



# SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

## & SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

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## Surprises in the Wilderness

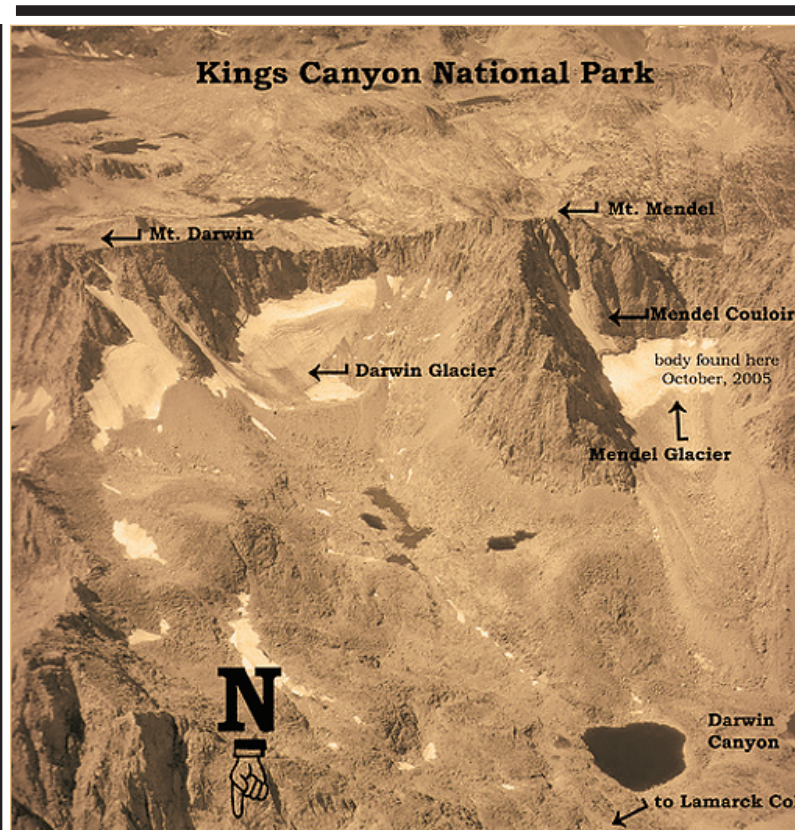
The quest to uncover the secrets and surprises of wilderness draws 80,000 visitors every year to the backcountry of Sequoia & Kings Canyon parks.

Some secrets are botanical: Why do foxtail pine only grow at high elevation? Some are avian: What is it about snowfields that attract rosy finches?

Other wilderness surprises amaze and delight: A slow-moving stream quickly becomes a rapid torrent with many waterfalls. A boulder field suddenly opens up to disclose a “pocket meadow” overflowing with teenie-weenie yellow monkey-flowers. A back bear saunters past your kitchen at dinner time, ignoring your precious food supply to forage for wasps in a rotten log.

Sometimes, surprises are historical. In 1942, a military navigation training flight went terribly wrong and the airplane, a Beech 18 AT-7, crashed in northern Kings Canyon National Park. It wasn't until 1947 that the wreckage was discovered, and not until 2005 when climbers chanced upon the remains of the first of four crewmembers from the missing aircraft. Then, in 2007, another of the crew was found — by me.

It surprises people that, in the most populous state in the union and in a national park that sees nearly two million visitors every year, victims of an airplane crash could go undiscovered for so long. But wilderness is like that. The terrain in Sequoia & Kings Canyon's craggy



The rugged landscape where the plane went down in 1942 may reveal more secrets as its glaciers shrink. ©A. Post, USGS Ice & Climate Project

backcountry is commonly vertical. What isn't forest, lakes, meadows, and streams is covered by rocks or house-size boulders, snowfields, glaciers, and slabs of rock. Wilderness isn't simply big. It's huge. Little things get lost very easily.

Something else about wilderness: There are times when you are so alone, so completely isolated, knowing for certain that not another pair of human eyes are enjoying this sight. You own it all — water, earth and sky, forest, wildflowers, trails, rocks, marmot and cony, and the rosy finch and occasional raptor that come up on a thermal to look around before soaring home in their slow, methodical, business-like way.

But it isn't the lack of human contact that seeps into your bones in wilderness. It's the surprising feeling of completeness. No longer just a speck in the world, you feel part of something larger than yourself, a piece of something important.

Wilderness reminds us that home is more than a building with four walls.

Home is a place where you belong. Over the years, millions of people have visited these national parks. Each has come to love and understand something different about the Sierra Nevada. Isn't it grand? That's another of the secrets and surprises awaiting us in these national parks.

by Peter Stekel, author and frequent visitor to the park wilderness

# WELCOME TO SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON

## Get to know these parks!

Given the names of these parks, you expect giant trees and huge canyons — and you won't be disappointed. Yet the whole of the parks is even greater than the sum of their famous parts.

Rising from 1300' to 14,494', these parks protect a spectacular elevational range. This span from low to high means dramatic shifts from hot foothills to shady forests to the cold High Sierra. It means extraordinarily diverse plants and animals living in extremely varied conditions. It means steep roads and trails that climb mountains, and cold rivers that plunge down from their heights.

There is diversity, too, in the caretakers of this landscape. Bordering these two national parks is a national monument, which is part of a national forest. A U.S. Geological Survey Field Station conducts research here. The Sequoia Natural History Association sells books and maps at visitor centers and contributes to education and research. The Sequoia Parks Foundation supports significant park projects.

Other partners, public and private, cooperate with the Park Service to meet a challenging mission — providing for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations. You are an equally important partner! Experience these parks fully: Learn all you can and join in preserving them. Together we can meet this inspiring goal:

*The National Park Service  
cares for special places  
saved by the American people  
so that all may experience  
our heritage.*

### WELCOME

You may borrow the park map & guide in Braille at visitor centers.

### BIENVENUE

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

### BIENVENIDOS

Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

### WILKOMMEN

Eine Landkarte ist auch in Deutscher Sprache im Besucher Zentrum erhaeltlich.

### BENVENUTI

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

## PARK, FOREST, OR MONUMENT?

What is the difference between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Sequoia National Forest, and Giant Sequoia National Monument?

Each is on federal land. Each exists to benefit society. Yet each has a different history and purpose. Together they provide a wide spectrum of uses.

National parks strive to keep landscapes unimpaired for future generations.



They protect natural and historic features while offering light-on-the-land recreation.

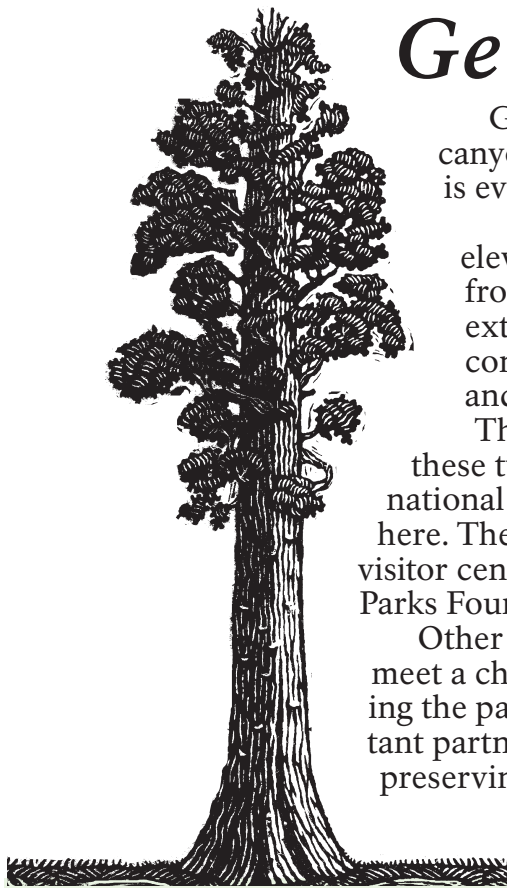
Park rangers work for the National Park Service, part of the Department of the Interior.

National forests, managed under a "multiple use" concept, provide services and commodities that may include lumber, cattle grazing, minerals, as well as recreation with and without vehicles. Forest rangers work for the U.S. Forest Service, an agency in the Department of Agriculture.



Both agencies manage wilderness and other areas where they strive for maximum protection of natural resources. For example, part of Sequoia National Forest has been designated Giant Sequoia National Monument to emphasize protection of sequoias.

Parks, forests, and monuments may have different rules in order to meet their goals. Read "Where can I..." on the next page to learn what activities are permitted where. Despite confusion over names, we get a wide range of benefits from these diverse areas.



### PHONE NUMBERS

**EMERGENCY — DIAL 911**  
No coins needed.

**24-Hour Park Information**  
1-559-565-3341 (NPS)  
[www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)

**National Forest Information**  
1-559-338-2251 (USFS)  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

**Yosemite Information (NPS)**  
1-209-372-0200  
[www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose)

**California Road Conditions**  
1-800-427-7623 (Caltrans)

### Partners in the Parks

The following organizations work together to provide this guide, first published in 1974 as *The Sequoia Bark*. It is published by the Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) and printed by Willems Commercial Printing:

#### National Park Service (NPS)

Malinee Crapsey, Editor  
1-559-565-3341  
[www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)

#### Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)

1-559-565-3759  
[www.sequoiahistory.org](http://www.sequoiahistory.org)

#### Sequoia Parks Foundation

1-559-739-1668  
[www.sequoiafund.org](http://www.sequoiafund.org)

#### U.S. Forest Service (FS)

1-559-784-1500  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia)

#### Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts (DNCPR)

1-888-252-5757  
[www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com)

#### Kings Canyon Park Services (KCPS)

1-866-KCANYON (522-6966)  
[www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com)

#### U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

1-559-565-3171  
[www.werc.usgs.gov](http://www.werc.usgs.gov)

Page 1 illustrations ©SNHA by Rick Wheeler

## FEES HELP YOUR PARKS!

Most of your entrance and camping fees stay here. The parks invest them in important projects that improve visitor facilities and protect park resources. In recent years, fees have paid for repairing and upgrading roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They have improved visitor centers, updated exhibits, and modernized naturalist slide programs.

### ENTRANCE FEE OPTIONS

- **7-day pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument (GSNM):** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.
- **12-Month Pass for Sequoia & Kings Canyon, and for Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest/GSNM:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle for one year from month of purchase. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **12-Month: America the Beautiful Interagency Annual Pass:** Cost \$80. Valid for entrance fees at Federal recreation sites including National Parks, National Forests, FWS, BLM, & Bureau of Reclamation. Admits all passengers in a single private non-commercial vehicle where per-vehicle fees are charged, or the passholder plus up to 3 persons (age 16 & older) for per-person fee areas, for 12 months. Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Seniors: America the Beautiful Interagency Pass:** \$10 one-time fee buys a lifetime pass for entrance fees for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over. (Previously issued Golden Age passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.
- **Accessibility: America the Beautiful Interagency Access Pass:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documentation to any park visitor center. (Previously issued Golden Access passes remain valid.) Not valid at Crystal Cave.

# Crystal Cave rocks!



See fabulous cave formations! NPS Photo

No tickets are sold at the cave, only at Lodgepole and Foothills visitor centers. Buy them at least 1-1/2 hours before the tour.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles (24 km) from the Sequoia Park entrance at Hwy 198, and 3 miles (5 km) south of the General Sherman Tree (see page 12 map). Maximum vehicle length is 22' (6.7 m) on the road to the cave.

Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a jacket; the 1/2-mile trail (.8 km) to the cave is steep and it's 50°F (10°C) inside.

No strollers, tripods, or baby backpacks. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about group reservations! Tours by the SNHA: 1-559-565-3759.

## 45-Minute Cave Tours

*Don't miss this opportunity!*

Through 9/1:

- Weekdays 10:30am -4:30pm every 1/2 hour.
- Saturdays & Labor Day weekend (8/30-9/1) every 1/2 hour 10am-5pm.
- Sundays 10:30 am - 5 pm.

Through 9/2-9/21:

- Weekends on the hour 11am-4pm.
- Weekdays 11am, noon, 2 pm, 3pm.

Through 9/22-10/26 (weather permitting):

- Saturdays on the hour 11am-3pm; Sundays 11am-2pm.
- Weekdays 11am, 1 pm, 2pm.

Fees: Age 6-12 \$6.00; age 13-61 \$11.00; age 62 & up \$10.00; under 6 & Golden Access Pass holders free. National Park, Interagency, & Golden Age passes do not apply. SNHA members get a discount!

## 1-1/2 hour Discovery Tours

Weekdays only through 8/29, starting at 4:15 pm. Enjoy a more in-depth tour of this fabulous cave! Limited to 16 people aged 13 & up. Fee: \$18.95 each (SNHA members \$16.95).

*Go wild - ask about Wild Cave Tours!*

# Free Activities

**WALKS & TALKS** Free ranger-led talks and walks may be offered at Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, the Foothills, and Cedar Grove. See pages 8 and 9 or check bulletin boards and visitor centers to see what is scheduled.

**VISITOR CENTERS & PARK STORES** Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy and sells a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, and other items. Remember: your purchases in visitor centers help to support the parks! See pages 8 and 9 for details.

## JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM - FREE

People of all ages earn a badge while helping to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn an Arrowhead Award. Pick up a free Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions and have fun!

## BEETLE ROCK NATURE CENTER

Programs, activities, and exhibits for all ages! Daily 10am-4pm through 8/17. Across the Generals Highway from the Giant Forest Museum.

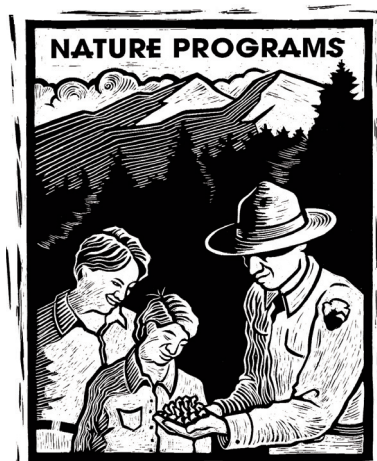
## TEACHERS:

### BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS

Fun, curriculum-based programs for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>-grades in spring and fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, and other cultural history. For details or to reserve a date, call 1-559-565-4303.

### RANGER IN THE CLASSROOM

Bring these world-famous parks to your elementary students! Call 1-559-565-3733 to learn about this exciting new program.



# WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest and Monument (USFS). Some activities that are illegal in the Park may be legal in the Forest (see page 2 to learn more). Use a map to know where you are! So, where can you:

- **WALK A PET?** *In the Parks:* Not on any trails but it's o.k. 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). *In National Forest:* Pets can go on trails. *In both areas:* Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.
- **GO CAMPING?** *In the Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.

- **COLLECT THINGS?** *Not in Parks:* Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. *In National Forest:* Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. *In both areas:* Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.
- **HUNT?** *Not in the Parks.* Firearms must be unloaded, inoperable & stored in way that prevents ready use prior to entering national parks. *In National Forest:* Only during the season with a license. Call 1-559-243-4005.
- **GO CAMPING?** *In the Parks:* Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. *In National Forest:* In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road, no further.
- **CUT WOOD?** *Not in the Parks.* *In National Forest:* Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.

- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD?** *Not in either area.* Stay on roads.
- **GO PICNICKING?** See picnic symbols on map (back page). Bears are active; never leave food unattended! *Fire Restrictions:* Check bulletin boards for details. Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Halstead, Powdercan, Lodgepole, & Crescent Meadow.
- **HAVE A FIRE?** Fire restrictions are in effect! Check for details. *In the Parks:* Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. *In National Forest:* Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves and lanterns. Some areas are more restricted than others. Get permits at park visitor centers in Grant Grove & Cedar Grove or USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.
- **GO FISHING?** *In both areas:* Permitted during the season; California fishing licenses required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.

- **RIDE A BICYCLE?** *In the Parks:* Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). *In National Forest:* Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. *In both areas:* Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People younger than 18 must wear helmets.

## • RIDE HORSEBACK

- Call regarding hourly rides, backcountry spot trips, & guided trips.
- **Cedar Grove**  
1-559-565-3464 summer  
1-559-337-2314 off season
  - **Grant Grove**  
1-559-335-9292 summer  
1-559-594-9307 off season
  - **Horse Corral**  
at Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest  
1-559-565-3404 summer  
1-559-564-6429 off season  
1-559-679-3573 cell

# Change: Natural & unnatural

We often think of parks as outdoor museums. Caretaking a living ecosystem, however, is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone monitor that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear management.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process; Nature decides the timing of many of these actions. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now and in the future.



Fire in the Sierra usually hugs the ground. Its low flames clear dangerous built-up fuels. Without it, these fuels would feed intense, hard-to-control wildfires. The natural burn pattern includes occasional hot spots. These leave important openings in the forest — the sunny, bare places where sequoia trees regenerate best.

©NPS Photo

## Making (Fire) History

In the summer of 1965, a young researcher named Richard Hartesveldt completed experiments at Redwood Mountain Grove in Kings Canyon National Park. He wanted to determine the effects that a century of fire suppression had on giant sequoia groves.

By today's standards, it was an exercise on a small scale — he "treated" just 12 acres with fire. This first experiment showed that sequoia seedlings flourished after a fire.

Three years later of additional evidence later, these parks shifted fire-management policy from full suppression to include managing prescribed fire and lightning fires that improved forest health. That year park staff completed the 800-acre Rattlesnake Creek Prescribed Fire and managed the first lightning fire in National Park Service history on Kennedy Ridge.

As park resource managers reflect upon the past 40 years of fire science, it's appropriate to consider the significance of the work done here in the 1960s.

Although attitudes toward fire were changing, these researchers were making history, and it was not easy. The public and much of the fire-fighting community still believed that wildland fire was nothing but destructive and deadly.

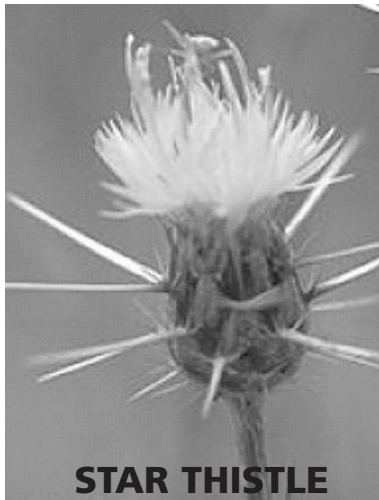
The idea that wildland fire was a natural event like rain or snow, that it could improve the beauty and health of an ecosystem, that the parks' very reason for existence — the giant sequoias — might actually thrive with a natural fire cycle, was a radical departure in thought.

But the conviction that fire belonged in the forest grew from clear evidence, and the willingness to act on it was commendable. It earned a place in resource history for these parks, and a reputation for park management based on good science that continues to this day.

## Unnatural change: Alien invaders!

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often they keep each other in check. When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly since the competitors, predators and diseases they evolved with in their home communities are not here. They break links in the local web of life, badly disrupting species that depend on each other. Sometimes they completely replace native plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks. The natives will thank you!



STAR THISTLE

Two immediate threats:

Star thistle is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny patches completely exclude native plants, and limit wildlife movements. Not yet established here! If you recognize it from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in.

New Zealand Mud Snails take over waterways that they invade, eating most of the food. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! They stick on gear; check boots & waders thoroughly for this tiny invader. Common just east of the parks. Could easily be carried into the Sierra.



NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAIL

## WILDERNESS OVERNIGHTS

Each park trail has a daily entry quota for overnight trips, and between late May and late September a wilderness camping fee of \$15 is required. The quota and fee are used to help protect your wilderness environment and experience. (They are not required for day hikes, or for overnights in the adjacent Monarch and Jennie Lakes wildernesses in US Forest Service. However, a free fire permit is required for any open flame on USFS land.)

A permit is required for each overnight trip. Reserved and first-come, first-served permits are issued the morning of your trip or after 1pm the day before at the park permit station/visitor center nearest your trailhead (see pages 8 & 9). If the quota for your preferred trail is full, you can choose another trail for that day or another day to start, if space is available. Permits are not issued after mid-afternoon as minimum distances must be reached before you camp.

Requests to reserve a permit for a certain date are accepted beginning March 1 and at least 2 weeks before your trip's start date.

Reserved permits must be picked up either the afternoon before or by 9am on the day of departure. If delayed, call the Wilderness Office or you may lose the reservation.

Camping in the park's "front-country" is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

Wilderness Permit Reservations  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P.  
47050 Generals Highway #60  
Three Rivers, CA 93271  
1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

For more details, visit Wilderness Information at [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness.htm) or call.

## HIGH SIERRA LODGE

- **BEARPAW MEADOW CAMP** (DNCP) [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com) Reservations (required) taken starting 7am, 01/02/008: 1-888-252-5757. Open mid-June to mid-September. This tent hotel is at 7800' on the High Sierra Trail, an 11-mile hike from Giant Forest.

## YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!

Natural areas present hazards. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. Wild animals, uneven ground, and changing weather can pose dangers. People may create other hazards through campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims were walking or climbing near rivers and unexpectedly fell in.

The Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

# Be Safe!

**DROWNING** is the #1 cause of death in national parks!

Be extra careful along rivers and streams; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible. Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength.

**PLAGUE:** *Please* do not feed or touch ANY park animals. Fleas on rodents can carry plague. Deer mice feces can carry hantavirus.

**POISON OAK:** This common shrub grows up to 5000 feet elevation. Leaves in groups of three are red with whitish berries in summer, bare in fall & winter; shiny green in spring. If you touch any part of the plant, wash skin and clothes right away.



**TICKS:** Common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry Lyme disease. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.

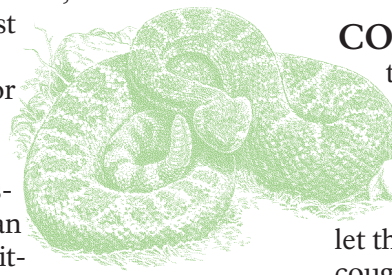


**GIARDIA** in lakes and streams can cause intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water at least 3 minutes.

**HYPOTHERMIA:** This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry and snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter.

**RATTLESNAKES** are especially common in the foothills. Watch where you put your hands and feet! They are protected; do not kill them. Most bites result from teasing or handling.

Very few people die, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



**LIGHTNING:** If you see dark clouds or lightning or hear thunder, get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

**WEST NILE VIRUS** is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

**CARBON MONOXIDE:** This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces such as a tent, camper, or RV.

**OZONE POLLUTION:** See air-quality index forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest May to October, peaking in late afternoon. These peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state and federal standards and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

**CELL PHONES** rarely work well in these mountains; don't rely on them. Note where pay telephones are available (see pages 8 & 9).

**COUGARS** roam throughout the parks, but chances of seeing one are very small. They rarely attack people and pets, but be aware. Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. If you see a cougar, the goal is to convince it that you are not prey and may be dangerous to it:

- Don't run. Cougars associate running with prey and give chase.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the lion.
- Pick up children.
- If the lion acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back!
- Report any cougar sightings.

**EXPLORE SAFELY:** Avoid going alone. Tell someone your plans and return time. Keep your eyes and ears open for potential hazards above and around you. Slow down and share roads and trails with people and wildlife.

**SAFE DRINKING WATER:** The parks' 13 water systems are tested to ensure that they meet state and federal standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available at visitor centers.

**OPERATION NO-GROW**

• Prevent illegal marijuana growing! Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities! Report suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

## Rules of the road

**SLOW DOWN FOR WILDLIFE** and never feed animals along the road! They often get hit by cars if they stay on roadsides.

**DON'T LOSE YOUR BRAKES** Frequent braking + warm weather causes overheating and brake failure. *Always* downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder as it slows the car down, but it will save your brakes.

**AVOID OVERHEATING** Watch the engine temperature gauge. If it starts to go up, especially when going up hill, turn off the air conditioner and turn on the fan. If the engine fails, pull into a paved area, lift the hood, and wait a while. If the problem is vapor lock, this may take care of it.

**FINDING GASOLINE** No gas stations lie within park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or in the National Forest at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp 559-335-2000: Year-round 24 hours with credit card. Diesel. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village 1-559-565-3909: Available 24 hours with credit card. Diesel. Between Wuk-sachi & Grant Grove on the Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge 1-559-335-2405: Gas sales usually 8am-7pm. 5-gallon minimum sale. 17 miles (27 km) north from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

**MOTORCYCLES** Avoid oil buildup on pavement.

**NARROW, WINDING ROADS** IN KINGS CANYON & NATIONAL FOREST/ SEQUOIA MONUMENT – **Hwy 180; Panoramic Point & Redwood Mountain (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (FS).**

IN SEQUOIA – **Crystal Cave Road:** Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m). **Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road:** No drinking water available on this road. From 5/21-9/1, single vehicles more than 22 feet long and combination vehicles are prohibited. Exception if valid disabled-parking placards are displayed. **Mineral King Road:** RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds). **South Fork & Middle Fork Roads:** Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.

**PREVENT CAR FIRES, PROTECT PLANTS & SOILS, & LET OTHERS PASS** Use paved turnouts *only*.

**LENGTH ADVISORY** On 12 narrow miles from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum in Sequoia Park, advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet (6.7m). Maximum limit on the Generals Highway is 40 feet (12 m) for single vehicles, 50 feet (15 m) for vehicles plus a towed unit. Alternative: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, & wider. Towing a car? Stay in the foothills; use the car to explore.

**EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS** For a tow: Call 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, AAA is available for out-of-gas, lock outs, jump starts, minor repairs: Call 565-4070 (24 hours).

**BICYCLES** Ride only on roads (not trails), single file, with traffic, and wear light colors after dark. People under 18 must wear a helmet.

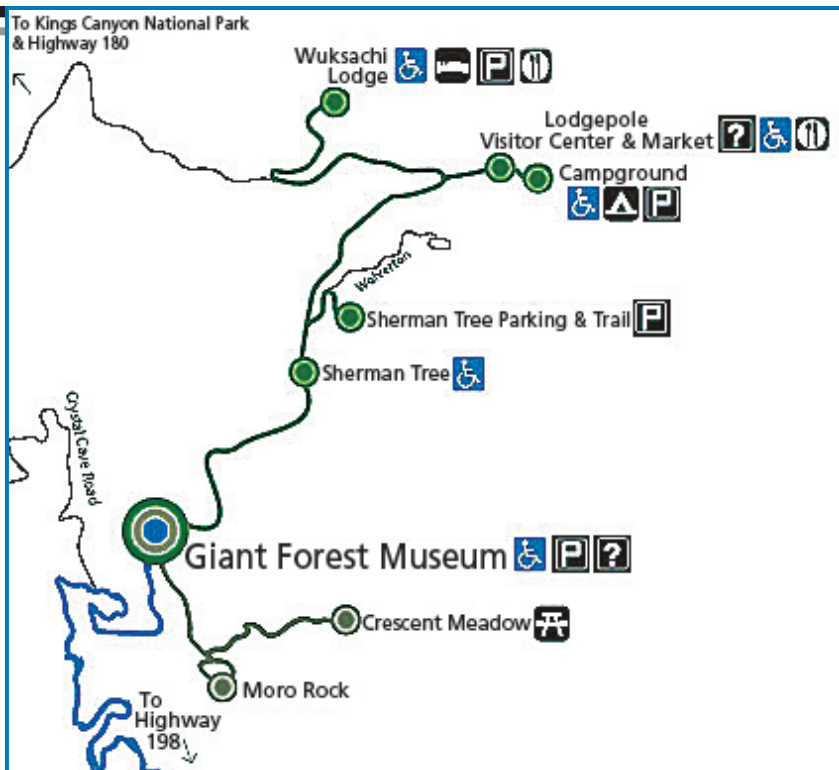
**#1 GIANT FOREST ROUTE (green):** Free. From Giant Forest Museum to Wuksachi and back, with 3 stops along the way. About 35 minutes' ride one way. Buses depart each stop every 20 minutes. Through 9/1.

STOPS	HEADING TO GIANT FOREST	HEADING TO WUKSACHI
• Giant Forest Museum & All-Shuttle Transfer Point	-	1st bus: 9:20 am Last bus: 6:00 pm
• Lower Sherman Tree accessible - trail Parking with disabled-placard only	1st bus: 9:45 am Last bus: 6:45 pm	1st bus: 9:30 am Last bus: 6:10pm
• Upper Sherman Tree - Main Trail & Parking Park here to walk down to tree.	1st bus: 9:40 am Last bus: 6:40 pm	1st bus: 9:35 am Last bus: 6:15 pm
• Lodgepole Visitor Center & Market, Lodgepole Campground (2 stops)	1st bus: 9:30 am Last bus: 6:30 pm	1st bus: 9:50 am Last bus: 6:30 pm
• Wuksachi Restaurant & Lodge	1st bus: 9:20 am Last bus: 6:20 pm	-

**#2 MORO ROCK / CRESCENT MEADOW ROUTE (gray):** Free. Leaves Giant Forest Museum every 15 minutes; stops at Moro Rock only on the outbound trip. 15-minute ride one way. Through 9/1.

STOPS	HEADING TO CRESCENT MDW	HEADING TO GIANT FOREST
• Giant Forest Museum & All-Shuttle Transfer Point	1st bus: 9:30 am Last bus: 5:30 pm	-
• Moro Rock Description below.	1st bus: 9:37 am Last bus: 5:37 pm	-
• Crescent Meadow Description below.	-	1st bus: 9:43 am Last bus: 5:43 pm

**GIANT FOREST-TO-VISALIA ROUTE:** \$15 round trip. No additional park entrance fee. Reservations required; call 1-877-BUS-HIKE or [www.sequoiashuttle.com](http://www.sequoiashuttle.com). Two-hour ride each way. Buses leave Visalia for Giant Forest at 7am, 8am, 9am, & 1pm. Buses leave Giant Forest for Visalia on the hour from 2:30pm through 6:30pm through 9/1.



## SEE SEQUOIA BY SHUTTLE!



# Highlights SEQUOIA PARK

## GIANT FOREST

Review safety tips on page 5. Take the Sequoia Shuttle system (above) to visit many of these sites.

### GIANT FOREST MUSEUM

The best place to learn about sequoias! Shuttle stop 5/21-9/1.

### BIG TREES TRAIL

A level, 2/3-mile (1 km) loop with colorful trailside panels describing sequoia ecology. Start at Giant Forest Museum; parking at the trail is only for cars with placards.) 1 hour round trip.

### GENERAL SHERMAN TREE:

Two trails run to the world's largest tree. The shuttle stops at the beginning of each:

- **Main trail at Upper Sherman** (with a large parking lot), runs 1/2 mile down to the tree and has some stairs. It is an uphill walk back to your car. Drive two miles (3.2 km) north of Giant Forest

Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot for those with *disabled* placards only) to Wolverton Road. Turn right, then follow signs. If you can walk down but the walk back up is too difficult, through 9/1 you can continue from the tree down to the shuttle stop on the Generals Highway, and ride the *northbound* shuttle (toward Wuksachi) back to your car.

- **Wheelchair accessible trail at Lower Sherman** has parking for those with *disabled* placards only. If you don't have a placard but can't make the walk down the main trail, ask at any visitor center for a temporary permit or, through 9/1, take the shuttle.

**CONGRESS TRAIL:** A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the grove. Begins at the Sherman Tree.

## MORO ROCK/ CRESCENT MEADOW

No drinking water is available along this 3-mile (5 km), dead-end road that begins at Giant Forest Museum. Through 9/1, take a shuttle to see it. Until then, single vehicles more than 22 feet long and those towing anything are prohibited – except those with valid disabled-parking placards displayed. Highlights include:

**MORO ROCK:** A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile (.4 km) staircase to the summit (300 foot /91 m elevation gain) and a spectacular view. Two miles (3.2 km) from the Generals Highway. Shuttle stop.

**TUNNEL LOG:** A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only “tree you can drive through” in these parks. There is a by-pass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles (4.3 km) from the Museum.

**CRESCENT MEADOW:** Summer wildflowers in a fragile meadow. Stay on designated trails; use only fallen logs to walk into meadows. Try the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia, or the High Sierra Trail (71 miles/114 km to Mt. Whitney, at 14,494 feet /4417 m, the highest peak in the 48 states). Shuttle stop.

## NEARBY TRAILS

**TOKOPAH FALLS:** 1.7 miles (2.7 km) along the Marble Fork of the

Kaweah River, ending at granite cliffs and a waterfall. Be careful by the water! Start in Lodgepole Campground (a shuttle stop). For the 500 foot/152 m elevation gain, allow 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

## THE FOOTHILLS

The Sierra's lower elevations offer more different kinds of plants and animals than the conifer forests or highcountry. Watch for ticks and poison oak (see page 5 for safety tips).

### HOSPITAL ROCK PICNIC

**AREA:** Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here and a very short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a waterfall. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always store food from bears.

**MARBLE FALLS TRAIL** climbs 3.9 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a lovely cascade. Park near site #14 at Potwisha Campground. Take the dirt road across the concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

**PARADISE CREEK:** At Buckeye Flat Campground, follow the footpath across from site #26 and the footbridge over the Middle Fork. The trail follows Paradise Creek, not the Middle Fork, for 1-1/2 miles (1.6 km) before growing faint.

## MINERAL KING

See page 8 for information.

# Highlights

## KINGS CANYON

Photo courtesy of R. Mazur

Just before the break-in.... Don't let this happen to your car - or a park bear!



**BEFORE EXPLORING:** Review safety advice on page 5. You are on your own in the park — be safe!

### GRANT GROVE

#### GENERAL GRANT TREE:

One of the world's largest living trees. President Coolidge proclaimed it the Nation's Christmas Tree in 1926. It is also a National Shrine, the only living memorial to those who died in war. Visit historic Gamlin Cabin and the Fallen Monarch along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved, relatively easy trail. A trail guide is sold at the visitor center. North and west of the visitor center 1 mile (1.6 km).

**NORTH GROVE LOOP:** This lightly traveled, 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) trail provides a close look at the Big Trees and a quiet walk through conifer forest. Starts at lower Grant Tree parking area.

#### DEAD GIANT LOOP:

Speculate on what killed this sequoia, and enjoy a picturesque view of an historic mill pond. Follow the old road from the lower Grant Tree parking area for about a mile. The trail branches off, creating a 1-1/2 mile (2.4 km) round trip.

### NEARBY TRAILS & POINTS OF INTEREST

#### PANORAMIC POINT ROAD:

Until then, hike this steep, narrow road to a High-Sierra vista. Go east through the visitor-center parking, left around the meadow, right at the sign "Panoramic Point, 2.3 miles (3.7km)." Walk 1/4 mile (.4km) up to viewpoint. Trailers/RVs not recommended. The 4-mile (6.4 km) round-trip Park Ridge Trail begins here.

**BUENA VISTA PEAK:** Park just south of Kings Canyon Overlook on Generals Highway, 7 miles (11 km) south of Grant Grove. 360° vista of Redwood Canyon, Buck Rock Lookout, and High Sierra. 2 miles (3.2 km) round trip.

**REDWOOD CANYON:** Dirt road, bumpy, not plowed. This, the world's largest sequoia grove, has acres of rejuvenating forest from 40 years of prescribed fires, showing the positive relationship between fire and sequoias. Across Generals Highway from the Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction (7 miles/11.3km south of Grant Grove), turn southwest at Redwood Saddle. Turn right and go 2 miles (3.2km) to parking lot.

**BIG BALDY RIDGE:** Great views out and down into Redwood Canyon. Two-mile trail (3.2km) to the summit at 8,209 feet (2502m). From Grant Grove, go 8 miles (13km) south on Generals Highway to trailhead. Elevation gain 600 feet (183m); round trip 4 miles (6.4km).

**KINGS CANYON OVERLOOK:** Look northeast to the High Sierra wilderness at this overlook about 6 miles (9.5km) south of Grant Grove.

**REDWOOD MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK:** Go 6 miles (9.6 km) south of Grant Grove, across the Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction, and look west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. Studies here proved that sequoia trees need fire to reproduce successfully.

### THE KINGS CANYON & CEDAR GROVE

Take time to see at least part of this spectacular gorge. Be very careful around the river!

**CANYON VIEW:** The "U" shape of this canyon, apparent from this viewpoint, reveals its glacial history. 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

**KNAPP'S CABIN:** During the "Roaring" 1920s, Santa Barbara businessman George Knapp commissioned lavish fishing expeditions here, using this small cabin to store gear. A short walk from a turnout 2 miles (3.2 km) east of Cedar Grove Village road.

**ROARING RIVER FALLS:** A shady 5-minute walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a narrow granite chute. 3 miles (4.8 km) east of the Village road. Paved, relatively accessible.

**ZUMWALT MEADOW:** This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) trail offers high granite walls, lush meadows, and the winding Kings River. Parking is 4-1/2 miles (7.2 km) east of the Cedar Grove Village road. Purchase a trail guide at the visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

**ROAD'S END:** Here where the pavement ends are high granite walls and trails to the river, Muir Rock, and the High Sierra. No road continues across the Sierra. East of the Village turnoff 5-1/2 miles (8.8 km).



### TAKE A HIKE!

**MIST FALLS:** One of the park's largest waterfalls. Allow 4-5 hours; 9 miles (14.4 km) round trip. Fairly flat at first; 600-foot elevation gain in the last 2 miles (3.2 km). Park at Road's End. Be careful of slippery rocks by the falls.

**DON CECIL TRAIL:** The main route into the canyon prior to the 1939 completion of Highway 180. It starts .2 miles (.3 km) east of the village, climbs a north-facing slope past Sheep Creek Cascade (1 mile/1.6 km up) to good views. Lookout Peak (a 13-mile/21-km round trip with 4000 foot/1220 m elevation gain) has a great panorama. Strenuous; all day.

**HOTEL CREEK TRAIL:** Starts .2 mile (.3 km) north of the market at the intersection with the pack station road. Climbs through chaparral to forest and views from Cedar Grove Overlook. 5-mile (8 km) round trip; 1200-foot/365 m elevation gain. Strenuous; allow 3-4 hours. Return via Lewis Creek Trail for an 8-mile (12.9 km) loop.

### USFS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest (see page 2 for *Park or Forest*).

**CONVERSE BASIN:** Virtually every mature sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk the 2-mile (3.2 km) Boole Tree loop to see a huge monarch sequoia that was spared (6 miles north of Grant Grove), or the 1/2-mile (.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, a tree cut for exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (2 miles north of Grant Grove).

**INDIAN BASIN:** A one-mile accessible trail and a one-mile unpaved trail offer a look at how this meadow and forest are recovering after logging a century ago. Take Highway 180 7 miles north of Grant Grove; turn into Princess Campground. Trail begins by the host's campsite.

**HUME LAKE,** formed by a rare, historic, multiple-arch dam, supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles (108km) down to Sanger! An easy 2+ 1/2-mile (4 km) trail circles it. Page 9 lists area facilities. Eight miles (12.8 km) north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles (4.8 km) south on Hume Lake Road.

**BUCK ROCK LOOKOUT:** A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views of the High Sierra. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11 then Forest Road 13S04.

# FACILITIES IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

## Giant Forest Area

### GIANT FOREST SEQUOIA GROVE

6400' (1950m) elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees, it offers 40 miles (64 km) of walking trails. For nearby picnic areas see page 3 and the map on page 12. See Highlights on page 6.

- **Giant Forest Museum (NPS):** Daily 9am to 7pm through 8/31, then 9am-6pm. Exhibits about the Big Trees. Books, maps, first aid. 1-559-565-4480. No payphone; closest are at Lodgepole & Wolverton (don't rely on cell phones).
- **Beetle Rock Nature Center (NPS):** Daily through 8/17, 10am - 4pm. Across the Generals Highway from the Giant Forest Museum. Stop in, one and all!

### CRYSTAL CAVE

One of the park's main highlights! See page 3 for details and schedule.

## Lodgepole Area

### LODGEPOLE VILLAGE

6700' (2040 m) elevation. A few miles north of Giant Forest, in beautiful Tokopah Canyon along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. For near-by picnic areas see page 3 and the map on page 12.

#### INFORMATION (NPS)

- **Wilderness Permits:** Required for backcountry overnight trips. Issued inside Lodgepole Visitor Center Daily 7-11am & 12-3:45pm. See page 4 for details. Permit Information: 1-559-565-3766. Area trail conditions: 1-559-6-440.
- **Visitor Center:** Daily 7am-6pm through 8/31, then 7am-5pm. *Bears of Sequoia* movie (captioned); exhibits on geology & forest life; books; maps; first aid, local wilderness permits. Crystal Cave tickets sold 8am-4pm. Pay phone. 1-559-565-4436.

#### FOOD, SHOPS & OTHER SERVICES

- **Lodgepole Market, Gift Shop (DNCPR):** 8am - 8pm through 8/31. Groceries, pre-made sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, ice cream, film, souvenirs.
- **Watchtower Deli (DNCPR):** Daily 11am-6pm through 8/31, then closed. Sandwiches, salads.
- **Harrison BBQ & Grill (DNCPR):** Daily 8am - 7:45pm through 8/31.
- **Laundry (DNCPR):** Same hours as Market. Last load in 1 hour before closing.
- **Showers (DNCPR):** Daily 8am - 1pm & 3 - 7:45pm.
- **Post Office:** Weekdays 8am-1pm & 2-4pm. 1-559-565-3678. Address mail to visitors: c/o General Delivery, Sequoia National Park, CA 93262.
- **Lodgepole Campground (NPS):** Open all year. Details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones:** Outside visitor center & market (cell-phone signals are usually poor).

### WOLVERTON MEADOWS

7200' (2160 m) elevation. North of the Sherman Tree 2 miles (3.2km).

- **Wolverton BBQ (DNCPR):** Nightly through 8/31, weather permitting. All-you-can-eat barbeque, served outdoors at 6pm (time adjusts with sunset).

## Wuksachi

### LODGE & DINING ROOM (DNCPR)

7200' (2160 m) elevation. Year-round center for lodging & food services in Sequoia; 4 miles (6.4 km) north of the General Sherman Tree.

- **Dining Room:** Daily, 7-10am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-10pm. Dinner reservations required. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070. Lounge daily 4:30-10pm.
- **Gift Shop:** Daily 8am-8pm. Film, souvenirs, crafts, clothing, snacks.
- **Wuksachi Lodge:** See page 10 for details. Front desk 24 hours.
- **Pay Telephones:** At main lodge. Cell-phone signals are often poor.

Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts and the National Park Foundation have made it easy for Wuksachi Lodge guests to contribute to these parks. Ask about the Guest Donation Program when you check in!

## Foothills Area

500-3500' (457-1067 m) elevation. Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters; & the greatest biological diversity in these parks. Park headquarters is at Ash Mountain.

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-6pm through 9/1, then 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits, books, maps, bear canisters, first aid, local wilderness permits. 1-559-565-3135.
- **Potwisha Campground (NPS):** Year-round. Details on page 11.
- **Pay Telephones** (cell phone signals are usually poor): Foothills Visitor Center near front door, Potwisha Campground, Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).

## Mineral King Area

*The road to this area is open late May to November 1.*

7800' (2380 m) elevation. A subalpine valley at the end of a steep, narrow, difficult road. No RVs, buses, or trailers, please. No electricity or gasoline. Be aware: In spring & early summer, marmots chew on hoses and wiring in parked cars in the valley.

- **Ranger Station (NPS):** Daily 8am-4pm. Information, wilderness permits. Check for schedule of ranger programs.
- **Pay Telephones:** Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area. Cell phone signals are usually poor.
- **Silver City Mountain Resort:** Open through 10/18. Cabins, chalets, showers, small store (gifts, limited supplies, ice, **no gasoline**, no fishing licenses). Restaurant/bakery: 8am-8pm Thursday-Monday, 8am-5pm Tuesday-Wednesday pie & coffee only). Pay telephone. [www.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com); 1-559-561-3223.
- **Camping (NPS):** No RVs or trailers. Details: page 11.

## FREE NATURE PROGRAMS

Check local bulletin boards and visitor centers for times, topics, and additional programs! Limited programs on 8/7.  
**IN THE GIANT FOREST & LODGEPOLE:**

**Sherman Tree Talk** - Daily 10:30 am through 9/30, 4:30 pm through 8/31; 30 minutes. Learn about the largest tree on the planet and its secrets for survival! Meet at base of the tree. Plan at least 20 minutes to walk from parking lot.

**Moro Vistas** - Daily 11 am through 9/30; 30 minutes. Meet on top of Moro Rock. Plan at least 15 minutes to climb the staircase!

**Critters of the Sierra** - Daily 1:30 pm through 9/30; 30 minutes. Discover the animals that call Sequoia Park home. In front of Lodgepole Visitor Center.

**Beetle Rock Rollick** - Daily 2 pm through 8/17; 1 hour. Kids! Discover a secret about Sequoia. Activities vary daily. At Beetle Rock Education Center, across the road from Giant Forest Museum.

**Realm of Giants** - Daily 2:30 pm; 2 hours. Explore the world's largest trees. Meet in front of Giant Forest Museum.

**Lodgepole Evening Campfire** - Most weekends through 9/27; 1 hour. Lodgepole campground amphitheatre across the big parking lot.

**IN THE FOOTHILLS:** Schedule through 9/1; then check locally.

**Wild About Bears** - Daily 10am; 20-minute talk. Come to the Foothills Visitor Center.

**Ranger's Choice** - Daily 2pm; 20-minute talk. Meet at the Foothills Visitor Center. Check there for topics.

**Junior Ranger Program** - Sunday, 9am; 1-1/2 hours. Grab the kids and meet at Potwisha Campground Amphitheater!

**Potwisha Evening Program** - Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 8pm; 1 hour. Potwisha Campground Amphitheater.

**Amphitheater Point Talk** - Daily 10am; 20-minute talk. Meet at Amphitheater Point Overlook on Generals Highway.

**Hospital Rock Talk** - Daily 1pm; 30 minutes. Meet at Hospital Rock Picnic Area.

**Plan Your Visit** - Daily. Morning map talks at the Foothills Visitor Center will orient you to specific park areas.

#### **IN MINERAL KING:**

Evening campfires, walks & talks through 9/1. Check bulletin boards!



# FACILITIES IN KINGS CANYON PARK & USFS

## Grant Grove Area

### GRANT GROVE VILLAGE

6600' (2008 m) elevation. This was originally General Grant National Park, created in 1890 to protect sequoias from logging. Here you can see both a pristine grove & one that was logged in the 1800s.

#### INFORMATION

- **Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 8am-6pm through August, then 8am-5pm. Exhibits & a 15-minute movie captioned in English and Spanish. Books, maps, first aid, bear canisters. Local wilderness permits issued 8am-5:45pm (4:45pm starting 9/1). 1-559-565-4307.

#### FOOD & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant:** Daily 7am -2pm & 5-9pm.
- **Gift Shop, Market:** Daily 8am - 9pm. Souvenirs, film, clothing, ATM. Market sells food & other supplies, sandwiches, bear canisters, & cans of emergency gasoline.

#### OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping & Lodging:** See page 10-11. Lodge front desk 7am-10pm.
- **Post Office:** Hours may change without notice. Monday-Friday 9am -3:30 pm; Saturday 10 -noon. Lobby open 24 hours. Send mail for visitors to: c/o General Delivery, Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.
- **Stables - Horseback Riding:** Details on page 3.
- **Pay Telephones:** Available 24 hours at Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); and outside gift shop, market, and post office. Cell phone signals are usually poor.
- **Showers:** 11am -4pm. Pay at the registration desk in the village.

## In the Kings Canyon

### CEDAR GROVE VILLAGE

4600' (1410 m) elevation. This glaciated valley features towering granite cliffs, tumbling waterfalls, and the powerful Kings River — “a rival to the Yosemite,” according to John Muir.

#### INFORMATION

- **Visitor Center (NPS):** Daily 9am-5pm through 9/1. Books, maps, first aid, bear canisters. 1-559-565-3793.
- **Wilderness Permits (NPS):** At Road's End, 6 miles (9.6km) east of the village, open 7am -3pm daily. No permits issued after 2:45pm. Maps, bear canisters.

#### FOOD, LODGING & SHOPS (KCPS)

- **Restaurant:** Counter-service meals & snack bar; not a full-service restaurant. Daily 7am-2pm & 5-9pm. Lunch supplies at market.
- **Gift Shop & Market:** Salads, sandwiches, supplies, bear canisters, souvenirs, film. Daily 7am-9pm.

#### OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping & Lodging:** See page 10-11. Lodge front desk 8am-7pm.
- **Showers:** 7am-1 pm & 3-7pm.
- **Pay Telephones:** At restaurant/market & visitor center. No cell signal.
- **Horseback Riding:** Details on page 3.

### Where to Pay Your Entrance Fee

Go to the entrance station at the Big Stump area of Grant Grove, just off Highway 180.

Please stop there to purchase or show your pass. One fee is good for visiting *both* parks *and* the forest!

## USFS: National Forest & Monument

### HUME LAKE & BIG MEADOWS AREAS (FS)

Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest, borders much of the western edge of these National Parks. You are in the National Forest when you drive between the park areas of Lodgepole and Grant Grove, and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove (see page 2 for more on Parks and Forests). Sold to the government as a Forest Reserve in 1935, it is an excellent place to see sequoias recovering from intensive logging in the late 1800s.

#### PAY TELEPHONES (cell-phone signals are usually poor):

- **Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove:** Summer only at Stony Creek Resort & Big Meadows trailhead.
- **Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove:** Hume Lake (year round; see *Hume Lake* below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

#### INFORMATION

- **USFS Hume Lake District Office (FS):** 35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in Dunlap, 19 miles (31 km) west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Open 1st Saturday of the month through September, 8am-4:30pm. Maps & books sold. 1-559-338-2251; [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia).

#### LODGING & OTHER SERVICES

- **Camping (FS) & Lodging (private):** See pages 10 & 11.
- **Montecito Lake Resort (FS permittee):** Open all year. A resort on public land. On Generals Highway 9 miles (14.5km) south of Grant Grove. Breakfast 7:30-9am, lunch 12-1:30pm, dinner 5:30-7pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. 800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.
- **Hume Lake:** Year-round private facilities open to public: **24-hour laundry** (coin-operated) & **gas station** (with credit card). **Market & snack shop.** North of Grant Grove 8 miles (13km) on Hwy 180, then south on Hume Lake Road 3 miles (5km). 1-559-335-2000.
- **Boyden Cavern:** On Highway 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Daily tours on the hour 10am-5pm. Gift shop. Ask about evening flashlight tours & guided canyoneering trips. Ages 13 & up \$12.50; 3-12 \$7.50; AAA & seniors 10% discount. Schools & other groups call 1-559-338-0959.
- **Stony Creek Village (FS):** On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Market, restaurant 7am-8pm Sunday-Thursday, weekends 7am-9pm. Showers/laundry 10am-4pm. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. Lodging. 1-866-KCANYON; 1-559-565-3909.
- **Big Meadows Cabin (FS) historic guard station:** See page 10.

#### GASOLINE SALES on FOREST LANDS

- At Hume Lake year-round; at Stony Creek and Kings Canyon Lodge summer only. See page 3 for hours.

## FREE NATURE PROGRAMS

Check local bulletin boards and visitor centers for times, topics, and additional programs!

### GRANT GROVE

**Grant Tree Walks** - Daily 2pm; 1-hour walk. Meet at the start of the Grant Tree Trail (paved).

**Evening Programs** - Nightly (except 8/7) at Sunset Amphitheater. Start time varies.

**Ranger's Choice** - Daily 4pm; 1/2-hour talk or short walk. Meet in front of Kings Canyon Visitor Center.

**Celebrate Sequoias Festival** - 10th annual! Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Special activities.

### CEDAR GROVE

**Zumwalt Meadow Meander** - Usually daily; 1-1/2-hour walk. Meet at the start of the Grant Tree Trail (paved).

**Evening Campfire Programs** - Friday, Saturday, Sunday at Amphitheater next to visitor center.

**Kanawyer's Mine & Resort Walk** - Meet at Road's End.

**Kings River Clean-up** - Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. <http://sfkingsriver.org>



# Staying Overnight

## LODGING

### SEQUOIA PARK

- **Wuksachi Village** (DNCPR)  
Reservations: 1-888-252-5757  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-4070  
www.visitsequoia.com. Open all year. North of Giant Forest Museum 6 miles (9.6 km). Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.
- \* **Silver City Mountain Resort**  
Summer: 1-559-561-3223  
Winter: 1-805-528-2730  
www.silvercityresort.com. Open late May to mid-October. Cabins, chalets, supplies, restaurant, gifts, bakery, showers. No gas.

### KINGS CANYON PARK

- **Grant Grove Lodge & John Muir Lodge** (KCPS)  
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966  
Front Desk: 1-559-335-5500  
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open all year. In Grant Grove. Hotel all year, cabins (5/23-11/22), restaurant, showers, store, gifts.
- **Cedar Grove Lodge** (KCPS)  
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-0100  
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. May 16 to October 11. In the Kings Canyon. Motel, public showers, restaurant, laundry, store.

### SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/ MONUMENT AREA

- **Montecito Lake Resort** (formerly Montecito-Sequoia Lodge)  
Reservations: 1-800-227-9900  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3388  
www.mslodge.com. Open all year. On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, lodge, seasonal & children's activities.
- **Stony Creek Lodge** (KCPS)  
Reservations: 1-866-522-6966  
Front Desk: 1-559-565-3909.  
www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com. Open early May - mid-October. On Generals Highway between Grant Grove & Lodgepole. Restaurant, market, showers, gas, hotel.
- **Big Meadows Cabin** (FS)  
1-877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov. Open mid-June to mid-October. An historic guard station in the National Monument between Grant Grove & Lodgepole.
- \* **Kings Canyon Lodge** (Private)  
Reservations: 1-559-335-2405  
Open mid-April to mid-November. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove.
- \* **Note:** Privately owned and on private land, these facilities cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by the NPS or USFS.

### NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging, camping, & services. Ask at visitor centers or check www.nps.gov/seki, click PLAN YOUR VISIT then link to LODGING.

### WILDERNESS LODGE & PERMITS

See page 4.

## CAMPING DOs & DON'Ts: These rules protect the park & you! NOTE:

Rules may vary between the Park to the National Forest. Check page 2 for details.

### KEEP FOOD FROM BEARS!

It's required all year! Learn how to do it correctly — see below.

### CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Check bulletin boards for restrictions before starting any fire. Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs from trees. Better yet, bring wood or buy it at a market. Fires must be out cold before you leave. In the national forest & monument you must get a free campfire permit from the Hume Lake District Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), or a Forest Service ranger.

### ROADSIDE CAMPING?

It's not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In the National Forest & Monument, roadside camping is permitted unless posted otherwise. Ask a ranger for possible locations.

### NO HOLDING CAMPSITES

You may not hold a site for someone who has not arrived. Sites not occupied for 24 hours are considered abandoned; property may be impounded.

### GROUP SITES & MAXIMUM GROUP SIZES

**UP TO 6:** Many campgrounds allow only one vehicle & six people per site. Check locally for slight variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.

**7 TO 19:** In summer, Crystal Springs (Grant Grove) has first-come, first-served sites for groups of 7-15. Canyon View in Cedar Grove has sites for 7-19. \$35/site.

**LARGER:** Call in advance for information on requesting summer group tent-camping sites: For Sunset or Canyon View 1-559-565-4335 (5/1-10/31: 565-3792 for Canyon View). To reserve a group site in Dorst or in the national forest/ monument: 1-877-444-6777 or www.recreation.gov.

### TIME LIMITS ON CAMPING

Camping stays are limited to 14 days between June 14 and September 14, with 30 days total per year.

### QUIET & GENERATOR HOURS

10pm-6am. Generator use: At Lodgepole & Dorst only 8-11am & 5-8pm; at other campgrounds 9am-9pm only. Music should be audible in your campsite only.

### RVS & TRAILERS

No hookups are available. Dump stations: See chart on page 11. Trailers are permitted in all but four park campgrounds; check the chart on page 11. Many sites are not suitable for trailers or RVs. Sites may not be level. Vehicles over 30 feet long can fit in a small number of sites. Length advisory: On the Generals Highway in Sequoia Park, from Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum, advised vehicle length limit is 22 feet. See page 5 for other limits & warnings.

### PROPANE CANISTERS

Do not put propane or other fuel canisters in park trash cans or leave them in the parks. Take them with you when you leave.

### BE A VOLUNTEER HOST!

Live in the park, take care of campgrounds & resources, & meet great people! Learn about volunteer opportunities; contact the Park Volunteer Coordinator, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651.



## save a bear!

Sales from the Save-a-Bear Kit & color pin (above) directly support bear management. See the pins at visitor centers.

## YOU MUST STORE ALL FOOD!

**B**EARS quickly learn to get food from cars, picnic tables, and backpacks. They then become destructive and sometimes aggressive. They want our food, not us, but people can get hurt. Too often these bears must be killed. This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly.

- **DRIVERS:** Never leave any food or scented item in cars. Take infant seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

- **CAMPERS:** Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (see page 11 for box sizes; avoid bringing coolers that won't fit).

Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even if it's not food) -- including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, store food in the car trunk (seal food to reduce odors). If the car has no trunk, put everything on the floor, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food.

- **PICKNICKERS:** Guard your food at all times.

- **LODGE GUESTS:** Keep cabin doors closed any time you leave.

- **BACKPACKERS:** Store all food in a portable canister. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few backcountry locations offer backup storage. Rent or buy a canister at park visitor centers or markets. Bears defeat most attempts to hang food in trees.

- **EVERYONE:** Don't let bears approach you or your food. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks in their direction (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. If a bear does get food, never try to take it back.

Each campsite has a table & fire ring with grill; no hook-ups.

Food-storage is required!: Always read & follow instructions on bulletin boards to help save a bear! See other rules on page 10.

\*Summer reservations for Dorst & Lodgepole (in Sequoia NP) & for reservable campgrounds marked \* below in the National Forest (USFS) may be made up to 6 months in advance of the date desired. Contact [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or 1-877-444-6777, 7am -9pm PST from 3/1-10/31, then 7am-7pm. Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

# CAMP GROUNDS

## KEY TO SYMBOLS:

"Nearby"-Within 2 miles/ 3.2

- ✓ -Year-round
- ☀ -Summer only

**FOOD STORAGE:** Avoid bringing items that won't fit in bear boxes. Symbols next to the campground name on the chart below tell the size of bear-proof food-storage boxes available there:

- # One small box per site (47" long x 17" deep x 16" high);
- ◆ One large box per site (at least 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high);
- ⊠ A mix of box sizes;
- + Additional boxes available for sites to share.

# of sites	Daily Fee	Rest-rooms	Food within 2 miles	Showers within 2 miles	Laundry within 2 miles	Dump Station Nearby	Nature Programs Nearby	Pay Phone	Riding within 2 miles	River within 2 miles	Sequoias within 2 miles
#	\$										

## IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

**FOOTHILLS AREA** Elevation 2100'-3600'. Lowest in elevation, therefore warmest, often hot.

<b>Potwisha</b> ◆ Open all year.	42	\$18	Flush			✓	☀	✓		✓	
<b>Buckeye Flat</b> ◆ Open. No trailers or RVs.	28	\$18	Flush			at Potwisha	☀			✓	
<b>South Fork</b> # Open. Non-potable water only.	10	\$12 May -Sept.	Vault							✓	

**MINERAL KING AREA** Elevation 6650' - 7500'. Area closes 11/1. No RVs or trailers.

<b>Atwell Mill</b> # Open 5/23 - 10/31.	21	\$12	Vault	☀	☀		☀			✓	✓
<b>Cold Springs</b> # Open 5/23 - 10/31.	40	\$12	Vault	at Silver City	at Silver City		☀	✓		✓	

**LODGEPOLE AREA** Elevation 6700'. \*= reservable in summer up to 6 months in advance (see Reservations above.)

* <b>Lodgepole</b> ⊠ + Open all year. Reservation period 5/23 - 10/9.	214	\$20/18	Flush	☀	☀	☀	☀	✓	✓	✓	✓
* <b>Dorst</b> ⊠ + Open 6/27 - 9/3.	204	\$20	Flush				☀	☀	☀	✓	✓

## IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK (NPS)

**GRANT GROVE AREA** Elevation 6500'.

<b>Azalea</b> ◆ Open all year.	110	\$18/10	Flush	✓	☀		✓	at village	☀		✓
<b>Crystal Springs</b> ◆ Sites for groups of 7-15 (see page 10): 14	36	\$18/\$35	Flush	✓	☀		✓	"	☀		✓
<b>Sunset</b> ◆	157	\$18	Flush	✓	☀		✓	"	☀		✓

**CEDAR GROVE AREA (ON THE FLOOR OF THE KINGS CANYON)** Elevation 4600'. Area closes mid-November.

<b>Sentinel</b> 4600' ◆ +	82	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		at visitor center	☀	✓	
<b>Sheep Creek</b> 4600' ◆ +	111	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		"	☀	✓	
<b>Canyon View</b> 4600' ◆ No RVs or trailers. Sites for groups of 7-19 (see page 10):	23	\$18/\$35	Flush	☀	☀	☀		"	☀	✓	
<b>Moraine</b> 4600' ◆ Open as needed.	120	\$18	Flush	☀	☀	☀		"	☀	✓	

## SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT (FS)




**HUME LAKE AREA** Elevation 4000' - 5900'. \* = reservable in summer.

* <b>Princess</b>	88	\$17 single	Vault				☀ \$7	☀			✓	✓
Dump station not recommended for vehicles over 30 feet long.												
* <b>Hume Lake</b> +	74	\$19 "	Flush	✓		✓		☀	✓		✓	
<b>Tenmile</b> No water.	13	\$15	Vault								✓	✓
<b>Landslide</b>	9	\$15	Vault								✓	✓
<b>Convict Flat</b> No water.	5		Vault								✓	

**BIG MEADOWS & STONY CREEK AREAS** Elevation 6400-7500'. \* = reservable in summer.

* <b>Stony Creek</b> #	49	\$19 single	Flush	☀	☀	☀		☀	at lodge		✓	✓
<b>Upper Stony</b> #	18	\$15	Vault	☀	☀	☀			at lodge		✓	✓
<b>Horse Camp</b> No water.	5+		Vault								✓	
<b>Buck Rock</b> No water.	11		Vault									
<b>Big Meadow</b> No water.	40		Vault				☀	by trailhead	✓		✓	

**PARK ROADS**

-  Campground
-  Picnic Area
-  Lodging
-  Horses/riding
-  Gas station

Major paved road

Minor paved road

Unpaved road

Park boundary

**STEEP ROADS:**

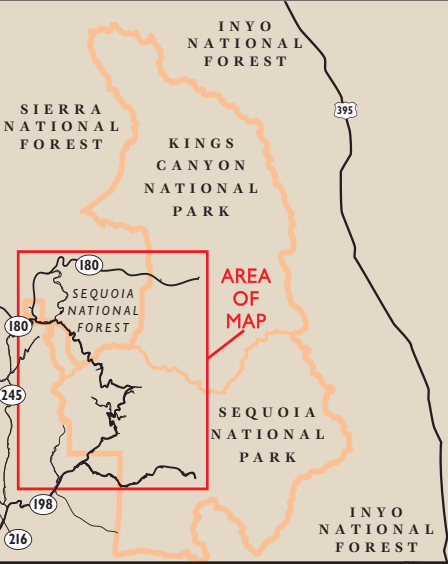
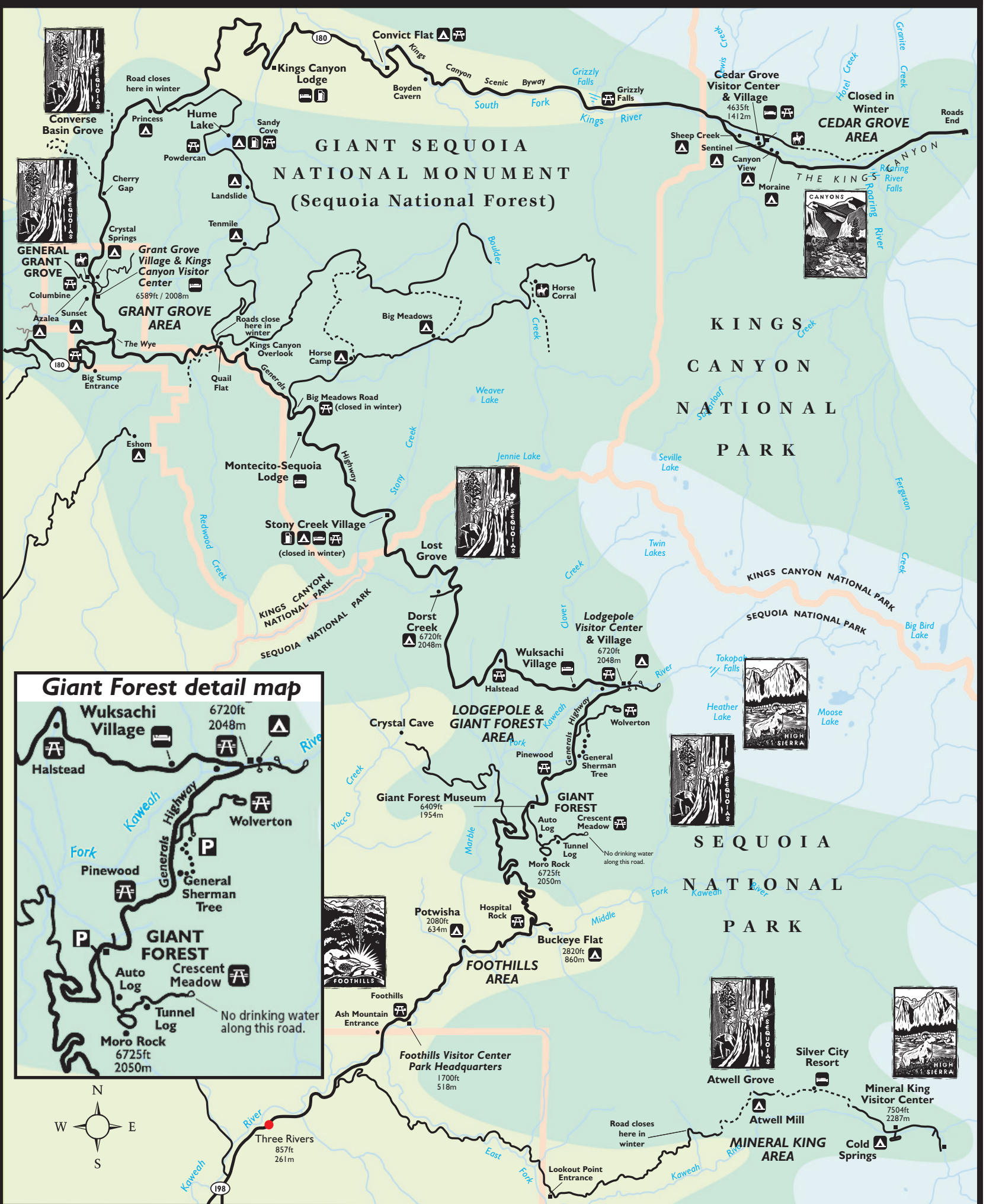
Grades of 5-8%.  
Downshift to avoid  
overheated or failed  
brakes. See page 5.

**DRIVING TIME  
IN GOOD WEATHER:**

- FROM FOOTHILLS TO:
- Giant Forest - 1 hour.
  - Lodgepole - 1 hour.
  - Visalia - 1 hour.
  - Mineral King - 1-1/2  
hour. Road closed  
Nov 1 to late May.
- FROM GIANT FOREST TO  
Grant Grove - 1 hour.
- FROM GRANT GROVE TO:
- Cedar Grove - 1 hour.  
Road closed mid-  
Nov to late April.
  - Fresno - 1-1/2 hours.
  - Yosemite south entry  
via Hwy 41 - 3 hrs.

**LIFE ZONES:**

-  High Sierra -  
9,000 to 14,500 feet.  
Summer: Warm to chilly  
days; nights down to  
low 30s. Winter: frigid.
-  Conifer zone -  
5,000 to 9,000 feet.  
Summer: Warm days &  
cool nights. Winter: deep  
snow, cold days.
-  Foothills zone -  
1,500 to 5,000 feet.  
Mild, wet winters; hot,  
dry summers. Cedar  
Grove is cooler than the  
foothills, but hotter than  
Grant Grove.



**LATE SUMMER 2008**  
**SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON**  
**NATIONAL PARKS**  
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 Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651

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