



Coastal V.S Sierra Redwoods

Sequoia National Forest



The cousins of the giant sequoia trees are the coastal redwoods. Many visitors here at Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument are interested in the differences between these two types of large trees. They are both in the same botanical family, Taxodiaceae.

The **giant sequoia trees** (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) grow in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. They enjoy the bragging rights as the world’s largest trees by volume. The **coastal redwoods** (*Sequoia sempervirens*) grow in the coastal ranges of California from San Luis Obispo County to slightly beyond the Oregon border. They claim the rights to the world’s tallest trees.

	Giant Sequoia	Coastal Redwood
Height	Up to 311 Feet	Up to 370 Feet
Diameter (At 4.5ft above ground)	Up to 29 feet	Up to 25 feet
Age	Up to 3,200 years	Up to 2,200 years
Bark	Brownish red, often deeply fluted	Reddish chocolate brown, moderate fluting
Foliage	Awl shaped scale about 1/4 inch	Short alternating needles, 1/2 inches long, some scale like foliage.
Roots	Up to 6 feet deep, 150 feet long	Up to 4 feet deep, 100 feet long
Cone	3 inches	1 inch

Interested in finding drive-through trees in California?

There are three drive-through trees on U.S. 101 along the “Avenue of the Giants” highway, all coastal redwoods. All are private businesses, which charge a small fee to drive your car through the tree. From north to south they are: the **Shrine Drive-Thru Tree** located in Myers Flat and the **Chandelier Tree, Drive-Thru Tree Park**, located in Leggett.

The two giant sequoia drive-through trees have both fallen: **Wawona Tree** fell in 1969 in **Mariposa Grove**, Yosemite National Park. **Pioneer Cabin Tree** fell in 2017 in **Calaveras Big Trees State Park**

There is a drive-through downed sequoia tree called the **Tunnel Log** in **Sequoia National Park**. There is also a walk-through sequoia in **Yosemite National Park** within the **Tuolumne Grove** called **The Dead Giant**.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

