

# Visitor Guide: Late Summer 2017

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



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



## The park after dark

Accustomed as we are to a brightly lit world, when we find ourselves in the dark—even in a familiar place—it can feel unsettling. But give your senses time to adjust and darkness offers a chance to “see” these parks in a different light.

Darkness somehow magnifies the sound of a mouse scuffling in dry leaves into something alarmingly large, and hoots, howls, and squeaks add to the strangeness of the night. After getting used to it, however, it feels comfortable to join in the diverse nocturnal life of the parks.

Ten species of owl here can rend the night with screeches or soothe it with gentle hoots. Larger and smaller animals move around after dark, too.

The quiet, non-descript yucca moth flies at night, carrying pollen from plant to plant. Without this insect, there would be no yuccas

(the tall bloom in the “Foothills” woodcut above); this dark-adapted moth is its only pollinator. Because many nocturnal insects are plentiful here, so are bats—some 16 species of them! And so are bug-eating nocturnal birds, such as night-hawks and poorwills.

High above all this activity, uncountable stars shine down from the dark park skies. People thousands of years ago and around the world witnessed this same spectacle and saw their stories in shapes outlined by stars. More recently, night skies inspired van Gogh’s painting *Starry Night*, Van Morrison’s song *Moondance*, NASA’s Hubble Telescope, the explorations of astronauts, and so much more.

The dark sky connects us with the rhythms of the Earth’s rotation, with animals that navigate by the stars, and with the fun, fascinating ways that we, too, can respond to the night. Enjoy one of our free

night-time programs in the parks. They offer so many ways to relate to the world after dark and experience how it enriches life on Earth.

On August 21, we experienced a different kind of dark: a solar eclipse. As seen from these parks, the moon covered about 3/4 of the sun. In that peculiar, muted daylight, the birds grew quieter and millions of tiny images of the crescent sun appeared, one in every dapple of dim light on the ground.

To experience the *complete* absence of light, tour Crystal Cave. Once deep inside the cavern, your guide extinguishes (briefly) all lights. Compare that total blackness to the dark of night above ground!

The whole world shares a connection to the night, yet truly dark skies are increasingly rare. Take advantage while you’re here! Gaze up into the universe, feel the wonder, and make *yours* a marvelous night.

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Information as of August 15, 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](https://twitter.com/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

At Wuksachi Lodge 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 erhaltlich.

**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 the stores in visitor centers support these parks!

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

### 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 issued 8am-4pm at the Wilderness Office weekdays & Saturdays of holiday weekends; when closed, available outside the visitor center.

### Giant Forest Museum (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 9am-6pm; 8am-4:30pm starting 9/5. Exhibits on sequoias. 1-559-565-4480. For local wilderness permits, see Lodgepole Visitor Center below. Closest phones are outside Lodgepole Market & at Wolverton restrooms.

### Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 8am-6pm through 9/17, then 9am-5pm. Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. 1-559-565-4307. Local wilderness permits issued until 4:30pm (self-issued outside starting 9/24). Payphones by visitor center and market.

### 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.

### Lodgepole Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 7am-6pm; starting 9/5 7am-4:30pm (8am starting 9/24). Films, exhibits. 1-559-565-4436. Local wilderness permits issued until 4pm; 1-559-565-4408. Payphones at the market building.

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

(NPS) Daily 9am-5pm through 9/4. 1-559-565-3793. Local wilderness permits issued at Road's End Permit Station 7am-3:30pm through 9/23, then self-issue. Area closes 11/13.

### Mineral King Ranger Station (Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 8am-4pm through 9/24. Information, local wilderness permits. 1-559-565-3768. Payphone in Cold Springs Campground.

## 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 Last night open 9/26.	\$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 Last night open 9/5.	\$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. Last night open 9/5.	\$18 standard sites. \$40* mid-size group sites.	Food; pay showers nearby in summer. *14 mid-sized group sites (7 to 19) are reservable May 24 through September 5. Flush toilets.
* Sunset - 156 sites Last night open 9/5.	\$22 standard site. *Large-group sites (15-30) \$50.	Flush toilets. Nearby food service; pay showers in summer. Regular & large-group sites reservable through 9/6.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	No RV-tank dump stations. Road closes Nov. 13, 2017.
* Sentinel - 82 sites Last night open 11/12.	\$22 during reservation period, then \$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer. Sites reservable 8/16 to 9/26.
Sheep Creek - 109 sites Last night open 9/19.	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers & laundry nearby in summer.
*Canyon View: 16 group sites No RVs or trailers. Open (see details).	*\$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. Last night reservable for mid-size sites is 9/5; last night for large sites is 9/26.
Moraine - 121 sites Last night open 9/5.	\$18.	Flush toilets. Food, pay showers, laundry nearby.

## Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (Forest Service)

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
* Princess - 88 sites Last night open 9/23.	\$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 Last night open 9/23.	\$25 single, \$50 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car \$7.
* Tenmile - 13 sites Last night open 9/23.	\$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 Last night open 9/23.	\$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 Last night open 9/23.	\$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 Last night open 9/23.	\$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	\$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.		

## 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, lounge, gifts, ATM, wi-fi.

#### 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 (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. Cabins, buffet restaurant, hotel (wi-fi), seasonal & children's activities.

#### Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

Mid-May through October 14 (last night). Reservations 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3909; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). On the Generals Highway 13 miles south of Grant Grove. Hotel, 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; last night 9/30. [www.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com); 1-559-561-3223. Cabins, restaurant, bakery, gifts, showers. No gas.

#### \* Kings Canyon Lodge Closed.

### 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 - Late Summer 2017

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### Crystal Cave Tours

Reserve tickets online at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) at least 48 hours in advance. Need a ticket today? Check first thing in the morning at Lodgepole or Foothills visitor centers (*not at the cave*). Plan time for delays in getting through the park entrances, especially on weekends and holidays, and through construction (see page 12).

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles from Sequoia Park's entrance at Hwy 198; 3 miles south of Sherman Tree (map, page 8). Maximum vehicle length on this narrow, winding road is 22'. Use restrooms at the parking lot; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes and a jacket; the 1/2-mile trail to the cave is steep and the cave is 50°F/10°C inside. No strollers, tripods, or bags/packs of any kind; no flash/lighted photography/video. Not wheelchair accessible. Tours are subject to change. For school tours & groups larger than 21, see [www.explorecrystalcave.com](http://www.explorecrystalcave.com).

#### Family Cave Tour Daily - 45 minutes

Through Sept. 4 (extra tours on holiday weekends)

- Saturday: Every 1/2 hour 10:30am-6pm
- Sunday: Every 1/2 hour 10:30am-5pm
- Weekdays: Every 1/2 hour 10:30am-4:30pm

September 5 - October 1 (last day of tours):

- Saturday-Sunday: Every hour 10am-4pm
- Weekdays: Every hour 10am-3pm

Fees: Age 5-12 \$8; 13-61 \$16; 62 & up \$15. Ask about veteran, military & SPC member discounts! National Park & Interagency passes do not apply.

See bulletin boards and visitor centers for details and schedules of activities. As summer wanes, activities must be reduced, but they don't stop!

### Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Offered in the Foothills, Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, Mineral King, Cedar Grove, and other locations! Join a ranger among the big trees, on Moro Rock, in the canyon of the Kings, and in the fascinating foothills. Check out an evening program at one of the amphitheaters — you don't have to be staying in a campground.

### Junior Ranger Program - free

For ages 5 to 105! Get a free booklet at any visitor center, complete the activities, & earn your badge.

### Wonders of the Night Sky

Try out a variety of free night programs, including at 9pm on Sunday, Wednesday, & Friday at Wuksachi and Wednesday & Saturday at John Muir Lodge. Check bulletin boards for more options. Bring your flashlight, blanket, and sense of awe!

### 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).

### 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)

### Touring on Horseback

Page 9 has details on for-fee rides at pack stations.

### Future Special Programs

Planning is underway for Veteran's Day events in November; watch for updates on [nps.gov/seki](http://nps.gov/seki). 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.

### Upcoming Fee-Free Days

Every year you can visit national parks for free on certain dates. Still to come this year are August 25 - the birthday of the National Park Service; September 30 - National Public Lands Day; and November 11 & 12 - Veterans Day Weekend. Take advantage!

# 6 Exploring Sequoia National Park - Late Summer 2017

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.

## Mineral King

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. See page 2 for ranger station hours.

## The Foothills

The low elevations host more different plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined! Fire restrictions are in place; see page 12.

## Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Hours on page 2.

**Marble Falls Trail** climbs 3.7 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a waterfall. 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. Please be careful; drownings occur here too often!

## 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. Shuttles stop at both centers.

### Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

Open. No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. Road is closed during the day on weekends & holidays, 8am to 7pm, until 9/4:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation

gain). Spectacular mountain views. Two miles from Generals Highway. See lightning warning on page 10. Shuttle stop.

- **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, a 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. Shuttle stop.

### Big Trees Trail

A level, 2/3-mile (1km) paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start your walk at Giant Forest Museum (parking at the trail is only for cars with disability placards). 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. Drive 2 miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Hwy only for those with disability placards). Turn right on Wolverton Road; follow signs. See page 12 about construction delays. Shuttle stop.

- **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from the Generals Hwy to the Sherman Tree. Parking here is only for those with disability placards. You can also ride here on a shuttle; all buses are wheelchair-accessible and some can kneel. Shuttle stop.

### Congress Trail

A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the grove. Begins at the Sherman Tree.

## Sequoia By Shuttle: Buses are accessible

Check bulletin boards at shuttle stops for details.

- **Giant Forest: Green Route 1 - Free.** Giant Forest Museum to Lodgepole, stopping at the Sherman Tree in each direction. 1/2-hour ride one way. Every 1/2-hour 8am & 8:30am; every 15 minutes 9am - 6pm.
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow: Gray Route 2 - Free.** Giant Forest Museum, Moro Rock, Crescent Meadow, Giant Forest Museum (stops at Auto Log and Tunnel Log on weekends only). 1/2-hour round trip. Weekdays: 8am, 8:45am, then every 20 minutes 9am-6pm. Weekends 8am, 8:45am, then every 10 minutes 9am-6pm. Road closed to private vehicles on weekends & holidays (page 12).
- **Lodgepole /Wuksachi /Dorst: Purple Route 3 - Free.** Leaves each stop every 20 minutes 8am - 6pm. The Dorst connection ends when Dorst closes 9/6.
- **Wolverton/ Sherman Tree: Orange Route 4 - Free.** Connects Wolverton picnic area & trailhead to both the main and the accessible trails to the Sherman Tree every 15 minutes 9am - 6:30pm.
- **Giant Forest /Foothills/ Visalia: Blue Route \$15 round trip.** Visalia to Giant Forest (no additional park entrance fee). Reservations required; 1-877-BUS-HIKE or sequoia shuttle.com. Buses leave Visalia for Giant Forest every hour 6am-10am; 2-hour ride each way. Buses leave Giant Forest for Visalia Transit Center every hour from 2:30-6pm. No pickup or dropoff in park foothills.

In-park shuttle questions: 559-565-4436.

To Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park, & (180)

To Three Rivers, Visalia, & (198)

**Runs through Sept. 4**

**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; opens with snowmelt. 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.

## Kings Canyon & Cedar Grove

Here in the canyon of the South Fork of the Kings River, many drought-weakened trees succumbed to insects. Be very aware of the potential for falling trees and branches. Be careful with fire! Fire restrictions are in place; see page 12.

### 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 Gant 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 this free service (last day 9/4).

### Wolverton

7200' elevation. Picnic area & good open space for viewing night skies. Pay telephone on the restroom building. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Turn onto Wolverton Road to reach main parking for the Sherman Tree. See page 12 about possible delays.

### Lodgepole

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

#### Lodgepole Visitor Center

See page 2 for details.

#### Lodgepole Village (DNC)

- Market & Gift Shop: Daily 8am-9pm. Supplies, clothing, groceries & prepared foods.
- Grill: 8-11am & 11:30am-8pm.
- Deli: 11am-6m. Last day 10/22.
- Showers & laundry: Daily 7am-1pm & 3-9pm.

#### U.S. Post Office

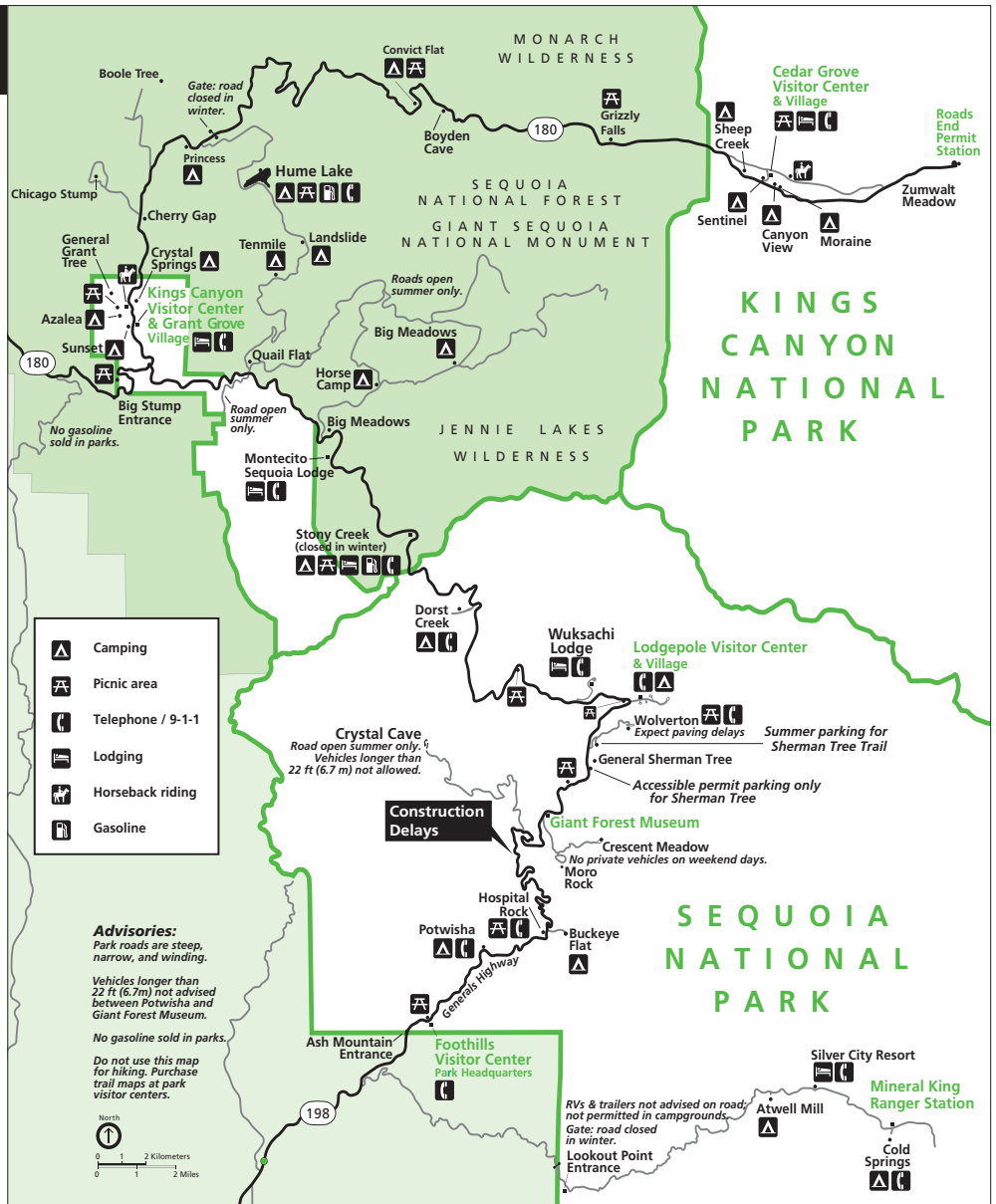
Mail drop only, behind visitor center. Full postal services at Grant Grove.

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

Outside visitor center & market.

### Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. Year-round service, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree, between Lodgepole and Dorst Campground. (DNC)



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

#### Wuksachi Gift Shop

Daily 8am-9pm in the main lodge.

#### The Peaks Dining Room

Daily restaurant service 6:30-10am, 11am-3pm, & 4:30-10pm. Reservations required for dinner: call 1-559-565-4070. Box lunches available. Lounge 4-10pm. Views of the High Sierra.

#### Wuksachi Lodge

Details on page 5. Desk 24 hours. Pay telephones at main lodge. ATM. Ask about naturalist programs.

### Mineral King

7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, winding road to a subalpine valley. No electricity or gasoline. Pay your entrance fee at the machine at Lookout Point entrance. See page 2 for ranger station hours.

#### Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground; Sawtooth parking area.

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

Cabins, showers. No gas. Store, restaurant/bakery: Thursday-Monday 8am-8pm; Tuesday-Wednesday 8am-5pm. Last night 9/30. 1-559-561-3223 (page 5).



## Exploring on Horseback

Hourly rides, spot trips, or guided trips:

- **Grant Grove Stables:** One- & two-hour rides, 6/12 - 9/7, 9am-4pm, 1-559-335-9292.
- **Cedar Grove Pack Station:** Daily 9am-4pm, to 10/9. 1-559-565-3464.
- **Horse Corral at Big Meadows** in the National Forest (FS): 9:30am-4pm. 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)

- **Market:** Daily 7am-9pm; 8am-8pm starting 9/18. Prepared food, groceries, supplies, ATM.
- **New Restaurant!** Daily 7-10am, 11:30am-4:30pm, 4:30-9pm. From 7am-4:30pm, a walk-up window also offers grab-and-go items such as pizza, sandwiches, ice cream, etc.

- **Gift Shop:** Daily 7am-9pm; 8am-8pm starting 9/18. Souvenirs, supplies, clothing, gifts, ATM.
- **Lodging:** 1-559-335-5500. Details, page 5.
- **Showers:** Open daily to campers 9:30am-12:30pm & 2:30-5:30pm. Last day 10/22.

**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 glacially carved Kings Canyon, where many dead trees had to be removed this spring.

### 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. BBQ served 11:30am-5pm Thursday-Sunday through 9/3.
- **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. Daily 7am-3:30pm through 9/23, then self-issue your 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 Hume Lake 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. 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 Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Cabins, hotel, children's activities; summer family camp. Buffet meals 7:30am-9am, 12-1:30pm, 5:30-7pm through 9/4, then 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.

### Boyden Cavern Tours (USFS permittee)

Closed. Opening to be determined: 1-559-338-2251.

## 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 *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.

## 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 DD173. 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.

## Wilderness

11

**In the high Sierra, snow remains on all or part of many trails. It will take some time before the condition of all bridges, trails, and other features are known. Check [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) for updates.**



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

Permits are required for all overnight trips, and they are limited during the summer quota period (May 26 through September 23, 2017). The permit fee during that time is \$10 plus \$5/person. Permits can be reserved by email or U.S. mail beginning March 1. Outside of the quota period, permits are free and can be self-issued at the permit station or visitor center closest to your trailhead (see page 2).

**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.

# 12 Mountain Roads: Late Summer 2017

## 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 24 hours with credit card. Gas & diesel. 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, and let cars behind you pass.

### Avoid Overheating

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. If stopped, raise your hood. Vapor lock may be a problem in older cars; it often resolves as the engine cools down.

### 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 National Parks

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 they may not be brought into any federal facilities and discharging a firearm is illegal.

## Vehicle Limits, Winding Roads

Keep to the right, and look out for wildlife. Use pullouts to let traffic behind you pass.

### 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.
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Vehicle-length limit 22'; no trailers or towed units. *Through 9/4, closed to private vehicles on weekends & holidays, 8am to 7pm.* Use the shuttle (page 6), walk, or bicycle at those times. Exception: those with a valid disabled-parking placard or a current local wilderness permit. No drinking water available along this road.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m). Closes 2 hours after the day's last cave tour until 1 hour before the next day's first tour. Closed for winter starting October 2.
- **Mineral King Road:** Narrow; very winding. Closes noon, 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 snow.
- **Redwood Mountain Road:** Unpaved, rough.
- **Hwy 180 to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon:** Narrow, winding. Closes 11/13 - 4/27.

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

- **Quail Flat & Ten Mile roads - Open.**
- **Converse Basin - Unpaved, rough.** Road to Chicago Stump open; road to Boole Tree trail-head closed to motorized traffic.
- **Big Meadows & Buck Rock roads: Open.**

## Fire Restrictions in Effect

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). No smoking below 6000' elevation except in enclosed vehicles or designated smoking areas (Giant Forest and Grant Grove are at 6500'). Gas, propane, alcohol, and tablet/cube stoves are permitted.

Fire restrictions are in place below 4000' in neighboring national forest. Restrictions may increase, so always check for updates: [www.nps.gov/sek1](http://www.nps.gov/sek1).

# Construction Delays

## Delays on Sequoia Park's Main Road

The construction zone is on the Generals Highway between Amphitheater Point Overlook and Crystal Cave Road (see the map on page 8). Traffic is held at either end of the zone on the following schedule:

- **Weekday mornings 5am - 7am:** 20-minute delays (may be controlled by traffic lights).
- **Weekdays, 7am - 8pm** (7am - 5pm on Fridays): Delays up to 1 hour; pass-throughs on the hour.
- **Monday through Thursday nights:** Road closes 9pm - 5am, with one pass-through at 11:30pm (uphill traffic passes first).
- **Weekends & holidays:** No delays except when the road is limited to one lane. Then expect delays up to 20 minutes; traffic lights control travel. On September's Labor Day weekend: No roadwork from noon Friday to 7am Tuesday; maximum delay 20 minutes.

**Note: Vehicles longer than 22 feet NOT permitted from Hospital Rock to Giant Forest Museum.**

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! Please don't toss cigarettes or matches outside the car while you wait. Always use low gear on downhills to avoid overheated brakes.

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

## Driving Times

*When roads are clear and open (see delay schedule above):*

### From Foothills to:

Giant Forest	1 hour
Lodgepole	1 hour minimum
Visalia	1 hour
Mineral King	1½ hours

**From Giant Forest to Grant Grove**  
via Generals Hwy 1 hour

### From Grant Grove to:

Cedar Grove	1 hour
Fresno	1½ hours
Yosemite south entry	3 hours
(via Hwy 41)	

**Note: GPS often misdirects travellers in this area. Follow signs, use maps, or ask.**