

Review safety advice on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers. Carry water and a map (sold at visitor centers). Orient yourself before going and tell someone your plans. Always store food properly before leaving your car or campsite.

The Foothills

The low elevations host more different plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined!

Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Hours on page 2.

Marble Falls Trail climbs 3.7 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a waterfall. Park across the highway from Potwisha (no non-camper parking in campground). Near site #14, follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade. Careful; drownings often occur here!

Paradise Creek

Park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area (no non-camper parking in Buckeye Flat Campground). Walk 0.8 miles to the campground. Take the path across from site #28 to cross a footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

Giant Forest

Giant Forest Museum

See page 2 for details.

Big Trees Trail

A level, 2/3-mile (1km) paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias -- the perfect place to start your explorations. Begin your walk at Giant Forest Museum (parking at the trail is only for cars with disability placards). 1 hour round trip.

Congress Trail

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

General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

- **Main Trail** - This 1/2-mile trail down to the tree has some stairs; the walk back is uphill. Beware of slippery or wet spots. Drive 2 miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Hwy only for those with disability placards). Turn right on Wolverton Road; follow signs. This trail and its parking area may close as early as 10/12, if weather conditions require.

 **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from the Generals Hwy to the Sherman Tree. Parking here is only for those with disability placards. If you have no placard but can't walk the hill on the main trail, ask at a visitor center for a temporary permit.

Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road that begins at the Giant Forest Museum. Road closes with snowfall.

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular views. Keep close watch on children. Two miles from Generals Hwy. Do not climb if the steps are icy.
- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through; the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. Bypass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles from the Museum.
- **Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias surround this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails; use fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here, including the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia; and the High Sierra Trail (60 miles/97 km to Mt. Whitney (14,500'/4419 m), highest in the lower 48.

Mineral King

Closes at noon on 10/26 (sooner, if weather requires it). The steep road ends at 7800', the park's highest road. No gasoline or electricity. Use the machine at Lookout Point entrance to pay your fee. The road is gated at the park boundary (~9 miles from Hwy 198) from the last Wednesday in October to late May; ask at Foothills Visitor Center for a pass to get through the gate. Check weather forecasts before going.

Free In-Park Holiday Shuttles



Only during
November 24 - 27 &
December 23 - January 1

Shuttles run 10am-4:30pm. Weather permitting, they go from Giant Forest Museum to the Sherman Tree, Wolverton, Lodgepole, Wuksachi Lodge, then back. Check for updated details on bulletin boards and at visitor centers. Plan a holiday visit to your parks!

