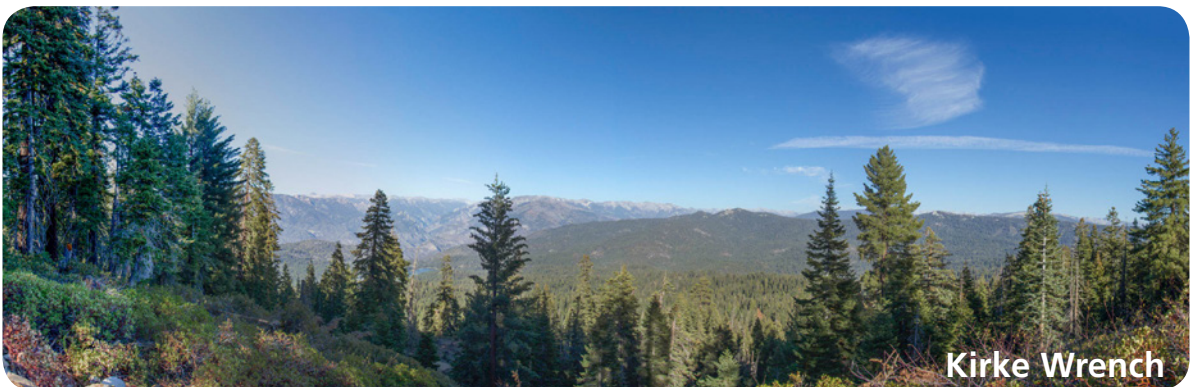




# Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Accessibility Guide







# Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Accessibility Guide

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# Welcome

Welcome to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks! This guide highlights accessible services, facilities, and activities. In the first section, you will find general accessibility information to help plan your visit. The rest of the guide is organized by park area and includes descriptions of local accessible sites and services.

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

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## Where to Find Information

### PARK WEBSITE

Go to the park website [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) for trip planning information, condition updates, park newspaper, educational resources, and more. The National Park Service website at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) has additional in-depth resources to make the most out of your national park experience.

### PARK NEWSPAPER AND MAP

The official park map and newspaper, both available at park entrances, have information about park services and activities. Cell service and internet is very limited in the parks, and GPS can be unreliable. Use the park map or ask for directions at visitor centers. Braille editions of the official park map are available at visitor centers.

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## PARK APP

### The free, official **NPS Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks**

App features several accessibility options to help visitors with disabilities plan their trip and travel through the parks. The app includes audio-guided tours and audio descriptions of outdoor exhibits and park features. View accessibility information for each park site and facility, or filter map results to show wheelchair-accessible sites.

Download the app before arriving at the parks, or use the public WiFi at Foothills or Kings Canyon visitor centers. Go to the settings menu to download app content for offline use (required in most areas of the parks) and enable accessibility options.

## VISITOR CENTERS

Several visitor centers and one museum are located throughout the park. These information centers offer trip planning help, interpretive exhibits, ranger programs and several other services. Open hours vary by season. Foothills, Lodgepole, and Kings Canyon visitor centers are wheelchair-accessible.

## Contact Information

### PARKS CONTACT INFORMATION

For general park inquiries, including current weather and traffic:

- (559) 565-3341

Sequoia and Kings Canyon  
National Parks  
47050 Generals Highway  
Three Rivers, CA 93271-9700  
Email: [seki\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:seki_information@nps.gov)



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Individuals who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, or have speech disabilities may utilize the following Relay Service numbers:

- TTY Federal Relay Service (800) 877-8339
- Voice Carry Over (VCO) (877) 877-6280
- Speech-to-Speech (877) 877-8982
- Spanish (800) 845-6136
- TeleBraille Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (866) 893-8340

## **OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION**

The National Park Service works with partners and other federal agencies, to protect these lands and provide memorable visitor experiences.

### **Sequoia Parks Conservancy**

Sequoia Parks Conservancy, the official nonprofit partner to these parks, operates Crystal Cave and

other specialty tours, park stores, the Dark Sky Festival, and the Field Institute.

- Phone: (559) 561-4813.

### **Delaware North Company**

Delaware North Company provides lodging and dining options in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks at Cedar Grove, Grant Grove, and Lodgepole.

Operating hours vary by season.

- Reservations: (888) 807-3598

### **Silver City Resort**

Located near Mineral King, the Silver City Mountain Resort offers lodging, dining, and a gift shop.

- Reservations: (559) 242-3510

### **US Forest Service**

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are bordered by land managed by the US Forest Service. If you drive between the Giant Forest and Grant Grove, you'll briefly leave the national parks and drive

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through the Sequoia National Forest. The forest contains many campgrounds, trails, and lodges. Learn more about these facilities in the park newspaper or call the Hume Lake Ranger District office at 559-338-2251 (TDD available).



## **CELL SERVICE AND INTERNET**

Cell phone service is only available for specific carriers near park entrance stations. Free wireless internet is available at Foothills and Kings Canyon visitor centers.

## **Obtaining an Access Pass**

The free Access Pass is available for all U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. This pass covers admission at more than 2,000 federal recreation sites, including national parks, wildlife refuges, national forests, BLM sites, and more. The Access Pass also

provides a discount on some federal facilities and services fees, such as camping. The pass generally does not apply to special recreation permit fees or fees at businesses in the parks, including Crystal Cave tickets.

To get your pass, ask at any park entrance station. You'll be asked to sign a form confirming your eligibility. Medical documentation is not required. You can also obtain a pass through the mail with an application and \$10 processing fee. Go to [www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm](http://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm) for a printable application and more information.

## **Service Animals**

Service animals are welcome in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, including all trails, facilities, campgrounds, and ranger programs. As defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is any dog (or miniature

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horse) that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. They do not include emotional support, comfort, or companion animals; animals used for crime deterrence; service animals in training; or any type of pet.

Service animals must be under control and on a leash, except when a leash interferes with the service animal's tasks. Beware—taking service animals into areas where wildlife is common carries unique risks. Animal food attracts bears and must be kept in bear-resistant storage containers. Dogs may trigger an aggressive response from animals, even deer. They may put you at an increased risk for confrontation with bears, coyotes, and other wildlife. Also, disease can be passed between dogs and wildlife. Keep animals close, securely store their food in wildlife-resistant food storage containers or your car, and

properly dispose of waste to help prevent the spread of disease. Remember to check your animal for ticks, which are common year-round.

If you're heading into the backcountry, treat water from rivers, streams, and lakes before drinking, as waterways that may contain giardia can infect both humans and dogs. If camping, keep your service animal in your tent at night.

## **For People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

### **ASL INTERPRETERS AND TOURS**

#### **National Park Service Ranger Programs**

American Sign Language interpretation is available at no cost for any scheduled program. Please submit a request at least seven days in advance,



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preferably two weeks, to allow time to schedule an interpreter. Call (559) 565-3729 or email [seki\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:seki_information@nps.gov).

## **Crystal Cave Tours by Sequoia Parks Conservancy**

Assistive Listening Devices and American Sign Language translations are available for Crystal Cave tours. American Sign Language translation is provided via videos on a tablet, which can be taken into the cave. Naturalists will indicate when to play each video. More information on Crystal Cave tours is found in the Giant Forest/Lodgepole section of this guide.



## **CAPTIONING AND ASSISTIVE LISTENING**

Captioning, audio description, and assistive listening are available for all visitor center films. Ask for receivers and earphones

at information desks. Receivers are compatible with T-coil hearing aids. Assistive listening devices are also available at amphitheater programs.



## **LODGING**

Wuksachi Lodge has rooms with visual alarms and notification devices, available upon request. Request this service by calling (866) 807-3598.

## **For People Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired**



## **AUDIO DESCRIPTION**

Download the official park app, **NPS Sequoia & Kings Canyon**, for audio descriptions of outdoor exhibits and other features found throughout the parks.



## BRAILLE AND TACTILE EXHIBITS

You may borrow a Braille version of the official park map at park visitor centers.

Outdoor exhibits along the Grant Tree Trail have Braille text and tactile features. Kings Canyon Visitor Center and Hospital Rock Picnic Area have tactile interpretive exhibits. Tactile topographic models are available outside Cedar Grove Visitor Center and Mineral King Ranger Station.

## For People with Limited Mobility



### ACCESSIBLE PARKING

All striped and paved parking lots in Sequoia and Kings Canyon have at least one parking space that is designated accessible, including van parking with access aisles. Unmarked spaces are generally paved and

even. Some, however, include slopes or limited space.

Temporary accessible-parking placards are available for people who have limited mobility but do not have a DMV-issued, accessible-parking placard or driver's license. Ask at visitor centers for a placard. No documentation is required.

In summer, parking at the Big Trees Trail and the General Sherman Tree accessible parking areas is only available with an accessible parking placard.



### BORROW A WHEELCHAIR

Borrow a manual wheelchair at Giant Forest Museum, Lodgepole Visitor Center, or Kings Canyon Visitor Center. Wheelchairs are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Be prepared to provide your address and phone number. Wheelchairs may be used anywhere in the

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parks, but must be returned to the visitor center where they were borrowed by closing time on the same day.



## SEQUOIA SHUTTLE

In summers and during some winter holidays, free shuttles provide service to visitor centers, campgrounds, trails, and other points of interest throughout the Giant Forest and Lodgepole areas. The shuttle also offers service from Visalia and Three Rivers, California, with the park entrance fee included in the fare (reservations required). For reservations, visit [www.sequoiashuttle.com](http://www.sequoiashuttle.com) or call (877) BUS-HIKE. All shuttles are wheelchair-accessible and drivers announce all stops. The shuttle schedule can be found at the website above, or in your park newspaper.



## LODGING

Wuksachi Lodge in Sequoia National Park and John Muir Lodge in Kings Canyon National Park have rooms with roll-in showers, widened doors, grab bars in toilet stalls, raised toilet seats, low-density carpet, and peepholes at a lower height. Beds are between 24 and 29 inches in height, depending on room type. Lodge parking and common areas follow ADA standards. Learn more by calling (866) 807-3598.



## TRAILS

Park trails range from paved and accessible, to rugged and leading deep into wilderness. Get trail information online and at visitor centers, and check current conditions before heading out. Trail conditions and accessibility can change quickly due to weather, falling trees, rockfall, erosion, flooding, snow, and more. Park crews



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work as quickly as possible to clear obstacles, but conditions may differ from descriptions, especially from fall through late spring.

## **CAMPGROUNDS**

Campsites designated as accessible are available in most campgrounds. Each of these sites generally includes an extended picnic table, raised fire ring, raised grill, accessible parking space, level tent pad, food storage locker within reach, and stable and level paths to campground facilities. Some park campsites may not be designated as accessible, but may be suitable depending on your abilities.

First-come, first-served accessible campsites are available for general use if unoccupied after 5:00 pm. Please contact a campground host or park ranger if an accessible site is improperly occupied before 5:00 pm while other sites remain available.

## **RESTAURANTS & MARKETS**

Most dining opportunities are located at Lodgepole, Grant Grove Village, and Cedar Grove. Restaurants and markets in Sequoia and Kings Canyon are operated by Delaware North Company and generally follow ADA guidelines.

## **PICNICKING**

Picnic areas with spots that are designated as accessible include accessible parking, at least one extended picnic table, and accessible restrooms. Some also feature wheelchair-accessible barbecue grills. Not all picnic areas are accessible.

## **VISITOR CENTERS**

Foothills, Lodgepole, and Kings Canyon visitor centers, and Giant Forest Museum are wheelchair-accessible. However, the historic Cedar Grove Visitor Center building has barriers (uneven thresholds, narrow passages)

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that may impede the use of some mobility devices. Mineral King Ranger Station is only reachable by stairs.



## **RANGER PROGRAMS**

Rangers offer a variety of programs, including visitor center talks, walks, evening programs, and special events. Many ranger walks are on short, paved paths, but some involve navigating rugged terrain. Evening programs are generally held in campground amphitheaters with bench seating and assistive listening devices available. Check at visitor centers or campground bulletin boards for program descriptions, times, and accessibility information.



## **WINTER**

Winter in Sequoia and Kings Canyon is beautiful, but can bring its own challenges. Check weather conditions before your trip. Although some years see

very little snow, winter storms may cover the parks in snow and ice as late as Memorial Day. Some park roads close or have reduced access, including access to Kings Canyon and Mineral King. The Generals Highway and Highway 180 are regularly plowed, but tire chains are occasionally required. In severe weather conditions, the highway between Giant Forest and Grant Village may close.

Two paved trails, the Big Trees Trail in Giant Forest and the Grant Tree Trail in Grant Grove, are both open in winter. Due to rapidly changing weather conditions, however, these trails may not always be accessible.

Rangers offer free snowshoe walks from Giant Forest Museum and Kings Canyon Visitor Center, conditions permitting. Assistive snowshoes and poles for balance stabilization are available.



## AMPHITHEATERS

In the summer, check at visitor centers and campground bulletin boards for evening ranger program schedules. Some amphitheaters are within campgrounds, but programs are open to everyone. Some amphitheaters have parking and restrooms nearby. Seating consists of wooden benches on a slight to moderate slope. Assistive listening devices are available for programs.



## RESTROOMS

Accessible restrooms with sinks and flush toilets are located at all major developed areas within the parks. Some picnic areas, campgrounds, and other more rustic locations have accessible vault toilets with sinks. Accessible restrooms have routes with a wide turning radius and grab bars. Sinks are at an approachable height with front wheelchair clearance and water

faucets are operable with a closed fist. Utilities are generally within reach range.



## SHOWERS

Accessible pay showers are available at Lodgepole Market and Cedar Grove Village. Showers are open during market business hours.



## VIEWPOINTS & OVERLOOKS

Scenic viewpoints and pull-outs are located throughout Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, primarily on the Generals Highway and Highway 180 between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove. Most do not have designated or striped parking, but are on flat asphalt. Many viewsheds are visible without exiting your vehicle.



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# The Foothills Area of Sequoia National Park

The foothills of the Sierra Nevada are dry, tough and rugged, and very hot from May through October. It is the most diverse region of the park, inhabited by unique plants and animals that have adapted to its dry climate. Deep river canyons cut through the rolling hills, offering great recreation opportunities for fishing and swimming.

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## FEATURED EXPERIENCES

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### Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Known as *Pah-din* by local Native Americans, Hospital Rock provides a place to picnic, hike to the river, view pictographs, and enjoy accessible exhibits. Adjacent to the parking lot, you will find exhibits describing why Hospital Rock is a special place for diverse groups of people, especially for California Native Americans. The exhibit includes some audio material and three tactile panels.

A paved, moderately-sloped path leads to an accessible flush toilet, a water fountain, and picnic tables. There is one extended picnic table on a paved, level area. This accessible picnic site also includes a grill.

Cross the highway from the parking lot to discover pictographs, bedrock mortars, and to reach the river. The area around the pictographs, while flat, is bound by two roads—beware of traffic approaching with limited visibility. Access to the pictographs viewing platform is via a set of short, steep stairs. For those with limited mobility, the pictograph can be seen from ground level with binoculars.

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The area around the bedrock mortars is relatively flat and paved. Near the bedrock mortars, a steep, narrow, and hard-packed path with some stairs leads to the river.

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Parking: There are two designated accessible parking spaces at the picnic area with a shared access aisle. They are on a significant slope that may not meet everyone's needs.

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## Tunnel Rock

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The historic Generals Highway once went through this tunnel, blasted through the rock by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Now, it's a popular photo spot with iconic views. Access to the base of the rock and the tunnel is level and paved. Be aware—poison oak is common here.

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Parking: Two designated accessible parking spaces are available on the Tunnel Rock side of the road. Parking is on a slight slope, and does not include access aisles.

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## Historic Park Entrance Sign

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Take a picture at the historic Sequoia Park Entrance Sign. A steep, rocky trail goes to the river, and is not suitable for those using mobility devices.

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Parking: A slight slope leads from an accessible parking space to the wooden sign.

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## OTHER EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

- Wildflowers

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## FACILITIES AND SERVICES

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### Foothills Visitor Center and Picnic Area

A native plant garden with a 4-foot wide (1.2 m) gravel path and three benches is just outside the visitor center. Nearby are accessible flush restrooms and a drinking fountain. The picnic area across the street has one extended picnic table on an uneven, hard-packed dirt surface.

The visitor center doors include a power-assist button. Inside the building, there are tactile educational exhibits, which are generally accessible to visitors using wheelchairs. Rangers can provide park information at a low desk, although it does not provide knee clearance. Borrow a Braille version of the official park map [here](#).

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Parking: The parking area includes a 15-foot-wide (4.5 m) accessible parking space adjacent to a paved path to the entrance. An additional wide accessible parking space is available at the picnic area across from the road.

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### Campgrounds

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#### Potwisha Campground

Potwisha Campground offers 42 tent and RV campsites. Sites 30 and 40 are designated accessible and have accessible food storage containers, extended picnic tables, wheelchair-accessible grills, a hard-packed and level tent pad, and a designated accessible parking space. The campground and some campsites are on a significant slope, which may make access to all campground facilities difficult. The campground has accessible flush restrooms, a water spigot, and sink.



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## Buckeye Flat Campground

Open seasonally, from late March to late October, Buckeye Flat Campground has 28 tent-only campsites. RVs and trailers are not allowed in the campground, or on the narrow, winding road to the campground. Sites 20 and 40 are designated as accessible. The campground has accessible flush toilets and a water spigot. The campsite registration is up a steep, paved slope. Ask the campground host or a ranger if you would like assistance. If no one is available, proceed to your site and look for a ranger the following morning.

Site 20 has an extended picnic table, a food storage container, fire ring, a level tent pad on a hard-packed surface, and a designated accessible parking space. A raised grill is available,

although there is limited clear surrounding space. There is a level, concrete path to campground facilities. The route from the parking space to the campsite is up a moderately-steep, paved ramp.

Site 40 has an extended picnic table, a food storage container, a raised fire ring and raised grill, a level tent pad on a hard-packed surface, and a designated accessible parking space. The campsite is flat and mostly paved, with wide pathways for wheelchair access.

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## South Fork Campground

South Fork Campground is 19 miles (30 km) from the Ash Mountain Entrance Station and can be reached via South Fork Drive, a narrow, rough dirt road 6 miles (9.6 km) south of the main park entrance. The campground has 10 tent sites open year-round. Trailers and RVs are not permitted in the campground. There are vault toilets, however, drinking water is not available here. While there are currently no designated accessible campsites, we are dedicated to improving sites in the near future.

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## Potwisha Amphitheater

Assistive listening devices are available for programs held at the amphitheater.

The amphitheater is located in Potwisha Campground and is reached by a short, unpaved path near campsite 2. It includes rows of backless benches. Some stargazing programs may encourage participants to walk across the Generals Highway to a paved overflow parking area.

## OTHER FACILITIES & SERVICES

- WiFi: At visitor center
- RV dump station
- Pay phones

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# The Giant Forest and Lodgepole Areas of Sequoia National Park

The Giant Forest, home of the world's largest tree, is also one of the largest sequoia groves. At more than 2,000 acres (8 km<sup>2</sup>), there are many ways to explore. Roads and trails wind throughout the forest, offering opportunities to view the big trees, see lush meadows, and possibly spot wildlife.

The Lodgepole area is a hub for services and amenities. A visitor center, lodging, dining, and a market are some of the features that make it a popular and convenient place to stay the night.

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## FEATURED EXPERIENCES

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### General Sherman Tree

See the largest tree in the world along a wheelchair-accessible trail. A paved, slightly-sloped path leads to several named sequoias, including the General Sherman tree. The trail is about 500 feet (150 m) long and features benches and educational exhibits.

At the trailhead, an information board includes a map with information on accessible parking, wheelchair-accessible portions of the trail, and trail length. Some outdoor exhibits along the trail have good contrast, large type, and allow for a forward approach.

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Parking in Summer: Parking is available at the Sherman Tree Accessible Parking Area and Trailhead. Five additional designated accessible parking spaces are available at the Main Sherman Tree Parking Area, located approximately 0.5 miles (0.8 km) from of the Sherman Tree Accessible Parking Area. These spaces accommodate cars and vans, and include access aisles and curb cuts. From here, take an accessible shuttle to the Sherman Tree Accessible parking Area and Accessible Trailhead.

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Parking in Winter: Accessible parking is located at the Sherman Tree Accessible Parking Area only. Fewer accessible designated spaces exist in winter.

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## Crystal Cave

From late May through September, Sequoia Parks Conservancy offers tours of a marble cavern. This tour is not wheelchair-accessible and visitors with limited mobility may have difficulty on the steep, narrow trail to the cave. The trail is 0.5-mile (0.8 km) to the cave entrance, descends 300 feet (91 m) from the parking area and includes several sets of stairs. Tours are 45 minutes and travel another 0.5 miles (0.8 km) in the cave along a path with low lighting.

People who are Deaf or hard of hearing can enjoy the tour presented in American Sign Language or with Assistive Listening Devices available. Ask at the trailhead for assistance. American Sign Language translation is provided via videos on a tablet, which can be taken into the cave.



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Naturalists will indicate when to play each video. No advance notice is required for these accessibility accommodations, but tour tickets must be purchased in advance before traveling to the cave. Buy tickets online at [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) at least two days in advance. A limited number of tickets may also be available at Foothills and Lodgepole Visitor Centers. For those who can't visit in person, a Crystal Cave video is sold at park stores.

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Parking: Accessible parking spaces are located at the Moro Rock parking lot and the Crescent Meadow parking lot.

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## **Beetle Rock Vista**

A short, sloped, paved trail leads to a granite-topped vista point with views stretching to the coastal range on clear days.

Accessible parking is adjacent to the Beetle Rock trail, but is on an incline.

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Parking: There are two designated accessible spaces near the beginning of the short path that leads to Beetle Rock. One of the spaces has an access aisle, and both spaces have moderate sloping surfaces.

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## **Auto Touring Along the Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow Road**

Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow Road is open to vehicles with accessible parking placards, even when closed to other private vehicles in summer. In the summer, you can also take wheelchair-accessible park shuttles to sites along this road.

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Parking: Accessible parking spaces are located at the Moro Rock parking lot and the Crescent Meadow parking lot.

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## Big Trees Trail

Follow this 0.75-mile (1 km) paved trail around Round Meadow and learn more about giant sequoias. The moderately-sloped paved path includes a long section of boardwalk around the far side of the meadow. Dispersed resting areas include benches with back rests, space for companion seating, and outdoor exhibits. Exhibits are generally situated at level landings with pullouts and sufficient space for people in wheelchairs to pass, while allowing for a side approach. Restrooms with a level entrance, clear interior circulation, handrails, and flush toilets are located at the trailhead. Nearby is a water bottle filling station

that is operable with a closed fist. The paved route from the restrooms is slightly sloped, then levels out.

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Parking: At the trailhead, there is a dedicated accessible lot with nine designated parking spaces—they do not have access aisles. The paved route to the trail from the parking area is wide and slightly sloped. The trail can also be reached from Giant Forest Museum via a 0.25-mile (0.4 km) paved path. This route is moderately sloped.

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## OTHER EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

- Sequoia groves
- Winter activities (typically available December-February)

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## FACILITIES AND SERVICES

### Visitor Centers

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#### Giant Forest Museum

The plaza area outside the museum includes a kiosk on a level landing. Benches in the plaza area are on a slightly-sloping grade. Some of the benches provide space for companion seating. Area outdoor exhibits are located on a firm, stable, slightly-sloped surface. Shuttle stop waiting areas here include benches. Exterior restrooms are not accessible, however, an accessible restroom is available inside the museum. A water bottle filling station is operable with a closed fist.

The museum entrance features a double plate automatic door. Inside, the information desk includes both high and low counter space.

A water fountain is available near the interior accessible restroom, and is operable with less than five pounds of pressure. The museum features tactile exhibits within reach range, with displays at low levels, and with a front approach.

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**Parking:** The parking lot adjacent to the museum and shuttle stop is a dedicated accessible lot. A paved, level route provides access from parking to the museum entrance.

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#### Lodgepole Visitor Center

The visitor center is typically open May through mid-October. The entrance to the visitor center has low-energy, power-operated door with two push buttons, one at wheelchair height and another within a kick zone. The visitor center's interior has barrier-free access to interpretive exhibits, the park store, and a

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standing-height ranger desk. Audio description and assistive listening devices are available upon request for park films.

Outside the visitor center, there are dual-height drinking fountains with a water bottle filling station and a lowered pay phone. Accessible restrooms are available around the side of the building.

## **Campgrounds (open seasonally)**

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### **Lodgepole Campground**

Campsites 62 and 63 are designated accessible and have accessible parking spaces, picnic tables that accommodate wheelchairs, raised grills, and level tent pads on firm and natural surfaces. There is a clear route from the tent pad to the barbecue grill, and a paved route to the accessible restrooms and accessible water spigot.

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Parking: A central parking lot includes six designated accessible auto/van parking spaces that are moderately sloped. A comfort station is located next to the parking lot and provides accessible restrooms.

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### **Dorst Creek Campground**

Campsites 6, 11, 172–175, 177, and 180 are designated accessible. These sites feature paved accessible parking, level tent pads, grills, picnic tables, and access paths to campground facilities.

### **Amphitheaters (open seasonally)**

Assisted listening devices are available at ranger programs held at amphitheaters.



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## Lodgepole Amphitheater

Amphitheater seating consists of wooden benches on a moderately-sloped surface. Companion seating is available at the exterior ends of benches, although no formal companion seating spaces are designated. Comfort stations are not available at the amphitheater and the nearest bathrooms are located in the campgrounds or at the parking lot.

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Parking: Use the far end of the campground parking lot to access the amphitheater. There are no designated accessible parking spaces near the amphitheater. A wide, moderately-sloped, wheelchair-accessible, paved path leads from the parking lot to the amphitheater.

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## Dorst Creek Amphitheater

Located in Dorst Creek Campground, this amphitheater seating consists of wooden benches on a moderately-sloped surface. Companion seating space is available, though no formal companion seating is designated. Visitors must climb steps to reach a steep, paved path to the amphitheater. The amphitheater cannot be reached by wheelchair.

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Parking: The parking lot is located below steep, paved path to the amphitheater.

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## Picnic Areas (open seasonally)

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### Crescent Meadow Picnic Area

Limited facilities are available at this picnic area. This area

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has accessible vault toilets, some accessible parking spaces with significant slopes, and no extended picnic tables. A wheelchair-accessible shuttle stops here in summer.

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## Pinewood Picnic Area

One mile (1.6 km) north of Giant Forest Museum, Pinewood Picnic Area has one extended picnic table, accessible parking, raised grills, water fountains, and accessible vault toilets. Sites are available for single family or group picnics.

## OTHER FACILITIES & SERVICES

- Wheelchair loan: Check out a manual wheelchair at the Giant Forest Museum or Lodgepole Visitor Center free, on a first-come, first-served basis. They can be taken throughout the parks but must be returned to the original visitor center by closing time on the same day.
- Shuttles (summer, some winter holidays): Free shuttles stop at locations throughout Giant Forest and Lodgepole. All shuttles are wheelchair-accessible and drivers announce each stop.
- Laundry (summer only): Located at the Lodgepole Market, the laundromat and machines are wheelchair-accessible.
- Accessible showers (summer only): Roll-in showers with a free-standing bench are available at Lodgepole Market.
- RV dump stations (open seasonally): Located near Lodgepole and Dorst Creek campgrounds
- Accessible Restrooms (winter location): Behind the Lodgepole Market. Obtain key inside the market.

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# The Grant Grove Area of Kings Canyon National Park

Grant Grove, located near the Highway 180 entrance to Kings Canyon National Park, protects a unique mix of natural and human history. Large stumps scattered throughout the area's sequoia groves show evidence of historic logging. Fortunately, many of sequoias escaped the saw, including the second-largest tree in the world, the General Grant Tree.

Grant Grove Village has many services and amenities that make it a convenient place to stop for the day or stay the night. Many campgrounds and lodging options are available and all are centrally located around the village and visitor center.

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## FEATURED EXPERIENCES

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### Grant Tree Trail

This 0.3-mile (0.5 km) trail winds through a sequoia grove, passing a historic cabin and the General Grant Tree, the world's second-largest tree. The trail also features tactile information panels, with raised illustrations

and Braille text. While paved, the trail has steep sections and is not designated as wheelchair-accessible. A separate short trail that leads around the General Grant Tree includes stairs, but can be bypassed to complete the loop. Benches are placed at pullouts along the trail. The historic Gamlin Cabin has a raised threshold at its entry, although the interior is visible from the trail.

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Parking: There is one accessible parking space, accessible flush restrooms, and drinking fountains.

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## **Panoramic Point Overlook**

Open seasonally, Panoramic Point has a 0.5-mile (0.8 km) paved, moderately-steep trail leads to views of Hume Lake and Sierra Nevada wilderness. The trail has a 75-foot (23 m) elevation gain, with a 6.5% average grade and a top grade of 8.5%. Start at the southeast end of the parking lot and take a left turn at the fork to reach the viewpoint, where there are benches and outdoor exhibits. Turn back to the parking lot, or continue up the steeper trail for an additional viewpoint and a loop path back to the parking lot.

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Parking: There is one accessible parking space and accessible vault restrooms. Nearby are extended picnic tables on paved or compact dirt surfaces. Panoramic Point Road closes when snow makes conditions impassible.

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## **Soundscapes Exhibit**

At Kings Canyon Visitor Center, immerse yourself in the diverse soundscapes of the parks, from birds calling in the grassy foothills to bighorn sheep clashing high in the mountains. This accessible exhibit features high-quality audio paired with open-captioned video.

## **OTHER EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES**

- Winter recreation (December-February)
- Horseback riding (summer only)
- Sequoia groves



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## FACILITIES AND SERVICES

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### Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Accessible restrooms are available outside the visitor center and also in the village restaurant. Outside the visitor center, you'll also find a lowered pay phone, water fountains, a water bottle filling station, and benches.

Kings Canyon Visitor Center features barrier-free access to educational exhibits, films, information, and a park store. Rangers provide information at low and standing desks. A park film shows in a small theater with bench seating and wheelchair space. Ask at the information desk for assistive listening and audio description receivers to use for the film. The exhibit hall also includes 3D, tactile models of local wildlife.

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Parking: The Grant Grove Village parking lot has five designated accessible spaces with access aisles. A wide, paved route provides access from the parking lot to the visitor center, restrooms, restaurant, and market center.

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### Campgrounds (open seasonally)

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#### Azalea Campground

Site 30 is designated accessible. It is relatively level with a tent pad and firm and stable surfaces. The site features an accessible parking space, an extended picnic table, a raised fire ring, and connects to the fee station and accessible restroom via the flat, paved campground road.

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#### Crystal Springs Campground

Group site F is designated as accessible for people with limited

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mobility. It includes an extended picnic table and a designated accessible parking space.

However, the campfire ring is not raised and the path to the restroom is unpaved.

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## **Sunset Campground**

Sites 26 and 116 are accessible and feature a paved accessible parking space, a level tent pad, raised grill, and accessible picnic table. Paved routes lead to campground facilities, including accessible flush restrooms.

### **Amphitheaters (open seasonally)**

Assisted listening system devices are available for ranger programs held at the amphitheater.

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## **Sunset Amphitheater**

Near Sunset Campground, this amphitheater is just south of Grant Grove Village on Highway 180. A wide, paved,

gently-sloped route leads from an unmarked, paved parking lot to the amphitheater. The nearest accessible restrooms are located at the visitor center or near campsite 26. The amphitheater features backless benches with companion seating available at the ends. All seating is on a moderate slope.

### **Picnic Areas (open seasonally)**

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## **Columbine Picnic & Snowplay Area**

Although there is no designated accessible parking at this picnic area, the route from the parking area to the accessible restrooms and picnic tables is firm and stable with gentle slopes. Several picnic tables are extended, and most grills are in an accessible reach range.

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## Big Stump Picnic & Snowplay Area

Big Stump Picnic Area provides accessible picnic tables sheltered by overhead structures, as well as accessible grills. Accessible parking spaces in a paved, level parking lot are available here.

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## Panoramic Point Picnic Area

The parking lot at Panoramic Point Picnic Area and Trailhead includes one accessible parking space with a marked aisle. Paved, slightly-sloped routes lead to an accessible vault restroom and extended picnic tables, several of which are on flat pavement.

## OTHER FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- WiFi: At visitor center
- Post Office
- ATM

- Pay Phones
- Wheelchair loan: Manual wheelchairs are available free at the Kings Canyon Visitor Center on a first-come, first-served basis. They can be taken throughout the parks, but must be returned to the original visitor center by closing time on the same day.
- Lodging: John Muir Lodge and Grant Grove Cabins are managed by Delaware North. Mobility/Hearing Accessible rooms are available with roll-in showers and visual alarms and notification devices at the lodge. To learn more about accessibility at John Muir Lodge, call (866) 807-3598.
- Grant Village Market and Gift Shop: Gifts and souvenirs are available at Grant Grove Gift Shop, Kings Canyon Visitor Center Park Store, and Grant Grove Market. Groceries and supplies are available at Grant Grove Market. Interiors of these buildings are

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wheelchair-accessible, though may have narrow aisles.

- Dining: Grant Grove Restaurant is operated by Delaware North and offers indoor dining and a walk-up

window for to-go items. The restaurant is accessible to people in wheelchairs. Patio seating includes a wheelchair-accessible picnic table.

- Big Stump Snowplay Area

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## The Cedar Grove Area of Kings Canyon National Park

Cedar Grove is in the heart of the Kings Canyon, a glacially carved canyon with granite peaks, lush meadows, and a crystal clear river. Often overlooked by travelers, Cedar Grove is a great place to get away from the crowds. Spend time by the river, discover waterfalls, or explore the many scenic vistas.

*The Cedar Grove area closes in mid-November and reopens in late April when the Kings Canyon stretch of California Highway 180 is open for the season.*

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## FEATURED EXPERIENCES

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### Roaring River Falls

A 0.10-mile (0.16-km), sloped path leads to views of the canyon and a waterfall.

The paved trail is wide with a moderate to steep slope (10% running slope, over 2% cross slope). Slope varies from level landings, increasing to 12% and eventually decreasing to a gentle slope of 6%. The trail ends at small, paved landing.



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Parking: The parking area has one designated accessible space directly in front of the trail.

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## **Kings Canyon Tactile Model**

A tactile, bronze relief model illustrating the topography of Kings Canyon can be found adjacent to the entrance to the amphitheater, near the Cedar Grove Visitor Center. This model is at a reachable height for visitors using wheelchairs, is surrounded by level pavement, and is cane detectable.

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## **Muir Rock**

Muir Rock is located at an area called The Road's End. Here, you'll find a short path to Muir Rock, located along the Kings River. This large granite boulder is named in honor of the naturalist John Muir. The trail has a hard-packed dirt surface.

Nearby, a wilderness permit office has a rudimentary ramp to access the building and inquire about local trails. Cross the street from the office to reach accessible vault restrooms.

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Parking: The Road's End parking area has one van-accessible parking space and one standard accessible parking space near the wilderness permit station. An additional van-accessible parking space is available immediately adjacent to the restroom.

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## **OTHER EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES**

- Rivers, including designated Wild & Scenic Rivers
- Wildflowers
- Fishing
- Horseback Riding
- Waterfalls

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## FACILITIES & SERVICES

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### Cedar Grove Visitor Center

The historic Cedar Grove Visitor Center has a narrow doorway and interior, and high entry threshold. While it is not accessible by wheelchair, people with limited mobility can access this visitor center. A lowered pay phone is located outside the visitor center.

### Campgrounds (open seasonally)

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#### Moraine Campground

Sites 71A, 74, 103, 105, and 108 are designated accessible. Each features paved and accessible parking, a level tent site, an accessible picnic table, and a raised grill. There are accessible routes from sites to campground facilities, including an accessible restroom.

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### Sentinel Campground

Sites 10, 11, 12, and 14 are designated accessible. Each includes accessible parking, an extended picnic table, a raised fire ring, a hard-packed surface and tent site, and a paved route to an accessible restroom via the slightly-sloped campground road. Site 14 has parking for a recreational vehicle.

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### Canyon View Campground

Campsite C is designated accessible in this group campground. Within the accessible site, four of the six tent pads are accessible. The site includes fire rings with accessible grills, extended picnic tables, and a level and firm natural surface. Access routes leading to parking and accessible restrooms follow wide, slightly-sloped, gravel paths.

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## Amphitheater

Assistive listening devices are available for amphitheater programs.

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## Cedar Grove Amphitheater

Located near Cedar Grove Visitor Center, there is a paved, level, and wide path from the parking area to the gently-sloped amphitheater. Companion seating is dispersed; one space is available adjacent to the access route and the other is available at the front of the stage.

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Parking: The parking area has two designated accessible spaces located in front of Cedar Grove Visitor Center.

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## OTHER FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Laundry (summer only): The laundry room has a one-inch step at the entrance, and has

enough interior space for a wheelchair to maneuver.

- Accessible showers (summer only): Roll-in showers with a free-standing bench are available at Cedar Grove Lodge. The key is available at the front desk after tokens are purchased.
- Pay phones
- ATM
- Lodging: Cedar Grove Lodge is operated by Delaware North and does not have designated accessible rooms. A ramp leads to the Cedar Grove Lodge, Restaurant, and store.
- Cedar Grove Market and Gift Shop: Operated by Delaware North, this facility follows ADA guidelines.
- Dining: Cedar Grove Snack Bar offers food service at a standing-height counter. There is indoor and outdoor seating, which may not be wheelchair-accessible.

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# The Mineral King Area of Sequoia National Park

Take the challenging, less-traveled road to the very rustic Mineral King area, a subalpine valley surrounded by granite peaks. Experience summer wildflowers, giant sequoias, and grand vistas. Escape the crowds and enjoy the solitude as you explore the rugged Sierra Nevada landscape. Stay overnight among the sequoias at Atwell Mill Campground, or discover dark, starry skies at Cold Springs Campground.

*Mineral King Road is located off Highway 198 in Three Rivers, California and is closed November through late May. Mineral King Road is narrow, not fully paved, rutted, and not recommended for RVs. No RV camping is permitted in this area. No gas is available here.*

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## FEATURED EXPERIENCES

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### Alpine Vistas

Mineral King offers a unique opportunity for a remote and rugged park experience. The Mineral King Road ascends higher than any other park motorway, ending in Mineral King Valley at 7,800 feet

(2,377 m). Along the way, you'll find panoramic views of chaparral and oak woodlands before reaching sequoia groves and alpine vistas. The road passes through old mining towns complete with historic cabins. Stay overnight among the sequoias at Atwell Mill Campground. Numerous nearby trails offer hikers recreational opportunities.

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## OTHER EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

- Auto touring
- Fishing
- Sequoia groves
- Wildflowers
- Camping (no RVs or trailers)
- Rivers
- Picnicking
- Hiking

## FACILITIES AND SERVICES

### Restrooms

An accessible restroom is located along Mineral King Road at the Lookout Point entrance, 8 miles (13 km) before Atwell Mill Campground and 15 miles (24 km) before Mineral King Ranger Station. Located next to a private residence, this bathroom is designated accessible, features

a flush toilet, sink with running water, and a wide doorway. The ground surface from the pavement to the restroom is somewhat rough and uneven.

### Mineral King Ranger Station

The historic Mineral King Ranger Station is reached by ascending a flight of eight stairs. A water spigot is accessible in the parking area at the base of the stairs. A tactile model of Mineral King Valley and the surrounding peaks is installed across the street, next to the Food Storage Shed.

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Parking: The parking area does not have marked spaces. There is limited paved, level space in front of the ranger station, and additional parking in an uneven, slightly-sloped dirt lot near the picnic area. A narrow, dirt path leads from here to vault restrooms.

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## Campgrounds

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### Atwell Mill Campground

Campsite 12 is designated accessible and features a paved, level accessible parking space, a level tent pad, accessible picnic table, and an accessible grill. The accessible vault toilet and water spigot are across the paved camp road.

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### Cold Springs Campground

This campground has 40 campsites available for tents only on a first-come, first-served basis (no reservations available). While there are currently no designated accessible campsites here, our parks are dedicated to creating sites in the near future.

## OTHER FACILITIES & SERVICES

- Amphitheater
- Pay phones
- Food storage shed: This food storage shed also has tarps available for loan to protect vehicles from marmots. A slight step is required to go into the shed.



Steve Biro



Rick Bolton



Kirke Wrench

For more information on accessibility in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, please visit [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/accessibility](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/accessibility)

