The Polar Express

Ski Trips Snowplay Fun



FAMILY EDITION

VisitRainier.com





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Is this the winter you take a break from all the school activities to stretch your legs and take in some crisp mountain air? Whether it's your first visit or your 50th, your family can beamong people from all around the world who come to explore the Mount Rainier area, including skiing, holiday steam train rides, horseback riding, snowshoeing, and wildlife watching. Come explore the most natural playground in Washington State.

# Winter in Paradise 🦹



wonderlands in the PNW!

Families welcome. Sled. snowshoe, cross-country ski and make long lasting memories.

With an average of more than 50 feet of snow each year, Paradise is the primary winter-use area at Mount Rainier National Park, And with views of snow-capped Mt. Rainier and the Tatoosh Range, the scenery is impressive.

Upon arriving at Paradise you'll see three (likely snow-covered) buildings: the Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center, the Paradise Guide House, and the Paradise Ranger Station. The visitor center is the only building open to the public in the winter months. Operated by the National Park Service, the visitor center is open weekends and holidays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during Rainier's winter season.

A short distance uphill from the visitor center families of all ages zip down two sled runs in plastic sleds, saucers, and inner tubes. Help us maintain a fun and safe experience for everyone. Since the sled run is several hundred feet in length, no hard toboggans or runner sleds are allowed.

Take the kids cross-country skiing on Paradise Valley Road/Stevens Canyon Road, which is closed to cars in

the witer. When the snowpack is stable, this easy and popular 3.5-mile trek to Reflection Lake offers grand views of Rainier and the Tatoosh. The route begins in the Paradise parking lot. Winter recreational maps are available at the visitor center. Ski rentals are available in nearby Longmire at the National Park Inn General Store or in Ashford at Whittaker Mountaineering.

You can also sign up at the visitor center for a two-hour, ranger-guided snowshoe hike. Moderately strenuous, this hike is great for beginners and families. While only adults



# Winter in Paradise continued

and kids eight years and older can sign up, the rangers will allow you to bring younger children in front or back carriers. Dress them very warmly, rangers say, for little ones will get very cold because they aren't moving. Folks can borrow snowshoes from the visitor center for a \$4 donation per pair.

After your winter activities, you and the kids can stow your gear and head over to the visitor center to warm up.

When this winter fun works up your appetite, head down the mountain towards Longmire for a meal at the National Park Inn. Then stay the night and get up recharged and ready to do it all again the next day.

Ready, set, slide! Race down the slopes at the popular snowplay area at Paradise. For those who see the snow and feel the need for speed, this is the one place in the park where sleds are welcome – and expected! Squeals and laughter fill the air as people of all ages have a blast careening down the hill. The snowplay area is located north of the upper parking lot at

### **Pro Tips:**

- Vehicles are required to carry chains inside the park November 1 - May 1 (no exceptions) For more detailed information on this requirement visit nps.gov/mora/ planyourvisit/tire-chain-faq.htm
- Warm up inside the visitor center and where you can watch a movie and explore the exhibits on wildlife, geology and history.
- The road is plowed throughout the winter but may close unexpectedly due to severe snow and ice.
- Call ahead or check Twitter to make sure the Nisqually Entrance is open.
- For current road conditions, call 360-569-2211 or check @MountRainierNPS on Twitter.
- For more information on winter trails and hikes call 360-569-6571.

Paradise- opens mid-December and closes near the end of March. Get a map and more info here.



Want personal concierge style assistance on the phone? Call the **Mt. Rainier Visitor Association** at (360) 569-0910.

Have questions about visiting the park this winter? Call the **Mount Rainier**National Park: (360) 569-2211.



# **Paradise Area Dining**











### **Copper Creek Inn**

35707 State Route 706 E, Ashford, WA 98304 (360) 569-2326

Winter Hours: Monday ~ Friday 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM, and Sunday 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Dinner reservations suggested.

### **Elbe Bar and Grill**

54312 182nd Avenue Court East, Elbe, WA 98330 (360) 569-2545

Winter Hours: open at Noon, close at 2:00 AM. Families welcome from Noon - 9:00 PM. Walk-ins welcome

### **Highlander Steak House**

30319 State Route 706 E, Ashford, WA 98304 (360) 569-2953

Winter Hours: 8:00 AM - 2:00 AM

Walk-ins welcome. Families welcome from 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM.

### Mt. Rainier Railroad Dining Company

54106 Mountain Hwy E, Elbe, WA 98330 (360) 569-2505

Winter Hours: Open daily 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM Walk-ins welcome.

#### **National Park Inn Restaurant**

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

Winter Hours: Breakfast: 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Lunch: 11:30AM - 4:30 PM Dinner: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (Sunday through Thursday) Dinner: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (Friday & Saturday) Dinner reservations suggested.

### Whittaker's Café and Espresso

30204 State Route 706 E, Ashford, WA 98304 (360) 569-2439

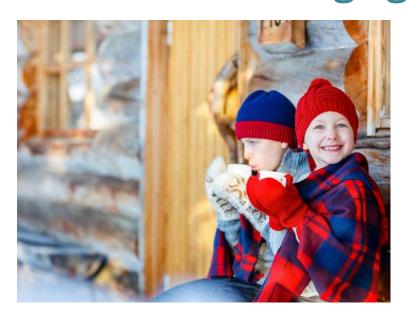
Winter Hours: Friday - Sunday, 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Limited menu, serving a light breakfast, snacks, and lattes. Walk-in's welcome.

Click here for a complete list of area restaurants: visitrainier.com/food-and-drink



# Paradise Area Lodging



### **Pro Tips:**

- Many cabin rentals have a 2-night minimum while motels and lodges do not.
- Many cabin rentals are stocked with board games, which are perfect in case the weather keeps you indoors during your stay
- When renting a cabin with a wood stove or fireplace ask if a supply of firewood is included.



# It's a big mountain with so much to discover in the area!

Play at the park during the day and relax in a comfortable cabin, inn, or lodge at night.

Make a weekend of it. Book one of the cabins or vacation rentals in the forest and maybe you'll wake up to meet a neighboring herd of deer or elk. Vacation rentals are available with game rooms, bunk beds, hot tubs, fireplaces, and fire pits for a late season round of s'mores. Browse

our website to find the perfect place to stay.

Between snowshoeing, sledding, and holiday train rides there are so many reasons to stay overnight at the mountain this winter. Stay awhile to get the full experience. And don't forget to stop by Northwest Trek Wildlife Park to see the animals wearing their winter coats.



In the Ashford and Elbe area there are 20 kid-friendly places to stay - from a fun roadside motel made out of converted cabooses, to a cozy cabin, a spacious vacation rental with all the comforts of home, or a rustic northwest lodge.



# THE POLAR EXPRESSTM Train Rides











# The magic of THE POLAR EXPRESS™ comes to life in Elbe, WA from November 17th thru December 31.

Set to the sounds of the motion picture soundtrack, families will enjoy a trip to the North Pole, complete with hot chocolate and cookies served aboard the train. Passengers will be entertained by a reading of The Polar Express. Upon arrival at the North Pole, Santa will greet the children and each child will receive their own sleigh bell, just like in the movie, for those who BELIEVE. Experience the joy of caroling and holiday entertainment that will surely become an annual holiday tradition for the whole family.

Families are encouraged to wear their pajamas for the ride and join in on the magic of Christmas! Trains depart at 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM. Seating is limited. Advance reservations are strongly suggested. Be sure to visit our website for the complete schedule of departure dates:

This story of a child's Christmas Eve journey comes alive on-board THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride. All ages can enjoy the warmth and fun of the Christmas season as you depart for a trip to the North Pole.

Passengers will be entertained by chefs, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies, and listen to a reading of THE POLAR EXPRESS<sup>TM</sup>. Upon arrival at the North Pole, Santa will board the train and give each child the first gift of Christmas (a silver bell). This event will surely become an annual tradition for the whole family.

Stay a few nights at the mountain to usher in your holiday spirit. There's family friendly snowshoeing and sledding at nearby Mount Rainier National Park when the Snowplay area opens at Paradise. (Snowplay area opening date is dependent on the weather). There are gentle guided horseback rides for all ages through the forests of Elbe. And there's watchable wildlife at Northwest Trek and Wildlife Park. Be sure to visit our lodging pages to find

# THE POLAR EXPRESS<sup>TM</sup> Train Rides continued







### **Pro Tips:**

- Book in advance as these popular trains sell out
- Wear warm waterproof clothing.
   Even though you'll ride in a climate controlled train you'll wait outside in the elements.
- Arrive early to check-in and get a good spot for the pre-show.
- Arrive with a fully charged phone or camera.
- Have kids use the restroom before departure so you don't miss any part of the show on the train.

family friendly places to stay near the depot. From a roadside motel made out of converted cabooses, to cabins with fireplaces and room to spread out, to historic lodges and affordable motels near the depot – you've got options.

Please note THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride is a licensed event. All ticket sales are final and non-refundable and may not be exchanged for other Mt Rainier Railroad trips/excursions. Space is limited. Advance reservations are strongly suggested. Gall 888-STEAM-11 to reserve your train tickets over the phone or click here to book online. Make plans now for a winter getaway this holiday season. Holidays at the mountain just got a little more magical.

Do you believe?

(888) 783-2611 54124 Mountain Highway East Elbe, WA 98330

# Northwest Trek Wildlife Park







# This winter, enjoy a family-fun day at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. Meet the wildlife at Northwest Trek

Bundle up for a 50-minute tram ride and view native Northwest animals in their lush winter coats at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park in Eatonville.

Northwest Trek Wildlife Park really knows families! This is a great place to get a Pacific Northwest experience in the winter. The tram rides are covered, heated and offer a narrated guided tour through the 435-acre free-roaming area. The tram tours are great for rainy days. The **Forest Café** offers burgers, salads, sandwiches and kids' meals with healthy options at reasonable prices. The gas fireplace makes the café a cozy place to eat on chilly days. The Forest Café is located near the main entrance of Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

Spot bison, caribou, elk, mountain goats, deer and even moose as you meander through the park. Some animals come right up to the tram for an up close and personal viewing experience. Afterwards, take time to walk the forested pathways to view bears, wolves, bobcats, lynx, cougars, owls, eagles and other animals in beautiful natural exhibits. Get more information, directions and details at **Northwest Trek** Wildlife Park.

indulge in tasty treats and hot drinks at the Forest Cafe, stop by the indoor Cheney Family Discovery Center to learn how animals acclimate to winter, meet animals up close during **Trailside Encounters**, and more.

November 1 - December 25 Friday - Open 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Mon-Thurs: Closed. Closed Thurs, Nov 23 (Thanksgiving) Closed Dec 24 & 25. Dec. 26-31 9:30 AM - 3 PM Special Opening,

(360) 832.6117

11610 Trek Drive East Eatonville, WA 98328

### **Special Events:**

- November 10-12 Veterans Appreciation Days
- December 9 and 17 Photo Tours
- December 29-30 Winter Wildland Celebration





# Horseback Riding





# Practice your yee-haw and giddy-up during an outdoorsy adventure on a fun winter trail ride.

Finally, a ride on which you won't hear "Are we there yet?"

Book horse rentals for all levels of riders, with guided trips by the hour. Rain or shine. Reservations are suggested during the winter months. Hand-led pony rides are available for young children. Older children can take to the trails with an adult for an hour-long guided trail ride through the forest and foothills south of Mount Rainier.

The guides that lead the tours have experience with the horses and the landscape. While longer rides are available during the winter months you may want to stay with an hour trail ride which takes you up and down into the valley, past a small stream, then winds up and around the trees before heading back to the stables.

You may work up an appetite after your ride. Check our dining section on page 4 for restaurants near the stables.

(253) 350-1141

18703 Highway 703, Elbe, WA 98304

Winter Hours: Monday - Sunday 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM





### **Pro Tips:**

- Weight limit of 250 LBS per rider
- Dress for the weather
- \$40 per person, per hour, bring cash or check, EZ Times does not accept credit cards
- Reservations strongly suggested



# Snowshoeing in the Mount Rainier Area





## Finally shoes they won't want to take off!

An affordable way to get the family outside for some winter fun.

Experience the dramatic beauty of a Mount Rainier winter on snowshoes. Marvel at the alpine trees encased in snow and ice. Look out across the clean white mountainsides that seem to go on and on. During the summer months you have to stick to the trail, but once the snow becomes deep enough, the mountain offers much more room to explore. With a little know-how and the right supplies, you're ready to strap on snowshoes and explore the park's winter trails. Another option is the popular ranger-guided tour at Paradise offered mid-

December through early March. Crystal Mountain also offers a packaged snowshoe tour on Saturdays and White Pass has a well-groomed system of trails at their Nordic Center perfect for snowshoers of all abilities.

Ranger-Led Snowshoe Walks at Mount Rainier National Park are well suited for families. Geared for beginners these informative tours take you on the Nisqually Vista Trail and fill you in on the ecology and history of the area inside the park. Click here for more information on ranger led tours.

While Mount Rainier and its neighboring craggy peaks offer excellent backcountry skiing and challenging winter hiking adventures—there are plenty of less-intimidating family-friendly spots within the frozen shadows of the mountain. visitrainier.com/five-best-family-friendly-snowshoeingtrips-at-mount-rainier/

#### **Find 30+ Snowshoe Trail Descriptions**

Need to rent some snowshoeing gear outside of the park? Call Whittaker's



# Cross Country Skiing in the Mount Rainier Area

### Cross Country Skiing in Paradise.

Where you'll hear the sounds of families having fun and the swish of your skis.

Paradise is the hub for classic cross-country skiing and snowshoeing is a wonderful way to capture the sheer majesty of this mountain park. The sloshing of your skis in the pure white snow is the only sound you'll hear as you traverse the hills in the beauty that is Mt. Rainier National Park.

Gross-country ski and snowshoe rentals are available at the Longmire General Store late November -March dependent on snow and weather conditions.

Mount Rainier cross country ski and snowshoe rentals Full-Day Rental

	Adults	Children
		under 12
Skis	\$10.50	\$ <b>7.50</b>
Boots	\$8.50	\$6.50
Poles	\$3.25	\$2. <b>7</b> 5
Complete Set	\$18. <b>7</b> 5	\$13.25
Snowshoes	\$1 <b>4.50</b>	\$10.50

Equipment is available on a first come basis with no advance reservations.

Mount Rainier National Park National Park Inn General Store Longmire, WA

#### WINTER HOURS

Monday - Friday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday & Sunday: 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM



### **Pro Tip:**

Always talk to a park ranger before you head out to ski or snowshoe at Mount Rainier National Park to find the best and safest routes.



# Winter at Crystal Mountain





A winter playground for skiers and non-skiers alike. Winter's first snows signal the opening of Washington's largest ski resort. The sprawling expanse of the ski terrain at Grystal Mountain flows over half a dozen peaks and basins and lends itself to seemingly limitless variations. Here you'll find 2,600 acres of groomed runs for beginners to challenging steeps, glades, chutes, bowls and expansive backcountry for the more adventurous skiers and boarders of all levels. Grystal Mountain averages 367 inches of snowfall annually, which gives powder enthusiasts plenty to smile about.

Not a skier? Not a problem. Non-skiers can still enjoy scenic rides on the Mt. Rainier Gondola, as well as daily snowshoe rentals and Saturday snowshoe tours. Live music is also offered most weekends on the Sundeck at the base area, and the world-famous Snorting Elk Gellar offers live music most weekends.

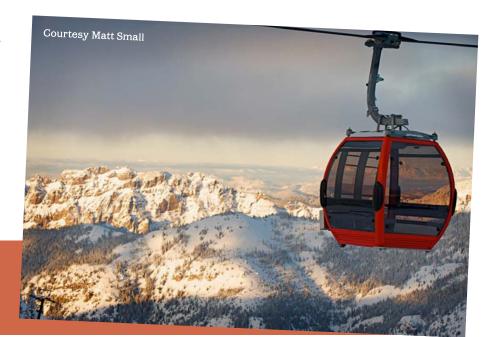
Non-skiers are welcome to ride the gondola anytime during the winter. Skiers and snowboarders are fascinating creatures and don't be surprised if you get to sit next to one on the ride up! Look like fun?

Give skiing or snowboarding a try! You'll find everything you'll need for your first day on the slopes at Crystal Mountain Resort.

Grystal Mountain is accessible year-round via Highway 410 from Enumclaw. Highway 410 and 120 through Mt. Rainier National Park usually close sometime in November with the first heavy snowfall, and open again in late Spring.

# **Pro Tip:**

Remember to apply sunscreen



# Dining in the Crystal Mountain Area



# **Alpine Inn Restaurant**

33818 Crystal Mountain Blvd, Crystal Mountain, WA 98022 (360) 663-2262

Hours: Winter: Breakfast (Hot Buffet) 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM Dinner 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Located just 6 miles from the Mt. Rainier National Park and slope-side to the Crystal Mountain ski area.



#### **Bullwheel Restaurant and Bar**

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

Hours: Monday-Friday 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM | Saturday-Sunday 10:30 AM - 6:00 PM Hours are subject to change. Family seating in the main dining area.



### Campbell Basin

33914 Crystal Mountain Blvd., Crystal Mountain, WA 98022 (360) 663-2265

Hours: Monday-Friday 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM (food), 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM (beverages & restrooms only) Saturday-Sunday: 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM (full ops)



#### **Naches Bar and Grill**

58411 State Route 410 East, Greenwater, WA 98022 (360) 663-2267

Hours: Seven Days a week 11:00 AM - 2:00 AM families welcome in the back-dining room until 9:00 PM.



#### **Summit House**

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

Hours: Daily: 10:30 AM - 2:45 PM (weather permitting) Last seating for food is 2:45 PM, beverages available until 3:00 PM.

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. Skiers can also access the restaurant using the Rainier Express lift. 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 at Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Baker and Glacier Peak. The lower level houses ski patrol and public restrooms. The upper level restaurant seats approximately 100 people. Reservations no longer accepted. Walk-ins are welcome, subject to availability, and are first-come firstserved. Tickets are required to ride the gondola and can be purchased from the kiosk at the base of the resort. If you are skiing or snowboarding the gondola is included in your lift ticket.

# Crystal Mountain Area Lodging





# Play in the snow. Hit the slopes. Ride the scenic gondola. Take a guided snowshoe tour.

There are so many reasons to stay overnight. Come for the day, stay for the weekend.

All the lodging for Crystal Mountain is within a 10 to 15-minute walk or drive. Choose from a slopeside hotel or condominium, or stay a short drive from the mountain in the national forest beside a mountain stream. We have accommodations that are right for your budget, with money-saving midweek specials (non-holiday) available all season long.





# Winter in Enumclaw 🕟





# Small town. Big on charm. Discover Enumclaw.

This walkable downtown area offers murals, locally owned shops and your pick of restaurants.

Join the fun for Enumclaw's Annual Christmas Parade. Grab some hot chocolate and

find a spot along Cole Street in downtown Enumclaw to kick off the holiday season with an old-fashioned Christmas Parade. Listen to bands, watch animals, see illuminated floats, and enjoy tons of candy as part of the fun.

The Local is a coffeeshop perfect for warm drinks and snacks.

If the weather gets too chilly or rainy and you need indoor activities for your family check out the Chalet Theatre to see if there's a family-friendly movie playing. You can also call the Enumclaw Aquatic Center to inquire about open-swim hours.

Breakfast and photos with Santa are available, and downtown merchants will be offering shopping and dining specials. For more information, visit www.enumclawchamber.com.

Make a weekend out of it! The boutiques, restaurants, and nearby attractions like Crystal Mountain Resort are open for business. There's also **A Holly Jolly Holiday event** presented by The Traveling Happy Market at the Enumclaw Expo Center. Vendors and local artisans will fill the Expo Center with crafts, decorations,

and gifts for a holidaythemed shopping spree. Visitors can also enjoy a scenic gondola ride or hit the slopes and ski at the nearby Grystal Mountain Resort.

For lodging near Enumclaw's **Annual Christmas Parade click here**.

The Parade is scheduled from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM on Saturday, December 2, 2017.



# **Enumclaw Dining**



















### Charlie's Café

1335 Roosevelt Ave East, Enumclaw, Washington 98022 (360) 825-5191

Hours: 5:00 AM - 2:00 PM

#### El Camino

1225 Griffin Avenue, Ennumclaw, WA 98022 (360) 825-5999

Hours: Closed on Mondays

### **Historic Mint**

1608 Gole St Enumclaw, WA 98022 (360) 284-2517

Hours: Seven Days a week 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM

#### Il Sciciliano

1118 Myrtle Ave. Enumclaw, WA 98022

360-825-9463

Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 11:30 AM - 9:00 PM, Friday - Saturday 11:30 AM - 10:00 PM. Sunday 11:30 AM - 9:00 PM. Closed Mondays.

Click here for a complete list of Enumclaw area restaurants:

visitrainier.com/food-and-drink

#### **Jackson's Pizza**

1537 Gole Street, Enumclaw, WA 98022

(360) 284-2424

Hours: Open daily at 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM Sunday - Thursday. Close at 10:00 PM Friday & Saturday.

### **Kelly's Mercantile**

1444 Gole St. Enumclaw, WA 98022

(360) 284-2333

Hours: daily at 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM

#### The Kettle

1666 Garrett St., Enumclaw, Washington 98022

(360) 825-7033

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday: 5:00 AM - 2:00 PM and Sunday 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM

#### The Kitchen

1521 Cole St, Enumclaw, WA 98022

(360) 825-3451

Hours: Open daily 7:00 AM - 2:30 PM

### The Lee

1110 Griffin, Enumclaw, WA 98022

(360) 825-3761

Hours: Monday - Friday 6:00 AM - 9:00 PM. Saturday & Sunday 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM

# Enumclaw Lodging



Families visiting Enumclaw will discover an affordable motel with an outdoor heated pool and an Inn located within walking distance of dining and shops. This is comfortable lodging for your family to establish your Mt. Rainier home base. For personal assistance over the phone, please contact the friendly team at the Enumclaw Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center (360) 825-7666.







# Visitor Centers

## The best places to visit for free maps and insider tips from locals.

We've compiled thousands of pages of helpful visitor information at www.visitrainier.com. We understand sometimes you need to talk to someone on the phone or in person. The local volunteer experts that staff the visitor centers around the mountain region are standing by ready to help visitors with free maps, brochures, and customized suggestions.



### **Enumclaw Chamber of Commerce**

1421 Gole St., Enumclaw, WA 98002 (360) 825-7666 Open Monday-Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM



### **Longmire Museum**

Hwy. 706, 10 mi east of Ashford, Longmire, WA, 98397 (360) 569-6575 Hours: October 1 - January 1 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM daily



### Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise

(360) 569-6571

Hours: Oct. 10 - Nov. 12 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM weekends/holidays only.

Nov. 18 - Dec. 22 10:00 AM - 4:15 PM weekends only.

Dec. 23 - Jan. 1 10:00 AM - 4:15 PM daily.

Paradise Rd E, Ashford, WA 98304



### Mt. Rainier Visitor Association

30027 SE 706 E, Ashford, WA 98304 877-617-9950

Hours: Winter Hours: 9:30 AM - 5 PM, Fri, Sat and Sun



# Trip Tips

- Pack the 10 Essentials.
- Fuel up. Gas stations are spread around the region.
- There are areas without cell phone coverage or wi-fi. Keep this in mind when relying on a smart phone GPS for driving directions.
   When driving to remote locations you may want to print directions as a back-up.
- Inclement weather may cause changes to the business operating hours.
- To check the gate open/closed status at Paradise call (360) 569-2211or visit @ MountRainierNPS on Twitter.
- Pack food and beverages, mittens and hats, and extra tops and pants in case kids get muddy or wet.



# Every season is Rainier season.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to

read visitors' stories from their winter trips, and be sure to share your own stories by tagging us in your posts using #VisitRainier.

