



Trip Planner

Winter 2019-2020



Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument 

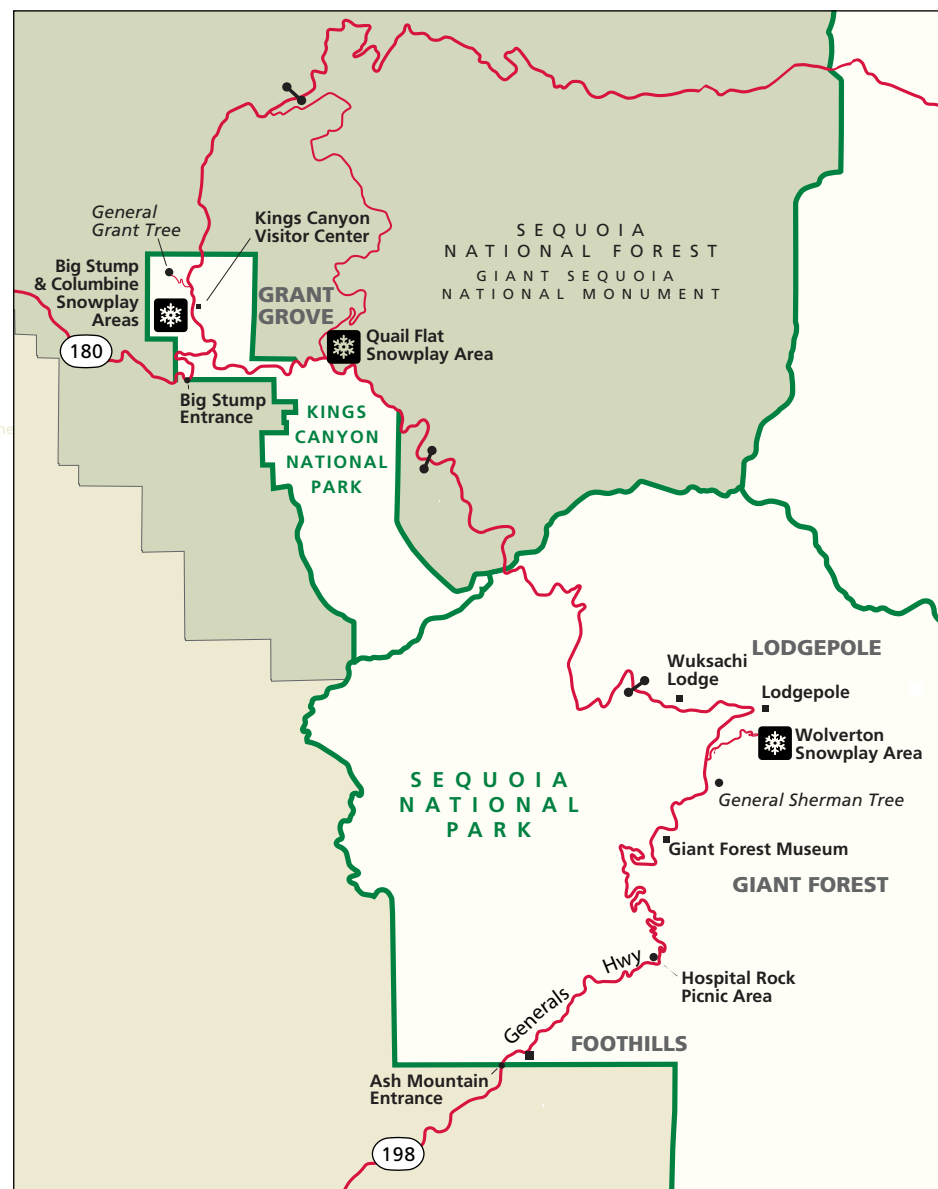
Sequoia Parks Conservancy 

Welcome

Enjoying the parks in winter may not be as easy as a summer visit: You may need to “chain up.” In fact, if you are in the park now and want to see sequoias but don't have tire chains in the car, check the weather forecast and think again. The suddenness and unpredictability of Sierran weather, plus genuine concern for your safety, make the rangers cautious when deciding to require chains. But if you've got chains, layers of warm clothes, and you're willing to take the roads slowly, then the snowy winter forest awaits you!

If there's enough snow and you enjoy social fun, head to one of the bustling snowplay areas. Take your fun seriously, though, and play safe. People get hurt snowplaying every year. Some of the injuries can ruin a vacation; don't let one happen to you!

So welcome to winter in the Sierra. We're glad you didn't let the cold keep you away.



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Contacts

Cell Service

Cell service is extremely limited here, and mainly is available for some networks near entrance stations.

911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911

No coins are needed in payphones for 911 calls.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

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

GPS

GPS programs often misdirect travellers here. Use maps and signs, or ask for directions.

Web & Social Media



www.nps.gov/seki



@SequoiaKingsNPS



@SequoiaKingsNPS



@SequoiaKingsNPS

Sequoia National Forest/Monument

(USFS) (559) 338-2251, fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Yosemite National Park (NPS)

(209) 372-0200, nps.gov/yose

California Road Conditions Quickmap (CalTrans)

(800) 427-7623, dot.ca.gov

Free Public WiFi Locations

Available at Foothills Visitor Center (near the Sequoia National Park entrance) and Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove). No password is needed.



Frequently Asked Questions

Pets

Pets are not permitted on any trails in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. 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 less than 6 feet (1.8 meters) long.

Drones

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

Marijuana

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

Driving Through the Parks

Give yourself plenty of time to travel through the parks. Allow at least two hours, plus additional time for sightseeing stops, to drive the Generals Highway from the southern entrance to the northern entrance. Check last page of this paper for seasonal road closure information.

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.

Accessibility

Assistive Equipment & Technologies

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

Wheelchairs may be borrowed at no cost at Lodgepole Visitor Center and Giant Forest Museum. They can be used anywhere in the parks but must be returned by the end of the day, before each visitor center closes. Be prepared to provide your address and phone number.

Assistive listening devices and open captioning are available for park films. Borrow a receiver at park visitor centers where films are shown.

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. Cedar Grove Visitor Center is small, and may be difficult for people in wheelchairs to navigate. Mineral King Ranger Station has steps leading to the entrance and may not be accessible to people with mobility impairments.

Wheelchair-Accessible Trails

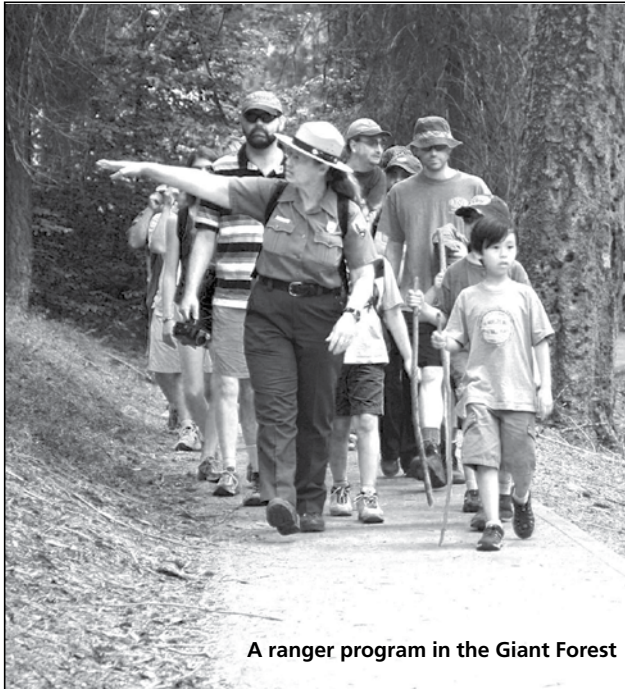
General Sherman Tree Trail (Giant Forest): This short trail leads a few hundred feet from an accessible parking area to the General Sherman Tree, the largest tree on earth.

Big Trees Trail (Giant Forest): This level trail is a 0.75-mile (1.2 km) loop. It circles a meadow surrounded by giant sequoias.

Panoramic Point Trail (Grant Grove): This paved trail leads to views that reach deep into park wilderness.

Roaring River Falls (Cedar Grove): A 528-foot (160 m), shady walk features a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. Park 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the Village road. Paved, relatively accessible.

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



A ranger program in the Giant Forest



Join a ranger for a walk on the snow!



Free Ranger Programs

Free programs are offered throughout the parks! They include evening programs, walks, demonstrations, talks, living history, and other activities. Check visitor centers, at bulletin boards, or online for schedules of ranger-led activities.

Free Junior Ranger Program

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

For Teachers & Parents

Expand your classroom: Invite a ranger to your class, visit the parks with your school group, download lesson plans, and participate in distance learning. All education programs are standards-based and free. Visit [nps.gov/seki/learn/education](https://www.nps.gov/seki/learn/education).

Trek to the Tree

This event, sponsored by the Sanger District Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the National Park Service, takes place on Sunday, December 8 at 2:30 pm at the General Grant Tree in Grant Grove. A National Park Service representative will speak about the General Grant Tree's role as a national shrine in memory of the men and women of the Armed Forces who have served, fought, and died to keep America free. A memorial wreath will be placed at the base of the tree.

Free Snowshoe Walks

When snow permits, walks may be offered on weekends or holidays (snowshoes provided free). Check bulletin boards for schedules at Giant Forest and Grant Grove. When snow is plentiful, you can also rent snowshoes at Lodgepole and Grant Grove and head out on your own. Be safe, and enjoy.



National Junior Ranger Day

In April 2020, drop in to a festival at Foothills Visitor Center or ask about special activities in Grant Grove and the Giant Forest. Earn a special patch!

Crystal Cave Tours

Crystal Cave is closed for winter and will reopen in May 2020. **A tour is necessary to see the cave and a ticket is needed for the tour.** Get tickets online starting in January through [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Visit [sequoiaparks.org](https://www.sequoiaparks.org) for details. Tickets are not available at the cave. Limited tickets may be available at Foothills and Lodgepole visitor centers at least two hours in advance.

Interested in volunteering?

Log in to [volunteer.gov](https://www.volunteer.gov) and enter keywords "Sequoia and Kings Canyon" to see available opportunities, or call the volunteer office: (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 (SPC) welcomes you to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks! As the official nonprofit partner to these parks, we do more than just provide tours and retail services. We help you make a deeper connection to the parks and share your experiences with others. We would love for you to visit us online and learn more about everything we do. We've saved a place for you—come join us.



@SequoiaParksConservancy



@SequoiaParksConservancy



@SeqParksCon

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

Reservations

Reservations are strongly recommended and are available from six months to two days before your stay. In fall, there are more first-come, first-served sites.

www.recreation.gov

(877) 444-6777

(877) 833-6777 TDD

(888) 448-1474 customer service

If you don't have a reservation, check for first-come, first-served campgrounds. Many campgrounds will close soon for winter.

RV and Trailer Length Limits

If you're driving an RV, trailer, or a longer vehicle, check length limits on park roads and at campsites.

Roadside Camping

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

Group Sites

Reservations are strongly recommended for group sites.

- **Mid-size group sites for 7–19 people** are reservable at Crystal Springs and Canyon View campgrounds.
- **Large-group sites for 15–40 people** are reservable at Dorst Creek, Sunset, or Canyon View.

National forest campgrounds also have group sites.

Showers

Public showers are available seasonally at Lodgepole and Cedar Grove villages, and in some national forest areas. **Showers are no longer available in Grant Grove.**

Campfires and Firewood

Gather only dead and down wood; do not cut limbs off trees. Please don't transport firewood. It can carry insects and diseases that threaten living trees. Find or buy wood close to where you will use it. Please burn any wood you brought in. Fires must be out cold before you leave. Fire restrictions may prohibit wood and charcoal fires in some campgrounds when fuels are dry.

Quiet and Generator Hours

Music and noise should be audible in your site only. Quiet hours are from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am (no generators). At Lodgepole and Dorst, generator use is permitted only from 8:00 to 11:00 am and 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

Propane and Fuel Canisters

Recycle fuel canisters at home. Do not put them in park trash cans or leave them here.

Campgrounds open year-round

Campground	Location	Nightly fee	Toilets	Dump station	Showers	Food nearby	Other information
Potwisha	Foothills	\$22	Flush	Yes	–	–	First come, first served sites in fall and winter.
Azalea	Grant Grove	\$18	Flush	–	–	Yes	Near sequoia groves. First come, first served sites.
South Fork	South Fork	\$6	Vault	–	–	–	Remote camping away from services.

Campgrounds open seasonally

Campground	Location	Nightly fee	Toilets	Dump station	Showers	Tentative opening	Other information
Buckeye Flat	Foothills	\$22	Flush	–	–	March	No RVs or trailers. First come, first-served sites in fall.
Atwell Mill	Mineral King	\$12	Vault	–	Silver City	June	Tent sites only.
Cold Springs	Mineral King	\$12	Vault	–	Silver City	July	Tent sites only.
Lodgepole	Lodgepole	\$22	Flush	Yes	At village	May	The closest camping to the Giant Forest.
Dorst Creek	Lodgepole	\$22	Flush	Yes	At village	July	Free shuttles to Lodgepole and the Giant Forest.
Crystal Springs	Grant Grove	\$22	Flush	–	–	May	Near sequoia groves.
Sunset	Grant Grove	\$22	Flush	–	–	July	Near sequoia groves.
Moraine	Cedar Grove	\$18	Flush	–	At village	May	Near the river. First come, first served sites.
Sheep Creek	Cedar Grove	\$22	Flush	–	At village	July	Near the river.
Canyon View	Cedar Grove	\$40-60	Flush	–	At village	May	Near the river. Group sites only. No RV or trailer sites.
Sentinel	Cedar Grove	\$22	Flush	–	At village	May	Near the river. First come, first served sites.

Snowplay Safety

Exploring in Winter

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

Sled Safely

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

Don't let an accident ruin your winter fun.

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

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



Tire chains or cables are essential when chain control is in effect and roads are snowy. Rent or buy chains in nearby towns before you get here. Photo by Alison Taggart-Barone.

Keep Bears Wild and Safe

5

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



In Wilderness

Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a bear-resistant storage container. These containers weigh less than 3 pounds (1.3 kg), hold up to 5 days of food, and fit in a backpack. 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.

Everyone

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

small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance, but be persistent. Abandoning your food teaches bears that 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.

Campgrounds

Store food day and night in the metal 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

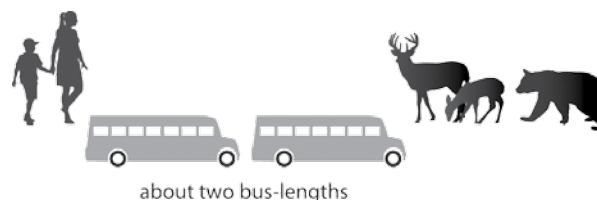
Remove all food and child safety seats from your vehicle.

Bears can smell anything with a scent—such as 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 park are wild. View animals at safe distances (the length of two city buses) or through binoculars. Never disrupt, approach, or disturb animals from behaving normally.



Mountain Lions and Bobcats

Rarely seen, bobcats are larger than house cats and have 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—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 golden foothills, home to more species of plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined. Chaparral, oak woodlands, and river canyons offer warmer days, year-round waterfalls, and clear, starry skies.

Services and Facilities

Foothills Visitor Center

Open 9:00 am–4:00 pm. Browse exhibits on life in the low elevations and the Sequoia Parks Conservancy park store. A payphone and free WiFi are available here. Ask about free ranger programs! *Muchas veces hay rangers aquí quienes hablan Español.*

Wilderness Permits

Self-registration permits are available outside of the visitor center.



Tunnel Rock

Snap a picture at this iconic pullout off the Generals Highway. Walk on the old road under this rock formation, but do not climb. Poison oak is common here.

Marble Falls Trail

For a short walk along canals or a long walk to a waterfall, park across the highway from Potwisha Campground (not in the campground). Near site #14, follow the dirt road along canals. Climb 3.7 miles (6 km) through to the waterfall.



Hospital Rock Picnic Area

See rock paintings and explore exhibits about the California Native Americans who lived here, and still visit and live nearby. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Be careful; drownings occur here. Store your food from bears.

Paradise Creek Trail

For a creekside stroll, park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area (not in the campground). Walk 0.6 miles (0.9 km) to Buckeye Flat Campground. Take the path across from site #28 and cross a footbridge over the river. Follow Paradise Creek (not the river) for 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

Mineral King

Experience deep snow and isolation in a rugged and remote valley. Travel to this area requires a hike from the end of a steep, winding road.

In winter, trails often require snowshoes or skis and skill with a map and compass. Ask for a code at the Foothills Visitor Center to enter this area. Closest parking is 2 miles (3.2 km) before Atwell Mill Campground, 7 miles (11.3 km) before most trailheads.

Services and Facilities

Mineral King Ranger Station

Closed until late May.

Wilderness Permits

Local wilderness permits are issued at the Foothills Visitor Center.

Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Closed until late May.

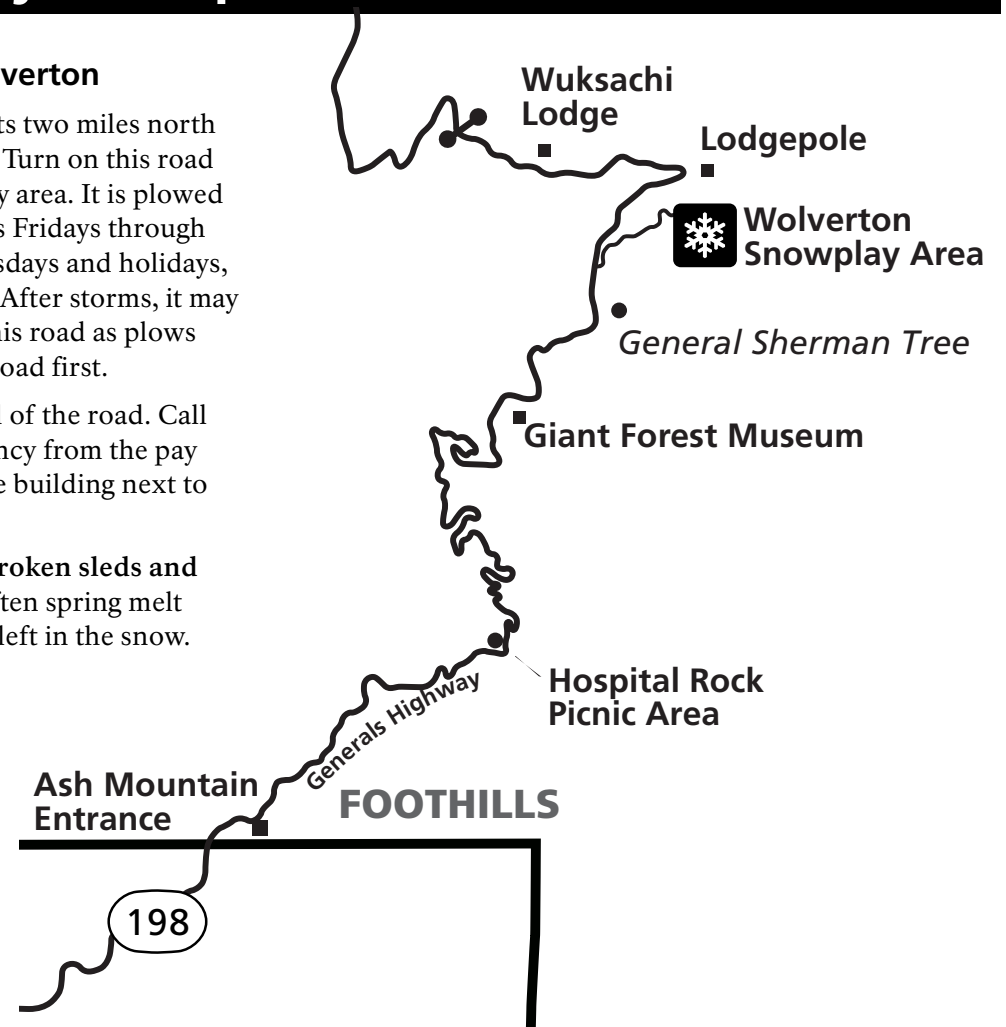
Snowplay in Sequoia National Park

Snowplay at Wolverton

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

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

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



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

General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

Main Trail - Two miles north of Giant Forest Museum. From the Generals Highway, take Wolverton Road and follow signs to the trailhead parking area. This 1/2-mile trail closes once there is much snow, and access to the tree is only from the parking area along the Generals Highway.

Winter Trail - This wheelchair-accessible trail begins at the Generals Highway. The short, paved, fairly level trail may be plowed, or the snow may be packed down enough to walk on. Even still, it is often slippery. Snowplay is prohibited in this area.

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.



Big Trees Trail

A level, paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start your walk at Giant Forest Museum for a 1-mile (1.6 km) round-trip walk. If you have a disability placard, park at the trailhead for a 0.75-mile (1 km) loop. Ski or snowshoe once snow gets deep. There are no yellow ski-trail markers along this trail.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

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

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

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

Tokopah Falls

This walk along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River begins in Lodgepole Campground. The 1.7-mile (2.7 km) trail starts just beyond the Marble Fork Bridge. Walk along the river to the impressive granite cliffs and cascading waterfall of Tokopah Canyon. Tokopah Falls is 1,200 feet (365.8 meters) high, and is most impressive in early summer. Be careful around the water; cold and swift currents are difficult to escape.

Free Holiday Shuttle

Thanksgiving: 11/28 - 12/1
December holidays: 12/21-1/1

Shuttles run 10:00 am - 4:30 pm between Giant Forest Museum, the Sherman Tree parking area along the Generals Highway, Wolverton, Lodgepole, and Wuksachi Lodge.

Plan a holiday visit to your parks!



Services and Facilities

Giant Forest Museum

Open 9:00 am-4:30 pm. Browse exhibits, trail information, and the SPC park store. Ask about free ranger programs!

Wilderness Permits

Self-registration permits are available outside of Giant Forest Museum.

Wuksachi Lodge & Dining*

The lodge sits at 7200' elevation, 2.3 miles (3.7 km) north of Lodgepole. The lodge is open year-round, 24 hours a day, and offers the only sit-down dining experience in Sequoia this winter. Payphones, WiFi, and ATM. Ask about naturalist programs. (866) 807-3598.

PEAKS DINING ROOM: Open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with last seating at 8:00 pm. Reservations recommended for dinner. Box lunches available. (559) 625-7700.

GIFT SHOP: Open daily. Limited supplies.

Lodgepole Market & Gift Shop*

Open daily for supplies, clothing, groceries, grab-and-go food, ATM. Ski and snowshoe rentals are available here when enough snow is on the ground.

Lodgepole Visitor Center

Closed for winter.

*Operated by Delaware North

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

Rent skis, snowshoes, or buy snowplay equipment at Grant Grove Market. Get a ski trail map at the visitor center.

Grant Tree Trail

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

Big Stump Basin

Stumps in this meadow from late 19th-century logging include the Mark Twain Stump. Climb the steps to see the growth rings of this giant. Start the 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop trail from Big Stump Picnic Area.



Cedar Grove

Cedar Grove sits deep in the Kings Canyon, surrounded by sheer granite cliffs. The road to this area closes at noon on November 12, 2019, and usually reopens on the Tuesday after Veteran's Day.

Trek to the Tree

The event, which is sponsored by the Sanger District Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the National Park Service, takes place on Sunday, December 8 at 2:30 pm. A National Park Service representative will speak about the General Grant Tree's role as a national shrine in memory of the men and women of the Armed Forces who have served, fought, and died to keep America free. A memorial wreath will be placed at the base of the tree.

The ceremony will be held at the General Grant Tree, a 1/4-mile walk from an adjacent parking lot. Arrive early as parking is limited for this popular event. Entrance fees to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks will be free on December 8, 2019 to allow people to experience the celebration of the Nation's Christmas Tree.



Snowplay in Kings Canyon National Park

Snowplay at Grant Grove

Use Big Stump & Columbine picnic areas only. Snowplay is prohibited in all other areas in Grant Grove. Big Stump may close due to utility issues. Azalea Campground is for campers only, not those here only for snowplay. A pay telephone is located outside the Grant Grove market. Have fun and stay safe!

Nearby Forest Service areas:

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

Services and Facilities

Kings Canyon Visitor Center

Open 9:00 am–4:00 pm until January 1, then open 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Watch a park film, and browse exhibits in English and Spanish and the park store. Payphone and free WiFi.

Wilderness Permits

Pick up self-issue permits outside.

Grant Grove Village*

MARKET: Open daily for grab-and-go food, groceries, supplies, and an ATM.

RESTAURANT: Hours vary during winter. Generally open until 8:00 pm Friday-Sunday, with limited hours Monday-Thursday. Hours are posted at the restaurant.

GIFT SHOP: Open daily for souvenirs, supplies, clothing, and an ATM.

POST OFFICE: Open Monday–Friday 9:00 am–4:00 pm; 24-hour lobby.

John Muir Lodge*

Make a reservation to stay in the lodge or in a cabin. (866) 807-3598. John Muir Lodge will be closed for remodeling from January through March.

*Operated by Delaware North



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

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

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

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



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



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

Wilderness Permits

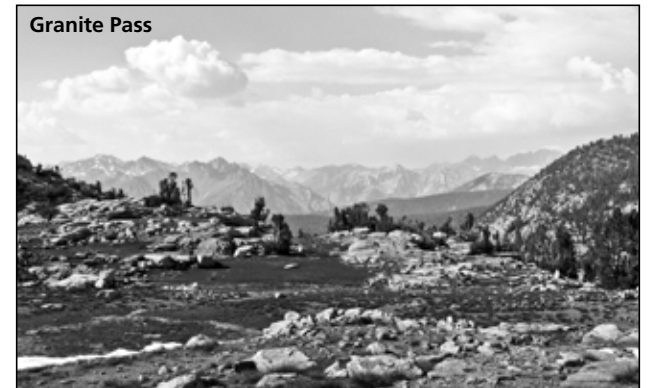
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS): Permits are required for all overnight trips. No permits are needed for dayhikers. After September 22, no reservations are needed. Self-issue permits at the visitor center closest to your intended trailhead. Outside of the quota period, permits are free of charge.

During the quota period (late May - late September), the permit fee is \$10 plus \$5/person. Permits can be reserved beginning March 1. Walk-up permits are issued at the permit station closest to your trailhead.

Jennie Lakes and Monarch Wildernesses in the National Forest: Permits are not required. Register at Jennie Lakes trailheads. The USFS requires a free fire permit for any open flame; these are available online at preventwildfireca.org/Campfire-Permit/ or at the USFS Hume Lake District Office.

Seasonal Wilderness Lodging

Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (concessioner): Open late May into late September, conditions permitting. Experience rustic wilderness lodging and meals 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations fill early. For 2020, call (866) 807-3598 beginning January 1 to reserve a spot for a summer trip.



US Forest Service

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. Although not managed by the National Park Service, this area connects this immense protected landscape.

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

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

Can I...	In National Parks	In National Forests
Walk my leashed pets?	Not on any trails. Pets are permitted on paved roads and must be on leash less than 6 feet (1.8 m) long. Service animals are exempted from pet regulations.	Pets can go on trails. They must be on a leash 6 feet (1.8m) long or less.
Collect things to take home?	Collecting natural objects (pine cones, rocks, plants, or animals) is not allowed in parks. This includes artifacts such as arrowheads, beads, or pottery shards.	You may keep a few cones or rocks for personal use. Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.
Snowmobile?	Not in the Parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: (559) 338-2251.
Drive off-road?	Not in these parks. Stay on roads.	Get off-highway-vehicle (OHV) route information at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.

Services and Facilities

Sequoia National Forest Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Highway 180), 19 miles (30 km) west of the Big Stump park entrance. Open weekdays 8:00 am–4:30 pm. Maps and books are sold here. (559) 338-2251.

Montecito Sequoia Lodge (permittee)

Open all year. (800) 227-9900; (559) 565-3388. On the Generals Highway 9 miles (14 km) south of Grant Grove. The lodge has cabins, a restaurant, a hotel, wifi, seasonal and children’s activities.

Hume Lake (on private land)

Gas is sold when the store is open. The store may close through the winter. When open, hours vary and pumps may close for inspection. Travel 6 miles (9.6 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180, then turn right and travel 4 miles (6.4 km) on Hume Lake Road. A payphone is just outside the store. The snack shop and coffee shop are closed to the public in winter. (559) 305-7770.

Stony Creek Resort (permittee)

Closed for winter.

Dispersed Camping

In addition to campsites, US Forest Service land offers dispersed camping in the frontcountry. Get a free fire permit online or at the USFS Hume Lake District Office. Learn about dispersed camping areas there, or at any visitor center.

You are Responsible for Your Safety

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

Please help us by being prepared—review these safety warnings and ask a ranger for advice. Your safety is in your own hands!

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. If you do swim:

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



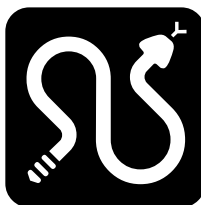
Tree Hazards

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



West Nile Virus & Tick Bites

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



Rattlesnakes

Rattlesnakes are common in the Sequoia foothills and in the Kings Canyon at low elevations. Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill them; this is when most bites occur. Bites are rarely lethal, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, don't panic and call 911.



Poison Oak

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

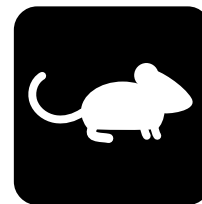
Explore Safely

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



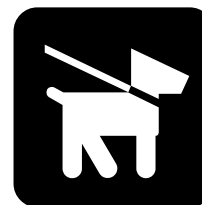
Air Quality

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



Plague & Hantavirus

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



Keep Pets Safe

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



Don't Lose Your Brakes

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

A Feast for the Senses

All of nature begins to whisper its secrets to us through its sounds. Sounds that were previously incomprehensible to our soul now become the meaningful language of nature.

-RUDOLF STEINER

When you visit Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, what do you hear? Wind blowing through the treetops, birdsongs, water cascading over river boulders, or a grouse drumming to impress his mate?

While you may know these parks for their impressive trees and mountainous landscapes, natural sounds are a key part of the experience.

The National Park Service considers natural sounds, or “acoustic resources,” one of the many values worth conserving. While humans usually value sounds based on life experiences and positive memories, sounds can also have a measurable scientific value.

In these parks, we use specialized audio equipment to record sounds in nature. With this equipment, we

can monitor animal species and diversity. We can also measure changes in plant and animal populations that are affected by fires or nonnative species. We record high-quality sounds of wildlife, geology, and other events that can be experienced in the Kings Canyon Visitor Center. And the park developed an interactive, web-based map where people can explore not only the sights, but also the sounds of the park, from right at home.

For more information about our soundscapes program, visit www.nps.gov/seki/learn/exploring-soundscapes.



Prescribed fire in a sequoia grove.

Fire: A Natural Change

For over a century, we tried to banish fire from these lands, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as often as every 5–15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this practice. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes, which led to big problems:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: Fires leave behind a seedbed fertilized with ash, open the cones, and open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, the amount of dead wood and dense growth of small white-fir trees increased tremendously. In the past, frequent natural fires burned these away. Now, after fire’s long absence, these serve as fuels, feeding bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous

for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at these parks, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. To protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, we now work with fire to restore the benefits it brings.

We still put out fires that threaten life and property but, when and where it’s appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving conditions. Strong evidence shows we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The national parks exist to conserve resources “unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” We once thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire’s effects tells us that excluding this natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

We Care About Park Air

As the saying goes, on a clear day you can see forever. But air quality in these parks is often affected by pollutants that come from outside our boundaries. These pollutants can reduce visibility from park overlooks, and harm vegetation and other park resources. In summer, these parks often exceed federal ozone health standards, making air conditions potentially harmful for people who are at risk for respiratory issues. Air quality generally improves in late fall. We continually monitor air quality for both the safety of people and park resources. For more information on air quality here, visit our web pages.

Who Am I?

In fall, I’m known for my insatiable appetite. I eat A LOT—mostly acorns, but also anything that might make me fat. There is a fancy name for this behavior—hyperphagia—but it just means that I eat excessively. And since I’m so hungry, it’s really important that people keep human foods away from me so I don’t get in trouble!

I eat tons of food so I am ready for my long winter’s nap, or hibernation. Occasionally, I take a shorter nap or don’t hibernate at all. It depends on weather, food, and other factors. Who am I? I’m a black bear.



Winter Roads & Closures

Availability of roads and facilities varies with conditions. GPS often misdirects travelers in this area; follow signs, maps, or ask.

Generals Highway between the parks:

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

In Kings Canyon (NPS) & National Forest:

- **Highway 180 to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon:** Closed for winter by Caltrans at the Hume Lake junction. Reopens, conditions permitting, in April.
- **Panoramic Point Road in Grant Grove:** Closes with snow; reopens by late May. Motorhomes/trailers are not permitted.
- **Redwood Mountain (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile roads (USFS):** Closed for winter. Unpaved, unplowed, rutted.
- **Converse Basin & Cherry Gap (USFS):** Closed; usually reopens by late May. Unpaved, rutted, unplowed.

In Sequoia National Park:

- **Giant Forest:** Restroom by Giant Forest Museum open 24 hours; parking is across from the Museum. Sherman Tree parking varies with snow conditions.
- **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow:** Closes with snow; reopens by late May.
- **Crystal Cave Road:** Closed. Reopens late May.
- **Wolverton Road & Snowplay Area:** The road is plowed Fridays–Sundays, Wednesdays, and some holidays. The area is open other days if the road is passable and safe.
- **Mineral King Road:** Closed until late May. For access past the first gate, contact Foothills Visitor Center.
- **South Fork & Middle Fork roads:** Partially unpaved; slippery when wet. Middle Fork closes in winter; park at Hospital Rock.

Rules & Recommendations

Expect Icy Roads

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

Check Conditions Before Going Uphill

Call for 24-hour recorded road information: (559) 565-3341, then press 1, then 1 again. Check your antifreeze, battery, and wipers, and carry clothing layers and a flashlight.

Clear Snow Off Car Roofs & Hoods

It may slide onto the windshield, blocking vision.

Snowplows Rule

Plows may operate day & night, moving with or against traffic. If you see one, slow down but do not stop. To avoid being surprised by snowplows, don't park along unplowed roadways or walk on closed roads. Watch the plow operator for signals; they often cannot stop. They usually plow from 6:00 am–6:00 pm.

Slow Down without Losing Your Brakes

Downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes and cause less skidding than braking.

Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 559-565-3341 then press 9 to be transferred to park dispatch (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 1-559-625-7700.

Use Turnouts & Let Others Pass

Go Slow for Wildlife!

Animals may run or fly across your path any time. Never feed animals near the road; it makes them more likely to linger and get hit by cars.

Fire Restrictions May Be In Effect

Because of dry conditions, restrictions may be in place to reduce the possibility of accidental human-caused fire. Locations where wood or charcoal fires are prohibited will be signed, especially in park campgrounds. Check for updates on park bulletin boards, at visitor centers, or by visiting: <http://go.nps.gov/sekiFireRestrictions>

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. Always carry chains that fit your tires and obey signs to use them. Buy or rent chains outside the parks. Snow tires are also required often, 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 snowtire. 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 or buy tire chains at:

Highway 198 (Three Rivers area)

- **A-1 Totem Market & Gifts**
1 mile west of park entrance, 559-561-4463
- **Chevron Gas Station**
6 miles west of park entrance, 559-561-3835
- **Gateway Restaurant & Lodge**
0.5 miles west of park entrance, 559-561-4133
- **Jerky This (rentals only)**
5 miles west of park entrance, 559-561-3602
- **Kaweah General Store**
9 miles west of park entrance, 559-561-3475
- **Princemart Gas Station**
12 miles west of park entrance, 559-597-2411
- **Vasquez Snow Chains**
4 miles west of park entrance, 559-471-5027

Highway 180

- **Bear Mountain Auto Parts (purchase only)**
21 miles west of park entrance, 559-332-2800
- **Grant Grove Gift Shop (purchase only)**
In the park (beyond chain control), 559-335-5500
- **L&L Feed (purchase only)**
17 miles from park boundary, 559-338-2729

