



NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release: September 14, 2012

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Crystal Cave Tour Season Extended at Sequoia National Park

SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA – Come and explore the underground world of Sequoia National Park on a Crystal Cave tour this fall, as the tour season has been extended through November 25, 2012 (Thanksgiving weekend), weather-permitting. Call ahead to confirm the tour schedule, as the cave could close sooner depending upon snowfall.

Tour schedule/times are listed below. To purchase tickets, visit either the Foothills or Lodgepole visitor centers in Sequoia National Park. The lengthened season will provide the opportunity for up to 1,500 more visitors to attend cave tours at the park. The cave is expected to close for the season on November 25 and will reopen in May 2013.

TOUR SCHEDULE

Schedule through September 23, 2012

Monday through Friday: 11:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 11:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.

Schedule for September 24 through October 21, 2012

Monday through Friday: 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m.

Saturday: 11:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.

Cave will be closed from Oct. 22-26.

Schedule from October 27-28, 2012 (Historic Halloween Tours)

Tours will focus on the human history of Crystal Cave with a spooky twist!

Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.

Cave will be closed from Oct. 29-31.

Schedule from November 1-25, 2012 (Flashlight Tours)

Thursday & Friday: 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 12:00 noon, 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m.

Crystal Cave is closed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

COST PER TICKET FOR CAVE TOURS

Adults: \$13

Children (under 5): \$2

Youth (ages 5-12): \$7

Seniors (age 62 & up): \$12

Interagency Access Pass / Golden Access Pass: \$12

SNHA Partners & Military Veterans: \$1 off the ticket price

Active Military Personnel & Spouse: \$7

Children of Active Military Personnel: \$2

Note: White Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a serious problem that is affecting and killing bats in caves in the eastern United States. People are not affected by the disease but may carry it unknowingly into other caves. In an effort to keep Crystal Cave WNS-free, anyone who has been in other caves or in mines, especially in the eastern U.S., must not wear the same clothing or equipment when visiting Crystal Cave. (Normal clothes-washing does not destroy WNS.) Cameras and flashlights that have been in other caves must be sanitized before entering the cave. Before entering the cave, you must walk over a mat that applies a sanitizing solution to the sole of your shoes. A disinfectant wipe is provided free-of-charge upon request at the cave booth. Through your efforts, we will reduce the spread of the problem. For more information about WNS, visit www.caves.org/WNS/index.htm.

For more information about Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341. For specific Crystal Cave tour information, visit <http://www.sequoiahistory.org>.

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SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.

SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:

The Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA) is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to supporting education, interpretation, research, and the natural and historic preservation of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah. The association is committed to enriching the experiences of visitors and promoting public awareness of the significance of national parks through educational programs, publications, and financial support.