

Kings Canyon National Park – Winter-Spring Itinerary

Visiting Kings Canyon National Park during the winter and spring is enchanting and otherworldly. Imagine a land where you feel as small as an ant in a land of giants—giant sequoias, that is. Often, during this season, you can experience true quiet moments while surrounded by a snowy expansive wonderland. Don't miss the beauty of this time of the year!

Winter Weather and Driving in Kings Canyon National Park:

The Kings Canyon Scenic Byway (Hwy. 180), which leads to Cedar Grove, is closed from fall to late spring/early summer. In addition, the road between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks may be closed, depending upon weather. Main roads are generally plowed and maintained, but may close or have restrictions during the winter. Motorists are advised to always carry tire chains or cables (for traction) and check weather and road conditions before travel. Icy and wet roadways can exist throughout the park! For conditions, call 559-565-3341 for roads inside the park. Call 1-800-427-7623 or visit www.dot.ca.gov for highways/roads that connect to Kings Canyon National Park. Visit www.nps.gov/seki for trip-planning information.

Take a breathtaking drive to Cedar Grove after the road opens (date of gate opening varies each year.) For details, visit <http://byways.org/stories/55888>. To check if it is open, call 559-565-3341 or visit www.nps.gov/seki.

KINGS CANYON IN A DAY:



Stop 1: KINGS CANYON VISITOR CENTER

Stop in at the visitor center to watch an award-winning movie about Kings Canyon National Park, view exhibits (in English/Spanish), shop at the bookstore, and obtain the latest updates about current conditions. Be sure to ask about available ranger-led programs, including guided snowshoe walks.



Stop 2: GENERAL GRANT TREE

The General Grant Tree—the second largest tree on Earth (by volume)—is the guardian of the grove. It is 268 feet tall, 40 feet in diameter, and has a circumference of 107 feet. At the ripe old age of 1,700-2,000 years old, it stands near several other giant sequoias that range 250-300 feet tall with a diameter of 15 feet or more. Bring your camera and be sure to stop at the exhibits along the trail to the General Grant Tree. Did you know...In 1926, the General Grant Tree was proclaimed by President Coolidge as the Nation's Christmas Tree? In addition, in 1956, the General Grant Tree was designated by Congress 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.

CONSIDER ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.
Be sure to ask at a park visitor center about current conditions and safety tips first.

Stop 3: PANORAMIC POINT ROAD

Once snow falls, this road becomes a 5-mile round-trip cross-country ski or snowshoe trail to a spectacular vista of the High Sierra. Park at Grant Village, go east through the visitor center parking lot, left around the meadow, then right at the sign “Panoramic Point 2.3 miles (3.7 km).” Rent skis or snowshoes at the Grant Grove Market (next to the visitor center) or bring your own. If the road is open, drive to the ¼-mile hike. Be sure to bring your camera!



Stop 4: NORTH GROVE LOOP

For a close-up view of the Big Trees, consider a peaceful trek along the North Grove Loop. You will pass meadows and creeks through mixed conifer and sequoia forest. The weather will decide if you hike, snowshoe, or cross-country ski. This 1.5-mile loop starts at the Grant Tree parking area, just 1 mile northwest of the visitor center.



Stop 5: BIG STUMP GROVE

Be a kid again! Bring sleds or buy them at the Grant Grove Market for an old-fashioned day of play in the snow, weather-permitting. Park ‘n play at the Big Stump Picnic Area. Buy sleds at the market or bring your own. Build a snowman, if conditions allow. Bring or buy a picnic lunch. The area is outfitted with a restroom, parking lot, covered picnic tables, and barbeque grills.

OTHER THINGS TO SEE AND DO IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME:

HIKE, CROSS-COUNTRY SKI, OR SNOWSHOE A LONGER DISTANCE - For more outdoor adventures, check at the visitor center for suggestions (1.5- to 10-mile trails).

EDVENTURES - Explore the park or nearby area on a 1- to 10-day Edventure class. Topics include backpacking, creative arts, family, natural history, water, or winter activities. For more information, contact the Sequoia Natural History Association at www.sequoiahistory.org or call 559-565-4251.

GRANT GROVE VILLAGE RESTAURANT, GIFT SHOP, AND MARKET - After playing outdoors, guests can enjoy food or drink, shop for souvenirs, or buy supplies.

For Lodging, Tours & More Information visit:

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SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

www.nps.gov/seki or **559-565-3341**