

Sequoia National Park – Summer-Fall Itinerary

Towering, majestic and inarguably picturesque, you'll find yourself gazing skyward, awestruck by the grandeur of beautiful giant sequoia trees in the mountains east of Visalia. With stunning views at every switchback in the park, you're in for the trip of a lifetime! Here are a few of our suggestions to guide your journey.

Safety Tips:

Drive slowly for your safety, as well as the safety of other park visitors and wildlife. Look for pullouts to highlight some of the most beautiful views. While it may be warm or even hot as you enter the park, expect temperatures to be 20-30 degrees cooler by the big trees. Visit www.nps.gov/seki for trip-planning information.

SEQUOIA IN A DAY:



Stop 1 – Foothills Visitor Center, then Crystal Cave

Stop in at the Foothills Visitor Center (open daily) for an orientation to the park. View exhibits about the diverse foothills area and the Western Monache American Indians, then peruse the bookstore. Be sure to ask about available ranger-led programs.

Sequoia National Park's majestic, towering forests (which you will see later in your visit) definitely have visitors looking skyward at the big trees, but don't forget to look underground, too. Temperature in the cave is a constant 48 degrees, so sweaters or light jackets are recommended. Check at the Foothills Visitor Center for Crystal Cave tour tickets, which are sold only at the Foothills and Lodgepole visitor centers, not at the cave. Take a remarkable opportunity to peek beneath the surface of the Sierra Nevada. Formed of marble, Crystal Cave is decorated with "curtains" of icicle-like stalactites and mounds of stalagmites. Stroll along a 1/2-mile steep trail (.8 km) to the cave to meet for the tour. *(Not wheelchair accessible.)*

Check for cave tickets as soon as possible to best plan your visit. For more information, contact the Sequoia Natural History Association at www.sequoiahistory.org or call 559-565-4251. (The cave may be open as early as mid-May through Thanksgiving weekend, weather-permitting.)



Stop 2 – Giant Forest Museum

Visit the Giant Forest Museum in a historic market building located in a sequoia grove just 16 miles from the park entrance. Step inside the museum, which is open from Memorial Day through early- to mid-fall, for interactive exhibits and a bookstore. Take a hike along the Big Trees Trail or in the Giant Forest from this location. Or, take a Sequoia Shuttle ride (summer) to a variety of attractions within Sequoia National Park.



Stop 3 – Crescent Meadow/Moro Rock Loop

Spectacular views of the Great Western Divide and western half of the park await you atop Moro Rock's giant granite dome. Trust us: the steep 1/4-mile staircase to the summit is well worth the photo opportunity at the top. And, it's only 400 steps!

On the way to Crescent Meadow, you will pass through Tunnel Log. This exciting Sequoia attraction was formed in 1937, when a giant sequoia fell across the road. Many vehicles headed to Crescent Meadow pass through/underneath the tree--17 feet wide and 8 feet high. Make time for photos.

Tucked 3-½ miles deep into the grove of Sequoias just behind the Giant Forest Museum, Crescent Meadow is one of the park's hidden gems. Praised by Naturalist John Muir and many others, visitors can now arrive at the meadow by way of the park shuttle (summer), which also passes by Tunnel Log and Moro Rock on the way. Pack your picnic and enjoy the untouched beauty of this Sequoia-surrounded meadow. This lush summer landscape serves as home to a variety of wildlife and is a common place to spot black bears, squirrels, birds, and more in both seasons.



Stop 4 – General Sherman Tree

The General Sherman Tree—the largest tree on Earth (by volume)—is nearly 275 feet tall or larger than a 27-story building. It is 36.5 feet in diameter, and has a circumference of nearly 102 feet. At the ripe old age of approximately 2,200 years old, it stands near several other giant sequoias that range 250-300 feet tall with a diameter of 15 feet or more. Relax at convenient benches that line the trail along the way. If you only have time to do one thing, choose this! Bring your camera.



Stop 5 – Wuksachi Lodge

Located in the heart of the park, Wuksachi Village offers visitors and lodge guests the perfect retreat to reconnect with family, friends and the great outdoors! Step outside the lodge, peer up at the tall trees and majestic landscape, and get a glimpse into mountain life. Enjoy lunch or dinner at the restaurant with views all around or stop at the gift shop.

MORE OF OUR FAVORITE SEQUOIA ADVENTURES:

MINERAL KING VALLEY

Take a scenic drive to Mineral King in Sequoia National Park for sweeping views and vistas of the East Fork of the Kaweah River and adjacent mountains. The road is not for the faint of heart, as it ascends in tight curves for 25 miles (1.5 hours one-way) along a steep, narrow road. The drive, while daunting, is well worth your time. At the end of the road you will be rewarded with the opportunity to hike or peer into some of the most stunning and accessible high country in the Sierra Nevada.

TOKOPAH FALLS

Cascading 1,200 ft. over the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River, Tokopah Falls is one of Sequoia's most stunning sites. From its trailhead at the Lodgepole Campground, this 3.4-mile round-trip hike is an easy walk along the Kaweah River to the impressive granite cliffs and waterfall of Tokopah Canyon.

For Lodging, Tours & More Information visit:

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SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

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