

Kings Canyon & Sequoia National Parks

PACKING CHECKLIST



From giant sequoia groves to alpine overlooks, weather in Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks can change quickly. Even in summer, mornings and evenings are often cool, while winter brings snow, icy roads, and freezing temperatures. Use this checklist to prepare for your adventure.



YEAR-ROUND ESSENTIALS



HIKING ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Comfortable hiking shoes or trail runners
- ☐ Moisture-wicking socks
- ☐ Small daypack
- ☐ Reusable water bottles or hydration reservoir
- ☐ High-energy snacks
- ☐ Trail map or downloaded offline maps
- ☐ Fully charged phone
- ☐ Portable power bank
- ☐ Headlamp or flashlight
- ☐ Trekking poles (optional but helpful)



SUN PROTECTION

- ☐ Sunscreen (SPF 30+)
- ☐ Lip balm with SPF
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Wide-brim hat or baseball cap



CLOTHING

- ☐ Moisture-wicking shirts
- ☐ Hiking pants or shorts
- ☐ Lightweight fleece or insulated layer
- ☐ Waterproof rain jacket
- ☐ Extra socks
- ☐ Comfortable camp or travel clothes



SAFETY & HEALTH

- ☐ First-aid kit
- ☐ Personal medications
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Wet wipes
- ☐ Emergency whistle



PHOTOGRAPHY

- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ Memory cards
- ☐ Binoculars for wildlife viewing



PARK ESSENTIALS

- ☐ National Park Pass or entrance fee
- ☐ Driver's license or ID
- ☐ Reservation confirmation (if required)
- ☐ Cash or credit card

SUMMER PACKING CHECKLIST



(Late May–September)

Summer days are typically warm, but temperatures vary dramatically with elevation.



CLOTHING

- ☐ Lightweight hiking shirts
- ☐ Shorts
- ☐ Lightweight hiking pants
- ☐ Breathable underwear
- ☐ Light fleece for mornings
- ☐ Warm jacket for evenings



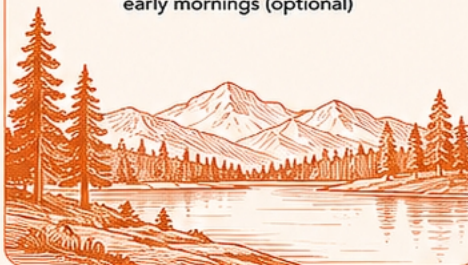
ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- ☐ Cooling towel
- ☐ Electrolyte packets
- ☐ Extra water capacity
- ☐ Swimsuit (Hume Lake or designated swimming areas)
- ☐ Picnic blanket
- ☐ Sandals for camp



WILDLIFE & COMFORT

- ☐ Bear-safe food storage if camping
- ☐ Bug spray
- ☐ Lightweight gloves for early mornings (optional)



WINTER PACKING CHECKLIST



(November–April, weather dependent)

Snow is common at higher elevations, and chain requirements are frequent.



COLD WEATHER CLOTHING

- ☐ Insulated waterproof jacket
- ☐ Waterproof snow pants
- ☐ Thermal base layers
- ☐ Fleece mid-layer
- ☐ Warm winter hat
- ☐ Neck gaiter or scarf
- ☐ Waterproof insulated gloves
- ☐ Wool socks (multiple pairs)



WINTER FOOTWEAR

- ☐ Waterproof hiking boots
- ☐ Ice traction devices (microspikes)
- ☐ Gaiters (optional)
- ☐ Snowshoes (if exploring snowy trails)



VEHICLE ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Tire chains (required when conditions warrant)
- ☐ Ice scraper
- ☐ Small snow shovel
- ☐ Emergency blanket
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Phone charger
- ☐ Full tank of gas before entering the parks



WINTER SAFETY

- ☐ Hand warmers
- ☐ Thermos with hot drinks
- ☐ Extra food and snacks
- ☐ Emergency supplies in case roads close

PRO TIPS



Giant sequoia groves sit between 5,000–7,000 feet, where temperatures are often 20–30°F cooler than nearby foothill communities.



Afternoon thunderstorms are common during summer.



Snow can fall from late autumn through spring, and storms occasionally arrive unexpectedly.



Cell service is limited throughout much of both parks—download maps before arriving.



Bring more water than you think you'll need. High elevation and dry mountain air can lead to dehydration more quickly than expected.



Whether you're strolling among the world's largest trees or hiking to sweeping mountain vistas, packing the right gear helps ensure a safe, comfortable, and memorable adventure in Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks.

