



## Trip Planner

*Fall 2019*



Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument 

Sequoia Parks Conservancy 

## Our Changing Parks

As you travel through the parks, you may notice standing dead trees, or recently cut tree stumps and logs. Many trees of differing species and sizes died during our recent drought. While droughts are a natural part of our climate, the recent drought was made worse by rising temperatures due in part to greenhouse gas emissions. Giant sequoias were also affected and suffered from unprecedented beetle attacks. We are working with USGS and other researchers to learn more about beetle infestations and other threats.

Other, less noticeable changes are also occurring. For example, over 200 species of California birds now nest earlier each spring. Research suggests that these species are avoiding warming temperatures, which disrupts their natural (established) nesting patterns. These changes, both seen and unseen, surprise us, and make us

uneasy about what the future holds for our national parks.

Recent studies suggest that our most treasured places, national parks, are also among the most vulnerable to warming temperatures. Because national parks protect large mountain ranges, expansive deserts, and other sensitive natural habitats, future temperature and rainfall changes in parks will have a greater impact than in other parts of the United States. Given the elevated risks to our parks, we are working with researchers to study possible impacts of climate change

on sensitive species like sequoias and bighorn sheep.

We are already seeing the effects of climate change in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and it concerns us. But it is not too late for each of us to make a positive difference. What are ways you can think of to reduce greenhouse gas emissions during your visit here, and when you return back home? Show your passion for these parks by joining us in the movement to protect them so that giant sequoias will be here for generations to come.



Researchers monitor the response of mature giant sequoias to severe drought by measuring water content in the needles at the top of the tree. Photo © Wendy Baxter.

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## Contacts

### Cell Service

Cell service is extremely limited here, and mainly is available for some networks near entrance stations.

### 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, camping, lodging, wilderness, and more.

### GPS

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

### Web & Social Media



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



@SequoiaKingsNPS



@SequoiaKingsNPS



@SequoiaKingsNPS

### Sequoia National Forest/Monument

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

### Yosemite National Park (NPS)

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

### California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

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

### Free Public WiFi Locations

Available at Foothills Visitor Center (near the Sequoia National Park entrance) and 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. Pets must be kept on a leash at all times, or appropriately crated or caged. Pets cannot be left tied and unattended 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 parks.

### 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.

### Driving Through the Parks

Give yourself plenty of time to travel through the parks. Allow at least two hours, plus additional time for sightseeing stops, to drive the Generals Highway from the southern entrance to the northern entrance. Check last page of this paper for seasonal road closure information.

## 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.

## Accessibility

### Assistive Equipment & Technologies

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](mailto:SEKI_Information@nps.gov) or call us at (559) 565-3341.

Wheelchairs may be borrowed at no cost 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 and open captioning are available for park films. Borrow a receiver at park visitor centers where films are shown.

### Visitor Centers

All visitor centers and museums have paved, flat paths leading from parking areas to information desks, exhibits, bookstores, water bottle filling stations, and restrooms. 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

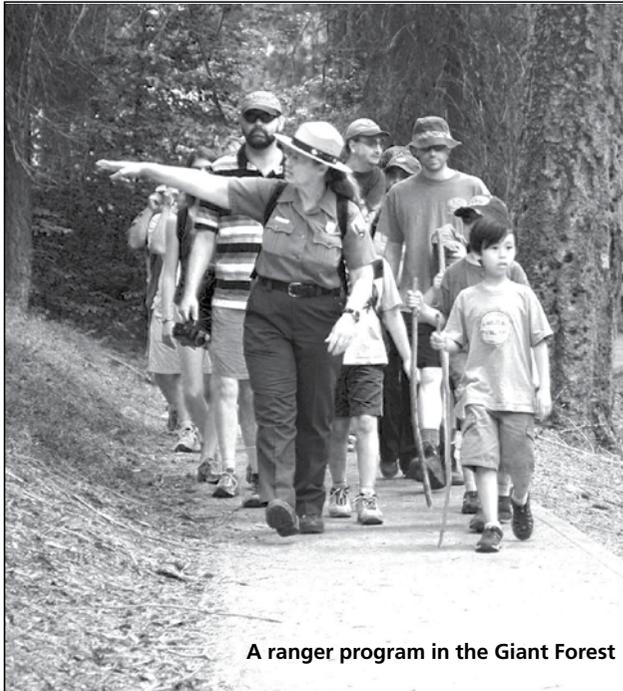
**General Sherman Tree Trail (Giant Forest):** This short trail leads a few hundred feet from an accessible parking area to the General Sherman Tree, the largest tree on earth.

**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.

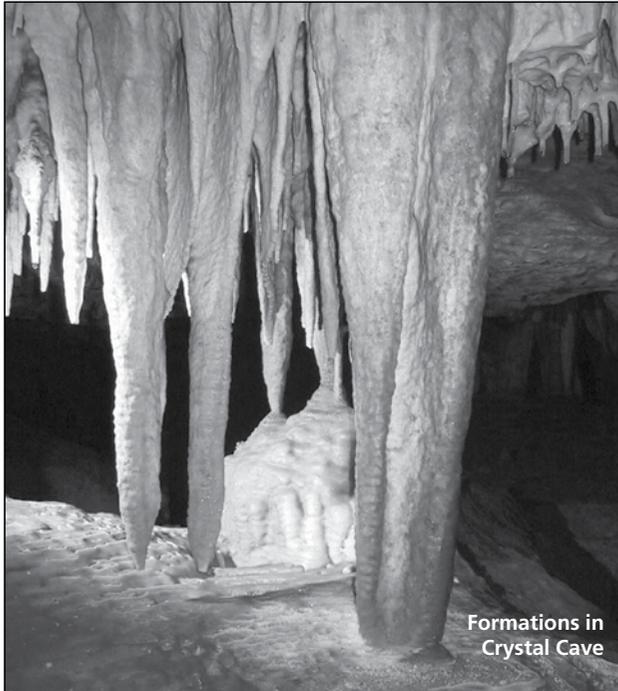
**Panoramic Point Trail (Grant Grove):** This paved trail leads to views that reach deep into park wilderness.

**Roaring River Falls (Cedar Grove):** A 528 foot (160 m), shady walk features a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. Park 3 miles (4.8 km) east of 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.



A ranger program in the Giant Forest



Formations in Crystal Cave



## Free Ranger Programs

Free programs are offered in the Foothills, Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, Mineral King, Cedar Grove, and other locations! They include evening programs, walks, demonstrations, talks, living history, and other activities. Check visitor centers, at bulletin boards, or online for schedules of ranger-led activities.

## Free Junior Ranger Program

Pick up a free booklet at any visitor center, complete the activities, & earn your badge!

## 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).

## Exploring on Horseback

Travel by horse on hourly rides, spot trips, or guided trips that leave from two locations.

Grant Grove: Closed for the season.

The stables reopen in summer 2020.

Stables: (559) 335-9292

Off-season: (559) 799-7247

Cedar Grove: Daily until September 30, 2019, weather permitting, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Pack Station: (559) 565-3464

Off-season: (559) 337-2413.

The stables reopen in summer 2020.

## Crystal Cave Tours

Crystal Cave is open until September 29, and then closes for the winter season. Reserve tickets online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) at least 48 hours in advance. A tour is necessary to see the cave and a ticket is needed for the tour. Need a ticket today? Check first thing in the morning at Lodgepole or Foothills visitor centers (*not* at the cave). The cave will reopen next year on May 22.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from Sequoia's entrance at Hwy 198; 3 miles (4.8 km) south of Sherman Tree. Maximum vehicle length on this narrow road is 22 feet. Use parking lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes for the steep 0.5-mile (0.8 km) trail to the cave. Wear a jacket; it's 50°F (10°C) inside. To protect bats from disease, avoid wearing clothing you've worn in other caves. No strollers, tripods, or bags/packs are permitted inside the cave. (They can be used on the trail from the parking area but must be left outside unattended during the tour.) No flash, lighted photography, or video. Not wheelchair accessible. Tour times are subject to change. For school tours & large groups, visit [sequoiaparksconservancy.org/crystalcave](http://sequoiaparksconservancy.org/crystalcave).

### Family Cave Tour Daily — 45 minutes

Extra tours on holiday weekends (Friday–Monday).

#### August 26–September 29

- **Weekends:** Tours on the hour 10:00 am–4:00 pm, and on the half hour 11:30 am–1:30 pm

- **Weekdays:** Tours on the hour 10:00 am–2:00 pm

**Ticket prices:** Age 5–12 \$8; 13–61 \$16; 62 and up \$15.

Ask about Sequoia Parks Conservancy member discounts! National Park and Interagency passes do not apply.

Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) welcomes you to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks! As the official nonprofit partner to these parks, we do more than just provide tours and retail services. We help you make a deeper connection to the parks and share your experiences with others. We would love for you to visit us online and learn more about everything we do. We've saved a place for you—come join us.



@SequoiaParksConservancy



@SequoiaParksConservancy



@SeqParksCon



Tire chains or cables are essential when chain control is in effect and roads are snowy. Rent or buy chains in nearby towns before you get here. Photo by Alison Taggart-Barone.

Each standard campsite has a table, food storage box, and a fire ring with a grill. Each accommodates up to six people and one vehicle. There are no RV hook-ups in the parks.

### Reservations

Reservations are strongly recommended and are available from six months to two days before your stay. In fall, there are more first-come, first-served sites.

[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

(877) 444-6777

(877) 833-6777 TDD

(888) 448-1474 customer service

If you don't have a reservation, check for first-come, first-served campgrounds. Many campgrounds will close soon for winter.

### Roadside Camping

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

### RV and Trailer Length Limits

If you're driving an RV, trailer, or a longer vehicle, check length limits on park roads and at campsites.

### Group Sites

Reservations are strongly recommended for group sites.

- **Mid-size group sites for 7–19 people** are reservable at Crystal Springs and Canyon View campgrounds.
- **Large-group sites for 15–40 people** are reservable at Dorst Creek, Sunset, or Canyon View.

National forest campgrounds also have group sites.

### Showers

Public showers are available seasonally at Lodgepole and Cedar Grove villages, and in some national forest areas. **Showers are no longer available in Grant Grove.**

### Fire Restrictions Are In Effect

Because of dry conditions, the parks are in Stage 1 fire restrictions. Wood and charcoal fires are

prohibited in South Fork Campground, as well as in Hospital Rock and Ash Mountain Picnic Areas. Wood and charcoal fires are prohibited in wilderness areas below 6,000 feet. Restrictions are subject to change. Check for updates on bulletin boards, at visitor centers, or by visiting [go.nps.gov/sekifirerestrictions](http://go.nps.gov/sekifirerestrictions).

### Campfires and Firewood

Gather only dead and down wood; do not cut limbs off trees. Please don't transport firewood. It can carry insects and diseases that threaten living trees. Find or buy wood close to where you will use it. Please burn any wood you brought in. Fires must be out cold before you leave.

### Quiet and Generator Hours

Music and noise should be audible in your site only. Quiet hours are from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am (no generators). At Lodgepole and Dorst, generator use is permitted only from 8:00 to 11:00 am and 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

### Propane and Fuel Canisters

Recycle fuel canisters at home. Do not put them in park trash cans or leave them here.

## Campgrounds open year-round

| Campground | Location    | Nightly fee | Toilets | Dump station | Showers | Food nearby | Other information                                    |
|------------|-------------|-------------|---------|--------------|---------|-------------|--|
| Potwisha   | Foothills   | \$22        | Flush   | Yes          | –       | –           | Reservations recommended until 9/24.                 |
| Azalea     | Grant Grove | \$18        | Flush   | –            | –       | Yes         | Near sequoia groves. First come, first served sites. |
| South Fork | South Fork  | \$6         | Vault   | –            | –       | –           | Remote camping away from services.                   |

## Campgrounds closing in fall

| Campground      | Location     | Nightly fee | Toilets | Dump station | Showers     | Closing date | Other information  |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--|
| Buckeye Flat    | Foothills    | \$22        | Flush   | –            | –           | 10/23        | No RVs or trailers. Reservations recommended until 9/24. |
| Atwell Mill     | Mineral King | \$12        | Vault   | –            | Silver City | 10/30        | No water is available after 10/18. Bring drinking water. |
| Cold Springs    | Mineral King | \$12        | Vault   | –            | Silver City | 10/30        | No water is available after 10/18. Bring drinking water. |
| Lodgepole       | Lodgepole    | \$22        | Flush   | Yes          | At village  | 12/04        | The closest camping to the Giant Forest.                 |
| Dorst Creek     | Lodgepole    | \$22        | Flush   | Yes          | –           | 9/25         | First come, first served sites.                          |
| Crystal Springs | Grant Grove  | \$18        | Flush   | –            | –           | 9/25         | Near sequoia groves. First come, first served sites.     |
| Moraine         | Cedar Grove  | \$18        | Flush   | –            | See note    | 10/16        | Near the river. First come, first served sites.          |
| Sentinel        | Cedar Grove  | \$22        | Flush   | –            | See note    | 11/12        | Near the river. First come, first served sites.          |
| Canyon View     | Cedar Grove  | \$40-60     | Flush   | –            | See note    | 9/25         | Group sites for tents only. Reservations required.       |

Sunset and Sheep Creek campgrounds and group sites at Crystal Springs Campground are closed for the season. They will reopen in spring 2020.

## Other camping options

Sequoia National Forest (U.S. Forest Service)  
Near Grant Grove

### HUME LAKE AREA

Princess Campground

Hume Lake Campground

Tenmile Campground

Landslide Campground

Convict Flat Campground

### BIG MEADOWS AND STONY CREEK AREAS

Stony Creek Campground

Upper Stony Creek Campground

Horse Camp Campground

Big Meadow Campground

### 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). Check with Sequoia National Forest for time and group size limits.

Free fire permits are required. Ask about them at Hume Lake Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), with a USFS ranger, or get them online at [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

Lake Kaweah (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)  
Near Three Rivers

Horse Creek Campground



Cold Springs Campground, Mineral King

## Keep Bears Wild and Safe

5

**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. Rent bear-resistant storage containers at park visitor centers. A list of approved containers can be found on our website. Metal boxes are located in a few wilderness locations.

### Everyone

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.

### 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. If your vehicle doesn't have a 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.

### Campgrounds

Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (avoid using 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 items must be stored 24 hours a day when not in use. This includes unopened cans and bottles. Make sure food storage boxes are completely latched. Food not properly stored will be impounded. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in trash cans or dumpsters. Do not leave garbage unattended! Take child safety seats out of cars—the smells they absorb may attract bears.

### Lodges

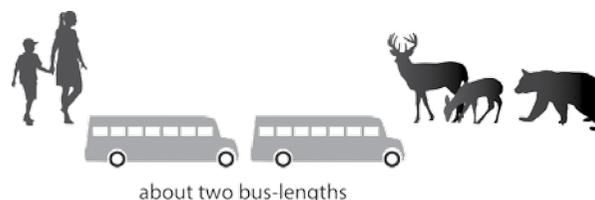
Remove all food and child safety seats from your vehicle.

**Bears can smell anything with a scent—such as 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 park 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 short 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 golden foothills, home to more species of plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined. Chaparral, oak woodlands, and river canyons offer warmer days, year-round waterfalls, and clear, starry skies.

## Services and Facilities

### Foothills Visitor Center

Open 8:00 am–4:30 pm through September 30, then open 9:00 am–4:00 pm. Browse exhibits on life in the low elevations and the Sequoia Parks Conservancy park store. A payphone and free WiFi are available here. Ask about free ranger programs! *Muchas veces hay rangers aqui quienes hablan Español.*

### Wilderness Office

Local permits for overnight travel are issued from 8:00 am–4:00 pm at the Wilderness Office on weekdays and Saturdays, through September 20. To reach the Wilderness Office, follow the dirt path to the left of the Foothills Visitor Center. Go to the Fire Management and Wilderness Office on the far side of the parking lot. Beginning September 21, self-registration permits are available outside of the visitor center.



### Tunnel Rock

Snap a picture at this iconic pullout off the Generals Highway. Walk on the old road under this rock formation, but do not climb. Poison oak is common here.

### Marble Falls Trail

For a short walk along canals or a long walk to a waterfall, 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) through to the waterfall.



### 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. Store your food from bears.

### Paradise Creek Trail

For a creekside stroll, park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area (not in campground). 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 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

## Mineral King

Climb the steep, winding road to its 7,800 feet (2,377 m) peak. Enjoy this remote, rugged place, or follow a trail into a vast wilderness. The road to this area closes for the season on October 30.

## Services and Facilities

### Mineral King Ranger Station

Open 8:00 am–4:00 pm until September 24. Get trail local information. Payphones are nearby at Cold Springs Campground and the Sawtooth Trailhead parking area. Ask about free ranger programs!

### Wilderness Permits

Local wilderness permits for overnight travel are issued at the Ranger Station 8:00 am–3:45 pm until September 24. After September 24, a self-registration permit station is available outside of the ranger station.

### Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Stop here for cabins, gifts, showers, store, and a restaurant with a bakery and wifi. No gas is available. Open 8:00 am–8:00 pm Friday–Saturday, and 8:00 am–7:00 pm Sunday–Thursday. Closes for the season on October 23. (559) 561-3223.



### Cold Springs Nature Trail

Stroll through meadows and aspen groves on this slightly sloped, 1-mile (1.6 km) trail. Start at Cold Springs Campground.

### Eagle Lake

Ascend the west side of the Mineral King Valley to a glacially carved tarn. This steep trail is 3.4 miles (5.4 km) one way, and begins at the end of Mineral King Road. After 2 miles (3.2 km), the trail splits. Turn left for Eagle Lake, or take the right-hand trail another 1.6 miles (2.5 km) for Mosquito Lake.

### Paradise Ridge

Hike through sequoias to a ridge with views of the Great Western Divide. Park in the lot east of Atwell Mill Campground and walk past the campground to the trailhead. Climb 3.3 miles (5.3 km) to the peak of the ridge, or continue into wilderness.

### Atwell-Hockett to Deer Creek

Along this trail, walk through sequoias and an old sawmill to a waterfall. Park in the lot east of Atwell Mill Campground and walk toward the campground to the trailhead. This trail heads far into wilderness. Turn back in 2.4 miles (3.8 km) at Deer Creek for a day hike.

Welcome to the big trees. Here, enjoy the world's biggest unlogged sequoia grove and largest tree. Park your car and discover serene meadows, rocky streams, and towering forests.

## General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

**Main Trail** - This 0.5-mile (0.8 km) trail down to the 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 right on Wolverton Road and follow signs.

**Wheelchair-accessible trail from the Generals Highway** - Wheelchair-accessible trail from the Generals Highway- Parking here is only for those with disability placards. 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.

**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.



## 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. If you have a disability placard, park at the trailhead for a 0.75-mile (1 km) loop.

## Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

This 3-mile (4.8 km), dead-end road begins at Giant Forest Museum. The road closes for the season once snow accumulates.

**Moro Rock** - Climb a steep stairway to the top of this granite dome for spectacular mountain views.

**Tunnel Log** - Go under a fallen sequoia that was tunneled through. This is the only "tree you can drive 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; and the High Sierra Trail (60 miles/97 km) to Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the lower 48 states.

## Tokopah Falls

This walk along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River begins in Lodgepole Campground. The 1.7-mile (2.7 km) trail starts just beyond the Marble Fork Bridge. Walk along the river to the impressive granite cliffs and cascading waterfall of Tokopah Canyon. Tokopah Falls is 1,200 feet (365.8 meters) high, and is most impressive in early summer. Be careful around the water; cold and swift currents are difficult to escape.

## Upcoming Free Holiday Shuttle

Thanksgiving: 11/21 - 11/24  
December holidays: 12/21-1/1

Shuttles will run 10:00 am - 4:30 pm between Giant Forest Museum, the Sherman Tree parking area along the Generals Highway, Wolverton, Lodgepole, and Wuksachi Lodge.

Plan a holiday visit to your parks!



## Services and Facilities

### Giant Forest Museum

Open 9:00 am-4:30 pm. Browse exhibits, trail information, and the SPC park store. Ask about free ranger programs!

### Lodgepole Visitor Center

Open 7:00 am-4:30 pm until September 22. From September 22-October 14, 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Closes for season on October 14. Watch a movie about bears, learn about the forest ecosystem, get trail information, and browse the SPC park store. Ask about free ranger programs!

### Wilderness Permits

Local permits for overnight travel are issued at

Lodgepole Visitor Center from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm, until 9/21. Beginning 9/22, self-registration permits are available outside of Giant Forest Museum.

### Lodgepole Market\*

Open daily. Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-6:00 pm. Friday-Sunday 7:00 am-8:00 pm through 10/19, then hours shorten 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Supplies, clothing, groceries, grab-and-go food, ATM, payphone.

LOGEPOLE GRILL: Open with market through October 20, then closed for the season.

SHOWERS & LAUNDRY: Open with market through 11/03, then closed for the season. Closed daily for cleaning 12:30 pm; 2:30 pm.

### Wuksachi Lodge\*

The lodge sits at 7200' elevation, 2.3 miles (3.7 km) north of Lodgepole Visitor Center. Open year-round, 24 hours. Payphones, WiFi, and ATM. Ask about naturalist programs. (866) 807-3598.

PEAKS DINING ROOM: Open 7:00-10:00 am, 11:30am - 3:00pm, & 5:00-9:00 pm. Reservations recommended for dinner. Box lunches available. (559) 625-7700.

WUKSACHI PIZZA: Currently open daily from 11:00 am-9:00 pm; hours will change in late October.

GIFT SHOP: Open 8:00 am-6:00 pm. Souvenirs.

\*Operated by Delaware North

Wander through shady sequoia groves and hike to bird's-eye views of distant wilderness. From lively Grant Grove Village to lofty Big Baldy Ridge, Grant Grove offers a chance to explore with amenities nearby.

### Grant Tree Trail

This 0.3-mile (0.5 km) paved trail leads to the world's second-largest living tree. Along the trail are tactile exhibits about sequoias. Trail head is 1 mile (1.6 km) from Grant Grove Village.

### North Grove Loop

This lightly traveled, 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop offers a close look at sequoias and a quiet forest walk. Start at the Grant Tree bus and RV parking area.

### Panoramic Point

A narrow road leads to an accessible short trail to a viewpoint with beautiful Sierra vistas. RVs and trailers are not permitted on the road, which begins behind the John Muir Lodge. This road closes when it becomes impassable due to snow.

### Big Stump Basin

Stumps in this meadow from late 19th-century logging include the Mark Twain Stump. Climb the steps to see the growth rings of this giant. Start the 1.5 mile (2.4 km) loop trail from the Big Stump Picnic Area.



### Big Baldy Ridge

Climb to 8,209 feet (2,502 m) for great views over Redwood Canyon. You'll gain 600 feet (183 m) in elevation over the 2.2-mile (3.5 km) trek to this granite peak. From Grant Grove Village, go 8 miles (13 km) south on Generals Highway to the trailhead.

## Services and Facilities

### Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Until 10/14: Open 8:00 am–5:00 pm. Beginning 10/15: Open 9:00 am–4:00 pm. Watch a park film, and browse exhibits in English and Spanish and the park store. Payphone and free WiFi. Ask about ranger programs!

### Wilderness Permits

Available in the visitor center until 9/21. Beginning 9/22, pick up self-issue permits outside.

### Grant Grove Village\*

MARKET: Open 8:00 am–8:00 pm through 10/19 then 9:00 am–6:00 pm. Grab-&-go food, groceries, supplies, ATM, payphone.

RESTAURANT: Open 7:00–10:00 am; 11:30 am–4:30 pm; 4:30–9:00 pm through 10/19, then hours shorten.

GIFT SHOP: Open 8:00 am–8:00 pm through 10/19, then 9:00 am–6:00 pm.

POST OFFICE: Open Monday–Friday 9:00 am–4:00 pm; 24-hour lobby.

### John Muir Lodge\*

Make a reservation to stay in the lodge or in a cabin. (866) 807-3598.

## Cedar Grove

Quiet and remote, Cedar Grove sits deep in the Kings Canyon, surrounded by sheer granite cliffs.

### Canyon View

The “U” shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. This feature is 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village Road.

### Knapp's Cabin

In the Roaring Twenties, a California businessman stored gear in this small cabin for lavish fishing trips. Stop two miles east of Cedar Grove Village.

### Roaring River Falls

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

### Zumwalt Meadow

The north side of this 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop is closed due to flood damage, but the south side still offers views of high granite walls, the lush meadow, and the Kings River. Park at the trailhead 4.5 miles (7.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

### Mist Falls

Head through forest and chaparral to one of the parks' largest waterfalls. The 4-mile (6.4 km) trip begins at Road's End and climbs 800 feet (250 m) to a viewing area for the cascade.

### Sheep Creek Cascade

Climb the Don Cecil Trail to a small waterfall. At that point, turn around or continue for a longer hike. Park at Cedar Grove Visitor Center and look for the signs. The trail to the waterfall is 1 mile (1.6 km).



## Services and Facilities

### Cedar Grove Visitor Center

Open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm through 9/22. Get trail information and browse the park store. Payphone. Beginning 9/23, the visitor center is closed for the season.

### Wilderness Permits

Issued at Road's End from 7:00 am–3:30 pm through 9/21/19. Beginning 9/22, permits are available at the self-registration station outside.

### Cedar Grove Village and Lodge\*

Make a reservation to stay at the Cedar Grove Lodge. (866) 807-3598.

GRILL: Limited food service from 7:00–10:00 am, 11:30 am–2:30 pm; and 5:00–9:00 pm.

GIFT SHOP/MARKET: Open 7:00 am–9:00 pm until 10/20, 9:00 am–5:00 pm thru November 3. Groceries, supplies, souvenirs, payphones.

SHOWERS & LAUNDRY: Open daily from 7:00 am–1:00 pm and 3:00 pm–8:00 pm.

\*Operated by Delaware North Concession

These parks offer over 800,000 acres of wilderness with outstanding opportunities for solitude and challenge.

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 appear, drink warm sugary drinks and get into dry clothes, sleeping bags, and shelter.

### Wilderness Permits

**Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS):** Permits are required for all overnight trips. No permits are needed for dayhikers. **After September 22, no reservations are needed. Self-issue permits at the visitor center closest to your intended trailhead. Outside of the quota period, permits are free of charge.**

During the quota period (late May - late September), the permit fee is \$10 plus \$5/person. Permits can be reserved beginning March 1. Walk-up permits are issued at the permit station closest to your trailhead.

**Jennie Lakes and Monarch Wildernesses in the National Forest:** Permits are not required. Register at Jennie Lakes trailheads. The USFS requires a free fire permit for any open flame; these are available online at [preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/](http://preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/) or at the USFS Hume Lake District Office.

### Seasonal Wilderness Lodging

**Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (concessioner):** Open late May into late September, conditions permitting. Experience rustic wilderness lodging and meals 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations fill early. For 2020, call 866-807-3598 beginning January 1 to reserve a spot for a summer trip.



## US Forest Service

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of the Sequoia National Forest. Although not managed by the National Park Service, this area connects this immense protected landscape.

### Converse Basin

Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to a spared monarch, or the 0.5 mile (0.22 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, cut for exhibition at the 1893 World’s Fair.

### Boyden Cavern

Explore a marble cave! Guided tours are offered daily from 10:00 am-5:00 pm, and each tour lasts 50 minutes. Unlike Crystal Cave tours, tickets are not needed in advance. The cave is on Highway 180 between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove.

| Can I...                            | In National Parks   | In National Forests  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Walk my leashed pets?</b>        | Not on any trails. Pets are permitted on paved roads and must be on leash less than 6 feet (1.8 m) long. Service animals are exempted from pet regulations.       | Pets can go on trails. They must be on a leash 6 feet (1.8m) long or less.   |
| <b>Collect things to take home?</b> | Collecting natural objects (pine cones, rocks, plants, or animals) is not allowed in parks. This includes artifacts such as arrowheads, beads, or pottery shards. | You may keep a few cones or rocks for personal use. Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.        |
| <b>Hunt?</b>                        | 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 for more information.                                     |
| <b>Drive off-road?</b>              | Not in these parks. Stay on roads.  | Get off-highway-vehicle (OHV) route information at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center. |

## Services and Facilities

### 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. Open weekdays 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Maps and books are sold here. (559) 338-2251.

### Montecito Sequoia Lodge (permittee)

Open all year. (800) 227-9900; (559) 565-3388. On the Generals Highway 9 miles (14 km) south of Grant Grove. The lodge has cabins, a restaurant, a hotel, wifi, seasonal and children’s activities.

### Hume Lake (on private land)

Gas is sold when the store is open. The store is open daily, but hours vary and pumps may close for inspection. Travel 6 miles (9.6 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then turn right and travel 4 miles (6.4 km) on Hume Lake Road. (559) 305-7770. A payphone is just outside the store. The area also offers casual dining, including a snack shop and pizza.

### Stony Creek Resort (permittee)

Market 8:00 am-7:00 pm; restaurant 4:00-6:30 pm (later on Friday and Saturday). Showers and laundry 9:00 am-6:00 pm. The resort is on the Generals

Highway 13 miles (20 km) south of Grant Grove. **Gasoline** is available when the market is open, and may be available after hours with a credit card. (800) 227-9900; (559) 565-3909.

### Dispersed Camping

In addition to campsites, US Forest Service land offers dispersed camping in the frontcountry. Get a free fire permit online or at the USFS Hume Lake District Office. Learn about dispersed camping areas there, or at any visitor center.

# You are Responsible for Your Safety

Beautiful, yet remote and rugged, these parks present hazards. Changing temperatures, 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 and ask a ranger for advice. Your safety is in your own hands!*

## 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. If you do swim:

- 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. 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.

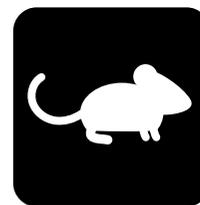
## Explore Safely

- **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.**



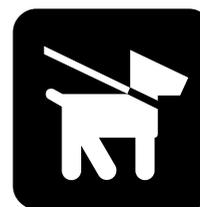
### Air Quality

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, go to a visitor center, 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. 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.

## A Feast for the Senses

*All of nature begins to whisper its secrets to us through its sounds. Sounds that were previously incomprehensible to our soul now become the meaningful language of nature.*

-RUDOLF STEINER

When you visit Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, what do you hear? Wind blowing through the treetops, birdsongs, water cascading over river boulders, or a grouse drumming to impress his mate?

While you may know these parks for their impressive trees and mountainous landscapes, natural sounds are a key part of the experience.

The National Park Service considers natural sounds, or “acoustic resources,” one of the many values worth conserving. While humans usually value sounds based on life experiences and positive memories, sounds can also have a measurable scientific value.

In these parks, we use specialized audio equipment to record sounds in nature. With this equipment, we

can monitor animal species and diversity. We can also measure changes in plant and animal populations that are affected by fires or nonnative species. We record high-quality sounds of wildlife, geology, and other events that can be experienced in the Kings Canyon Visitor Center. And the park developed an interactive, web-based map where people can explore not only the sights, but also the sounds of the park, from right at home.

For more information about our soundscapes program, visit [www.nps.gov/seki/learn/exploring-soundscapes](http://www.nps.gov/seki/learn/exploring-soundscapes).



Prescribed fire in a sequoia grove.

## Fire: A Natural Change

For over a century, we tried to banish fire from these lands, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as often as every 5–15 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, open the cones, and open the forest canopy, allowing 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 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’s effects tells us that excluding this natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

## We Care About Park Air

As the saying goes, on a clear day you can see forever. But air quality in these parks is often affected by pollutants that come from outside our boundaries. These pollutants can reduce visibility from park overlooks, and harm vegetation and other park resources. In summer, these parks often exceed federal ozone health standards, making air conditions potentially harmful for people who are at risk for respiratory issues. Air quality generally improves in late fall. We continually monitor air quality for both the safety of people and park resources. For more information on air quality here, visit our web pages.

## Who Am I?

**In fall, I’m known for my insatiable appetite. I eat A LOT—mostly acorns, but also anything that might make me fat. There is a fancy name for this behavior—hyperphagia—but it just means that I eat excessively. And since I’m so hungry, it’s really important that people keep human foods away from me so I don’t get in trouble!**

**I eat tons of food so I am ready for my long winter’s nap, or hibernation. Occasionally, I take a shorter nap or don’t hibernate at all. It depends on weather, food, and other factors. Who am I? I’m a black bear.**



## Road Construction

If you travel the Generals Highway between the two parks, expect delays between Little Baldy Saddle (at the north end of Sequoia National Park) and the junction of the Generals Highway and Highway 180 (near Grant Grove). There may be multiple construction zones along the sixteen-mile stretch.

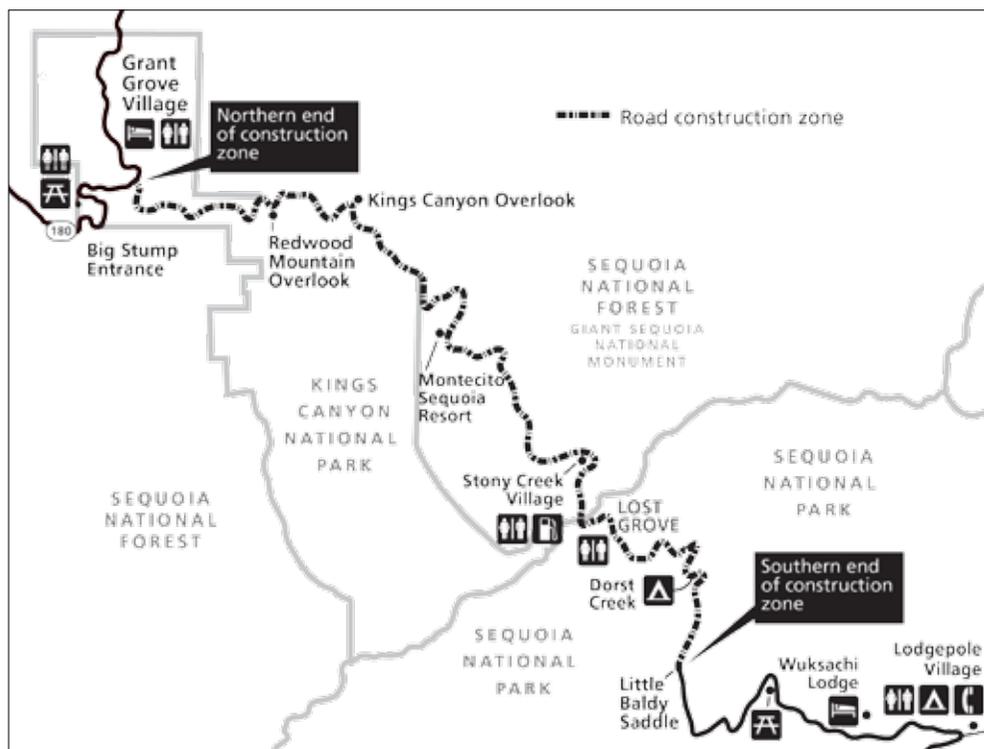
For the most current information, check at visitor centers or visit [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki).

**On weekdays, expect delays of 30-60 minutes.**

There will be a maximum delay of one hour through the entire area. Night closures may be possible.

**On weekends, no work will take place.**

There will be maximum delays of 20 minutes if roadways are confined to a single lane. If there are delays, traffic lights will control movement through the construction zone.



## Winter Road Closures

*All dates depend on weather.*

### Generals Highway:

- From Wuksachi Lodge (in Sequoia) north to Montecito Resort (near Kings Canyon National Park) will be plowed until January 2, weather permitting. Before then, the road will be plowed when possible, but may take time to reopen after winter storms.

### In Kings Canyon & National Forest:

- Highway 180 to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon: Caltrans closes this road at noon on November 11.
- Panoramic Point Road: Closes with snow.
- Redwood Mountain Road (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS): These unpaved roads close with snow.

### In Sequoia National Park:

- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow: Closes when impassable due to snow.
- Crystal Cave Road: Closes for the season after the last cave tour on September 29.
- Mineral King Road: Closes at noon on October 30 for winter.
- Middle Fork Road: Closes at noon on September 25. To hike on Middle Fork Trail, park at Hospital Rock and walk along the road to the trailhead. Even when this rough, unpaved road is open, it can be difficult to navigate after storms.
- South Fork Road: This road is open year-round, but is rough and unpaved after it passes the park boundary.

## Vehicle Length Limits

Generals Highway in Sequoia National Park:

- Foothills Visitor Center to Potwisha Campground: vehicles longer than 24 feet are not recommended.
- Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum: vehicles longer than 22 feet are not recommended.

**Alternatives:** Highway 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If you have a longer vehicle, use this entrance.

**Other roads in Sequoia National Park:**

- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow: Vehicle-length limit is 22 feet; no trailers or towed units.
- Crystal Cave Road: Maximum vehicle length on this narrow, winding road is 22 feet (6.7 m).
- Mineral King Road: RVs and trailers are not advised. Campgrounds do not offer RV sites.

**Other roads in Kings Canyon National Park:**

- Panoramic Point Road: RVs and trailers are not permitted.

## Gas and Charging Stations

No gas stations are available within park boundaries. Fill up before you enter the parks. If you're already in the park, fill up at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: Near Grant Grove. Open all year. Facility hours vary. Gas is sold when the store is open. (559) 305-7770.
- Stony Creek Village: Starting in mid-May, gas is available 24 hours with credit card. Other services are listed on page 9. The village is between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on the Generals Highway. (559) 565-3909.

Park lodges may offer outlets for electric vehicle charging. Check in advance.

## Emergency Car Repairs

In Sequoia National Park only, 24-hour AAA service is available for minor vehicle issues such as lock outs, jump starts, emergency gas, and minor repairs. Call (559) 625-7700. If you need a tow, contact services in local communities.

