



Trip Planner Spring 2021



NPS/Alex Olow



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

COVID-19 Safety

We encourage you to follow CDC guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

You should:



Wear a mask in federal buildings—they are required. Masks are required outdoors on federal land when social distancing cannot be maintained.



Practice social distancing. Maintain at least 6 feet of distance between you and others.



Wash your hands frequently with soap, or use hand sanitizer if soap isn't available.



Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

What to Expect

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.

Check for Availability of These Services



A limited number of campgrounds are open. Reservations are highly recommended, though walk-up sites may be available at Azalea Campground.



Wuksachi Lodge is open. John Muir Lodge opens April 2. Grant Grove Cabins (with private bath) open in mid-April. Reservations are strongly recommended. Additional cabin lodging at Grant Grove tentatively opens in May.



Grant Grove Market is open daily, and the Grant Grove Courtyard opens April 2, serving to-go food only. At Wuksachi Lodge, limited to-go food options are available daily at the restaurant or gift shop.



Visitor centers will offer information and trip planning services either at outdoor stations or indoors, depending on location. Hours will vary and exhibits are not yet open. Park stores are open for sales of maps, books, and other items.

In an Emergency

Call 911 from a pay phone or from your cell phone if you have service. No coins are needed, and phones are available even when facilities are closed. If you can't find a phone, contact a park employee but keep a safe distance.

Pay Phone Locations

- Foothills Visitor Center
- Potwisha Campground
- Hospital Rock Picnic Area
- Lodgepole Market
- Kings Canyon Visitor Center (near the restrooms)
- Cedar Grove Visitor Center
- Cedar Grove Market & Lodge

Install our free app for more trip-planning information. Search for NPS Sequoia & Kings Canyon.



General Information 2

Camping..... 3

Safety 4

Wildlife Safety 5

Foothills 6

Giant Forest & Lodgepole 7

Grant Grove & Cedar Grove... 8

Wilderness 9

National Forest Lands 9

Información en español 10-11

Información de seguridad 10

Spring Driving..... 12

Contacts

Cell Service

Cell service is extremely limited here. Near the Ash Mountain entrance to Sequoia, AT&T provides limited service. Verizon provides limited service near the Kings Canyon entrance to Grant Grove.

911

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911

No coins are needed in payphones for 911 calls.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

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

GPS

GPS programs often misdirect travelers who are driving to the parks. Use maps and signs.

Web & Social Media

The *only* official park information sources online are:



The Official Park Website

www.nps.gov/seki



Facebook

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks



Instagram

[sequoiakingsnps](https://www.instagram.com/sequoiakingsnps)



Twitter

[@sequoiakingsnps](https://twitter.com/sequoiakingsnps)

Campground Reservations

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

Delaware North

(Authorized Concessioner)
Visit www.visitsequoia.com or call 1-866-807-3598 for lodging reservations

Cedar Grove Pack Station

(Authorized Concessioner)
Grant Grove: 559-335-9292
Cedar Grove: 559-565-3464
cedargrovecampstation.com

Sequoia National Forest/Monument (USFS)

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

Yosemite National Park (NPS)

209-372-0200, nps.gov/yose

Free Public WiFi Locations

Foothills Visitor Center (Sequoia National Park), Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove).
No password is needed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Pets

Pets are not permitted on any trails in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. They are allowed in campsites and in parking areas. Pets must be kept on a leash at all times, or appropriately crated or caged. Pets cannot be left tied and unattended or in vehicles at any time. The leash must be less 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 park.

Fire Restrictions

When conditions are dry, fire restrictions may be in place to reduce the possibility of accidental human-caused fire. Prohibited locations for wood or charcoal fires will be posted, especially in park campgrounds. Wood and charcoal fires may be prohibited at all elevations, depending on the current level of fire restrictions.

Restrictions change as weather and fuel conditions change. Check for updates on park bulletin boards, at visitor centers, or by visiting go.nps.gov/sekifirerestrictions.

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.

Passport Stamps

Stamps for passport books may not be available in the parks until visitor centers open, but you can visit our web pages for a printable version of the stamp, or email SEKI_Information@nps.gov to request a printed stamp with the date of your visit.

Junior Ranger Books

Because of visitor center closures, we now offer the option of an online junior ranger booklet. Download a web version from www.nps.gov/seki to complete in the parks or at home. Send photos of at least seven completed pages to SEKI_Information@nps.gov to receive a badge. No printer? Send an email to the same address to request a free booklet.

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_Information@nps.gov or call us at 559-565-3341.

Wheelchair loans are temporarily suspended. In the future, we hope to resume free wheelchair loans at Lodgepole Visitor Center and 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 is available for ranger programs and all park films have open captioning. When films become available at park visitor centers, borrow a device at information desks.

Visitor Centers

Visitor centers may be closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All visitor centers and museums have paved, flat paths leading from parking areas to outdoor information, restrooms, and water bottle filling stations. When visitor centers are open, they provide access to trip planning information, exhibits, and bookstores. Cedar Grove Visitor Center is small, and may be difficult for people in wheelchairs to navigate. Mineral King Ranger Station has steps leading to the entrance and may not be accessible to people with mobility impairments.

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.

Panoramic Point Trail (Grant Grove)

This paved trail leads to views that reach deep into park wilderness.

Roaring River Falls (Cedar Grove)

A 528-foot (160 m), shady walk features a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. Parking is available on the highway, 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the junction with the Village road. Paved, relatively accessible.

Muir Rock Trail (Cedar Grove)

This short trail leads to the Kings River and Muir Rock, a large granite boulder at the river's edge named in honor of famed naturalist John Muir.

Campgrounds Currently Open

Campground	Location	Nightly fee	Toilets	Dump station	Showers	Closing date	Other information
Azalea	Grant Grove	\$18	Flush	–	–	–	20 sites open. Snow is common here.
Potwisha	Foothills	\$22	Flush	Yes	–	–	Reservation only: Online at Recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777 (TDD: 877-833-6777).

Campgrounds That May Reopen in Early Spring 2021

Sentinel	Cedar Grove	\$22	Flush	–	–	–	Reservation only: Online at Recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777 (TDD: 877-833-6777).
Lodgepole (one loop)	Lodgepole	\$22	Flush	–	–	–	Reservation only: Online at Recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777 (TDD: 877-833-6777).
Buckeye Flat	Foothills	\$22	Flush	–	–	–	Reservation only: Online at Recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777 (TDD: 877-833-6777).

Spring Snowplay Safety

Exploring in Snow in Spring

Snow cover may be sparse in spring, or nonexistent. Use caution.

Sled Safely

Every year, 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 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 or call 911. There is a public telephone outside of Lodgepole Market. The closest telephone to Columbine, Big Stump, Cherry Gap, and Quail Flat snowplay areas is at Kings Canyon Visitor Center in Grant Grove Village.

Tips for Your Visit

Ranger Programs Are On Hold

Due to the pandemic, no ranger programs are currently scheduled. We look forward to adding programs as soon as it's safe for our visitors and our rangers. Sequoia Parks Conservancy will offer programs this spring. Check sequoiaparksconservancy.org for details.

Free Park Mobile App

Download our official app for maps, self-guided tours, and information about nearly 200 park features and locations. The app is available through the Apple App or the Google Play stores. Search for NPS Sequoia & Kings Canyon. If possible, download and install before you arrive at the parks. Cell service is limited here, but free WiFi is available outside Foothills and Kings Canyon visitor centers. Be sure to enable location services, and to download offline content in the app settings so the app will work when you're out of cell range.

Roadside Camping

Roadside camping is not permitted in the parks. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In the national forest, it's permitted unless posted otherwise.



Sequoia Parks Conservancy, the official nonprofit partner to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, welcomes you! 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. We help you make a deeper connection to the parks, so visit us online to learn more about everything we do. We've saved a place for you—come join us!



@SequoiaParksConservancy



@SeqParksCon



Shop our online store!

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.**



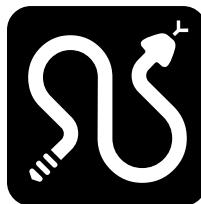
Tree Hazards

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.



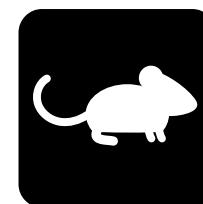
Poison Oak

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.



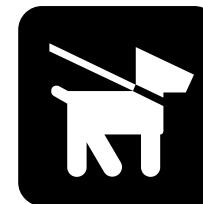
Air Quality

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 or follow @SequoiaKingsAir on Twitter.



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.

Recreate Responsibly

When you're looking for places to visit in the parks, check parking lots. If they're full, it may be difficult to practice distancing at that location. Consider finding another spot to visit where it's less crowded.

Distance yourself from other hikers.

If you encounter someone on a narrow trail, try to step aside in a place where you can give them at least six feet (2 m) of distance to pass. Avoid crowded viewpoints and pullouts. Give hikers travelling uphill the right of way.

Hike with family members or people you've already had contact with.

Limit your group size to six or fewer people. If your family is larger, split into smaller groups.

Try not to touch outdoor exhibits, railings, or other surfaces, especially in high-traffic areas.

Wash or sanitize your hands frequently and before you get back in your car.

Bring hand sanitizer.

It may not always be available in park restrooms.

Play It Safe

Choose an easier activity that reduces the chance that you might need to be rescued and add to the strain on our health care and emergency resources. Be thoughtful about your impact on local communities.

Bears can grab unattended food or break into cars where food is visible. They become bold and aggressive if they get human food. Too often, these bears must be killed. Food storage is key to keeping humans safe and bears alive.



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. A list of approved containers can be found on our website. Metal boxes are located in a few wilderness locations.

Keep Yourself Safe

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.

Day Hikers

Properly store all food, scented items, and food-related supplies left at the trailhead inside a provided food storage box, including coolers. If you're concerned about touching the handles of shared boxes, consider using hand sanitizer before and after using them. If no food storage box is available, store food in your car trunk. For vehicles with no trunk, place food items low and out of sight and keep windows closed. When hiking, don't leave your backpack and walk off to take a photograph—always stay within arm's length of your food. Bears know backpacks are a source of food.

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 or if no 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.

Lodges

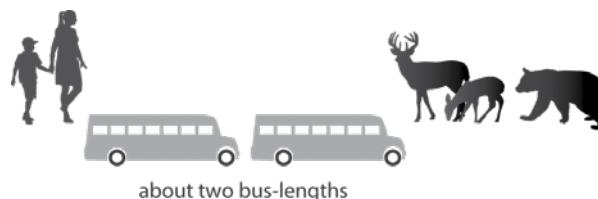
Remove all food and child safety seats from your vehicle.

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.



Mountain Lions and Bobcats

Rarely seen, bobcats are larger than house cats and have bobbed tails. Mountain lions (cougars) are much larger and have long tails. Cats usually run when seen. If you see a mountain lion that doesn't run:

- Do not run; running may trigger pursuit.
- Pick up children.
- Try to appear as large as possible—don't crouch down.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the mountain lion.
- If the mountain lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back! Report any sightings.



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.

Currently Open or Available

Foothills Visitor Center

Visitor center staff are available from 9 am to 3:30 pm daily. Look for an information kiosk to the right of the visitor center building. Information services may be suspended due to staffing or other conditions.

Sequoia Parks Conservancy's Park Store

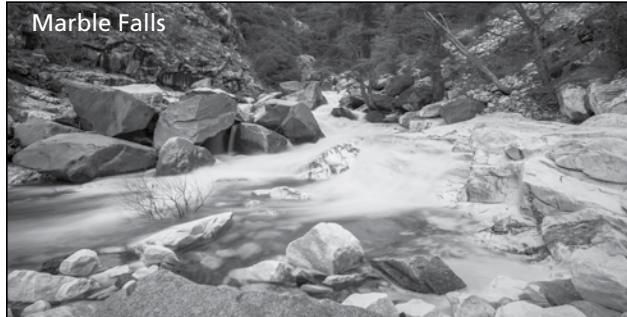
At Foothills Visitor Center, open weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm and weekends from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Closed from 12 noon to 1 pm daily. Maps, books, and other items are available. Free WiFi here—no password required.

Campgrounds

Advance reservation only. See page 3 for camping information.

Wilderness Permits (outside quota period)

Self-register for wilderness permits at the Foothills Visitor Center. A drop box is outside the visitor center near the restrooms.



Marble Falls



Paradise Creek

Tunnel Rock

Snap a picture at this iconic pullout off the Generals Highway. Walk on the old park road under this rock and pose for a photo. Caution for heavy traffic as you are crossing the road. Also note, poison oak is common here.

Hospital Rock Picnic Area

See rock paintings and explore exhibits about the California Native Americans who lived here, and still visit and live nearby. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Be careful; drownings occur here. Instead of leaving food in your vehicle, use the metal food-storage boxes to store your food from bears.

Marble Falls Trail

For a walk that offers short or longer options, park across the highway from Potwisha Campground (not in the campground). Near site #14, follow the dirt road along canals. Climb 3.7 miles (6 km) to reach the waterfall. High temperatures and little shade or water can make this trail dangerous.

Paradise Creek Trail

For a creekside walk, park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area and walk 0.6 miles (0.9 km) to Buckeye Flat Campground. Take the path across from site #28 and cross a footbridge over the river. Follow Paradise Creek (not the river) for 2 miles (3.2 km) until the trail grows faint. You may need to negotiate downed trees along the trail.

Mineral King

The road to this area is closed until late May.

In early spring, trails here often require snowshoes or skis, and skill with a map and compass. If you're interested in a wilderness trip in this area, ask for a gate code at Foothills Visitor Center. The closest parking is 2 miles (3.2 km) before Atwell Mill Campground, 7 miles (11.3 km) before most trailheads.

Services and Facilities

Mineral King Ranger Station

Closed until late May.

Wilderness Permits (outside quota period)

Self-register for wilderness permits at Foothills Visitor Center or the Mineral King Road Conifer Gate (mile 17.6).

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. Sledding is at the end of the road.

Spring is here, and as it gets warmer outside, snow conditions deteriorate and snowplay becomes hazardous. Sledding may not be available here.

Call 911 in case of emergency from the pay telephone outside the building next to the restrooms.

Please don't leave broken sleds and trash behind! Too often spring melt reveals piles of trash left in the snow.



Enjoy the world's biggest unlogged sequoia grove and largest tree. Park your car and discover serene meadows, rocky streams, and towering forests. Expect snow or rain in spring.

Visiting the General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

Main Sherman Tree Trail and Parking

This 0.5-mile (0.8 km) trail down to the Sherman 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 Sherman Tree Trail from the Generals Highway

Parking here is only for those with disability placards, unless the Main Sherman Tree parking lot is closed due to snow. 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.

Check signs at the parking area before parking here if you don't have an accessibility placard.

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.

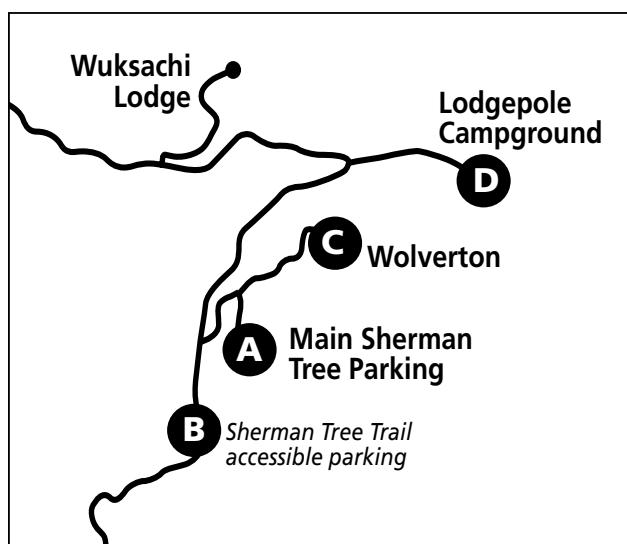
Park only in designated parking areas or in paved pullouts. Parking in unpaved areas along the highway is dangerous and may be ticketed.

If parking areas for the Sherman Tree trails are full, consider coming back later in the day, or visiting giant sequoias trees located 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.

When you visit in spring, you may encounter snow-packed trails, icy walkways, bare pavement, or dirt trails. Be prepared for any conditions.

Use this map to find parking and hiking options for the General Sherman Tree. Shuttle service is tentatively scheduled to begin May 26, 2021.

- A Main Sherman Tree Parking**
Take Wolverton Road and follow signs. This parking area is scheduled to open on March 25, 2021.
- B Accessible Sherman Tree Parking**
This parking area is located along the Generals Highway. When the main parking area is closed, this parking is open to everyone.
- C Wolverton Picnic Area & Trailhead**
The Wolverton Trail leads to the Sherman Tree. Check a trail map for details.
- D Lodgepole Campground**
A 2.8-mile (4.5 km) trail leads from here to the General Sherman Tree. The trailhead is near the amphitheater. Parking is available here even if the campground is closed.



Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road opens after the snow melts, typically before Memorial Day. If snow is present, be prepared to walk or snowshoe. The road begins at Giant Forest Museum.

Walkers and snowshoers: Please don't walk in ski tracks; the footprints can trip skiers. Ask at the museum about snow conditions along the road.

Tunnel Log - Go under a fallen sequoia that was tunneled through. This is the only "tree you can drive (or ski) through" in these parks.

Crescent Meadow - Sequoias surround this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails. Several trails start here, such as the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a historic cabin made from a fallen sequoia. The High Sierra Trail begins here, leading 60 miles (97 km) to Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the lower 48 states.

Col. Young Tree - Park at the Auto Log and walk to a sequoia named for a notable Buffalo Soldier who was also the park's first Black superintendent.

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. Snowshoe if snow is present. 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.

Tokopah Falls

The 1.7-mile (2.7 km) trail starts in Lodgepole Campground and ends at a viewpoint near the cascades of Tokopah Falls. Return the same way for a 3.4-mile (5.5 km) round-trip hike. Be careful around the water; cold, swift currents are difficult to escape, and ice and snow can make rocks near the water's edge slippery. When the campground is closed park in the large lot just beyond the campground kiosk or at the visitor center.

Currently Open or Available

Giant Forest Museum

Look for an information kiosk right outside of the museum. Visitor center staff are available from 10 am to 4 pm every day. Information services may be suspended due to inclement weather.

Sequoia Parks Conservancy's Park Store at Giant Forest Museum

Open daily from 10 am to 4 pm for sales of maps, books, and other items. Closes daily from 12 noon to 1 pm.

Wuksachi Lodge, Food, and Gifts

Lodging reservations highly recommended. Limited to-go meals available at the restaurant. At the gift shop, gifts, limited grocery and prepacked lunch items available. Go to visitsequoia.com or call (866) 807-3598 for more information.

Wilderness permits (outside quota period)

Self-register at Giant Forest Museum.

Not Yet Open

Lodgepole Campground (scheduled to open late April, reservation only)

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Sequoia Shuttle

Crystal Cave

Lodgepole Market and Grill

Public showers and laundry

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp (not open in 2021)

Wander through giant sequoia groves or picnic with family. The Grant Grove area and its nearby village offers a chance to explore with several amenities nearby.

Grant Tree Trail

Beware of slippery ice and packed snow! General Grant, one of the world's largest trees, grows along this 1/3-mile (0.5 km) paved trail. Designated the Nation's Christmas Tree, this giant is also the only living national shrine honoring those who died for our country. Other features on this trail include the historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch, a hollow sequoia log that's large enough to walk into. Trail guides are sold at visitor centers & the trailhead. One mile (1.6 km) from Grant Grove Village; go north on Highway 180 and follow signs.

North Grove Loop

This 1.5-mile (2.4-km) trail offers a close look at giant sequoias. Enjoy a quiet walk past meadows and creeks, through a mixed conifer and sequoia forest. The trailhead is located at the Grant Tree additional parking area lot, a 1-mile (1.6-km) drive northwest of the visitor center.

Snowplay in Kings Canyon National Park

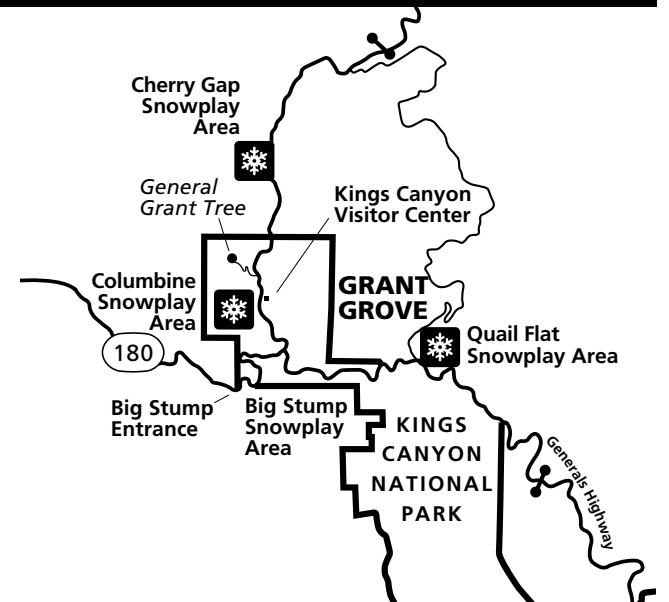
Snowplay at Grant Grove

Use Columbine or Big Stump picnic areas only. Sledding is prohibited in all other areas in Grant Grove. In spring, snow becomes icier and sledding may be dangerous. There may not be enough snow on the ground to sled.

A pay telephone is located outside the visitor center in Grant Grove Village.

Nearby Forest Service Areas

Quail Flat and Cherry Gap trailheads are designated national forest snowplay areas. Other areas offer opportunities for skiing and snowshoeing.



Currently Open or Opening Soon

Kings Canyon Visitor Center & Sequoia Parks Conservancy Park Store

Limited indoor capacity. Open daily, 9 am to 4 pm.

John Muir Lodge (opens 4/2/2021) Grant Grove Cabins (opens 4/16/2021)

Lodging reservations are highly recommended. Go to visitsequoia.com or call (866) 807-3598.

Grant Grove Courtyard Dining (4/2/2021)

Open daily.

Wilderness permits (outside quota period)

Self-register at Kings Canyon Visitor Center.

Grant Grove Gift Shop

Open on weekends and holidays.

Grant Grove Market

Open daily.

Azalea Campground

Not Yet Open

Grant Grove Restaurant

Grant Grove Stables

Some campgrounds (see page 3)

Cedar Grove

Highway 180 (Kings Canyon Scenic Byway) is scheduled to reopen for the season on April 23, 2021 at noon. Quiet and remote, Cedar Grove sits deep in Kings Canyon, surrounded by sheer granite cliffs.

Roaring River Falls

Take a very short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall. The paved, moderately sloped trail begins 3 miles (4.8 km) east of Cedar Grove Village.

Zumwalt Meadow

Flooding has closed half of this loop trail, including the boardwalk. The remaining trail traverses a rocky slope. Park at the trailhead 4.5 miles (7.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village.

Don Cecil Trail to Sheep Creek Cascade

Park in a large pull-out just east of the Visitor Center turnoff on Highway 180. Take the Don Cecil Trail about one mile (1.6 km) to a cascade and footbridge across Sheep Creek. This hike is a 2-mile round trip out-and-back.

Currently Open or Opening Soon

Wilderness Permits (outside quota period)

Self-register for at the Road's End Visitor Contact Station beginning April 23, 2021 in the afternoon.

Sentinel Campground (reservation only)

Canyon View Roadside Exhibit

The "U" shape of the canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals the area's glacial history. This roadside feature is 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village Road.

Not Yet Open

Cedar Grove Visitor Center

Cedar Grove Pack Station

Cedar Grove Lodge and Grill

Cedar Grove Market and Gift Shop

Cedar Grove showers and laundry

Most Cedar Grove campgrounds



Wilderness Trips

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

Camping in the park “frontcountry” is permitted only in campgrounds. Dispersed camping is only allowed in the National Forest. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the parks.

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.

 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.

Wilderness Permits

Within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, permits are required for all overnight trips. Day hikers do not need permits.

Outside of the quota period (September 20, 2020–May 27, 2021) permits are free and you can self-register at the permit station that's closest to your trailhead. Check weather forecasts before your trip and know that mountain weather can be unpredictable. Learn about minimum impact guidelines for traveling in park wilderness, and prepare to be self-reliant.

The summer quota season for permits is May 28, 2021–September 18, 2021. **NEW FOR 2021:** Advance reservations for wilderness permits can be made on Recreation.gov and are highly recommended. A limited number of first-come, first-served permits will be available daily at permit issuing stations. For permit reservation information and other details: go.nps.gov/SEKI-WildernessPermits

Granite Pass



Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument are managed by the US Forest Service. Due to COVID-19, services may be limited. Visit www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia for details about their facilities and services, and visit Recreation.gov for camping reservations.

Hume Lake & Big Meadows are in Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. You pass through the monument when driving between Lodgepole and Grant Grove, and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove.

Many forest roads are closed until snow melts, including Big Meadows Road and the roads to Converse Basin and the Boole Tree. The northern road to Hume Lake often remains open. Boyden Cavern, near Cedar Grove, reopens in May. Tenmile Road is open but unplowed and unmaintained. Avoid getting stuck!

Snowplay

Cherry Gap and Quail Flat are designated snowplay areas in Sequoia National Forest near Grant Grove. If snow is present, find a safe snowplay location away from the highway and vehicle traffic.

Sequoia National Forest Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Highway 180), 19 miles (30 km) west of the Big Stump park entrance. Maps and books are sold here. 559-338-2251, 559-791-5758.

Dispersed Camping

Self-contained camping, with no water, restrooms, trash cans, or other amenities is permitted in the national forest (not in the national parks), though it may be prohibited at any time due. There is no dispersed camping on Highway 180 in Kings Canyon. Be sure to get a fire permit and check for current fire restrictions.

Free campfire permits are required. At this time, they are only available online. Visit <http://permit.preventwildfiresca.org/> to fill out a form to get your permit.

Check for availability of these services in Sequoia National Forest:

Montecito Sequoia Lodge (permittee)

Open all year. 800-227-9900; 559-565-3388. Nine miles (14 km) south of Grant Grove.

Hume Lake (on private land)

Gas, market, snacks, and pay phone. Hours vary and pumps may close. The area closes during holiday periods, and may close at other times. Travel north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then turn right on Hume Lake Road. They encourage you to call before you travel there: 559-305-7770.

Can I...	In National Parks	In National Forests
Walk my leashed pets?	Pets are not allowed on trails. They are allowed in parking lots, paved 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.
Snowmobile?	Not in the parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, and Quail Flat.
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 más 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. Cuénteles 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 o visite @SequoiaKingsAir en Twitter.



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.

La información en este periódico puede cambiar en cualquier momento a medida que trabajamos para aumentar el acceso de manera segura.

Que esperar

Para proteger la seguridad de los visitantes y empleados del parque a medida que continuamos aumentando el acceso, hemos realizado cambios que afectarán su visita. Para obtener actualizaciones actuales, revise las señales en las estaciones de entrada, la aplicación móvil gratuita del parque y nuestras páginas web en www.nps.gov/seki.

Aplicación móvil gratuita del parque

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 Sequoia Kings NPS. Si es posible, descárguelo e instálelo antes de llegar a los parques. El servicio celular es limitado aquí, pero hay WiFi gratis fuera de los centros 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.

En una emergencia

Llame al 911 desde un teléfono público del parque o desde su teléfono celular si tiene servicio. No se necesitan monedas. Si no hay un teléfono disponible, comuníquese con un empleado del parque pero mantenga una distancia segura.

Teléfonos públicos

- Foothills Visitor Center
- Potwisha Campground
- Hospital Rock Picnic Area
- Lodgepole Market
- Kings Canyon Visitor Center (cerca de los baños)
- Cedar Grove Visitor Center
- Cedar Grove Market & Lodge

Servicios que están abiertos



Hay un número limitado de campamentos abiertos. Se recomienda hacer reservaciones, aunque es posible que haya sitios disponibles en Azalea Campground.



Wuksachi Lodge está abierto. John Muir Lodge abre el 2 de abril. Las cabañas en Grant Grove están programadas para abrir a mediados de abril. Pregunte en los centros de visitantes para las actualizaciones, o ir a www.visitsequoia.com.



Grant Grove Market abre todos los días y el Grant Grove Courtyard abre el 2 de abril, solo para llevar. El Wuksachi Lodge ofrece comida para llevar todos los días en el restaurante o tienda de regalos.



Los centros de visitantes ofrecerán servicios para planear su viaje y dar información, ya sea en estaciones al aire libre o interiores, dependiendo de la ubicación. Las horas variarán y las exposiciones aún no están abiertas. Las tiendas del parque están abiertas para la venta de mapas, libros y otros artículos.

Recrea responsablemente

Cuando esté buscando lugares para visitar en los parques, revise los estacionamientos. Si están llenos, puede ser difícil practicar el distanciamiento en ese lugar. Considere encontrar otro lugar para visitar donde haya menos gente.

Distanciarse de otros excursionistas. Si se encuentra con alguien en un camino estrecho, intente apartarse en un lugar donde pueda darles al menos seis pies (2 m) de distancia para que pasen. Evite los puntos de vista y las retiradas que están llenas. Dé a los excursionistas que viajan cuesta arriba el derecho de paso.

Camina con familiares o personas con las que ya has tenido contacto. Limite el tamaño de su grupo a seis o menos personas. Si su familia es más grande, divídala en grupos más pequeños.

Trate de no tocar exhibiciones, barandas u otras superficies, especialmente en áreas de alto tráfico. Lávese o desinfecte las manos con frecuencia y antes de regresar a su automóvil.

Trae desinfectante para manos. Aunque planeamos suministrarlo en los baños del parque, puede que no siempre esté disponible.

COVID-19 seguridad

El Servicio de Parques Nacionales le aconseja seguir las directrices del CDC para reducir la propagación del COVID-19.

Usted debe:



Se requiere el uso de una máscara en los edificios federales. Se requieren máscaras al aire libre en terrenos federales cuando no se puede mantener el distanciamiento social.



Evite el contacto cercano. Por lo menos mantenga su distancia a seis pies entre usted y otros.



Lávese las manos frecuentemente con jabón o use desinfectante para manos.



Cúbrase la boca al toser y estornudar.



Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca con las manos sin lavar.

Spring Roads & Closures

Road conditions can change at any time.

Generals Highway between the parks:

- **From Wuksachi Lodge (in Sequoia) north to Highway 180 (in Grant Grove):** While this section of road is currently open, it is not plowed during storms and frequently closes with bad weather. Closures can last from hours to days, weather-dependent.

In Kings Canyon (NPS) & National Forest:

- **Highway 180 to Cedar Grove:** CalTrans tentatively is scheduled to open this road on April 23, 2021 at noon, at the Hume Lake junction.
- **Panoramic Point Road in Grant Grove:** Closes with snow; reopens by late May.
- **Redwood Mountain (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile roads (USFS):** Closes in winter. Opens late May.
- **Converse Basin & Cherry Gap (USFS):** Closed; usually reopens by late May. Unpaved, rutted, unplowed.

In Sequoia National Park:

- **Giant Forest:** Park across from the Museum. Sherman Tree parking varies with conditions.
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Closed. Reopens late May.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Closed. Reopens late May.
- **Wolverton Road:** The road is plowed Fridays–Sundays, Wednesdays, and some holidays. The area is open other days if the road is passable and safe.
- **Mineral King Road:** Closed until late May. For access past the first gate, contact Foothills Visitor Center.
- **South Fork and Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved; slippery when wet. Middle Fork closes in winter; park at Hospital Rock.



Go Slow for Wildlife!

Never feed animals by the road. Cars often hit animals that wait for handouts on roadsides.

Photo by Amy Lepp.

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. Snow tires 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 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.

Rules & Recommendations

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.

Snowplows Rule

Plows may operate day and night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, slow down but do not stop. To avoid being surprised by snowplows, don't park along unplowed roadways or walk on closed roads. Watch the plow operator for signals; they often cannot stop.

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. Due to the closure of Wuksachi Lodge and COVID-19 restrictions, roadside assistance is not currently offered by Wuksachi Lodge's AAA service.



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.

Las cadenas de llantas o los cables son esenciales cuando el control de la cadena está en efecto. Evite un remolque costoso instalando cadenas cuando sean necesarias.

Photo by Alison Taggart-Barone.

Winter Driving

At higher elevations, spring driving conditions vary. Tire chains may be required on any park road at any time from fall through spring. In communities near park entrances, many businesses rent or sell tire chains.

Weather and road conditions can change rapidly, often multiple times per day. Get up-to-date information before heading into the parks, but remember that conditions and chain requirements may change during your visit. Be prepared.

For 24-hour in-park road conditions, call (559) 565-3341.

Conduciendo en invierno

En elevaciones más altas, las condiciones de conducción en primavera varían. 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, las empresas alquilan o venden cadenas para neumáticos.

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.