



## Trip Planner

Winter 2020-2021



Information in this newspaper can change at any time as we work to safely provide access to these parks.

### COVID-19 Safety

We encourage you to follow CDC guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

You should:

-  Wear a face covering when social distancing cannot be maintained.
-  Practice social distancing.
-  Wash your hands frequently with soap, or use hand sanitizer if soap isn't available.
-  Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
-  Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

### What to Expect

To protect the safety of park visitors and employees, we've made changes that will affect your visit. For current updates, check signs at entrance stations and other areas, the free park mobile app, and our web pages at [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki).

**Services That Are Open**

-  A limited number of campgrounds are open. Reservations are highly recommended, though walk-up sites may be available at Azalea Campground.
-  Wuksachi Lodge is scheduled to be open through winter. Reservations are strongly recommended. Lodging in Grant Grove will reopen in spring.
-  Grant Grove Market is scheduled to be open daily through winter. At Wuksachi Lodge, limited to-go food options are available daily at the restaurant or gift shop.
-  Some visitor centers may have staff available for information and trip-planning. Hours will be limited and will vary. Park stores may be open for sales of maps, books, and other items. Exhibit areas and films will not be open to the public.

### In an Emergency

Call 911 from a pay phone or from your cell phone if you have service. No coins are needed, and phones are available even when facilities are closed. If you can't find a phone, contact a park employee but keep a safe distance.

#### Pay Phone Locations

- Foothills Visitor Center
- Potwisha Campground
- Hospital Rock Picnic Area
- Lodgepole Market
- Wolverton Picnic Area (on the building near the meadow trail)
- Kings Canyon Visitor Center (near the restrooms)

Install our free app for more trip-planning information. Search for NPS Sequoia & Kings Canyon.



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## Contacts

### Cell Service

Cell service is extremely limited here. Near the Ash Mountain entrance to Sequoia, AT&T provides limited service. Verizon provides limited service near the Kings Canyon entrance to Grant Grove.

**911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911**  
No coins are needed in payphones for 911 calls.

### Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

559-565-3341 (24 hour): Recorded information is available for road conditions, weather, current fires, and more.

### GPS

GPS programs often misdirect travelers who are driving to the parks. Use maps and signs.

### Web & Social Media

The *only* official park information sources online are:



**The Official Park Website**  
[www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)



**Facebook**  
Sequoia and Kings  
Canyon National Parks



**Instagram**  
[sequoiakingsnps](https://www.instagram.com/sequoiakingsnps)



**Twitter**  
[@sequoiakingsnps](https://twitter.com/sequoiakingsnps)

### Campground Reservations

Visit [Recreation.gov](http://Recreation.gov) or call  
877-444-6777 (TDD: 877-833-6777)

### Delaware North

(Authorized Concessioner)  
[www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com)

### Cedar Grove Pack Station

(Authorized Concessioner)  
Grant Grove: 559-335-9292  
Cedar Grove: 559-565-3464  
[cedargrovepackstation.com](http://cedargrovepackstation.com)

### Sequoia National Forest/Monument (USFS)

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

### Yosemite National Park (NPS)

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

### Free Public WiFi Locations

Foothills Visitor Center (Sequoia National Park),  
Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove).  
No password is needed.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Pets

Pets are not permitted on any trails in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. They are allowed in campsites and in parking areas. Pets must be kept on a leash at all times, or appropriately crated or caged. Pets cannot be left tied and unattended or in vehicles at any time. The leash must be less than 6 feet (1.8 meters) long.

### Drones

Unmanned aircraft are not allowed in these parks. This includes drones and other remotely piloted vehicles.

### Marijuana

Possession or use of marijuana and other controlled substances inside the national parks is prohibited. While California law provides for limited possession and use of marijuana, it remains an illegal drug under federal law, which is enforced within the park.

### Fire Restrictions

Because of dry conditions and extreme fire danger, fire restrictions are in place to reduce the possibility of accidental human-caused fire. Prohibited locations for wood or charcoal fires will be posted, especially in park campgrounds. Wood and charcoal fires may be prohibited at all elevations, depending on the current level of fire restrictions.

Restrictions may change as weather and fuel conditions change. Check for updates on park bulletin boards, at visitor centers, or by visiting [go.nps.gov/sekifirerestrictions](http://go.nps.gov/sekifirerestrictions).

### Firearms in these National Parks

People who can legally possess firearms under federal, California, and local laws may possess firearms here. You are responsible for understanding and complying with all applicable California, local, and federal firearms laws. Discharge of firearms in the parks is prohibited.

### Passport Stamps

Stamps for passport books may not be available in the parks until visitor centers open, but you can visit our web pages for a printable version of the stamp, or email [SEKI\\_Information@nps.gov](mailto:SEKI_Information@nps.gov) to request a printed stamp with the date of your visit.

### Junior Ranger Books

Because of visitor center closures, we now offer the option of an online junior ranger booklet. Download a web version from [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) to complete in the parks or at home. Send photos of at least seven completed pages to [SEKI\\_Information@nps.gov](mailto:SEKI_Information@nps.gov) to receive a badge. No printer? Send an email to the same address to request a free booklet.

## Accessibility

We are committed to a continuing effort to improve the accessibility of our trails and facilities so they can be enjoyed by all. If you have questions or suggestions about accessibility, please email us at [SEKI\\_Information@nps.gov](mailto:SEKI_Information@nps.gov) or call us at 559-565-3341.

Wheelchair loans are temporarily suspended. In the future, we hope to resume free wheelchair loans at Lodgepole Visitor Center and Giant Forest Museum. They can be used anywhere in the parks but must be returned by the end of the day, before each visitor center closes. Be prepared to provide your address and phone number.

Assistive listening devices is available for ranger programs and all park films have open captioning. When films become available at park visitor centers, borrow a device at information desks.

### Visitor Centers

Visitor centers may be closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All visitor centers and museums have paved, flat paths leading from parking areas to outdoor information, restrooms, and water bottle filling stations. When visitor centers are open, they provide access to trip planning information, exhibits, and bookstores. Cedar Grove Visitor Center is small, and may be difficult for people in wheelchairs to navigate. Mineral King Ranger Station has steps leading to the entrance and may not be accessible to people with mobility impairments.

### Wheelchair-Accessible Trails

#### General Sherman Tree Trail (Giant Forest)

This short trail leads a few hundred feet from an accessible parking area to the General Sherman Tree, the largest tree on earth.

#### Big Trees Trail (Giant Forest)

This level trail is a 0.75-mile (1.2 km) loop. It circles a meadow surrounded by giant sequoias.

#### Panoramic Point Trail (Grant Grove)

This paved trail leads to views that reach deep into park wilderness.

#### Roaring River Falls (Cedar Grove)

A 528-foot (160 m), shady walk features a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. Parking is available on the highway, 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the junction with the Village road. Paved, relatively accessible.

#### Muir Rock Trail (Cedar Grove)

This short trail leads to the Kings River and Muir Rock, a large granite boulder at the river's edge named in honor of famed naturalist John Muir.

## Campgrounds with walk-up sites

Campground	Location	Nightly fee	Toilets	Dump station	Showers	Closing date	Other information
Azalea	Grant Grove	\$18	Flush	–	–	–	20 first-come, first-served sites. Snow is common here.

## Campgrounds available by reservation only

Campground	Location	Nightly fee	Toilets	Dump station	Showers	Closing date	Other information
Potwisha	Foothills	\$22	Flush	Yes	–	–	Make reservations at Recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777 (TDD: 877-833-6777).

Due to the pandemic and seasonal closures, the following campgrounds are closed for the year: Buckeye Flat, Lodgepole, Dorst Creek, Crystal Springs, Sunset, Canyon View, Sheep Creek, Sentinel, Moraine, Cold Springs, Atwell Mill, and South Fork campgrounds.

## Snowplay Safety

### Exploring in Winter

Don't head into the woods or out of sight unless you are prepared for winter travel.

### Sled Safely

Every winter, people get hurt badly while sledding in the park. Sledding accidents send over 20,000 people to emergency rooms each year in this country.

Don't let an accident ruin your winter fun.

- When sledding, slide feet first.
- Consider wearing a helmet.
- Make sure your path is clear. Don't slide near rocks, trees, branches, or other people.
- After sliding, look uphill. Move out of the way of people coming downhill after you.
- Don't slide into roads or parking lots.
- Avoid hard-packed snow or ice, where speed and direction get out of control.
- Sliding devices that can be steered may be safer than others.

In an emergency, contact a ranger or call 911. There is a public telephone at Wolverton Snowplay Area. The closest telephone to Columbine, Big Stump, Cherry Gap, and Quail Flat snowplay areas is at Kings Canyon Visitor Center in Grant Grove Village.

## Tips for Your Visit

### Ranger Programs Are On Hold

Due to the pandemic, no ranger programs are currently scheduled. We look forward to adding programs as soon as it's safe for our visitors and our rangers. Sequoia Parks Conservancy may offer programs this winter. Check sequoiaparksconservancy.org for details.

### Fire Restrictions May Be in Effect

Depending on conditions when you visit, fire restrictions may be in effect due to dry conditions, and wood and charcoal fires (including wood-burning stoves) will be prohibited at lower elevations. Check for current restrictions before you visit or when you get here.

### Free Park Mobile App

Download our official app for maps, self-guided tours, and information about nearly 200 park features and locations. The app is available through the Apple App or the Google Play stores. Search for NPS Sequoia & Kings Canyon. If possible, download and install before you arrive at the parks. Cell service is limited here, but free WiFi is available outside Foothills and Kings Canyon visitor centers. Be sure to enable location services, and to download offline content in the app settings so the app will work when you're out of cell range.

### Roadside Camping

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



Sequoia Parks Conservancy, the official nonprofit partner to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, welcomes you! We work hand-in-hand with the National Park Service to provide tours and retail services, fund critical projects, and protect and preserve park treasures for future generations. We help you make a deeper connection to the parks, so visit us online to learn more about everything we do. We've saved a place for you—come join us!



@SequoiaParksConservancy



@SeqParksCon



Shop our online store!

# You are Responsible for Your Safety

Beautiful, yet remote and rugged, these parks present hazards. Mountain weather changes quickly, trees fall without warning, and wild animals pose dangers. People cause other hazards by driving poorly, leaving campfires burning, and making bad decisions. Cell phones can't be relied on and GPS directions may send you in the wrong direction. Every day, we help visitors who have emergencies.

*Please help us by being prepared—review these safety warnings. Your safety is in your own hands!*

## Explore Safely

- **Avoid traveling alone. Tell someone your plans and expected return time.**
- **Take a map, water, flashlight, and extra layers of clothes. Do not rely on your phone's map or flashlight.**
- **Be alert for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.**

## River Safety



**While swimming in the parks' lakes and rivers can be tempting, drowning is the primary cause of death here!**

Rivers present great danger due to their swift currents and slippery rocks. In river-related deaths, many people did not intend to swim, but fell in. Currents are strong even during low water. Drop-offs and undertows are ever-present. Be vigilant.

Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Cold water rapidly saps your strength and hypothermia can set in quickly even if it is warm outside.

- **Do not swim in areas with strong currents, or steep drop-offs.**
- **DO NOT leave children unattended.**
- **Swimming and alcohol or drugs do not mix. Swim sober.**
- **Wear sturdy shoes. Sharp objects in the water can cut bare feet.**
- **During storms, get out of the water and exit beach areas.**
- **NEVER SWIM ALONE.**



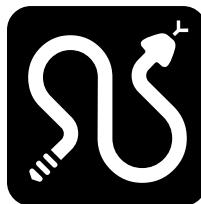
### Tree Hazards

Branches and trees may fall, whether dead or alive, and when there is no wind. Keep eyes and ears open. Run if you hear cracks or snapping from roots, trunks, or branches (sometimes there is no sound). Don't linger under dead, cracked, broken, or hanging branches. Avoid spending any time under trees that are rotten at the base or have cracked bark that is peeling off the trunk.



### West Nile Virus & Tick Bites

West Nile virus is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common but take steps to avoid mosquito bites. Ticks are common in grassy, brushy low-elevation areas. They can carry diseases that harm humans. Check yourself for these insects after walks; their bite is painless. Remove them carefully with tweezers and seek a doctor's advice.



### Rattlesnakes

Rattlesnakes are common in the Sequoia foothills and in the Kings Canyon at low elevations. Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill them; this is when most bites occur.

Bites are rarely lethal, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, don't panic and call 911.



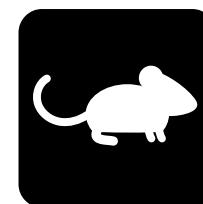
### Poison Oak

This common shrub grows up to 5,000 feet (1,524 m) in elevation, and can cause an itchy rash if you touch it. Poison oak has leaves in groups of three. Leaves are red and berries whitish in fall. The plant is bare in winter, and has shiny green leaves in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes with soap and warm water right away.



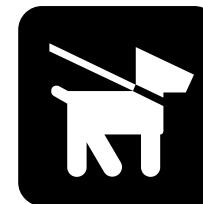
### Air Quality

Poor air quality often affects the parks, especially during the summer. In summer months, ozone concentrations often exceed federal health standards. Ozone can have negative health effects, particularly for sensitive groups such as children, older people, and those with heart or lung disease. For air quality forecasts, visit the park website or follow @SequoiaKingsAir on Twitter.



### Plague & Hantavirus

Plague and hantavirus are associated with wildlife here, but cases of human infection are rare. Rodents and their fleas may carry plague, which may infect humans when bitten. Hantavirus is an airborne virus that comes from infected deer mice. Typically people contract hantavirus after they clean areas or are in enclosed spaces with deer mice feces.



### Keep Pets Safe

To keep pets and wildlife safe, animals must be on a leash at all times. Pets are vulnerable to tick and snake bites. Bears and deer have also been known to charge or attack dogs. Pick up all pet waste and dispose of properly. Pets are not allowed on any park trails. Do not leave pets unattended or in vehicles where they can easily overheat.



### Don't Lose Your Brakes

If you keep a foot on the brake for too long, brakes may fail. Instead, always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2, or L. The engine gets louder, but your brakes won't overheat.

## Recreate Responsibly

When you're looking for places to visit in the parks, check parking lots. If they're full, it may be difficult to practice distancing at that location. Consider finding another spot to visit where it's less crowded.

### Distance yourself from other hikers.

If you encounter someone on a narrow trail, try to step aside in a place where you can give them at least six feet (2 m) of distance to pass. Avoid crowded viewpoints and pullouts. Give hikers travelling uphill the right of way.

### Hike with family members or people you've already had contact with.

Limit your group size to six or fewer people. If your family is larger, split into smaller groups.

### Try not to touch outdoor exhibits, railings, or other surfaces, especially in high-traffic areas.

Wash or sanitize your hands frequently and before you get back in your car.

### Bring hand sanitizer.

It may not always be available in park restrooms.

### Play It Safe

Choose an easier activity that reduces the chance that you might need to be rescued and add to the strain on our health care and emergency resources. Be thoughtful about your impact on local communities.

Bears can grab unattended food or break into cars where food is visible. They become bold and aggressive if they get human food. Too often, these bears must be killed. Food storage is key to keeping humans safe and bears alive.



### In Wilderness

Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a bear-resistant storage container. These containers weigh less than 3 pounds (1.3 kg), hold up to 5 days of food, and fit in a backpack. A list of approved containers can be found on our website. Metal boxes are located in a few wilderness locations.

### Keep Yourself Safe

Don't let bears approach you, your food, picnic area, or campsite. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw

small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Abandoning your food teaches bears that foods come from humans; the bear may hurt a person in the future to get food. If a bear does get your food, NEVER try to get it back.

### Day Hikers

Properly store all food, scented items, and food-related supplies left at the trailhead inside a provided food storage box, including coolers. If you're concerned about touching the handles of shared boxes, consider using hand sanitizer before and after using them. If no food storage box is available, store food in your car trunk. For vehicles with no trunk, place food items low and out of sight and keep windows closed. When hiking, don't leave your backpack and walk off to take a photograph—always stay within arm's length of your food. Bears know backpacks are a source of food.

### Touring and Picnicking

Food items MUST be stored in food storage boxes when provided. If no food storage box is available, food items must be inside your car trunk or if no trunk, place food items low in the vehicle, out of sight, and keep windows closed. While picnicking, never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

### Lodges

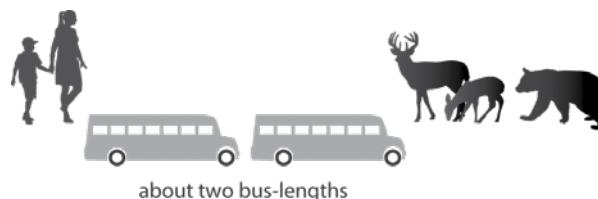
Remove all food and child safety seats from your vehicle.

Bears can smell anything with a scent—such as hand sanitizer, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, and cleaning supplies—and will mistake these items for food. Store anything with an odor.

## Wildlife Viewing & Safety

### Keep Wildlife Safe

Do not feed or touch ANY wild animals. All animals in the parks are wild. View animals at safe distances (the length of two city buses) or through binoculars. Never disrupt, approach, or disturb animals from behaving normally.



### Mountain Lions and Bobcats

Rarely seen, bobcats are larger than house cats and have bobbed tails. Mountain lions (cougars) are much larger and have long tails. Cats usually run when seen. If you see a mountain lion that doesn't run:

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



Explore the foothills, home to more species of plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined. Chaparral, oak woodlands, and river canyons offer spring wildflowers, hot summers, and mild winters.

### Currently Open & Available

#### Foothills Visitor Center

Visitor center staff are usually available to help with trip-planning. Look for an information kiosk to the right of the visitor center plaza. Information services may be suspended due to staffing, or other conditions.

Sequoia Parks Conservancy's park store at Foothills Visitor Center is usually open daily for sales of maps, books, and other items.

Free WiFi is available in the visitor center area.

Potwisha Campground (only with reservations made in advance)

Self-registration wilderness permits  
A drop box is outside the visitor center near the restrooms.

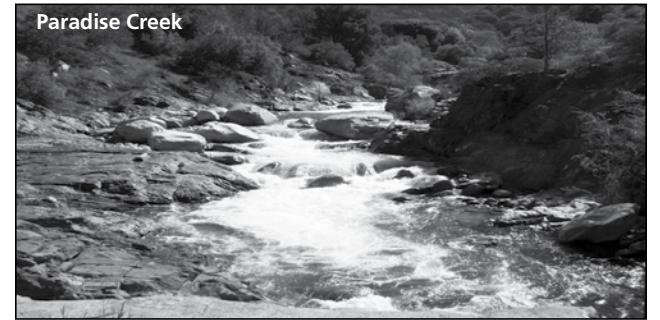


#### Tunnel Rock

Snap a picture at this iconic pullout off the Generals Highway. A new trail is under construction here this winter. Please follow posted speed limits and respect closures. Poison oak is common here.

#### Hospital Rock Picnic Area

See rock paintings and explore exhibits about the California Native Americans who lived here, and still visit and live nearby. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Be careful; drownings occur here. Instead of leaving food in your vehicle, use the metal food-storage boxes to store your food from bears.



#### Marble Falls Trail

For a walk that offers short or longer options, park across the highway from Potwisha Campground (not in the campground). Near site #14, follow the dirt road along canals. Climb 3.7 miles (6 km) to reach the waterfall. High temperatures and little shade or water can make this trail dangerous.

#### Paradise Creek Trail

For a creekside walk, park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area and walk 0.6 miles (0.9 km) to Buckeye Flat Campground. Take the path across from site #28 and cross a footbridge over the river. Follow Paradise Creek (not the river) for 2 miles (3.2 km) until the trail grows faint. You may need to negotiate downed trees along the trail.

## Mineral King

The road to this area is closed for the season. Because of the recent Castle Fire, wilderness lands in this area may be closed to the public.

In winter, trails often require snowshoes or skis and skill with a map and compass. If wilderness lands in this area reopen and you're interested in a wilderness trip, ask for a gate code at Foothills Visitor Center. The closest parking is 2 miles (3.2 km) before Atwell Mill Campground, 7 miles (11.3 km) before most trailheads.

### Services and Facilities

#### Mineral King Ranger Station

Closed until late May.

#### Wilderness Permits

If wilderness lands in this area reopen, self-register for local wilderness permits at Atwell Mill or Mineral King Ranger Station.

#### Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Closed until late May.

## Snowplay in Sequoia National Park

### Snowplay at Wolverton

Wolverton Road starts just north of the Sherman Tree. Turn on this road to reach the snowplay area. It is plowed during daylight hours Fridays through Sundays plus Wednesdays and holidays, through mid-March. After storms, it may take hours to open this road as plows must clear the main road first.

Sledding is at the end of the road. Call 911 in case of emergency from the pay telephone outside the building next to the restrooms.

Please don't leave broken sleds and trash behind! Too often spring melt reveals piles of trash left in the snow.



Welcome to the big trees in winter. Once snow builds up, look for yellow markers on trees in the Giant Forest to find designated ski and snowshoe trails. Winter trail maps are available at Giant Forest Museum.

## Visiting the General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

### Main Sherman Tree Trail and Parking

This 0.5-mile (0.8 km) trail down to the tree has some stairs; the walk back is uphill. Benches provide rest points along the way. Drive 2 miles (3 km) north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree accessible parking lot). Turn onto Wolverton Road and follow signs to the parking area.

When snow begins to accumulate, this trail and parking area usually close.

### Wheelchair-Accessible and Winter Sherman Tree Trail from the Generals Highway

Before snow begins to accumulate, parking here is only for those with disability placards. If you don't have a placard, but can't walk the hill on the main trail, ask at a visitor center for a temporary permit.

When snow begins to accumulate, this parking area is open to all. Check signage at the parking area before parking here if you don't have an accessibility placard.

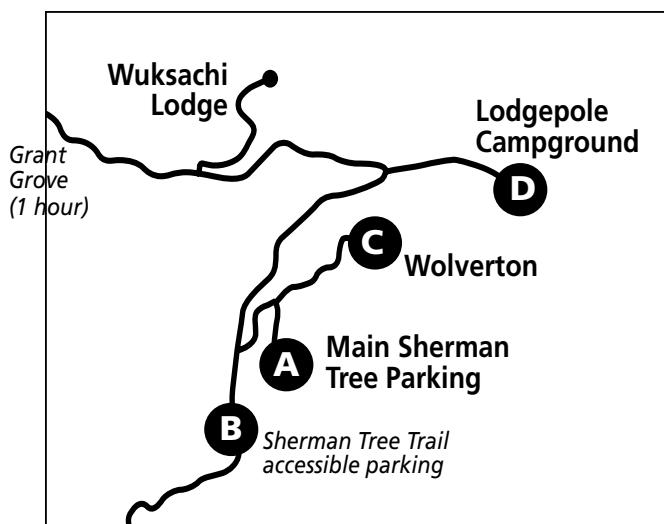
**Congress Trail** - From the Sherman Tree, continue along this fairly level 2-mile (3.2 km) loop through the heart of the Giant Forest sequoia grove.

Park only in designated spots in parking areas or in paved pullouts. Vehicles parked in unpaved areas along the highway pose a danger to traffic and may be ticketed.

If parking areas for the Sherman Tree trails are full, consider coming back later in the day, or visiting sequoias in a quieter area. Options for seeing the Giant Forest sequoia grove include Big Trees Trail, Hazelwood Nature Loop, and hikes beginning at Giant Forest Museum.

No shuttle service is planned this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Once snow accumulates, the Sherman Tree Main Trailhead and Parking Area may close. Use this map to find parking and hiking options for the General Sherman Tree.

- A Main Sherman Tree Parking**  
Take Wolverton Road and follow signs. This parking area usually closes when snow accumulates.
- B Accessible and Winter Sherman Tree Parking**  
This parking area is on the main park highway. When the main parking area closes, this parking is open to all.
- C Wolverton Picnic Area & Trailhead**  
The Wolverton Trail leads to the Sherman Tree. Check a trail map for details.
- D Lodgepole Campground**  
A 2.8-mile (4.5 km) trail leads from here to the General Sherman Tree. Look for the trailhead near the amphitheater.



### Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

This 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road closes with snowfall to become a ski and snowshoe trail. It begins at Giant Forest Museum. Walkers & snowshoers: Please don't walk in ski tracks; the footprints can trip skiers. Ask at the museum about snow conditions along the road.

**Tunnel Log** - Go under a fallen sequoia that was tunneled through. This is the only "tree you can drive (or ski) through" in these parks.

**Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias surround this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails. Several trails start here, such as the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a historic cabin made from a fallen sequoia. The High Sierra Trail begins here, leading 60 miles (97 km) to Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the lower 48 states.

**Col. Young Tree** - Park at the Auto Log and walk to a sequoia named for a notable Buffalo Soldier who was also the park's first Black superintendent.

### Big Trees Trail

A level, paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start your walk at Giant Forest Museum for a 1-mile (1.6 km) round-trip walk. Ski or snowshoe once snow gets deep. There are no yellow ski-trail markers along this trail. If you have a disability placard, park at the trailhead for a 0.75-mile (1 km) loop. Check signage at the parking area before parking here if you don't have a placard.

### Tokopah Falls

The 1.7-mile (2.7 km) trail starts in Lodgepole Campground and ends at a viewpoint near the cascades of Tokopah Falls. Return the same way for a 3.4-mile (5.5 km) round-trip hike. Be careful around the water; cold, swift currents are difficult to escape, and ice and snow can make rocks near the water's edge slippery. When the campground is closed park in the large lot just beyond the campground kiosk or at the visitor center.

## Currently Open or Available

### Wuksachi Lodge, Takeout Food, and Gifts

Lodging reservations are highly recommended. Limited-to-go meals are available at the restaurant. At the gift shop, gifts, limited grocery and prepacked lunch items are available.

Self-registration wilderness permits at Giant Forest Museum

### Giant Forest Museum

Staff may be available to help with trip-planning.

### Sequoia Parks Conservancy's Park Store at Giant Forest Museum

The store may be open for sales of maps, books, and other items.

## Closed for the Season

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Sequoia Shuttles

Crystal Cave

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp

Lodgepole Campground

Lodgepole Market and Grill

Public showers and laundry

Wander through snowy sequoia groves and stop by the visitor center to warm up. From lively Grant Grove Village to lofty Big Baldy Ridge, Grant Grove offers a chance to explore with amenities nearby.

### Grant Tree Trail

This is the only intermittently plowed trail in the area. Beware of slippery ice and packed snow! General Grant, one of the world's largest trees, grows along this 1/3-mile (0.5 km) paved trail. Designated the Nation's Christmas Tree, this giant is also the only living national shrine honoring those who died for our country. Other features on this trail include the historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch, a hollow sequoia log that's large enough to walk into. Trail guides are sold at visitor centers & the trailhead. One mile (1.6km) from Grant Grove Village; go north on Highway 180 and follow signs.

### North Grove Loop

This lightly traveled, 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop offers a close look at sequoias and a quiet forest walk. Look for the trailhead and an orientation map in the overflow parking area near the Grant Tree Trail.

### Visitor Center to Grant Tree Trailhead

This 2-mile (3.2 km) round-trip forested trail passes through Azalea Campground and Columbine Picnic Area and has a 400' (120 m) elevation change. Start from the Grant Tree parking area or across the highway from the visitor center.

## Currently Open & Available

### Azalea Campground

Limited number of first-come, first-served sites.

### Grant Grove Post Office

### Grant Grove Market

Tentatively scheduled to be open daily.

### Grant Grove Gift Shop

Tentatively open on weekends and holidays.

### Self-registration wilderness permits

### Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Staff may be available to help with trip-planning.

### Big Stump Picnic Area

## Closed for the Season

John Muir Lodge and  
Grant Grove Restaurant

Grant Grove Stables

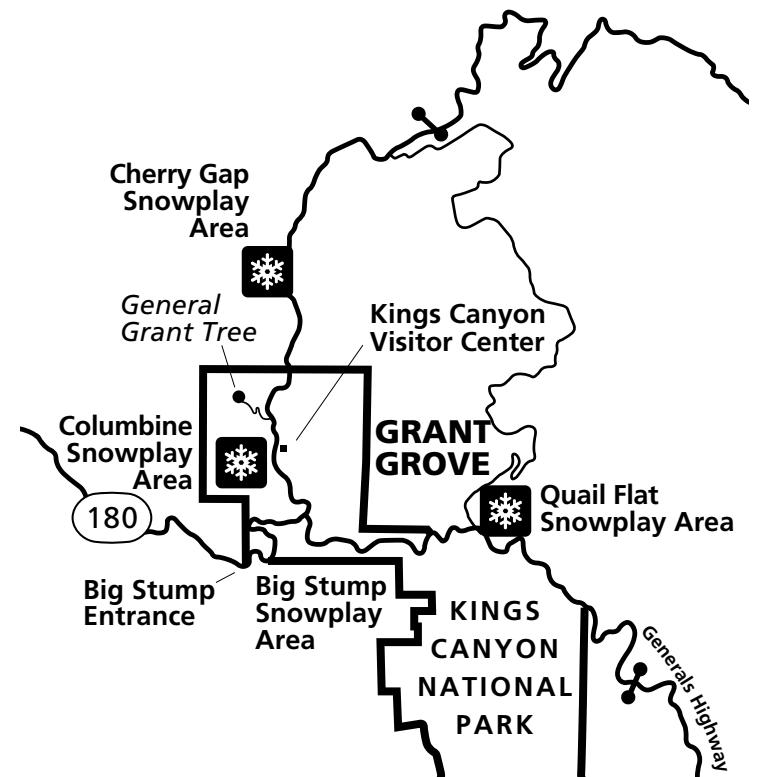
## Snowplay in Kings Canyon National Park

### Snowplay at Grant Grove

Use Big Stump and Columbine picnic areas only. Snowplay is prohibited in all other areas in Grant Grove. Big Stump may close due to facilities maintenance. Azalea Campground is for campers only. A pay telephone is located outside of Kings Canyon Visitor Center in Grant Grove Village. Have fun and stay safe!

### Nearby Forest Service areas:

Quail Flat and Cherry Gap trailheads are designated national forest snowplay areas. Other areas offer opportunities for skiing and snowshoeing. Ask for directions at the visitor center.



### Finding Your Way

When snow makes it hard to follow a trail on the ground, be careful not to get lost. It may be easier to follow ski-trail markers. Find these colored markers intermittently on trees, above eye level. When you are standing by one marker, you should be able to see another one; each points in the direction of the next marker. Thank you for not walking in the ski tracks; the footprints can trip skiers.

Buy a map at the nearest visitor center if you plan to use unpaved trails, and get advice about the current conditions.



## Cedar Grove

Quiet and remote, Cedar Grove sits deep in Kings Canyon, surrounded by sheer granite cliffs. The road to this area is closed for the season and usually reopens on the Tuesday after Memorial Day.

# Wilderness Trips

Thank you for following minimum-impact, no-trace guidelines to protect the wilderness!

Camping in the park “frontcountry” is permitted only in campgrounds. Dispersed camping is only allowed in the National Forest. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the parks.

Wild places include hazards, and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant and to self-rescue in case of an emergency.



Park waterways may contain bacteria, including Giardia. Properly filter or treat water before drinking.



Hypothermia can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If symptoms of confusion or drowsiness appear, drink warm sugary drinks and get into dry clothes, sleeping bags, and shelter.

## Wilderness Permits

Within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, permits are required for all overnight trips. Day hikers do not need permits.

Beginning September 21, the summer quota period for wilderness permits has ended. Outside the quota period, permits are free and you can self-register at the permit station that's closest to your trailhead. Check weather forecasts before your trip and know that mountain weather can be unpredictable. Learn about minimum impact guidelines for traveling in park wilderness, and be prepared to be self-reliant. For more information, visit:

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

Permits are limited during the summer quota period, from Memorial Day Weekend to late September. Look for permit reservation information and other details at:

[go.nps.gov/SEKI-WildernessPermits](http://go.nps.gov/SEKI-WildernessPermits)

# US Forest Service

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Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument are managed by the US Forest Service. Due to COVID-19, services may be limited. Availability can change at any time. Visit [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia) for details about their facilities and services, and visit [Recreation.gov](http://Recreation.gov) for camping reservations.

**Hume Lake & Big Meadows are in** Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. You pass through the monument when driving between Lodgepole and Grant Grove, and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove.

Many forest roads close to vehicles with snow, including Big Meadows Road, and the roads to Converse Basin and the Boole Tree. The northern road to Hume Lake remains open. Boyden Cave, near Cedar Grove, closes when Highway 180 closes. Tenmile Road is open but unplowed and unmaintained. Avoid getting stuck!

## Snowplay

Cherry Gap and Quail Flat are designated snowplay areas in Sequoia National Forest near Grant Grove. At these areas, find a safe snowplay location away from the highway and winter traffic.

## Sequoia National Forest Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Highway 180), 19 miles (30 km) west of the Big Stump park entrance. Maps and books are sold here. 559-338-2251, 559-791-5758.

## Dispersed Camping

Self-contained camping, with no water, restrooms, trash cans, or other amenities is permitted in the national forest (not in the national parks). There is no dispersed camping on Highway 180 in Kings Canyon. Please be sure to check for current fire restrictions.

Free campfire permits are required. At this time, they are only available online. Visit <http://permit.preventwildfiresca.org/> to fill out a form to get your permit.

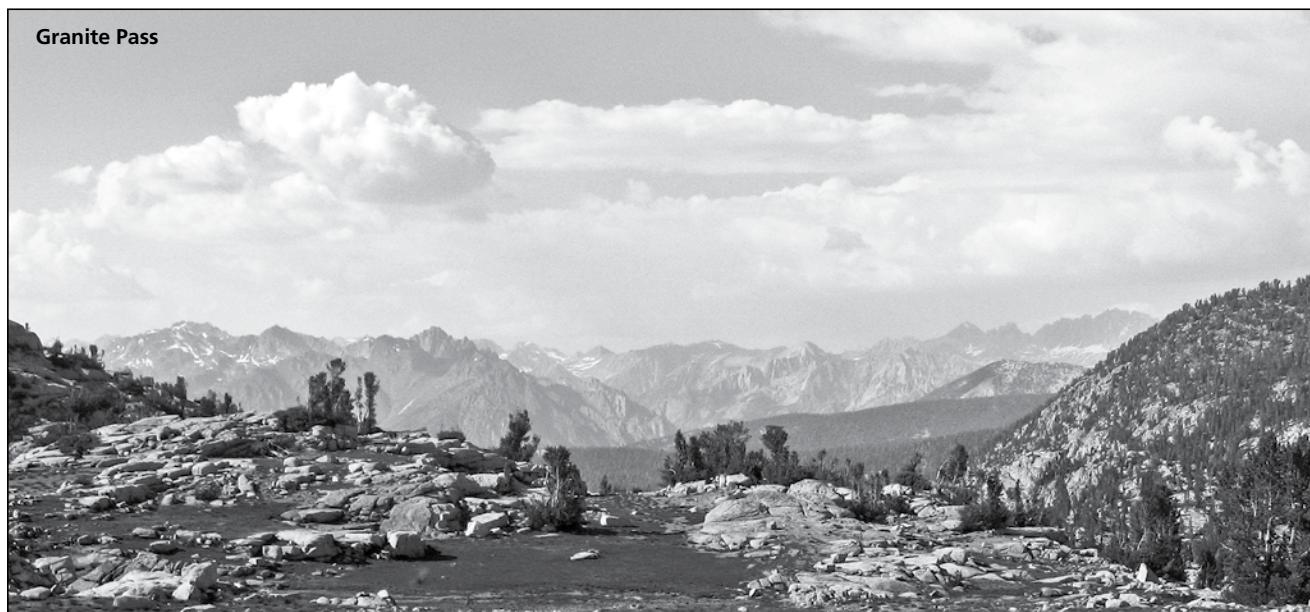
## These services in Sequoia National Forest may be open:

### Montecito Sequoia Lodge (permitted)

Open all year. 800-227-9900; 559-565-3388. Nine miles (14 km) south of Grant Grove.

### Hume Lake (on private land)

Gas, market, snacks, and pay phone. Hours vary and pumps may close. The area closes during holiday periods, and may close at other times. Travel north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then turn right on Hume Lake Road. They encourage you to call before you travel there: 559-305-7770.



Granite Pass

Can I...	In National Parks	In National Forests
<b>Walk my leashed pets?</b>	Not on any trails. Pets are permitted on paved roads and must be on leash less than 6 feet (1.8 m) long. Service animals are excepted from pet regulations.	Pets can go on trails. They must be on a leash 6 feet (1.8m) long or less.
<b>Collect things to take home?</b>	Collecting objects is not allowed in parks. This includes natural objects, such as pine cones, rocks, plants, or animals, and cultural artifacts such as arrowheads, beads, or pottery shards.	You may keep a few cones or rocks for personal use. Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.
<b>Hunt?</b>	Not in the Parks. You are responsible for understanding & complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park.	Only during the season with a license. Call 559-243-4005 for more information.
<b>Drive off-road?</b>	Not in these parks. Stay on roads.	Get off-highway-vehicle (OHV) route information at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
<b>Snowmobile?</b>	Not in these parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: (559) 338-2251.
<b>Cut wood?</b>	Not in these parks, though campers may gather downed wood.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for wood permits & guidelines: (559) 338-2251.

# Usted es responsable de su seguridad

Estos parques hermosos, aunque remotos y accidentados, presentan ciertos peligros. Por ejemplo, el cambio de temperaturas, los árboles que caen sin previo aviso y los animales salvajes presentan peligros. Otros peligros son de origen humano: manejo imprudente, abandono de fogatas y otras malas decisiones. No se puede confiar en los teléfonos celulares y el GPS, podrían dar indicaciones erróneas. Todos los días ayudamos a visitantes que tienen emergencias.

*Le rogamos que nos ayude preparándose para su visita: familiarícese con estos avisos de seguridad y pídale consejo a los guardaparques. ¡Su seguridad está en sus manos!*

## Seguridad en el río



Los lagos y ríos de estos parques pueden dar tentación, y más durante días calurosos, pero debe saber que ahogos son la principal causa de muertes.

Los ríos son muy peligrosos debido a sus rápidas corrientes y rocas resbaladizas. Muchas de las muertes relacionadas con los ríos ocurrieron, no porque las personas tenían la intención de nadar, sino que se cayeron. Las corrientes son fuertes incluso cuando los niveles de agua son bajos. Las pendientes abruptas y las corrientes de retorno son un peligro constante. Manténgase alerta.

Una vez que se ingresa en un río, puede resultar casi imposible salir de él. El agua fría puede debilitarle rápidamente y es posible que le dé hipotermia incluso si afuera hace calor.

- No nade en zonas con corrientes fuertes o pendientes inclinadas.
- NO deje a los niños sin supervisión.
- No nade si ha consumido alcohol o drogas. Nade siempre en estado de sobriedad.
- Use zapatos fuertes. Los objetos afilados que hay en el agua podrían provocar cortes.
- Durante una tormenta, salga del agua y aléjese de las zonas de playa.
- NUNCA NADE SOLO.



### Peligros relacionados con los árboles

Es posible que caigan ramas y árboles cuando no hay viento, ya sea que estén vivos o secos. Mantenga los ojos y oídos bien abiertos. Corra si oye chasquidos o crujidos provenientes de raíces, troncos o ramas (aunque a veces no emiten sonido alguno). No se detenga bajo ramas secas, agrietadas, rotas o colgantes. Evite detenerse bajo árboles que estén podridos en la base o que presenten una corteza agrietada que se desprende del tronco.



### Virus del Nilo Occidental y picaduras de garrapatas

El virus del Nilo Occidental se contagia a través de la picadura de mosquitos infectados. Si bien esta enfermedad no es común en humanos, tome precauciones para evitar las picaduras de mosquitos. La garrapatas abundan en zonas de pastos tupidos y de baja elevación. Pueden portar enfermedades que son dañinas para los humanos. Tras sus caminatas, fíjese de no tener garrapatas; su picadura es indolora. Si tiene alguna, retírela cuidadosamente con unas pinzas y consulte con su médico.



### Serpientes de cascabel

Las serpientes de cascabel son comunes en las faldas de Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks a poca elevación. ¡Tenga cuidado en dónde pone los pies y las manos! No las fastidie ni las mate; es entonces cuando se dan la mayoría de las mordeduras. Las mordeduras pocas veces son letales, pero el daño que ocasionan en los tejidos puede ser grave. Si recibe una mordedura, no entre en pánico y llame al 911.



### Roble venenoso

Se trata de un arbusto común en elevaciones de hasta 5,000 pies (1,500 m). El roble venenoso tiene hojas en grupos de tres. En otoño, sus hojas son rojas y sus bayas blancuzcas; en invierno, la planta pierde sus hojas; y, en primavera, tiene hojas de un color verde brillante. Si toca alguna parte de la planta, lave de inmediato la piel y la ropa que hayan estado en contacto ella con jabón y agua tibia.

## Explore de forma segura

- Evite viajar solo. Cuénteles a alguien cuáles son sus planes y a qué hora espera regresar.
- Lleve un mapa, agua, una linterna y prendas de abrigo adicionales.
- Preste atención a los posibles peligros que provengan de arriba, de su alrededor o del suelo.



### Calidad del aire

Los parques pueden verse afectados por una calidad del aire pobre, especialmente en verano. En los meses de verano, las concentraciones de ozono suelen exceder aquellas establecidas por los estándares federales de salud. El ozono puede tener impactos negativos en la salud, en particular en grupos más sensibles como los niños, las personas mayores y aquellas con enfermedades cardíacas o de pulmón. Para conocer las predicciones de la calidad del aire, visite el sitio web del parque o visite @SequoiaKingsAir en Twitter.



### La peste y el hantavirus

La peste y el hantavirus están relacionados con los animales salvajes que habitan estos parques, pero los casos de infecciones en humanos son excepcionales. Los roedores y sus pulgas pueden ser portadores de la peste, y los humanos pueden contagiarse si reciben la picadura de una pulga infectada. El hantavirus se transmite por aire y proviene de los ratones venado infectados. Los humanos suelen contraer un síndrome pulmonar por hantavirus tras limpiar o encontrarse en espacios cerrados en los que hay heces de ratón venado.



### Vele por la seguridad de sus mascotas

Para asegurarse de que sus mascotas, así como los animales salvajes, estén a salvo, deben llevar correa en todo momento. Las mascotas son propensas a las garrapatas o a ser mordidas por serpientes. También ha habido casos de ataques a perros por parte de osos y siervos. Recoja las heces de su mascota y deshágase de ellas adecuadamente. No deje mascotas en su vehículo, ya que este podría sobrecalentarse con facilidad.



### No pierda los frenos

Si mantiene el pie en el freno durante demasiado tiempo, es posible que fallen. En su lugar, siempre baje la marcha cuando avanza colina abajo. Si tiene un vehículo automático, ponga la palanca de cambios en 1, 2 o L. El motor hará más ruido, pero evitará el sobrecalentamiento de los frenos.

La información en este periódico puede cambiar en cualquier momento a medida que trabajamos para aumentar el acceso de manera segura.

## Que esperar

Para proteger la seguridad de los visitantes y empleados del parque a medida que continuamos aumentando el acceso, hemos realizado cambios que afectarán su visita. Para obtener actualizaciones actuales, revise las señales en las estaciones de entrada, la aplicación móvil gratuita del parque y nuestras páginas web en [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki).

## Aplicación móvil gratuita del parque

Descargue nuestra aplicación oficial para mapas, recorridos autoguiados, e información sobre casi 200 características y ubicaciones del parque. La aplicación está disponible a través de la aplicación Apple o las tiendas Google Play. Busca Sequoia Kings NPS. Si es posible, descárguelo e instálelo antes de llegar a los parques. El servicio celular es limitado aquí, pero hay WiFi gratis fuera de los centros de visitantes de Foothills y Kings Canyon. Asegúrese de habilitar los servicios de ubicación y de descargar contenido sin conexión en la configuración de la aplicación. Esto permitirá que la aplicación continúe funcionando cuando esté fuera del rango de telefonía celular.

## En una emergencia

Llame al 911 desde un teléfono público del parque o desde su teléfono celular si tiene servicio. No se necesitan monedas. Si no hay un teléfono disponible, comuníquese con un empleado del parque pero mantenga una distancia segura.

### Teléfonos públicos

- Foothills Visitor Center
- Potwisha Campground
- Hospital Rock Picnic Area
- Lodgepole Market
- Wolverton Picnic Area (en el edificio cerca del sendero del prado)
- Kings Canyon Visitor Center (cerca de los baños)



## Servicios que están abiertos



El número de sitios abiertos para campar son limitados. Recomendamos usar el sistema de reservaciones, pero también habrán sitios disponibles sin reservaciones en Azalea Campground.



Está previsto que Wuksachi Lodge esté abierto durante el invierno. Se recomienda encarecidamente hacer reservaciones. El alojamiento en Grant Grove reabrirá en primavera.



Grant Grove Market está programado para abrir todos los días durante el invierno. En Wuksachi Lodge, las opciones de comida limitadas están disponibles todos los días en el restaurante o tienda de regalos.



Algunos centros de visitantes pueden tener trabajadores disponibles para información y planificación de viajes. Las horas de operación serán limitadas y variarán. Las tiendas del parque podrían estar abiertas para ventas de mapas, libros, y otros artículos. Las áreas de exhibición y cine no estarán abiertas al público.

Los programas de guardabosques están en espera. Debido a la pandemia, actualmente no hay programas de guardabosques programados. Esperamos agregar programas tan pronto como sea seguro para nuestros visitantes y nuestros guardabosques. Sequoia Park Conservancy puede ofrecer programas.

## Recrea responsablemente

Cuando esté buscando lugares para visitar en los parques, revise los estacionamientos. Si están llenos, puede ser difícil practicar el distanciamiento en ese lugar. Considere encontrar otro lugar para visitar donde haya menos gente.

Distanciarse de otros excursionistas. Si se encuentra con alguien en un camino estrecho, intente apartarse en un lugar donde pueda darles al menos seis pies (2 m) de distancia para que pasen. Evite los puntos de vista y las retiradas que están llenas. Dé a los excursionistas que viajan cuesta arriba el derecho de paso.

Camina con familiares o personas con las que ya has tenido contacto. Limite el tamaño de su grupo a seis o menos personas. Si su familia es más grande, divídala en grupos más pequeños.

Trate de no tocar exhibiciones, barandas u otras superficies, especialmente en áreas de alto tráfico. Lávese o desinfecte las manos con frecuencia y antes de regresar a su automóvil.

Trae desinfectante para manos. Aunque planeamos suministrarlo en los baños del parque, puede que no siempre esté disponible.

## COVID-19 seguridad

El Servicio de Parques Nacionales le aconseja seguir las directrices del CDC para reducir la propagación del COVID-19.

Usted debe:



Use una cubierta para la cara cuando no se pueda mantener el distanciamiento social.



Evite el contacto cercano.



Lávese las manos frecuentemente con jabón o use desinfectante para manos.



Cúbrase la boca al toser y estornudar.



Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca con las manos sin lavar.

## Winter Roads & Closures

Road conditions can change at any time.

### Generals Highway between the parks:

- **From Wuksachi Lodge (in Sequoia) north to Highway 180 (in Grant Grove):** The road is not plowed during storms and often closes in winter. Between early January and mid-March, the road will not be plowed and may be open only if there is no snow.

### In Kings Canyon (NPS) & National Forest:

- **Highway 180 to Cedar Grove:** Closed for winter by Caltrans at the Hume Lake junction. Reopens, conditions permitting, in April.
- **Panoramic Point Road in Grant Grove:** Closes with snow; reopens by late May.
- **Redwood Mountain (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile roads (USFS):** Closed for winter. Unpaved, unplowed, rutted.
- **Converse Basin & Cherry Gap (USFS):** Closed; usually reopens by late May. Unpaved, rutted, unplowed.

### In Sequoia National Park:

- **Giant Forest:** Park across from the Museum. Sherman Tree parking varies with conditions.
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Closes with snow; reopens by late May.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Closed. Reopens late May.
- **Wolverton Road & Snowplay Area:** The road is plowed Fridays–Sundays, Wednesdays, and some holidays. The area is open other days if the road is passable and safe.
- **Mineral King Road:** Closed until late May. For access past the first gate, contact Foothills Visitor Center.
- **South Fork & Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved; slippery when wet. Middle Fork closes in winter; park at Hospital Rock.



### Go Slow for Wildlife!

Never feed animals by the road. Cars often hit wildlife that waits for handouts on roadsides.

Photo by Amy Lepp.

## Driving in Chain Control Areas

### Chains May Be Required at Any Time

All vehicles must carry tire chains when chain control is in effect, including 4WD and AWD vehicles. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires may also be required, but 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 snow tire. The speed limit when driving with chains is 25 mph, even if posted otherwise.

#### R1: Snow tires or chains are required.

Your tires must have the letters *MS*, *M/S*, *M+S* or the words *MUD AND SNOW* or *ALL SEASON* on the sidewall, or you must install chains.

#### R2: 4-wheel drive or chains are required.

Your vehicle must be in 4x4 or all-wheel drive or you must install chains.

#### R3: Chains are required on all vehicles.

There are no exceptions.

## Rules & Recommendations

### Expect Icy Roads

Slow down. Watch for ice in shade or where the road looks wet. Sudden speed or stopping causes skids. Keep extra distance between cars.

### Snowplows Rule

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, slow down but do not stop. To avoid being surprised by snowplows, don't park along unplowed roadways or walk on closed roads. Watch the plow operator for signals; they often cannot stop.

### Emergency Car Repairs

The NPS does not tow or repair vehicles. Use a pay phone to contact a towing service. If you are blocking traffic, contact the emergency communications center at 559-565-3341 ext. 9. In the Wuksachi, Lodgepole, and Giant Forest areas, call AAA roadside assistance for help with fuel and lockouts: (800) 222-4357.



**Tire chains or cables are essential when chain control is in effect. Avoid an expensive towing bill by installing chains when they are required.**

**Las cadenas de llantas o los cables son esenciales cuando el control de la cadena está en efecto. Evite un remolque costoso instalando cadenas cuando sean necesarias.**

Photo by Alison Taggart-Barone.

### Winter Driving

At higher elevations, winter begins early. Tire chains can be required on any park road at any time from fall through spring. In communities near park entrances, many businesses offer tire chains for rental or purchase.

Weather and road conditions can change rapidly, often multiple times per day. Get up-to-date information before heading to the parks, but remember that conditions and chain requirements may change by the time you arrive.

For 24-hour in-park road conditions, call (559) 565-3341.

### Conduciendo en invierno

En elevaciones más altas, el invierno comienza temprano. Se pueden requerir cadenas de llantas en cualquier camino del parque en cualquier momento desde el otoño hasta la primavera. En las comunidades cercanas a las entradas a los parques, negocios ofrecen cadenas para rentar o comprar.

Las condiciones meteorológicas y de la carretera pueden cambiar rápidamente, varias veces al día. Obtenga información actualizada antes de ir a los parques, pero recuerde que las condiciones de la carretera y los requisitos de la cadena pueden cambiar para cuando llegue. Para conocer las condiciones de la carretera dentro del parque las 24 horas, llame al (559) 565-3341.