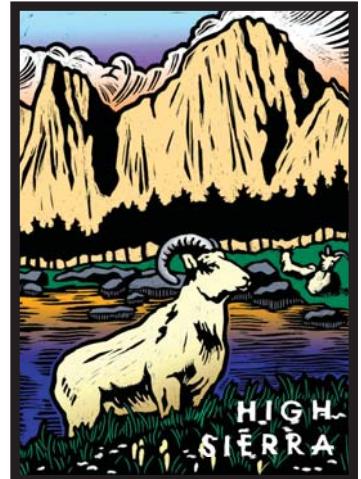


Visitor Guide: Winter 2011-2012

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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



Welcome to the Land of Giants

YOU EXPECT GIANT TREES and huge canyons—and you won't be disappointed. What may surprise you is that the whole of these parks is even greater than the sum of its famous parts.

Rising from 1300' to 14,494' (the highest elevation in the lower 48 states), these parks protect a spectacular elevational range. This span from low to high means dramatic shifts from warm foothills to cool forests to the cold High Sierra. It means diverse plants and animals living in extremely varied conditions. It means steep roads and trails that climb mountains, and cold rivers that plunge down from their heights.

The caretakers of this landscape are also diverse. This is not one, but two national parks—Sequoia and Kings Canyon—managed by the National Park Service as one. A national monument, which is part of a national forest, borders the two parks. Researchers

with the U.S. Geological Survey conduct scientific studies on park resources here. The Sequoia Natural History Association runs bookstores at visitor centers, then plows those funds into park education and research efforts. Another non-profit, the Sequoia Parks Foundation, supports important projects, from outreach to trails.

All park partners, public and private, cooperate to meet a challenging mission—providing for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations. You are the most important partner! Experience these parks and learn all you can. Your help is needed to preserve and share these treasured landscapes.

Snowy Giant Forest and Moro Rock



SIMULTANEOUS SEASONS: Winter and spring overlap here, with winter snows blanketing the peaks and forests while the foothills turn green with new growth. Be prepared for winter's frosty air and slick roads when you head uphill. If you're not up for snow, explore the foothills. They offer year-round camping and hiking, plus wildflower displays that start in January when higher elevations lie cold and ice-bound.

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Telephone & Internet

EMERGENCY — DIAL 911. No coins needed in payphones. Cell service is very limited in most parts of these parks; phone locations on pages 8-9.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

- 1-559-565-3341 (24 hour): Press 1 for an information menu, then 1 - road/weather/fire; 2 - camping/lodging; 4 - wilderness; and more.
- www.nps.gov/seki
- Twitter ([SequoiaKingsNPS](#))
- Facebook ([Sequoia-and-Kings-Canyon-National-Parks](#))

Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)

1-559-338-2251, www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Yosemite National Park (NPS)

1-209-372-0200, www.nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

1-800-427-7623 , www.dot.ca.gov

Cell service

Very limited. Some service in Grant Grove.

Wi-Fi

At lobbies in Wuksachi Lodge, John Muir Lodge, & Grant Grove Restaurant.

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 visita.

Bienvenue - Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

Wilkommen - Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher-zentrum erhältlich.

Benvenuti - La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.



Visitor Centers, Book Stores, & Information Desks

Each offers different exhibits and films. They sell many items including books, maps, and postcards. All profits from purchases made in park visitor centers go to support the parks!

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 9am-4:30pm. Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. Book store. Local wilderness permits issued up to 1/2 hour before closing. 1-559-565-4307.

Lodgepole Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Friday - Monday 9am-4:30pm (daily 12/23-1/2 & starting in April). Movie about bears; exhibits on geology & park life. Book store. 1-559-565-4436. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center. Pay phone.

Foothills Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits on the diverse foothills area. Book store. 1-559-565-4212. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center.

Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in the Forest Service office in Dunlap, 19 miles west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251, www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Giant Forest Museum (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Closed until spring. Exhibits on the Big Trees. Book store. No payphone; closest phones are at Lodgepole & Wolverton.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center

(NPS) Closed for the season. Store. 1-559-565-3793.

Mineral King Ranger Station (Sequoia)

(NPS) Closed for the season. Self-issue wilderness permits on the porch. 1-559-565-3768.

Partners in the Parks

The following organizations work together to protect these lands, provide services, and publish this guide, first put out in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*. Editor: NPS (Malinee Crapsey). Publisher: SNHA. Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.

National Park Service (NPS)

1-559-565-3341, www.nps.gov/seki

Forest Service (FS)

1-559-784-1500, www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

Geological Survey (USGS)

1-559-565-3171, www.werc.usgs.gov

Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)

1-559-565-3341, www.sequoiahistory.org

Sequoia Parks Foundation (SPF)

1-559-739-1668, www.sequoiaparksfoundation.org

DNC Parks and Resorts @ Sequoia (DNC) - concessioner

1-888-252-5757, www.visitsequoia.com

Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS) - concessioner

1-866-KCANYON (522-6966), www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com



Make connections to your national park with SNHA

The Sequoia Natural History Association commits itself to enriching visitor experiences and promoting awareness of public lands through educational programs, publications, and financial support. This non-profit funds education, interpretation, research, and preservation of the natural and cultural history at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

The SNHA:

- Provides the Park Partnership program
- Operates visitor center stores
- Provides free & low-cost school programs
- Purchases supplies for ranger programs
- Operates Beetle Rock Education Center
- Funds exhibits & research projects
- Manages Pear Lake Backcountry Ski Hut
- Provides visitor information
- Rents bear-resistant food canisters
- Publishes park books & maps
- Supports protection of black bears
- Provides volunteer opportunities for park projects
- Offers SFI & EdVenture course plus guide services
- Publishes 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 frequently as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes. Two of these resulted in 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, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, the amount of dead wood and dense growth of small white-fir trees increased tremendously. Natural fires used to burn these away frequently. Now, after fire's long absence, these fuels feed bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous

for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. Now, to protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, the National Park Service works 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 that we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The National Park System exists 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.

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 since the competitors, predators, and diseases they evolved with in their home communities are not here. They break links in the local web of life, badly disrupting species that depend on each other. Sometimes they completely replace native 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 in. If you see it here, tell 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 on gear. Check boots & waders thoroughly for this tiny invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



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Camping

Check regulations at each campground. Rules vary between the Park & the National Forest (more details on page 9). Each standard campsite has a table & fire ring with grill. No hook-ups in the park.

Food storage must be done correctly all year due to black bears. See page 11.

* **Summer reservations** for Lodgepole & Dorst (in Sequoia NP) & reservable campgrounds (* on the chart) on National Forest (FS) available up to 6 months in advance of date desired: www.recreation.gov; 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST, 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

Group Sites & Maximum Group Sizes

Up to 6 people: Many campgrounds limit a site to 1 vehicle & 6 people. Check locally for variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.

7 to 19 people: Summer only, first-come/first-served sites: groups of 7-15 at Crystal Springs; groups 7-19 at Canyon View, \$35/site.

Larger groups: Call ahead to request summer group tent sites. For Sunset or Canyon View: 1-559-565-4335. Group-site reservations in Dorst or national forest: 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov.

Fire restrictions

Always check bulletin boards at each area.

- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees.
- Firewood: Please don't transport it. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find/buy wood close to where you will use it. If you brought wood, please burn it.
- Fires must be out before you leave.
- The national forest (FS) requires free campfire permits from Hume Lake Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), or a FS ranger.

Propane Canisters

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

Roadside Camping?

Not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument: roadside camping permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger about options.

Quiet & generator hours

Music should be audible in your site only. Use generators 9am-9pm only; at Lodgepole & Dorst use them 8-11am & 5-8pm only.

RV & Trailer Length Limits

Check limits & advisories on back page. There are limited spaces for RVs over 30 feet.

Campgrounds in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Foothills Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low elevation, usually snow-free
Potwisha - 40 sites Open all year	\$18	Nature programs (summer). River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station
Buckeye Flat - 28 sites Closed	\$18 No RVs or trailers	River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha.
South Fork - 10 sites Open all year	\$12 May - October No RVs or trailers	River nearby. Vault toilets. No drinking water. Non-potable water in summer only.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	No RVs or trailers. Area closed until late May.
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Closed	\$12 No water starting 10/19	River & sequoias. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City (summer). Nature programs (summer).
Cold Springs - 40 sites Closed	\$12 No water starting 10/12	Pay phone. River nearby. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City. Nature programs (summer).
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700'	Closed in winter. *Reservations recommended in summer
* Lodgepole - 205 sites NEW CLOSURE: Last night 11/27	\$20 during reservation period, then \$18. Reopens in May.	Nature programs (summer), pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Showers, laundry, & food nearby. Generators 8-11am & 5-8pm only.
* Dorst - 210 sites Closed	\$20	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Use generators 8-11am & 5-8pm only.
Grant Grove Area	Elevation 6500'	Snowy in winter
Azalea - 110 sites Open all year	\$18 (\$10 when snow limits services)	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers.
Crystal Springs - 50 sites Closed	Tent/RV sites \$18 Group sites \$35	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers.
Sunset - 157 sites Closed	\$18	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	Area closed until mid-April
Sentinel - 83 sites Closed	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Closed	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
Canyon View - 12 sites Closed	\$35, No RVs or trailers. Groups of 7-19 only	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
Moraine - 120 sites Closed	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.

Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (FS)

Target spring opening date for all campgrounds: Memorial Day weekend

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	*Reservable in summer. Closed in winter.
*Princess - 88 sites Closed	\$18 single	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Dump station.
*Hume Lake - 74 sites Closed	\$20 single	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, & laundry nearby.
Tenmile - 13 sites Closes with snow	\$16 No drinking water.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets.
Landslide - 9 sites Closed	\$16	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Closed	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	*Reservable in summer. Closed in winter.
*Stony Creek - 49 sites Closed	\$20 single	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, & showers nearby at lodge.
*Upper Stony - 18 sites Closed	\$16	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, laundry, & showers nearby.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11, Big Meadow - 45 sites Close with snow.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets.

Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9. Several lodges close during winter.

Sequoia National Park

Wuksachi Village

(DNC) All year. Reservations 1-888-252-5757; www.visitsequoia.com. North of Lodgepole two miles. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

Kings Canyon National Park

Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge

(KCPS) All year. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts, showers.

Cedar Grove Lodge in Kings Canyon

(KCPS) Mid-May to mid-October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com.

Sequoia National Forest

Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

Year-round. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; desk 1-559-565-3388; www.mslodge.com. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, seasonal/children's activities.

Stony Creek Lodge (FS permittee)

(KCPS) Early May to mid-October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove.

Big Meadows Cabin (FS)

July to mid-October. 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov. Historic station south of Grant Grove.

Private Land within National Park/Forest

* Note: These two facilities on private land cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by the National Park or National Forest.

* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Late May to mid-October. Summer: 1-559-561-3223; Winter: 1-805-528-2730; www.silverycityresort.com. Cabins, chalets, store, restaurant, bakery, gifts, showers. No gasoline.

* Kings Canyon Lodge (private)

Open mid-April to mid-November. Reservations: 1-559-335-2405. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove. Lodge, food, gasoline.

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.

Programs & Tours

Ranger Talks & Snowshoe Walks

Join us for these free programs! Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for times, topics, and meeting locations.

Snowshoe Walks

When snow depth and conditions permit, snowshoe walks may be offered on weekends. Snowshoes are provided free. Group size is limited. Snowshoeing may be strenuous and difficult for small children. Reservations are required: for Kings Canyon/Grant Grove 1-559-565-4307; for Lodgepole/Sequoia 1-559-565-4436.



Evening Programs may be offered on weekends at John Muir Lodge in Grant Grove, Wuksachi Lodge near Lodgepole, or in the foothills of Sequoia. Check locally.

Walks & Talks may be offered on weekends; check locally for schedules.



Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly explore these parks and Lake Kaweah with SFI guides. These guides help you to watch, paint, photograph, or write about these places as you walk, ski, snowshoe, boat, and enjoy them! SNHA members receive a discount on many of the programs and activities offered by the Sequoia Field Institute: 1-559-565-4251; sfi@sequoiahistory.org

Junior Ranger Program

FREE for all ages! From age 5 to 105, you can be a Junior Ranger! To earn your badge, pick up a free booklet at any visitor center and complete the activities for your age group.

Touring on Horseback

Closed until spring. Openings depend on weather.

Cedar Grove

1-559-565-3464 summer, 1-559-337-2314 off season

Grant Grove

1-559-335-9292 summer, 1-559-799-7247 off season

Horse Corral - in National Forest

1-559-565-3404 summer, 1-559-679-3573 cell

Crystal Cave Tours

Cave tours start up again in spring. Be sure to return then to experience the underground wonders of these parks.



Formations in Crystal Cave

Review all safety advice on page 10. Carry a map and warm clothes. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going. You are on your own in the winter woods.

The Foothills

The lower elevations offer wonderful winter visits—green and usually snowless! The foothills house more biological diversity (different kinds of plants and animals) than the conifer forests and High Sierra combined.

Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. 8am-4:30pm.

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. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always store food to keep it away from bears.

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.

Paradise Creek

At Buckeye Flat Campground, take the path across from site #28 across the footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1½ miles (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

Mineral King

Open late May through October (weather permitting). The winding, steep road to this valley ends at 7800', the park's highest road. Trails there lead to the High Sierra and snowy conditions. Weather can be severe on the passes; ask for a weather report. No gasoline or electricity in the area. Until spring, the road is gated at the park boundary (about 9 miles from Hwy 198); for a pass through this first gate, ask at the Foothills Visitor Center.



Giant Forest & Lodgepole

Winter parking is at Big Trees Trail/Round Meadow. Once snow accumulates, rent snowshoes and cross-country skis downstairs at Wuksachi Lodge, and purchase a ski-trail map. Talk to a ranger, then carefully follow the yellow triangular markers above eye level on trees (not on sequoias). Guided snowshoe walks may be offered on weekends.

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Friday-Monday 9am-4:30pm (daily 12/23-1/2 & starting in April). Film and exhibits; details page 2.

Giant Forest Museum

Closed for winter.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road closes in winter to become a ski and snowshoe trail. It begins at the Giant Forest Museum on the Generals Highway, crosses the southwest portions of the sequoia grove, and ends at Crescent Meadow. Walkers and snowshoers: Please don't walk in ski tracks. Highlights include:

- Moro Rock: A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot /91 m elevation gain). Don't climb if there is any ice or snow on the stairs; it is very dangerous. A spectacular view of the Great Western Divide and the western half of the park. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.
- Tunnel Log: A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through. The only tree you can ski through in these parks. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.
- Crescent Meadow: Several walking and ski trails connect here. It is 1 mile (1.6 km) from here to Tharp's Log, the hollow fallen sequoia lived in by Giant Forest's first settler. The summer High Sierra Trail runs 71 miles (114 km) to Mt. Whitney (highest peak in the lower 48 states at 14,494 feet/ 4417 m).

General Sherman Tree

If conditions permit, the upper trail and parking stay open at the start of winter (take the Wolverton Road between the Sherman Tree and Lodgepole and follow signs). From there you walk down to the tree. Once much snow flies, access to the world's largest tree is only from the parking area along the Generals Highway. The trail from there may not be plowed, but snow is usually packed down enough to walk on it.

If the upper trail is too steep, you can walk down and have someone pick you up at the lower parking area on the Generals Highway.

Big Trees Trail

Walk or ski this 2/3-mile (1 km) trail (no yellow markers) that circles Round Meadow. Colorful trailside panels describe sequoia ecology.

Snowplay Areas

Wolverton

Sledding hill at the end of Wolverton Road, two miles (3.2 km) north of the Sherman Tree (see page 8). After storms, plows may need several hours to open the road. Pay telephone is located outside the building next to the restrooms. Snowplay is prohibited in the Sherman Tree Trail area.

Grant Grove

Use Big Stump & Columbine picnic areas (see page 9). Snowplay is prohibited in the Grant Tree Trail area. Azalea Campground is for campers only, not people who are just snowplaying. Pay telephones are located at visitor center, market, & gift shop.

Explore on your own: Kings Canyon National Park & nearby forest lands

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Review all safety advice on page 10. Carry a map and warm clothes. Orient yourself before heading out and tell someone where you are going. You are on your own in the winter woods.

Grant Grove

Grant Tree Trail is the only intermittently plowed trail. Beware of slippery ice! Once snow is deep, rent skis or snowshoes at Grant Grove Market. Buy a ski trail map and follow the colored markers on trees. Guided snowshoe walks may be offered on weekends.

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (NPS)

Explore the exhibits and see the film in English & Spanish about this park. Details, page 2.

General Grant Tree Trail

May be plowed in winter. General Grant, one of the world's largest living trees, stands along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. A guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

Panoramic Point Road

Once snow flies this becomes a ski or snowshoe trail to a spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Park at Grant Village, go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the sign "Panoramic Point 2.3 miles (3.7 km)." It's 1/4 mile (.4 km) up to the viewpoint.

Safe Snowplay

Very serious injuries occur every year. Fast sledding and collisions cause most injuries.

Safe Sledding:

Slide feet first. Don't sled or ski into roads. Steer clear of trees, rocks, people, and other obstacles. After you slide, move out of the way of other sledders. Page 10 has more safety tips.

Play only in Designated Areas.

Snowplay is prohibited in park residential areas and other areas as signed.

In Case of Emergency:

Dial 911 from the nearest pay phone (cell signals are usually poor).

Overlooks & Views

- Kings Canyon Overlook: For a view of the High Sierra, drive about 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove on the Generals Highway.
- Vista of the Kings Canyon: Drive Hume Lake Road, 8 miles (13 km) north of Grant Grove on Hwy 180.
- Redwood Canyon Overlook: About 6 miles (9.5 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from the Quail Flat junction, this overlook faces west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves.

Kings Canyon & Cedar Grove

Highway 180 down into the canyon closes in winter due to rock falling from the canyon walls onto the road. You can get a good view out over the canyon between Hume Lake Road junction on Hwy 180 and Hume Lake. The road reopens mid-April.

National Forest (USFS)

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, a part of Sequoia National Forest. Check page 12 for road closures.

Three USFS trailheads offer snowplay, cross-country ski trails, and snowmobile routes. Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove or Montecito Lake Resort (page 9 has details). Get information and a map at Kings Canyon Visitor Center.

- Cherry Gap is on Highway 180 2.5 miles (4km) north of Grant Grove. It offers 10 miles (16km) of marked winter routes, including a ski trail to the Chicago Stump at the edge of Converse Basin grove. Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. The stump is a remnant of a tree taken to exhibit at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.
- Quail Flat (on the Generals Highway, 6 miles/9.6km south of Hwy 180) has 23 miles (37km) of trails and snowmobile routes. Some connect to Big Meadows.
- Big Meadows (on the Generals Highway, 8 miles/13km south of Hwy 180) offers 23 miles (37km) of marked, groomed trails and routes that traverse meadows and forest. One route goes to the 1916 Buck Rock Fire Lookout (the tower is closed in winter).



The Generals Highway

Driving this 80-year-old roadway is part of the experience of these parks. It carries you up almost a mile in elevation, and connects the General Sherman Tree to the General Grant Tree, thereby earning 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 today's large numbers of modern vehicles, without losing the joys of a mountain road. (Traffic delay details, page 12.)

Wayside exhibits at overlooks along this historic road offer insight into these parks. Stop, read, and enjoy the views at these and other overlooks:

Kings Canyon Overlook

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

Redwood Mountain Overlook

Six miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction. 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.



Facilities: Sequoia

In winter, some facilities are closed. Be sure to stop at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers for information, books, and exhibits. For food and other commercial services, head to Wuksachi.

Lodgepole Village

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

Lodgepole Visitor Center (NPS)

Hours, phone, & details on page 2.

U.S. Post Office

Year-round. Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. May shut down in 2012. 1-559-565-3678. Lobby open 24 hours. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)
Outside visitor center & market.

Village Center (DNC)

Closed; reopens in April.

Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. (DNC) Year-round lodging & food service in Sequoia, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree.

Dining Room: Daily 7:30-9:30am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8:30pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. Lounge 5-8:30pm. 1-559-565-4070.

Alta Market & Ski Shop

Daily 10am-5pm. Limited supplies, snowplay sales. When conditions permit, cross-country ski/snowshoe rentals start at 9am.

Wuksachi Lodge

Details on page 5. Desk 24 hours: 1-559-565-4070. Pay telephones at main lodge.

Gift Shop

Daily 8am-8pm. Souvenirs, clothing, crafts.

Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

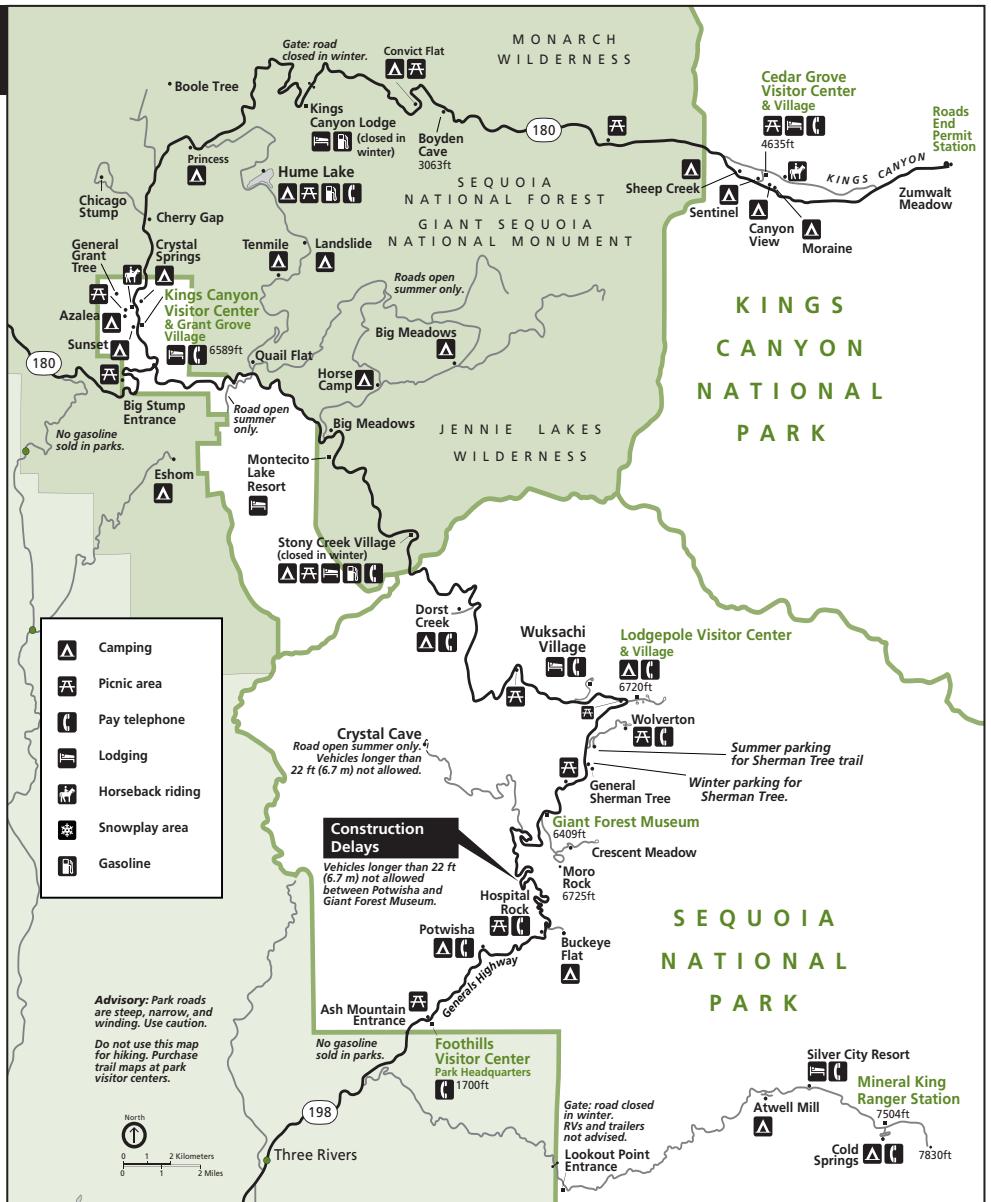
6400' elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees. See page 6. for information on exploring.

Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Closed until spring. Details, page 2. No pay phone.

Crystal Cave (NPS)

Closed until spring. Details, page 5.



Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Winter snow play area. (See page 6.)

Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Park headquarters is at Ash Mountain.

Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8am-4:30pm. Phone & details on page 2.

Pay Telephones

(cell phones rarely work) Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

Mineral King Area

Closed until late May. 7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, twisting road to a subalpine valley. No electricity or gasoline. More information page 6.

Ranger Station (NPS)

Closed for the season. Details: page 2.

Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area. Cell phones rarely work.

Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Closed until late May. Pay telephone.

1-559-561-3223; www.silvercityresort.com.

Facilities: Kings Canyon Area

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In winter, facilities are more limited than in summer. Be sure to stop at the visitor center in Grant Grove for information, exhibits, and a film.

Grant Grove Village

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

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS)
9am-4:30pm. Phone & details on page 2.

Village Center (KCPS)

- Restaurant: Daily 8am-2pm & 5-7pm (8pm on Friday - Saturday).
- Gift Shop & Market: Daily 9am-6pm (7pm Friday-Saturday). Souvenirs, clothing, ATM. Food, supplies, sandwiches, bear canisters, emergency gasoline.

U.S. Post Office

Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-3:30 pm; Saturday 10-noon. Lobby open 24 hours. Send mail for visitors to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

Lodging (KCPS)

Desk 7am-10pm. 1-559-335-5500. Details on page 5.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); outside gift shop & market.

National Forest & Monument

Hume Lake & Big Meadows Areas: Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, lies between Lodgepole and Grant Grove and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove.

USFS Hume Lake District Office

Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Phone & details on page 2.

Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

- Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove: Summer only at Big Meadows trailhead.
- Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove: Hume Lake (year round; see Hume Lake below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

Lodging

Details on page 5.

Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. On public land, along Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Meals 8am-9am, 12-1pm, 6-7pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities, cross-country skiing. From January 1 - April 1, accessible only from Highway 180/Grant Grove area. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

Hume Lake

All year. Open to the public: 24-hour laundry (coin operated) & gas station (with credit card). Market & snack shop. On private land north of Grant Grove 8 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

Gasoline Sales

All year at Hume Lake; summer at Stony Creek & Kings Canyon Lodge. Hours on page 11.

Boyden Cavern Tours (FS permittee)

On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Cave tours begin again in April. 1-559-338-0959.

Stony Creek Resort (FS)

On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. Reopens spring 2012. 1-559-565-3909.

Horseback Riding

Details on page 5.

Cedar Grove Village

Highway 180 to Cedar Grove is closed at Yucca Flat. It will close below the Hume Lake junction starting 11/28. It will reopen in April 2012.



Your visit may include both a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Some activities that are illegal in the Park may be legal in the Forest. Know which one you are in!

Where can I...	In National Parks	In National Forest
Walk my leashed pets?	Not on any trails but o.k. 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads).	Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.
Collect things to take home?	Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem.	Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.
Hunt?	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.
Drive off-road?	Not in the 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.
Cut wood?	Not in the Parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
Build fires?	Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. Restrictions change; always check first.	Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves & lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.
Go fishing?	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
Ride a bicycle?	Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). In both areas: Be careful & courteous near people & horses.	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.
Snowmobile?	Not in the parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.

You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Icy or uneven ground, wild animals, and changing weather pose dangers. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

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 extra 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.

DISEASE CAUTIONS

Please do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

TICKS are common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



WEST NILE VIRUS is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

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.

POISON OAK

A common shrub up to 5000 feet elevation. Red leaves and whitish berries in fall; bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away.



HYPOTHERMIA

This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry; snack often. If others don't respond 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 clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

RATTLESNAKES

Found in much of these parks; especially common in the foothills and near water. 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, avoid panic; call a ranger or 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, e.g. a tent or RV.

OZONE POLLUTION

See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest 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.

WEAK CELL SIGNALS

Cell phones rarely work here; don't rely on them. Note location of pay telephones (pages 8 & 9).

MOUNTAIN LIONS

Cougars roam throughout the 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, convince it that you are not prey:



- Don't run; it may trigger pursuit.
- Pick up children.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to 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! Prevent illegal marijuana growing. Report any suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

KEEP ANIMALS SAFE

Pets may be vulnerable to wildlife, ticks, and overheating in closed vehicles. Keep wildlife safe from pets, too.

Explore Safely

- Avoid going alone, and tell someone your plans and return time.
- Take a map and a jacket.
- Watch and listen for potential hazards above you, around you, and on the ground.
- Beware of trails and sidewalks slippery with ice or leaves.
- Slow down to safely share roads with people and wildlife.

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. The following reduces, but does 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

Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

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 infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

Backpackers

Hanging food is not effective in these parks! Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets.

Everyone

Don't let bears approach you or your food. 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 approaching humans is acceptable. However, if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Your Fees Help the Parks & the Forest!

Most entrance and camping fees stay right here, invested in improving facilities and protecting resources. Fees have paid for repairing roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have updated visitor centers, exhibits, and slide programs. For details on fee options and commercial fees, ask at entrance stations, visitor centers, or search www.nps.gov/seki for "fees."

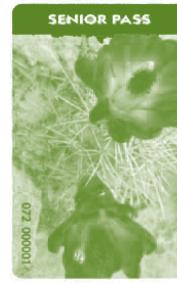
• **7-day pass** to Sequoia & Kings Canyon & Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest: \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.

• **12-Month Pass** to Sequoia & Kings Canyon & Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest: \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year. Not valid at Crystal Cave.

• **Interagency Annual Pass:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees for one year at federal recreation sites nationwide (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Seniors Interagency Pass:** \$10 one-time fee buys a lifetime entrance pass for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Accessibility Interagency Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to park entrance stations (not valid at Crystal Cave).



Wilderness

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Wilderness Overnights

Wild places are hazardous and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant. Know and follow restrictions, as they protect both the environment and your experience.

Permits

Required for overnights (not day hikes). Issued in summer (reservations available) and self-issued the rest of the year at trailhead locations near where you are hiking or riding.

Quotas & Permits: Each trail has a daily entry quota and a required wilderness camping fee (\$15) between late May and late September. Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date within the quota season are accepted starting March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date. Permits must be picked up the afternoon before (starting at 1pm) or by 7am on the day of departure at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead.

Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (FS): Permits not required but the FS requires free fire permits for any open flame.

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

See www.nps.gov/seki or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.
47050 Generals Highway #60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
Telephone: 1-559-565-3756
Fax 565-4239

Pear Lake Ski Hut

Operated by SNHA 12/17-4/29, it sits in a granite basin high above Lodgepole. At 9,200 feet elevation, in winter it is surrounded by glistening snowfields and icy rock walls. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. A great opportunity to experience winter in the High Sierra: 1-559-565-3759 (reservations required). Also check www.sequoia-history.org for SNHA's winter-travel seminars.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp

Operated by DNPS mid-June to mid-September, snow permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) taken starting at 7am on January 2; www.visitsequoia.com, 1-888-252-5757.

Rules & Recommendations

Limited Gasoline Stations

There are no gas stations within the park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770. Year-round 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village & Kings Canyon Lodge: Closed.

Expect Icy Roads

Slow down. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids. Allow 6 seconds of stopping distance between cars. Check antifreeze, battery, wipers, chains and road conditions before you come: 24-hour recorded information 1-559-565-3341 (press 1, then 1 again).

Always Carry Chains that fit your tires and comply with signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are often required; most cars have them. Check the side of the tire for M/S, M+S, or a snowflake symbol.

Get Snow Off Car Roofs

It may slide onto the windshield and block the driver's vision.

Snowplows Rule

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, watch for signals from the plow operator. Slow down but do not stop.

Don't Lose Your Brakes

Frequent braking causes overheating and brake failure. Instead, always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes.

Emergency Car Repairs

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

Use Turnouts; Let Others Pass

Bicycles

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

Go Slow for Wildlife!

Never feed animals by the road. Cars often hit them if they wait for handouts on roadsides.

Road Construction

Traffic Delays & Length Limits

Generals Highway Reconstruction

Amphitheater Point to Deer Ridge (between Hospital Rock & Giant Forest). Expect delays through 5/2012. Details at visitor centers or www.nps.gov/seki

- **Daytime:** Delays up to 2 hours on weekdays. See details on bulletin boards and at visitor centers.
- **Night:** Possible night closures 9pm-6am Sunday nights - Friday mornings with one pass-through at 11:30pm. during non-working hours/weekends.
- **During non-working hours, weekends, and holidays,** traffic signals control 20-minute delays.

Vehicles longer than 22' long cannot travel between Hospital Rock and Giant Forest Museum due to physical limitations of vehicles; long vehicles cannot make the tight curves in the one-lane construction zone.

The Generals Highway



Driving Times in good weather

From Foothills to:

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

(Road closed Nov. 1 - late May)

From Giant Forest to:

Grant Grove	1 hour
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From Grant Grove to:

Cedar Grove	1 hour
(Road closed mid-Nov. to late April)	
Fresno	1½ hours
Yosemite south entry	3 hours

(via Hwy 41)