

Summer 2014 - Visitor Guide

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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



Celebrating 50 Years of Wilderness!

For fifty years now, Americans have overseen and cherished a national system of wilderness areas. Wilderness lands in 44 states protect the water, air, wildlife habitat, natural ecosystems, ancient sites, and scenic beauty that inspire us both first hand and from a distance. Here in Sequoia and Kings Canyon, over 96% of the landscape is both park and wilderness.

Exactly what makes *wilderness*? The word and the experience mean something different to everyone, but the 1964 Wilderness Act provides a definition. It is a place, the law says, where "man himself is a visitor who does not remain." It offers opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude, challenge and self-reliance. It's where the landscape is *self-willed* — no human purpose controls its natural processes — and where people can go to feel part of that and to learn from it.

This country protects wilderness for the present and future benefits it offers. Part of our heritage and our history, it is held in trust for us and for our de-

scendants. Like national parks, it is one of this nation's best ideas.

One treasure offered by such wild places is dark night skies. Celebrate the wild spaces overhead on July 25-27 in these parks. Events to inform and delight all ages will include meeting astronomers, using large telescopes for deep-sky viewing, making solar observations, and more. See www.sequoia-history.org for details, and enjoy!

During your visit, please remember: We are in the third year of a drought. Please conserve water whenever possible. Fire danger is high, so check the local restrictions in each area, and be even more careful than usual with anything hot: brakes and mufflers (cars do start wildfires), matches and cigarettes, barbecues and campfires. Thank you for everything you do to protect the parks, the wildlife, and each other!



Upper Basin in the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness.

Photo courtesy of Isaac Chellman

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Telephone & Internet

911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911

No coins needed in payphones.

Limited Cell Signals & Service

See pay-phone locations, 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 traffic here. Check 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 & Book Stores

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

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

Foothills Visitor Center in Sequoia

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm (5pm from June 28 through August 23). Crystal Cave tickets sold only here & at Lodgepole Visitor Center (see page 5). 1-559-565-4212. Local wilderness permits.

Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia

(NPS) Daily 9am-6pm. Exhibits on sequoias, book store. 1-559-565-4480. Get local wilderness permits at Lodgepole Visitor Center. No payphone; closest are outside at Lodgepole Market & Wolverton.

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

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

Lodgepole Visitor Center in Sequoia

(NPS) Open into October. Daily 7am-6pm. Movie on bears. Crystal Cave tickets sold only here & at Foothills Visitor Center (details page 5). 1-559-565-4436. Local wilderness permits issued here.

Mineral King Ranger Station in Sequoia

(NPS) Daily 8am-4pm. Local wilderness permits issued here. 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 on Hwy 180 at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. 1-559-338-2251.

**Love your park,
do your part!**

**Carry all recycling &
garbage to the
trash cans & recycling
bins provided.**

Thank you!

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*.

- Editor: NPS - Malinee Crapsey.
- Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

National Park Service (NPS) - federal agency in Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3341, nps.gov/seki

Forest Service (FS) - federal agency in Dept. of Agriculture: 1-559-784-1500, fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Geological Survey (USGS) - federal agency in Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3171, werc.usgs.gov

Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) - non-profit park partner designated by Congress: 1-559-565-3759, sequoiahistory.org

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

DNC Parks & Resorts at Sequoia & Kings Canyon (DNC) - concessioner in both parks (lodging & food services): 1-888-252-5757, visitsequoia.com

Teachers & Parents, Take Note!

Expand your classroom: Invite a ranger to your class, visit the parks with your school group, download lesson plans, and participate in distance learning. Education programs are standards-based and free! See <http://www.nps.gov/seki/forteachers>.

Connect to your national park!



Sequoia
Natural History
Association

The Sequoia Natural History Association - the SNHA - is the park's partner in enriching visitor experience and promoting awareness of public lands. SNHA offers educational programs, publications, and financial support for preserving natural and cultural history at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

SNHA offers all this:

- EdVenture & Sequoia Field Institute (SFI) courses, tour-guide services - see page 5!
- Bear-resistant food container rentals
- Park Partnership & in-park volunteer program
- Visitor-center stores & Pear Lake Ski Hut
- Low-cost school programs
- Ranger program supplies
- Exhibit, research, & funds to protect black bears
- Books, maps, & this guide
- Visitor information



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, or campsite closures due to revegetation or bear management.

Park staff uses these 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: to preserve these parks for us all, now and in the future.



Prescribed fire in a sequoia grove

Fire: A Natural Change Agent

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 practice. Fire suppression blocked two 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, 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. 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 Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. To protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service now 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 absent here. This imbalance breaks links in the local web of life, badly disrupting native species that depend on each other. Sometimes the nonnative aliens completely replace local plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Seek and destroy 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's ability to move freely. 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 and clean boots & waders thoroughly to remove this little invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



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Camping

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

You must store food correctly all year due to black bears. Most boxes are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. Page 11 has details.

Summer reservations: See * on this chart for reservable campgrounds in Sequoia National Park (NPS) and in Sequoia National Forest (FS). Available up to 6 months in advance: 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 parks or in the national forest: 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov.

Campfires & Firewood

Fire restrictions are in place; always check bulletin boards at each area for details.

- Please don't transport firewood. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find/buy wood close to where you will use it. If you brought wood, burn it up if restrictions permit.
- Gather only dead & down wood. Do not cut limbs off trees.
- Fires must be dead out before you leave.
- The national forest (FS) requires free campfire permits from Hume Lake Office, 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 (less in Lodgepole & Dorst).

RV & Trailer Length Limits

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

Campgrounds in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Foot hills Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low elevation oaks and chaparral.
* Potwisha - 40 sites All year	\$22. Reservable year-round.	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Shuttle to Giant Forest 7:20-11:20am hourly; ride back 2:30-6:30pm. \$5 round trip; \$2.50 one way. Reservations: 559-713-4754 (shuttle info on page 6).
* Buckeye Flat - 28 sites Open; last night 9/28.	\$22. Reservable in summer. No RVs or trailers.	River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha.
South Fork - 10 sites All year.	\$12. No drinking water. No RVs or trailers.	Piped non-potable water 5/21 through 10/14. Vault toilets. River nearby. Bear boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	No RVs or trailers. No electricity or gasoline.
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Last night 10/14.	\$12	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food, showers nearby at Silver City.
Cold Springs - 40 sites Last night 10/14.	\$12	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City. Bear boxes in varied sizes.
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700'	*Summer reservations recommended. Closest to Giant Forest.
* Lodgepole - 205 sites Last night 10/20.	\$22. Reservation period: 5/21 through 9/23.	Pay phone, flush toilets, RV dump station. Food, showers, laundry, river nearby. Generator use from 8-11am & 5-8pm only.
Dorst - 210 sites Last night 9/2.	\$22. No advance reservations this year.	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Free shuttle to Giant Forest through 9/1; see page 6. Generator use from 8-11am & 5-8pm only.
Grant Grove Area	Elevation 6500'	A forested area near sequoias.
Azalea - 110 sites Open all year.	\$18	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers.
Crystal Springs - 36 sites Last night 9/1.	Tent/RV standard sites \$18 Group sites \$35.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby: food, showers in summer. 14 group sites (7-15).
Sunset - 157 sites Last night 9/1.	\$18	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, showers in summer.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	At the bottom of the Kings Canyon.
Sentinel - 83 sites Last night 9/1.	\$18	Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Last night 10/13.	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
Canyon View - 12 sites Last night 9/28.	\$35, No RVs or trailers. Groups of 7-19 only	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
Moraine - 120 sites Last night 9/1.	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.

CHECK LOCAL FIRE RESTRICTIONS. DROUGHT MAY AFFECT AVAILABILITY OF FACILITIES.

Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (FS)

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
* Princess - 88 sites Open.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Dump station \$10. Extra car \$7.
* Hume Lake - 74 sites Open.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car \$7.
Tenmile - 13 sites Open.	\$20 single, \$40 double No drinking water.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7.
Landslide - 9 sites Open.	\$20 single, \$40 double	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Open. Closes mid-Nov.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	*Reservable in summer.
* Stony Creek - 49 sites Open.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge. Extra car \$7. Bear boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high.
* Upper Stony - 18 sites Open.	\$20 single, \$40 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Food, laundry, showers nearby. Extra car \$7. Bear boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11, Big Meadow - 45 sites	Free. No water. Closes with snowfall.	Vault toilets. Big Meadow has bear boxes ~47" long, 33" deep, 28" high.

For information on camping in wilderness, see page 11.

Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9.

Lodging is available in three areas within these parks and in several adjacent locations in neighboring national forest:

In these National Parks

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (DNC):

• Wuksachi Lodge

All year. 1-888-252-5757; visitsequoia.com. North of Lodgepole two miles. At 7200'. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (DNC)

1-877-436-9617; visitsequoia.com.

• Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge

All year. Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts. At 6500'. Pay showers (summer only). 1-559-335-5500.

• Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon

Motel, eatery, market, pay showers, laundry. At 4600'.

Sequoia National Forest

Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. 1-800-227-9900; desk 1-559-565-3388; www.mslodge.com. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. At 7400'. Cabins, hotel, restaurant, seasonal & children's activities.

Stony Creek Resort (FS permittee)

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

Big Meadows Cabin (FS)

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

On Private Land in Park/Forest

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

* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Open late May to mid-October. www.silvercityresort.com; 1-559-561-3223. On Mineral King. Cabins, supplies, showers, store, restaurant/bakery. No gas.

* Kings Canyon Lodge (private)

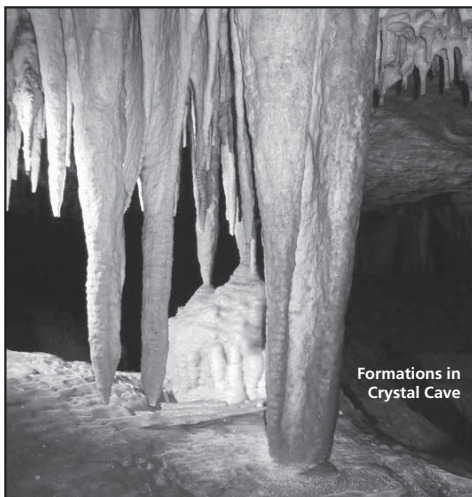
Open mid-April to as late as mid-November. 1-559-335-2405. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove. Lodge, food, gasoline.

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 - Summer 2014

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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 (0.8 km) to the cave is steep. Wear a jacket; it's 50°F (10°C) inside. No bags/packs of any kind, strollers, or tripods; no flash/lighted photography/video. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about group, wild-cave, & school tours: 1-559-565-3759. Tours are weather-dependent and subject to change.

Family Cave Tour Daily - 45 minutes

• **Saturday/Sunday:** Every ½ hour 10am-5:30pm. Extra tours holiday weekends (Friday-Monday).

• **Weekdays:** Every ½ hour 10am-5:30pm.

Fees: Age 5-12 \$8; age 13-61 \$15; age 4 & under \$5; 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 Tour** 6/24-8/20,

Tuesday-Wednesday 1pm. Ages 8 to 12. \$30.

• **Explorer's Lantern Tour** 6/26-8/17. Thursday-

Friday 5:30pm, Saturday-Sunday 6pm. \$16.

• **Discovery Tour** 6/23-8/15.

Weekdays at 4:45pm. \$16.

• **Adult Tour** Age 13 & up only. Friday-Sunday mornings, 1st tour of the day, 6/1 through 9/1.

Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Offered in the Foothills, Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, Mineral King, Cedar Grove, and other locations! See bulletin boards for schedules of ranger-led activities.

Junior Ranger Program - free

For ages 5 to 105! Pick up a free booklet at any visitor center, finish the activities for your age group, & earn your badge. See Junior Caver tours, left.

Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly explore the parks and Lake Kaweah with SFI guides. These experts help you see, paint, photograph, or write as you walk, ski, snowshoe, boat, and enjoy! SNHA members may get a discount on SFI activities: 1-559-565-4251; sfi@sequoiahistory.org

Touring on Horseback

Hourly rides, spot trips, guided trips. Opening & closing dates depend on weather conditions.



Cedar Grove Mid-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:

At Big Meadows 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).

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 in the metal boxes provided to keep it from bears.

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 Picnic Area, walk 0.8 miles to Buckeye Flat Campground. Take the path across from site #28 to cross a footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

Giant Forest

Giant Forest Museum

See page 2 for details. Shuttle stop starting 5/22.

Big Trees Trail

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

- **Main Trail** - This 1/2-mile trail down to the tree has some stairs; the walk back is uphill. Beware of late-spring wet or icy spots. Drive 2 miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Hwy only for those with disability placards). Turn right on Wolverton Road; follow

signs. Shuttle stop through 9/1.

🚻 **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from the Generals Hwy to the Sherman Tree. Parking here is only for those with disability placards. If you have no placard but can't make the hill on the main trail, ask at a visitor center for a temporary permit. Shuttle stop through 9/1.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

Open 5/21 at the latest. 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. Do not climb if steps are icy/snowy. Shuttle stop through 9/1.
- **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 tower over this 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'/4419 m), highest in the lower 48 states. Shuttle stop.

Lodgepole

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Exhibits, film. See page 2. Shuttle stop through 9/1.

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. Nearby shuttle stop at Lodgepole Campground.

Little Baldy

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

Open late spring into October. Page 8 has details.

See Sequoia By Shuttle

Giant Forest: Route 1

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

Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow: Route 2

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 on weekends & holidays (page 12).

Lodgepole /Wuksachi/ Dorst: Route 3

Free. Leaves each stop every 20 minutes 9am - 6pm.

Wolverton/ Sherman Tree: Route 4

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

Giant Forest /Foothills/ Visalia Route

\$15 round trip Visalia to Giant Forest (no additional park entrance fee) or \$5 from Potwisha Campground (in the foothills; see *Potwisha* in page 4 Camping chart for more information). Reservations required; sequoiashuttle.com or 1-877-BUS-HIKE. Buses leave Visalia for Giant Forest every hour from 6am-10am; 2-hour ride each way. Buses leave Giant Forest for Visalia Transit Center every hour from 2:30-6:30pm. In-park shuttle questions: 559-565-4436.

↖ To Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park, and (180)

Dorst Campground

Wuksachi Lodge & Restaurant

Lodgepole Market & Visitor Center

Lodgepole Campground
Additional parking

Wolverton
Additional parking

Sherman Tree
Main Trail & Parking

Sherman Tree
Wheelchair-Accessible Trail

Last day
Sept 1

Giant Forest Museum

Crescent Meadow

Moro Rock

↓ To Potwisha Campground, Three Rivers, Visalia, and (198)



Explore on your own: Kings Canyon National Park & nearby forest lands

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

Grant Grove

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (NPS)

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

Grant Tree Trail

This 1/3-mile (0.5 km) paved trail visits one of the world's three largest trees and the Nation's Christmas Tree since 1926. Trail guides sold at trailhead & visitor center. From the visitor center, go north on Hwy 180 then follow signs (1.6 miles).

North Grove Loop

This lightly traveled, 1 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 prohibited. Go east through visitor-center parking & follow signs to the paved, relatively accessible trail to an overlook. Park Ridge Trail (4 miles/6.4 km round-trip) begins here.

Redwood Mountain Sequoia Grove

Dirt, rutted road. 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. Loop trails up to 10 miles long.

Big Baldy Ridge

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

Kings Canyon & Cedar Grove

Drought alert: Limited water may affect facilities this summer. Help conserve water!

As you take Hwy 180 into the canyon, stop at Junction View turnout (on the westbound side).

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. East of the village 2 miles.

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. Buy a guide at trailhead or visitor center. Plan for 1 hour.

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. 600' elevation gain in the last 2 miles.

Hotel Creek Trail

Starts 0.2 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'/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3-4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9km) 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 (0.8 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. 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 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 experience of these parks. It carries you up almost a mile in elevation and connects the General Sherman Tree to the General Grant Tree, thereby earning its name.

You may also experience delays. 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 today's large numbers of modern vehicles, without losing the joys of a mountain road. See page 12 for details on construction delays.

Wayside exhibits at overlooks along this historic road offer insight into these parks. Stop, read, and enjoy the views at these and other overlooks:

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.



The Generals Highway in Giant Forest

Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

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

Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Exhibits on sequoias. Hours & details on page 2.

Crystal Cave (NPS)

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

Giant Forest Shuttle (NPS): 9am to 6pm through 9/1. 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. Last laundry in 1 hour before closing.
- Snack Bar: Daily 8am-7:45pm.
- Deli: Daily 11am-6pm.
- Showers: Daily 8am-1pm & 3-7:45pm.

U.S. Post Office

Mail drop only. Behind visitor center. Full postal services at Grant Grove.

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

Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

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

Dining Room: 7-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-10pm, lounge 4-10pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070.

Wuksachi Lodge

Details on page 5. Pay telephones at main lodge. Ask about naturalist programs held at the lodge.

Gift Shop

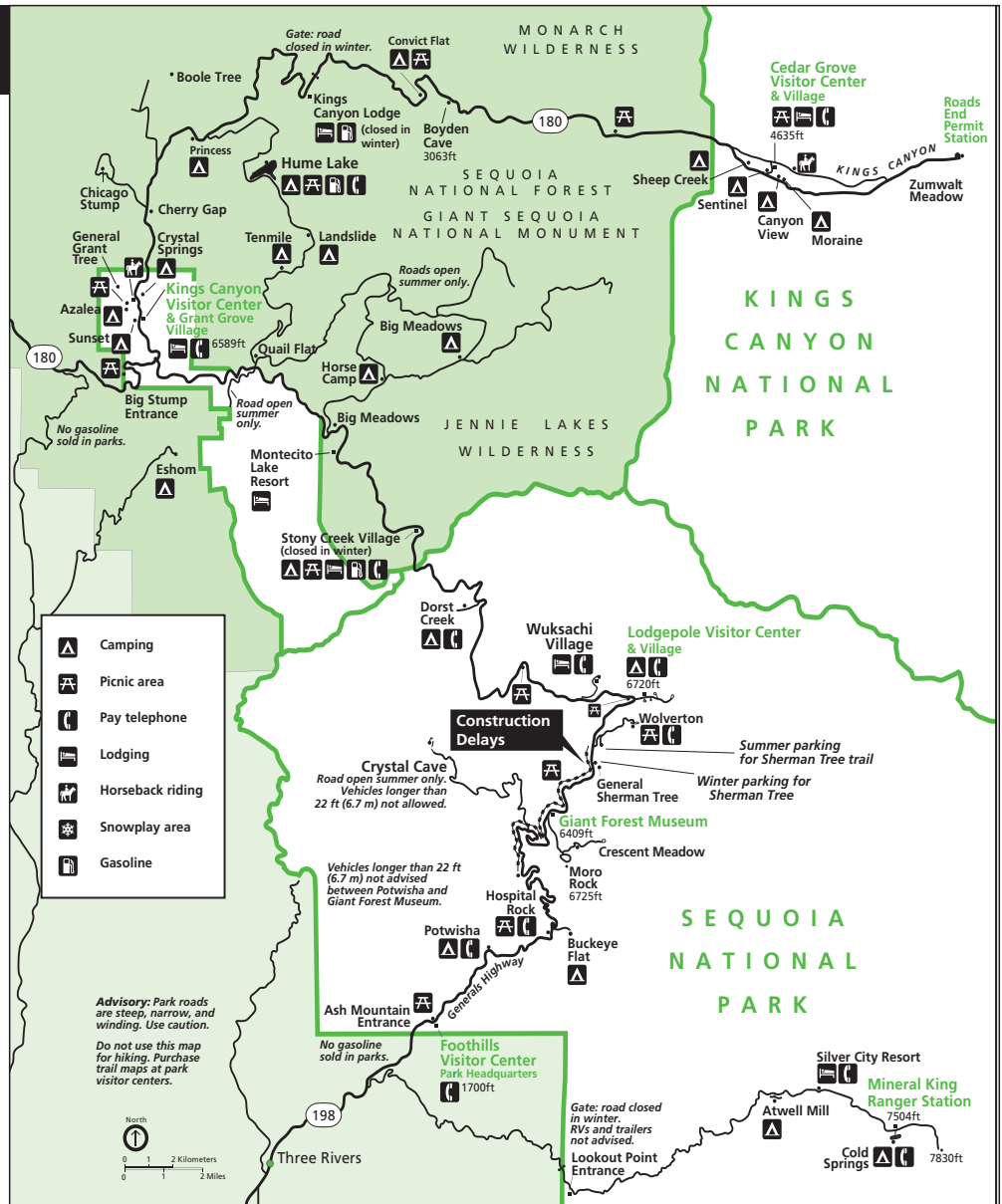
Daily 8am-8pm in main lodge.

Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Summer picnic area. Shuttle stop through 9/1.

Wolverton BBQ & Dinner Theater (DNC):

Nightly 6/14-9/1 weather permitting; 6-7pm (time shifts with sunset). Watch *Voices of the Past*, family-friendly tales of park history (free). To enjoy the all-you-can-eat outdoor dinner during the program, buy tickets at Lodgepole Market /Wuksachi.



Mineral King Area

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

Ranger Station (NPS)

Daily 8am-4pm. Local wilderness permits, books, maps, exhibits. See page 2.

Pay Telephones

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

Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Restaurant Thursday-Monday 8am-8pm; Tuesday-Wednesday pie/coffee 9am-5pm. Pay telephone. 1-559-561-3223; silvercityresort.com.

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 (5pm from June 28 through August 23). 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).



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 (DNC)

- Restaurant: Daily 7:30-10:30am, 11:30am-3pm, 4-9pm. Pizza parlor open 3-9pm.
- Market: Daily 8am-9pm. Supplies, clothing, food, sandwiches.
- Gift Shop: Daily 8am-9pm.
- Lodging: Desk 24 hours. 1-559-335-5500. Details on page 5.
- Showers: Daily 8am-1pm & 3-7:45pm.

U.S. Post Office

Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-3:30 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); outside gift shop & market.

Cedar Grove

4600' elevation. Along the South Fork of the Kings River on the floor of the Kings Canyon. Drought conditions may affect facilities.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (NPS)

Daily. Near Sentinel Campground. See page 2.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside lodge & visitor center.

Village Center (DNC):

- Restaurant: Counter-service meals & snack bar; not full service. Daily 8-10:30am, 11am-2:30pm, 3-8pm.
- Gift Shop/Market: Daily 8am-9pm. Sandwiches, supplies, gifts.
- Showers: Daily 8am-1pm & 3-8pm.
- Lodging: See page 5.

Wilderness Permits (NPS)

At Road's End, 6 miles east of the village. Daily 7am-3:30pm.

Horseback Riding: Details on page 5.

National Forest & Monument

Hume Lake & Big Meadows areas 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 effect*; check for details.

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 year-round: 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 45-minute cave tours 10am-5pm. 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: 1-888-965-8243.

Stony Creek Resort (FS permittee)

On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. Daily: Market 7am-8pm; pizza parlor/salad bar 11am-7:30pm (both open 1 hour later on Friday-Saturday. Showers/laundry 9am-6pm. 1-800-227-9900; 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. Desk 7am-9pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

Horseback Riding - Details on page 5.

Gasoline Sales

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

Basic Rules & Regulations:

National Parks & National Forests lie next to each other here. Some activities are illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. Which are you in now?

Can I...	In National Parks 	In National Forest 
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)	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.	Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted.
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 wood permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
Build fires?	Restrictions are in effect in the park and forest; always check locally for up-to-date information. 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 the parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.

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 with campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death in national parks across the country. Many drowning victims unexpectedly fell in when walking or climbing near rivers.

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 here! Be extra careful around water. Falling in can be as dangerous as swimming. Once you are 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.

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 ticks carefully with tweezers and 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.

UNTREATED WATER / GIARDIA

This protozoan in lakes and streams causes intestinal upset. Boil drinking water from waterways for at least 3 minutes. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly.

POISON OAK

A common shrub up to 5000' in elevation. In fall it shows red leaves and whitish berries; bare stems in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away. Leaves of three, let it be!



HYPOTHERMIA

This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry; snack often. If someone doesn't respond to the need for warmer clothes or is stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Warm them with dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

RATTLESNAKES

Watch where you put your hands and feet! They live in much of these parks and are especially common in the foothills and near water. Do not harass or kill snakes; 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 on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest 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. To help reduce ozone, don't let your vehicle idle more than 20 seconds.

WEAK CELL PHONE 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 seems aggressive, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back! Report any sightings.



DRINKING WATER

The 13 park water systems are tested 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, a jacket, and water.
- 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 will grab unattended food and can 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. Always 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 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, 33" deep, 28" high (camp-ground details on page 4). 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, put it in your vehicle, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Put 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 or your food. 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.



Your Entry 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. Not valid at Crystal Cave.

- **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 DD1173.

- **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.

Wilderness

11

Over 800,000 acres of designated wilderness in these parks provide outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined types of recreation.



Fire restrictions are in place. Check for the latest requirements before leaving on your trip.

Following minimum-impact regulations helps to protect both the wilderness and your experience. Wild places include hazards and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant.

Permits are required for all overnight trips. They are limited during the summer quota period (late May through September 27) and cost \$15. Permits can be reserved by mail or fax beginning March 1. Outside of the quota period, permits are free and can be self-issued at the permit station or visitor center closest to your trailhead (see page 2).

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 permit 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/planyourvisit/wilderness or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
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):** Open June 13 to September 20, snow 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 Ski Hut (SNHA):** Winter only. The hut sits high above Lodgepole at 9,200' elevation. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759.

Gasoline Stations

No gas stations are within the park boundaries. Fill up in Three Rivers (5 miles from Hwy 198 park entrance), Clingan's Junction (20 miles from Hwy 180 park entrance), 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. 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: 1-559-335-2405. Gas usually sold 9am-dark. 17 miles (27 km) from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

Rules & Recommendations

Don't Lose Your Brakes

If you keep a foot on the pedal, brakes may over-heat and fail. Instead, downshift on the downhills. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder but it will save your brakes.

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.

Prevent Car Fires

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

Use Turnouts; Let Others Pass

Don't pull into grassy areas; this can start fires.

Bicycles

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

Go Slow for Wildlife!

Animals may start across the road unexpectedly. Wildlife is too often hit by cars.

Vehicle Length Limits

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

Vehicles longer than 24' are not recommended 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 (there are limited campsites for RVs over 30 feet).

Narrow Roads and Restrictions

In Kings Canyon & National Forest/Monument:

- Hwy 180 to Cedar Grove and Road's End: open mid-April until mid-November.
- Panoramic Point Road: Motorhomes/trailers not permitted.
- Redwood Mountain road (NPS) & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS): Rutted, unpaved, unplowed.

In Sequoia:

- Crystal Cave Road: Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m).
- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow: Vehicle-length limit 22'; no trailers or towed units. *Closed to private vehicles on weekends and holidays* from 9am to late afternoon, during shuttle operation (through 9/1; see page 6). Exception: those with valid disabled-parking placard or a current local wilderness permit.
- Mineral King Road: RVs/trailers not recommended (not allowed in those campgrounds).
- South Fork/Middle Fork roads: Partly unpaved; slippery when wet.

Construction Delays



Delays on park roads

See bulletin boards at visitor centers, visit www.nps.gov/seki, or contact the park for updates and details. Beware of narrow, rough roads in construction areas. Always use low gear on downhills. Thank you for your patience!

Generals Highway Reconstruction

This project affects portions of the main park road between Eleven Range (south of Giant Forest) and Wolverton Road (north of the Sherman Tree, south of Lodgepole).

Schedules will shift and occasional night closures may be needed (check locally for changes) but, except on weekends and holidays, expect delays from 15 minutes to one hour during the day:

- in the Giant Forest area; and
- south of (or below) Giant Forest.

Road Repairs in Other Areas

15-minute delays may occur on weekdays through summer.



Driving Times - if no delays

From Foothills to:

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

From Giant Forest to:

Grant Grove via Generals Hwy	1 hour
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From Grant Grove to:

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



Please – follow fire and smoking restrictions.

Everything is tinder dry. Campfires and smoking are prohibited in some areas. Never toss cigarette butts on the ground or park on grass. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for specific guidelines.