

Special Places

Sequoia and Kings Canyon



These National Parks adjoin each other in the Sierra Nevada. Earth's largest tree, deep canyons and high peaks are an invitation to come.

Campground reservations for Lodgepole and Dorst Creek are mandatory in the summer. These can be made at <http://reservations.nps.gov/>. You have to plan ahead and make them well in advance. We went in late August.

Looking on a California highway map you can see that access is from Highways 99/180 from the north or Highways 99/198 from the south. Since we were coming from Santa Barbara we took a cutoff and went on Highway 65/198 and visited Exeter, population 9,000. This is a small farming town complete with **EXETER** on the water tower. Because it was "dying on the



vine" some visionaries decided to add an attraction by having murals painted on downtown walls. It's worth the stopover. Here is a sample.

Our reservations were 4 nights at Lodgepole. This is a real bargain if you have the Golden Eagle Passport. Highway 198 is pretty steep and narrow once you get into the park, but the Chinook handled it well. We were unfamiliar with the camp



layout and had selected site 165 which turned out to be pretty nice. Like all the National Parks this is dry camping, but this site had a nearby water faucet which proved helpful. Most of the sites were spacious

and unlike Yosemite which is cramped. We have a 10 x10 shade room made by Paha Que' which was set up near the rear entrance to the coach. (It is *high-quality, light-weight and can be stored in your rear closet*)

The altitude is 7,200 feet so it might take a day or so to get acclimated. There isn't much to do in the campground except play Cribbage or Scrabble. You have to drive considerable distance to visit the various big trees and attractions. But, you meet a lot of interesting people from all walks of life. Because of the large sites this park is favored by many for big group and family gatherings. Overall, they were very considerate about noise and generator use.

If you have never been to this park it is well worth the trip.

Phil and Marion Beautrow, Santa Barbara

Western Road Runner



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