

Sequoia Info Flyer

June 4, 5, 6, 7, 2010

Zip	City	State	Area Code	County	Latitude	Longitude
93271	Three Rivers	CA	559	Tulare	36.45 N	118.89 W

*** Western Holiday Lodge ***

Lodging: **Western Holiday Lodge**, 40105 Sierra Drive, Three Rivers, CA 93271
Phone: 888-523-9909, 559-561-4119 **Fax:** 559-561-3427



Welcome to Western Holiday Lodge!

Visit this serene **Three Rivers, California** hotel at the entrance to Sequoia National Park.

Escape to the Western Holiday Lodge in a beautiful country setting with easy access to key area attractions including Sequoia National Park, Kings Canyon National Park and Lake Kaweah.

Each spacious, well-appointed room offers all the amenities that make a difference while traveling. Guest rooms are equipped with high-speed Internet access, cable television with HBO®, free local calls, coffee/tea maker and hairdryer. A complimentary continental breakfast is available to guests each morning.

Whether spending the day fishing, hiking the scenic parks, marveling at the redwoods or simply relaxing, a friendly staff is ready to ensure a comfortable and memorable stay.

Hotel Amenities

- Complimentary Continental breakfast
- Outdoor pool
- Spa
- Gazebo
- Picnic area
- Playground
- 24-hour front desk
- Ice/vending machines
- Free parking
- Exterior corridor
- High-speed Internet

Guest Room Amenities

- Television with free HBO®, CNN and Fox Sports
- Free local calls under 30 minutes
- Free long distance access
- Dataports
- Wake-up calls
- AM/FM Alarm clock
- Coffee/tea maker
- Hairdryer
- Iron, ironing board
- Additional in-room toiletries
- Refrigerator available
- Microwave available

We are currently holding **35** Rooms for booking.

These rooms will go fast so don't delay booking.

Room Rates have already been established and are as follows;

\$ 80.00 per night plus tax which comes to \$ 88.00 per night;

Total for the 3 nights: \$ 264.00

PLEASE PHONE THE HOTEL FOR RESEVATIONS

1-888-523-9909

Tell them you are with Biggs HOG Chapter

IMPORTANT: Upon Booking, please email me the following information:

Name/s	Cell Phone	Home Phone	Email

We need to keep track of whose going so that we can get information out. Information will be forwarded to you about the ride and things to do.

Any questions, concerns or if you have any trouble booking; Please email or call me at one of the contacts below.

Contact: Bill Eldridge

Cell: 760-535-4316

Email: billeldridge@cox.net

Room Share Coordinator: If you would like to go on this trip but are going solo and would possibly like to share a room / cost with another person in the club, just make that known to me and I will tell you of others wishing to share a room. You then make plans between the two of you.

** This Ride Officially Ends upon arrival at the **Western Holiday Lodge.***

Come out and spend a weekend with us, you'll never make better friends

Long Distance Trips for 2010

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1: Apache Junction, AZ..... | Booking | Mar. 26, 27, 28 & 29 |
| 2: Sequoia/ Three Rivers, CA | Booking | June. 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| 3: Mammoth Lakes, CA..... | Booking | July 23,24,25,26 27 |
| 4: Tombstone, AZ | Working | Sept.24, 25, 26 & 27 |
| 5: Death Valley/ Pahrump NV | Working | Nov. 5, 6, 7, & 8 |



Edited: Tuesday, December 29, 2009



Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

Establishment

Sequoia is the second-oldest national park in the United States. It was established on 25 Sep 1890 to protect the Big Trees in Giant Forest, including the General Sherman Tree, the world's largest living thing. Sequoia also contains the Mineral King Valley and Mt. Whitney, the highest mountain in the U.S. outside of Alaska.

A small portion of what is now Kings Canyon was originally set aside in 1890 as General Grant National Park. In 1940, General Grant was absorbed into the new and larger Kings Canyon National Park which eventually grew to include the South Fork of the Kings River and 456,552 acres of backcountry wilderness. Managed as one park, together Sequoia and Kings Canyon total over 863,700 acres.

People first started coming to the sequoia forests in large numbers shortly after the end of the Civil War. The General Grant Tree was discovered in 1862 by Joseph Hardin Thomas and named in 1867 by Lucretia Baker. Five years later, on 01 March 1872, Ulysses Grant, now president of the United States, signed the bill designating Yellowstone as the world's first national park. The area around the Grant Grove of giant sequoias was set aside in 1890 as General Grant National Park. (Yosemite National Park was created in the same piece of legislation.) In 1940, General Grant was included in the newly created Kings Canyon National Park.

The Giant Sequoia

In volume of total wood, the giant sequoia stands alone as the largest living thing on Earth. Its nearly conical trunk, like a club, not a walking stick, shows why. At least one tree species lives longer, one has a greater diameter, three grow tall, but none is larger. In the entire world, sequoias grow naturally only on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada, most often between 5,000 and 7,000 feet. There are some 75 groves in all. The General Sherman tree is between 2,300 and 2,700 years old. Its largest branch is almost seven feet in diameter. Each year the General Sherman adds enough wood growth to make a 60-foot-tall tree of usual proportions.

"Most of the Sierra trees die of disease, fungi, etc," John Muir wrote, "but nothing hurts the Big Trees. Barring accidents, it seems to be immortal." Muir was partially right. Chemicals in the wood and bark provide resistance to insects and fungi. Their wood is so impervious to decay that piles of sawdust remain in Grant Grove's Big Stump Basin where sequoias were cut for lumber over 100 years ago. This ability helps them to survive for centuries; the oldest known sequoia lived more than 3200 years. Since they continue to grow each year, they achieve impressive sizes. The General Grant Tree, third largest of the sequoias, is over 267 ft tall, 40 ft across its base and over 107 ft around. Estimates of its age range from 1500 to 2000 years old. Once it was thought to be 4000 years old due to its extreme width, but scientific studies have shown that its size is due to rapid growth in an ideal location. The main cause of death for sequoias is toppling. Sequoias have a shallow root system with no tap root. Soil, moisture, root damage, and strong winds can also lead to toppling.

Sequoias sprout from seeds so small and light, they look like oat flakes. Mature trees may produce each year, 2,000 chicken's egg-sized cones, and collectively bearing 500,000 seeds, dispersed only as cones are opened. Cones hang on the tree green and closed for up to 20 years. Douglas squirrels or the larvae of a tiny cone-boring beetle may cause cones to open, but fire is the key agent in the dispersal of seeds. It causes the cone to dry, open, and drops its seeds. The fire also consumes logs and branches that have accumulated on the forest floor. Their ashes form fertile seedbeds and enhance sequoia seedling survival. The fire cycle ensures seed release and seedbed fertility.

The General Grant is the world's third-largest sequoia, after the General Sherman and the Washington Trees, both found in Giant Forest.

It is difficult to comprehend the immense size, age and stature of the General Grant Tree, but it is easy to let your mind and spirit rise as its trunk carries your gaze toward the skies.

This tree has inspired thousands of people including the late Charles E. Lee of Sanger, California. In 1924 he visited what was then General Grant National Park, and found himself standing by the Grant Tree with a little girl. As they admired the huge tree, the girl exclaimed, "what a wonderful Christmas tree it would be!"

The idea stayed with Mr. Lee, and in 1925 he organized the first Christmas program, held at the Grant Tree at noon on Christmas Day. Mr. Lee, then secretary of the Sanger Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. R.J. Senior, president of the Chamber, conceived the idea of an annual ceremony. Mr. Lee wrote to President Calvin Coolidge, who designated the General Grant as the Nation's Christmas tree on April 28, 1926.

The General Grant Tree is a living memorial to the men and women of the United States who have given their lives in service to their country. It was proclaimed a National Shrine on March 29, 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The official dedication was made that year on Veterans Day, November 11, by the president's personal representative, Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz. Each year during the Christmas ceremony, park rangers place a large wreath at the base of the Grant Tree, remembering those who gave their lives.

The 30 Largest Giant Sequoias

It is difficult to appreciate the size of the giant sequoias because neighboring trees are so large. The largest of the sequoias are as tall as an average 26 story building, and their diameters at the base exceed the width of many city streets. As they continue to grow, they produce about 40 cubic feet of wood each year, approximately equal to the volume of a 50 foot tall tree one foot in diameter.

The ages of the General Sherman, General Grant and other large sequoias are unknown, but it is estimated that these giants are between 1800 and 2700 years old. They have seen civilization come and go, survived countless fires and long periods of drought, and continue to flourish, inspiring yet another generation of admirers.

We are staying in Three Rivers which is only 7 miles from the South Entrance to the park.