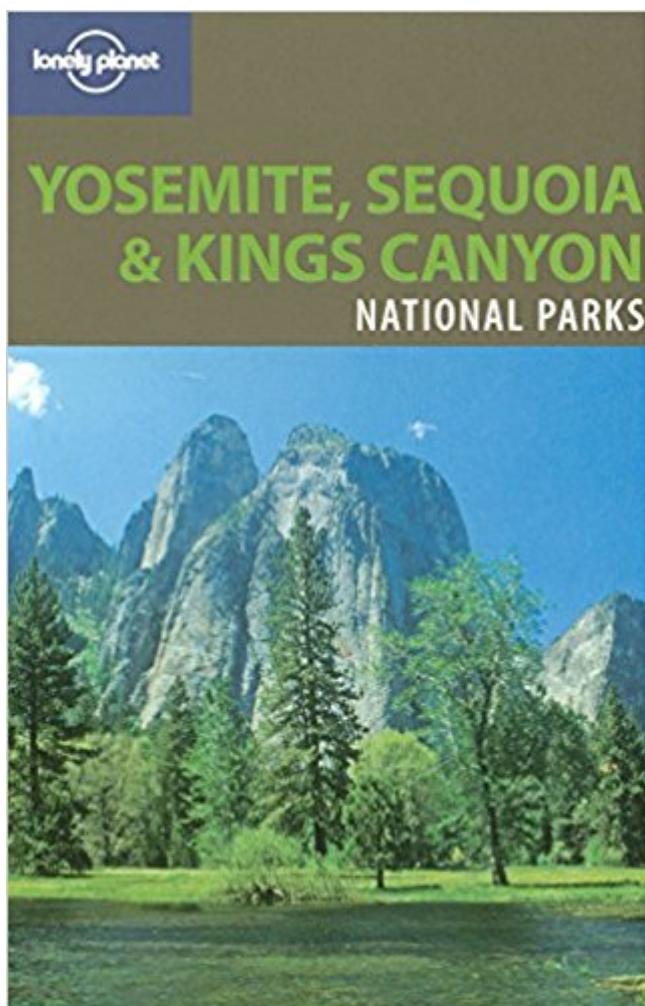


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# Lonely Planet Yosemite, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks



## Synopsis

Yosemite's granite domes, sweeping vistas and graceful waterfalls amaze visitors, while giant trees tower over Sequoia & Kings Canyon. Whether you want to sit among flowers in Tuolumne Meadows or scale the heights of Half Dome, gear up with this top-selling guide to these well-loved national parks. Detailed Itineraries - explore Yosemite, Sequoia & Kings Canyon with over 20 great itineraries, plus trips to Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and the rustic Gold Country. Best Hiking Routes - includes 53 of the most enjoyable hikes through valleys, around lakes, up peaks and into the backcountry with easy-to-use charts and topographic hiking maps. Family Friendly Options - information on education programs, campfire talks, ranger walks and the best kid-friendly hikes in our special Kids & Pets chapter. Adventure Ideas - covers rock climbing, mountain biking, swimming, horseback riding, rafting, kayaking, skiing, sledding, volunteering and much more. With 2000 hours of in-park research and over 400 miles of trails hiked, our authors offer sound advice for visitors.]

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

...it would be hard to better this series of Lonely Planet National Park guides.' -- Suite101.com, March 2008

Who We Are At Lonely Planet, we see our job as inspiring and enabling travelers to connect with the world for their own benefit and for the benefit of the world at large. What We Do\* We offer travelers the world's richest travel advice, informed by the collective wisdom of over 350 Lonely Planet

authors living in 37 countries and fluent in 70 languages.\* We are relentless in finding the special, the unique and the different for travellers wherever they are.\*We update our guidebooks by visiting thousands of places in person to get the details right and tell it as it is.\* We always offer the trusted filter for those who are curious, open minded and independent.\* We challenge our growing community of travelers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world.\* We tell it like it is without fear or favor in service of the travelers; not clouded by any other motive.What We BelieveWe believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.

I bought this book for a trip to Sequoia and Kings Canyon and was rather disappointed at the paltry coverage given. Honestly, after having done a 8-day trip in these parks, it felt as if the author(s) of these sections did not personally visit the parks, or even if he/she/they did, they probably just breezed through and/or got information from the Rangers stations instead of actually experiencing the parks for themselves.Descriptions are brief to the point of inadequacy for many of the sights. Take Hume Lake, for example. If we had just based our decision whether to visit or not on the guidebook, we would have skipped it, because it's two-sentence description stating the obvious: a) it's a lake; b) they have a campground, a shop, phones yadda yadda.We were glad we made the stop anyway, and it turned out to be one of the most enjoyable parts of our trip. There's a lovely little area called 'Sandy Cove' which the book makes absolutely no mention about, and neither did it point out, that despite rambling off a bunch of amenities, there are no showers at Hume Lake.I find it disconcerting that the major sites in the parks get a one or two line mention, but the lodges and restaurants in the park get long detailed descriptions. This is a beautiful National Park in the Sierra Nevadas, a showcase of nature's wonders. Surely the focus should NOT be on how awesome a lodge is or how great it is to find a pizza parlor in the National Park. Missing the point much?Overall, the guide was not a total dud, because the table listing the various campgrounds (Sequoia & Kings Canyon) is useful as a quick reference summary, and the descriptions of places, albeit brief, at least provided an indication of what these sights were: something not available in the free map provided by the Parks.I can't speak for the section on Yosemite, but the Sequoia and Kings Canyon section is disgraceful if upheld to classic Lonely Planet standards (some of their recent stuff has been unbelievably inadequate, unfortunately).Would NOT recommend for Kings Canyon & Sequoia.

After arriving in August at our motel in Exeter after midnight, we were glad this book had suggested we ditch the car and take the shuttle (\$15) for the 2 hour trip in and out of Sequoia park. As it

suggested, this is a fine way to ditch the car and enjoy the scenery and the driver was very informative. Since the book explained that the subsequent free shuttles within the park could take us from one scenic hot spot to another, we were free to catch lunch in the park, go to the appropriate trailhead, leave the crowds, and take an almost private hike from the Giant Forest to Crescent Meadow where we picked up the shuttle and rejoined the crowds at Moro rock. Similar advice helped us navigate the beautiful Yosemite Valley (crowded but gorgeous Mist trail to the top, relatively uncrowded John Muir trail down). A friend had suggested a less crowded, but beautiful trip to Taft Point then to Sentinel Dome, followed by a short drive to crowded Glacier Point, all easy to find using this book. Saved time, stress, and any anxiety about finding the right trails for us.

The write-ups of trails are pretty good, but there wasn't a map of the trail right there with the description, nor was there any way to quickly link one trail to another. Another complaint about this book is that there wasn't a large map showing insets of the trails. I read about Tuolumne Meadows and of Glacier Point and decided that I wanted to visit them. There was a map of each (somewhere in there) but I couldn't tell how far they were from each other, nor tell what part of the park they were in. Turns out they are about four hours / a hundred miles' drive from each other. I used this book in conjunction with the Falcon's Guide to Hiking Yosemite National Park and found they complemented each other well. A E H

I bought this book to use it in Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Park, if you intend to use in these parks I did not recommend. I don't know about the Yosemit (thats why I gave 3 star, I would like to give two and half), but there is little information about S&KC and lack of maps. The part related to S&KC is just one or two stars.

A fine guide book. I'll I've done is browse it. Since I've never been to the place I have no way to compare with reality.

Its the only book you really need for yosemite. Weaker on other parks. Not sure about the new version though.

This book has been very helpful in planning our vacation. We have chosen several hikes which were shown in the book.

Lonely Planet produces some of the best all around travel guides. They are detailed and offer good advice on where to eat, stay, camp, and hike. This particular guidebook at once offers both more and less than it promises. Although 3 national parks are listed in the title, it is really a guide to the central Sierra. Readers will not only learn about tourist attractions in the National Parks, but also locations all along the Owens Valley, from super hot springs to backpack trip suggestions for the eastern Sierra. Excursions through Gold country and an extended discussion of some excellent state parks, notably Calaveras Big Trees State Park, round out a very nice book. On the other hand, Sequoia and Kings Canyon proper receive relatively little coverage, despite appearing prominently in the title. If you are planning to visit these parks in particular, another guide book may be more appropriate. Still in all this is a very nice book. The plates in the front are fabulous. If those photos do not make you want to drop everything and head for California's best mountain range, nothing will. There are lots of fun sidebars covering every imaginable topic, from hiking the Pacific Crest Trail solo to the recovery of Mono Lake. Finally, maps, driving directions, and especially restaurant suggestions, are everything one comes to expect from a Lonely Planet Guide. On the whole then, this one gets two thumbs up.

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