



Directory A–Z	222
Transportation	230
Health & Safety	234
Clothing & Equipment ...	239
Index	245
Map Legend	255



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Beth Kohn
Sara Benson

PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions to help you put together your perfect trip

Welcome to Yosemite, Sequoia & Kings Canyon	2
20 Top Experiences	6
Need to Know	18
What's New	20
If You Like	21
Month by Month	24
Itineraries	26
Activities	30
Travel with Children	42
Travel with Pets	46
Regions at a Glance	48

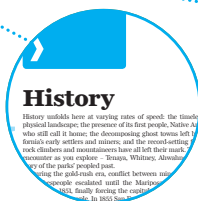


UNDERSTAND YOSEMITE

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP

Learn about the big picture, so you can make sense of what you see

The Parks Today	198
History	200
Geology	208
Wildlife	213
Conserving the Parks	219



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➤ Every listing is recommended by our authors, and their favourite places are listed first

➤ Look out for these icons:



Our author's top recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required
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YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK52

SIGHTS 57

Yosemite Valley.....57

Glacier Point &
Badger Pass65

Wawona 68

Big Oak Flat Road
& Tioga Road.....71

Tuolumne Meadows.....73

Hetch Hetchy77

DRIVING..... 79

DAY HIKES..... 81

Yosemite Valley.....81

Glacier Point &
Badger Pass85

Wawona 88

Big Oak Flat Road
& Tioga Road..... 89

Tuolumne Meadows.....93

Hetch Hetchy 98

OVERNIGHT HIKES99

Yosemite Valley..... 100

Glacier Point &
Badger Pass102

Big Oak Flat Road
& Tioga Road.....103

Tuolumne Meadows.....106

Hetch Hetchy112

BIKING..... 113

OTHER ACTIVITIES 114

WINTER ACTIVITIES 118

SLEEPING120

Yosemite Valley.....120

On the Road

Glacier Point & Badger Pass	124
Wawona	125
Big Oak Flat Road & Tioga Road	125
Tuolumne Meadows	127
Hetch Hetchy	127
EATING & DRINKING	127
Yosemite Valley	128
Glacier Point & Badger Pass	130
Wawona	130
Big Oak Flat Road & Tioga Road	130
Tuolumne Meadows	130
Hetch Hetchy	131
INFORMATION	131
GETTING AROUND	132

AROUND YOSEMITE134

WEST OF YOSEMITE	136
Highway 140	136
Highway 120 (West)	138
SOUTH OF YOSEMITE (HIGHWAY 41)	140
Oakhurst	140
Sierra National Forest	141
Fish Camp	141
EASTERN SIERRA	142
Tioga Pass to Mono Lake	142
Lee Vining	144
Mono Lake	145

Bodie State Historic Park	146
Virginia Lakes	147
Lundy Lake	147
June Lake Loop	147
Mammoth Lakes	148
Reds Meadow	152
Devils Postpile National Monument	152
Bishop	152
Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest	155

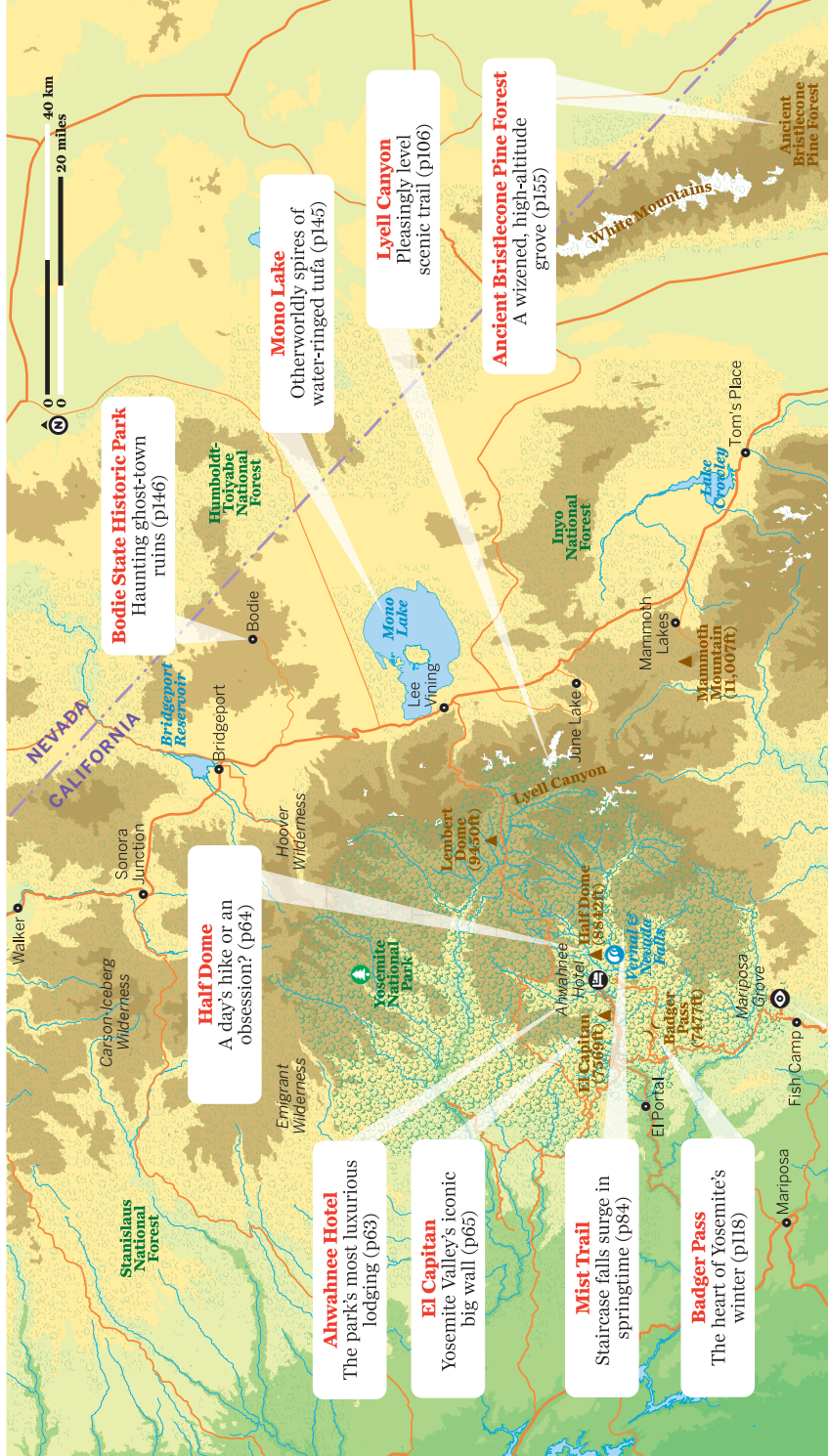
SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS156

SIGHTS	159
Sequoia National Park	159
Kings Canyon National Park	166
DRIVING	168
DAY HIKES	170
Sequoia National Park	170
Kings Canyon National Park	174
OVERNIGHT HIKES	175
Sequoia National Park	176
Kings Canyon National Park	176
OTHER ACTIVITIES	179
WINTER ACTIVITIES	180
SLEEPING	181
Sequoia National Park	181

Kings Canyon National Park	186
EATING & DRINKING	187
Sequoia National Park	187
Kings Canyon National Park	188
INFORMATION	188
GETTING AROUND	189
AROUND SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS	189
Southern Route	189
Eastern Route	193

Yosemite, Sequoia & Kings Canyon

Top Experiences



Bodie State Historic Park
Haunting ghost-town ruins (p146)

Half Dome
A day's hike or an obsession? (p64)

Ahwahnee Hotel
The park's most luxurious lodging (p63)

El Capitan
Yosemite Valley's iconic big wall (p65)

Mist Trail
Staircase falls surge in springtime (p84)

Badger Pass
The heart of Yosemite's winter (p118)

Mono Lake
Otherworldly spires of water-ringed tufa (p145)

Lyell Canyon
Pleasingly level scenic trail (p106)

Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest
A wizened, high-altitude grove (p155)

Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest

Mariposa Grove

Canopy of towering ancient sequoias (p69)

Kings Canyon Scenic Byway

Explore North America's deepest canyon (p167)

Zumwalt Meadow

Peaceful boardwalk rambles and birds (p167)

Crystal Cave

A marble beauty buried underground (p164)

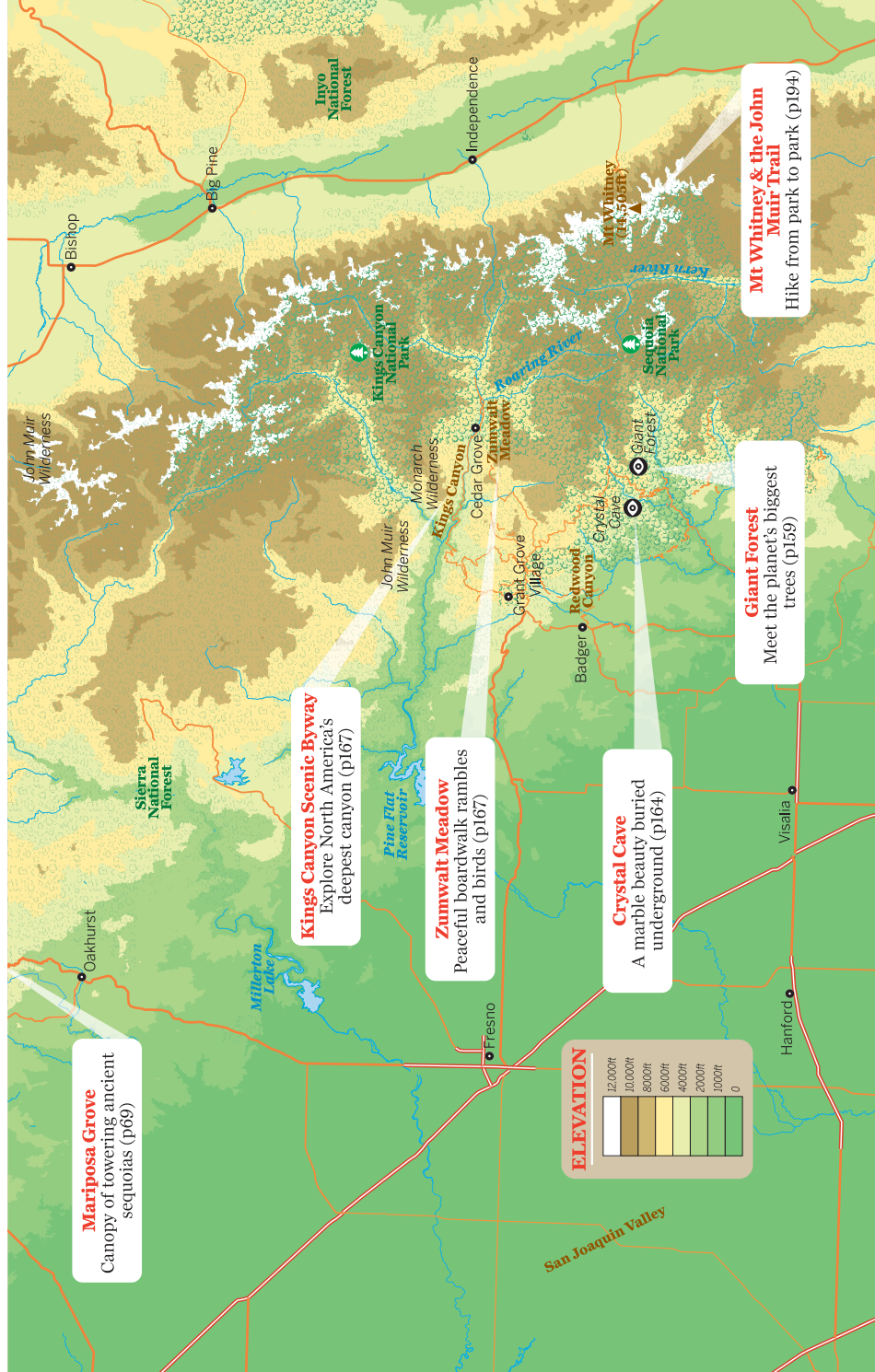
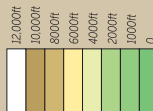
Giant Forest

Meet the planet's biggest trees (p159)

Mt Whitney & the John Muir Trail

Hike from park to park (p194)

ELEVATION





OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Beth Kohn

Coordinating Author: *Welcome to Yosemite, Sequoia & Kings Canyon, 20 Top Experiences, Need to Know, What's New, If You Like..., Month by Month, Itineraries, Regions at a Glance, Yosemite National Park, Around Yosemite, The Parks Today, Directory A–Z, Transportation*

A lucky long-time resident of San Francisco, Beth lives to be playing outside or splashing in big puddles of water. For this guide, she dodged spring floods in Yosemite Valley, potholed in the high country, lugged a bear canister along the John Muir Trail and selflessly soaked in hot springs – for research purposes, of course. An author of Lonely Planet's *California* and *Mexico* guides, you can see more of her work at www.bethkohn.com.

Read more about Beth at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/bethkohn



Sara Benson

20 Top Experiences, Itineraries, Activities, Travel with Children, Travel with Pets, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, History, Geology, Wildlife, Conserving the Parks, Health & Safety, Clothing & Equipment

After graduating from college in Chicago, Sara jumped on a plane to California with just one suitcase and \$100 in her pocket. She has bounced around the Golden State ever since, in between stints living in Hawaii and Asia and working as a seasonal national park ranger in the Sierra Nevada. The author of 50 travel and nonfiction books, Sara trekked on snowshoes and cross-country skis and chased black bears away from her campsites while writing this guide. Follow her adventures online at www.indietraveler.blogspot.com and www.twitter.com/indie_traveler.

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