

Visitor Guide: Summer 2013

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



Less water, higher fire danger

On May 1, the amount of water in the snow in these mountains was the third lowest in 60 years—10% of average.

Plants and animals native to the parks adjust their lifestyles to this water shortage, and so must we. Throughout the state, we need to conserve water until fall rains return. Some facilities may be limited by water shortages.

Given how very dry the landscape has gotten, we also need to be especially careful with fire.

Give nature a hand and follow the requests and requirements of such a dry season. Obey fire restrictions, which may get tighter as summer goes on. Neighboring national forests have even stricter limits on fires. Check for details at bulletin boards or visitor centers:

- As of July 1, no wood or barbecue fires are permitted below 6,000 feet in the parks. (Giant Forest and Grant Grove lie at about 6,500 feet.)

This means no fires in Ash Mountain, Hospital Rock, or Cedar Grove picnic areas or campgrounds. Only gas or propane stoves may be used at all elevations. No fireworks anywhere.

- Wood or barbecue fires are not permitted at any elevation in the wilderness or backcountry.
- No smoking is permitted at any elevation, except within 30 feet (9m) of a fire-safe ashtray provided outside

park buildings, hotels, and some developed areas; in campgrounds above 6,000 feet; or in an enclosed vehicle or building that allows smoking. Smokers: stay in one place while smoking. Crush matches and butts until they are cold and don't leave them on the ground.

Park staff strive to reduce water use in a number of ways. Your added efforts to save water are appreciated by all the life that shares this landscape.



HOT DRY SUMMERS and cool damp winters define the climate of these parks, but the dry season started early this year. Many plants were as dry in June as they would usually be in August. Life will adapt as best it can. Plants are shedding leaves and may go dormant earlier. Animals may adjust the size and timing of their litters, and change the timing of migration.

In This Issue

Activities: Crystal Cave tours, Ranger programs.... 5

Bears & food storage 11

Camping 4

Exploring:
Sequoia NP & Shuttle 6
Kings Canyon NP & USFS.. 7

Facilities & hours 8-9

Lodging 5

Map..... 8

Nature & ecosystems 3

Phone numbers 2

Rules & regs: some basics ... 5

Road information, delays.. 12

Safety 10

Shuttle to Giant Forest 6

Visitor centers 2

Wilderness permits 11

Telephone & Internet

911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911

No coins needed in payphones.

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 for roads/weather/fire, press 1; camping/lodging 2; wilderness 4; and more.

GPS, Web & Social Media

GPS programs sometimes misdirect travellers in this area. Use maps and signs, or ask for directions.

The only official park information sources online:



Website:
nps.gov/seki



Facebook:
Sequoia and Kings
Canyon National Parks



Twitter:
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

Wi-Fi

At lobbies in Wuksachi and John Muir lodges, Grant Grove Restaurant, and at Montecito Lake Resort (see *Lodging* page 5).

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 visita.

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

Each offers different exhibits and films. They sell many items including books, maps, hats, and postcards. All purchases support the parks!

Cedar Grove Visitor Center in Kings Canyon (NPS) Tues.-Sunday 9am-5pm. 1-559-565-3793.

Foothills Visitor Center in Sequoia

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm. 1-559-565-4212. Crystal Cave tickets sold only here & at Lodgepole Visitor Center (see details on page 5). Get local wilderness permits at the Wilderness Office (behind the visitor center) Monday-Saturday (& 7/7 & 9/1); Sundays at the visitor center.

Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia

(NPS) Daily 9am-6pm (4:30 pm starting 9/2). No payphone; closest at Lodgepole & Wolverton.

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 8am-5pm through 9/1, then 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. Local wilderness permits issued 8am-4pm through 9/1, then self-issue. 1-559-565-4307.

Lodgepole Visitor Center in Sequoia

(NPS) Daily 7am-6pm; 7pm starting 6/15. Starting 9/2, 7am-5pm. Movie on bears; local wilderness permits. Crystal Cave tickets sold only here & at Foothills Visitor Center (see page 5). 559-565-4436.

Mineral King Ranger Station in Sequoia

(NPS) Daily 8am-4pm. Information, local wilderness permits. 1-559-565-3768.

USFS Hume Lake District Office

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



Partners in the Parks

The following organizations work together to protect these lands, provide services, and publish this guide, first printed in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*. Editor: NPS - Malinee Crapsey. Publisher: SNHA. Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

National Park Service (NPS) - federal agency
1-559-565-3341, nps.gov/seki

Forest Service (FS) - federal agency
1-559-784-1500, fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Geological Survey (USGS) - federal agency
1-559-565-3171, werc.usgs.gov

Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) - non-profit
1-559-565-3759, sequoiahistory.org

Sequoia Parks Foundation (SPF) - non-profit
1-559-739-1668, sequoiaparksfoundation.org

DNC Parks and Resorts @ Sequoia (DNC) - concessioner
1-888-252-5757, visitsequoia.com

Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS) - concessioner
1-866-KCANYON (522-6966), sequoia-kingscanyon.com



Connect to your national park with SNHA!

The Sequoia Natural History Association commits itself to enriching visitor experiences and promoting awareness of public lands through educational programs, publications, and financial support. This non-profit funds education, interpretation, research, and preservation of the natural and cultural history at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

SNHA does all this for you and the parks:

- Offers EdVenture classes, Sequoia Field Institute courses, & guide services - see page 5!
- Rents bear-resistant food containers
- Provides the Park Partnership program
- Operates visitor center stores
- Provides free & low-cost school programs
- Purchases supplies for ranger programs
- Operates Beetle Rock Education Center
- Funds exhibits & research projects
- Manages Pear Lake Ski Hut
- Publishes park books & maps
- Provides visitor information
- Supports protection of black bears
- Provides in-park volunteer opportunities
- Publishes 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. 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 frequently as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes. Two of these resulted in 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 and they 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. Natural fires used to burn these away frequently. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels feed bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous

for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. Now, to protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service works 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 resource conditions. Strong evidence shows that we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists 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 tells us that excluding this important 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 waterways 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 on gear. Check boots & waders thoroughly for this little invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



4

Camping

Check regulations at each campground. Rules vary between the Park & the National Forest (see details on page 9). Each standard campsite has a table & fire ring with grill. No hook-ups in the park.

Food must be stored correctly all year, due to black bears. See page 11.

Summer reservations for Lodgepole & Dorst (in Sequoia NP) & reservable campgrounds (* on chart to the right) in National Forest (FS) are available up to 6 months in advance of date desired: www.recreation.gov; 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST, 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

Group Sites & Maximum Group Sizes

Up to 6 people: Many campgrounds limit a site to 1 vehicle & 6 people. Check locally for variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.
7 to 19 people: Summer only, first-come/first-served sites: groups of 7-15 at Crystal Springs; groups 7-19 at Canyon View, \$35/site.
Larger groups: Reservations for large-group sites in Dorst, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove in the national park or in the national forest: 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov.

Fire Restrictions Are In Place

See page 1 and check bulletin boards.

- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees.
- Firewood: Please don't transport it. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find or buy wood close to where you will use it. If you brought wood, please burn it up.
- Fires must be out before you leave.
- The national forest (FS) requires free campfire permits from Hume Lake Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), a FS ranger, or download at www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia.

Propane Canisters

Do not put propane or fuel canisters in park trash-cans or leave them here. Recycle them at home.

Roadside Camping?

Not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument: Permitted unless posted otherwise.

Quiet & Generator Hours

Music should be audible in your site only.

Use generators 9am-9pm only. At Lodgepole & Dorst use them 8-11am & 5-8pm only.

RV & Trailer Length Limits

Check limits & advisories on back page. There are limited spaces for RVs over 30 feet.

Campgrounds: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Foot hills Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low elevation.
Potwisha - 40 sites Open all year	\$18	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Buckeye Flat - 28 sites Open 5/22 - 9/30.	\$18 No RVs or trailers	River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
South Fork - 10 sites Open. No drinking water.	\$12 May - October No RVs or trailers.	Piped non-potable water 5/22-10/12. Vault toilets. River nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	No RVs or trailers. No electricity or gasoline.
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Opens 5/22-10/15.	\$12 No water starting 10/19	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food, showers nearby at Silver City. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Cold Springs - 40 sites Opens 5/30-10/15.	\$12	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City. Bear boxes in varied sizes.
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700'	*Reservations recommended in summer
*Lodgepole - 205 sites	\$20.	Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Food, showers, laundry, river nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long, 33"deep, 28" high.
*Dorst - 210 sites Open through 9/3.	\$20. Due to water shortage, advance reservations discontinued.	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28" high. Free shuttle to Giant Forest through 9/8.
Grant Grove Area	Elevation 6500'	
Azalea - 110 sites Open all year	\$18	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Crystal Springs - 50 sites Open 7/1-9/4.	Tent/RV standard sites \$18 Group sites \$35.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, showers in summer. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Sunset - 157 sites Opens 5/22-9/4.	\$18	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, showers in summer. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	Water shortages may affect campground availability.
Sentinel - 83 sites Open 5/22-29 & 7/1-9/4.	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Opens by 5/22-10/15.	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Canyon View - 12 sites Opens by 5/22-9/30.	\$35, No RVs or trailers. Groups of 7-19 only	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Moraine - 120 sites Open as needed.	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
FIRE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE. WATER SHORTAGES MAY AFFECT CAMPGROUNDS. ASK FOR DETAILS.		
Campgrounds: Sequoia National Forest (FS)		
Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
*Princess - 88 sites Open 5/10-9/29.	\$20 single Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Dump station \$10. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
*Hume Lake - 74 sites Open 5/10-9/29.	\$22 single Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Tenmile - 13 sites Open 5/10-9/29.	\$18 single No drinking water.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high. No services after 10/1.
Landslide - 9 sites Open 5/10-9/29.	\$18 single	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Convict Flat - 5 sites	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	*Reservable in summer.
*Stony Creek - 49 sites Open 5/10-9/29.	\$22 single Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high.
*Upper Stony - 18 sites Open 5/10-9/29.	\$18 Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, laundry, & showers nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11, Big Meadow - 45 sites	Free. No water. Close with snowfall.	Vault toilets. Big Meadow has bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
FIRE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN PLACE. ASK FOR DETAILS.		

Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9.

Sequoia National Park

Wuksachi Village

(DNC) All year. Reservations 1-888-252-5757; www.visitsequoia.com. North of Lodgepole two miles. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

Kings Canyon National Park

Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge

(KCPS) All year. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts. Showers (summer only).

Cedar Grove Lodge in Kings Canyon

(KCPS) Mid May through mid-October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Motel, restaurant, laundry, market, showers.

Sequoia National Forest

Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; desk 1-559-565-3388; www.mslodge.com. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, seasonal & children's activities.

Stony Creek Resort (FS permittee)

(KCPS) Mid-May to mid-October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Hotel, pizza, market, showers, gasoline, laundry.

Big Meadows Cabin (FS)

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

Private Land within Park/Forest

*** Note:** These two facilities on private land surrounded by national park or forest cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by these agencies.

* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Late May to mid-October. 1-559-561-3223; www.silvercityresort.com. Cabins, supplies, showers. No gasoline. Store, restaurant/bakery Thursday-Monday 8am-8pm; Tuesday-Wednesday 9am-5pm (pie & coffee only; no meals).

* Kings Canyon Lodge (private)

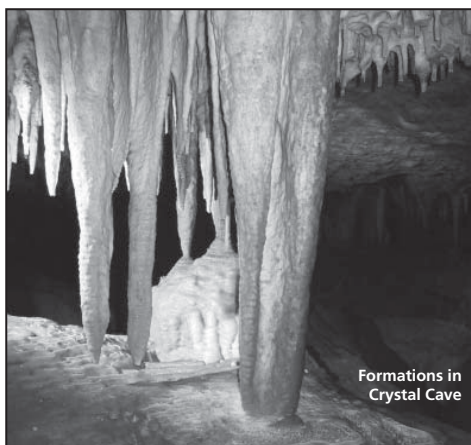
Open late April to mid-November. Reservations: 1-559-335-2405. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove. Lodge, food, gasoline.

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

5



Formations in Crystal Cave

Crystal Cave Tours

Tickets sold only at Lodgepole & Foothills visitor centers, not at the cave. Buy tickets at least 1½ hours in advance (see traffic-delay information on back page).

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles from the Sequoia Park entrance at Hwy 198; 3 miles south of Sherman Tree (map, page 8). Maximum vehicle length on the road is 22'. Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes; the ½-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep. Wear a jacket; it's 50°F (10°C) inside. No backpacks, fannypacks, strollers, or tripods. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about group, wild-cave, and school tours, plus other options: 1-559-565-3759. Tours are weather-dependent and subject to change.

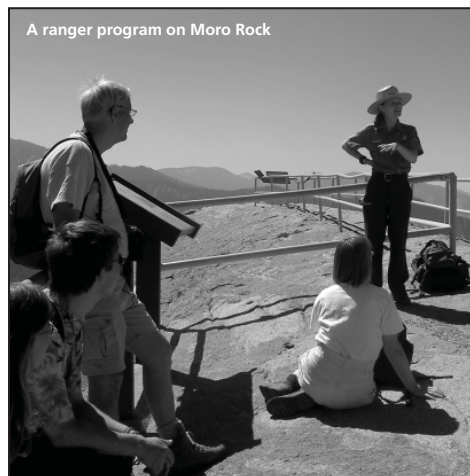
45-Minute Cave Tours Daily

- **Saturday/Sunday:** Until 6/16, 11am-4pm on the hour. Starting 6/22, every ½ hour 10am-5pm. Extra tours July 4th & Labor Day weekends.
- **Weekdays until 6/14:** 11am, noon, 2pm, 3pm. Starting 6/17, every ½ hour 10:30am-4:30pm.

Fees: Age 5-12 \$8; age 13-61 \$15; age 4 & under \$3; Golden Age (age 62 & up) & Golden Access pass-holders \$13. Veteran, military and SNHA member discounts! National Park & Interagency passes do not apply.

Special tours for special interests:

- **Junior Caver tours** 6/20-8/21, Tuesday-Wednesday 1pm. Ages 8 to 12. \$30.
- **Historic tours** 6/27-8/18. Thursday-Friday 5:30pm, Saturday-Sunday 6pm. \$18.
- **Discovery tours** 6/24-8/16. Weekdays at 4:15pm. \$18.
- **Adult tours** Age 18 and up only. 6/21-9/2. Friday-Sunday mornings, first tour of the day.



A ranger program on Moro Rock

Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Check schedules in the Foothills, Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove for evening campfire talks and other activities.

Junior Ranger Program - free

For ages 5 and up! Pick up a free booklet at any visitor center and finish the activities for your age group to earn a badge. Ask about special programs!

Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly join SFI guides to see, paint, photograph, or write while on trail, ski, snowshoe, boat! SNHA members receive discounts on many programs & activities. Contact 1-559-565-4251 or sfi@sequoiahistory.org and learn more!

Local Teachers, Take Note!

Invite a ranger to your classroom or visit the parks for a hands-on, curriculum-based program led by a ranger. Call 1-559-565-4211 for details.

Touring on Horseback

Hourly rides, spot trips, guided trips. Closing dates depend on weather.



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

Grant Grove Early June to September: 1-559-335-9292 summer

Horse Corral Late May through September: On Big Meadows Road, 8 miles east of Generals Hwy in Sequoia National Forest. 1-559-565-3404 summer, 1-559-679-3573 cell

Review safety tips on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers. Carry a map or trail guide (sold at visitor centers). Store food properly while you explore.

The Foothills

The low elevations host more different plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined!

Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Hours on page 2.

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. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always store food to keep it away from bears; never leave it unattended.

Marble Falls Trail

Climbs 3.7 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a waterfall. Park across the highway from Potwisha (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.

Paradise Creek

Park at Hospital Rock. Walk to Buckeye Flat Campground, take the path across from site #28 across the footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

Giant Forest

Giant Forest Museum

See page 2 for details. Shuttle stop through 9/8.

Big Trees Trail

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

Congress Trail

A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the grove. Begins at the Sherman Tree.

General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree. Through 9/8, a free shuttle stops at each one:

- **Main Trail** - This 1/2-mile trail down to the tree has some stairs; the walk back is uphill. Drive two miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Hwy only for those with

disabled placards). Turn right on Wolverton Road; follow signs. Shuttle stop starting 5/23.

 **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from the Generals Hwy to the Sherman Tree. Parking there is for those with disabled placards only. If you have no placard but can't make the hill on the main trail, ask at a visitor centers for a temporary permit. Shuttle stop through 9/8.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. See page 12 for details on weekend/holiday closures of this road. Highlights:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular mountain views. Two miles from Generals Highway. Shuttle stop through 9/8.
- **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 around a fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails; use

only fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here: including the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia; and the High Sierra Trail (60 miles/97 km to Mt. Whitney (14,500 feet/4419 m), highest in the lower 48 states. Shuttle stop.

Lodgepole

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Exhibits, films. Details, page 2. Shuttle stop.

Tokopah Falls Trail

1.7 miles (2.7 km) to cliffs & a waterfall. Be careful! Start in Lodgepole Campground (shuttle stop). 500-foot/152-meter elevation gain; 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

Little Baldy Trail

Ascends 700 vertical feet in 1.7 miles (2.7 km) to a rocky summit and grand view. Start at Little Baldy Saddle, on the Generals Hwy 9 miles north of General Sherman Tree. Allow 3 to 4 hours round trip.

Mineral King

See page 8 for details.

See Sequoia By Shuttle

Lodgepole-Wuksachi-Dorst Route

Free. 30 minute service 9am - 6pm. Service to Dorst starting 7/1. Stops at Wuksachi going both directions.

Giant Forest Route

Free. Giant Forest Museum to Lodgepole, stopping at the Sherman Tree. Every 15 minutes 9am - 6pm. 1/2-hour ride one way.

Wolverton - Sherman Tree Route

Free. Stops at main Sherman trail & at the accessible trail to the tree on Generals Hwy. Every 20 minutes from 9am - 6:30pm.

Moro Rock - Crescent Meadow Route

Free. Leaves Giant Forest Museum every 15 minutes 9am - 6pm. 15-minute round trip. Moro Rock stop only on outbound trip. Road closed to private vehicles 9am-4pm on weekends & holidays (page 12).

Giant Forest - Visalia Route

\$15 round trip. No additional park entrance fee. Reservations required; call 1-877-BUS-HIKE or sequoia shuttle.com. 2-hour ride each way. Buses leave Visalia for Giant Forest every hour from 6am - 10am. Buses leave Giant Forest for Visalia every hour from 2:30pm - 6:30pm. In-park shuttle questions: 559-565-4436.



Exploring Kings Canyon National Park & nearby forest lands

7

Review safety tips on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers. Carry a map or trail guide (sold at visitor centers). Be safe! Store food properly while you explore.

Grant Grove

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (NPS)

Exhibits/film in English & Spanish. Details, page 2.

Grant Tree Trail

This 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail visits one of the world's three largest trees and the Nation's Christmas Tree since 1926. Trail guides sold at visitor center. North then west of the center 1 mile (1.6 km).

North Grove Loop

This lightly traveled, 1/2-mile (2.4 km) trail offers a close look at Big Trees and a quiet forest walk. Start at Grant Tree overflow-parking area.

Panoramic Point Road

A narrow road up to a Sierran vista. Trailers/RVs not recommended. Go east through visitor-center parking & follow signs. Park Ridge Trail (4 miles/6.4 km round-trip) begins here.

Redwood Mountain Sequoia Grove

One of the world's largest groves. Research here revealed the positive link between sequoias and fire. Across Generals Highway from Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (7 miles south of Grant Grove). Turn right (west) at Redwood Saddle; go 2 miles to parking lot.

Big Baldy Ridge

Great views over Redwood Canyon from the top (8209 feet); elevation gain 600 feet (183m). Round trip 4 miles (6.4km). From Grant Grove, go 8 miles (13km) south on Generals Highway to trailhead.

Kings Canyon & Cedar Grove

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (NPS)

Stop in Wednesday-Sunday. Hours on page 2.

Canyon View

The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village Road.

Knapp's Cabin

During the Roaring '20s, a California businessman stored gear in this small cabin for lavish fishing trips. Two miles east of the village road.

Roaring River Falls

A very short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. East of the Village 3 miles. Paved, accessible with assistance.

Zumwalt Meadow

This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop passes high granite walls, lush meadows, and the Kings River. Parking is 4 1/2 miles east of Cedar Grove Village road. Buy a trail guide at the visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

Mist Falls

One of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4 - 5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip from Road's End. 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles.

Hotel Creek Trail

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

National Forest (USFS)

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest which abuts the park.

Converse Basin

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

Indian Basin

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

Hume Lake

Formed by a rare, historic dam, the lake supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) to Sanger. An easy 2 1/2-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Eight miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

Buck Rock Lookout

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



The Kings Canyon

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, by connecting the General Sherman Tree to the General Grant Tree, earns its name.

For decades, a skin of pavement barely improved the original wagon road. An effort is underway to build a route that can handle today's large numbers of modern vehicles, without losing the joys of a mountain road. See page 12 for safe-driving tips.

Wayside exhibits at overlooks along this historic road offer insight into these parks:

• Kings Canyon Overlook

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

• 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.

• Amphitheater Point

View the sweep of life zones from high to low from this spot between Giant Forest and the Foothills.



Generals Highway in Giant Forest

Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

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

Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Hours & details on page 2.

Crystal Cave (NPS)

A major park highlight! Buy tickets well in advance at Foothills or Lodgepole visitor centers. See details, page 3.

Giant Forest Shuttle (NPS): 9am to 6pm. Details & map, page 6.

Lodgepole

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

Lodgepole Visitor Center (NPS)

Hours & details on page 2. Buy cave tickets here.

Village Center Shops (DNC)

- Market, Gift Shop, & Laundry: Daily 8am-8pm through 9/2, then 9am-6pm. Last laundry in 1 hour before closing.
- Snack Bar: Daily 8am-7:45pm through 9/2, then weekends only 9am-6pm.
- Deli: Daily 11am-6pm through 9/2.
- Showers: Daily 8am-1pm & 3-7:45pm.

U.S. Post Office

Weekdays 10:30-2:30pm; lobby 24 hours. Address visitor mail: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262. 1-559-565-3678.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)
Outside visitor center & market.

Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. (DNC) Year-round service, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree.

Dining Room: Daily 7-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-10pm, lounge 5-10pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070.

Wuksachi Lodge

Details on page 5. Pay telephones at main lodge.

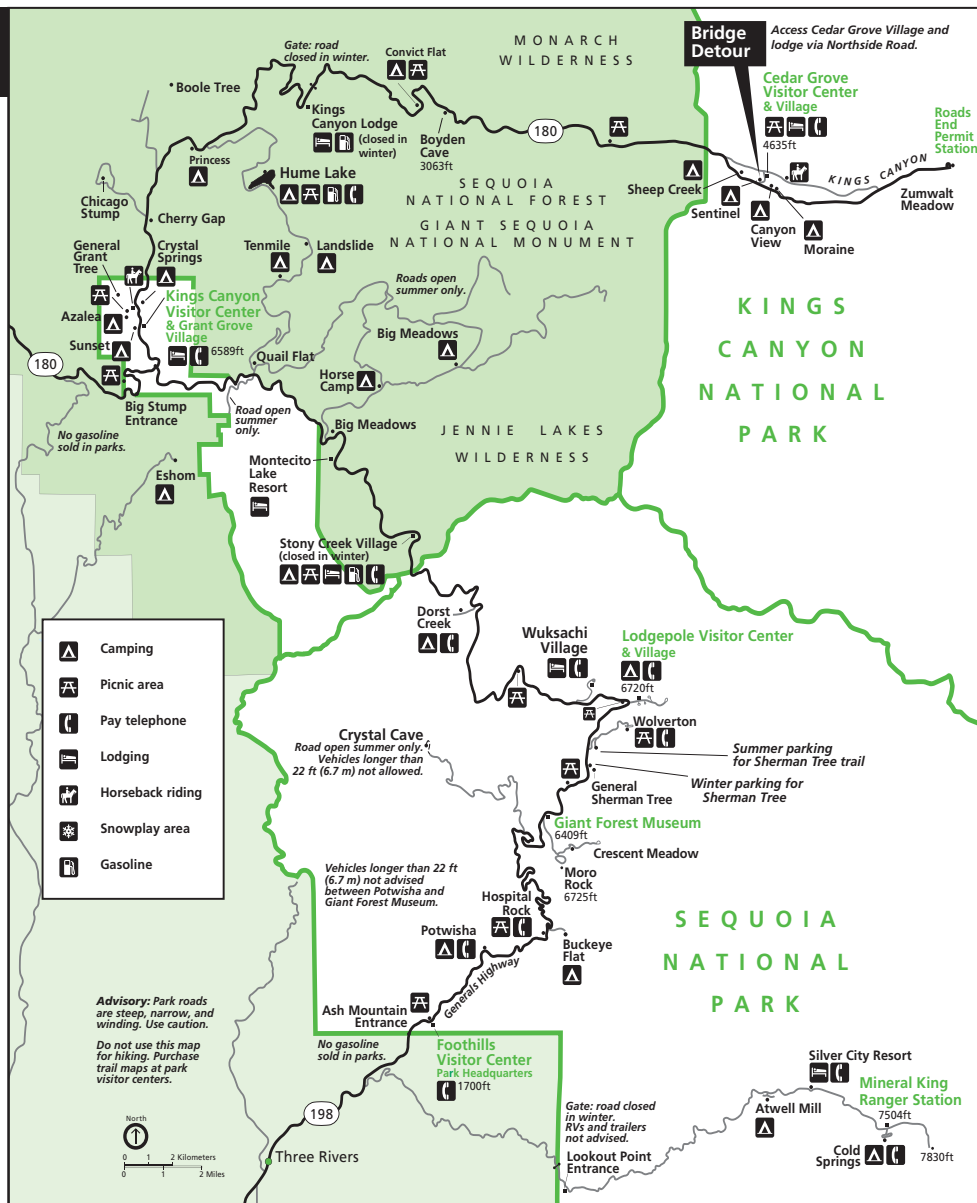
Gift Shop

Daily 8am-8pm in main lodge.

Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Summer picnic area. Shuttle stop through 9/8.

Wolverton BBQ & Dinner Theater (DNC): Nightly through 9/1, weather permitting. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat outdoor dinner while you hear



family-friendly tales of park history. Tickets sold at Lodgepole Market and Wuksachi Lodge until 2pm.

Mineral King Area

7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, winding road to a subalpine valley. No electricity or gasoline.

Ranger Station (NPS)

8am-4pm. See page 2.

Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area. Cell phones rarely work.

Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Pay telephone. 1-559-561-3223; silvercityresort.com. See details on page 5.

Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Park headquarters is at Ash Mountain.

Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8am-4:30pm. See page 2. Buy cave tickets here.

Pay Telephones

(cell phones rarely work)
Visitor Center near front door. Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom).



Facilities: Kings Canyon Area & USFS

9

Grant Grove

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

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS)

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

Village Center (KCPs)

- Restaurant: Daily 7am-3pm & 5-9pm. Pizza available 3-9pm.
- Gift Shop & Market: Daily 8am-9pm. ATM, supplies, clothing, souvenirs, food, sandwiches, emergency gasoline.
- Lodging: Desk 7am-midnight in restaurant building. 1-559-335-5500. Details on page 5.
- Showers: Daily 11am-4pm. Ask at front desk.

U.S. Post Office

Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-4 pm; 24-hour lobby. Send visitor mail to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); and outside gift shop & market.

Cedar Grove Road

4600' elevation. A glaciated U-shaped valley with granite cliffs and the South Fork of the Kings River.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (NPS)

Open Wednesday-Sunday, details on page 2. Ranger programs start 6/14.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside lodge & visitor center.

Cedar Grove Village Center (KCPs)

- Restaurant: Counter-service meals & snack bar; not full service. Daily 7am-2pm & 5-8pm. Starting 9/3, reduced hours.
- Gift Shop & Market: Daily 7am-8pm through 8/17, then 8am-7pm. Sandwiches, supplies.
- Showers: Daily 8am-1pm & 3-6pm.
- Lodging: See page 5. Front desk 7am-8pm.

Wilderness Permits (NPS)

At Road's End, 6 miles east of the village. Daily 7am-3:45pm. Map sales, bear canister rentals.

Horseback Riding: Details on page 5.

National Forest & Monument

Hume Lake & Big Meadows Areas: You enter Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, between Lodgepole and Grant Grove and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove.

USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS)

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); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

Lodging - Details on page 5.

Hume Lake (on private land)

All year. Open to the public: 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card). Market & snack shop. North of Grant Grove 8 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

Boyden Cavern Tours (FS permittee)

Daily cave tours 11am-4pm. Gift shop. Ask about evening flashlight tours & other trips. On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Ages 13 & up \$13.50; 4-12 \$8.50; 3 and younger free. AAA discount. Senior/access pass discounts do not apply. School/group reservations: 888-965-8243.

Stony Creek Resort (FS permittee)

On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. Daily. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. Market/front desk 7am-8pm Sunday-Thursday (9pm Friday-Saturday). Pizza parlor/salad bar 11am-7:30pm (9pm Friday-Saturday). Showers/laundry 9am-6pm. 1-866-KCANYON; 1-559-565-3909.

Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. On public land. On Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Meals 8am-9am, 12-1pm, 6-7pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities, Wi-Fi. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

Horseback Riding - In Big Meadows area. Details on page 5.

Gasoline Sales

All year at Hume Lake; summer at Stony Creek & Kings Canyon Lodge. Hours on page 12.

National Parks (NPS) & National Forests (USFS): These areas lie next to each other, so your visit may include both. Some activities are illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. Keep track of which you are in!

Where can I...

In National Park



In National Forest



Walk my leashed pets?

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

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.

Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.

Hunt?

Not in the Parks. 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 the 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 the Parks.

Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.

Build fires?

Restrictions in place; always check first. Ask why bringing firewood in from far away is not advised.

Restrictions in place. When permitted, free fire permits required, even for gas stoves/lanterns, at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.

Go fishing?

In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California state fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for information on 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: Be careful & courteous near people & horses.

Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.

You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Icy or uneven ground, wild animals, and changing weather pose dangers. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims just walking or climbing near rivers unexpectedly fell 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.

DISEASE CAUTIONS

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.

TICKS are common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



WEST NILE VIRUS is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

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 respond 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 clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

RATTLESNAKES

Found in much of these parks; especially common in the foothills 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; call a ranger or 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, e.g. 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.

WEAK CELL SIGNALS

Cell phones rarely work here; don't rely on them. Note location of pay telephones (pages 8 & 9).

MOUNTAIN LIONS

Cougars roam throughout the 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 or try to hide.
- 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! Prevent illegal marijuana growing. Report any 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 may fall, whether or not they appear dead. When under trees, stay aware. Run if you hear cracks or snapping overhead. Don't linger under dead, cracked, or broken branches. Report falling branches or trees to a ranger.

Explore Safely

- Avoid going alone, and tell someone your plans and return time.
- Take a map and a jacket.
- Watch and listen for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.
- Beware of trails and sidewalks slippery with sand, water, ice, or leaves.
- Slow down. Share the road with people and wildlife.

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 (or "lockers") are provided.

Picnickers

Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

Lodge Guests

Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.



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 canister. 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 or buy a canister at visitor centers or markets.

Everyone

Don't let bears approach you, 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. Abandoning your food teaches bears that approaching humans is acceptable. However, if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Wilderness

11

Wilderness Overnights

Wild places are hazardous and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Know and follow restrictions, as they protect both the environment and your experience.



Permits

Required for overnights (not day hikes). Issued in summer (reservations available) and self-issued the rest of the year at locations near your trailhead. Be sure to ask about fire restrictions and smoking.

Quotas & Permits: Each trail has a daily entry quota and a required wilderness camping fee (\$15) between late May and late September. Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date within the quota season are accepted starting March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date. Permits must be picked up the afternoon before (starting at 1pm) or by 9am on the day of departure at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead.

Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (FS): 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 permits for any open flame; downloadable from www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia. Check for fire restrictions.

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 www.nps.gov/seki or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

Seasonal Wilderness Lodgings

• **Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNC):** Operated by DNPS mid-June to mid-September, weather permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) taken starting at 7am on January 2; www.visitsequoia.com, 1-888-252-5757.

• **Pear Lake Ski Hut:** Winter only. The hut sits in a basin high above Lodgepole at 9,200 feet elevation. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. Operated by SNHA. Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759. Check www.sequoiahistory.org for details.

Your fees help the Parks & the Forest!

Most fees get invested right here, improving and protecting these parks: They repair roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They update visitor centers, exhibits, and slide programs. For more on these and commercial fees, ask park staff or search www.nps.gov/seki for "fees."

Passes to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks plus Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest):

• **7-day pass:** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.

• **12-Month Pass:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle. Not valid at Crystal Cave.

Passes to National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands Nationwide:

• **Annual:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Annual Military:** Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD173.

• **Seniors:** \$10 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Accessibility:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documents to entrance stations (not valid at Crystal Cave).

Gasoline Stations

No gas stations within the park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770. Year-round 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village: 1-559-565-3909. Available 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: 1-559-335-2405. Gas sold 9am-dark, usually. 17 miles (27 km) from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

Narrow Winding Roads

In Kings Canyon & National Forest:

- **Panoramic Point Road:** Motorhomes/trailers not permitted.
- **Redwood Mountain road (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS):** Unpaved.

In Sequoia National Park:

- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Vehicle-length limit is 22'; no trailers or towed units. When shuttle operates (through 9/8: see page 6), single vehicles more than 22 feet long are prohibited. Closures: On weekends, holidays, & July 4-7, private vehicles are prohibited on this road 9am-4pm. Exception: those with valid disabled-parking placards or a wilderness permit for that trailhead. See more information on page 6.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Maximum vehicle cumulative length 22' (6.7m).
- **Mineral King Road:** Steep, winding, not completely paved. RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds).
- **South Fork & Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.



Vehicle Length Advisory

Vehicles longer than 22' are not advised between Potwisha Campground and Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia National Park due to Federal Highways advisories.

Vehicles longer than 24' are not advised between Foothills Visitor Center and Potwisha Campground in Sequoia National Park.

Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car, camp in the foothills and use the car. See page 4 for camping. See *Narrow Winding Roads*, below, for more.

Driving Mountain Roads

Prevent Car Fires

Hot brakes & mufflers can easily start fires. Stop only on paved areas, not on grasses.

Don't Lose Your Brakes

If you brake too often, brakes may overheat and fail. Instead, always downshift on the downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder but will save your brakes.

Avoid Overheated Engines

If the temperature gauge starts to go up or the light comes on, especially on the uphill, turn off the air conditioner and turn on the fan. If the engine fails, pull into a paved area, lift the hood, and wait awhile for it to cool. If the problem is vapor lock, this may take care of it.

Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 565-4070.

GPS Errors

GPS units may misdirect you on these roads. Confirm your route via map, signs, or asking someone.

Bicycles

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

Use Turnouts

Always pull over at turnouts to let others pass, both as a courtesy and in case of emergencies.

Let wildlife cross safely!

Animals often start across the road unexpectedly. Slowing down is one of the best ways to protect them. Scan roadsides ahead, watch for the glow of their eyes at night, and never leave food or litter that might attract animals along roadsides.



Leopard lily

Also called tiger or panther lily, this plant of moist places grows from a bulb that is eaten by some mammals.

Detours & Delays



See bulletin boards at visitor centers, visit www.nps.gov/seki, or contact the park for details.

Generals Highway

At Amphitheater Point (between Hospital Rock & Giant Forest): Occasional daytime delays up to 15 minutes in early July. Watch for flaggers. Always downshift when going downhill.

New Cedar Grove Bridge

The bridge between Hwy 180 and Cedar Grove Village is being replaced. Vehicles and pedestrians: Access the village and lodge via the detour on Northside Road. Large vehicles/ trailers use Lewis Creek Trailhead as a turnaround. Work is scheduled 8am-7pm on weekdays.

Other Road Repairs

Intermittent delays may occur for annual roadside maintenance. Thanks for your patience!

Driving Times in good weather

From Foothills to:

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

From Giant Forest to:

Grant Grove via Generals Hwy	1 hour
------------------------------	--------

From Grant Grove to:

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