

Sequoia/Kings Canyon Map and Guide

National Parks
California

The giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) escaped the last Ice Age and stands as a survivor of an ancient lineage of huge trees that mantled much of the Earth millions of years ago. Today these trees grow only in scattered groves on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. The story of their survival and of the geological processes shaping these lands is told at campfire programs, visitor centers, and wayside exhibits. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are part of the international Man and the Biosphere program to conserve genetic diversity and an environmental baseline for research and monitoring.

The Generals Highway is the main road that connects Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Open year-round, it may be closed briefly during heavy winter snowfalls. It winds through the sequoia belt for a pleasant two-hour drive

of 74 kilometers (46 miles) from the Ash Mountain Entrance to Grant Grove. Several branch roads take you to other scenic attractions, or to within a short walk of them along well developed and maintained paths or trails.

From Grant Grove you travel 48 kilometers (30 miles) on Calif. 180 through Sequoia National Forest and along the South Fork of the Kings River to Cedar Grove. The road then continues for 10 kilometers (6 miles) through the canyon to Roads End, where you can stand at the foot of solid granite walls towering hundreds of meters above the canyon floor. The road to Cedar Grove is closed from about November 1 to May 1.

The road to Mineral King (see map) is closed from about November 1 to May 30.

Pacific Crest Trail follows the John Muir Trail to Crabtree and from there south over Siberian Pass.

Use detailed topographic maps in the backcountry

No road crosses the Sierra east to west in Sequoia or Kings Canyon National Parks.



SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Obelisk
2957m
9700ft

Cedar Grove
See other side for detail

Grant Grove
See other side for detail

Grant Tree
Wilsonia

Stony Creek facilities include food, lodging, gas, grocery store, and stable.

Crystal Cave
Area open summer only

Giant Forest
See other side for detail

Lodgepole
Sherman Tree
Giant Forest Village

Mineral King

Atwell Mill
See below for detail

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

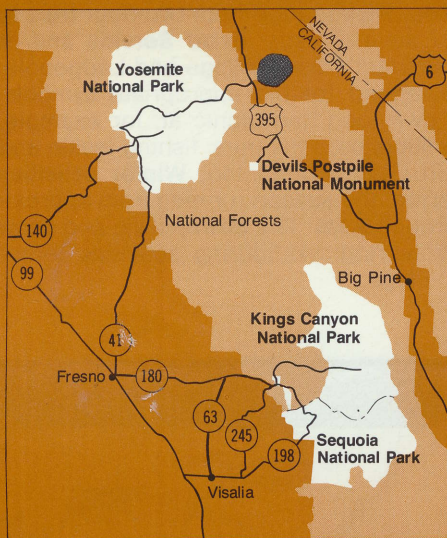
Rock Creek

0 1 2 3 4 5 kilometers

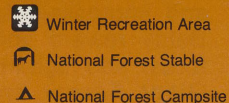
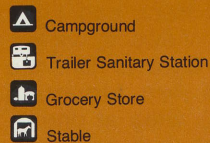
0 1 2 3 4 5 miles



▼ Locator Map



▼ Legend



Help make your visit accident-free. Be cautious near park waters, especially during the spring. Drive winding roads with care. Keep your distance from wildlife—animals can be dangerous.

High elevations aggravate heart

problems. Use good judgment in activities. Thunderstorms pose lightning hazards—stay in your car or cabin.

Keep pets off trails and under physical control at all times.

Store foods properly so they will not attract wildlife.

Please observe park laws and avoid common violations for firearms, alcohol and drugs; traffic safety; and destruction and collection of natural features. Camp and build fires only in the areas designated. Rangers will answer your questions.

For information write: Superintendent, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, CA 93271.

National Park Service
U.S. Department
of the Interior

▼ Mineral King



The Mineral King area lies 40 kilometers (25 miles) southeast of Three Rivers at the end of a winding road. Its open sub-alpine meadows and towering timberline peaks are best designed for a lingering visit. The natural beauty of California's Sierra Nevada reaches its apex here. This beauty is best seen by hiking to one of the lake basins that surround the valley floor. But you may need a leisurely day on the valley floor to get used to the altitude (2,300 meters/7,500 feet). All trails climb steeply from the valley floor. The area's name

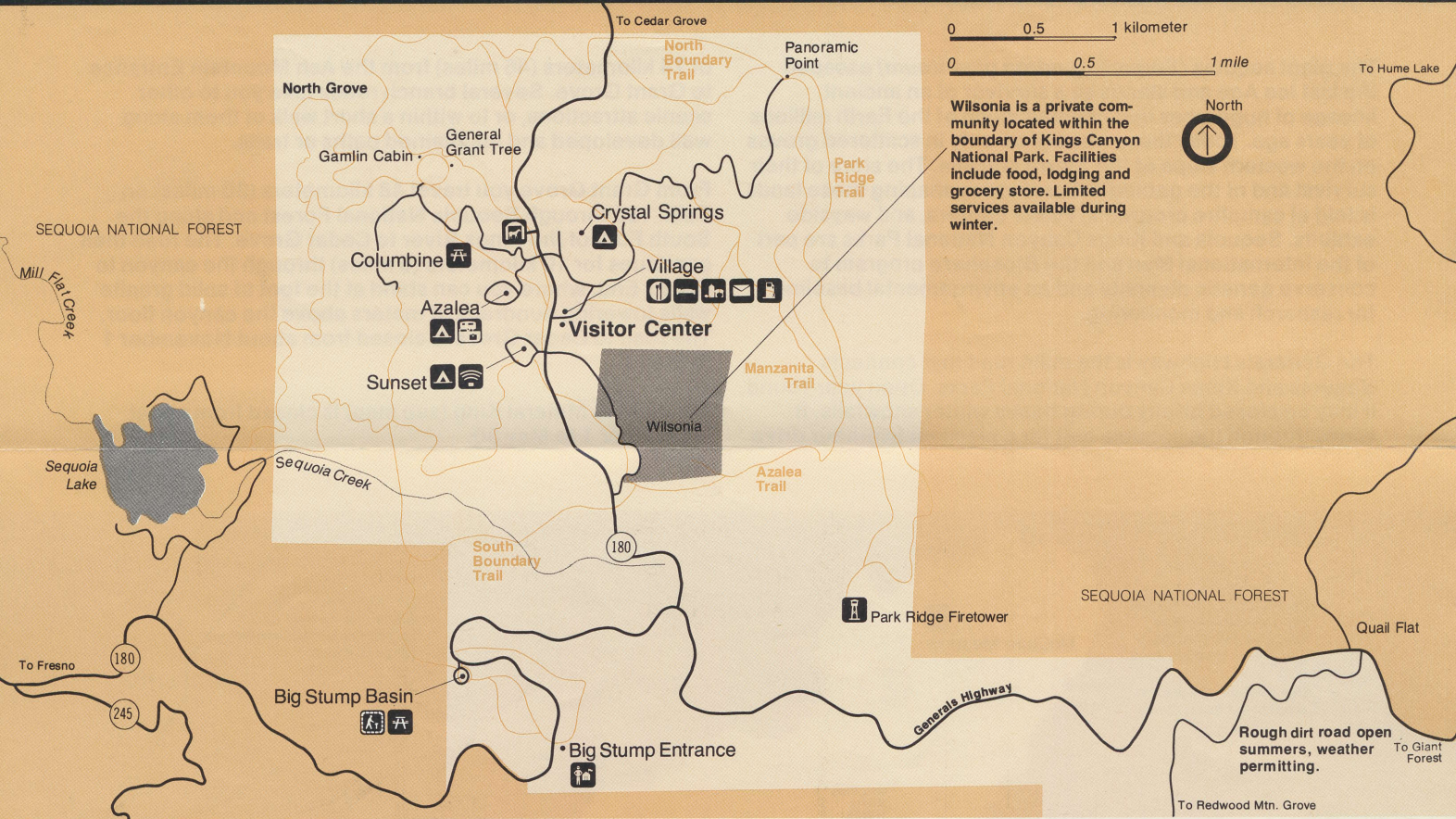
keeps alive the forgotten dreams of mineral riches—silver ore—that promised another Comstock Lode here. The valley did not deliver on that promise. In 1965 the U.S. Forest Service solicited bids for developing a ski resort in Mineral King and chose the Walt Disney Corporation to build and operate facilities for 10,000 skiers. The project was opposed. Lawsuits stalemated it. In 1978, Congress transferred the area to Sequoia National Park, to be managed for its natural values. Facilities are rustic and limited.

▼ Grant Grove

Enlargements of popular areas in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are shown below to help you plan your visit and get around while in the

parks. The legend for the large map on the reverse shows the meaning of the symbols on this side, too. Use it and the brief descriptions accompanying each

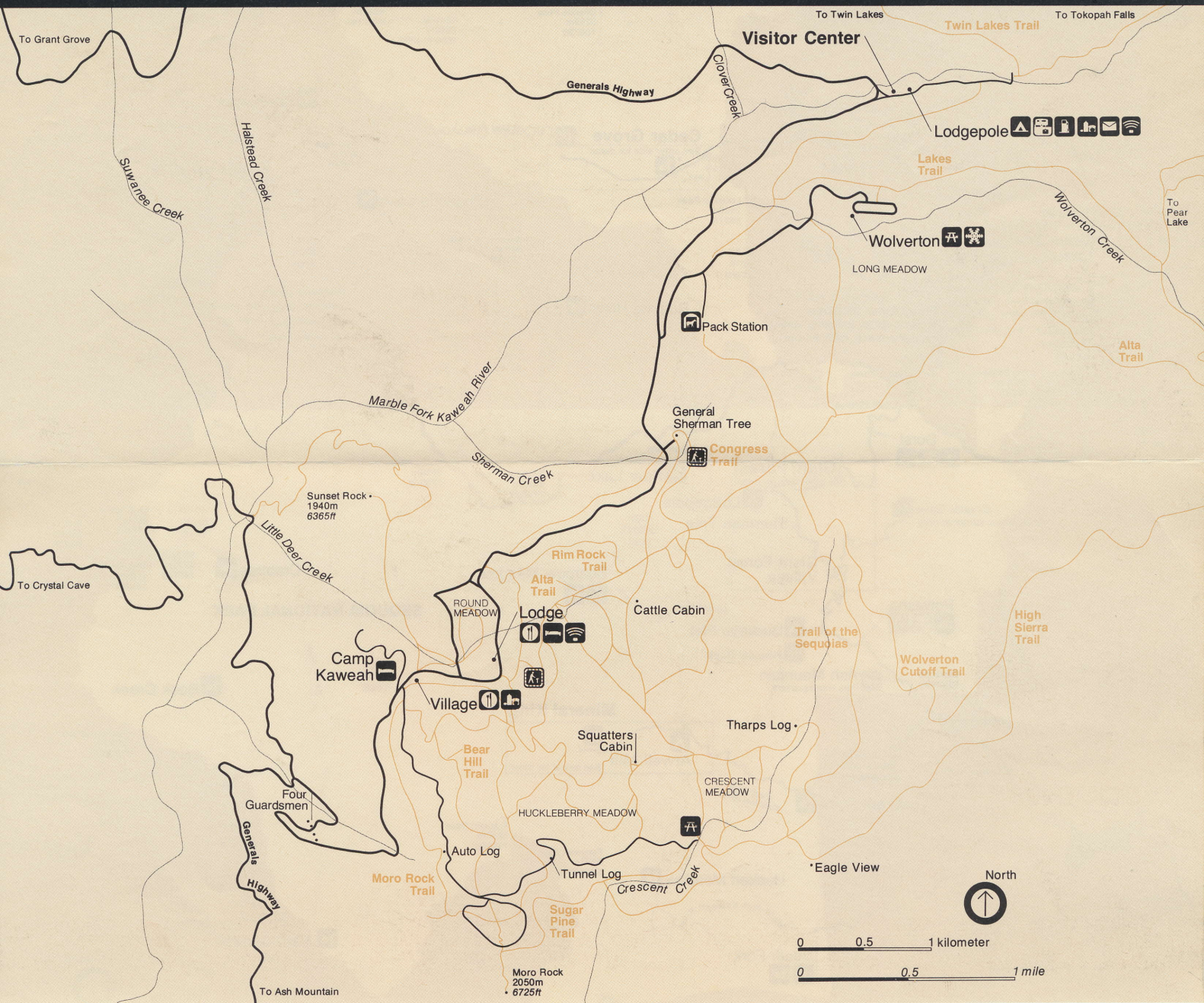
map blow-up to decide how you want to spend your time here to enjoy this striking wilderness landscape and its tremendous trees.



Here at Grant Grove you can see the nation's Christmas tree, the General Grant. Another notable giant stands nearby, the Robert E. Lee tree. The weathered Centennial Stump draws a striking contrast to these giant survivors. It is the remnant of a tree felled in 1875 to provide an exhibit for the Philadelphia World's Fair. Near here is the Big Stump Basin where ancient trees were cut down during the early logging era. **Visitor Center.** Stop at the Grant Grove Visitor Center to check on the facilities, services, activities, and programs available in this part of the park. Symbols on the map (see legend) indicate many of these. Current lists of interpretive services are maintained here. Check out these many ways to enjoy the park provided for the enjoyment of you and

your family. **Market and Gas Station.** The market here offers general supplies, including fishing tackle and licenses. Gasoline, mechanical services and towing are available too. **Horseback riding.** Day trips operate out of Grant Grove, providing a more intimate way to see the park than by driving through in your car. Footpaths and trails are shown on the map. Afoot you get the most moving and impressive feeling of the antiquity and awesomeness of these gigantic trees. **Accommodations.** Campgrounds, lodging, and food service are available year round. **Winter Activities** (December through April). Ski touring centers around Grant Grove Village. The snow play area is at Big Stump.

▼ Giant Forest



Some of the finest groups of giant sequoias are found at Giant Forest. The largest—and one of the oldest—of living things is here too, the famous General Sherman Tree. Its age is estimated at about 2,500 years. **Other Attractions** include Crescent Meadow, Crystal Cave, Tokopah Valley, and impressive Moro Rock. Both Moro Rock and Little Baldy reward short climbs with superb views of valley, forest, and high mountain scenery. **Visitor Centers** flank the Giant Forest area at Lodgepole and Ash Mountain headquarters (see large map on reverse). Stop at one or both of these centers to check on current activities, programs, facilities, and services available during your stay in the parks. Interpretive services are posted and are also listed in your copy of the *Sequoia Bark*, the park newspaper. **Trails** in the Giant Forest are many and varied, giving you foot

access to fishing, tree groves, scenic outlooks, and delightful meadows. Afoot on these trails you gain perhaps the greatest appreciation for the glimpse of nature that these spectacular wilderness parks afford. **Horseback riding** is offered at the Wolverton Pack Station. Rides range from two-hour trips to backcountry visits of several days. **Food Service** and/or lodging are offered at Giant Forest Village and Lodgepole. Check the map and legend for the appropriate symbols. You can bring your own food and picnic at, for example, Wolverton. Buy food supplies, souvenirs, fishing tackle and licenses, etc. here in Giant Forest too. **Winter activities** center around Wolverton, the season running from approximately December through April. The downhill ski and snow play areas are at Wolverton; ski touring activities center around Giant Forest Village.

▼ Cedar Grove



Cedar Grove nestles in a thickly forested area on the banks of the South Fork of the Kings River. Here you are in an impressive steep-walled valley whose peaks rise above you to heights 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) above the river. **Trail Trips.** Cedar Grove is the activity hub of Kings Canyon and serves as a popular base for extensive trail trips into the surrounding high country. Zumwalt Meadow, Roaring River Falls, and Mist Falls are readily accessible. **The High Country** is a vast region of mountains, canyons, rivers, lakes, and quiet meadows. The Sierra Crest forms the eastern boundary of the parks and its elevation ranges from 3,353 meters (11,000 feet) to 4,418 meters (14,495 feet) at the summit of Mount Whitney, the tallest peak in the contiguous 48 states. High country trails are generally open from early July through October. **Camping Areas** at Sentinel, Sheep Creek, Canyon View, and Moraine are generally open from late April to late

October, as weather permits. There are no electrical hookups in any camps and no water or sewer connections for trailers. However, a travel trailer sanitary disposal station is located at the Sheep Creek campground. **Horseback Riding** is offered at the pack station—see symbol on map. Next to exploring the area afoot, horseback riding offers you the best chance to experience the awe and majesty of this wilderness more on its own terms and at its own speed, which is natural time. **Accommodations**, including food service, lodging, campers' supply store, and service station are available at Cedar Grove Village. Check at the Ranger Station if you have any questions or difficulties.