



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release: June 27, 2012

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Planning Tips for a Fun and Safe Fourth of July Holiday at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

Nothing says “summer” like a visit to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks over the Fourth of July holiday. Learn about the park by stopping at any visitor center or participating in a ranger-led talk. Ride into the cool high country and savor the beauty of the sequoias or take a hike. Whatever your choice, be sure to plan your holiday adventure carefully for a fun and safe fun time.

Consider leaving the driving to us to reduce your stress level, traffic congestion, and your carbon footprint. Free in-park shuttles operate daily in the Giant Forest/Lodgepole area of Sequoia National Park through September 9 between approximately 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., depending upon the route. All shuttles are wheelchair-accessible. Shuttle users are encouraged to park in the lot across from the Giant Forest Museum, at the main General Sherman Tree Trail parking area, at Lodgepole Campground, or at the Wolverton parking lot. The road to Moro Rock and Crescent Meadow will only be open to park shuttles, no other vehicular traffic, from June 30-July 8. Vehicles with handicapped placards are exempted from this rule. For more information, please visit www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/parktransit.htm.

Transportation may be available from outside the parks. The Sequoia Shuttle provides transportation round-trip from Visalia, Exeter, or Three Rivers to Sequoia National Park’s Giant Forest Museum, where you can transfer to the free in-park shuttle. A round-trip ride, including the park entrance fee, costs \$15. For details and reservations, visit www.sequoiashuttle.com or call 1-877-BUS-HIKE.

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Don't forget the basics on your adventure:

- Bring food and water on your hikes. Restaurants and stores are limited in the park.
- Bring layers of clothing, as temperatures may vary greatly. For example, temperatures in the most developed areas of the park (from 1,700 feet to 7,000 feet in elevation) are expected to range from 70-100 degrees during the day and 30-60 degrees at night during the Fourth of July holiday week.
- Wear sturdy shoes appropriate for specific activities.
- Apply sunscreen liberally throughout the day.
- Leave food or scented items in food-storage boxes (or “lockers”) where available. Food-storage boxes are available adjacent to most well-used parking lots in the park. Never leave food in your car, even during the day. Where park-provided food-storage boxes are not available, especially when visiting the wilderness, consider carrying it with you.
- **Drowning is the #1 cause of death at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.** Use extreme caution at river and creek crossings. When in doubt, don't cross a river or stream. The National Park Service does not recommend swimming in the rivers.
- Avoid personal contact with wildlife. Wild animals are meant to be “wild.” Do not try to feed, pet, or touch them. This will help keep you from being injured and save the life of a wild animal.
- Please don't transport firewood into the park. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find or buy wood close to where you will use it.
- Fire danger is high. Fireworks are not allowed at the parks. Extinguish lit cigarettes safely. Set campfires only in designated campgrounds, and be sure your campfire is extinguished before you leave the site.

In addition, this summer, road construction is underway along the Generals Highway between the Sequoia National Park entrance at Hwy. 198 and the “Big Trees.” Motorists should expect up to 20-minute to 1-hour delays throughout the holiday week and adjacent weekends along the main road through the parks (the Generals Highway). Expect single-lane traffic in a 1-1/2-mile construction zone. **Note:** The Generals Highway is closed to vehicles longer than 22 feet (total combined length) shortly after the Sequoia National Park entrance (Hwy 198). Longer vehicles must enter and exit via the Hwy. 180 entrance at Kings Canyon National Park.

For additional information on how to plan your holiday adventure, visit <http://www.nps.gov/seki>, call 559-565-3341, or stop by any park visitor center.