

LODGING & DINING | ACTIVITIES & EVENTS | TRIP TIPS & MAP

# VISIT RAINIER

Spring 2019 FAMILY

## 10 Must-See Spring Experiences For Families!

**TOP TRAVEL DEALS**

**PLUS: Where to Stay  
& What to Eat**





## A MESSAGE FROM THE Visit Rainier President



**Spring at Mt. Rainier** is an incredible time of transition. Deep winter snowpack generally persists in the high elevations but the river valleys are booming with life. This is when you'll see the sword ferns, corn lilies and mosses come alive. Spring will bring rain, snow and sunshine—sometimes all in the same day. Ski season will generally run into mid-to-late April, so you can still shred the slopes when others are already thinking summer. One of my personal favorite things about the spring is that it's waterfall season at Mt. Rainier. All of the area waterfalls should

be at full flow from April-June. If you've never seen it, it's worth planning a visit this spring.

Mt. Rainier National Park is one of the crown jewels of the National Park System and a true treasure of the nation. At Visit Rainier, we're here to help you get the most out of your visit to the Mt. Rainier region, whether you're visiting for the first time or the 50th. We're your go-to resource for experiencing this incredibly diverse region—from snow-capped mountains and glaciers to deep river valleys, rain forests, ski resorts, scenic drives, trails, meadows, waterfalls, vistas, gateway communities and much more. Lodging options. Recreational activities. Area events. Restaurants. Trails. And beyond. We keep tabs on it all for you.

I hope to see you in the area this spring. If you have any questions or comments, we'd love to hear from you at [info@visitrainier.com](mailto:info@visitrainier.com).

Dee Patterson is the President of the Board and a founding board member of the nonprofit tourism organization, Visit Rainier. He is the General Manager for Crystal Mountain Hotels and enjoys living and working in the Pacific Northwest.



# TABLE OF Contents

Become a Junior Ranger at Mt. Rainier National Park	5
Go Horseback Riding	6
Steam Train Rides	7
Visit Northwest Trek Wildlife Park	8
Try your Hand at the Simple Life at the Pioneer Farm	9
Explore a park in a gateway community	10
Lowland Hiking in Spring	11
Take a Scenic Gondola Ride at Crystal Mountain Resort	12
Spring Skiing at Crystal Mountain	13
Enjoy fishing at Old McDebbie's Farm, and stocked ponds in Enumclaw	14
Mt. Rainier area Lodging	15
Mt. Rainier area Dining	16
Special Events	22
Top Travel Deals	23



# TOP 10 SPRING EXPERIENCES for Families

With so much to see and do on and around Mt. Rainier, the challenge is never filling your itinerary—it's being able to fit it all in during the time you're here. Understanding that being faced with a veritable mountain full of activities can be overwhelming, we've outlined a list of the top 10 spring experiences we think families will enjoy the most. The longer you stay, the more you can check off your list—so be sure to take a look at page 23 for help finding the latest travel deals. Happy exploring!



# 1

## Become a Junior Ranger at Mt. Rainier National Park

The Junior Ranger program is designed to help families connect with the natural world in a fun, educational and engaging way. It's free to become a Junior Ranger, and you can do so by attending a program or completing the Junior Ranger Activity Book. Once you're in, there are programs designed for Junior Rangers throughout the year. You can also become a WebRanger online.

Learn more: [visitrainier.com/junior-rangers-at-mount-rainier-national-park](https://visitrainier.com/junior-rangers-at-mount-rainier-national-park)

Plan your adventure!

**Mount Rainier National Park**

Fees & Passes: [nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/fees.htm](https://nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/fees.htm)

Address to use in your GPS:

39000 State Route 706 E,

Ashford, WA 98304

(360) 569-2211





## 2 Go Horseback Riding

If you haven't explored the forest and foothills south of Mount Rainier on horseback, you're in for a real treat. EZ Times Outfitters offers guided rides and trained horses for experienced riders and even those that have never sat on a horse. You can ride year round, and it's perfect for families. You can even ride "double-up" with an adult and a child on the same horse if your combined weight is less than 250 lbs.

A helpful article written by blogger Kate Spiller last spring:  
[wildtalesof.com/spring-visit-mount-rainier-kids-eat-play-stay](http://wildtalesof.com/spring-visit-mount-rainier-kids-eat-play-stay)

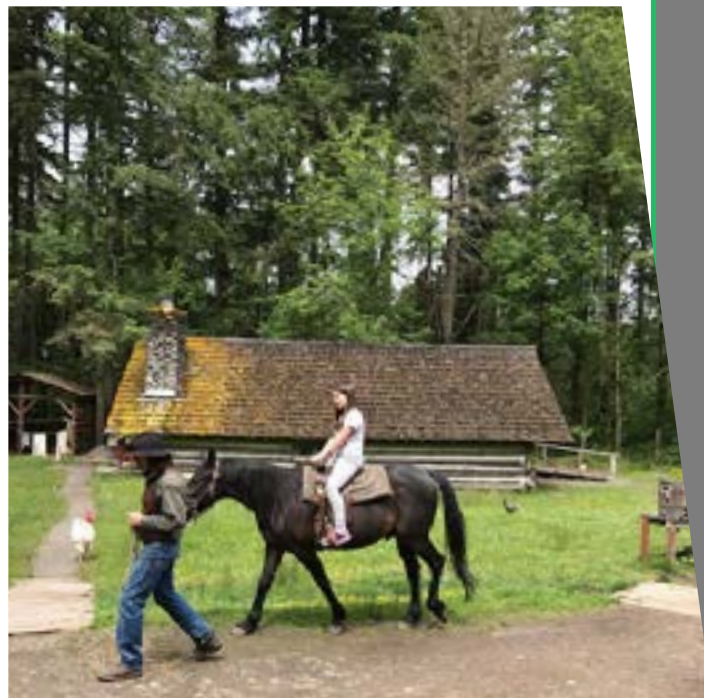
Plan your adventure!

### **EZ Times Outfitters**

18703 Hwy 706, Elbe, WA 98304  
(253) 350-1141  
[visitrainier.com/ez-times-outfitters](http://visitrainier.com/ez-times-outfitters)

### **Echo River Ranch**

37901 - 304th Way SE, Enumclaw, WA 98022  
(360) 367-1201  
[visitrainier.com/echo-river-ranch](http://visitrainier.com/echo-river-ranch)



# 3

## Steam Train Rides (starting the end of May)

Kids and big kids alike can't help but love trains. And there's no train experience quite like the vintage steam trains you'll climb aboard at the Mt. Rainier Railroad in Elbe, Washington. Fun and educational, this 18-mile train ride takes you back in time on a beautiful trip through the forest and foothills south of Mount Rainier, to a logging museum packed with history the whole family will enjoy. The Railroad has themed rides throughout the year, so be sure to check the calendar for fun rides including special events with Charlie Brown and Snoopy!

Plan your adventure!

**Mt. Rainier Railroad and Logging Museum**

54124 Mountain Hwy E, Elbe, WA 98330

(360) 492-6000

[visitrainier.com/ride-the-mt-rainier-railroad-2](https://visitrainier.com/ride-the-mt-rainier-railroad-2)





# 4

## Visit Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

Bison and wolves and bears, oh my. While a visit to Mt. Rainier may not always present you with an opportunity to see wildlife in their natural habitat, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park is a sure thing. This massive 725-acre wildlife park tucked away in the forest near Mt. Rainier is the best (and safest) way to see over 200 North American animals from 30 different species, including owls, beavers, bobcats, cougars, lynx, elk, bears and beyond. Whether you take a leisurely walk through the trails or hop on the popular 45-minute tram tour, this is an experience you and your kids will not soon forget.

### Experience Kids' Trek—NEW at Northwest Trek

Families are such a big part of Northwest Trek, they built Kids' Trek—one of the largest outdoor playgrounds in the state, just for kids and their imaginations. This new, nature-inspired playground encourages kids to learn about the natural world while releasing some of their boundless energy. With Kids' Trek, plus a Zip Wild adventure course and year-round family events, this is a place built for family fun.

Start your trek this spring.

Plan your adventure!

#### Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

11610 Trek Dr. E, Eatonville, WA 98328

(360) 832-6117

[visitrainier.com/northwest-trek-wildlife-park](http://visitrainier.com/northwest-trek-wildlife-park)





# 5 Try your Hand at the Simple Life at the Pioneer Farm

Ever wonder what it was like to homestead in Washington back in the 1880s? Come find out at the hands-on Pioneer Farm homestead. Built in 1887, this live history lesson will make you and your kids thankful for modern conveniences. See what it was like to live before smartphones. Grind grains. Churn cream. Scrub laundry. Card wool. You can even dress up like pioneers, curl your hair with an antique curling iron, shave with an old-fashioned dulled straight razor, and more. Use your newfangled computer or smartphone to learn more.

Plan your adventure!

**Pioneer Farm and Ohop Indian Village**

7716 Ohop Valley Road E., Eatonville, WA 98328

(360) 832.6300

[visitrainier.com/pioneer-farm-museum-ohop-indian-village](http://visitrainier.com/pioneer-farm-museum-ohop-indian-village)



# 6

## Explore a park in a gateway community

(Ashford County Park, Mud Mountain Recreation Area,  
Disc Golf Course in Enumclaw)

### Explore Ashford County Park, Mud Mountain Recreation Area & Disc Golf in Enumclaw

Several great parks offer a gateway to the Mt. Rainier Region, as well as a host of fun family activities. Stop and stretch your legs at the beautiful Ashford County Park (features a giant play area for kids), see the sites at the Chinook Pass Mud Mt. Dam Recreational Area, or try your luck at Enumclaw's Disc Golf Course.

Plan your adventure!

#### Ashford County Park

29801 SR 706, Ashford WA 98304

(253) 841-8515

[visitrainier.com/ashford-county-park](http://visitrainier.com/ashford-county-park)

#### Farmers Park Disc Golf Course

(9 baskets, low elevation, level terrain, requires players bring their own discs)

Located off of Highway 164 in Enumclaw, WA 98022

(360)825-3594

#### Mud Mountain Recreation Area

30525 SE Mud Mountain Rd, Enumclaw, WA 98022

(360) 825-3211

[visitrainier.com/mud-mt-dam-recreational-area-2](http://visitrainier.com/mud-mt-dam-recreational-area-2)





## 7 Lowland Hiking in Spring

If you're like us, you can't wait for the thaw. When the snow melts, the lowlands offer hiking aplenty—not to mention great opportunities to see waterfalls at full flow. And be sure to prepare for potentially muddy conditions by wearing boots and gaiters. Also, when hiking in Mount Rainier National Park be sure to check in with the park rangers on current trail conditions.

You'll find a list of easy trails at low elevations here:

[visitrainier.com/go-lowland-hiking-top-10-spring-hikes](https://www.visitrainier.com/go-lowland-hiking-top-10-spring-hikes)

Additional Resource: trip reports at the Washington Trail Association website: [wta.org](https://www.wta.org)



# 8

## Take a Scenic Gondola Ride at Crystal Mountain Resort

We're big believers in the "a picture is worth a thousand words" adage, so we'll keep this one short and let you gander at these photos and picture yourself atop the Mt. Rainier Gondola at Crystal Mountain Resort. You can ride the gondola in summer or winter, and even dine at Washington's highest restaurant, the Summit House, once at the top. The pictures don't do it justice, so we recommend you make the trip yourself.

**Pro Tip:** Call first before driving out to make sure the gondola is open. Spring hours are limited and weather dependent.

Plan your adventure!

### Crystal Mountain Resort

33914 Crystal Mountain Blvd., Crystal Mountain, WA 980202

360-663-3050

[visitrainier.com/scenic-gondola-rides](https://visitrainier.com/scenic-gondola-rides)





# 9 **Spring Skiing at Crystal Mountain** (plus lessons for kids)

The Mt. Rainier region is fortunate to be home to Crystal Mountain Resort, which was ranked the #7 ski resort in North America by SKIING magazine. Here, you can stretch out your winter with some fun spring skiing. Spring is also a great time to introduce your kids to the sport. Crystal Mountain offers lessons for children ages 4-6 and youth ages 7 to 15. **Tentative closing date for Crystal is April 4th.**

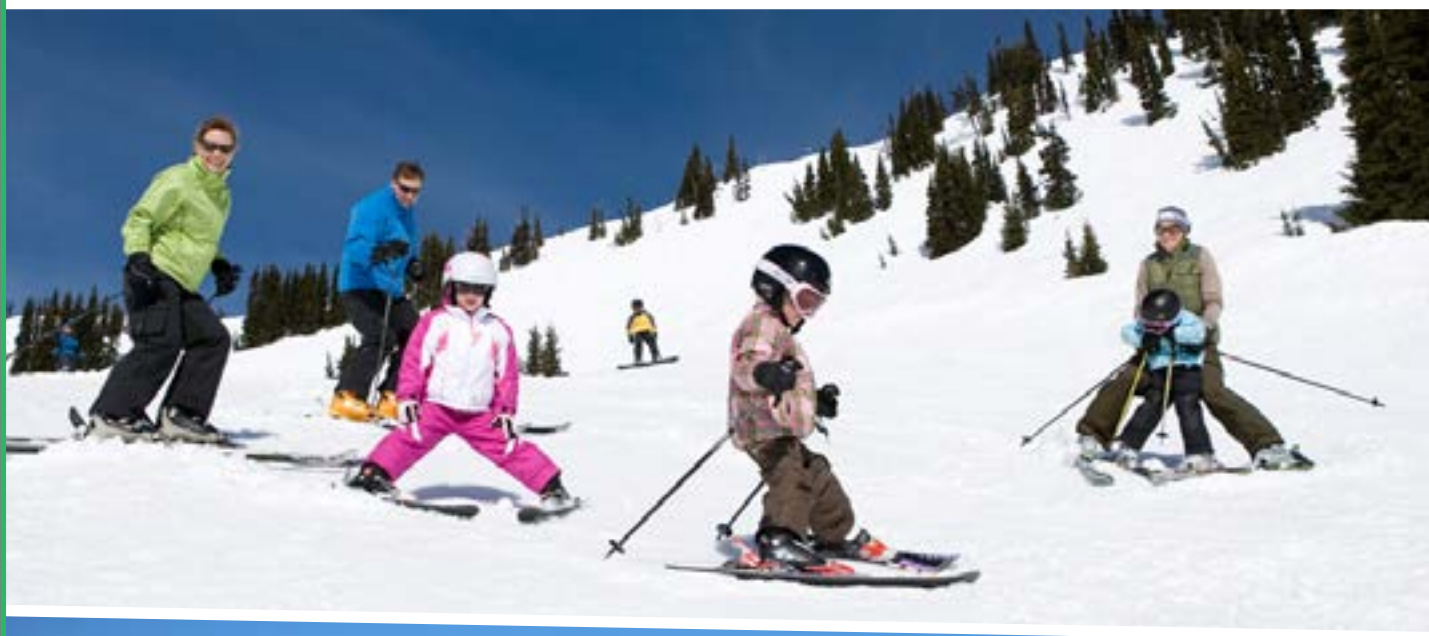
Plan your adventure!

## **Crystal Mountain Resort**

33914 Crystal Mountain Blvd., Crystal Mountain, WA 980202

360-663-3050

[visitrainier.com/spring-skiing](http://visitrainier.com/spring-skiing)



# 10

## Enjoy fishing at Old McDebbie's Farm, and stocked ponds in Enumclaw

### Fishing and Exotic Animals at Old McDebbie's Farm

Old McDebbie has a farm on the way from Tacoma to Mount Rainier, and your kids are going to love it. The farm is all about connecting kids and families to nature through animals, fishing and education. Here you can do everything from fish stocked ponds and hike trails to tour a farm with exotic animals including camels and beyond.

Plan your adventure!

#### Old McDebbie's Farm

4924 268th St E

Spanaway, Washington

(253) 875-0356

[oldmcdebbiesfarm.net](http://oldmcdebbiesfarm.net)





# MT. RAINIER AREA LODGING

So you've decided to stay a few days and make a proper getaway out of your visit. Smart move. Now let's find you a cozy place to rest up between adventures. Fortunately for you, when it comes to family-friendly lodging in and around the Mt. Rainier area, you've got options. Rustic cabins. Comfy yurts. Posh resorts, retreats and lodges. Practical hotels, motels and inns. Vacation rentals. RV and campgrounds. It's all here. We've even created an online lodging planner to help make finding the perfect place super easy. Search by location, lodging type, and must-have or nice-to-have amenities like fireplaces, hot tubs, spas, pools, on-site restaurants and beyond. Check it out at [visitrainier.com/lodging](http://visitrainier.com/lodging), and stay your way.



# MT. RAINIER AREA DINING

## Dining options in the Mt. Rainier region

If you're like us, food is half the fun of any getaway. And here you've got your choice of fare, from grab-and-go options to hearty cafes and even fine dining. See what's cookin' around the mountain.

Featured dining is grouped together by geographic location on the following pages. For more information: [visitrainier.com/food-and-drink](https://www.visitrainier.com/food-and-drink)

## ASHFORD DINING

### Copper Creek Inn

Copper Creek Inn has been rated as a #1 restaurant at Mt. Rainier on Trip Advisor and "one of the state's greatest rural restaurants" by Lonely Planet tour guide. Open every day year-round including holidays, it is famous for its salmon, trout, steaks and homemade blackberry pie, syrup and vinaigrette. Copper Creek Inn has been a tradition for visitors to Mount Rainier National Park since 1945.

35707 State Route 706 E., Ashford, Washington 98304 | (360) 569-2326

[visitrainier.com/copper-creek-restaurant](https://www.visitrainier.com/copper-creek-restaurant)

### Wildberry Restaurant

The Taste of Two Worlds - traditional American mountain menu with authentic Sherpa Himalayan cuisine of Nepal. This restaurant offers indoor and outdoor seating in a casual atmosphere with both American cuisine and Nepalese food on the menu.

37718 State Route 706 E., Ashford, Washington 98304 | (360) 569-2277

(spring open date TBD estimated mid-May)

[visitrainier.com/wildberry-restaurant-2](https://www.visitrainier.com/wildberry-restaurant-2)





# DINING *continued*

## ELBE DINING

### Elbe Bar and Grill

Families are welcome at the Elbe Bar and Grill but go for a lunch or an early dinner because this popular local watering hole and restaurant can get colorful in the evenings. Large portions, reasonable prices, known for their burgers and fries. Located at the junction of Hwy 7 and SR 706 near the train depot in Elbe.

54312 182nd Ave Ct E., Elbe, Washington 98330 | (360) 569-2545

[visitrainier.com/elbe-bar-and-grill](http://visitrainier.com/elbe-bar-and-grill)

### Mt. Rainier Railroad Dining Co.

Enjoy (a stationary!) meal in an authentic railroad dining car, right next door to the Mt. Rainier Railroad train station. Families can expect classic American diner style cuisine for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Kids menu and coloring pages.

54106 Mountain Hwy E., Elbe, Washington 98330 | (360) 569-2505

[visitrainier.com/mt-rainier-railroad-dining-co](http://visitrainier.com/mt-rainier-railroad-dining-co)

### Pizza Express

Located in a 1910 refurbished train car. The Pizza Express is family friendly and offers visitors pizza by the slice or by the pie during lunch or dinner. There is no indoor seating. Seating is outdoors and covered.

54106 Mountain Hwy E. Elbe, Washington 98330 | (360) 569-8878

(closed in March, opens in April)

[visitrainier.com/pizza-express](http://visitrainier.com/pizza-express)



# DINING *continued*

## MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK DINING

### National Park Inn Dining Room

Enjoy flavors of the Pacific Northwest in our family-friendly, casual dining room with selections to please the entire family. Our menu features our signature Bourbon Buffalo Meatloaf, Home-Style Pot Roast, Cedar Plank Red Trout, and much more. End your meal with our warm blackberry cobbler topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, and when you are ready to relax, take your favorite beverage and enjoy spectacular views of Mount Rainier from comfortable chairs on the front porch.

Longmire 52807 Paradise Road East, Ashford, WA 98304 | (360) 569-2411

[visitrainier.com/national-park-inn-restaurant](http://visitrainier.com/national-park-inn-restaurant)

(open year-round)

### Paradise Inn Dining Room

Imagine the setting of Mount Rainier and its entire splendor as the backdrop to a perfect meal guaranteed to satisfy the heartiest adventurer. At the Paradise Inn Dining Room, you can dine by a blaze in the hearth of the great fireplace as you feast.

Paradise, Mt. Rainier National Park, WA | (360) 569-2275

[visitrainier.com/paradise-inn-restaurant](http://visitrainier.com/paradise-inn-restaurant)

(opens mid- May 2019)

### Tatoosh Café

Located inside Paradise Inn, the Tatoosh Cafe is a cozy and casual coffee shop-style spot offering a variety of grab-and-go sandwiches on artisan bread, ice cream, snacks, beverages and delectable fresh pastries. With wine and beer on tap, it's a wonderful spot to relax on the patio in the evening while listening to a fascinating talk from a Park Ranger.

Paradise, Mount Rainier National Park, Ashford, WA 98304 | (360) 569-2275

[visitrainier.com/tatoosh-cafe](http://visitrainier.com/tatoosh-cafe)





# DINING *continued*

## CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN AREA DINING

The restaurants located at Crystal Mountain are open briefly in the spring to accommodate visitors during spring skiing. Each location at the resort will close after the spring skiing and reopen in the summer. With the exception of the Summit House you can walk or drive to each restaurant listed in this section. A gondola ride is required to reach the Summit House.

### Alpine Inn

The Alpine Inn Restaurant at Crystal Mountain serves up fresh, outstanding cuisine in a beautiful mountain setting. Located just 6 miles from the Mt. Rainier National Park and slopeside to the Crystal Mountain ski area, the Alpine Inn restaurant is open all day to greet you with great food after your adventure in the mountains.

33818 Crystal Mountain Blvd, Crystal Mountain, WA 98022 | (360) 663-7727

[visitrainier.com/alpine-inn](http://visitrainier.com/alpine-inn)

### Summit House

Getting here is half the fun! Perched at 6,872 feet, the Summit House offers breathtaking views of Mt. Rainier and the surrounding Cascades! We're located just steps from the top of the scenic Mt. Rainier Gondola.

Enjoy a savory meal in a beautiful alpine setting with views that are both unique and breathtaking. On a clear day you can see the Northwest's most famous volcanic peaks such as Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Baker and Glacier Peak.

33914 Crystal Mountain Blvd, Crystal Mountain, WA 98022 | (360) 663-3085

[visitrainier.com/summit-house](http://visitrainier.com/summit-house)



# DINING *continued*

## ENUMCLAW DINING

The City of Enumclaw has a thriving restaurant scene. The restaurants are open year-round. The list below features some of the most popular places for families. For a complete list of restaurants visit [visitrainier.com/food-and-drink](http://visitrainier.com/food-and-drink)

### Historic Mint

This gastro-pub is family friendly. Offers lunch and dinner, appetizers and desserts.

1608 Cole St Enumclaw, WA 98022 | 360-284-2517

[visitrainier.com/historic-mint](http://visitrainier.com/historic-mint)

### Il Sciciliano

Cooking true Italian traditional food, expect woodfired pizzas, pastas, and fresh cannoli.

1118 Myrtle Ave. Enumclaw, WA 98022 | (360) 825-9463

[visitrainier.com/il-sciciliano](http://visitrainier.com/il-sciciliano)

### Jackson's

A truly “local” placemaking gourmet artisan pizzas, pasta, and mouth-watering specialty sandwiches, served with style, warmth, and a commitment to great service. Try our “Grinders” – specialty sandwiches that are designed to be filling, and flavorful. Gluten-free menu items available.

1537 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA 98022 | (360) 284-2424

[visitrainier.com/jacksons-pizza](http://visitrainier.com/jacksons-pizza)

### Kelly's Restaurant and Lounge

Open for lunch and dinner, families appreciate the menu that strives to please all ages. Chef Chad Bergman designed their menus with feature fresh seasonal offerings. Chef Natalie Vorpahl is their Pastry Chef who created an amazing Dessert Menu. (She won the first season of Cake Wars!) The menu focuses on scratch-made and locally sourced items.

1444 Cole St. Enumclaw, WA 98022 | 360-284-2333

[visitrainier.com/kellys-restaurant](http://visitrainier.com/kellys-restaurant)





# DINING *continued*

## **Rainier Bar & Grill**

If you are looking for good food, charming atmosphere and some history of the Mountain this establishment was named after, you have found it. Historic photos adorn the walls, offering a with a touch of authenticity and nostalgia. Wide variety of BBQ, sandwiches, and salads.

1623 Cole St. Enumclaw, WA 98022 | (360) 825-6363

[visitrainier.com/rainier-bar-and-grill-2](http://visitrainier.com/rainier-bar-and-grill-2)

## **Sweet Necessities**

To indulge a sweet-tooth visit the chocolatier and ice-cream shop.

1215 Griffin Ave., Enumclaw, Washington 98022 | (360) 802-5475

[visitrainier.com/sweet-necessities](http://visitrainier.com/sweet-necessities)

## **The Local**

This where moms and dads go to get some go-power. The Local is a modern-day general store and coffeehouse serving Stumptown Coffee. Bagels, muffins.

1616 Cole St. Enumclaw, WA 98022 | (360) 625-0600

[visitrainier.com/the-local](http://visitrainier.com/the-local)



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Special Events This Spring

There's always something fun happening on and around Mt. Rainier. Here's our list of family events not to miss this spring.

- March 21-24, 2019 Samsarafest | Yoga, Music, Arts  
[visitrainier.com/events/samsarafest](http://visitrainier.com/events/samsarafest)
- April 20, 2019 Fee-free day at Mount Rainier National Park—Get into the park free on the first day of National Park Week.  
[visitrainier.com/fee-free](http://visitrainier.com/fee-free)
- April 21, 2019 Easter Sunday Brunch at the National Park Inn—Treat your family to a uniquely Northwest Easter Sunday Brunch at the friendly National Park Inn.
- May 12, 2019 Mother's Day Buffet at the National Park Inn—Celebrate mom with a fun and filling buffet.
- May 17-19, 2019 Rainier Independent Film Festival—Film lovers (that's everyone, right?) flock to Ashford to see some truly moving, inspiring, thought-provoking films.  
[visitrainier.com/events/rainier-independent-film-festival](http://visitrainier.com/events/rainier-independent-film-festival)
- May 18-19, 2019 Bear Tracks at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park  
[visitrainier.com/events/bear-tracks-northwest-trek-wildlife-park](http://visitrainier.com/events/bear-tracks-northwest-trek-wildlife-park)
- June 16, 2019 Father's Day—Take dad to Mt. Rainier to connect with him over a nature-filled bonding experience.
- June 22 Spring Wine Walk—walk and sip your way through historic Downtown Enumclaw.  
[visitrainier.com/events/spring-wine-walk](http://visitrainier.com/events/spring-wine-walk)
- June 22-23, 2019 Slug Fest at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park  
[visitrainier.com/events/slug-fest-at-northwest-trek-wildlife-park](http://visitrainier.com/events/slug-fest-at-northwest-trek-wildlife-park)





# TOP TRAVEL DEALS

## Grab the Season's Top Travel Deals!

From fun packages to midweek, military and other discounts, we've compiled the region's best travel deals in one convenient place. Go to [visitrainier.com/top-travel-deals](https://visitrainier.com/top-travel-deals) to start saving!



# VACATION PLANNERS FOR EVERY SEASON

## A Vacation Planner for Every Season— Download Yours and Plan Your Next Adventure!

Rainier is always in season. No matter the time of year, you can count on the Mt. Rainier area to deliver new adventure opportunities. And you can count on Visit Rainier to provide Free Vacation Planners to help you plan your seasonal adventures. From summer hikes to fall colors and winter snow play, keep an eye out for our next vacation planner, and we'll see ya out there.







### *HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO HELP YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR TRIP:*

- Place advance reservations so save your spot.
- Top off your tank when you get the chance as the Mt. Rainier region covers several miles and gas stations are spread out.
- Print out your driving directions or save them to your phone because there are sections of the region that don't have cell service or wi-fi.
- Check the road conditions before you drive. Bring chains for your vehicle if you're planning to visit Mount Rainier National Park in March or April.
- Knowing what the weather is going to do, and dressing accordingly, will ensure you enjoy yourself.



### **Let's connect.**

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to read stories and receive more travel tips, and be sure to share your own stories by tagging us in your posts using **#VisitRainier**.

