

Trip Planner

Winter 2021–2022

Photo by Kirke Wrench

Information in this newspaper can change at any time as we work to safely provide access to these parks.

Roads in the parks may close at any time due to storms, snow, debris flows, or other conditions.

Visiting after the KNP Complex Fire

In October 2021, the KNP Complex Fire burned over 88,000 acres in and around the parks. Impacts from the fire create risks. Trees can fall at any time. Narrow, winding roads with steep drop-offs are even more hazardous during storms. Travel within the speed limit, watch for falling rocks and landslides, and stay in your lane. Please be careful—your safety is in your hands.

To protect the safety of park visitors and employees, we've made changes that will affect your visit. For current updates, check signs at entrance stations and other areas, the free park mobile app, and our web pages at www.nps.gov/seki.

Availability of Services



Camping is available at Potwisha and Azalea campgrounds. No reservations are needed. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, but availability is extremely limited. Expect to camp in the snow at Azalea Campground.



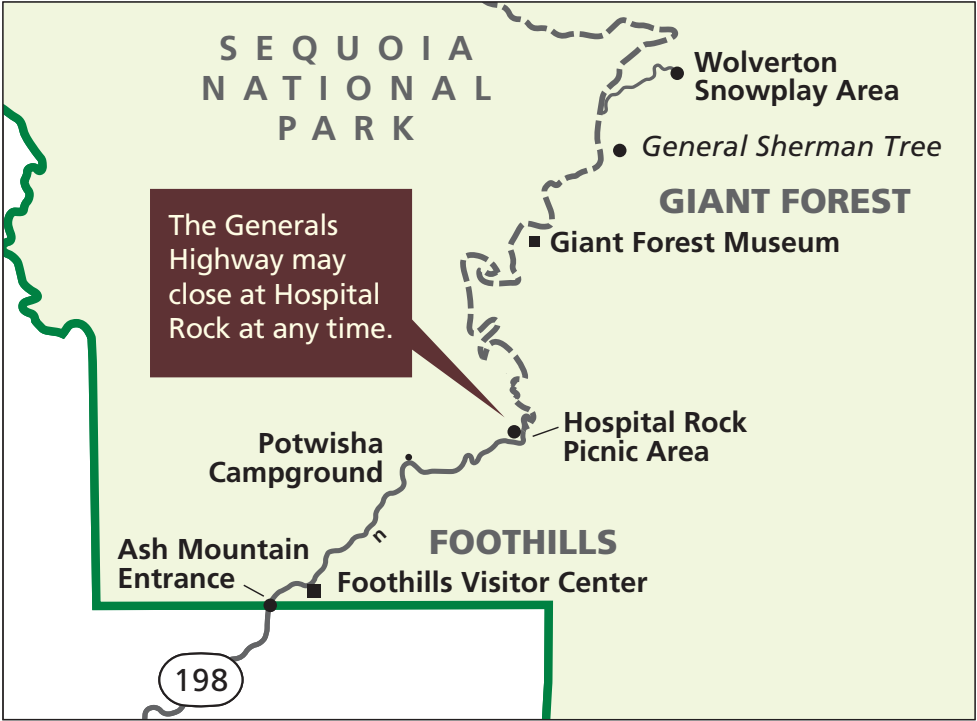
Park lodges are closed until spring. For more information, go to www.visitsequoia.com.



Grant Grove Market is open daily in Kings Canyon National Park. In Sequoia National Park, bring everything you need for your visit.



Foothills and Kings Canyon visitor centers and Giant Forest Museum are open for information and travel planning. Hours of operation vary. Park stores in visitor centers are open for sales of maps, books, and gifts.



Open and Closed Areas

Winter storms may close park highways, especially at higher elevations. The KNP Complex Fire impacted most of the Generals Highway, increasing the potential for slides and debris flows. When roads are plowed and cleared, they will reopen.

If the Generals Highway is closed at Hospital Rock Picnic Area:

Look for activities in the Foothills area (see page 6). If you'd like to see sequoia groves, consider driving to Grant Grove. The entrance to Kings Canyon National Park via highways 63 and 180 is two hours from the Sequoia entrance. Check conditions before you travel. Highways there may also be closed or may require tire chains. For 24-hour road information, call (559) 565-3341.

General Information2

Camping.....3

Safety4

Wildlife Safety5

Foothills6

Giant Forest7

Grant Grove8

Wilderness Trips9

National Forest Lands9

Información en español 10-11

Información de seguridad 10

Winter Roads & Driving 12

Contacts

Cell service

Cell service is extremely limited here, and mainly is available for some networks near entrance stations.

911

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911

No coins are needed in pay phones for 911 calls. Pay phones are located at:

- Potwisha Campground
- Hospital Rock Picnic Area
- Kings Canyon Visitor Center in Grant Grove (near the restrooms)

Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

(559) 565-3341 (24 hours): Recorded information is available for road conditions, weather, current fires, camping, lodging, wilderness, and more.



www.nps.gov/seki



@sequoiakingsnps



@sequoiakingsnps



@sequoiakingsnps

Sequoia National Forest/ Monument (USFS)

(559) 338-2251, fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Yosemite National Park (NPS)

209-372-0200, nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

(800) 427-7623, dot.ca.gov

Campground Reservations

Visit Recreation.gov or call (877) 444-6777
TDD: (877) 833-6777).

Delaware North

(Authorized Concessioner)

Visit www.visitsequoia.com or call
(866) 807-3598 for lodging reservations.

Frequently Asked Questions

Pets

Pets are not permitted on any trails in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Pets must be kept on a leash at all times, or appropriately crated or caged. Pets cannot be left tied and unattended at any time. The leash must be no longer than 6 feet (1.8 meters) long.

Drones

Unmanned aircraft are not allowed in these parks. This includes drones and other remotely piloted vehicles.

Marijuana

Possession or use of marijuana and other controlled substances inside the national parks is prohibited. While California law provides for limited possession and use of marijuana, it remains an illegal drug under federal law, which is enforced within the parks.

Firearms in these National Parks

People who can legally possess firearms under federal, California, and local laws may possess firearms here. You are responsible for understanding and complying with all applicable California, local, and federal firearms laws. Discharge of firearms in the parks is prohibited.

GPS

GPS programs often misdirect travellers here. Use maps and signs, or ask for directions. If you use GPS or online maps, don't use the "avoid toll roads" option.

Translations

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

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

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

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

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

Free Mobile App

Install the new free National Park Service app for more trip-planning information. Search for National Park Service in the iTunes or Google Play stores, and then choose Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Be sure to download content for use offline during your visit. WiFi may not be available at visitor centers; we recommend you install the app before you get to the parks.

Accessibility

We are committed to a continuing effort to improve the accessibility of our trails and facilities so they can be enjoyed by all. If you have questions or suggestions about accessibility, please email us at SEKI_Interpretation@nps.gov or call us at 559-565-3341.

Accessibility Guide

Ask at any visitor center for a printed accessibility guide. This booklet offers details about accessible park features by area and for different user groups. The information in the guide is also available online at www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm.

Visitor Centers

All visitor centers and museums have paved, flat paths leading from parking areas to information desks, exhibits, bookstores, water bottle filling stations, and restrooms. Cedar Grove Visitor Center (summer only) is small, and may be difficult for people in wheelchairs to navigate. Mineral King Ranger Station (summer only) has steps leading to the entrance and may not be accessible to people with mobility impairments.

Wheelchairs may be borrowed at no cost at Kings Canyon Visitor Center or Giant Forest Museum. They can be used anywhere in the parks but must be returned by the end of the day, before each visitor center closes. Be prepared to provide your address and phone number.

Assistive listening devices and open captioning are available for ranger programs and park films. Borrow a device at park visitor centers.

Wheelchair-Accessible Trails

General Sherman Tree Trail (Giant Forest)

This short trail leads a few hundred feet from an accessible parking area to the General Sherman Tree, the largest tree on earth.

Big Trees Trail (Giant Forest)

This level trail is a 0.75-mile (1.2 km) loop. It circles a meadow surrounded by giant sequoias.

Hazelwood Nature Loop (Giant Forest)

This firm-packed trail leads through a quiet area within the Giant Forest. The entire loop is 0.3 miles (0.5 km). Exhibits along the way describe the natural history of the area. Park at the pullout just north of the Big Trees Trail parking area.

Tunnel Rock

Stop at this feature in the Foothills area of Sequoia National Park to see the large granite boulder that once covered the highway. Parking spaces just uphill from Tunnel Rock provide the most level pathway to the road under the rock.



Campground	Location	Nightly fee	Toilets	Dump station	Showers	Potable water	Other information
Azalea	Grant Grove	\$22	Flush	–	–	Yes	Twenty snowy sites. First-come, first-served until spring, then make reservations at Recreation.gov.
Potwisha	Foothills	\$22	Flush	Maybe	–	Yes	Sites are usually snow-free. First-come, first-served until spring, then make reservations at Recreation.gov.
South Fork	Foothills	\$6	Vault	–	–	–	The road to this campground is very rough, especially after rain. High-clearance vehicles are recommended.

The following campgrounds are closed until spring or summer: Buckeye Flat, Lodgepole, Dorst Creek, Crystal Springs, Sunset, Canyon View, Sheep Creek, Sentinel, Moraine, Cold Springs, and Atwell Mill campgrounds.

First-come, First-served for Winter

This winter, camping is available on a first-come, first served basis and no reservations are available. We recommend that you pay for only one night at a time. Campgrounds may close at any time due to weather, road conditions, or other causes and refunds cannot be issued. For campers at Azalea Campground, snow removal can take up to 24 hours after a heavy winter storm. Consider checking out prior to a major storm, or prepare for an extended park stay if you are unable to leave due to impassable roads.

Reservations

Make camping reservations at Recreation.gov, or call (877) 444-6777 (TDD: (877) 833-6777). You can also purchase your entrance pass online here.

Check-in and Check-out

Check-in and check-out is at noon.

RV and Trailer Length Limits

If you're driving an RV or trailer, check length limits on park roads and at campsites.

Dump Station

The Potwisha dump station is under construction and will be closed for part of the winter.

Campsite Amenities

Each campsite has a table, food storage box, and accommodates up to six people and one vehicle. There are no RV hook-ups in the parks.

Roadside Camping

Roadside camping is not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds.

Quiet and Generator Hours

Noise should be audible in your site only. Quiet hours are 10 pm–6 am (no generators).



Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) is the official nonprofit partner to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. We work hand-in-hand with the National Park Service to provide tours and retail services, fund critical projects, and protect and preserve park treasures for future generations. Visit us online to learn more about everything we do. We’ve saved a place for you—come join us!

Activities

All activities are free of charge.

Ranger Walks & Talks

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

Junior Ranger Program

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

Interested in volunteering?

Log in to volunteer.gov and enter keywords “Sequoia and Kings Canyon” to see available opportunities, or call the volunteer office at (559) 565-4232. Volunteers are needed for invasive plant control, special events, and routine clerical and maintenance tasks. Individuals and groups welcome!

Teachers & Parents, Take Note!

Invite a ranger to your class, visit the parks with your school group, or download lesson plans. We also have activities for students and families that can be used before and after your visit, creating a more immersive experience. All education programs are standards-based and free! Visit nps.gov/seki/learn/education. And ask about the Every Kid Outdoors free pass for 4th-graders and their families!



@SequoiaParksConservancy

@SeqParksConShop our online store!

SPC Adventures

We're here to help you have a fun and memorable journey in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Join our private group tours and we'll connect you to the biggest trees, the darkest skies, and the wildest wilderness. Everything is here waiting. The only thing missing is you.

For more information, call (559) 565-4251, or visit www.sequoiaparks.org/adventures.

You are Responsible for Your Safety

Beautiful, yet remote and rugged, these parks present hazards. Mountain weather changes quickly, trees fall without warning, and wild animals pose dangers. People cause other hazards by driving poorly, leaving campfires burning, and making bad decisions. Cell phones can't be relied on and GPS directions may send you in the wrong direction. Every day, we help visitors who have emergencies.

Please help us by being prepared—review these safety warnings. Your safety is in your own hands!

Explore Safely

- **Avoid traveling alone. Tell someone your plans and expected return time.**
- **Take a map, water, flashlight, and extra layers of clothes. Do not rely on your phone's map or flashlight.**
- **Be alert for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.**

River Safety



While swimming in the parks' lakes and rivers can be tempting, drowning is the primary cause of death here!

Rivers present great danger due to their swift currents and slippery rocks. In river-related deaths, many people did not intend to swim, but fell in. Currents are strong even during low water. Drop-offs and undertows are ever-present. Be vigilant.

Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Cold water rapidly saps your strength and hypothermia can set in quickly even if it is warm outside.

- **Do not swim in areas with strong currents, or steep drop-offs.**
- **DO NOT leave children unattended.**
- **Swimming and alcohol or drugs do not mix. Swim sober.**
- **Wear sturdy shoes. Sharp objects in the water can cut bare feet.**
- **During storms, get out of the water and exit beach areas.**
- **NEVER SWIM ALONE.**



Tree Hazards

Branches and trees may fall, whether dead or alive, and when there is no wind. Keep eyes and ears open. Run if you hear cracks or snapping from roots, trunks, or branches (sometimes there is no sound). Don't linger under dead, cracked, broken, or hanging branches. Avoid spending any time under trees that are rotten at the base or have cracked bark that is peeling off the trunk.



West Nile Virus & Tick Bites

West Nile virus is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common but take steps to avoid mosquito bites. Ticks are common in grassy, brushy low-elevation areas. They can carry diseases that harm humans. Check yourself for these insects after walks; their bite is painless. Remove them carefully with tweezers and seek a doctor's advice.



Rattlesnakes

Rattlesnakes are common in the Sequoia foothills and in the Kings Canyon at low elevations. 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, don't panic and call 911.



Poison Oak

This common shrub grows up to 5,000 feet (1,524 m) in elevation, and can cause an itchy rash if you touch it. Poison oak has leaves in groups of three. Leaves are red and berries whitish in fall. The plant is bare in winter, and has shiny green leaves in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes with soap and warm water right away.



Air Quality

Poor air quality often affects the parks, especially during the summer. In summer months, ozone concentrations often exceed federal health standards. Ozone can have negative health effects, particularly for sensitive groups such as children, older people, and those with heart or lung disease. For air quality forecasts, visit the park website.



Plague & Hantavirus

Plague and hantavirus are associated with wildlife here, but cases of human infection are rare. Rodents and their fleas may carry plague, which may infect humans when bitten. Hantavirus is an airborne virus that comes from infected deer mice. Typically people contract hantavirus after they clean areas or are in enclosed spaces with deer mice feces.



Keep Pets Safe

To keep pets and wildlife safe, animals must be on a leash at all times. Pets are vulnerable to tick and snake bites. Bears and deer have also been known to charge or attack dogs. Pick up all pet waste and dispose of properly. Pets are not allowed on any park trails. Do not leave pets unattended or in vehicles where they can easily overheat.



Don't Lose Your Brakes

If you keep a foot on the brake for too long, brakes may fail. Instead, always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2, or L. The engine gets louder, but your brakes won't overheat.

Safety in Burned Areas

Watch for falling trees.

Branches and trees may fall, whether dead or alive, even when there is no wind. Keep eyes and ears open. Listen for cracks or snapping from roots, trunks, or branches. Don't linger under dead, cracked, broken, or hanging branches. Avoid spending any time under burned trees.

Don't enter closed areas.

There are identified risks in these areas, including burned bridges, hazard trees, and sections of trail that are unstable due to erosion. Many of these hazards may be hard to spot.

Drive carefully.

Rocks, debris, and even downed trees may be present on roads at any time. Be alert and drive slowly, especially during rainy or windy weather. Yield to snowplows that are clearing roads, and follow tire chain requirements when they are in place. Watch out for animals.

Stay on trails.

Though it may be tempting to wander, off-trail areas have hazards such as rolling rocks, holes, and unstable soils.

Be especially careful if it's rainy or windy.

Storms and wind make many of the hazards even more dangerous. Consider waiting until the weather is better before you travel in a burned area.

If you encounter dangerous conditions, turn back.

Conditions in burned areas can change quickly. Turn around if you see a problem and you're not sure if it's safe to continue. Report dangerous conditions to park staff.

Be safe around rivers.

Rivers present great danger due to their swift currents and slippery rocks. In river-related deaths, many people did not intend to swim, but fell in. Currents are strong even during low water.



Check at trailheads for information about potential hazards or closures.

Keep Bears Wild

5

Bears will grab unattended food and break into cars where food is visible. Some bears have become bold and aggressive because they have obtained human foods. Too often, these bears must be killed as they become dangerous. Food storage is key to keeping humans safe and bears alive.



Campgrounds

Store food day and night in the metal food storage boxes provided (avoid using 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 items must be stored 24 hours a day when not in use. This includes unopened cans and bottles. Make sure food storage boxes are completely latched. Food not properly stored will be impounded. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in trash cans or dumpsters. Do not leave garbage unattended! Take child safety seats out of cars—the smells they absorb may attract bears.

Lodges

Remove all food and child safety seats from your vehicle.

In Wilderness

Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a bear-resistant storage container. These containers weigh less than 3 pounds (1.3 kg), hold up to 5 days of food, and fit in a backpack. Rent bear-resistant storage containers at park visitor centers. A list of approved containers can be found on our website. Metal boxes are located in a few wilderness locations.

Everywhere

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 foods come from humans; the bear may hurt a person in the future to get food. If a bear does get your food, NEVER try to get it back.

Touring and Picnicking

Food items MUST be stored in food storage boxes when provided. If no food storage box is available, food items must be inside your car trunk. If your vehicle doesn't have a trunk, place food items low in the vehicle, out of sight, and keep windows closed. While picnicking, never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

Bears can smell anything with a scent—such as hand sanitizer, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, and cleaning supplies—and will mistake these items for food. Store anything with an odor.

Wildlife Viewing & Safety

Keep Wildlife Safe

Do not feed or touch ANY wild animals. All animals in the parks are wild. View animals at safe distances (the length of two city buses) or through binoculars.

Never disrupt, approach, or disturb animals from behaving normally.



Wildlife and the KNP Complex Fire

While the KNP Complex Fire burned many acres across both parks, and some animals were temporarily displaced from their homes, all wildlife in the parks are capable of adapting to fire. Plenty of good habitat remains here for animals. A plentiful acorn crop offers a food source for bears and other animals, and grasses are already sprouting in burned areas. It is critical that while animals return to their homes and seek foods to fatten up for winter that they are not disturbed. The best way to love wildlife after a fire is from a distance.

Explore the foothills, home to more species of plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined. Chaparral, oak woodlands, and river canyons offer spring wildflowers, hot summers, and mild winters.

Open or Available

Foothills Visitor Center and Sequoia Parks Conservancy Park Store

Open daily with capacity limits. WiFi available. Maps, books, and other items sold here. *Aveces hay guardabosques aqui quienes hablan español.*

Wilderness Permits

Self-register at the permit station near the visitor center restrooms. For trips beginning at South Fork, self-register at the trailhead.

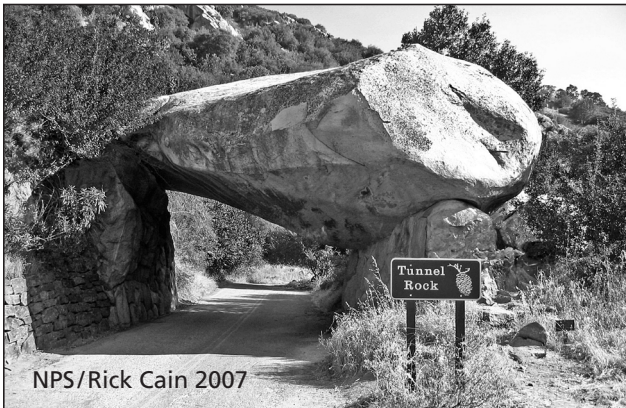
Potwisha Campground and Day Use Area

Foothills and Hospital Rock Picnic Areas

Tunnel Rock

Middle Fork Trail

This trail is open for day and overnight use. Park at Hospital Rock and walk to the trailhead.



Tunnel Rock

Snap a picture at this iconic pullout off the Generals Highway. Walk on the old road under the rock, but do not climb on top of the rock. Please follow posted speed limits, watch for pedestrians in the roadway, and respect closures.

Hospital Rock Picnic Area

See rock paintings and explore exhibits about the California Native Americans who lived here and still visit and live nearby. If you find an artifact, leave it in place and notify a ranger. Take a short walk to the river or a longer walk on the Middle Fork Trail. Be careful; drownings have occurred in the nearby river and bears are active here. Store your food in a food storage box or keep it within arm's reach.

Closed or Unavailable

Buckeye Flat Campground

Paradise Creek Trail

Marble Falls Trail

Colony Mill Trail

Potwisha - Hospital Rock Trail (uphill from the Generals Highway)

North Fork Trail above 2800' in elevation

Highway Closures

Due to impacts from the KNP Complex Fire, the Generals Highway may close at any time. If the highway closes at Hospital Rock, features in the Foothills area may still be open, but there will be no access to the Giant Forest, including snowplay, sequoia groves, and the General Sherman Tree.

The Grant Grove area, two hours from the Sequoia entrance, may be open. Check road conditions before you travel there: (559) 565-3341.

Mineral King

The road to this area is closed for the season. Because of the recent KNP Complex Fire, some wilderness areas and trails may be closed to the public.

Due to impacts from the KNP Complex Fire, Mineral King Road and some trails will be closed through winter. If you're planning an overnight trip in this area, be sure that all trailheads you plan use for exit and entry are open.

Closed or Unavailable

Mineral King Ranger Station

Closed until late May.

Wilderness Permits

Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Closed until late May.

Snowplay in Sequoia National Park

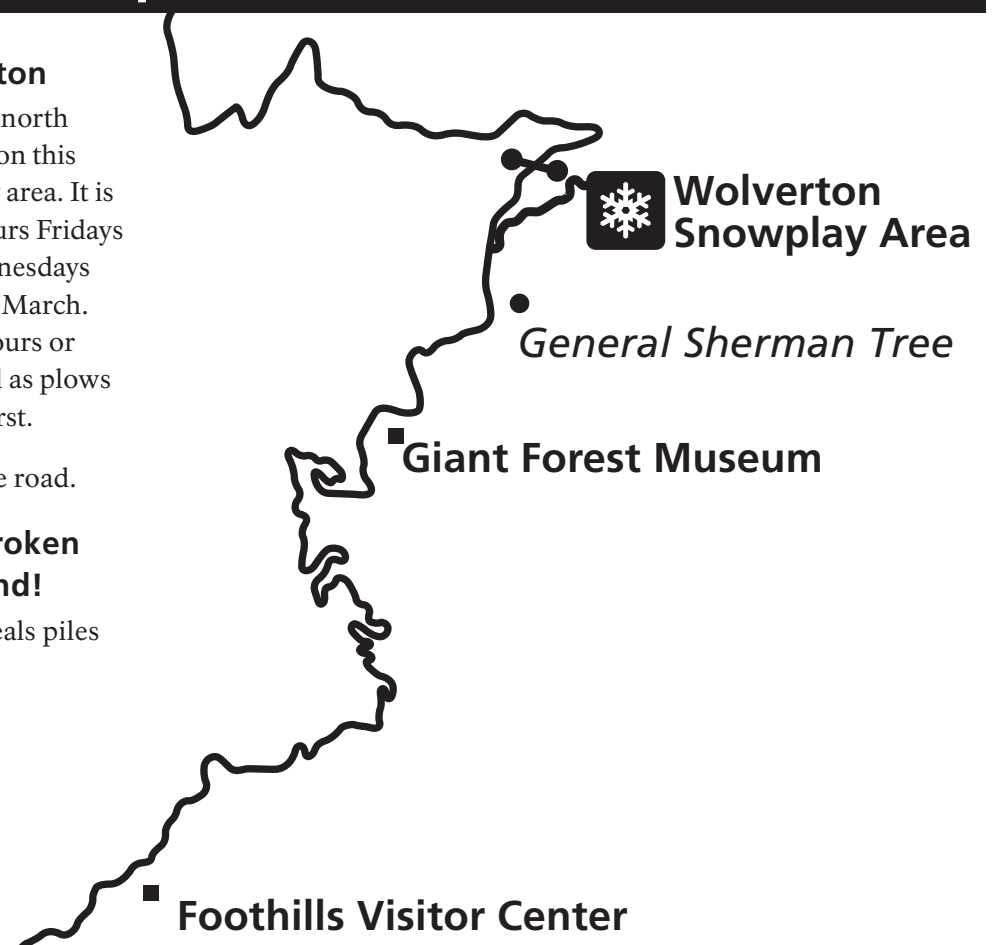
Snowplay at Wolverton

Wolverton Road starts just north of the Sherman Tree. Turn on this road to reach the snowplay area. It is plowed during daylight hours Fridays through Sundays plus Wednesdays and holidays, through mid-March. After storms, it may take hours or even days to open this road as plows must clear the main road first.

Sledding is at the end of the road.

Please don't leave broken sleds and trash behind!

Too often, spring melt reveals piles of trash left in the snow.



Welcome to the big trees in winter. Winter trail maps can be purchased at Giant Forest Museum. Road may close to this area at any time.

Visiting the General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world’s largest tree:

Main Sherman Tree Trail and Parking

When snow begins to accumulate, this trail and parking area usually close.

This 0.5-mile (0.8 km) trail down to the tree has some stairs; the walk back is uphill. Benches provide rest points along the way. Drive 2 miles (3 km) north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree accessible parking lot). Turn onto Wolverton Road and follow signs to the parking area.

Wheelchair-Accessible and Winter Sherman Tree Trail from the Generals Highway

Before snow begins to accumulate, parking here is only for those with disability placards. If you don't have a placard, but can’t walk the hill on the main trail, ask at a visitor center for a temporary permit.

When snow begins to accumulate, this parking area is open to all. Check signage at the parking area before parking here if you don't have an accessibility placard. Do not park in the roadway.

Congress Trail – From the Sherman Tree, continue along this fairly level 2-mile (3.2 km) loop through the heart of the Giant Forest sequoia grove.

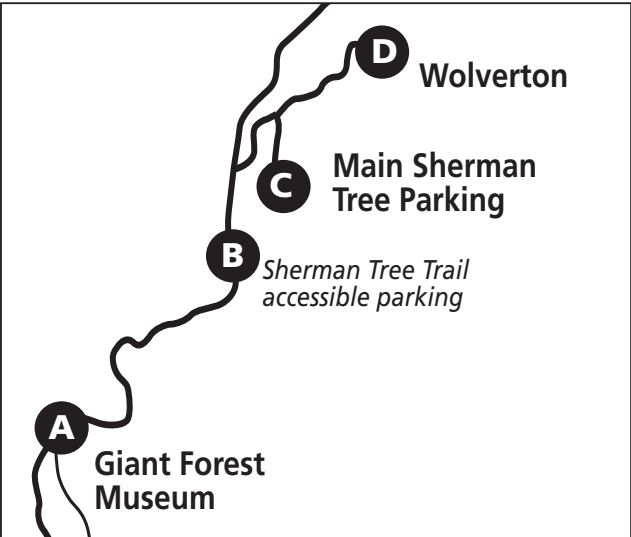
Park only in designated spots in parking areas or in paved pullouts. Vehicles parked in unpaved areas along the highway pose a danger to traffic and may be ticketed.

If parking areas for the Sherman Tree trails are full, consider coming back later in the day, or visiting sequoias in a quieter area. Options for seeing the Giant Forest sequoia grove include Big Trees Trail, Hazelwood Nature Loop, and hikes beginning at Giant Forest Museum.

Once snow accumulates, the Sherman Tree Main Trailhead and Parking Area may close. Use this map to find parking and hiking options for the General Sherman Tree.

Big Trees Trail

A level, paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start your walk at Giant Forest Museum for a 1-mile (1.6 km) round-trip walk. Ski or snowshoe once snow gets deep. There are no yellow ski-trail markers along this trail. If you have a disability placard, park at the trailhead for a 0.75-mile (1 km) loop. Check signage at the parking area before parking here if you don't have a placard.



- A Giant Forest Museum**
This lot usually fills early in the day.
- B Accessible and Winter Sherman Tree Parking**
This parking area is on the main park highway. When the main parking area closes, this parking is open to all.
- C Main/Summer Sherman Tree Parking**
Take Wolverton Road and follow signs. This parking area usually closes when snow accumulates.
- D Wolverton Snowplay Area**
This area is at the end of Wolverton Road. If you use this area for snowplay, have fun and stay safe!

Open or Available

Giant Forest Museum and Sequoia Parks Conservancy Park Store
Open with capacity limits. Winter trail maps, books, and other items are sold here. *Aveces hay guardabosques aqui quienes hablan Español.*

Wilderness Permits
Self-register outside Giant Forest Museum.

Big Trees Trail

Hazelwood Nature Loop

General Sherman Tree and Congress Trail

Wolverton Picnic and Snowplay Area

Closed or Unavailable

Lodgepole Area (visitor center, market, campground, and area trails)

Wuksachi Lodge & Restaurant

Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow Road
The road is closed to vehicles due to impacts from the KNP Complex Fire, but is open to hiking. Walk along this road to reach Moro Rock, the Colonel Charles Young Tree, and Crescent Meadow.

Crystal Cave

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp

Some Trails, See Closure Signs

Snowplay Safety

Sled Safely
Every winter, people get hurt badly while sledding in the park. Sledding accidents send over 20,000 people to emergency rooms each year in this country.

Don’t let an accident ruin your winter fun.

- When sledding, slide feet first.
- Consider wearing a helmet.
- Make sure your path is clear. Don’t slide near rocks, trees, branches, or other people.
- After sliding, look uphill. Move out of the way of people coming downhill after you.
- Don’t slide into roads or parking lots.
- Avoid hard-packed snow or ice, where speed and direction get out of control.
- Sliding devices that can be steered may be safer than others.

In an emergency, contact a ranger at Kings Canyon Visitor Center or Giant Forest Museum, or call 911.

Wander through snowy sequoia groves or snowshoe through a forest logged at the turn of the century. The Grant Grove area offers a chance to explore, with some amenities nearby.

Grant Tree Trail

This is the only intermittently plowed trail in the area. Beware of slippery ice and packed snow! This 0.3-mile (0.5 km) paved loop trail leads to the world’s second-largest living tree. Drive 0.1 mile north of Grant Grove Village and look for road signs leading to the parking area and trailhead. On the trail, look for tactile exhibits about sequoias.

North Grove Loop

This lightly traveled, 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop with a 400-foot (120 m) elevation change offers a close look at sequoias and a quiet forest walk. Start at the Grant Tree bus and RV overflow parking area.

Visitor Center to Grant Tree Trailhead

This 2-mile (3.2 km) round-trip forested trail passes through Azalea Campground and Columbine Picnic Area and has a 400-foot (120 m) elevation change. Start from the Grant Tree parking area or across the highway from the visitor center.

Big Stump Basin

Visit the site of a historic, 19th-century lumber mill and count the tree rings of the Mark Twain Stump. Start the 2-mile (3.2-km) round-trip trail from Big Stump Picnic Area. Trail construction may close this area on weekdays.

Open or Available
Kings Canyon Visitor Center, Sequoia Parks Conservancy Park Store, Wilderness Permits Open daily with capacity limits. Maps, books, and gifts are sold here.
Grant Grove Market Open 9 am–5 pm (hours subject to change). Grab-and-go food, groceries, supplies, snowshoe rentals, and ATM.
Grant Grove Post Office Open Monday–Friday, 9 am–4 pm; 24-hour lobby.
Azalea Campground
Columbine and Big Stump Snowplay and Picnic Areas

Cedar Grove

Quiet and remote, Cedar Grove sits deep in Kings Canyon, surrounded by sheer granite cliffs. The road to this area is closed for the season and usually reopens in late April.

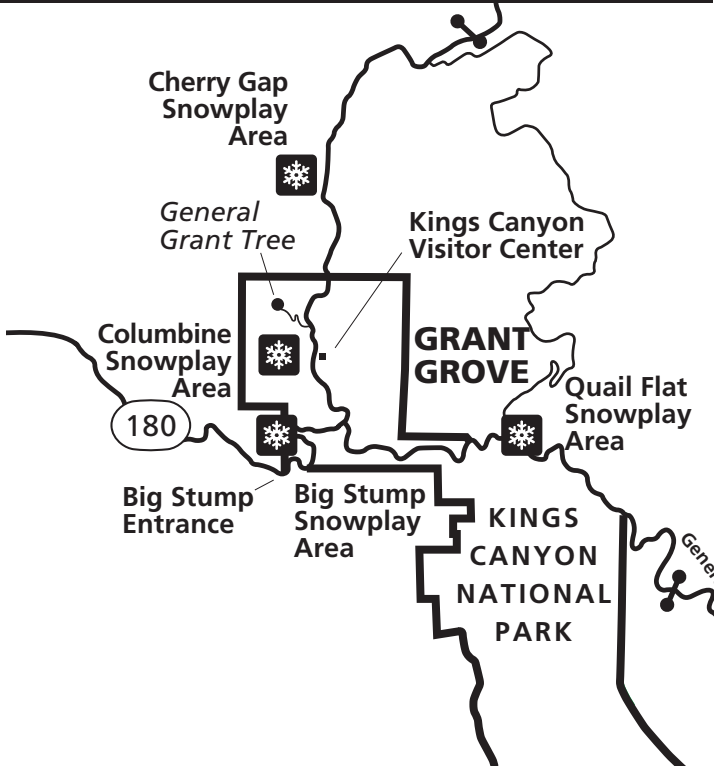
Snowplay in Kings Canyon National Park

Grant Grove Snowplay Areas

Big Stump and Columbine picnic areas are designated for snowplay. Big Stump may close due to facilities maintenance. Snowplay is prohibited in all other areas in Grant Grove, including Azalea Campground, which is for campers only. A pay telephone is located outside of Kings Canyon Visitor Center in Grant Grove Village. Have fun and stay safe!

Nearby Forest Service Areas

Snowplay is allowed at Cherry Gap Trailhead and Quail Flat (when the Generals Highway is open). Other national forest areas offer opportunities for skiing and snowshoeing.



Finding Your Way

When snow makes it hard to follow a trail on the ground, be careful not to get lost. It may be easier to follow ski-trail markers. Find these colored markers intermittently on trees, above eye level. When you are standing by one marker, you should be able to see another the next marker. Thank you for not walking in the ski tracks; the footprints can trip skiers.

Buy a map at the nearest visitor center if you plan to use unpaved trails, and get advice about current conditions.

These parks contain over 800,000 acres of wilderness with outstanding opportunities for solitude and challenge. However, some wilderness areas are closed due to the KNP Complex Fire.

Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits are required for overnight trips year round. Day hikers do not need permits. During the winter non-quota season, self-issue wilderness permits are available at the nearest permit station to your starting location.

Fire impacts have created unsafe conditions in some wilderness areas. To view a closure map, visit [go.nps.gov/SEKI-WildernessPermits](https://www.nps.gov/SEKI-WildernessPermits).

Many trailheads are closed to both entry and exit OR are not reachable by vehicle. When planning your trip, be sure that all trailheads you plan to use are open. In Sequoia, the Mineral King and Lodgepole areas are closed, along with many foothills day-use trails. Overnight hiking opportunities in the Grant Grove area are extremely limited.

Check weather forecasts before your trip. Mountain weather can be unpredictable and can cause

trailhead/road closures. Many park roads are in burned areas and are susceptible to debris flows.

Wild places include hazards, and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant and to self-rescue in case of an emergency.

Thank you for following minimum-impact, leave-no-trace guidelines to protect the wilderness!

USFS Wilderness

For information on designated wilderness areas within Sequoia National Forest, please contact the Hume Lake District Office at (559) 338-2251 or visit www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia. The Forest Service requires a free fire permit for any open flame; these are available online at preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/.

Summer Wilderness Permits

During the summer quota season, May 27, 2022–September 17, 2022, wilderness permits must be obtained in person. During this time, the number of people beginning trips each day is limited by entry point and a recreation fee is required.

Quota season reservations are available for most, but not all entry points on www.recreation.gov/permits/445857. Reservations can be made up to six months in advance of your trip.

-  Park waterways may contain bacteria, including Giardia. Properly filter or treat water before drinking.
-  Hypothermia can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If symptoms of confusion or drowsiness appear, drink warm sugary drinks and get into dry clothes, sleeping bags, and shelter.

US Forest Service

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of the Sequoia National Forest. This area is not managed by the National Park Service. In winter, many forest roads are closed. To learn more about national forest snow recreation opportunities, contact the forest's virtual ranger: www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia or (559)791-5758.

Snowplay

On the forest, snowplay is allowed at the Cherry Gap area, and Quail Flat when the Generals Highway is open. When playing here, find a safe snowplay location away from the highway and winter traffic.

Dispersed Camping

Dispersed camping is available in some areas. Permits for portable stoves or fires are available at www.readyforwildfire.org/permits.

Montecito Sequoia Lodge (permittee)

May be open, dependent on road access. Call (559) 565-3388. On the Generals Highway 9 miles (14 km) south of Grant Grove. The lodge has cabins, a restaurant, hotel, wifi, and seasonal and children’s activities.

Hume Lake Village (on private land)

Gas, market, snack shop, and a pay phone are available at this privately-run camp. Hours vary seasonally and gas pumps may close. Area conditions may also cause closures here. Travel north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then turn right, following signs to Hume Lake. For more information, call (559) 305-7770 before you travel here.



Can I...	In National Parks	In National Forests
Walk my leashed pets?	Pets are not allowed on trails, including paved trails. They are allowed in parking lots, roads, picnic areas, and campgrounds. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet (1.8 m).	Pets are allowed in developed areas and on trails. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet (1.8 m).
Collect things to take home?	Collecting objects is not allowed in parks. This includes natural objects, such as pine cones, rocks, plants, or animals, and cultural artifacts such as arrowheads, beads, or pottery shards.	You may keep a few cones or rocks for personal use. Collecting artifacts such as arrowheads, beads, or pottery shards is prohibited.
Hunt?	Not in the parks. You 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. Call 559-243-4005 or visit https://wildlife.ca.gov/hunting for more information.
Drive off-road?	Not in the parks. Stay on roads.	Get off-highway-vehicle (OHV) route information at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap.
Cut wood?	Wood cutting is prohibited, though campers may gather downed wood when not in sequoia groves.	Allowed. Please contact the nearest Forest Service office for guidance and a permit.

Usted es responsable de su seguridad

Estos parques hermosos, aunque remotos y accidentados, presentan ciertos peligros. Por ejemplo, el cambio de temperaturas, los árboles que caen sin previo aviso y los animales salvajes presentan peligros. Otros peligros son de origen humano: manejo imprudente, abandono de fogatas y otras malas decisiones. No se puede confiar en los teléfonos celulares y el GPS, podrían dar indicaciones erróneas. Todos los días ayudamos a visitantes que tienen emergencias.

Le rogamos que nos ayude preparándose para su visita: familiarícese con estos avisos de seguridad y pídale consejo a los guardaparques. ¡Su seguridad está en sus manos!

Seguridad en el río



Los lagos y ríos de estos parques pueden dar tentación, y mas durante días calurosos, pero debe saber que ahogos son la principal causa de muertes.

Los ríos son muy peligrosos debido a sus rápidas corrientes y rocas resbaladizas. Muchas de las muertes relacionadas con los ríos ocurrieron, no porque las personas tenían la intención de nadar, sino que se cayeron. Las corrientes son fuertes incluso cuando los niveles de agua son bajos. Las pendientes abruptas y las corrientes de retorno son un peligro constante. Manténgase alerta.

Una vez que se ingresa en un río, puede resultar casi imposible salir de él. El agua fría puede debilitarle rápidamente y es posible que le dé hipotermia incluso si afuera hace calor.

- **No nade en zonas con corrientes fuertes o pendientes inclinadas.**
- **NO deje a los niños sin supervisión.**
- **No nade si ha consumido alcohol o drogas. Nade siempre en estado de sobriedad.**
- **Use zapatos fuertes. Los objetos afilados que hay en el agua podrían provocar cortes.**
- **Durante una tormenta, salga del agua y aléjese de las zonas de playa.**
- **NUNCA NADE SOLO.**



Peligros relacionados con los árboles

Es posible que caigan ramas y árboles cuando no hay viento, ya sea que estén vivos o secos. Mantenga los ojos y oídos bien abiertos. Corra si oye chasquidos o crujidos provenientes de raíces, troncos o ramas (aunque a veces no emiten sonido alguno). No se detenga bajo ramas secas, agrietadas, rotas o colgantes. Evite detenerse bajo árboles que estén podridos en la base o que presenten una corteza agrietada que se desprende del tronco.



Virus del Nilo Occidental y picaduras de garrapatas

El virus del Nilo Occidental se contagia a través de la picadura de mosquitos infectados. Si bien esta enfermedad no es común en humanos, tome precauciones para evitar las picaduras de mosquitos. La garrapatas abundan en zonas de pastos tupidos y de baja elevación. Pueden portar enfermedades que son dañinas para los humanos. Tras sus caminatas, fíjese de no tener garrapatas; su picadura es indolora. Si tiene alguna, retírela cuidadosamente con unas pinzas y consulte con su médico.



Serpientes de cascabel

Las serpientes de cascabel son comunes en las faldas de Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks a poca elevación. ¡Tenga cuidado en dónde pone los pies y las manos! No las fastidie ni las mate; es entonces cuando se dan la mayoría de las mordeduras. Las mordeduras pocas veces son letales, pero el daño que ocasionan en los tejidos puede ser grave. Si recibe una mordedura, no entre en pánico y llame al 911.



Roble venenoso

Se trata de un arbusto común en elevaciones de hasta 5,000 pies (1,500 m). El roble venenoso tiene hojas en grupos de tres. En otoño, sus hojas son rojas y sus bayas blancuzcas; en invierno, la planta pierde sus hojas; y, en primavera, tiene hojas de un color verde brillante. Si toca alguna parte de la planta, lave de inmediato la piel y la ropa que hayan estado en contacto ella con jabón y agua tibia.

Explore de forma segura

- **Evite viajar solo. Cuéntele a alguien cuáles son sus planes y a qué hora espera regresar.**
- **Lleve un mapa, agua, una linterna y prendas de abrigo adicionales.**
- **Preste atención a los posibles peligros que provengan de arriba, de su alrededor o del suelo.**



Calidad del aire

Los parques pueden verse afectados por una calidad del aire pobre, especialmente en verano. En los meses de verano, las concentraciones de ozono suelen exceder aquellas establecidas por los estándares federales de salud. El ozono puede tener impactos negativos en la salud, en particular en grupos más sensibles como los niños, las personas mayores y aquellas con enfermedades cardíacas o de pulmón. Para conocer las predicciones de la calidad del aire, visite el sitio web del parque.



La peste y el hantavirus

La peste y el hantavirus están relacionados con los animales salvajes que habitan estos parques, pero los casos de infecciones en humanos son excepcionales. Los roedores y sus pulgas pueden ser portadores de la peste, y los humanos pueden contagiarse si reciben la picadura de una pulga infectada. El hantavirus se transmite por aire y proviene de los ratones venado infectados. Los humanos suelen contraer un síndrome pulmonar por hantavirus tras limpiar o encontrarse en espacios cerrados en los que hay heces de ratón venado.



Vele por la seguridad de sus mascotas

Para asegurarse de que sus mascotas, así como los animales salvajes, estén a salvo, deben llevar correa en todo momento. Las mascotas son propensas a las garrapatas o a ser mordidas por serpientes. También ha habido casos de ataques a perros por parte de osos y siervos. Recoja las heces de su mascota y deshágase de ellas adecuadamente. No deje mascotas en su vehículo, ya que este podría sobrecalentarse con facilidad.



No pierda los frenos

Si mantiene el pie en el freno durante demasiado tiempo, es posible que fallen. En su lugar, siempre baje la marcha cuando avanza colina abajo. Si tiene un vehículo automático, ponga la palanca de cambios en 1, 2 o L. El motor hará más ruido, pero evitará el sobrecalentamiento de los frenos.

Se requieren máscaras en todos los edificios de NPS y en espacios al aire libre cuando no se puede mantener el distanciamiento social, independientemente del estado de vacunación. La información de este periódico puede cambiar en cualquier momento mientras trabajamos para brindar un acceso seguro a estos parques.

Servicios que están abiertos

Los campamentos de Potwisha y Azalea están abiertas. No aceptan reservaciones. Sitios serán disponibles por orden de llegada y serán limitados en cantidad. Contar con acampar en la nieve en Azalea Campground.

Los hoteles en el parque están cerrados hasta la primavera. Para más información, visite a www.visitsequoia.com.

El mercado en Grant Grove está abierto.

Los centros de visitantes de Foothills y Kings Canyon están abiertos todos los días para información y planificación de viajes. Horas de servicio variarán. Hay tiendas del parque en los centros de visitantes donde se vende mapas, libros y otros artículos. Las exposiciones y cines en los centros de visitantes podrán estar cerrados.

Aplicación móvil

Descargue nuestra aplicación oficial para mapas, recorridos autoguiados, e información sobre casi 200 características y ubicaciones del parque. La aplicación está disponible a través de la aplicación Apple o las tiendas Google Play. Busca National Park Service. Si es posible, descárguelo e instálelo antes de llegar a los parques. El servicio celular es limitado aquí, pero hay WiFi gratis fuera de el centro de visitantes de Foothills y Kings Canyon. Asegúrese de habilitar los servicios de ubicación y de descargar contenido sin conexión en la configuración de la aplicación. Esto permitirá que la aplicación continúe funcionando cuando esté fuera del rango de telefonía celular.

Mantenga a los osos salvajes y seguros

Nuestra comida puede significar la muerte para los osos.

Estos animales inteligentes aprenden a obtener comida de los campamentos, automóviles y contenedores de basura. Luego de probar una vez, regresan por más. Se vuelven atrevidos y agresivos, y puede que los maten para protegernos.

¡Guarde su comida!

Guarde todos los alimentos y cosas que despidan olor en cajas de almacenamiento metálicas. Nunca los deje en su vehículo.



Manejando en un área de control de cadenas

Todos los vehículos deben de cargar cadenas en áreas de control de cadenas, incluyendo vehículos de 4x4 y AWD. Ud. tiene que instalar las cadenas donde los letreros lo requieren. La velocidad máxima con cadenas instaladas es 25 mph, aún si hay letreros al contrario.

R1: Llantas para nieve o cadenas son obligatorias.

Hay que instalar cadenas si sus llantas no tienen “MS,” “M/S,” “M+S,” o “MUD AND SNOW” en el costado o si su vehículo pesa mas de 6500 libras.

R2: 4WD/AWD o cadenas son obligatorios.

Hay que instalar cadenas si su vehículo no tiene sistema de 4WD o AWD o si su vehículo pesa mas de 6500 libras.

R3: Cadenas son obligatorias en todos los vehículos.

No hay excepciones.

Conduciendo en invierno

En elevaciones más altas, el invierno comienza temprano. Se pueden requerir cadenas de llantas en cualquier camino del parque en cualquier momento desde el otoño hasta la primavera. En las comunidades cercanas a las entradas a los parques, negocios ofrecen cadenas para rentar o comprar.

Las condiciones meteorológicas y de la carretera pueden cambiar rápidamente, varias veces al día. Obtenga información actualizada antes de ir a los parques, pero recuerde que las condiciones de la carretera y los requisitos de la cadena pueden cambiar para cuando llegue. Para conocer las condiciones de la carretera dentro del parque las 24 horas, llame al (559) 565-3341.

Seguridad en las zona quemadas

Preste atención a la caída de árboles.

Es posible que caigan ramas y árboles cuando no hay viento, ya sea que estén vivos o secos. Mantenga los ojos y oídos bien abiertos. Preste atención para oír chasquidos o crujidos provenientes de raíces, troncos o ramas. No se detenga bajo ramas secas, agrietadas, rotas o colgantes. Evite permanecer bajo los árboles quemados.

No ingrese a las zonas cerradas.

Existen riesgos en estas zonas que han sido identificados, como puentes quemados, árboles peligrosos y tramos de sendero inestables debido a la erosión. Puede ser difícil identificar muchos de estos peligros.

Conduzca con cuidado.

En cualquier momento puede haber rocas, escombros e incluso árboles caídos en las carreteras. Esté atento y conduzca lentamente, especialmente cuando llueva o haya viento. Ceda el paso a los vehículos que estén despejando las carreteras y respete los requisitos de uso de cadenas en los neumáticos cuando los haya. Cuidado con los animales.

Permanezca en los senderos.

Aunque puede ser tentador pasear, las zonas fuera de los senderos tienen peligros como rocas sueltas, tocones quemados, hoyos y terreno inestable.

Tenga aún más cuidado si llueve o hay viento.

Las tormentas y el viento hacen que muchos de los riesgos sean todavía más peligrosos. Considere la posibilidad de esperar a que mejore el clima antes de viajar por una zona quemada.

Si se encuentra con condiciones peligrosas, regrese.

Las condiciones en las zonas quemadas pueden cambiar rápidamente. Regrese si ve un problema y no le parece que sea seguro continuar. Informe sobre las condiciones peligrosas al personal del parque.

Tenga cuidado cerca de los ríos.

Los ríos son muy peligrosos debido a sus rápidas corrientes y rocas resbaladizas. Muchas de las muertes relacionadas con los ríos ocurrieron, no porque las personas tenían la intención de nadar, sino que se cayeron. Las corrientes son fuertes incluso cuando los niveles de agua son bajos.

Parking in the Giant Forest



- A Giant Forest Museum**
This lot usually fills early in the day.
- B Accessible/Winter Sherman Tree Parking**
This parking area is on the main park highway. When the main parking area closes, this parking is open to all.
- C Main/Summer Sherman Tree Parking**
Take Wolverton Road and follow signs. This parking area usually closes when snow accumulates.
- D Wolverton Snowplay Area**
This area is at the end of Wolverton Road. If you use this area for snowplay, have fun and stay safe!



Protect Wildlife!

Drive slowly and watch for animals along roads.

Wildlife have been active on park highways after the recent wildfire. Always follow the speed limit and watch for animals.

Photo by Alison Taggart-Barone

Driving in Chain Control Areas

Chains May Be Required at Any Time

All vehicles must carry tire chains when chain control is in effect, including 4WD and AWD vehicles. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Tires with a snow tread may also be required, but most cars have them. Check the side of your tires: If you see *M / S*, *M+S*, or a snowflake symbol embedded in the rubber, it's a snow tread tire. The speed limit when driving with chains is 25 mph, even if posted otherwise.

R1: Snow tires or chains are required.

Your tires must have the letters MS, M/S, M+S or the words MUD AND SNOW or ALL SEASON on the sidewall, or you must install chains.

R2: 4-wheel drive or chains are required.

Your vehicle must be in 4x4 or all-wheel drive or you must install chains.

R3: Chains are required on all vehicles.

There are no exceptions.



Tire chains or cables are essential and required when chain control is in effect. Avoid an expensive towing bill by installing chains when they are required.

Photo by Alison Taggart-Barone

Winter Road Information

All closures may change due to weather or other conditions.

Closures Related to Fire Impacts and Weather

Generals Highway

- Winter storms may cause closures on any portion of the Generals Highway.
- The Generals Highway will close between Montecito Sequoia Resort and Wuksachi Lodge for the winter.

Seasonal Road Closures

Road Closures in Kings Canyon National Park and Sequoia National Forest:

- Highway 180 to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon (managed by Caltrans)
- These roads close with snow: Panoramic Point, Redwood Mountain (NPS), Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS).

Road Closures in Sequoia National Park:

- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow, Crystal Cave Road, Mineral King Road, Middle Fork Road.

Unpaved Roads with Rough Conditions

- South Fork Road: This road is partially unpaved and slippery when wet. Even in good weather, it can be extremely rugged. High-clearance vehicles are recommended.

Winter Driving

Expect Icy Roads

Slow down. Watch for ice in shade or where the road looks wet. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids. Keep extra distance between cars.

Gasoline

No gas stations are found within the parks. Fill up before you enter. If you're already here, call Hume Lake Christian Camp to check on gas availability. The camp is near Grant Grove and is open all year. Hours may vary and pumps may close at any time. Call before you drive here for gas: (559) 305-7770.

Emergency Car Repairs

The NPS does not tow or repair vehicles. Use a pay phone to contact a towing service. If you are blocking traffic, call 911 or contact the emergency communications center at 559-565-3341 ext. 9.

Vehicle Length Limits

Generals Highway in Sequoia National Park:

- Foothills Visitor Center to Potwisha Campground: vehicles longer than 24 feet are not recommended.
- Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum: vehicles longer than 22 feet are not recommended.

Alternatives: Highway 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider.