



WINTER INFORMATION

(APPROXIMATELY NOVEMBER THROUGH MAY)

INFORMATION

Visitor Centers are open daily: Ash Mountain Headquarters, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Lodgepole, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Grant Grove, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For park information call (209) 565-3456. The parks' newspaper, Sequoia Bark, contains information on services and activities. Check locally for details.

ROAD ACCESS

Take State Highway 180 east from Fresno to Grant Grove in Kings Canyon National Park; State Highway 198 east from Visalia to Ash Mountain Entrance. The Generals Highway between Lodgepole and Grant Grove is open year-round, but may be closed during evening hours or during or immediately after heavy snowstorms. Call (209) 565-3351 for current road conditions. The road to Cedar Grove is closed all winter due to the possibility of rock slides. The road to Atwell Mill and Mineral King is closed to travel because of snow conditions. South Fork Road has a dirt surface and may be difficult to drive after a rain or snowfall.

AIR, BUS AND TRAIN SERVICE

Major airlines, bus companies and AMTRAK serve Fresno or Visalia. Car rentals are available in Fresno or Visalia.

SERVICE STATIONS

Gas, tire chains, oil and antifreeze are available at Lodgepole and Grant Grove. Tire chains and antifreeze at Giant Forest Market. Call ranger stations to arrange for tow service. (209) 565-3341.

FOOD AND LODGING

Meals, cabins, gift shop, groceries at Giant Forest Village (open daily) and Grant Grove (open Thursday through Monday). For lodging reservations call (209) 561-3314. Meals, lodging, groceries in Wilsonia (209) 335-2310.

POST OFFICE

Mail for park visitors should be addressed: General Delivery, Sequoia National Park CA 93262. The Post Office is located at Lodgepole and is open all year. Kings Canyon National Park (Grant Grove) Post Office is closed during winter months.

CAMPING

Potwisha Campground, elevation 2,000', 3 miles above Ash Mountain Headquarters; open all year, \$6.00 fee. Camping in snow is limited to parking space at Lodgepole and Azalea Campground areas.

EVENING TALKS

Evening talks at the Grant Grove Visitor Center on Friday and Saturday; Lodgepole Visitor Center on Saturday. Campfire programs at Potwisha Campground on weekends in spring. Additional programs during holidays.

WINTER SAFETY

Highways above 4,000 feet in elevation are often icy and slick. Use extreme caution and reduce speed under these conditions. Watch for snowplows. Please supervise small children while using snow play areas. Do not use plowed roads for snow play or skiing. Please! To avoid any delay on snowy and icy roads, carry tire chains to fit your tires

any time you come to the mountains in the winter. Before leaving, remove snow from you car; it can slide and block your vision.

WEATHER

Storms may bring snowfall to Grant Grove, Lodgepole, Wolverton, and Giant Forest at any time. During these periods, snow tires and/or tire chains may be required for travel on park roads. Signs are posted at park entrances advising of weather and road conditions. For recorded daily information, call (209) 565-3351.

EMERGENCY

Dial 911. No coins needed.

SHERMAN & GRANT TREES

Parking areas and paths leading to the giant sequoia trees are kept open year-round.

HIKING

Marble Falls from Potwisha, Middle Fork Trail from Hospital Rock, and Lady Bug Trail from South Fork are low elevation trails in Sequoia National Park, usually free of snow. Notify a ranger when taking backcountry snowshoe or ski trips. Obtain a wilderness permit at the nearest ranger station if planning to spend the night in the backcountry.

SNOWSHOE WALKS

Naturalist-guided snowshoe walks at Giant Forest, Lodgepole and Grant Grove on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, when snow conditions permit (usually mid-December to mid-March). Reservations recommended. Contact local visitor centers for details. For Grant Grove call 335-2315.

SKI AREA

Wolverton winter use area is 3-1/2 miles north of Giant Forest. Open Saturday, Sunday, and holidays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weather permitting; parking, first aid, and comfort stations. Park concessioner operates ski lifts (9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.), snack bar, retail shop, rental shop, and ski instruction. Phone (209) 565-3435.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

In the Giant Forest area, a system of marked cross-country ski trails connects Giant Forest, Wolverton, and Lodgepole with scenic points of interest. In the Grant Grove area, trails connect with ski trails on the surrounding Sequoia National Forest. Maps are available at the visitor centers and ski touring centers.

SKI TOURING CENTERS

In Giant Forest Village, Sequoia Ski Touring Center, (209) 565-3461 operates 7 days a week (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.) with qualified instructors, lessons, rentals (touring and backcountry skis), ski touring trails of varying degrees of difficulty and scheduled guided overnight ski trips (beginner to advanced). Grant Grove Ski Touring Center (209) 335-2314, is open Thursday through Monday (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and offers similar services.

SNOW PLAY AREAS

Snow play areas at Wolverton in Sequoia, and at Big Stump, Azalea, and Sunset in Grant Grove. Sleds, inner tubes and platters may be used. Inner tubes and platters cannot be steered; please use caution while playing.