.

Lodgepole Visitor Center

(NPS) Daily 7:00 am-5:00 pm through 9/9, then 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Closes for the season on 10/8. Exhibits & movies. 1-559-565-4436. Local wilderness permits: 7:00 am-3:30 pm through 9/22, then self-register outside Giant Forest Museum.

Mineral King Ranger Station

(NPS) Daily 8am-4pm. Closes for the season on 9/23. 1-559-565-3768. Local wilderness permits: 8:00 am-3:45 pm through 9/22, then self-register on ranger station porch or at the second gate.

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK:

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

(NPS) Daily 8:00 am-5:00 pm through 10/8, then 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. 1-559-565-4307. Local wilderness permits: 8:00 am-4:30 pm through 9/22, then self-issue outside. Payphones by visitor center and market.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center

(NPS) Daily 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Closes for the season on 9/23. The road into the canyon closes on 11/13. 1-559-565-3793.

**IN USFS NATIONAL FOREST/MONUMENT:
Hume Lake District Office**

(FS) 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Highway 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251.



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



Forest Service (FS) - 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, werf.usgs.gov

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

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



**Connect to
your national park!**

The Sequoia Parks Conservancy (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 and 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!

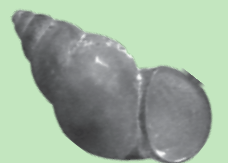
Star thistle is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny growth completely excludes native plants and limits wildlife movements. It is not yet established in these parks, but it is close!

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 <http://go.nps.gov/sekifire>. To report a wildfire: 559-565-3195.

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Camping

Each standard campsite has a table and fire ring with a grill and accommodates up to 6 people and 1 vehicle. There are no RV hook-ups in the parks.

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

You *must* store food correctly all year due to black bears. The park supplies bear boxes; most are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. 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 in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks		
Open dates of all campgrounds may change with weather and other conditions.		
Foothills Area	Elevation 2100’ - 3600’	Campfires are prohibited when fire restrictions are in effect.
* Potwisha - 40 sites Open all year.	\$22. *Sites reservable until 9/26/18.	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station.
* Buckeye Flat - 28 sites Open until noon on 10/24/18.	\$22. *Sites reservable until 9/26/18.	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 is occasionally available at this site.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650’ - 7500’	Mineral King Road closes at noon on October 31.
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Open until noon on 10/31/18.	\$12.	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food, pay showers nearby at Silver City (summer only).
Cold Springs - 40 sites Open until noon on 10/31/18.	\$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 Open until noon on 11/28/18.	\$22. Sites reservable until 9/26/18.	Pay phone, flush toilets. River. Food services nearby. Generator use: 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Dump station. Starts to open 4/18/18.
* Dorst Creek - 212 sites Open until noon on 9/26/18.	\$22. Sites reservable when the campground is open.	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’	Beginning in 2018, 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. Open until noon on 9/26/18.	\$18 for standard sites. *Mid-size group sites \$40.	Food nearby in summer. *14 reservable sites for mid-sized groups (7 to15 people). Flush toilets, no showers. Some sites close earlier.
* Sunset - 156 sites Open until noon on 9/5/18.	\$22. *Large-group sites (15-30 people) \$50.	Flush toilets. Nearby food service. Regular sites reservable for 6/27 - 9/5/18; large sites for 5/23 - 9/5/18. No showers.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600’	Road closes at noon on November 13. No RV dump stations.
* Sentinel - 82 sites Open until noon on 11/13/18.	\$22. Reservations available 5/23 - 9/5/18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Open until noon on 10/10/18.	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer.
* Canyon View: 16 group sites No RVs or trailers.	\$40 mid-size groups (7-15); *\$50 large groups (15-30); *\$60 large groups (15-40).	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby. *No reservations are available in 2018, and some sites will be closed for restoration. No standard sites.
Moraine - 121 sites Open until noon on 9/5/18.	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers, laundry nearby.
Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (USFS)		
Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000’ - 5900’	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
* Princess - 88 sites	\$27 single, \$54 double Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. RV dump station \$10. Extra car \$7.
* Hume Lake - 64 sites	\$27 single, \$54 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car \$7.
* Tenmile - 11 sites	\$21 single, \$42 double. Reservable in summer.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. No potable water. Reopens when snow melts.
Landslide - 9 sites	\$23 single, \$46 double. First-come, first-served.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7. Ropens when snow melts.
Convict Flat - 5 sites	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Reopens with 2018 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 - 48 sites	\$27 single, \$54 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 - 24 sites	\$23 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.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. Food-storage boxes ~47"long, 17"deep, 16"high.
Big Meadow - 43 sites	\$23 single site,\$46 double. Reservable in summer.	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. North of Lodgepole two miles at 7200'. Lodge & restaurant with lounge, 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, 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 (FS permittee)

All year. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388; www.mslodge.com. On the Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel (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. On the Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Hotel, gasoline, market, showers, laundry.

Big Meadows Cabin (USFS)

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

On Private Land within Park

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

* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

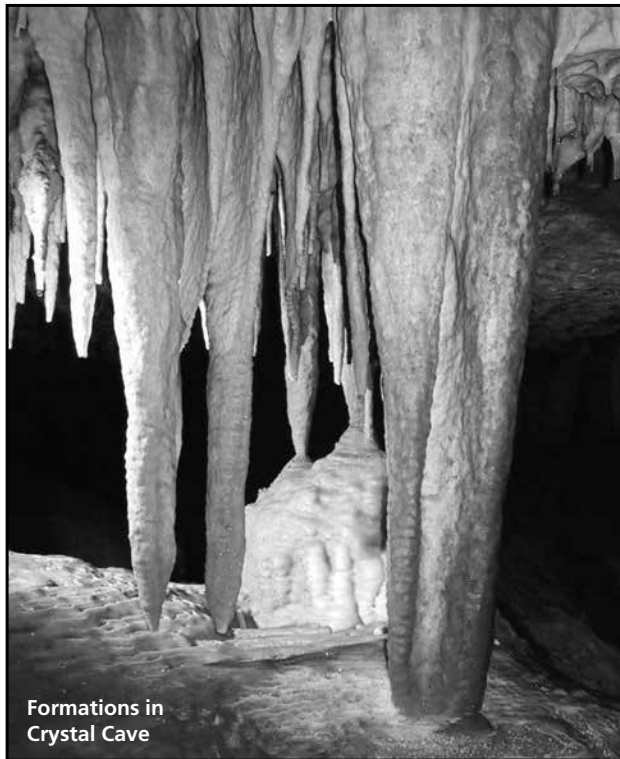
Open from late May to late September. 1-559-561-3223, www.silvercityresort.com. Cabins, supplies, showers, store, restaurant and bakery. No gas.

Neighboring Towns

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

Programs & Tours

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Formations in Crystal Cave

Crystal Cave Tours

Reserve tickets online at www.recreation.gov at least 48 hours in advance. Need a ticket today? Check first thing in the morning at Lodgepole or Foothills visitor centers (*not* at the cave). *Plan time for delays in getting through the park entrances, especially on weekends and holidays.*

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles from Sequoia Park's entrance at Hwy 198; 3 miles south of Sherman Tree. Maximum vehicle length on this narrow road is 22'. Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes for the steep 1/2-mile trail to the cave. Wear a jacket; it's 50°F (10°C) inside. No strollers, tripods or bags/packs are permitted inside the cave (They can be used on the trail from the parking area but must be left outside unattended during the tour.). No flash/lighted photography/video. Not wheelchair accessible. Tour times are subject to change. For school tours & large groups, visit sequoiaparksconservancy.org/crystalcave.

Family Cave Tour Daily - 45 minutes

September 30 is the last day for tours in 2018.

Ticket prices: Age 5-12 \$8; 13-61 \$16; 62 & up \$15. Ask about SPC member discounts! National Park and Interagency passes do not apply.

Special tours for special interests:

- **Junior Caver Tour**
2.5 hours, ages 10 to 15, \$30.
- **Discovery Tour**
1.5 hours, ages 13 and up, \$18.
- **13 and Older Tour**
50 minutes, ages 13 and up, \$18.



Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Free programs are offered in the Foothills, Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, Mineral King, Cedar Grove, and other locations! Check bulletin boards for schedules of ranger-led activities.

Free Junior Ranger Program

Pick up a free booklet at any visitor center, complete the activities, & earn your badge!

Field Institute

Over 60,000 visitors annually explore the parks and Lake Kaweah with Sequoia Parks Conservancy's Field Institute. These experts guide you through the night sky, Crystal Cave, and park trails. They even bring park history to life! SPC members may get a discount on Field Institute activities. 559-565-4251; sequoiaparks.org.

Dark Skies & Starry Nights

See activity schedules on bulletin boards and in visitor centers for a variety of free night programs! These include regular programs at Wuksachi and John Muir Lodge: see local listings. On September 7-9, join us for the fifth annual Dark Sky Festival: walks, talks, telescopes, fun, and awe!

Exploring on Horseback

Hourly rides, spot trips, or guided trips:

- **Cedar Grove Pack Station:**
Pack trips and horseback rides. Open daily from 9:00 am-4:00 pm through 9/30. 1-559-565-3464.
- **Horse Corral near Big Meadows (USFS):**
Open until September; call 1-559-565-3404 or 559-338-2251
- **Grant Grove Stables:** Closed until early June. 1-559-335-9292.

Review safety advice on page 10, and know the basic rules of a national park (page 9). Be extra careful near rivers. Carry water and a map (sold at visitor centers). Orient yourself before going and tell someone your plans. Always store food properly before leaving your car or campsite. Fire restrictions are in place.

The Foothills

These low elevations provide great camping and walking during winter. Beware poison oak (see page 10). Fire restrictions are in place; see page 12.

Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Hours on page 2.

Marble Falls Trail

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

Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade.

Paradise Creek

A fairly level trail along a shady creek. Park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area (not in campground). Walk 0.6 miles (1 km) to Buckeye Flat Campground. Take the path across from site #28 to cross a footbridge over the Middle Fork Kaweah River. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

Mineral King

Road closed by multiple gates at noon on 10/31. Stop at Foothills Visitor Center for a code to park 2 miles (3.2 km) before Atwell Mill Campground.

Atwell-Hockett Trail to Deer Creek

A gentle 2.5-mile (4 km) descent through logging equipment to a grove of sequoias. Trailhead parking in Atwell Mill Campground.

Giant Forest

Giant Forest Museum & Lodgepole Visitor Center

See details on page 2.

Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow Road

Open. No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. The road closes with snowfall to become a ski and snowshoe trail:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular mountain views, but never climb if it is snowy or icy! Two miles from Generals Highway. Read and follow the lightning warning on page 10.
- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. Bypass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles from the Museum.
- **Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias surround this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails; use fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here, such as the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, an historic cabin in a fallen sequoia; and the High Sierra Trail (60

miles/97 km) to Mt. Whitney (14,500'/4419 m), highest in the lower 48 states.

Big Trees Trail

A level, 2/3-mile (1km) paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start at Giant Forest Museum (parking at the trail is only for cars with disability placards until significant snow accumulates). 1 hour round trip.

General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

- **Main Trail** - This 1/2-mile trail down to the tree has some stairs. The walk back is uphill; be sure to take your time at this elevation. When the holiday shuttles are operating (see below), you can park here, walk down, then take a shuttle back to your car. Drive 2 miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Hwy, which is only for those with disability placards). Turn right on Wolverton Road then follow signs.

 **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from the Generals Highway to the Sherman Tree - Until parking at the Main Trail closes for winter (see above), parking here is only for those with disability placards. You can stop here to drop off people who prefer this accessible trail.

Congress Trail

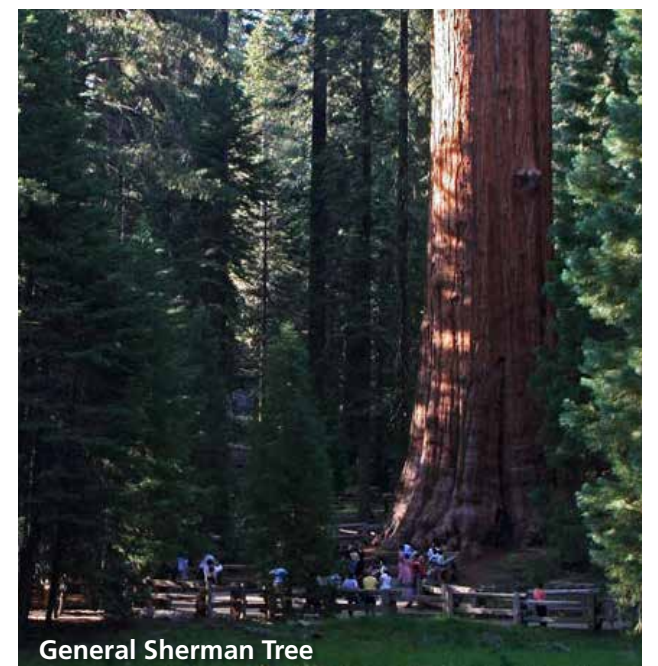
A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of this spectacular sequoia grove, it begins at the General Sherman Tree and winds past meadows and gigantic trees. Enjoy a fall hike!



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!



General Sherman Tree

In 2015, the large Rough Fire burned in this area. Stay on trails. Look and listen for danger: The purplish poodle-dog flowers growing in burned areas contain toxins; do not touch! Burned stumps and ground can be unstable; dead trees can fall any time. Obey closed-area signs.

Grant Grove

Kings Canyon Visitor Center - See page 2.

Grant Tree Trail

General Grant, the world's second largest tree and a national shrine, grows along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. Trail guides are sold at visitor centers & the trailhead. One mile from the visitor center; go north on Highway 180 then follow signs left.

North Grove Loop

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

Panoramic Point Road

A narrow road to a trail to a beautiful Sierran vista. Trailers & RVs prohibited. Go east through the visitor-center parking lot & follow signs. The paved, accessible trail climbs gently to an overlook. This road closes with snow.

Big Stump Basin

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

Cedar Grove

The road into this area in the Kings Canyon closes at noon, 11/13. Many drought-weakened trees here succumbed to insects; be very aware of the potential for falling trees and branches.

Zumwalt Meadow

This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop passes high granite walls, a lush meadow, and the Kings River. Parking is five miles east of Cedar Grove Village. The start of the trail to the end of the boardwalk is accessible with assistance. Trail work on the south side of the loop may result in short, temporary closures.

Canyon View

The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. One mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village on Hwy 180.

Knapp's Cabin

During the Roaring '20s, a California businessman stored gear for lavish fishing trips in this small cabin. East of the village 2 miles on Hwy 180.

Roaring River Falls

A short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. This paved trail has been made more accessible. The trail begins at a parking area 3 miles east of Cedar Grove Village.

Mist Falls

One of the park's largest waterfalls. Don't get close to the edge! Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip from Road's End. Moderately strenuous; 800' elevation gain (mostly in the last 2 miles).

Hotel Creek Trail to Cedar Grove Overlook

Starts 0.2 mile north of the market at North Side Drive & Cedar Lane. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200ft (365 m) elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3 -4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9km) loop.

National Forests and Giant Sequoia National Monument

Giant Sequoia National Monument is part of the Sequoia National Forest next to these parks. Page 9 has details on how national parks and forests differ.

Converse Basin

North of Grant Grove 2 miles. Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Ask at the visitor center about trails. Road closes with snow.

Indian Basin

A one-mile accessible trail & one-mile unpaved trail. On Highway 180, go 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Drive past the dump station to the trailhead parking area.

Hume Lake

Formed by a historic dam, this lake supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) to Sanger! An easy 2½-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Eight miles north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles south on Hume Lake Road. Open year-round.

Buck Rock Lookout

A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11, then take Forest Road 13S04.



The Generals Highway

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

An intense effort to upgrade the highway is underway. For decades, a skin of pavement barely improved the original wagon road. Today's work is building a route that can handle large numbers of modern vehicles without losing the joys of a mountain road. See page 12 for details on traffic delays.

Wayside exhibits at overlooks along this historic road offer insight into the landscape:

Kings Canyon Overlook

View the High Sierra wilderness from this overlook about 6 miles (9.5km) south of Grant Grove.

McGee Vista

Not on the Generals Hwy, but close to it, on 180 north of Grant Grove Village 3 miles. Sunset views.

Redwood Mountain Overlook

Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove on the southwest side of the Generals Highway. Views of one of the world's largest sequoia groves.

Eleven Range Overlook

South of the Giant Forest, this turnout offers views to the west over the foothills and the distant valley.



Foothills Area

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

Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8:00 am–4:30 pm. Details, page 2.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Foothills Visitor Center; Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

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

Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Beautiful exhibits on the amazing giant sequoias. Park store. 1-559-565-4480. See page 2 for hours.

Giant Forest Shuttle (NPS)

Page 6 has details on the free holiday service.

Wolverton

7200' elevation. This picnic area offers good open space for viewing night skies. It becomes a snow-play area once snow builds up. Pay telephone on the restroom building. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Turn onto Wolverton Road to reach the main parking for the Sherman Tree.

Lodgepole

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

Lodgepole Visitor Center

8am-4:30pm. Last day open 10/9. Page 2 has details.

Lodgepole Village (DNC)

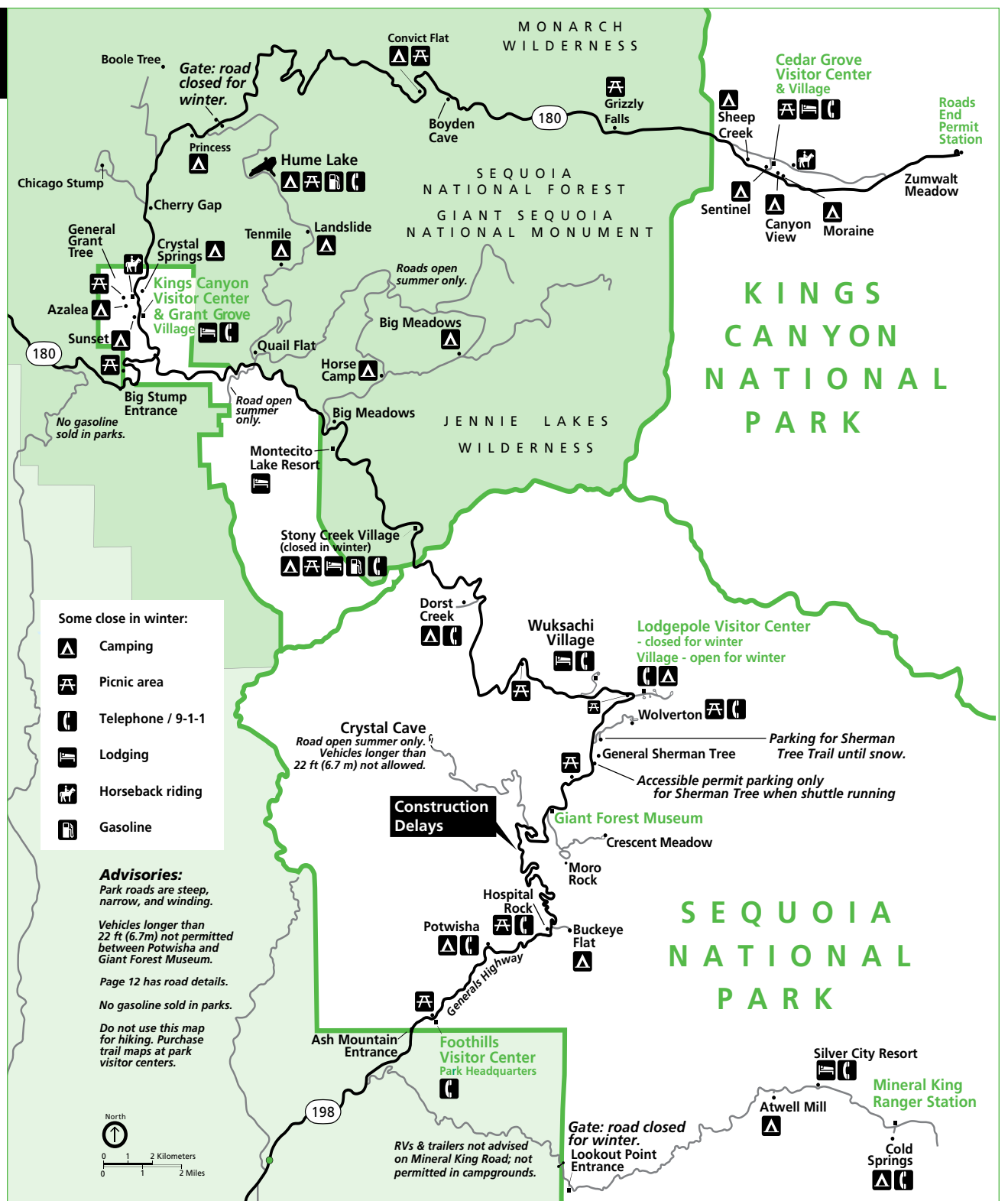
- Market & Gift Shop: Daily 8am–9pm through 10/22 then 9am–5pm (8:30am–6:30pm Friday–Sunday). Supplies, clothing, groceries & prepared foods.
- Grill: 8:00–11:00 am & 11:30 am–8:00 pm through 10/22, then closed for the season.
- Sherman Food Cart: Weekends, 11:00 am–5:00 pm through 9/30.

U.S. Post Office

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

Pay Telephones

Cell phones rarely work. A pay phone is located outside Lodgepole Market.



See page 12 for information about road construction delays and vehicle length limits.

Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. Year-round, 4 miles north of Lodgepole. Desk 24 hours. Pay telephones at main lodge. ATM. Ask about naturalist programs. (DNC)

The Peaks Dining Room

Views of the High Sierra. Daily service 7:00 am–3:00 pm, & 5:00–10:00 pm through 10/22, then 7:30–10:00 am, 11:00 am–2:30 pm, & 5:00–9:00 pm. Reservations required for dinner: call 1-559-625-7700. Box lunches available. Lounge: 3:00–10:00 pm through 10/22 then 2:00–9:00 pm. NEW! Wuksachi Pizza: Currently open daily from 11:00 am–9:00 pm; hours will change in October. Gift Shop: 8am–9pm through 10/22 then 8am–6pm.

Mineral King

The road to Mineral King closes at noon on 10/31. Get gate codes at Foothills Visitor Center.

7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, winding road to a subalpine valley, the highest place you can drive to in these parks. No electricity or gasoline. Pay entrance fee at the machine at Lookout Point entrance near the park boundary. Keep to the right and slow down on this narrow road!

Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground; Sawtooth parking area.

* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Closes for the season on 10/29. Page 5 has details.

Grant Grove

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

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

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

Grant Grove Village (DNC) open all year

- Market: Daily 8am-8pm through 10/22 then 8am-6pm. Food, groceries, supplies, ATM.
- Grant Grove Restaurant Daily 7-10am, 11:30am-4:30pm, 4:30-10pm through 10/22, then 7-10am, 11:30am-3:30pm, 5-9pm. Enjoy meadow views!
- Lodging: 1-559-335-5500. Details, page 5.
- Gift Shop: Daily 8am-8pm; 9am-6pm starting 10/23. Souvenirs, supplies, clothing, ATM.
- Showers: Open daily to campers 9:30am-12:30pm & 2:30-5:30pm. Last day 11/5.
- US Post Office: Monday-Friday 9:00 am-4:00 pm; 24-hour lobby. Send visitor mail c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)
In the village outside the visitor center & market.

Cedar Grove

The highway to Cedarg Grove closes on 11/13. 4600’ elevation. On the South Fork of the Kings River in the Kings Canyon. As you drive, you'll know you've entered the glacial Kings Canyon when the canyon's shape changes from a narrow V to a wide U—right at the park boundary. Autumn in this magnificent canyon is usually peaceful. Take your time on this good but curving road; use pullouts to let others pass and to enjoy the scenery.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (NPS)

Closes for the season on 9/23.

Pay Telephones (cell phones do not work)
Outside lodge & visitor center.

Cedar Grove Village (DNC) - last day 10/22

- Grill: Snack bar. Daily 7:00-10:00 am, 11:30 am-2:30 pm, and 5:00-9:00 pm.
- Lodging: 1-559-335-5500. Details, page 5.

- Gift Shop/Market: Daily 7:00 am-10:00 pm. Sandwiches, supplies, groceries, souvenirs, and an ATM.
- Showers & Laundry: Daily 7:00 am-1:00 pm & 3:00-8:00 pm. Buy tokens at the market.

Wilderness Permits at Road's End (NPS)

Six miles east of the village. Self-issue permits. After 9/22, self-register outside the permit station.

National Forest & Monument

Hume Lake & Big Meadows are in Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. You pass through the monument when you drive between Lodgepole and Grant Grove and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove. Fire restrictions are in place; see page 12.

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)

- Summer near the Big Meadows trailhead.
- Hume Lake (year round).

Hume Lake (on private land)

All year. Open year-round to the public. **Gasoline** available with credit card during store hours. General Store daily; hours vary. Wi-fi (fee). North of Grant Grove 8 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

Montecito Sequoia Lodge (USFS permittee)

Open daily all year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Hotel with wi-fi, cabins, children’s activities; x-c skiing, snowshoeing, tubing. Summer family camp. Buffet meals 7:30 am-9:00 am, 12:00-1:00 pm, and 6:00-7:30pm. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

Last night: 10/13. Buy gasoline 24 hours with a credit card; market 8:00 am-7:00 pm; pizza restaurant 4:00-6:30 pm (later on Friday & Saturday); showers & laundry 9:00 am-6:00 pm. On the Generals Highway 13 miles south of Grant Grove. 800-227-9900; 559-565-3909.

Basic Rules

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

Can I...	In National Parks	In National Forests
Walk my leashed pets?	Not on any trails. OK 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). Certified service dogs only (not assistance or therapy animals); see www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010	Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.
Collect things to take home?	Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.	You may keep a few cones or rocks for personal use.
Hunt?	Not in the Parks. Visitors are responsible for understanding & complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park.	Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.
Drive off-road?	Not in these parks. Stay on roads.	Get specific information on off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
Cut wood?	Not in these parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for wood permits & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
Build fires?	In park, only in fire grills in some campgrounds & some picnic areas.	Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves & lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.
Go fishing?	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
Ride a bicycle?	Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles.
Snowmobile?	Not in these parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.
Fly a drone?	Not in any national park.	Only in accordance with FAA guidance, and not in wilderness areas.



You are Responsible for Your Safety

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

Water is the main cause of death here. In addition to swimmers, many drowning victims walking or climbing near rivers unexpectedly fall in.

The National Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

DROWNING

The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be careful around water; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible: Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Currents are always stronger than they appear, even during low water. Ask at visitor centers about river conditions.

PLAGUE, HANTAVIRUS & WEST NILE

Do not feed or touch ANY wild animals. Avoid areas of rodent activity, as fleas on rodents can carry *plague* and deer mice feces can carry *hantavirus*. *West Nile virus* is passed by bites from infected 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.

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.yourpass-now.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.

After the 2018 summer quota period (5/25 through 9/22/18), permits are free and self-issued 24 hours a day outside the visitor center closest to your trailhead. 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/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness or:

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

Seasonal Wilderness Lodging

- **Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNC):** Open late May into late September, conditions permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) taken by phone starting 7am on the first business day in January: 866-807-3598. See www.visitsequoia.com.
- **Pear Lake Winter Hut (SPC):** Winter only. This historic cabin is high above Lodgepole at an elevation of 9,200 and sleeps ten people. Six strenuous miles on skis/snowshoes get you to its cozy stove and 10 bunkbeds. Reservations are required: 1-559-565-4251.

Gas Up *Outside* the Parks

There are no gas stations within park boundaries.

Fill up in Three Rivers (5 miles from the Highway 198 park entrance), Clingan's Junction (20 miles outside the Highway 180 park entrance), or at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770. Year-round gas and diesel are available when the store is open. Located 11 miles north of Grant Grove via Highway 180.
- Stony Creek Village: Gas is available 24 hours. Open through 10/13, then closed for the season.

Rules & Recommendations

Icy Roads & Trails

Cold fall temperatures lead to slippery roads, especially in the morning and in the shade. Check road conditions before you come. Sudden or stopping causes skids; allow more room between cars. Call 1-559-565-3341 for 24-hour road information.

Don't Lose Your Brakes

Frequent braking causes overheating and brake failure. Instead, when heading downhill, always downshift or put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes.

Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow, call 1-559-565-3341, 24 hours a day. In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA service for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, and minor repairs is available within the park. Call 1-559-625-7700.

Use Turnouts

Let others pass. Use turnouts, not grassy areas.

Always Carry Tire Chains that fit your tires and comply with signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are often required; most cars have them. Check the side of the tire for M/S, M+S, or a snowflake symbol.

Get Snow Off Car Roofs

It slides onto windshields, blocking vision.

Let Wildlife Cross Safely!

Animals appear unexpectedly. Driving slowly is one of the best ways to protect them. Scan roadsides ahead; watch for the glow of eyes at night. Never feed animals along roads, where they are often hit.

Bicycles

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

Vehicle Length Advisories and Winter Road Closures

All dates depend on weather.

Generals Highway:

- From Wuksachi Lodge (in Sequoia) north to Montecito Resort (near Kings Canyon National Park) will be plowed until January 2, weather permitting. Before then, the road will be plowed when possible, but may take time to reopen after winter storms.
- Vehicles longer than 22' are not permitted in the construction zone between Potwisha Campground and Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia National Park.

In Kings Canyon & National Forest:

- Highway 180 to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon: Closed for winter by Caltrans 11/13 just below Hume Lake Junction.
- Panoramic Point Road: Motorhomes and trailers are not permitted. Closes with snow.
- Redwood Mountain road (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS): Unpaved. Close with snow.

In Sequoia National Park:

- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow: Vehicle-length limit is 22'; no trailers or towed units. Closes when impassable due to snow.
- Crystal Cave Road: Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7m), including trailers. Closes after the last cave tour of the season on September 30.
- Mineral King Road: Both gates close at noon on 10/31. Steep, winding, not completely paved. RVs & trailers not recommended and are not permitted in campgrounds. Gate codes are available at Foothills Visitor Center.
- South Fork & Middle Fork roads: These roads are partially unpaved and slippery when wet. Middle Fork Road closes in winter. To hike on Middle Fork Trail, park at Hospital Rock and walk along the road to the trailhead.



Construction Delays

Generals Highway Road Construction

Vehicles longer than 22 feet are NOT permitted from Hospital Rock to Giant Forest Museum. The construction zone is on the Generals Highway between Amphitheater Point Overlook and Crystal Cave Road (see map, page 8). Traffic is held by flaggers or traffic lights at either end of the zone on the following schedule (after hour-long delays, pass-throughs are on the hour; uphill traffic first).

Delays through October 24:

Weekdays from 5:00 am - 7:00 am

Delays of up to 20 minutes.

Weekdays from 7:00 am - 8:00 am

Delays of up to 1 hour.

Sunday-Thursday Nights

The highway is closed from 8:00 pm - 6:00 am; with pass-throughs at 8:00 pm and 11:30 pm.

Weekends (5:00 pm on Friday through 8:00 pm on Sunday)

Delays of up to 20 minutes.

For updates and tips on timing your travel to minimize wait times at the construction zone, check at visitor centers for posted information.

Fire danger is high! Smoking is not permitted outside of vehicles in the construction zone.

Always use low gear on downhills to avoid overheated brakes, which can start fires. Beware of narrow, rough roads in construction areas, especially for motorcycles or bicycles. Do not stop in the construction zone.

Fire Restrictions

Restrictions are in place to reduce the risk of unwanted human-caused fires. Because dead vegetation can still be dry after rain, restrictions may still be in place after storms. Signs show locations where wood or charcoal fires are prohibited, especially in campgrounds. Restrictions remain until winter rains improve dangerously dry conditions.

Check for updates on park bulletin boards, at visitor centers, or visit go.nps.gov/sekifirerestrictions.

The Generals Highway

