

Sequoia / Kings Canyon

National Parks
California

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

**ROAD BETWEEN PARKS
CLOSED FOR WINTER**

Mountain wilderness, giant trees, jewel-like lakes, and tumbling waterfalls adorn a glacier-carved landscape laid out across the heart of the Sierra Nevada. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, administered as one unit of the National Park System, comprise a land of superlatives: granite mountains, deep canyons, and magnificent forests.

This is a region whose lines and angles have been refined and softened by the elements after the crude sculpting of the earth in upheaval was accomplished. The great Sierra Nevada itself constitutes a huge block of the earth's crust uplifted and tilted westward in several major events in earth history. This tilting increased the speed of rivers and their cutting force. Then glaciers of the great ice age further gouged out the magnificent canyons to about their present depth.

These glaciers of the ice age quarried the canyons wider and deeper, gouging out huge natural amphitheatres called cirques in the higher mountain crests. Scooped-out basins later became lakes. When the glaciers melted back in retreat, the stage was set for renewed plant growth.

The giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) escaped the last ice age and stands as a survivor of an ancient lineage

of huge trees which once mantled much of the earth millions of years ago. Today, these trees grow nowhere else except in the scattered groves on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada range. The story of their survival is told at campfire programs, visitors centers, and wayside exhibits here in the parks. So too is the story of geological processes and forces shaping these lands, for these are in many ways one and the same story.

Open year round, the Generals Highway is the main road that connects Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. It winds through the sequoia belt and covers 74 kilometers (46 miles), a pleasant two-hour drive from the Ash Mountain Entrance to Grant Grove. Several branch roads take you to other scenic attractions, or to within a short walk of them along well developed and maintained paths or trails.

From Grant Grove you travel 48 kilometers (30 miles) on Calif. 180 through Sequoia National Forest and along the South Fork of the Kings River to Cedar Grove. The road then continues for 10 kilometers (6 miles) through the canyon to Roads End, where you can stand at the foot of solid granite walls towering hundreds of meters above the canyon floor. The road to Cedar Grove is closed from about November 1 to May 1.

Pacific Crest Trail follows the John Muir Trail to Crabtree and from there south over Siberian Pass.

Use U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangle maps in the backcountry.

No road crosses the Sierra east to west in Sequoia or Kings Canyon National Parks.



SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Obelisk
2957m
9700ft

Cedar Grove
See other side for detail

Grant Grove
See other side for detail

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

Stony Creek facilities
include food, lodging, gas,
grocery store, and stable.

Redwood Mountain
Grove

Big Baldy
2502m
8209ft

Giant Forest
See other side for detail

Pear Lake

Charlotte Lake

Rae Lakes

ONION VALLEY

INYO NATIONAL
FOREST

Crystal Cave
Area open summer only

Potwisha

Buckeye Flat

Silver City is a private
community located within
the Park. Limited facilities
include cabins, food, gas,
and grocery store.

Bearpaw Meadow

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

Crabtree

Rock Creek

Ash Mountain
Park Headquarters

Hospital Rock

Atwell Mill

Cold Springs

Pack Station

Mineral King

Lookout Point

Hockett Meadow

Franklin Pass
3560m
11680ft

Kern Canyon

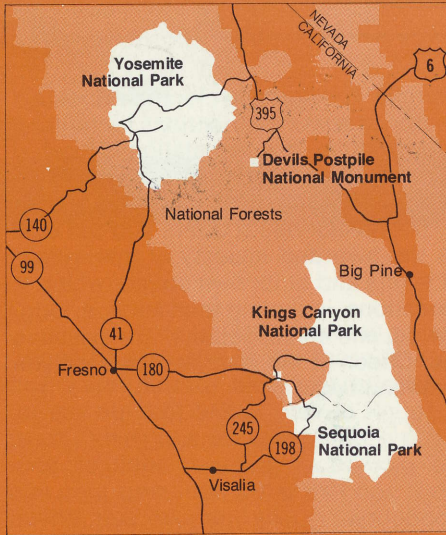
To Visalia and
State Route 99

0 1 2 3 4 5 kilometers

0 1 2 3 4 5 miles



Locator Map



Legend



Ranger Station



Amphitheater



Interpretive Trail



Picnic Area



Campground



Trailer Sanitary Station



Grocery Store



Stable



Lodging



Food Service



Gas Station



Post Office



Winter Recreation Area



National Forest Stable



National Forest Campsite

Help make your visit accident-free. Be cautious near park waters, especially during the spring. Drive winding roads with care. Keep your distance from wildlife—animals can be dangerous.

High elevations aggravate heart problems. Use good judgment in activities. Thunderstorms pose lightning hazards—stay in your car or cabin.

Keep pets off trails and under physical

control at all times. Store foods properly so they will not attract wildlife.

Please observe park laws and avoid common violations for firearms, alcohol and drugs; traffic

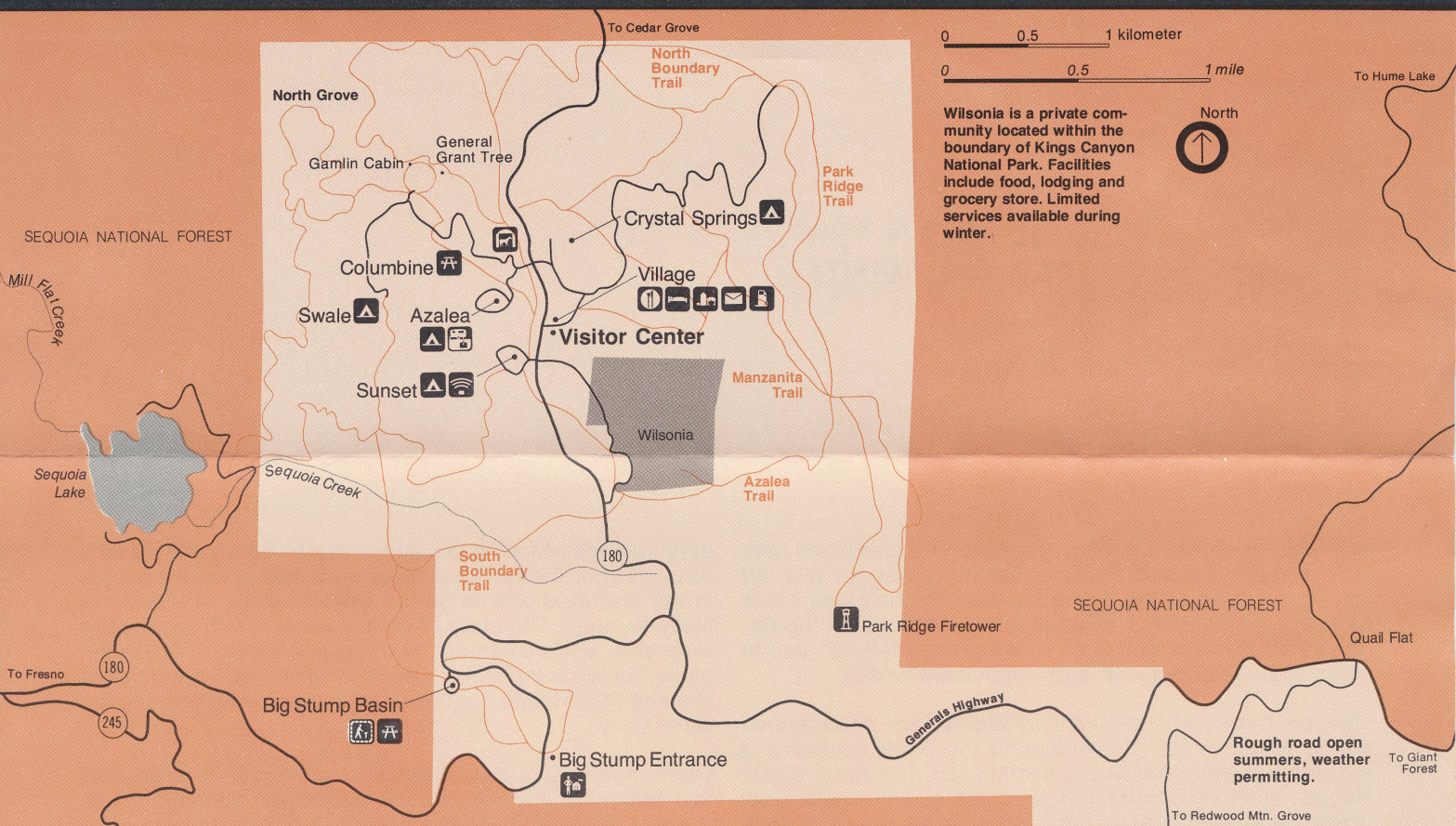
safety; and destruction and collection of natural features. Camp and build fires only in the areas designated. Rangers will answer your questions.

▼ Grant Grove

Enlargements of popular areas in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are shown below to help you plan your visit and get around while in the

parcs. The legend for the large map on the reverse shows the meaning of the symbols on this side, too. Use it and the brief descriptions accompanying each

map blow-up to decide how you want to spend your time here to enjoy this striking wilderness landscape and its tremendous trees.



Here at Grant Grove you can see the nation's Christmas tree, the General Grant. Another notable giant stands nearby, the Robert E. Lee tree. The weathered Centennial Stump draws a striking contrast to these giant survivors. It is the remnant of a tree felled in 1875 to provide an exhibit for the Philadelphia World's Fair. Near here is the Big Stump Basin where ancient trees were cut down during the early logging era. **Visitor Center.** Stop at the Grant Grove Visitor Center to check on the facilities, services, activities, and programs available in this part of the park. Symbols on the map (see legend) indicate many of these. Current lists of interpretive services are maintained here. Check out these many ways to enjoy the park provided for the enjoyment of you and

your family. **Market and Gas Station.** The market here offers general supplies, including fishing tackle and licenses. Gasoline, mechanical services and towing are available too. **Horseback riding.** Day trips operate out of Grant Grove, providing a more intimate way to see the park than by driving through in your car. Footpaths and trails are shown on the map. Afoot you get the most moving and impressive feeling of the antiquity and awesomeness of these gigantic trees. **Accommodations.** Campgrounds (including trailer facilities), lodge and cabins, and house-keeping cabins are available.

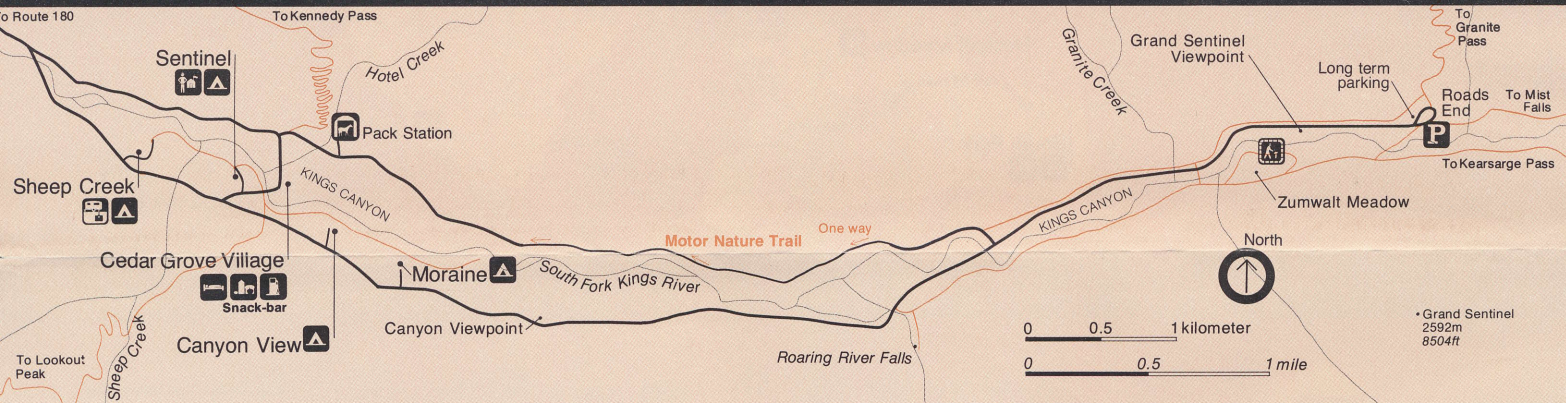
Giant Forest



Some of the finest groups of giant sequoias are found at Giant Forest. The largest—and one of the oldest—of living things is here too, the famous General Sherman Tree. Its age is estimated at about 2,500 years. **Other Attractions** include Crescent Meadow, Crystal Cave, Tokopah Valley, and impressive Moro Rock. Both Moro Rock and Little Baldy reward short climbs with superb views of valley, forest, and high mountain scenery. **Visitor Centers** flank the Giant Forest area at Lodgepole and Ash Mountain headquarters (see large map on reverse). Stop at one or both of these centers to check on current activities, programs, facilities, and services available during your stay in the parks. Interpretive services are posted and are also listed in your copy of the *Sequoia Bark*, the park newspaper. These can add immensely to the enjoyment of your experience in the Giant Forest and

throughout the parks. **Trails** in the Giant Forest are many and varied, giving you foot access to fishing, tree groves, scenic outlooks, and delightful meadows. Afoot on these trails you gain perhaps the greatest appreciation for the glimpse of nature that these spectacular wilderness parks afford. **Food Service** and/or lodging are offered at Giant Forest Village and Lodgepole. Check the map and legend for appropriate symbols. You can bring your own food and picnic at, for example, Wolvorton. Buy food supplies, souvenirs, fishing tackle and licenses, etc. here in Giant Forest too. **Winter Activities** center around Wolvorton, the season running from approximately November through May. The downhill ski and snow play areas are at Wolvorton; ski touring centers around Giant Forest Village.

▼ Cedar Grove



Cedar Grove nestles in a thickly forested area on the banks of the South Fork of the Kings River. Here you are in an impressive steep-walled valley whose peaks rise above you to heights 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) above the river. **Trail Trips.** Cedar Grove is the activity hub of Kings Canyon and serves as a popular base for extensive trail trips into the surrounding high country. Zumwalt Meadow, Roaring River Falls, and Mist Falls are readily accessible. **The High Country** is a vast region of mountains, canyons, rivers, lakes, and quiet meadows. The Sierra Crest forms the eastern boundary of the parks and its elevation ranges from 3,353 meters (11,000 feet) to 4,418 meters (14,495 feet) at the summit of Mount Whitney, the tallest peak in the contiguous 48 states. High country trails are generally open from early July through October. **Camping Areas** at Sentinel, Sheep Creek, Canyon View, and Moraine are generally open from late April to late

October, as weather permits. There are no electrical hookups in any camps and no water or sewer connections for trailers. However, a travel trailer sanitary disposal station is located at the Sheep Creek campground. **Horseback Riding** is offered at the pack station—see symbol on map. Next to exploring the area afoot, horseback riding offers you the best chance to experience the awe and majesty of this wilderness more on its own terms and at its own speed, which is natural time. **Accommodations**, including food service, lodging, campers' supply store, and service station are available at Cedar Grove village. Check at the Ranger Station if you have any questions or difficulties.