SOCIAL STORY

Independent Family Visit to Visalia, California



We are going to the city of Visalia! It is located in the middle of California. Visalia is near Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.



The city of Visalia is 170 years old.

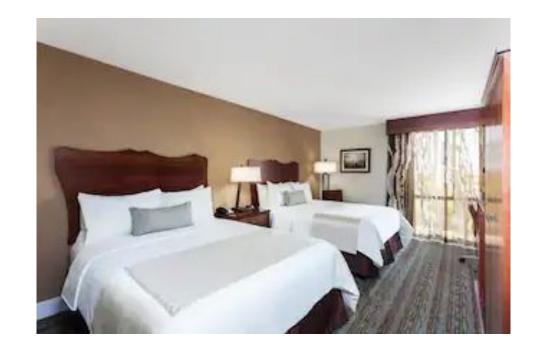
It was founded in 1852.





We will be staying in a hotel during our trip.

Visalia has a lot of different hotels to choose from.



If my family has any questions about Visalia or Sequoia and Kings **Canyon National Parks** we can call or go to the Visit Visalia office.

Their office is located on Main Street in downtown.



The Visit Visalia office is a Certified Autism Center.

It also recognizes the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program.





At the Visit Visalia office, my family can ask a staff member if we can check out a sensory backpack.

If one is available, I can use it during our entire trip. It will include different sensory toys for me.

If we check out a sensory backpack, it must be returned before we leave Visalia.



I can also pick up a free Sunflower product at the Visit Visalia office. I can choose between a lanyard, ID card, lapel pin or wristband.









As we explore Visalia, if we see a business with a Sunflower sticker in their window it means that their staff are trained to recognize and help those wearing the **Hidden Disabilities** Sunflower.



By utilizing the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program, you can discreetly let hotel, attraction and restaurant staff know that you or someone you are traveling with has a hidden disability.

Additional accommodations may include:

- Expedited hotel check-in or restaurant seating when possible
- Consideration for a specific seating request
- Quick checkout if the need to leave arises
- Allowing outside food or accommodating a special request for the individual on the spectrum
- Understanding that the person may be non-verbal, have difficulty sitting still and making eye contact



There are a lot of different things to do in Visalia.

Some places are loud and some are quiet. Some are crowded and some have fewer people. Some are inside and some are outside.











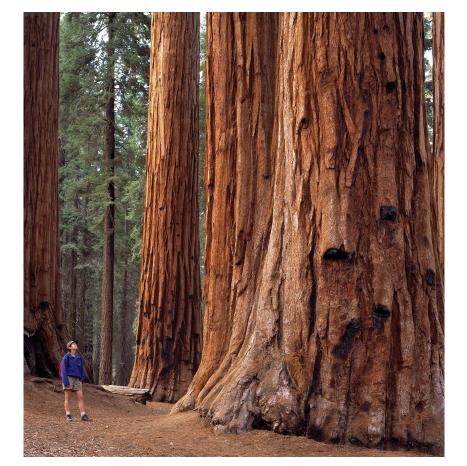




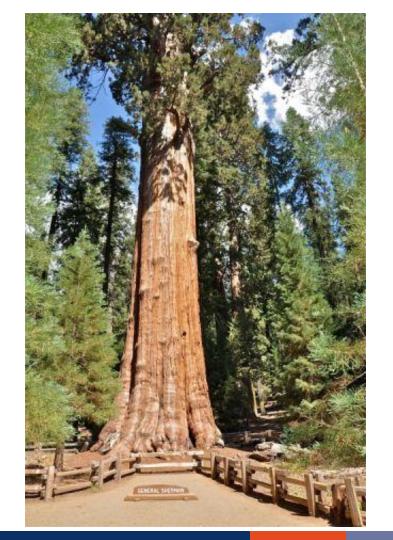


If we drive outside of Visalia we can visit Sequoia National Park and Kings Canyon National Park.

Both parks are good places to go on a hike. I will get to see huge trees.



The largest tree in the world is in Sequoia National Park. It is named the General Sherman Tree. It stretches almost 275 feet tall and over 36 feet in diameter.



When I get hungry, there are a lot of yummy restaurants to eat at in Downtown Visalia.



Visalia also has a lot of fast food options that I may already like.





































I am going to have so much fun in Visalia! I am ready to go!

