

# Sequoia and Kings Canyon

National Parks  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Seeing Grant Grove

The **Grant Grove Area of Kings Canyon National Park** contains an easily accessible group of magnificent giant sequoia trees, small waterfalls, miles of quiet trails and spectacular vistas. Grant Grove was the original General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to preserve and protect this magnificent stand of giant sequoias from the lumberman's axe as was happening in the Big Stump Basin nearby. The following is a list of things to do and see while visiting the Grant Grove area. Distances are given from the Grant Grove Visitor Center (Grant Grove Village) located 3 miles from the Big Stump Entrance on State Highway 180, 55 miles east of Fresno. Refer to the park maps that are provided free to all park visitors. If you don't have one, ask at any park visitor center or ranger station.

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### Around Grant Grove

**Grant Grove Visitor Center:** Begin your visit here. Free exhibits explain the natural history and human history of the giant sequoias. A free 10-minute orientation slide program is available for viewing upon request. Rangers are on duty to answer questions and provide visitor assistance from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Trail maps and resource books available for purchase. The schedule of ranger-led activities is listed in the SEQUOIA BARK, the free park newspaper available to all park visitors.

**General Grant Tree:** The third largest living tree in the world, the Nation's Christmas Tree, also designated as a National Shrine, the only living memorial to Americans who gave their lives for freedom. Also located along this one-third mile paved loop trail (wheel-chair accessible) are the historic Gamlin Cabin, the Fallen Monarch and other points of interest enjoyed by park visitors since 1890. A 35-minute taped tour is available for rent at the visitor center for 50 cents.

**Big Stump Basin Trail:** Imagine yourself in a noisy, bustling logging camp as you marvel at huge sequoia stumps and other remains of the Smith Comstock lumbering operation. As you walk this loop trail through a regenerating sequoia forest, shrubland and meadow, keep your eyes open for birdlife and wildflowers. The trail booklet may be purchased from the dispenser at the trailhead or the visitor center. An alternate trail leads across the highway and past the Sawed Tree, a giant sequoia which was partially cut a century ago, but lives on. Self-guiding trail booklet may be purchased at the trailhead or visitor center. Located 2½ miles west on Highway 180.

**Panoramic Point:** Treat yourself to a spectacular vista of the high Sierra and identify peaks from Mt. Goddard in northern Kings Canyon Park to Eagle Scout Peak in Sequoia Park. Mt. Whitney cannot be viewed from this or any road site on the west side due to the height of the Great Western Divide. Access to Panoramic Point is by way of a rather steep and narrow road. Go east from the visitor center and follow the road as it curves to the left around meadow, then bear right to go uphill at the intersection signed "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles." The viewpoint is a quarter-mile walk from the parking lot. Large vehicles and trailers should not attempt this road!

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### Other Trails and Points of Interest

**North Grove Loop:** A seldom traveled trail provides an opportunity for a close look at the big trees. Enjoy a quiet walk past meadows and creeks, through mixed conifer and sequoia forest. The trailhead is found at the lower end of the Grant Tree parking area, 1 mile west of the visitor center.

**Sequoia Lake Overlook/Dead Giant Loop:** Walking this short loop trail provides you the opportunity to speculate about the cause of death for the Dead Giant, enjoy a picturesque view of a historic mill pond, and reflect on the differences between management of National Forest and National Park land. Trail begins at the lower end of the Grant Tree parking area and follows an old paved road about a mile before branching off to the west. 2½ miles round trip.

**Buena Vista Peak:** Begin your hike up this granite peak just south of the Kings Canyon Overlook along the Generals Highway, 6 miles east of Grant Grove. The 360 degree vista looks out over the majestic sequoias in Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Fire Tower, and beyond, a splendid panorama of the high Sierra. 2 miles round trip.

**Redwood Canyon:** Miles of pristine trail in the world's largest grove of giant sequoias. Short walks, day hikes and overnight backpacking trips possible. Walk through a sequoia-mixed conifer forest and shrubland. Discover waterfalls, cascades and quiet pools along Redwood Creek. Witness regrowth of hundreds of acres of new sequoia forests resulting from prescribed and natural fires over the last 20 years. The National Park Service and cooperating universities learned through experimentation at Redwood Canyon that fire is a critical element to the health and vigor of sequoia forests. You will find no better place to observe this relationship between trees and fire. Trailhead is located at Redwood Saddle, about 6½ miles south and east of Grant Grove along a bumpy dirt road.

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### More Time?

**Converse Basin:** Once the largest grove of giant sequoia, virtually every mature tree was cut down in the early part of the century. The Boole Tree was spared along with a few other less accessible giants. John Muir wrote he had counted 4000 annual rings on a stump located in the Basin. The Basin is about 6 miles north of Grant Grove on SR 180, on a graded dirt road. Ask at the visitor center for a map of the area.

**Hume Lake:** Originally built as a mill pond to supply water for the flume so that rough cut sequoia lumber could be floated to the planing mill at Sanger, 54 miles below. The lake is a major recreational site in the Sequoia National Forest. Offering fishing, swimming, boat rental (Hume Lake Christian Camps), and a Forest Service Campground. Gas, groceries and a small laundry also available. Eleven miles from Grant Grove off SR 180.

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## Seeing the Giant Forest

The **Giant Forest of Sequoia National Park** is one of the best places on earth to see giant sequoias, the world's largest trees. The forests that harbor these giant trees also contain many other interesting and beautiful features. The following is a list of things to see and do while visiting this fascinating place. Distances are given from Giant Forest Village, located 17 miles north of the Ash Mountain (Three Rivers) Entrance Station via the Generals Highway. Park maps are provided free to all park visitors. If you don't have one, ask at any park visitor center or ranger station.

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### Along the Generals Highway

**Lodgepole Visitor Center:** Begin your visit here. Free exhibits and audio-visual programs explain the Sierra Nevada and the sequoias. A ranger is on duty to answer questions. Located 4.5 miles north of Giant Forest Village via the Generals Highway. Current hours are listed in the SEQUOIA BARK, the free park newspaper available to all park visitors.

**General Sherman Tree:** The largest living thing in the world and one of the fastest growing. Named in 1879 by a Civil War veteran. Located 2 miles north of Giant Forest Village via the Generals Highway.

**Congress Trail:** An easy stroll through the heart of the sequoia forest beginning at the General Sherman Tree. Recommended for first-time or limited-time visitors. Highlights include the House and Senate Groups, and the President and McKinley Trees. \$.50 guide pamphlet available at General Sherman Tree or Lodgepole Visitor Center. 2 miles round trip. Allow 2 hours.

**Round Meadow:** The most accessible of all the beautiful forest meadows of the Giant Forest. Surrounded by many large sequoias. A good place for wildflowers during the summer months. Located adjacent to the Giant Forest Lodge, ¼ mile north of Giant Forest Village. The TRAIL FOR ALL PEOPLE circles the meadow (2/3 mile).

**Hazelwood Nature Trail:** Located across the highway from the Giant Forest Lodge Registration Office. Features trailside displays about the sequoias and man's impact upon them. (1 mile)

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### The Moro Rock— Crescent Meadow Road

This short side road (dead end) begins at Giant Forest Village and explores the south and west sides of the Giant Forest. Not recommended for trailers. Allow 1-2 hours to see the following features:

**The Auto Log:** A fallen giant sequoia log with a flattened top on which an automobile can be driven. Located 0.9 miles from Village.

**Moro Rock:** A spectacular granite dome with a steep ¼ mile trail to the summit. Views of the western half of Sequoia National Park. Located 2.0 miles from Village.

**Parker Group:** A well known and photogenic sequoia group. Located 2.6 miles from Village.

**Tunnel Log:** A fallen giant sequoia log with a tunnel through which an automobile may pass. Bypass available for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles from Village.

**Crescent Meadow:** John Muir's "gem of the Sierra." Located 100 yards from the end of the Crescent Meadow Road. 3.9 miles from Village via Moro Rock. Excellent mid-summer wildflower show. A popular area for hiking and picnicking. Many trails start here including the one-mile route to THARPS LOG, the home of the first white man to live in Giant Forest, and the famous HIGH SIERRA TRAIL, which runs 71 miles to the summit of Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in the lower 48 states.

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### If You Have More Time . . .

**Exploring Giant Forest By Foot:** Over forty miles of foot trail open up every part of the grove. For information ask any park ranger or pick up a copy of the \$1.00 guide map GIANT FOREST.

**Crystal Cave:** A marble cavern located 9 miles from Giant Forest Village via the Generals Highway and the Crystal Cave Road. Walking tours daily during the summer season 10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. Allow at least 45 minutes to travel from the Village to the cave. Allow 4 hours from Village for round trip to cave. (Road not suitable for trailers.) Check details in SEQUOIA BARK. Fee area.

**Tokopah Falls Trail:** A 1.7 mile-long foot trail (dead end) along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River to spectacular Tokopah Valley with its impressive granite cliffs. Trail starts in Lodgepole Campground, 4.5 miles north of Village. Allow 3-4 hours.

**Little Baldy Trail:** Ascends 700 vertical feet, along a 1.7 mile trail (dead end) to a mountain summit with a grand view. Trail starts at Little Baldy Saddle, 11 miles north of Giant Forest Village via the Generals Highway. Allow 3-4 hours for round trip walk.

**Muir Grove Trail:** An easy two-mile (dead end) trail leads to Muir Grove, a pristine giant sequoia grove with many large trees. Trail begins in the Group Camp area of Dorst Campground, 13 miles north of Giant Forest Village. Allow 3-4 hours to make the round trip hike.