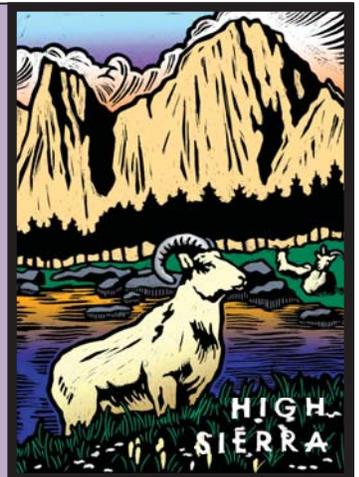


Visitor Guide: Winter 2013 - 2014

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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



Wet & Wild or Dry & Mild?

MOST WINTER STORMS here blow in between November and April. The overall pattern, however, varies enormously. Some winters see heavy rain and snow while others stay mild and dry.

The wettest winters on record have been more than three times wetter than the driest. Waves of powerful storms blanket the parks with snow, usually from the sequoia groves on uphill. For many years, the Giant Forest grove held the nation's 24-hour snowfall record: A storm back in the 1930s dropped 60 inches in one day!

The result of a series of these storms? Snowpacks ten to twenty feet deep. During such winters, just getting to the Big Trees can be an adventure. Plow operators make a priority of keeping the two park entrance roads open to Grant Grove and Giant Forest, but during heavy storms they may have to go back and forth on one stretch all day. Tire chains are a constant. It is, however, a boon to skiers, snowshoers, and sledding enthusiasts.

During dry winters, on the other hand, long spells of quiet sunny weather dominate. Storms come in only occasionally and there may be little more than patchy snow on the trails.

Scientists who study weather have long worked to understand what controls central California's winter weather. In recent decades, they've made significant progress, with most attention going to the relationship between

ocean temperatures and the paths that storms take. It appears that when the Pacific Ocean off South America is at its warmest, the storm track in the northern Pacific brings wet weather to central and southern California. This is the "El Niño" effect meteorologists talk about.

How will this winter shape up? As you read this, the verdict may be more apparent. Enjoy your visit either way!



The old Giant Forest Village. Only the peak of what is now the Giant Forest Museum shows to the left.

Check for details & new hours inside:

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Telephone & Internet

911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911

No coins needed in payphones.

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 sometimes misdirect travellers in this area. Use maps and signs, or ask for directions.

The only official park information sources online:



Website:
nps.gov/seki



Facebook:
Sequoia and Kings
Canyon National Parks



Twitter:
SequoiaKingsNPS

Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)

1-559-338-2251, fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Yosemite National Park (NPS)

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

California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

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

Wi-Fi

At lobbies in Wuksachi and John Muir lodges, Grant Grove Restaurant, and at Montecito Lake Resort (see *Lodging* 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 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, and sells many items including books, maps, gifts, and postcards. All profits from your purchases in park visitor centers go to support the parks!

Foothills Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

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

Giant Forest Museum (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Friday -Sunday 9am-4:30pm until Jan. 6, then open daily (expanded hours during December holidays). Exhibits on sequoias. Book store. 1-559-565-4480. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside the visitor center. No payphone; closest are outside at Lodgepole Market & Wolverton.

Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 9:30am-4pm (closed 12-1pm). Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. Book store. Self-issue local wilderness permits at permit box outside. 1-559-565-4307.

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

Lodgepole Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Closed until spring. Pay phone outside.

Cedar Grove Visitor Center (in Kings Canyon)

(NPS) Closed until spring. Road closed, but walk-in, self-issue wilderness permits available at Road's End.

Mineral King Ranger Station (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Closed until late May. Self-issue wilderness permits on the porch and road-side near Atwell Mill 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: SNHA (see below).
- Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.



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

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

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

Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) - non-profit park partner designated by Congress: 1-559-565-3759, sequoiahistory.org

Sequoia Parks Foundation (SPF) - non-profit park partner: 1-559-739-1668, sequoiaparksfoundation.org

DNC Parks & Resorts at Sequoia & Kings Canyon (DNC) - concessioner in both parks (lodging & food services): 1-888-252-5757, visitsequoia.com

Connecting you to your national park!



The Sequoia Natural History Association - or SNHA - is the park's partner in enriching visitor experience and promoting awareness of public lands. They offer educational programs, publications, and financial support for preserving the natural and cultural history at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

SNHA offers all this:

- EdVenture classes, Sequoia Field Institute (SFI) courses, guide services - see page 5!
- Bear-resistant food container rentals
- Park Partnership & in-park volunteer program
- Visitor-center stores & Pear Lake Ski Hut
- Free & low-cost school programs
- Supplies for ranger programs
- Exhibit, research, & black-bear protections funding
- Park books, maps, & this guide
- Visitor information



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. 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 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 little invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



4

Camping

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

Black-bear habitat: Food must be stored correctly all year. See page 11.

Summer reservations: See * on chart to the right for reservable campgrounds in Sequoia National Park (NPS) and in National Forest (FS). Available up to 6 months in advance: 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: Reservations for large-group sites in Dorst, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove in the national park or in the national forest: 1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov.

Campfires & Firewood

- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees.
- Firewood: Please don't bring it into the park or travel with it. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find or buy wood close to where you will use it. If you brought wood to the park, please burn it up before you go.
- 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), a FS ranger, or download from www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia.

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: Permitted unless posted otherwise.

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 more than 30 feet long.

Campgrounds in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Footfalls Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Usually snow-free. *Reservations available in summer.
Potwisha* - 40 sites Open all year.	\$18	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Buckeye Flat* - 28 sites Closed until spring.	\$18 No RVs or trailers	River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
South Fork - 10 sites Open. No water.	\$12 May - October No RVs or trailers, no water.	Piped non-potable water off in winter. Vault toilets. River nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Mineral King Area	Elevation 6650' - 7500'	Road to area closed. No RVs/trailers. No electricity/gasoline.
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Closed.	\$12	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Food, showers nearby at Silver City. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Cold Springs - 40 sites Closed.	\$12	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City. Bear boxes in varied sizes.
Lodgepole Area	Elevation 6700'	*Reservations available in summer.
Lodgepole* - 205 sites Closed.	\$20	Looking for camping? Go to Azalea or Potwisha. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station.
Dorst* - 210 sites Closed.	\$20	Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33" deep x 28" high.
Grant Grove Area	Elevation 6500'	Only available camping that is usually snowy in winter.
Azalea - 110 sites Open all year.	\$18	Flush toilets. Village nearby with food & seasonal showers nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Crystal Springs - 50 sites Closed.	Tent/RV sites \$18 Group sites \$35	Flush toilets. Village nearby with food & showers. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Sunset - 157 sites Closed.	\$18	Flush toilets. Village nearby with food & showers in summer. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Cedar Grove Area	Elevation 4600'	Road and facilities closed until spring.
Sentinel - 83 sites Closed.	\$18	Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Closed.	\$18	Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Canyon View - 12 sites Closed.	\$35, No RVs or trailers. Groups of 7-19 only	Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Moraine - 120 sites Closed.	\$18	Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.

For camping in the wilderness, see page 11.

Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (FS)

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
Princess* - 88 sites Closed.	\$20 single Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Dump station \$10. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Hume Lake* - 74 sites Closed.	\$22 single Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, & laundry nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Tenmile - 13 sites Closed.	\$18 single No drinking water.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Landslide - 9 sites Closed.	\$18 single	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Closed.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
Big Meadows & Stony Creek	Elevation 6400 - 7500'	*Reservable in summer. Closed once snow falls.
Stony Creek* - 49 sites Closed.	\$22 single Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high.
Upper Stony* - 18 sites Closed.	\$18 Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, laundry, & showers nearby. Bear boxes ~47"long x 17"deep x 16"high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11, Big Meadow - 45 sites Closed.	Free. No water. Close with snowfall.	Vault toilets. Big Meadow has bear boxes ~47"long x 33"deep x 28"high.

Closings and openings depend on weather.

Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9.

Lodging is available in three areas within these parks, and in several adjacent locations in neighboring national forest:

In these National Parks

IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (DNC):

• Wuksachi Lodge

All year. Reservations 1-888-252-5757; www.visitsequoia.com. North of Lodgepole two miles at 7200'. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

(DNC) Reservations 1-877-436-9617; www.visitsequoia.com. Lodging in two areas:

• Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge

All year. Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts at 6500'. Showers (summer only). 1-559-335-5500

• Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon

Closed until spring. Motel, eatery, market at 4600'.

Sequoia National Forest

Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee)

All year. 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 Resort (FS permittee)

(KCPS) Mid-May to early October. Reservations 1-866-522-6966; www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Hotel, gasoline, pizza, market, showers, laundry.

Big Meadows Cabin (FS)

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

On Private Land in Park/Forest

* **Note:** These two lodges on private land surrounded by national park or forest cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by these agencies.

* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Closed until spring. www.silvercityresort.com; 1-559-561-3223. Cabins, supplies, showers. No gas. Store, restaurant/bakery.

* Kings Canyon Lodge (private)

Open April to as late as mid-November. Call for 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 - Winter 2013-14

5

Ranger Talks

Free programs may be offered, depending on weather and staffing. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers for schedules and locations.

Walks or Talks may be offered on weekends.

Evening Programs may be offered on weekends at John Muir Lodge in Grant Grove, Wuksachi Lodge near Lodgepole, or in the foothills of Sequoia. You don't need to be a lodge guest to attend; all are welcome! Check bulletin boards.

Snowshoe Walks

A limited number may be offered on weekends or holidays when snow conditions permit. Check bulletin boards at Giant Forest. You can also rent snowshoes at Wuksachi and Grant Grove (see pages 8 & 9). Try this fun way of exploring the winter woods!



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! See <http://www.nps.gov/seki/forteachers>.

88th Annual Trek to the Tree

December 8, 2013 at 2:30 pm. Held annually at the base of the General Grant Tree on the 2nd Sunday of December, this event celebrates two honors given to the General Grant Tree:

- President Coolidge designated it the official Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926 (the "National Christmas Tree" is lit on the Mall in Washington, D.C.); and
- In 1956, President Eisenhower proclaimed the tree the only living National Shrine, and had his personal representative, Fleet Admiral Nimitz, dedicate it on Veteran's Day that year.

During the one-hour ceremony, park rangers place a wreath at the base of this giant sequoia in memory of those who gave their lives in service to their country. Caroling and readings also take place.

The event is sponsored by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce. Parking is limited. Chartered buses from Sanger are available. For information, contact 1-559-875-4575 or www.sanger.org.



Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly explore the parks and Lake Kaweah with SFI guides. These guides help you see, paint, photograph, or write as you walk, ski, snowshoe, boat, and enjoy! SNHA members may get a discount on SFI activities: 1-559-565-4251; sfi@sequoiahistory.org

Junior Ranger Program

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

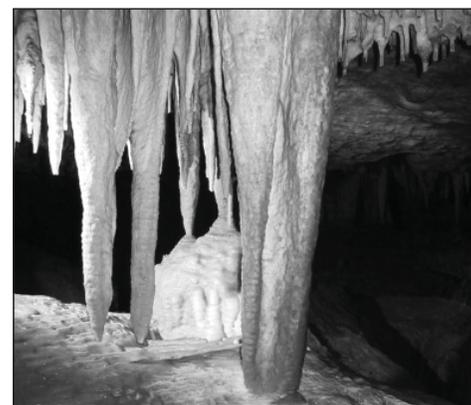
Touring on Horseback

Closed until spring. Openings depend on weather.

- Cedar Grove 1-559-337-2314
- Grant Grove 1-559-335-9292
- Horse Corral in National Forest 1-559-679-3573

Crystal Cave Tours

Tours start again May 10, conditions permitting. Come back then to experience exotic cave formations—a highlight of these national parks!



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.

The Foothills

These lower elevations offer wonderful winter visits—green and usually snowless!

Foothills Visitor Center: 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) to a waterfall. Park across the highway from Potwisha (no non-camper parking in campground). Near site #14, follow a dirt road across a 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 to late October, weather permitting. The steep road ends at 7800', the park's highest road. Check forecasts before heading out. No gas-line or electricity in the area. Until spring, the road is gated at the park boundary (~9 miles from Hwy 198); for a pass through this first gate, ask at the Foothills Visitor Center.



Winter forest near Lodgepole

Giant Forest & Lodgepole

Winter parking is open across from the Giant Forest Museum. Next-closest restroom is at the Sherman Tree. Once snow accumulates, rent snowshoes and cross-country skis at Wuksachi Lodge. Snowshoe walks may be offered on weekends (page 5).

Giant Forest Museum

Friday-Monday 9am-4:30pm (daily 12/23-1/2 & starting in April). See page 2.

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 Giant Forest Museum on Generals Highway and ends at Crescent Meadow. *Walkers and snowshoers: Please don't walk in ski tracks.* Highlights:

- 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 any ice or snow is on the stairs; it is very dangerous. Spectacular views. 2 miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway.
- Tunnel Log: Through a fallen sequoia. 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.

General Sherman Tree

As long as conditions permit, the upper trail and main parking stay open (from the Generals Hwy, 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; snow is usually packed down enough to walk on it but it may be slippery. Use caution.

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

Wolverton Road two miles (3.2 km) north of the Sherman Tree (see page 8), is plowed weekends and Wednesdays. Sledding hill is at the end of the road. After storms, plows open the main road first, so it may take hours to open this road. Pay telephone is 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 those who are just snowplaying. Pay telephones are located outside visitor center, market, & gift shop.

Free Holiday Shuttle

December 26 through January 1
(Thursday - Wednesday)

In-park shuttles will run every 15 minutes 10am-4:30 pm between the Giant Forest Museum, the Sherman Tree parking area along the Generals Highway, Wolverton, and Wuksachi Lodge. Routes change in snowy conditions; check bulletin boards at shuttle stops.

Restrooms available at each stop.



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.

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

Explore exhibits and see a film about this park (in English & Spanish). Daily 9:30am-4pm (closed 12-1pm). 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)." When not closed by snow, no trailers or RVs.

Nearby Forest Service areas:

Quail Flat, Big Meadows, Cherry Gap. See next column to the right.

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. Fast sledding and collisions cause most injuries; people are seriously injured every year. 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:** 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 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.



8 Facilities: Sequoia

In winter, many facilities are closed. Be sure to stop at Foothills Visitor Center, especially during the week, as Giant Forest Museum is only open on weekends and holidays. For food and other commercial services, head to Wuksachi.

Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

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

Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Open 9am-4:30pm Fridays through Sundays plus holidays. Details, page 2. No pay phone.

Lodgepole

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

Lodgepole Village & Visitor Center

Closed until spring. Openings begin mid-April.

U.S. Post Office - Closes this winter.

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

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 are required. Box lunches are 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.

Lodging

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

Gift Shop

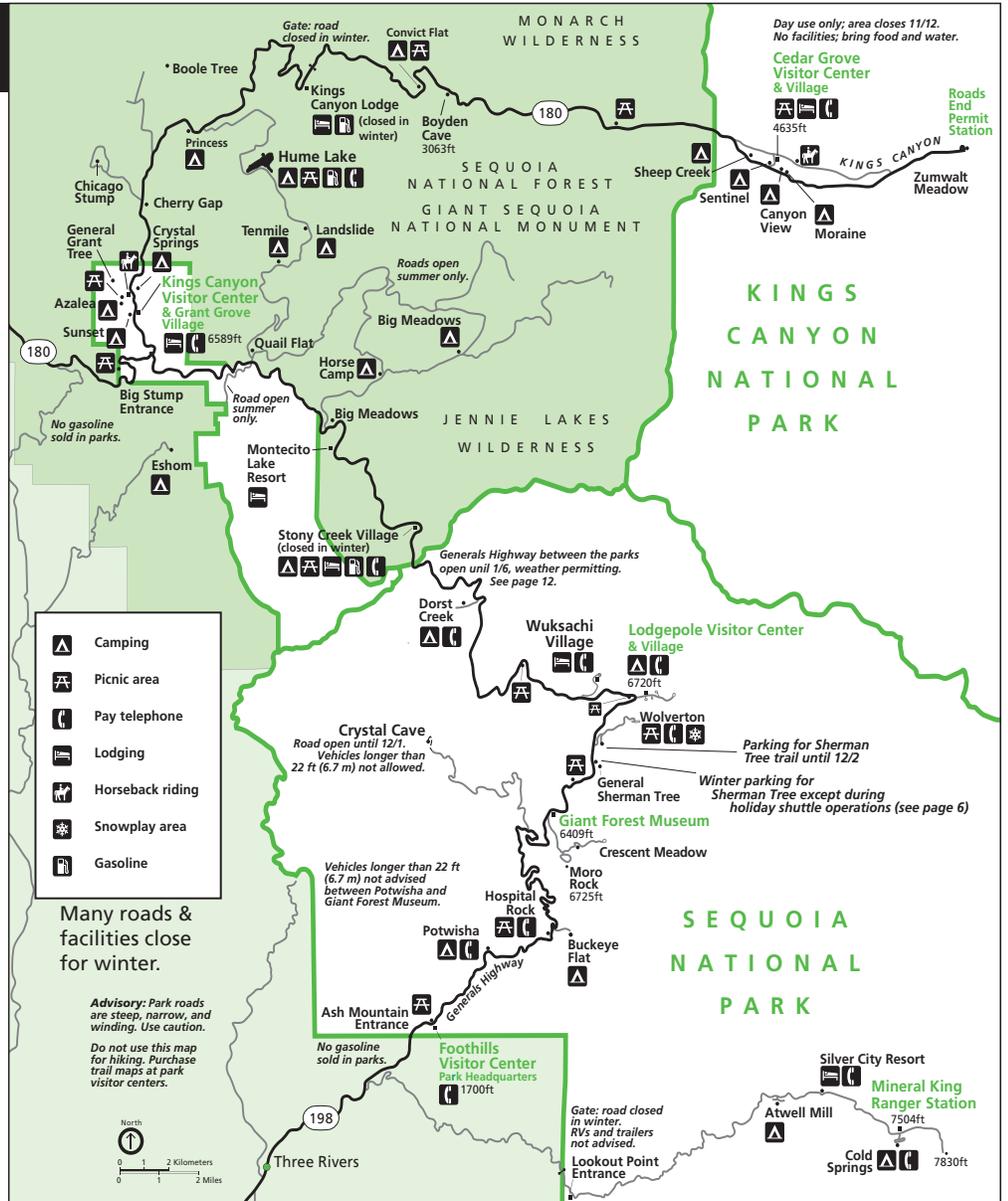
Daily 8am-8pm. Souvenirs, clothing, crafts.

Crystal Cave (NPS)

Closed until May 10. 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 by the Foothills Visitor Center.

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

Road, camping, ranger station, and Silver City Mountain Resort (see page 5) closed until late May or June, weather depending. Area details on page 6.

Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area.



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

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 7:30-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm, & 4-7pm (hours extended on holidays).
- Gift Shop/Convenience market: Daily 9am-5:30pm. ATM. Limited supplies, clothes, gifts, food. Main market reopens in March.
- Lodging: Desk 7am-11pm. Next to restaurant. 1-559-335-5500. See page 5.

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. 559-335-2499.

Lodging (KCPS)

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

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 12.

Boyden Cavern Tours (FS permittee)

On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Cave tours begin again in spring. 888-965-8243.

Stony Creek Resort (FS)

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

Horseback Riding

Closed for the season. Details on page 5.

Cedar Grove

Highway 180 to Cedar Grove is closed below the Hume Lake junction. The road will reopen in May, 2014, conditions permitting.

Basic Rules & Regulations:

National Parks & National Forests lie next to each other here. Some activities are illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. Which are you in now?

Can I...	In National Parks 	In National Forest 
Walk my leashed pets?	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)	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 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.

DISEASE PRECAUTIONS

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 after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry *Lyme disease*. Remove them carefully with tweezers; 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.

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 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.

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; that 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 are vulnerable to wildlife, ticks, and overheating in vehicles. Keep wildlife safe from pets, too.

TREE HAZARDS

Branches may fall, whether or not they appear dead. When under trees, stay aware. Run if you hear cracks or snapping overhead. Don't linger under dead, cracked, or broken branches. Report falling branches or trees to a ranger.

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, around, and on the ground.
- Beware of trails and sidewalks slippery with ice, sand, water, or leaves.
- Slow down. Share the road 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. 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

Keep 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 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, your food, picnic area or campsite. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Abandoning your food teaches bears that approaching humans is acceptable. However, if a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Wilderness

11

The parks have over 800,000 acres of designated wilderness that provide outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined types of recreation.



Knowing and following minimum-impact regulations helps to protect both the wilderness and your experience. Wild places are hazardous and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant.

Permits are required for all overnight trips. They are limited during the summer quota period (late May through late September) and cost \$15. Permits can be reserved by mail or fax 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.

Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (FS): 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 permits for any open flame; downloadable from www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia. Check for fire restrictions.

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 www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60
Three Rivers, CA 93271
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

Seasonal Wilderness Lodgings

• **Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNC):** Open June 13 to September 20, snow permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) taken by phone starting 7am on the first business day in January: 866-807-3598. See www.visitsequoia.com.

• **Pear Lake Ski Hut (SNHA):** Access has changed; the Wolverton Road is plowed only weekends and Wednesdays — check www.sequoiahistory.org. Winter only. The hut sits high above Lodgepole at 9,200 feet elevation. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759.

Your fees help the Parks & the Forest!

Most fees get invested here to improve and protect these parks: They repair roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They update visitor centers, exhibits, and slide programs. For more on these and commercial fees, ask park staff or search www.nps.gov/seki for "fees."

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

• **7-day pass:** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.

• **12-Month Pass:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle. Not valid at Crystal Cave).

Passes to National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands Nationwide:

• **Annual:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Annual Military:** Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD1173.

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

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

Gas Up Outside the Parks

There are no gas stations within park boundaries. 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.
- Other stations are closed for the winter.

Rules & Recommendations

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 your tires: If you see *M/S*, *M+S*, or a snowflake symbol embedded in the rubber, it's a snowtire.

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).

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.

Winter Road Closures

All dates depend on weather:

Generals Highway between the parks:

- From Wuksachi Lodge (in Sequoia) north to Hwy 180 (in Grant Grove) will be plowed until January 6, conditions permitting. If snowfall is heavy, it can take several days to plow. Starting January 6, it will remain open as long as there is no snow. Once it snows, it will not be plowed until April 15. If the road melts clear earlier than that, it may open.

In Kings Canyon & National Forest:

- Hwy 180 to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon: Closed for winter by Caltrans at the Hume Lake junction. Reopens in late April.
- Panoramic Point Road: Closes with snow. Motorhomes/trailers not permitted.
- Redwood Mountain road (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS): Unpaved. Closed for winter.

In Sequoia National Park:

- Parking in Giant Forest area: Across from the Giant Forest Museum. Closest restroom & some additional parking at Sherman Tree (no parking by the Sherman Tree on Generals Hwy during shuttle operations 12/26-1/1).
- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow: Closed by snow. Vehicle-length limit is 22'; no trailers or towed units. See more information on page 6.
- Crystal Cave Road: Closed until mid-May. Maximum vehicle cumulative length 22' (6.7m).
- Mineral King Road: Closed. Steep, winding, not completely paved. RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds). For access past the first gate, contact the Foothills Visitor Center. Details on page 6.
- South Fork & Middle Fork roads: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet. Middle Fork closes in winter (park at Hospital Rock).

Vehicle Length Limits

- Maximum on Generals Hwy from Hospital Rock Picnic Area and Giant Forest Museum: 22 feet.
- Between Potwisha Campground and Hospital Rock, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet.
- Maximum limit on other parts of the Generals Highway is 40 feet for single vehicles, 50 feet for vehicle + towed unit.

Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car with an RV, camp in the foothills and use the car.

Driving Times

When roads are clear and open:

From Foothills to:

Giant Forest	1 hour
Lodgepole	1 hour minimum
Visalia	1 hour
Mineral King (MK)	1½ hours
closed until late May	

From Giant Forest to Grant Grove

via Generals Hwy 1 hour
open until 1/6, weather permitting

From Grant Grove to:

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

*Consider recycling
this guide & your map.*

*You can leave them at
visitor centers or
park entrance stations.*

The Generals Highway winding up through the winter-green foothills

