

MY FAVORITE NATIONAL PARK MEMORY

by Riya Gandhi

Do you have a special memory? I do! My special memory is when my family and I visited Sequoia National Park, because my grandparents were visiting us from India for the first time, which added special memories. Let me tell you more about my experience. First of all, we took a picture by a sign that said "Sequoia National Park" with a Native American's head for effect. Next, we had to see the giant sequoias! So we went on a hike with skyscraper-high sequoias that eventually led us to a fallen sequoia used as a tunnel that we walked through. This hike also featured the General Grant, the 3rd largest tree in the world, by volume.

Our next stop was Hume Lake. The water sparkled in the sunlight, with a few ducks swimming around. Our whole family was hungry, so we had a picnic by the lake. Later, a duck came up to us looking for food. We had some bread with us, and fed some to the little duck, and he left. "The duck's going to come back since you fed him, and he might bring a friend!" my mom exclaimed. My mom was right! Minutes later, the duck came back with a brown duck. After feeding them more bread, we ran out, but the ducks, thoroughly satisfied, stayed. "Sorry." I said. My grandpa found a little stick, and waved it, so the ducks got the message to go.

The destination after that was Tunnel Rock; a giant rock placed on two rock walls forming a tunnel. It was weird driving through the tunnel, but also fun. Later, we visited this fenced grassy area. There, we saw deer eat grass. They were near the fence, so we didn't have to wait long for a deer to approach us. A brown deer slowly came close, and let us take a picture. As we were driving, we saw a snowy area with no one around. So, my mom took a picture of us standing on the road, with snow in our hands. We went to the area covered with white snow, and played with it. This was my favorite part of the trip because we had fun in the snowball-fight, and snow in California can only be seen in the mountain area. Since other attractions were closed that day, that was our trip.

Although we were leaving, we encountered one more surprise. My dad was driving us downhill when I yelled, "STOP! BEARS!" To the right of us, a mama bear and her two cubs were snacking on something. As we turned back, the bears started running deep into the woods behind them, frightened. Luckily, we captured a little video of them.

Looking back, I realize that this trip had everything a trip needs: entertainment, family, and nature. Thank you for reading about the memorable journey I had with my family, and I hope you experienced all the fun I had!