

## GIANT FOREST MUSEUM // Blue Route

**Giant Forest Museum:** This is a historic market building inside the Sequoia National Park; 16 miles from the park entrance at Hwy 198. From the museum you can take a pleasant 1 mile self guided loop trail that will take you along gentle grades through excellent stands of giant sequoias. Trail-side exhibits tell of historic figures that helped make these parks what they are.

**Big Trees Trail:** This popular 1 mile, self-guided loop trail is one of the most accessible trails in the park, and is wide enough for wheelchairs to navigate. This trail circles Round Meadow and features trail-side exhibits describing Sequoia ecology.

**Congress Trail:** Accessed from the giant forest museum, this popular paved walking trail is 2.5 miles long (one way) and loops through the heart of the Giant Sequoia Grove; perfect for first-time visitors. Famous sequoias along this trail include the House and Senate Groups, the President, Chief Sequoyah, General Lee and McKinley Trees.

**Circle Meadow Trail:** Beginning and ending on the heavily used Congress Trail, from the General Forest Museum, this 5.8 mile round-trip trail breaks away from the popular path for a venture further into the heart of the Giant Forest. Along with the popular Giant Forest landmarks of the General Sherman, and Chief Sequoyah trees, this loop visits such attractions as Black Arch, Pillars of Hercules, Cattle Cabin, Founders Group, and the Room Tree.

**Hazelwood Nature Trail:** Accessed from the trail center at the lower end of the Giant Forest Museum Plaza, this pleasant Sequoia hiking experience will take you along gentle grades through excellent stands of giant sequoias. This 1-mile round-trip hike features trail side exhibits that tell of historic figures that helped make these parks what they are. There are several additional trails that can be accessed through this trailhead. This trail can also be accessed from the Giant Forest Museum.

**Rimrock Trail:** Starting a short distance along the Hazelwood Nature Trail, the Rimrock route heads north through lush sequoia forest with plenty of large trees, staying quite close to the Generals Highway but soon rises quite far above. This trail is a pleasant 1.2 mile (one way) trail from the start of the Hazelwood Nature Trail. This trail ends at a junction with the Alta Trail near the Congress Group.

**Huckleberry Trail:** Starting along the Hazelwood Nature Trail, this 4 mile loop trail leads through meadows and sequoia woodland, to Squatters Cabin, an old log cabin built around 1880 (reached 1.5 miles into the hike), and the Washington Tree which used to be the second largest in Sequoia National Park but partially collapsed in January 2005 following a fire. Junctions along the way lead to various other destinations including Crescent Meadow, Tharp's Log and the Congress Group.



## MORO ROCK // Grey Route

**Moro Rock:** This .5 mile round-trip trail up Moro Rock can be accessed from the Moro Rock parking lot. The dome was formed by the casting off in sheets of rock layers on otherwise disjointed granite. To reach Moro Rock, you will need to climb the nearly 350 stone steps to the top of the barren rock (6,725 foot elevation). Enjoy the expansive view overlooking the Great Western Divide to the west and Generals Highway to the south.

**Bear Hill Trail:** Accessed from Moro Rock Road/Crescent Meadow, this 1.6 mile trail connects Giant Forest Museum with Moro Rock and so together, with one of the other two trails, can be used to form a loop of around 4 miles. From the northern trailhead along the Generals Highway the path climbs quite steeply through the sequoia forest up to the hill then stays fairly level, following the 6,600 foot contour line and meeting the Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road near the Moro Rock turn-off.

**Sugar Pine Trail:** This easy 3 mile trail connects Moro Rock with Crescent Meadow along the edge of the Middle Fork Kaweah River Canyon. Views extend up and down the canyon, including the sculpted spires of Castle Rocks and the jagged peaks of the Great Western Divide.

## CRESCENT MEADOW / Grey Route

**Crescent Meadow Loop Trail:** This 2 mile loop trail begins at the Crescent Meadow parking lot and will lead you around the picturesque Crescent Meadow. Most impressive in the spring and early summer when wildflowers are in bloom, wildlife sightings are common in this area. This trail connects to a few additional paths.

**Crescent Meadow Trail to Log Meadow Trail:** From the Crescent Meadow Trail, this 2 mile loop leads to Tharp's Log, a fallen sequoia that provided a summer home for the Giant Forest's first Anglo resident, Hale Tharp and the park's oldest cabin; said to be built in the 1860's.

**Tunnel Log:** Tunnel Log, noted as one of the last "novelty" sites left in Sequoia National Park, can be accessed from the Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road. This tree, which fell in December of 1937, measures 21 feet in diameter at its base and stood about 275' tall. A hole was eventually cut in the log to create a tunnel 8 feet high, allowing cars to drive through.

**Trail of the Sequoias:** Accessed through Crescent Meadow Trail, this peaceful 4 mile round-trip trail weaves through remote areas of the sequoia forest on either side of upper Crescent Creek.

**High Sierra Trail (Backpacking):** This is one of the main trans-Sierra backpacking trails which leads to remote Kern Canyon, then intersects the John Muir Trail before climbing to the summit of Mt. Whitney; however the initial section is good for a day hike. (continued on next page)



(continued from previous page) The High Sierra Trail begins at the parking lot of Crescent Meadow. In addition to large sequoia trees, the first few miles of the hike reaches various viewpoints, meadows, and Panther Creek, which has cascades.

**High Sierra Trail to Bobcat Point Loop (Backpacking):** From the High Sierra trail, Bobcat Point can be reached after a short 1.2 mile hike. Bobcat Point offers two stunning overlooks on the rim of the 3,000-foot deep Middle Fork Kaweah River canyon. On the return, the hike crosses two groups of bedrock mortars, where Indians ground acorns and seeds into meal.

**High Sierra Trail to Bearpaw Meadow (Backpacking):** The High Sierra trail to Bearpaw Meadow follows a ridgeline of mixed conifers, offering spectacular views of the Great Western Divide and lush meadows along the journey. The journey gains and loses elevation the entire way. This 11.2 mile trail (one way) reaches Bearpaw High Sierra Camp, and most hikers enjoy a resting point at Buck Creek about 1.3 miles away from the camp. Estimated time for this trail is an average of 7 hours each way.

**High Sierra Trail to Big Arroyo Junction (Backpacking):** This 22.4 mile trail crosses Lone Pine Creek (13.1 miles from the trailhead) before following a long series of switchbacks just above the lower Hamilton Falls and climbs a series of switchbacks to Big Hamilton Lake (15.3 miles from the trailhead). The popular campsites here offer outstanding views as well as fair to good fishing for brook and rainbow trout. This trail typically takes about 2 days.

**High Sierra Trail to Moraine Lake (Backpacking):** After 2 strenuous days of hiking, the 8 mile journey from Big Arroyo to Moraine Lake is relatively easy. After leaving Big Arroyo Junction, the trail makes a moderate ascent up the north wall of the Big Arroyo, providing views of the east side of the Great Western Divide. Once it reaches the Chagoopa Plateau, the trail levels off, and soon reaches a junction on a tributary of Chagoopa Creek. The right-hand trail branches off from the main High Sierra Trail to Moraine Lake (30 miles from the Crescent Meadow trailhead). The left-hand trail follows a more direct route across the Chagoopa Plateau, rejoining the Moraine Lake Trail at Sky Parlor Meadow (30.8 miles from the trailhead). From here, it descends to the bottom of the Kern Trench. The drop is moderate at first, but concludes with a series of steep, rocky switchbacks. This stretch of the trail can be long and dry, so be sure to fill your water bottles at Sky Parlor Meadow. To reach Upper Funston Meadow (34.5 miles from the trailhead), turn south (right) upon reaching the bottom of the canyon.

**High Sierra Trail to Crabtree Meadow (Backpacking):** Upon leaving Junction Meadow this trail crosses a steep, rocky slope. The trail soon begins to climb out of the Kern Canyon. At Wallace Creek (48.9 miles from the trailhead), you will reach the junction with the John Muir Trail, which runs from Yosemite Valley to the summit of Mt. Whitney. There are campsites here, as well as at Crabtree Meadow (53.1 miles from the trailhead OR 13.6 miles from Junction Meadow). Guitar Lake (56.6 miles from the trailhead) is the last campsite with water before the summit of Mt. Whitney.

**High Sierra Trail to Mt Whitney (Backpacking):** This magical trail, the last stop off the High Sierra Trail, passes through remote and beautiful regions on its way to climbing Mt. Whitney. This trail to Mt. Whitney is 68.5 miles from the trailhead at the start of the High Sierra Trail and takes 8 to 14 days. This backpacking trail is strenuous and should only be attempted by seasoned backpackers.



## LODGEPOLE CAMPGROUND // Green Route

**Tokopah Falls Trail:** From its trailhead at the Lodgepole Campground, this 3.4 mile round-trip hike is an easy walk along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River to the impressive granite cliffs and waterfall of Tokopah Canyon. Tokopah Falls, one of the highest falls in California, is 1,200 ft. high, and is most impressive in early summer, when the run-off from the melting snow pack in the Pear Lake region upstream is at its peak.

**Twin Lakes Trail:** This trail from the Lodgepole Campground leads through forests, meadows and lakes before reaching Twin Lakes (7 miles from the trailhead), Stillman Pass (8 miles from the trailhead), and Ranger Lakes (10 miles from the trailhead). The first campsite along this trail is Cahoon Meadow (3 miles from the trailhead) which limits 30 people/day. After a steeper ascent to Stillman Pass, at the top of the Kaweah Divide, the continuation of this trail links with other back country routes in Sugarloaf Valley.

**Lodgepole Campground to Deadman Canyon (Backpacking):** From Lodgepole Campground, this trail is 25 miles (one way) and typically takes 5 to 10 days to complete the entire loop. On this trip, you'll pass through one of the most beautiful sights of the sierra, Deadman Canyon, noted for its polished walls and fantastic peaks of light colored granite. A layover day at the mouth of Deadman Canyon would give you a chance to visit the adjacent Cloud Canyon—less spectacular to hike than Deadman because its more forested, but more remote. You'll also visit some charming lakes around Mt. Silliman and enjoy breathtaking views from the famed High Sierra Trail. This is a strenuous hike and is recommended for seasoned backpackers.



## WUKSACHI LODGE // Purple Route

**Wuksachi Lodge:** Located in the heart of Sequoia National Park, the Wuksachi Village and Lodge is the newest hotel development in California's oldest National Park. Wuksachi Lodge is the perfect location to discover the breathtaking splendor of one of California's best family vacation destinations with towering sequoia trees, spectacular valleys and inspiring waterfalls.

## DORST CREEK CAMPGROUND // Purple Route

**Dorst Creek Campground:** Dorst Creek Campground is located at 6,700 feet elevation. There are several meadows and small streams inside the grounds and several popular day-hikes that originate from this campground.

**Little Baldy Trail:** The trail, starting at Dorst Creek Campground, to the summit of Little Baldy is 3.7 miles (one way), and climbs 1,350 feet to an elevation of 8,044 feet. The granite dome of Little Baldy is an excellent location from which to study the terrain of the Giant Forest Region. This trail provides a steady climb, not too terribly steep after the initial short climb up several switchbacks.

**Muir Grove Trail:** This trailhead starts just beyond the Dorst Creek Campground and includes an easy 2 mile (one way) isolated hike through strands of sequoias that are off the beaten path. John Muir's nature writing and conservation efforts helped to sway public and political opinions to create Sequoia and General Grant National Parks; it's a proper tribute to the great naturalist for which Muir Grove was named.

