



## Trip Planner Late Winter 2023

Photo by NPS/Alison Taggart-Barone

Roads in the parks may close at any time due to storms, snow, debris flows, or other conditions.

### Giant Sequoias, Wildfire, and You

Giant sequoias are icons of resilience. They are well-adapted to survive thousands of years in a landscape visited by fire, drought, and beetle attacks, but human-caused climate change and past management practices are putting trees at risk from all three.

Climate change is causing rising temperatures, earlier snowmelt, and drier conditions, leading to higher-severity fire and fire seasons that are substantially longer and more extreme than even 20 years ago. The 2020 Castle Fire and 2021 KNP Complex Fire burned so intensely that thousands of large sequoias were killed. In 2022 there were no major fires in the parks, but extreme drought conditions continue.

Most wildfire-killed sequoias die from high heat and crown-burning flames. However, some trees that survive fires have died a few years later while still standing. Researchers found branches riddled with tunnels made by tiny, native cedar bark beetles which had not previously been known to kill sequoias.

Drought conditions and hotter temperatures over most of the past decade have meant there is less water for trees. Additionally, damage from severe fires may reduce water flow to the tree's crown. In those conditions, beetle tunneling could turn from harmless to fatal for a weakened tree.

Park managers fear that despite sequoias' incredible toughness, without action, more of the magnificent giants may die in alarming numbers.

Although these parks have one of the oldest prescribed burning programs in the national parks, after over a century of fire suppression across the landscape many groves have become choked with dead wood and small trees, creating dangerous fire conditions.



Mature sequoias can usually survive low or medium severity fires, but modern high severity fires can be deadly.

© Kirke Wrench

More prescribed fire and other approaches to reduce unnatural accumulations of fire fuel can help restore groves to healthier conditions, though further research may provide other helpful management tools. But perhaps the most powerful defenders of sequoias are those who come to the parks and learn, teach others, and take steps toward a world where today's sequoias stand for hundreds or thousands of years more.

### Expect Delays Along the Generals Highway



After severe January storms, we've been working to restore access to the Giant Forest. One-lane access has been established on portions of the Generals Highway while we monitor the road. Please use extreme caution as you drive in areas where new road signs, barriers, and traffic lights have been installed. At the traffic light, expect delays of at least five to ten minutes. Delays could increase depending on traffic. Two-lane traffic in this area is not expected until late spring or summer.

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## Contacts

### Cell Service and WiFi

Cell service is extremely limited here, and can be available for some networks near entrance stations. WiFi connectivity is sparse in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Public WiFi is available at Foothills and Kings Canyon visitor centers.

## 911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911

In an emergency, contact a ranger at any visitor center or museum, or call 911.

### Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

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



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



@sequoiakingsnps



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### 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)

### California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

(800) 427-7623, [dot.ca.gov](http://dot.ca.gov)

### Campground Reservations

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

### Delaware North

(Authorized Concessioner)

Visit [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com) or call  
(866) 807-3598 for lodging reservations.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Pets

Pets are not permitted on any trails in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Pets must be kept on a leash at all times, or appropriately crated or caged. Pets cannot be left tied and unattended at any time. The leash must be no longer than 6 feet (1.8 meters) long.

### Drones

Uncrewed 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 parks.

### 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.

### Getting Directions to the Park

GPS devices and online map services often misdirect travelers here. Use maps and signs, or ask for directions. If using GPS or online maps, don't use the "avoid toll roads" option.

## Translations

**Welcome**—You may borrow a Braille copy of the park map & guide at visitor centers.

**Bienvenidos**—Hay un folleto en español disponible en los centros de visitante.

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

**Willkommen**—Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher-zentrum erhältlich.

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

## Free Mobile App

Install the new free National Park Service app for more trip-planning information. Search for National Park Service in the iTunes or Google Play stores. Once downloaded, choose Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Be sure to download content for use offline during your visit. WiFi may not be available in the parks, so install the app before you get here.

## Accessibility

These parks are committed to a continuing effort to improve the accessibility of our trails and facilities so they can be enjoyed by all. Questions or suggestions about accessibility can be emailed to [SEKI\\_Information@nps.gov](mailto:SEKI_Information@nps.gov) or call us at (559) 565-3341.

### Accessibility Guide

Ask at any visitor center for a printed accessibility guide. This booklet offers details about accessible park features by area and for different user groups. The information in the guide is also available online at [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm).



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.



At Kings Canyon Visitor Center in Grant Grove, assistive listening and audio description are available for the park film. Ask at the information desk for a receiver.

### Visitor Centers

All visitor centers and museums have paved, flat paths leading from parking areas to information desks, exhibits, bookstores, water bottle filling stations, and restrooms.

Wheelchairs may be borrowed at no cost at Kings Canyon Visitor Center or 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.

## Wheelchair-Accessible Trails

Trails may be snowy or icy. Some trails are plowed but winter conditions may prevent trails from being wheelchair-accessible. People with mobility impairments may want to consider using traction devices if conditions are icy, and trekking poles may help with balance.

### 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.

### Hazelwood Nature Loop (Giant Forest)

This firm-packed loop is 0.3 miles (0.5 km) and leads through a quiet area within the Giant Forest.



Campground	Location	Nightly Fee	Toilets	Dump Station	Showers	Potable Water	Other information
Azalea	Grant Grove	\$28	Flush	–	–	Yes	20 snowy sites are first-come, first-served basis until spring, then make reservations at Recreation.gov.
Potwisha	Foothills	\$28	Flush	Maybe	–	Yes	Sites are usually snow-free and reservations are required. Visit Recreation.gov to reserve a campsite.
South Fork	Foothills	Flooding and landslides caused by recent heavy rain events have impacted South Fork Road and Campground. This road and campground are extensively damaged and the campground is closed until further notice.					

The following campgrounds are closed until spring or summer: **Buckeye Flat, Lodgepole, Dorst Creek, Crystal Springs, Sunset, Canyon View, Sheep Creek, Sentinel, Moraine, Cold Springs, and Atwell Mill campgrounds.**

### First-come, First-served for Winter

This winter, camping is available on a first-come, first served basis at Azalea. Paying for only one night at a time is recommended. Campgrounds may close at any time due to weather, road conditions, or other causes and refunds cannot be issued. Snow removal can take up to 24 hours after a heavy winter storm. Consider checking out prior to a major storm, or prepare for an extended campground stay due to impassable roads.

### Reservations

Make camping reservations or purchase an entrance pass online at Recreation.gov, or call (877) 444-6777 (TDD: (877) 833-6777).

### RV and Trailer Length Limits

Check length limits on park roads and at campsites if driving an RV or trailer.

### Check in and Check out

Check in and check out is at noon.

### Dump Station

The Potwisha dump station is under construction and will be closed for part of the winter.

### Campsite Amenities

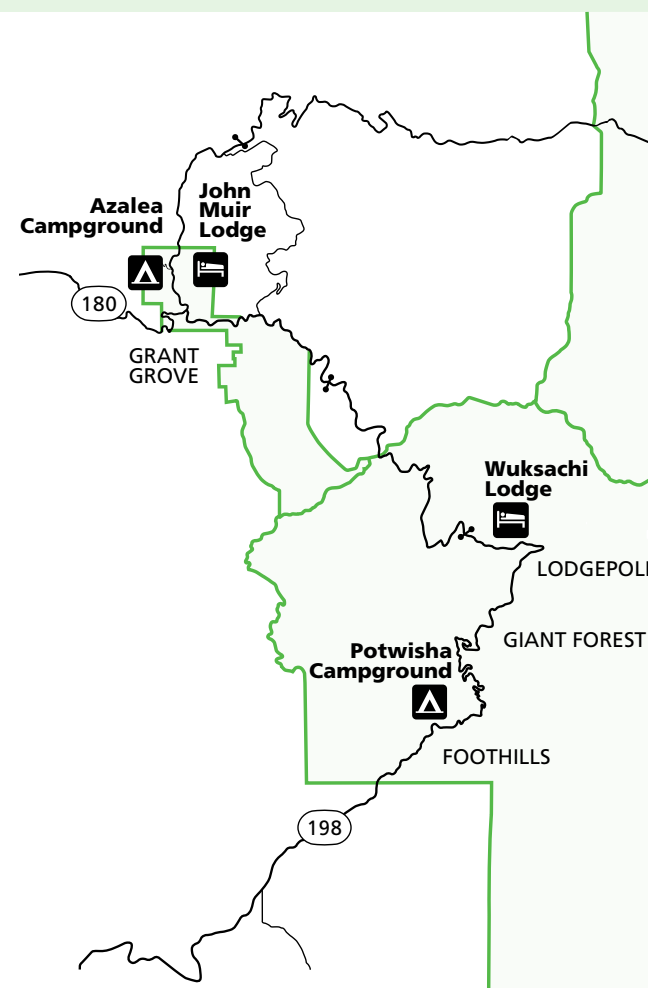
Each campsite has a table, food storage box, and accommodates up to six people and one vehicle. There are no RV hook-ups in the parks.

### Roadside Camping

Roadside camping is not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds.

### Quiet and Generator Hours

Noise should be audible in your site only. Quiet hours are 10 pm–6 am (no generators).



## Activities and Programs

All ranger activities are free of charge.

### Ranger-led Walks & Talks

Free programs may be offered in the Foothills, Giant Forest, and Grant Grove. Check bulletin boards for schedules of ranger-led activities.

### Junior Ranger Program

Pick up a free booklet at any visitor center, complete the activities, and earn your badge.

### Interested in Volunteering?

Log in to volunteer.gov and enter keywords “Sequoia and Kings Canyon” to see available opportunities, or call the volunteer office at (559) 565-4232. Volunteers are needed for invasive plant control, special events, and routine clerical and maintenance tasks. Individuals and groups are welcome

### Sequoia Parks Conservancy

Sequoia Parks Conservancy (SPC) is the official non-profit partner of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. SPC works hand-in-hand with the National Park Service to provide tours and retail services. SPC funds critical projects that help protect and preserve the treasures of our great parks for future generations. Stop into any park store or visit us online to learn more about what we do.



### SPC Adventures

SPC Adventures can help you have a fun and memorable journey in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Join private group tours and connect with the biggest trees, the darkest skies, and the wildest wilderness. Everything is here waiting. The only thing missing is you.

For more information, call (559) 565-4251, or visit [www.sequoiaparksconservancy.org/adventures](http://www.sequoiaparksconservancy.org/adventures).



@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 create 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 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.**

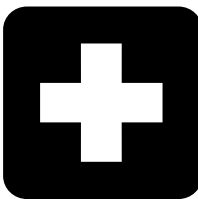
**Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Cold water rapidly saps your strength and hypothermia can set in quickly even if it is warm outside.**

- **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.



### Hypothermia

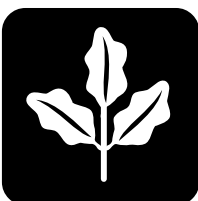
Hypothermia can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. Symptoms include: shivering, exhaustion, confusion, memory loss, slurred speech, and fumbling hands. If symptoms appear, drink warm sugary drinks and get into dry clothes, sleeping bags, and shelter.



### Snow Play Safety

In an emergency, contact a ranger at Kings Canyon Visitor Center or Giant Forest Museum, or call 911. When sledding:

- Slide feet first.
- Consider wearing a helmet.
- Make sure the path is clear — don't slide near rocks, trees, branches, or people.
- After sliding, look uphill. Move out of the way of people coming downhill next.
- Avoid hard-packed snow or ice, where speed and direction get out of control.



### Poison Oak

This shrub grows up to 5,000 feet (1,524 m) in elevation, and can cause an itchy rash if touched. Poison oak has leaves in groups of three. In fall, leaves are red and berries whitish, it 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.



### Changing Weather

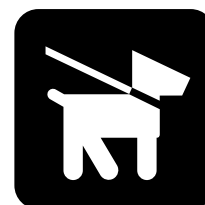
Prior to driving to the parks check the weather forecast for current conditions. Weather changes quickly and unexpectedly. Know when it is time to call it quits and head back to the trailhead. If it starts to get cloudy, consider returning to the trailhead earlier than intended. Roads can close at any time due to winter storms.



### Winter Driving

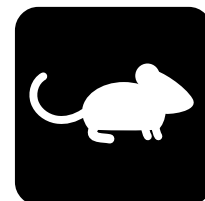
Winter driving on roads within the parks can be a pleasant adventure or it can be frustrating, tiring, and sometimes even hazardous. Follow these tips to have a safe visit:

- Slow down!
- Always carry tire chains in fall, winter, and spring.
- Beware of poor visibility and reduced traction.
- Allow extra distance between vehicles.
- Use low gears, especially when driving downhill
- Watch out for snow plows.



### Keep Pets Safe

To keep pets and wildlife safe, pets are not allowed on any trails. Pets are vulnerable to tick and snake bites. Bears and deer have also been known to charge or attack dogs. Leashed pets are allowed in campgrounds, parking lots, paved roads, and picnic areas. Pick up all pet waste and properly dispose.



### 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.

## Safety in Burned Areas

### Watch for falling trees.

Branches and trees may fall, whether dead or alive, even when there is no wind. Keep eyes and ears open. Listen for cracks or snapping from roots, trunks, or branches. Don't linger under dead, cracked, broken, or hanging branches. Avoid spending any time under burned trees.

### Don't enter closed areas.

There are identified risks in these areas, including burned bridges, hazard trees, and sections of trail that are unstable due to erosion. Many of these hazards may be hard to spot.

### Drive carefully.

Rocks, debris, and even downed trees may be present on roads at any time. Be alert and drive slowly, especially during rainy or windy weather. Yield to snowplows that are clearing roads, and follow tire chain requirements when they are in place. Watch out for animals.

### Stay on trails.

Though it may be tempting to wander, off-trail areas have hazards such as rolling rocks, holes, and unstable soils.

### Be careful if it's rainy or windy.

Storms and wind make many of the hazards even more dangerous. Consider waiting until the weather is better before traveling in a burned area.

### If you encounter dangerous conditions, turn back.

Conditions in burned areas can change quickly. Turn around if you see a problem and you're not sure if it's safe to continue. Report dangerous conditions to park staff.

### Be safe around rivers.

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.



Check at trailheads for information about potential hazards or closures.

## Keep Bears Wild

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**Bears will grab unattended food and break into cars when food is visible. Some bears have become bold and aggressive because they have obtained human foods. Too often, these bears must be killed as they become dangerous. Food storage is key to keeping humans safe and bears alive.**



### In Wilderness

Hanging food often fail. 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. Rent bear-resistant storage containers at park visitor centers. A list of approved containers can be found on our website. Metal boxes are located in a few wilderness locations.

### Everywhere

Don't let bears approach you, your food, picnic area, or

### Campgrounds

Store food day and night in the metal food storage boxes provided (avoid using coolers that won't fit; most boxes are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high). Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor. Even non-food items must be stored 24 hours a day when not in use. This includes unopened cans and bottles. Make sure food storage boxes are completely latched. Food not properly stored will be impounded. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in trash cans or dumpsters. Do not leave garbage unattended. Take child safety seats out of cars—the smells they absorb may attract bears.

### Lodges

Remove all food and child safety seats from your vehicle.

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.

### 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. If your vehicle doesn't have a 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.

**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. Keep a minimum distance of 25 yards (two bus lengths) from most wildlife and 100 yards from predators like bears and wolves.



about two bus-lengths

### Mountain Lions and Bobcats

Rarely seen, bobcats are larger than house cats and have short 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 and 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 mild winter trails.

## Things to Do

### Foothills Visitor Center and Sequoia Parks Conservancy Park Store

Open 9 am–4:00 pm, daily (hours subject to change). WiFi available. Maps, books, and other items sold here. *A veces hay guardabosques aquí quienes hablan español.*

### Wilderness Permits

Self-register at the permit station at the building behind the Foothills Visitor Center. Follow the trail behind the visitor center and look for the permit station just across the lower parking lot.

### Potwisha Campground and Day Use Area

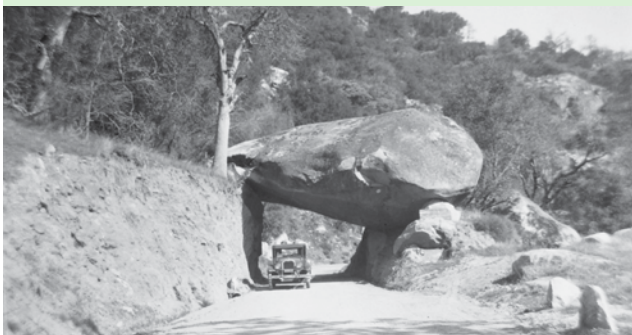
The campground is situated along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, just four miles from the Ash Mountain entrance, in the Sierra Foothills. Nearby trails lead to oak woodlands, river canyons, and spring wildflowers.

### Wildflower Viewing

Spring wildflowers are being spotted on trails throughout the foothills. Stop by the Foothills Visitor Center to find out what is blooming and which trails are ideal for wildflower viewing.

### Tunnel Rock

The historic Generals Highway once went through this tunnel (pictured below), created 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.



## Mineral King

**January storms caused extensive damage to Mineral King Road.**

Though the Mineral King area is usually open in winter to people who ski, snowshoe, or hike into the area, the road is closed due to severe damage from winter storms. Three sections of the roadway are unstable. Search and rescue efforts may be delayed in Mineral King until repairs are completed. Consider visiting another area for winter activities.



© Kirke Wrench

### Hospital Rock Picnic Area

See rock paintings and explore exhibits about the California Native Americans who lived here and still visit and live nearby. If you find an artifact, leave it in place and notify a ranger. Take a short walk to the river or a longer walk on the Middle Fork Trail. Be careful; drownings have occurred in the nearby river and bears are active here. Store your food in a food storage box or keep it within arm's reach.

### Highway Closures

Winter storms may close the Generals Highway at any time. If the highway closes at Hospital Rock, features in the Foothills area may still be open, but there will be no access to the Giant Forest, including snowplay, sequoia groves, and the General Sherman Tree.

The Grant Grove area, two hours from the entrance to Sequoia National Park, may be open. Check road conditions before you travel there: (559) 565-3341 (press 1,1).

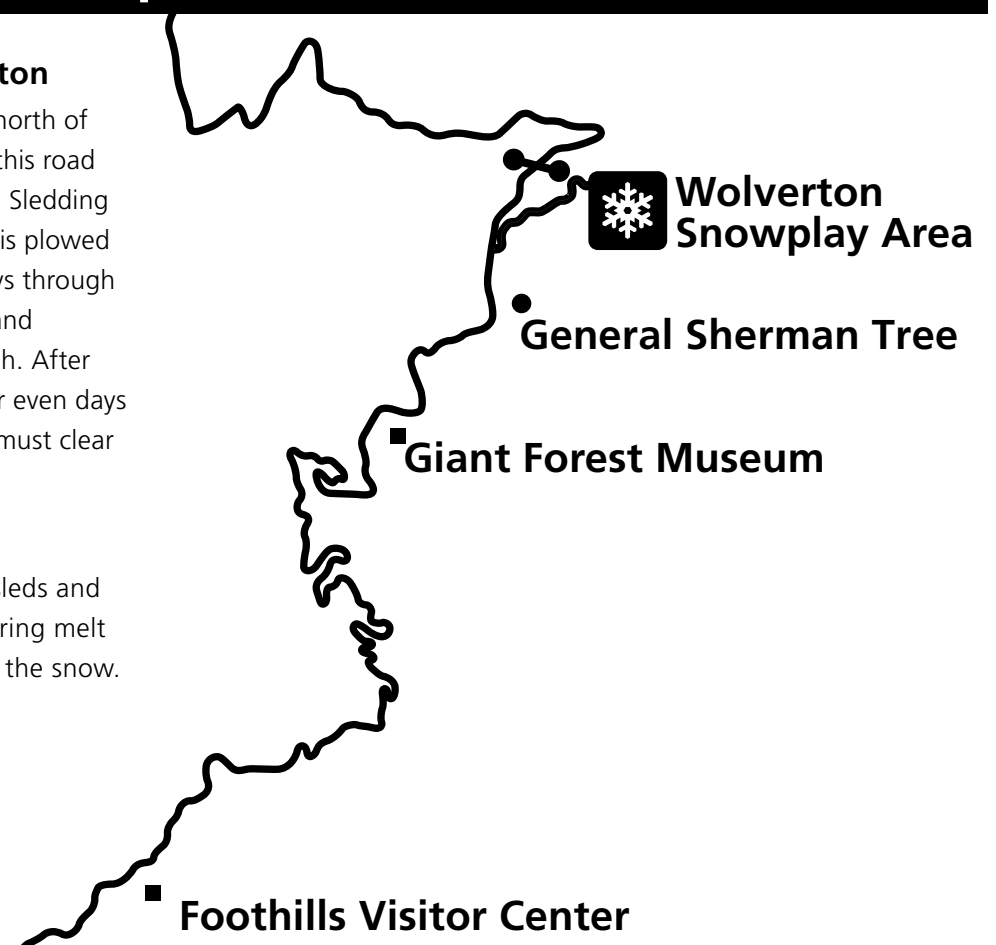
## Snowplay in Sequoia National Park

### Snowplay at Wolverton

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

### Leave No Trace

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. Winter trail maps can be purchased at Giant Forest Museum. Road may close to this area at any time.

## Visiting the General Sherman Tree

### Main Sherman Tree Trail and Parking

This parking area has closed for the season due to snow accumulation. The 2023 tentative opening date is March 24, depending on weather conditions.

### Wheelchair-Accessible and Winter Sherman Tree Trail

With the accumulation of snow, this parking area is open to all. Check signs at the parking area before parking here if you don't have an accessibility placard. Do not park in the roadway.

Once the main parking area opens, 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.

### 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. Follow the yellow triangle markers posted on trees.

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 in the lower Sherman Tree parking lot is 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.

#### Big Trees Trail

This level, paved loop has 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 signs at the parking area before parking here if you don't have a placard. In winter, this trail may not meet standards for accessibility.



Photo by NPS/Alison Taggart-Barone

## Things to Do

### Giant Forest Museum and Sequoia Parks Conservancy Park Store

Open 10 am–4 pm, daily (hours subject to change). Winter trail maps, books, and other items are sold here. *A veces hay guardabosques aquí quienes hablan Español.*

### Wilderness Permits

Self-register outside Giant Forest Museum.

### Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow Road

This road has closed for the season due to snow accumulation. But is open year-round for hiking. Stay safe by finding an alternate hiking trail if the Moro Rock stairs are icy or snowy.

### Wuksachi Lodge & Restaurant

Snowshoe rentals are available here.

### Wolverton Picnic and Snowplay Area

Have a relaxing picnic or play in the snow at Wolverton Snowplay Area. The Wolverton Snowplay Area is located at the end of Wolverton Road at an elevation of 7,250 feet (2,160 meters).



- A Giant Forest Museum**  
This lot usually fills early in the day.
- 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 Main/Summer Sherman Tree Parking**  
This parking area has closed for the season due to an accumulation of snow. The 2023 tentative opening date is March 24, depending on weather conditions.
- D Wolverton Snowplay Area**  
This area is at the end of Wolverton Road. If you use this area for snowplay, have fun and stay safe.

## Snowplay Safety

### 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 at any visitor center or museum, or call 911.

Wander through snowy sequoia groves or snowshoe through a forest logged at the turn of the century. The Grant Grove area offers a chance to explore, with some amenities nearby.

### Grant Tree Trail

This is the only intermittently plowed trail in the area. Beware of slippery ice and packed snow. This 0.3-mile (0.5 km) paved loop trail leads to the world's second-largest living tree. Drive 0.1-mile (0.16 km) north of Grant Grove Village and look for road signs leading to the parking area and trailhead. On the trail, look for tactile exhibits about sequoias.

### North Grove Loop

This lightly traveled, 2-mile (3.2 km) loop with a 400-foot (120 m) elevation change offers a close look at sequoias and a quiet forest walk or snowshoe. Start at the Grant Tree bus and RV overflow parking area. Follow the round red markers on trees.

### 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-foot (120 m) elevation change. Start from the Grant Tree parking area or across the highway from the visitor center. Follow the green and yellow diamond markers on trees.

### Snowshoe Panoramic Drive

Panoramic Drive, which closes to vehicles in winter, is open for hiking or snowshoeing. This strenuous 5-mile (8 km) round trip to Panoramic Point climbs almost 1,000 feet (300 m) in elevation. Snowshoes or traction devices are recommended.

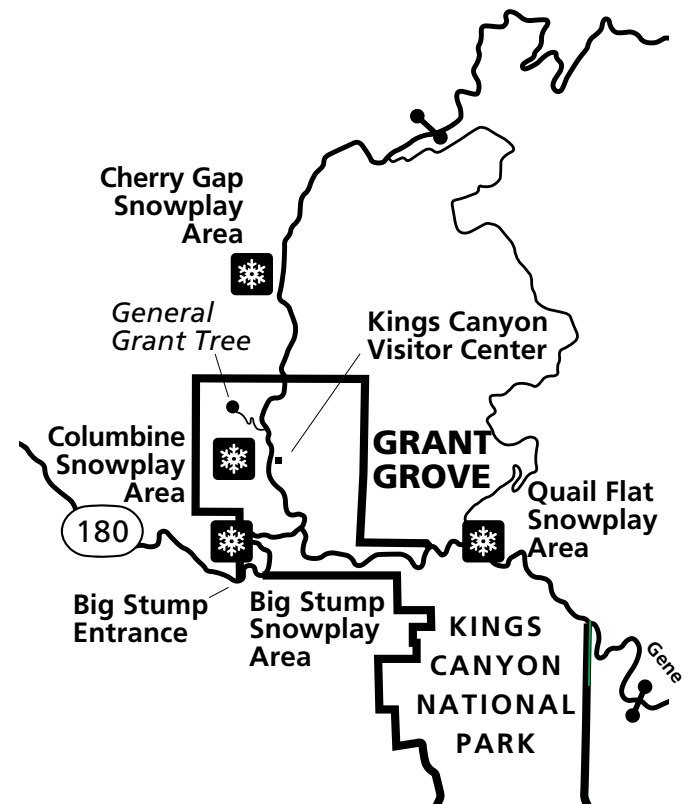
## Snow Play Areas

### Grant Grove Snowplay Areas

Big Stump and Columbine picnic areas are designated for snowplay. Big Stump may close due to facilities maintenance. Snowplay is prohibited in all other areas in Grant Grove, including Azalea Campground, which is for campers only.

### Nearby Forest Service Areas

Snowplay is allowed at Cherry Gap Trailhead and Quail Flat (when the Generals Highway is open). Other national forest areas offer opportunities for skiing and snowshoeing.



## Services and Things to Do

### Kings Canyon Visitor Center, Sequoia Parks Conservancy Park Store, Wilderness Permits

Open 9 am–4:00 pm, daily (hours subject to change). Maps, books, and gifts are sold here.

### Grant Grove Market

Open 9 am–5 pm (hours subject to change). Grab-and-go food, groceries, supplies, snowshoe rentals, and ATM.

### Grant Grove Post Office

Open Monday–Friday, 9 am–4 pm; 24-hour lobby.

### Azalea Campground

20 snowy sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis through winter.

### Columbine and Big Stump Snowplay and Picnic Areas

Snowplay areas near here are found at approximately 6,600 feet (2,000 meters) in elevation. Columbine Snowplay Area is located on the road to the General Grant Tree Trail. Big Stump Snowplay Area is located near the entrance to Kings Canyon National Park, along Highway 180.

### Hike Panoramic Drive

Panoramic Drive is closed to vehicles due to snow accumulation, but open for hiking. Specialized equipment such as snowshoes or traction devices are strongly recommended. Follow the round yellow markers

### Catch a Glimpse of Kings Canyon

Get a distant canyon view from Kings Canyon Overlook located off the Generals Highway (weather permitting) or along the road on the way to Hume Lake.



## 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 the next marker on maintained trails. 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 current conditions.

## Cedar Grove

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



These parks contain over 800,000 acres of wilderness with outstanding opportunities for solitude and challenge.

### Wilderness Permits

Wilderness permits are required for overnight trips year round. Day hikers do not need permits. During the winter non-quota season, self-issue wilderness permits are available at the nearest permit station to your starting location.

Fire impacts have created unsafe conditions in some wilderness areas. To view a closure map, visit [go.nps.gov/SEKI-WildernessPermits](http://go.nps.gov/SEKI-WildernessPermits).

Many trailheads are closed to both entry and exit OR are not reachable by vehicle. When trip planning make sure that all trailheads in the itinerary are open. In Sequoia, the Mineral King and Lodgepole areas are closed, along with many foothills day-use trails. Overnight hiking opportunities in the Grant Grove area are extremely limited.

Check weather forecasts before your trip. Mountain weather can be unpredictable and can cause trailhead/road closures. Many park roads are in burned areas and are susceptible to debris flows.

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.

Thanks for following minimum-impact, leave-no-trace guidelines to protect the wilderness.

### USFS Wilderness

For information on designated wilderness areas within Sequoia National Forest, please contact the Hume Lake District Office at (559) 338-2251 or visit [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia). The Forest Service requires a free fire permit for any open flame; these are available online at [www.readyforwildfire.org/permits](http://www.readyforwildfire.org/permits).

### Summer Wilderness Permits

During the summer quota season, May 26, 2023 - September 23, 2023, wilderness permits must be obtained in person. During this time, the number of people beginning trips each day is limited by entry point and a recreation fee is required.

Quota season reservations are available for most, but not all entry points on [www.recreation.gov/permits/445857](http://www.recreation.gov/permits/445857). Reservations can be made up to six months in advance of your trip.



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.

## US Forest Service

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of the Sequoia National Forest. This area is not managed by the National Park Service. In winter, many forest roads are closed to vehicles, but open to snowmobiles or tracked vehicles. Learn more about Sequoia National Forest winter recreation opportunities: [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia) or (559) 338-2251.

### Snowplay

On the forest, snowplay is allowed at the Cherry Gap area, and Quail Flat when the Generals Highway is open. When playing here, find a safe snowplay location away from the highway and winter traffic.

### Dispersed Camping

Dispersed camping is available but restrictions apply. Permits for portable stoves or fires are available at [www.readyforwildfire.org/permits](http://www.readyforwildfire.org/permits). Check with USFS or at park visitor centers for more information.

### Montecito Sequoia Lodge (permittee)

May be open, dependent on road access. Call (559) 565-3388. On the Generals Highway 9 miles (14 km) south of Grant Grove. The lodge has cabins, a restaurant, hotel, WiFi, and children's activities.

### Hume Lake Village (on private land)

Gas, market, snack shop, and a pay phone are available at this privately-run camp. Hours vary seasonally and gas pumps may close. Area conditions may also cause closures here. Travel north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then turn right, following signs to Hume Lake. For more information, call (559) 305-7770 before arrival.



Can I...	In National Parks	In National Forests
<b>Walk my leashed pets?</b>	Pets are not allowed on trails, including paved trails. They are allowed in parking lots, roads, picnic areas, and campgrounds. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet (1.8 m).	Pets are allowed in developed areas and on trails. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet (1.8 m).
<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. Collecting artifacts such as arrowheads, beads, or pottery shards is prohibited.
<b>Hunt?</b>	Not in the parks. You are responsible for understanding and 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 or visit <a href="https://wildlife.ca.gov/hunting">https://wildlife.ca.gov/hunting</a> for more information.
<b>Snowmobile?</b>	Not in the parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, and Quail Flat. For more info call (559) 338-2251.
<b>Cut wood?</b>	Wood cutting is prohibited, though campers may gather downed wood when not in sequoia groves.	Allowed. Please contact the nearest Forest Service office for guidance and a permit.

# Usted es responsable de su seguridad

Estos parques hermosos, aunque remotos y accidentados, presentan ciertos peligros. El clima de la montaña cambia rápidamente, los árboles caen sin previo aviso y los animales salvajes presentan peligros. Las personas crean otros peligros al conducir mal, dejar fogatas encendidas y tomar 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.

*Ayúdenos preparándose para su visita: familiarícese con estos avisos de seguridad. ¡Su seguridad está en sus manos!*

## 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. Pero no dependa de su mapa o linterna.**
- **Preste atención a los posibles peligros que provengan de arriba, de su alrededor o del suelo.**

## Seguridad en el río



**Aunque nadar en los lagos y ríos de los parques puede resultar tentador, se debe tener en cuenta que la principal causa de muerte aquí es el ahogamiento.**

Los ríos son muy peligrosos debido a sus corrientes rápidas y a sus rocas resbaladizas. Muchas de las muertes relacionadas con el río ocurrieron, no porque las personas tuvieran la intención de nadar sino porque se cayeron al río. Las corrientes son fuertes incluso cuando el nivel de agua es bajo. Las pendientes abruptas y las corrientes de retorno representan un peligro constante. Manténgase alerta.

Una vez dentro del río, puede resultar casi imposible salir. El agua fría merma con rapidez las fuerzas y, aunque haga calor en el exterior, se puede sufrir en poco tiempo de una hipotermia.

- **No nade en zonas con corrientes fuertes ni con precipicios pronunciados.**
- **NO deje a los niños sin supervisión.**
- **No nade si ha consumido drogas o alcohol. Nade sobrio.**
- **Use calzado resistente. Los objetos afilados dentro del agua pueden cortar los pies descalzos.**
- **Durante las tormentas, salga del agua y aléjese de las zonas de la playa.**
- **NUNCA NADE SOLO.**



### Hipotermia

Se puede sufrir de hipotermia en cualquier momento del año. Manténgase seco y coma a menudo. Los síntomas de la hipotermia son: escalofríos, agotamiento, confusión, pérdida de la memoria, dificultad para hablar y manos torpes. En caso de que aparezca cualquiera de los síntomas, tome bebidas azucaradas calientes y póngase ropa seca, use sacos de dormir y busque refugio.



### Seguridad en los juegos de nieve

En caso de emergencia, contacte a un guardabosques en el Centro para visitantes de Kings Canyon o del Museo Giant Forest, o llame al 911.

Cuando se deslice en trineo:

- Deslícese con los pies por delante.
- Considere la posibilidad de usar casco.
- Asegúrese de que su camino esté despejado: no se deslice cerca de rocas, árboles, ramas ni personas.
- Tan pronto termine de deslizarse, mire cuesta arriba. Apártese del camino de las personas que bajan tras usted.
- Evite las áreas de nieve dura o hielo, donde se puede perder el control de la velocidad y la dirección.



### Clima cambiante

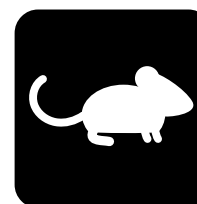
Antes de iniciar su viaje hacia los parques, consulte el pronóstico meteorológico para conocer las condiciones actuales. El clima cambia de manera rápida e inesperada. Sepa cuándo es el momento de dar por terminada la aventura y regresar al punto de partida. Si empieza a nublarse, considere la posibilidad de regresar al punto de partida antes de lo previsto. Las tormentas de invierno pueden provocar el cierre de carreteras en cualquier momento.



### Conducir en el invierno

Conducir por carretera en el invierno dentro de los parques puede ser una aventura muy agradable o puede resultar frustrante, agotadora y, a veces, incluso peligrosa. Siga estos consejos para mantenerse a salvo durante su visita:

- Lleve siempre cadenas en las llantas en otoño, invierno y primavera.
- Tenga cuidado con la mala visibilidad y la tracción reducida.
- Reduzca la velocidad.
- Conserve una distancia prudente de los demás vehículos.
- Utilice primera o segunda velocidad, sobre todo cuando conduzca en bajada.
- Tenga cuidado con las máquinas quitanieves.



### La peste y el hantavirus

La peste y el hantavirus están relacionados con los animales salvajes que habitan aquí, pero los casos de infecciones en humanos son excepcionales. Los roedores y sus pulgas pueden ser portadores de la peste, que puede contagiar a los humanos en caso de recibir una picadura. El hantavirus se transmite por aire y proviene de los ratones venado infectados. Los humanos suelen contraer hantavirus tras limpiar o encontrarse en espacios cerrados en los que hay heces de ratón venado.



### Roble venenoso

Este arbusto crece hasta 1,524 metros (5,000 pies) de altura, y puede provocar erupción en caso de contacto con la piel. 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.





¡Bienvenidos a Sequoia y Kings Canyon National Parks! Puede encontrar información disponible en español en muchas ubicaciones de los parques. Solicite una traducción de nuestro mapa y nuestra guía en cualquiera de los centros de visitantes. Las exhibiciones al aire libre en el área de Grant Grove de Kings Canyon cuentan con versión en español. También puede encontrar exhibiciones en español en la zona para picnic de Hospital Rock en el Sequoia National Park.



## Manejando en un área de control de cadenas

Todos los vehículos deben de cargar cadenas en áreas de control de cadenas, incluyendo vehículos de 4x4 y AWD. Ud. tiene que instalar las cadenas donde los letreros lo requieren. La velocidad máxima con cadenas instaladas es 25 mph, aún si hay letreros al contrario.

### R1: Llantas para nieve o cadenas son obligatorias.

Hay que instalar cadenas si sus llantas no tienen "MS," "M/S," "M+S," o "MUD AND SNOW" en el costado o si su vehículo pesa más de 6500 libras.

### R2: 4WD/AWD o cadenas son obligatorias.

Hay que instalar cadenas si su vehículo no tiene sistema de 4WD o AWD o si su vehículo pesa más de 6500 libras.

### R3: Cadenas son obligatorias en todos los vehículos.

No hay excepciones.

## 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.

## Aplicación móvil

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 National Park Service. Si es posible, descárguelo e instálelo antes de llegar a los parques. El servicio celular es limitado aquí, pero hay WiFi gratis fuera de el centro 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.

## Mantenga a los osos salvajes y seguros

### Nuestra comida puede significar la muerte para los osos.

Estos animales inteligentes aprenden a obtener comida de los campamentos, automóviles y contenedores de basura. Luego de probar una vez, regresan por más. Se vuelven atrevidos y agresivos, y puede que los maten para protegernos.

### ¡Guarde su comida!

Guarde todos los alimentos y cosas que despidan olor en cajas de almacenamiento metálicas. Nunca los deje en su vehículo.



## Vele por la seguridad de sus mascotas



A fin de mantener a salvo tanto a las mascotas como a las especies silvestres, no se admiten mascotas en los senderos del parque. 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. Se admiten mascotas con correas en campamentos, estacionamientos, carreteras pavimentadas y áreas de picnic. Recoja las heces de su mascota y deshágase de ellas adecuadamente.

## Seguridad en las zona quemadas

### Preste atención a la caída de 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.

### No ingrese a las zonas cerradas.

Existen riesgos en estas zonas que han sido identificados, como puentes quemados, árboles peligrosos y tramos de sendero inestables debido a la erosión. Puede ser difícil identificar muchos de estos peligros.

### Conduzca con cuidado.

En cualquier momento puede haber rocas, escombros e incluso árboles caídos en las carreteras. Esté atento y conduzca lentamente, especialmente cuando llueva o haya viento. Ceda el paso a los vehículos que estén despejando las carreteras y respete los requisitos de uso de cadenas en los neumáticos cuando los haya. Cuidado con los animales.

### Permanezca en los senderos.

Aunque puede ser tentador pasear, las zonas fuera de los senderos tienen peligros como rocas sueltas, tocones quemados, hoyos y terreno inestable.

### Tenga aún más cuidado si llueve o hay viento.

Las tormentas y el viento hacen que muchos de los riesgos sean todavía más peligrosos. Considere la posibilidad de esperar a que mejore el clima antes de viajar por una zona quemada.

### Si se encuentra con condiciones peligrosas, regrese.

Las condiciones en las zonas quemadas pueden cambiar rápidamente. Regrese si ve un problema y no le parece que sea seguro continuar. Informe sobre las condiciones peligrosas al personal del parque.

### Tenga cuidado cerca de los ríos.

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.



Photo by NPS/Alison Taggart-Barone

**Tire chains or cables are essential and you must carry them when chain control is in effect.**

## 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. Tires with a snow tread 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 tread 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.

## Rent Tire Chains

**All vehicles must carry tire chains or cables when chain requirements are in effect.**

There are many places to rent or purchase tire chains in Three Rivers, if entering into Sequoia National Park along Highway 198. If traveling into Kings Canyon National Park via Highway 180, options to rent tire chains are more limited, with the nearest rental location in Dunlap (14 miles (23 km) outside the park). Rental prices range from \$40-\$65 per day, and purchases from \$50-\$200.



## Find a Ranger-led Program

Ranger-led walks, talks, and activities are free and open to the public. Make the most of your visit by joining a snowshoe walk through sequoia trees or learning about the diverse ecosystem of the foothills. Stop by the nearest visitor center or museum for a list of programs available during your visit.



## Winter Road Information

### Closures Related to Weather

#### Generals Highway

- Winter storms may cause closures on any portion of the Generals Highway.
- The Generals Highway is closed between Montecito Sequoia Resort and Wuksachi Lodge from January 6 - March 17. Snow levels may change these dates.

#### Seasonal Road Closures

##### Road Closures in Kings Canyon National Park and Sequoia National Forest:

- Highway 180 to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon (managed by Caltrans)
- These roads close with snow: Panoramic Point, Redwood Mountain (NPS), Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS)

##### Road Closures in Sequoia National Park:

- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road, Crystal Cave Road, Mineral King Road, Middle Fork Road
- Recent winter storms have done extensive damage to the South Fork Road, including major flooding and landslides. Hikers are strongly discouraged from attempting to explore this area.

### 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.

### Gasoline

No gas stations are found within the parks. Fill up before entering. If you're already in Grant Grove, call Hume Lake Christian Camp to check on gas availability. The camp is nearby and is open all year. Hours may vary and pumps may close at any time. Please call before driving for gas: (559) 305-7770.

### Emergency Car Repairs

The NPS does not tow or repair vehicles. If vehicles are blocking traffic, call 911 or contact the emergency communications center at (559) 565-3341 ext. 9.

### Vehicle Length Limits

Generals Highway in Sequoia National Park:

- Foothills Visitor Center to Potwisha Campground: vehicles longer than 24 feet are not recommended.
- Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum: vehicles longer than 22 feet are not recommended.

There are no size restrictions on Highway 180 from Fresno into Kings Canyon National Park as the road is straighter, less steep, and wider.