



## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



### Fall in the foothills: Watch closely

High in the Sierra, fall prompts life to prepare for a long wait beneath coming snows. By late fall, Pacific storms usually start to swing through the Sierra, bestowing the cold, white mantle that puts so much of life on hold. In the foothills, however, autumn signals an end to waiting.

Life at the lower elevations has waited all summer. Many species lay dormant, waiting for the drought, heat, and resulting food shortages to pass. Some animals slept through the season – the summer version of hibernation.

With fall, however, reanimation begins. Rain plus cooler temperatures inspires activity. Male tarantulas emerge from burrows and rove the landscape looking for mates. Under rocks, torpid California newts begin to stir. As fall passes, these charming orange salamanders walk about looking for water in which to mate and lay eggs.

Dormant buckeye trees appear lifeless, having shed their leaves months ago to limit summer’s drain on their water sources. Yet beneath their bare branches, their large brown seeds lie waiting. Once rains begin, a strong root pushes through each hard husk. Buckeyes sprout by the thousands.

As acorns ripen on foothill oaks, some animals begin stashing them. Acorn woodpeckers work ceaselessly to store their namesake nut in oak trees, fence posts, telephone poles, houses -- any wooden surface they can drill to hold acorns. Blue scrub jays store acorns for eating later by pushing them into the ground with their strong beaks. By spring, oak seedlings throughout the foothills will owe their start to forgetful jays.

Fall’s acorn crop sustains many foothill species: bears, deer, band-tailed pigeons, and more. Creatures that migrated away when summer

started return now. Species diversity at these lower elevations is especially evident in fall. Cedar waxwings, white-crowned sparrows, and other birds return from northern breeding grounds where cold and food shortages now rule. Red-breasted nuthatches and golden-crowned kinglets fly down from conifer forests. Mountain quail walk down the steep slopes; these nine-inch-long birds migrate up to twenty miles on foot.

The exception to all this vitality? Reptiles. While it rarely snows, the foothills do get chilly, which drives snakes and lizards to their burrows.

Autumn also makes the foothills easier for us to enjoy. The midday sun has lost its harsh summer glare. Cool nights are not yet frosty. Open trails, plentiful wildlife, and less-crowded campgrounds beckon.

Fall days may seem quiet, but life is stirring in the foothills. It is done with waiting. Watch closely.

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Information as of October 1, 2017.

## Telephone & Internet

**911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911**  
No coins needed in payphones.

**To Report a Wildfire — 559-565-3195**

### Limited Cell Signals & Service

See pay-phone locations by area, pages 8-9.

### Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

1-559-565-3341 (24 hour): Press 1 for an information menu then: for roads/weather/fire, press 1; camping/lodging 2; wilderness 4; and more.

### GPS, Web & Social Media

GPS programs often misdirect travellers here. Use maps and signs, or ask for directions.

The only official park information sources online:



Website:  
[nps.gov/seki](http://nps.gov/seki)



Facebook:  
Sequoia and Kings  
Canyon National Parks



Twitter:  
SequoiaKingsNPS

### Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)

1-559-338-2251, [fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://fs.usda.gov/sequoia)

### Yosemite National Park (NPS)

1-209-372-0200, [nps.gov/yose](http://nps.gov/yose)

### California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

1-800-427-7623, [dot.ca.gov](http://dot.ca.gov)

### Wi-Fi Locations

For lodging and dining guests at Wuksachi, Grant Grove, and Montecito Sequoia Lodge (see page 5).

## 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.

## Visitor Centers & Park Stores

Each center offers orientation, varied exhibits and films, and many sales items: books, maps, gifts, cards, and more. All profits from visitor centers support these parks!

All visitor centers except Giant Forest Museum have a payphone outside.

### In Sequoia NP

#### Foothills Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits on life in the low elevations. 1-559-565-4212. *Muchas veces hay rangers aqui quienes hablan español.* Local wilderness permits: self-issue outside the visitor center.

#### Giant Forest Museum (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits on sequoias. 1-559-565-4480. Local wilderness permits: self-register outside Giant Forest Museum. 1-559-565-4408. Payphones at the market building.

#### Lodgepole Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm; last day open 10/9. Films, exhibits. 1-559-565-4436. Local wilderness permits: self-register outside Giant Forest Museum. 1-559-565-4408. Payphones at the market building.

#### Mineral King Ranger Station (Sequoia)

(NPS) Closed for the season. Local wilderness permits: self-issue on station porch. 1-559-565-3768. Payphone in Cold Springs Campground.

### In Kings Canyon NP

#### Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 9am-5pm through 10/29, then 9am-4pm (may close for 1 hour at lunch). Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. 1-559-565-4307. Local wilderness permits self-issued outside. Payphones by visitor center and market.

#### Cedar Grove Visitor Center (in Kings Canyon)

(NPS) Closed for the season. 1-559-565-3793. Local wilderness permits: self-issue at Road's End Permit Station. Road into the canyon closes 11/13.

### In US Forest Service

#### Hume Lake District Office (FS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in the Sequoia National Forest office in Dunlap, 19 miles west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. 1-559-338-2251, [fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia). See page 9 for differences between national forests and national parks.

## Partners in the Parks

The following work together to protect these lands, provide services, and publish this guide, which was first printed in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*.

- Editor: NPS - Malinee Crapsey.
- Publisher: SPC (see below).
- Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

**National Park Service (NPS)** - federal agency in the Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3341, [nps.gov/seki](http://nps.gov/seki)



**Forest Service (FS)** - federal agency in the Dept. of Agriculture: 1-559-784-1500, [fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://fs.usda.gov/sequoia)

**Geological Survey (USGS)** - federal agency in the Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3171, [werc.usgs.gov](http://werc.usgs.gov)



**Delaware North Companies (DNC)** - the concessioner providing lodging & food services: 1-888-252-5757, [visitsequoia.com](http://visitsequoia.com)

**Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC)**: This nonprofit park partner formed by the merger of Sequoia Natural History Association and Sequoia Parks Foundation. SPC members get a discount on some activities, including SFI! See below or [sequoiaparksconservancy.org](http://sequoiaparksconservancy.org) & [exploresequoiakingscanyon.com](http://exploresequoiakingscanyon.com) for activities and programs or to donate. 1-559-561-4803.



**Connect to  
your national park!**

The Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) works with these parks to enrich your experience and promote awareness of public lands. They offer educational programs, publications, and financial support for preserving the natural and cultural history of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

### Support the Conservancy in all it does:

- Seeks funding for park improvement projects, resource protection, and research;
- Provides activities & tour-guide services through Sequoia Field Institute (SFI; page 5);
- Supports park programs & activities;
- Increases accessibility of park trails;
- Conducts Crystal Cave tours;
- Expands park outreach;
- Accepts donations for search & rescue efforts;
- Manages the Pear Lake Winter Hut;
- Funds park books, maps, & this guide!



# Change: Natural & Unnatural

We often think of parks as outdoor museums. Caretaking a living ecosystem, however, is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone monitor that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear management.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process; Nature decides the timing of many of these actions. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now and in the future.



Prescribed fire in a sequoia grove

## Fire: A Natural Change

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as often as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this practice. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes, which led to big problems:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: Fires leave behind a seedbed fertilized with ash and they open the forest canopy, which allows sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, the amount of dead wood and dense growth of small white-fir trees increased tremendously. In the past, frequent natural fires burned these away. Now, after fire's long absence, these serve as fuels, feeding bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at these parks, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. To protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, we now work with fire to restore the benefits it brings.

We still put out fires that threaten life and property but when and where it's appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The national parks exist to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." We once thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

*Note: The effects of the 2015 Rough Fire continue to influence this area. See page 7 for more.*

## Unnatural Change: Alien Invaders

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often, they keep each other in check.

When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly. This is because the competitors, predators, and diseases that keep them in check in their home communities are not here. This imbalance breaks links in the local web of life, badly disrupting native species that depend on each other. Sometimes the non-native aliens completely replace local plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks.

The natives will thank you!

### Imminent Alien Threats!

**Star thistle** is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny growth completely excludes native plants and limits wildlife movements. It is not yet established in these parks, but it is close! If you recognize its yellow flower and thorny spines from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it here. If you see it here, take photos, note the location, and show them to a ranger.



**New Zealand mud snails** completely take over and change waterways that they invade. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! These tiny light-brown animals—less than 1/8-inch long—stick to your gear. Check boots, waders, and boats thoroughly for this little invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



For more information on fire management, visit <http://go.nps.gov/sekifire>. To report a wildfire: 559-565-3195.



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# Camping

Check regulations at each campground; fire restrictions are in place. Rules vary between the Park and National Forest (see page 9). Each standard campsite has a table and fire ring with grill. No hook-ups.

**You must store food correctly all year due to black bears.** The park supplies bear boxes; most are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. See page 11.

**Summer reservations:** See \* on chart and below for reservable campsites in the parks (NPS) and National Forest (USFS). Reserve up to 6 months ahead: recreation.gov or 1-877-444-6777 (7am- 9pm PST, 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 888-448-1474.

### Group Sites & Maximum Group Sizes

- **Up to 6 people (standard):** 1 vehicle & 6 people per site (check locally for variation in these limits & parking sites for extra vehicles).
- **7 to 19 people (mid-size):** Summer only at \*Crystal Springs, \*Canyon View (reservations, see above).
- **Large-group sites:** Reservable (see above) in the national park at \*Dorst Creek, \*Sunset, or \*Canyon View campgrounds, or in the national forest.

### Fire Restrictions, Campfires, & Firewood

- Restrictions in place in park & forest: page 12.
- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees. Please don't transport firewood. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find/buy wood close to where you will use it. Please burn any wood you brought in.
- Fires must be out cold before you leave.
- On Forest Service (USFS) land: Fire restrictions are in place. Free fire permits are required where fire is permitted. Ask at Hume Lake Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), a USFS ranger, or download at fs.usda.gov/sequoia or www.preventwildfireCA.org.

### Roadside/Dispersed Camping?

Not permitted in the park; camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument (USFS): See "Dispersed Camping" at the bottom of the table to the right.

### Quiet & Generator Hours

Music and noise should be audible in your site only. Quiet hours 10pm-6am (no generators). At Lodgepole & Dorst, generator use 8-11am & 5-8pm only.

### RV & Trailer Length Limits

Check new limits & advisories on back page.

### Propane/Fuel Canisters

Recycle at home. Do not leave anywhere in park.

## Campgrounds: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Footfalls Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low-elevation oaks and chaparral.
* Potwisha - 40 sites Open all year.	\$22. *Some sites reservable all year.	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station.
* Buckeye Flat - 28 sites Closed.	\$22. *Sites reservable for 5/24 through 9/26.	No RVs or trailers. River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha.
South Fork - 10 sites Open all year.	\$12. No drinking water.	Vault toilets. Non-drinkable water only; available through 10/10. River nearby. Food-storage boxes ~47"long, 17"deep, 16"high.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	No electricity or gas. Conifer forest. Road closes Oct. 25, 2017.
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Last night open 10/24.	\$12. Dry camping starts 10/20 (water system off for winter).	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food, pay showers nearby at Silver City (summer only).
Cold Springs - 40 sites Last night open 10/24.	\$12. Dry camping starts 10/11 (water system off for winter).	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food-storage boxes in varied sizes. Check www.nps.gov/seki/
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700', forested.	*Reservable in summer, but fully booked through September.
* Lodgepole - 203 sites Last night open 11/28.	\$22. Sites reservable 5/24 through 9/26.	Pay phone, flush toilets. River. Food services & pay showers nearby. Generator use: 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Dump station. Near Giant Forest.
* Dorst Creek - 212 sites Closed.	\$22. Sites reservable 6/21 through 9/5.	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Generator use 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Large group sites for 15-50 \$70, for 15-40 \$60, for 15-30 \$50.
Grant Grove Area	Elevation 6500'	Conifer forest near sequoias.
Azalea - 110 sites Open all year.	\$18. Self-register near site #29.	Flush toilets. Village nearby with food services. Pay showers (summer).
Crystal Springs - 49 sites. Closed.	\$18 standard sites. \$40* mid-size group sites.	Food; pay showers nearby in summer. *14 mid-sized group sites (7 to19) are reservable late May through early September. Flush toilets.
* Sunset - 156 sites Closed.	\$22 standard site. *Large-group sites (15-30) \$50.	Flush toilets. Nearby food service; pay showers in summer. Regular & large-group sites reservable through early September.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	No RV-tank dump stations. Road closes Nov. 13, 2017.
* Sentinel - 82 sites Last night open 11/12.	\$18 (\$22 during summer reservation period).	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer. First-come, first-served after the summer reservation period.
Sheep Creek - 109 sites Last night 10/10.	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer.
*Canyon View: 16 group sites No RVs or trailers. Closed.	*\$40 mid-size groups (7-15); *\$50 large groups (15-30); *\$60 large groups (15-40).	No RVs or trailers. Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby. No standard sites.
Moraine - 121 sites Closed.	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers, laundry nearby.
Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
* Princess - 88 sites Closed. Reopen mid-May.	\$25 single, \$50 double Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. RV dump station \$10. Extra car \$7.
* Hume Lake - 74 sites Closed. Reopen mid-May.	\$25 single, \$50 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car \$7.
* Tenmile - 13 sites Closed. Reopen mid-May.	\$21 single, \$42 double. Reservable in summer.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. No potable water. Reservations only. Maximum RV length is 22'.
Landslide - 9 sites Closed. Reopen mid-May.	\$21 single, \$42 double	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Last night open 11/12.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	Between Grant Grove and Wuksachi Lodge.
* Stony Creek - 49 sites Closed. Reopen mid-May..	\$25 single, \$50 double. Reservable in summer.	Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge (summer). Extra car \$7. Food-storage boxes ~47"long, 17"deep, 16"high.
* Upper Stony - 18 sites Closed. Reopen mid-May..	\$21 single, \$42 double. Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Food, laundry, showers nearby. Extra car \$7. Food-storage boxes ~47"long, 17"deep, 16"high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. Food-storage boxes ~47"long, 17"deep, 16"high.
* Big Meadow- 45 sites Open. Free after 10/22.	\$21 single site,\$42 double. Horse Camp, Buck Rock, & Big Meadow close with snow and/or weather closures.	Vault toilets. Big Meadow food boxes ~47"long, 33"deep, 28"high.
DISPERSED CAMPING in areas not regularly maintained by the Forest Service (not permitted in the national park)		
Permitted unless posted otherwise; not permitted in or next to developed facilities such as the above campgrounds. No restrooms, drinking water, or other amenities. Free campfire permits required. Ask a ranger about camping safely while caring for the land.		

## Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (Forest Service)

## Lodging

Three park areas offer lodging, as do several sites in the nearby national forest. For hours, see pages 8 & 9.

### In these National Parks (NPS)

#### IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK:

##### • Wuksachi Lodge

All year. Reservations 1-866-807-3598; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). North of Lodgepole two miles at 7200'. Lodge & restaurant with wi-fi, lounge, gifts, ATM.

#### IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK:

Reservations 1-866-807-3598; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). Lodging in two areas:

##### • Grant Grove Cabins & John Muir Lodge

All year. Hotel & restaurant with wi-fi, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts, ATM. Register at John Muir Lodge. 6500' elevation. 1-559-335-5500.

##### • Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon

Mid-May to mid-October. Motel, restaurant, & market at 4600' elevation. Registration 7am-9pm.

### Sequoia National Forest (USFS)

#### Montecito Sequoia Lodge (FS permittee)

All year. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388; [www.mslodge.com](http://www.mslodge.com). On Generals Hwy 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Hotel with wi-fi, cabins, buffet restaurant, seasonal & children's activities; cross-country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing.

#### Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

Mid-May through October 15. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3909; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). Wi-fi. On Generals Hwy 13 miles south of Grant Grove. Hotel (last night 10/14). Pizza restaurant, gasoline, market, showers, laundry.

#### Big Meadows Cabin (USFS)

July to mid-October. 1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Historic station south of Grant Grove.

### On Private Land within Park

\* **Note:** The NPS cannot evaluate, regulate, or endorse lodges on private land outside or surrounded by the national park. Details, pages 8-9.

#### \* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

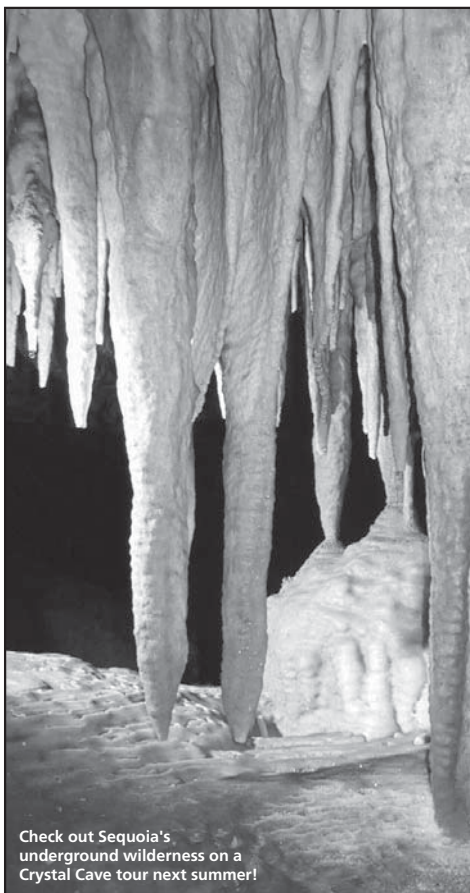
Open late May through September. [www.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com); 1-559-561-3223. Cabins, restaurant, bakery, gifts, showers. No gas.

### Neighboring Towns

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging & camping. Ask at visitor centers or see [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit).

## Programs & Tours - Fall 2017

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### Hey, Fourth Graders!

You and your family can visit America's natural and historic wonders for free between now and August 31, 2018. Print out your *Every Kid in a Park* pass (bring your printed copy when you visit parks), and explore your options near and far at this website: [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov).

### Teachers & Parents, Take Note!

Expand your classroom: Invite a ranger to your class, visit the parks with your school group, download lesson plans, and participate in distance learning. All education programs are standards-based and free! Visit [nps.gov/seki/learn/education](http://nps.gov/seki/learn/education).

### Be a volunteer

Log in to [volunteer.gov](http://volunteer.gov), enter the keywords "Sequoia and Kings Canyon," and see what opportunities are available. Volunteers are needed for invasive plant control, special events, and routine clerical and maintenance tasks. Individuals and groups are welcome. You can make a difference!

### Free Walks & Talks

In fall, the number of activities offered is reduced, but check locally to see what may be happening where you are. Rangers can also recommend where to head on your own to best enjoy the fall scene.

### Junior Ranger Program - free

For ages 5 to 105! Get our free, award-winning booklet at any visitor center, have fun completing the activities, & earn your badge.

### Wonders of the Night Sky (SPC)

Get the backyard basics to stargazing on this tour of the night sky! Programs at 8pm Wednesdays and Fridays at Wuksachi, and Saturdays at John Muir Lodge. Check bulletin boards for more options. Bring your flashlight, blanket, and sense of awe!

### Ghosts Among the Giants (SPC)

Listen to the stories of those who lived under the Big Trees long before crowds, traffic, and shuttle buses. Programs at 7pm Wednesdays at Wuksachi and John Muir Lodge, Fridays at Wuksachi Lodge, and Saturdays at John Muir Lodge.

### Pumpkin Carving! (SPC)

Join us in celebrating the time-honored tradition of carving pumpkins amidst the changing colors in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Programs on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm at John Muir Lodge and October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Wuksachi Lodge.

### Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 60,000 visitors yearly explore the parks and Lake Kaweah with SFI. These experts guide you through the night sky, Crystal Cave, and park trails. They even bring park history to life! SPC members (see page 2) may get a discount on SFI activities. 559-565-4251; [exploresequoiakingscanyon.com](http://exploresequoiakingscanyon.com)

### Upcoming Fee-Free Days

Every year you can visit national parks for free on certain dates. Take advantage on November 11 & 12 - *Veterans Day Weekend!* Entrance fees are waived on a number of days each year: Martin Luther King's birthday, President's Day, and more!

### 2017 Trek to the Tree

On December 10 at 2:30pm, the annual Christmas Tree ceremony takes place at the Grant Tree. The City of Sanger runs the event and posts details: 1-559-875-4575 or [www.sanger.org](http://www.sanger.org).

### Touring on Horseback

Horseback rides start again in spring; see page 9.

Review safety advice on page 10, and know the basic rules of a national park (page 9). Be extra careful near rivers. Carry water and a map (sold at visitor centers). Orient yourself before going and tell someone your plans. Always store food properly before leaving your car or campsite. Fire restrictions are in place.

### Mineral King - closes 10/25

The steep, winding road ends at 7800', the park's highest road. No gasoline or electricity. Use the machine at Lookout Point entrance to pay your fee. The road closes for the season at noon on 10/25.

### The Foothills

These low elevations provide great camping and walking during winter. Beware poison oak (see page 10). Fire restrictions are in place; see page 12.

### Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Hours on page 2.

### Marble Falls Trail

A 3.7-mile climb (6 km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park across the highway from Potwisha (no non-camper parking in campground). Near site #14, follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

### Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade.

### Paradise Creek

Park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area (not in campground). Walk 0.8 miles to Buckeye Flat Campground. Take the path across from site #28 to cross a footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

### Giant Forest

#### Giant Forest Museum & Lodgepole Visitor Center

See details on page 2.

### Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

Open. No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. The road closes with snowfall to become a ski and snowshoe trail:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular mountain views, but never climb if it is snowy or icy! Two miles from Generals Highway. Read and follow the lightning warning on page 10.
- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. Bypass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles from the Museum.
- **Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias surround this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails; use fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here, such as the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, an historic cabin in a fallen sequoia; and the High Sierra Trail (60

miles/97 km) to Mt. Whitney (14,500'/4419 m), highest in the lower 48 states.

### Big Trees Trail

A level, 2/3-mile (1km) paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start at Giant Forest Museum (parking at the trail is only for cars with disability placards until significant snow accumulates). 1 hour round trip.

### General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

- **Main Trail** - This 1/2-mile trail down to the tree has some stairs. The walk back is uphill; be sure to take your time at this elevation. When the holiday shuttles are operating (see below), you can park here, walk down, then take a shuttle back to your car. Drive 2 miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Hwy, which is only for those with disability placards). Turn right on Wolverton Road then follow signs.

• **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from the Generals Hwy to the Sherman Tree - Until parking at the Main Trail closes for winter (see above), parking here is only for those with disability placards. You can stop here to drop off people who prefer this accessible trail.

### Congress Trail

A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of this spectacular sequoia grove, it begins at the General Sherman Tree and winds past meadows and gigantic trees. Enjoy a fall hike!

## Free Holiday Shuttles in Sequoia National Park

Only during November 23 - 26  
& December 23 - January 1

Shuttles run 10am-4:30pm.

Weather permitting, shuttles travel from Giant Forest Museum to the Sherman Tree (both the accessible trail by the Generals Highway and the main trailhead/parking area off the Wolverton Road), Wolverton picnic/snowplay area, Lodgepole Market, Wuksachi Lodge, then back.

While shuttles are running, Sherman Tree parking on the Generals Highway is only for cars with disability placards, so you can park at a different shuttle stop and ride back to the biggest of all trees!

Check for updated details on bulletin boards and at visitor centers.





**In 2015, the large Rough Fire burned in this area. Stay on trails. Look and listen for danger: The purplish poodle-dog flowers growing in burned areas contain toxins; do not touch! Burned stumps and ground can be unstable; dead trees can fall any time. Obey closed-area signs.**

**Review safety advice (page 10), and basic park rules (page 9). Be careful near rivers and with fire. Always store food properly before leaving your car or campsite. Carry a map and water.**

## Grant Grove

**Kings Canyon Visitor Center** - See page 2.

### Grant Tree Trail

General Grant, the world's second largest tree and a national shrine, grows along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. Trail guides are sold at visitor centers & the trailhead. One mile/1.6km from the visitor center; go north on Hwy 180 then follow signs left.

### North Grove Loop

This 1½-mile (2.4 km) trail offers a close look at Big Trees and a quiet forest walk. A great place to see effects from the Rough Fire. Start at Grant Tree overflow-parking.

### Panoramic Point Road

A narrow road to a trail to a beautiful Sierran vista. Trailers & RVs prohibited. Go east through the visitor-center parking lot & follow signs. The paved, accessible trail climbs gently to an overlook. Park Ridge Trail (4 miles/6.4 km round-trip) begins here.

### Redwood Mountain Sequoia Grove

Not plowed. Rutted dirt road to one of the world's largest Big Tree groves. Research here revealed the positive link between sequoias and fire. Across Generals Hwy from Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction; 7 miles south of Grant Grove. Turn right (west) at Redwood Saddle; 2 miles to parking lot. Loop trails up to 10 miles long.

## Cedar Grove - closes 11/13

The road into this area in the Kings Canyon closes at noon, 11/13. Many drought-weakened trees here succumbed to insects; be very aware of the potential for falling trees and branches. See page 12 for fire restrictions.

### Canyon View

The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. One mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village on Hwy 180.

### Knapp's Cabin

During the Roaring '20s, a California businessman stored gear for lavish fishing trips in this small cabin. East of the village 2 miles on Hwy 180.

### Roaring River Falls

A short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. This paved trail has been made more accessible. East of the Village 3 miles.

### Zumwalt Meadow

This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop passes high granite walls, lush meadows, and the Kings River. Parking is 4½ miles east of Cedar Grove Village. Buy a trail guide at the visitor center. The start of the trail is accessible, but work to repair flood damage, starting in October, will limit accessibility until next summer.

### Mist Falls

One of the park's largest waterfalls. Don't get close to the edge! Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip from Road's End. Moderately strenuous; 800' elevation gain (mostly in the last 2 miles).

### Hotel Creek Trail to Cedar Grove Overlook

Starts 0.2 mile north of the market at North Side Drive & Cedar Lane. 5 miles (8 km) round trip; 1200ft (365 m) elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3-4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9km) loop.

## National Forest / Monument

Giant Sequoia National Monument is part of the Sequoia National Forest next to these parks. Page 9 has details on how national parks and forests differ.

### Converse Basin

North of Grant Grove 2 miles. Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Ask at the visitor center about trails.

### Indian Basin

A one-mile accessible trail & one-mile unpaved trail. On Highway 180, go 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Drive past the dump station to the trailhead parking area.

### Hume Lake

Formed by a historic dam, this lake supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) to Sanger! An easy 2½-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Eight miles north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles south on Hume Lake Road.

### Buck Rock Lookout

A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11, then take Forest Road 13So4.



The Kings Canyon

## The Generals Highway

Driving this 80-year-old roadway is part of the park experience. It carries you up almost a mile in elevation and connects the General Sherman Tree to the General Grant Tree -- hence its name.

An intense effort to upgrade the highway is underway. For decades, a skin of pavement barely improved the original wagon road. Today's work is building a route that can handle large numbers of modern vehicles without losing the joys of a mountain road. See page 12 for details on traffic delays.

Wayside exhibits at overlooks along this historic road offer insight into the landscape:

### Kings Canyon Overlook

View the High Sierra wilderness from this overlook about 6 miles (9.5km) south of Grant Grove.

### McGee Vista

Not on the Generals Hwy, but close to it, on 180 north of Grant Grove Village 3 miles. Sunset views.

### Redwood Mountain Overlook

Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove on the southwest side of the Generals Highway. Views of one of the world's largest sequoia groves.

### Eleven Range Overlook

South of the Giant Forest, this turnout offers views to the west over the foothills and the distant valley.



The Generals Highway in Giant Forest

## 8 Facilities: Sequoia

### Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Park headquarters is by the Foothills Visitor Center.

#### Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8am-4:30pm. Details, page 2.

#### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Foothills Visitor Center; Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

### Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

6400' elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees.

#### Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Beautiful exhibits on the amazing giant sequoias. Park store. 1-559-565-4480. See page 2 for hours.

#### Giant Forest Shuttle (NPS)

Page 6 has details on the free holiday service.

### Wolverton

7200' elevation. Picnic area & good open space for viewing night skies. It becomes a snowplay area once snow builds up. Pay telephone on the restroom building. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Turn onto Wolverton Road to reach main parking for the Sherman Tree.

### Lodgepole

6700' elevation. North of Giant Forest along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River.

#### Lodgepole Visitor Center

8am-4:30pm. Last day open 10/9. Page 2 has details.

#### Lodgepole Village (DNC)

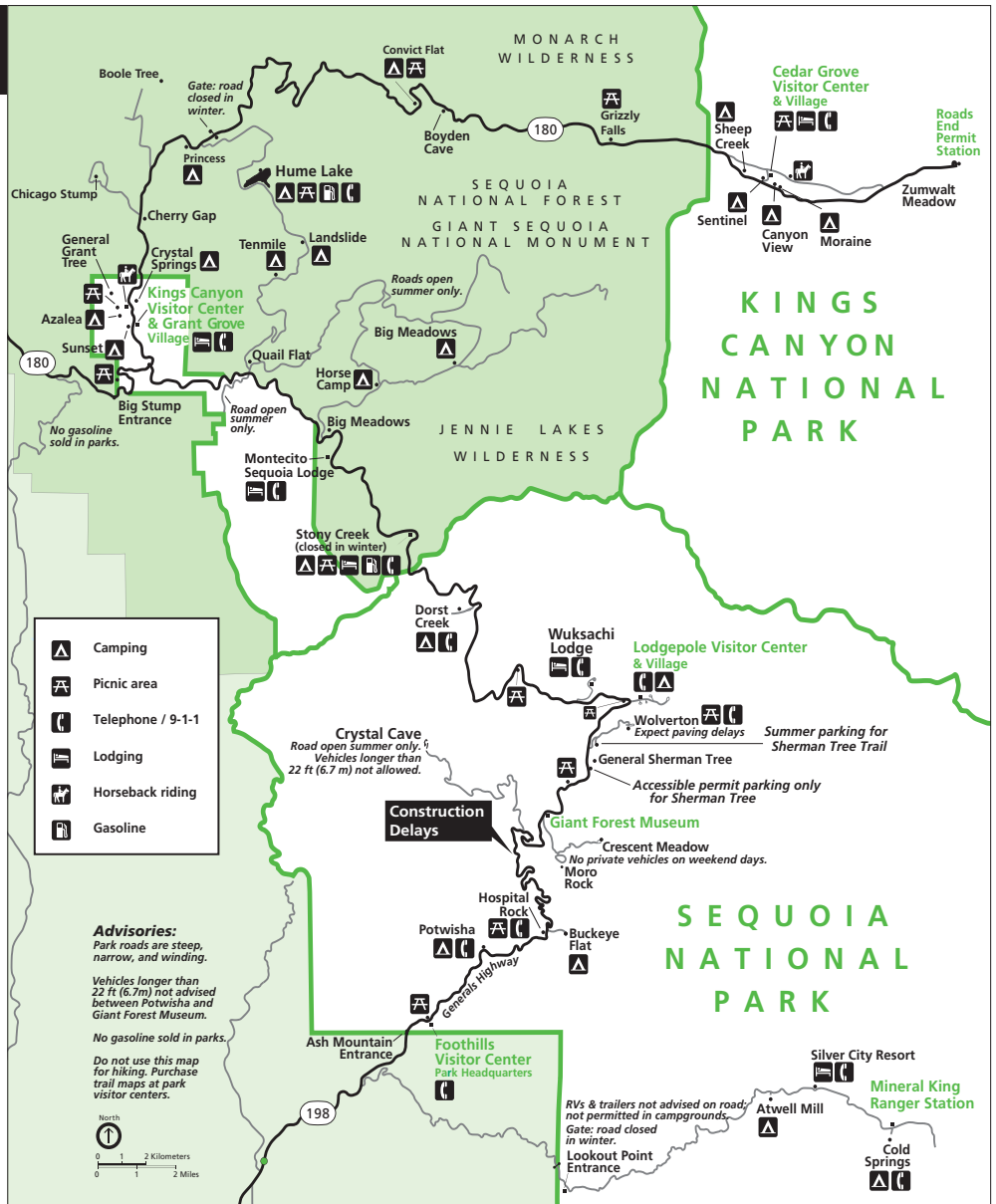
- Market & Gift Shop: Daily 8am-9pm through 10/22 then 9am-6pm (8:30am-6:30pm Friday-Sunday). Supplies, clothing, groceries & prepared foods.
- Grill: 8-11am & 11:30am-6pm through 10/22 then closed for the season.
- Showers & laundry: Daily 7am-1pm & 3-9pm through 10/22 then 8am-1pm & 3-6pm. Last day 11/29.

#### U.S. Post Office

Mail drop only, behind visitor center. Full postal services at Grant Grove.

#### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside visitor center & market.



See page 12 for information on roads, traffic delays, and gas stations near the parks.

### Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. Year-round, 4 miles north of Lodgepole. Desk 24 hours. Pay telephones at main lodge. ATM. Ask about naturalist programs. (DNC)

#### The Peaks Dining Room

Daily service 6:30-10am, 11am-3pm, & 4:30-10pm through 10/22, then 7-10am, 11am-2:30pm, & 5-8:30pm. Views of the High Sierra. Reservations required for dinner: call 1-559-565-4070. Box lunches available.

Lounge: 4-10pm (9pm starting 10/23).

Gift Shop: 8am-9pm through 10/22 then 8am-6pm.

### Mineral King - closes 10/25

7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, winding road to a subalpine valley, the highest place you can drive to in these parks. No electricity or gasoline. Pay entrance fee at the machine at Lookout Point entrance near the park boundary. Keep to the right and slow down on this narrow road!

#### Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground; Sawtooth parking area.

#### \* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Closed for the season. Page 5 has details.



## Exploring on Horseback

Hourly rides, spot trips, or guided trips:

- **Grant Grove Stables:** Closed. 1-559-335-9292.
- **Cedar Grove Pack Station:** Daily 9am-4pm; last day 10/9. 1-559-565-3464.
- **Horse Corral at Big Meadows in the National Forest (FS):** Closed. 1-559-565-3404.

## Grant Grove

6600' elevation. Experience a pristine sequoia grove and one that was logged in the 1800s.

## Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

See page 2. Movie, exhibits in English & Spanish.

## Grant Grove Village (DNC) open all year

- **Market:** Daily 8am-8pm through 10/22 then 8am-6pm. Prepared food, groceries, supplies, ATM.
- **New Restaurant!** Daily 7-10am, 11:30am-4:30pm, 4:30-9pm through 10/22, then 7-10am, 11:30am-3:30pm, 5-9pm. Enjoy meadow views!

- **Lodging:** 1-559-335-5500. Details, page 5.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-8pm; 9am-6pm starting 10/23. Souvenirs, supplies, clothing, ATM.
- **Showers:** Open daily to campers 9:30am-12:30pm & 2:30-5:30pm. Last day 11/5.

**U.S. Post Office** Monday-Friday 9am-4pm; 24-hour lobby. Send visitor mail c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

**Pay Telephones** (cell phones rarely work) In the village outside the visitor center & market.

## Cedar Grove - Road closes 11/13

4600' elevation. On the South Fork of the Kings River in the Kings Canyon. As you head to Cedar Grove, you'll know you've entered the glacial Kings Canyon when the canyon's shape changes from a narrow V to a wide U—right at the park boundary. Autumn in this magnificent canyon is usually peaceful. Take your time on this good but curving road; use pullouts to let others pass and to enjoy the scenery.

## Cedar Grove Visitor Center (NPS)

By Sentinel Campground. See page 2.

**Pay Telephones** (cell phones do not work) Outside lodge & visitor center.

## Cedar Grove Village (DNC) - last day 10/22

- **Grill:** Snack bar. Daily 7-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-9pm.
- **Gift Shop/Market:** Daily 7am-9pm. Sandwiches, supplies, groceries, souvenirs, ATM.
- **Showers & Laundry:** Daily 7am-1pm & 3-8pm. Buy tokens at the market.
- **Lodging:** 1-559-335-5500. Details, page 5.

## Wilderness Permits at Road's End (NPS)

Six miles east of the village. Self-issue permits.

## National Forest & Monument

**Hume Lake & Big Meadows** are in Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. You pass through the monument when you drive between Lodgepole and Grant Grove and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove. Fire restrictions are in place; see page 12.

**Lodging** - Details on page 5.

## USFS Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) 19 miles west of park entrance. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia

**Pay Telephones** (cell phones rarely work)

- Summer near the Big Meadows trailhead.
- Hume Lake (year round; see next item below).

## Hume Lake (on private land)

All year. Open year-round to the public. Gasoline available with credit card during store hours. General Store daily; hours vary. Wi-fi (fee). North of Grant Grove 8 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

## Montecito Sequoia Lodge (USFS permittee)

All year. Daily. On Generals Hwy 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Hotel with wi-fi, cabins, children's activities; x-c skiing, snowshoeing, tubing. Summer family camp. Buffet meals 7:30am-9am, 12-1pm, 6-7:30pm. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

## Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

Last night: 10/14. Through 10/15, gasoline 24 hours with credit card; market 8am-7pm; pizza restaurant 4-6:30pm (later on Friday & Saturday); showers & laundry 9am-6pm. On Generals Hwy 13 miles south of Grant Grove. 800-227-9900; 559-565-3909.

## Basic Rules National Parks & National Forests lie side by side here. Some activities are illegal in one but not in the other.

Can I...	In National Parks 	In National Forest 
<b>Walk my leashed pets?</b>	Not on any trails. OK 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). Certified service dogs only (not assistance or therapy animals); see www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010	Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.
<b>Collect things to take home?</b>	Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.	You may keep a few cones or rocks for personal use.
<b>Hunt?</b>	Not in the Parks. Visitors 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: 1-559-243-4005.
<b>Drive off-road?</b>	Not in these parks. Stay on roads.	Get specific information on off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
<b>Cut wood?</b>	Not in these parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for wood permits & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
<b>Build fires?</b>	Restrictions are in effect in the park and forest; always check locally for up-to-date information. In park, only in fire grills in some campgrounds & some picnic areas.	Fire restrictions are in effect. Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves & lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.
<b>Go fishing?</b>	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
<b>Ride a bicycle?</b>	Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles.
<b>Snowmobile?</b>	Not in these parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.
<b>Fly a drone?</b>	Not in any national park.	Only in accordance with FAA guidance, and not in wilderness areas.

## You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Hot and cold temperatures, slippery or uneven ground, wild animals, and changing weather all pose dangers. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, and poor decisions. GPS directions may mislead you here.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims just walking or climbing near rivers unexpectedly fell in.

The National Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

### DROWNING

The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be careful around water; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible: Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Currents are always stronger than they appear, even during low water. Ask at visitor centers about river conditions.

### PLAGUE, HANTAVIRUS & WEST NILE

Do not feed or touch ANY wild animals. Avoid areas of rodent activity, as fleas on rodents can carry *plague* and deer mice feces can carry *hantavirus*. *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 foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself for these little animals after a walk. Their bite is painless, but some carry *Lyme disease*. Remove them carefully with tweezers and seek a doctor's advice.



### GIARDIA

This protozoan in lakes and streams causes intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water from waterways for at least 3 minutes.

### POISONOUS PLANTS

*Poison oak* is a common shrub growing up to 5000 feet elevation. Shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring, red leaves and whitish berries in late summer and fall; bare in winter. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away. Don't touch the *poodle-dog bush* (*Turricula*), the plant with light-purple flowers growing in burned areas along Hwy 180 to Cedar Grove. Its tiny sticky hairs cause blisters and pain.



### HYPOTHERMIA

This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry; snack often. If others don't react to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothes, sleeping bags, and shelter. Keep an eye on children who are wet or cold.

### RATTLESNAKES

Found in much of these parks; especially common in the foothills, in the Kings Canyon, and near water. It has a triangular head, unlike the harmless gopher snake. Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill snakes; this is when most bites occur. Bites are rarely lethal, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic and call 911.



### LIGHTNING

See dark clouds or lightning? Hear thunder? Get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above your surroundings, such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

### CARBON MONOXIDE

This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces such as a tent or RV.

### OZONE POLLUTION

See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra Nevada on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest from May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/federal standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

### GPS & WEAK CELL SIGNALS

Cell phones rarely work here, and GPS may misdirect you. Don't rely on them. Note location of pay telephones (pages 8 & 9), and use maps.

### MOUNTAIN LIONS

Cougars roam throughout these parks, but you are unlikely to see one. Attacks are rare, but be aware. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. Cautiously move away if you find a partially buried animal carcass. If you see a cougar, don't act like prey:



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

### DRINKING WATER

We test the 13 park water systems to ensure that they meet federal and state standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available.

### ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities, including marijuana growing and fireworks! Report suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

### KEEP ANIMALS SAFE

Wildlife, ticks, and overheating in vehicles can harm pets. Keep wildlife safe from pets, too.

### TREE HAZARDS

Branches and trees may fall, whether or not they are dead, even 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.

## Explore Safely

- Avoid going alone, and tell someone your plans and return time.
- Take a map, water, flashlight, and layers of clothes.
- Watch and listen for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.

## Bear Habitat: Proper food storage is the law!

**Bears can grab unattended food or easily break into cars that have food in them. They become bold and sometimes aggressive in attempts to get more. Too often these bears must be killed.**

This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly. Follow the rules below to reduce (but not eliminate) the risk of a bear break-in.

### Drivers

Never leave any food or scented item in cars where food-storage boxes are provided.

### Picnickers

Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

### Lodge Guests

Remove food from your vehicles.



### Campers

Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (avoid bringing 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) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, seal food to reduce odors, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food. Take baby seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

### Backpackers

Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a portable container. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few wilderness locations offer backup storage. Rent/buy a container at visitor centers or markets.

### Everyone

Don't let bears approach you or 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. Easily abandoning your food teaches a bear that it is acceptable to approach humans; it may hurt someone in the future. If a bear does get food, however, *never* try to take it back.

## Wilderness

11

Over 800,000 acres of these parks are designated wilderness. They offer outstanding opportunities for you to enjoy both solitude and challenge. Thank you for following minimum-impact, no-trace guidelines to protect the wilderness!



Wild places include hazards, and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Many trees have died from drought, which may increase hazards from falling trees and branches; be careful where you linger or camp. See *Be Safe*, page 10.

**Wilderness permits** are required for all overnight trips. After the 2017 summer quota period (5/26 through 9/23/17), permits are free and self-issued 24 hours/day outside the visitor center closest to your trailhead (see page 2). Information you provide on the permit may be helpful should search and rescue be needed. The 2018 quota period is 5/25 to 9/2/18; the permit fee during that time is \$10 plus \$5/person. Permits can be reserved by email or U.S. mail beginning March 1.

**Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (USFS):** Permits are not required but please complete a registration card at Jennie Lakes trailheads; information is used to manage the wilderness effectively. USFS requires a free fire permit for any open flame; downloadable from [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

**Camping in the park's "frontcountry"** is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

See [nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness](http://nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness) or:

Wilderness Permit Reservations  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks  
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60  
Three Rivers, CA 93271  
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766  
[seki\\_wilderness\\_reservations@nps.gov](mailto:seki_wilderness_reservations@nps.gov)

## Seasonal Wilderness Lodgings

• **Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNC):** Open mid-June through September 23, conditions permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) via phone starting 7am on the first business day in January; 866-807-3598. See [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com).

• **Pear Lake Ski Hut (SPC):** Winter only. High above Lodgepole at 9,200' elevation. Six strenuous miles on skis/snowshoes get you to its stove and 10 bunkbeds. Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759.

## Entrance fees help the Parks!

Your fees get invested here on projects related to your park experience: roads, exhibits, and more. Save time at the entrance by paying for your pass in advance at [www.yourpassnow.com/parkpass](http://www.yourpassnow.com/parkpass) and show it as you go in. Ask about passes for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Note: No passes are valid at Crystal Cave.

### Passes to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS) plus Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (USFS):

• **7-day pass:** \$30 per vehicle (private, non-commercial). \$15 per person on foot, bicycle, or bus; \$25 per motorcycle (not per person).

• **12-Month Pass:** \$50 admits all passengers in a private vehicle.

### Passes to National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands Nationwide:

• **Annual:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide.

• **Annual Military:** Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD1173. Crystal Cave has its own fee, but offers a discount.

• **Seniors:** Until August 27, \$10 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over. *Take note! The price increases to \$80 on August 28.*

• **Accessibility:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documents to entrance stations.



## Gas Up *Outside* the Parks

No gas stations are within park boundaries. Fill up in Three Rivers (5 miles from Hwy 198 park entrance), Clingan's Junction (20 miles outside the Hwy 180 park entrance), or at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770. Year-round during business hours with a credit card. Gas & diesel. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Resort: 1-559-565-3909. Last day open 10/15. Gas & diesel 24 hours with credit card. On Generals Hwy between Wuksachi & Hwy 180; 13 miles south of Grant Grove.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: Closed.

## Rules & Recommendations

### Don't Lose Your Brakes

Slow down, but don't ride the brake; brakes will overheat and fail. Instead, always downshift when going downhill (in automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L). The engine gets louder but it saves your brakes and prevents accidents.

### Use Turnouts & Prevent Car Fires

Hot brakes & mufflers easily start car and forest fires. Stop *only* on paved areas, not on grass.

### Avoid Overheating on Hot Days

Going uphill, turn off air conditioner. Go slow; use low gear. If overheating, turn the heat and fan on high until you can stop safely in a paved turnout.

### Cold Nights Mean Ice

Watch out for ice in wet or shady spots on roads.

### Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 559-565-3341 then press 9 (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 565-4070.

### Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Under age 18: helmet required.

## Firearms in these Parks

Discharging a firearm in the parks is illegal. Visitors with firearms are responsible for understanding and complying with all applicable California, local, and federal firearms laws. People who can legally possess firearms under federal, California, and local laws may possess them in this park, but may not bring them into any federal buildings.

## Vehicle Limits, Winding Roads

Keep to the right and slow down. Use pull-outs to let traffic behind you pass safely.

### In Sequoia National Park (NPS):

- **Generals Highway in Sequoia:** Vehicles over 22 feet long are **not permitted** from Hospital Rock Picnic Area to Giant Forest Museum. The highway between the parks, from Wuksachi (in Sequoia NP) to Hwy 180 at Grant Grove (in Kings Canyon NP), is not plowed during storms or at night from 4:30pm - 8am. From 1/2 to 3/16/18 it is not plowed, and is only open if there is no snow.
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Vehicle-length limit 22'; no trailers or towed units. No drinking water along road. Closes with snow.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m). Closed until spring.
- **Mineral King Road:** Narrow; very winding. Closes noon, last Wednesday of October, 10/25.
- **South Fork & Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet. Starting in fall, Middle Fork closes when wet.

### In Kings Canyon NP (NPS):

- **Panoramic Point Road:** Motorhomes & trailers not permitted. Closes with snowfall.
- **Redwood Mountain Road:** Unpaved, rough. Closes with snowfall.
- **Hwy 180 to Cedar Grove in Kings Canyon:** Narrow, winding. Closes 11/13/17 through 4/27/18. Watch out for rockfall on the road.

### In National Forest (FS): 1-559-338-2251

- **Quail Flat, Ten Mile, Big Meadows & Buck Rock roads:** Close with snowfall. Not plowed.
- **Horse Corral Road:** Closes with snowfall. Until then, road work is closing this road on weekdays starting 8am for 4 hours at a time with 30 minute openings for traffic.
- **Converse Basin -** Unpaved, rough, not plowed. Open until snowfall. Road to Boole Tree trailhead closed to motorized traffic.

## Fire & Smoking Restrictions

Wood or charcoal fires are prohibited in low-elevation park campgrounds (Potwisha, Buckeye Flat, South Fork) and picnic areas (Hospital Rock and Foothills/Ash Mountain). Gas, propane, alcohol, and tablet/cube stoves are permitted. Restrictions are also in place below 4000' in the neighboring national forest.

## Delays in Sequoia on Main Road

Vehicles longer than 22 feet are NOT permitted from Hospital Rock to Giant Forest Museum. The construction zone is on the Generals Highway between Amphitheater Point Overlook and Crystal Cave Road (see map, page 8). Traffic is held by flaggers or traffic lights at either end of the zone on the following schedule (after hour-long delays, pass-throughs are on the hour; uphill traffic first):

### Delays through October 13:

- **Weekdays 5am - 7am:** Up to 20-minutes.
- **Weekdays 7am - 8pm** (7am - 5pm on Fridays): Up to 1 hour.
- **Monday through Thursday evenings 8-9pm & Fridays 5-9pm:** Delays up to 20 minutes.
- **Monday through Thursday nights:** Road closed 9pm - 5am; one pass-through at 11:30pm.
- **Weekends - Friday 5pm through Monday 7am:** Up to 20 minutes.

### Delays starting October 14:

- **Weekdays 6 - 7am:** Up to 20-minutes.
- **Weekdays 7 - 8am:** Up to 1 hour.
- **Weekdays 8am - 4pm:** Up to 2 hours.
- **Weekdays 4 - 7pm** (4 - 5pm Fridays): Up to 1 hour.
- **Weekdays 7 - 9pm** (5 - 9pm Fridays): Up to 20 minutes.
- **Monday through Thursday nights: 9pm - 6am** Road closes; one pass-through at 11:30pm.
- **Weekends - Friday 5pm through Monday 7am (& all day 11/23-24):** Up to 20 minutes.

For updates and tips on timing your travel to minimize wait times at the construction zone, check at visitor centers for posted information.

**Fire danger is high! See smoking restrictions, below).** Always use low gear on downhills to avoid overheated brakes, which can start fires.

Beware of narrow, rough roads in construction areas, especially for motorcycles or bicycles. Do not stop in the construction zone. Thank you!

Smoking is not permitted outside an enclosed vehicle below 6000' in elevation, which includes the waiting areas on either end of the construction zone (see above). (Note: Giant Forest and Grant Grove are at 6500'.) Never toss cigarettes or matches out of the car or on the ground. Thank you for preventing wildfires.