

# General Grant Grove

Kings Canyon National Park



## Introduction

- Located in **Kings Canyon National Park** at about **6,600 ft elevation**
- Home to the **General Grant Tree**, the **second-largest tree in the world by volume**
- The main grove is compact and walkable, centered around a **short loop trail (~0.5–0.8 miles)**
- Features include:
  - Fallen Monarch (walk-through tree)
  - Gamlin Cabin (historic)
  - Centennial Stump

☞ This makes it ideal for a **half-day to full-day photography session** without long hikes.

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## 📷 Photo Techniques for Sequoia Forests

### 1. Handle scale challenges

- Trees are enormous → use:
  - Wide-angle lens (16–24mm)
  - Vertical panoramas
- Include a person for scale

### 2. Control contrast

- Forest scenes often have:
  - Bright sky vs dark forest
- Use:
  - HDR bracketing
  - Expose for highlights

### 3. Look up!

- Shoot straight upward for:
  - Symmetry
  - Leading lines (tree trunks)

### 4. Detail shots

- Don't skip:
    - Bark textures
    - Burn scars
    - Forest floor
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## 🌟 What Makes This Trip Special (for photography)

- Ancient trees (1,000–2,000+ years old)
- Unique forest lighting (soft, directional shafts)
- Easy-access compositions without long hikes
- Blend of nature + history (cabins, stumps, memorial tree)

## Trip Logistics

Field Trip Date	Saturday, June 6th
Costs	Parking-None Admission-Standard pass is \$35 per car, if you don't already have an annual or senior pass. There is also a \$100 per person fee if you are not a US resident.
Carpool Meeting time & location	Meet at 5:15 am for a 5:30 am departure Valero Gas Station 13015 E Kings Canyon Rd, Sanger, CA 93657
On site Meeting time & Location	General Grant Tree parking lot 36.747042118682636, -118.9731154753439  Good sized parking lot with restrooms  After we are done, we can go to the Grant Grove Village for lunch or go to the visitor center on the way out.
Gear recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wide-angle lens (critical here)</li><li>• Tripod (for low light forest shots)</li><li>• Circular polarizer (reduce glare on bark/leaves)</li><li>• Extra batteries (cool temps drain them faster)</li></ul>
What to bring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Layered clothing (weather changes quickly)</li><li>• Hiking shoes with traction</li><li>• Water + snacks</li></ul>

# Map

