

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

# VISIT RAINIER

Spring 2020

**10 Spring  
Adventure  
Ideas!**

**From Day Trip to STAY TRIP**

**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.



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# TOP 10 SPRING EXPERIENCES for Adventure Lovers

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 11 spring experiences we think adventure lovers 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 locating the latest travel deals. Happy exploring!



# 1 Drive a Scenic Byway

There's a lot to see on and around Mt. Rainier—even if you never leave the car. The Chinook Byway and the White Pass Scenic Byway promise sweeping views of lush forests, shining lakes, rumbling rivers and cascading waterfalls. The spring is the best time of year to see waterfalls, and with several turnouts and overlooks, you can stop to take a photo and a longer look at some of nature's finest work.

Take a closer look: [visitrainier.com/activities/summer-activities/driving-tours](https://www.visitrainier.com/activities/summer-activities/driving-tours)

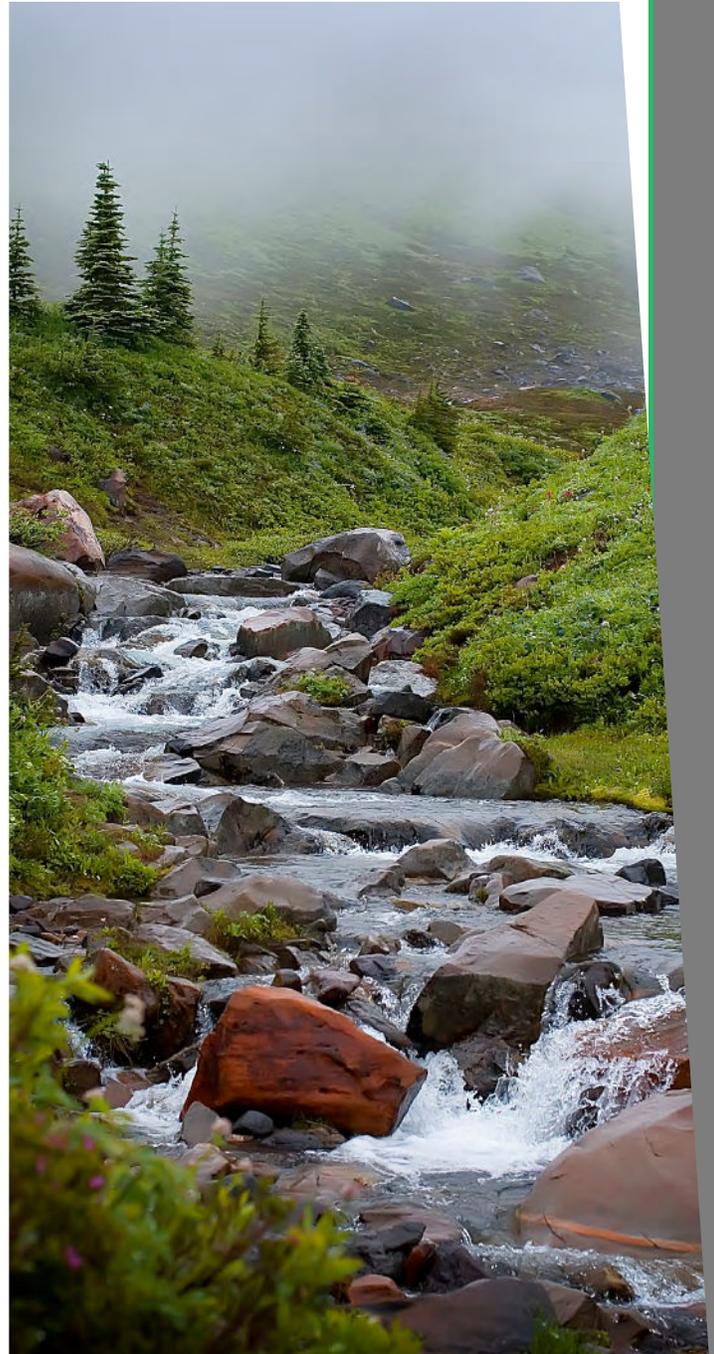
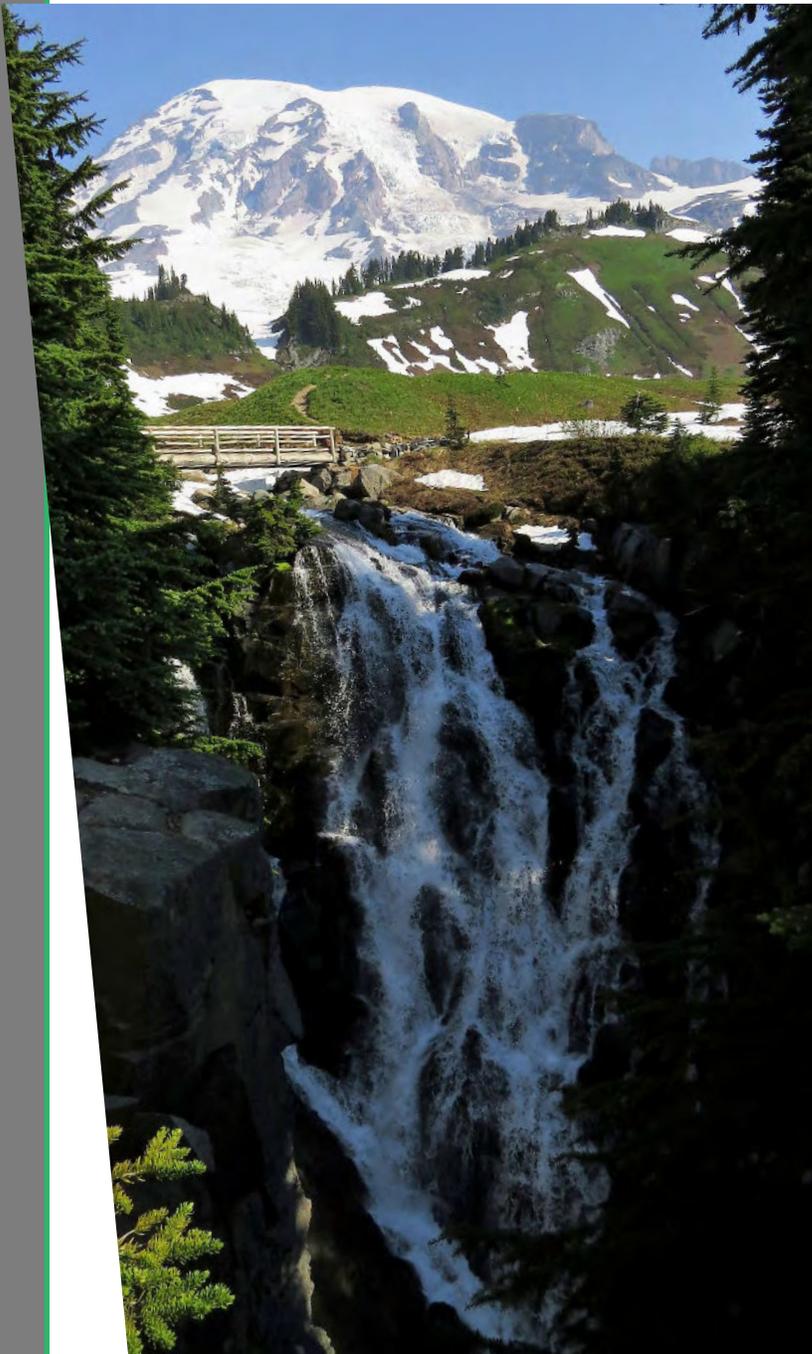


# 2

## Go Waterfall Chasing

We encourage you to ignore TLC's advice here, and DO go chasing waterfalls this spring. The spring runoff makes this prime waterfall season, and here you've got your pick of several photo-worthy falls. Some of the falls require little effort to see, and others will require a short hike—but they're all worth the trip. Click here to see a map and learn more about the falls in the area:

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



# 3 **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. Click below to find our list of the top 10 spring hikes. And be sure to prepare for potentially muddy conditions by wearing boots and gaiters. Also, check with the park before you go to make sure your desired trail is open.

## **TOP 10 Spring Hikes**

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

Additional Information

Washington Trails Association trip reports: [wta.org](http://wta.org)



# 4

## Spring Skiing at Crystal Mountain

(season ends early to mid-April depending on weather)

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 epically fun spring skiing. New to skiing or boarding? Get lessons from the experts at Crystal, or give snowshoeing a try.

Plan your adventure!

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



# 5 **Mt. Rainier Gondola at Crystal Mountain Resort**

(closes typically in late March to mid-April depending on weather)

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.

Plan your adventure!

## **Crystal Mountain Resort**

33914 Crystal Mountain Blvd, Enumclaw, WA 98022

(360) 663-3050

[visitrainier.com/crystal-mountain](http://visitrainier.com/crystal-mountain)



# 6

## Go Off-Road at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

You've probably heard of the massive 725-acre wildlife park that is Northwest Trek, but did you know they've got a new off-road adventure tour? Hop aboard a custom off-road vehicle and prepare to get up close and personal with moose, bison and beyond. And be sure to plan enough time to try your skill at a ropes course, zip-line, and 30-foot climbing wall. Oh, and if you haven't checked in on the park's grizzly cubs, this dynamic fur-covered duo is growing up fast. It's best to see them in person, but you can get a preview here: [visitrainier.com/grizzly-bears](https://visitrainier.com/grizzly-bears)

Learn more about the off-road adventure tours here:  
[visitrainier.com/keeper-adventure-tours](https://visitrainier.com/keeper-adventure-tours)

Learn more about other fun at Northwest Trek here:  
[visitrainier.com/zip-wild-at-northwest-trek-wildlife-park](https://visitrainier.com/zip-wild-at-northwest-trek-wildlife-park)

Plan your adventure!

**Northwest Trek Wildlife Park**

11610 Trek Dr E, Eatonville, WA 98328

(360) 832-6117

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



# 7

## Hot Air Balloon Rides and Glider Flights

You haven't seen Mt. Rainier until you've seen it by hot air balloon or glider. Let your sense of adventure take flight with a sunrise or sunset hot air balloon ride that departs from the city of Enumclaw. This is a perfect opportunity for lovers and adventure lovers alike. Shared rides or private rides are available.

If you'd like to see the mountain from a hawk's POV, book a glider flight from Enumclaw's Bergseth Airfield. If you've never been in a glider, it's an experience that's hard to describe and impossible to forget. A plane tows you up to 4,000 feet before releasing the glider, leaving you search for thermal air pockets as you stealthily glide through the air like a bird.

Plan your adventure!

**Hot Air Balloon Rides** (start May 1st weather dependent)

(206) 588-9788

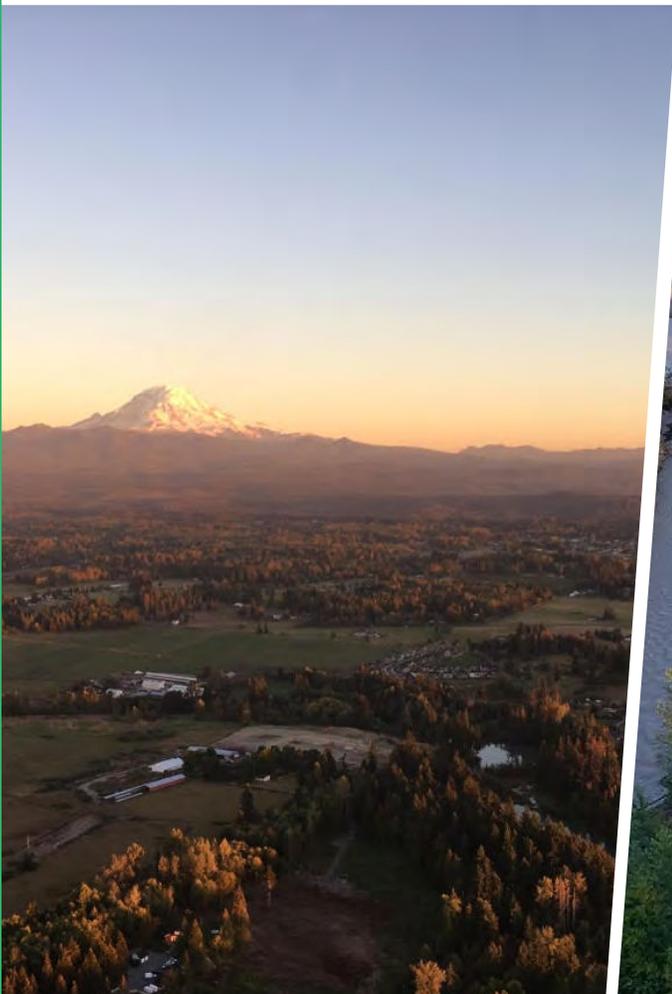
[visitrainier.com/hot-air-balloon-rides](http://visitrainier.com/hot-air-balloon-rides)

**Puget Sound Soaring Association**

31500 SE 408th St, Enumclaw, WA 98022

(206) 660-0019

[visitrainier.com/glider-flights](http://visitrainier.com/glider-flights)



# 8

## Go Horseback Riding

If you haven't explored the Mount Rainier region on horseback, you're in for a real treat. EZ Times Outfitters and Echo River Ranch in Enumclaw both offer guided trail 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 a perfect way to connect with nature while making a new four-legged friend.

Plan your adventure!

### **EZ Times Outfitters**

18703 WA-706, Elbe, WA 98330

(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)



# 9

## Climb aboard Living History at the Mt. Rainier Railroad (starts late 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 Railroad has themed rides throughout the year, so be sure to check the calendar for fun rides including their Washington Wine Express, Hard Cider Express, and Rails to Ales!

**Pro Tip:** Check out their cab rides for the best seat in the house!

[visitrainier.com/cab-rides](http://visitrainier.com/cab-rides)

Plan your adventure!

**Mt. Rainier Railroad and Logging Museum**

54124 Mountain Hwy E, Elbe, WA 98330

(360) 492-6000

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



# 10

## Discover Enumclaw— gateway to Mt. Rainier

Welcome to base camp done right. Enumclaw is an ideal place to stay just outside the mountain, with plenty of its own attractions. Here you can taste wine, golf, recover from your hike in a day spa, or shop for antiques and beyond. Enumclaw offers festivals and other attractions throughout the year, your choice of restaurants and overnight accommodations, and a friendly mountain-town hospitality that's hard to beat.

Plan your adventure!

**Enumclaw Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center**

1421 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA 98022

(360)825-7666

[visitrainier.com/enumclaw](http://visitrainier.com/enumclaw)

[visitenumclaw.com](http://visitenumclaw.com)



# MT. RAINIER AREA LODGING

## Stay and play 'til your heart's content

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 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. Cozy bed and breakfasts. 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.

[visitrainier.com/lodging](http://visitrainier.com/lodging)



# 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.

Restaurants are listed in areas grouped together by geographic location. For more information on these and other fine eateries in the Mount Rainier region please go to [visitrainier.com/food-and-drink](https://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://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://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 a casual dining room with selections to please the entire family. The menu features a signature Bourbon Buffalo Meatloaf, Home-Style Pot Roast, Cedar Plank Red Trout, and much more. End your meal with their warm blackberry cobbler topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, and when you're 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! The restaurant is 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 go to [visitrainier.com/food-and-drink](https://www.visitrainier.com/food-and-drink)

### **Cole Street Brewery**

Visitors enjoy the low key atmosphere and handcrafted small-batch ales, and view of the mountain. Exclusively for visitors 21 and older. Have a fur baby? Happy dogs are very much loved!

2551 Cole St R, Enumclaw, WA 98022 | (253) 204-5570

[visitrainier.com/cole-street-brewery](https://www.visitrainier.com/cole-street-brewery)

### **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](https://www.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](https://www.visitrainier.com/il-sciciliano)

### **Jackson's**

A truly “local” place making gourmet artisan pizzas, pasta, and mouthwatering specialty sandwiches, served with style, warmth and a commitment to great service. Try their “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](https://www.visitrainier.com/jacksons-pizza)



# DINING *continued*

## **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)

## **Pursuit Distilling Company**

Pursuit Distilling Company in Enumclaw, Washington has a one-of-a-kind still in the PNW, plus a tasting room where visitors can sip, and shop.

2321 Cole St, Enumclaw, WA 98022 | (360) 226-3966

[visitrainier.com/pursuit-distilling-company](http://visitrainier.com/pursuit-distilling-company)

## **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 events not to miss this spring.

- March 16th St. Paddy's Day 5K Fun Run  
[visitrainier.com/events/st-paddys-day-5k](https://www.visitrainier.com/events/st-paddys-day-5k)
- March 21-24 Samsarafest | Yoga, Music, Arts  
[visitrainier.com/events/samsarafest](https://www.visitrainier.com/events/samsarafest)
- April 20 Fee-free days at Mount Rainier National Park—  
Get into the park free on the first day of National Park Week.  
[visitrainier.com/fee-free](https://www.visitrainier.com/fee-free)
- April 21 Easter Sunday Brunch at the National Park Inn—  
Treat yourself to a uniquely Northwest Easter Sunday Brunch  
at the friendly National Park Inn.
- May 17-19 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](https://www.visitrainier.com/events/rainier-independent-film-festival)
- June 1 Rainier to Ruston Relay Race—  
Get your relay on and enjoy one of the most beautiful relay courses in the country.  
[visitrainier.com/events/rainier-to-ruston-relay](https://www.visitrainier.com/events/rainier-to-ruston-relay)

For a complete list of events scheduled in the  
Mount Rainier region, go to:

[visitrainier.com/events-calendar](https://www.visitrainier.com/events-calendar)



# 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://www.visitrainier.com/top-travel-deals) to start saving!

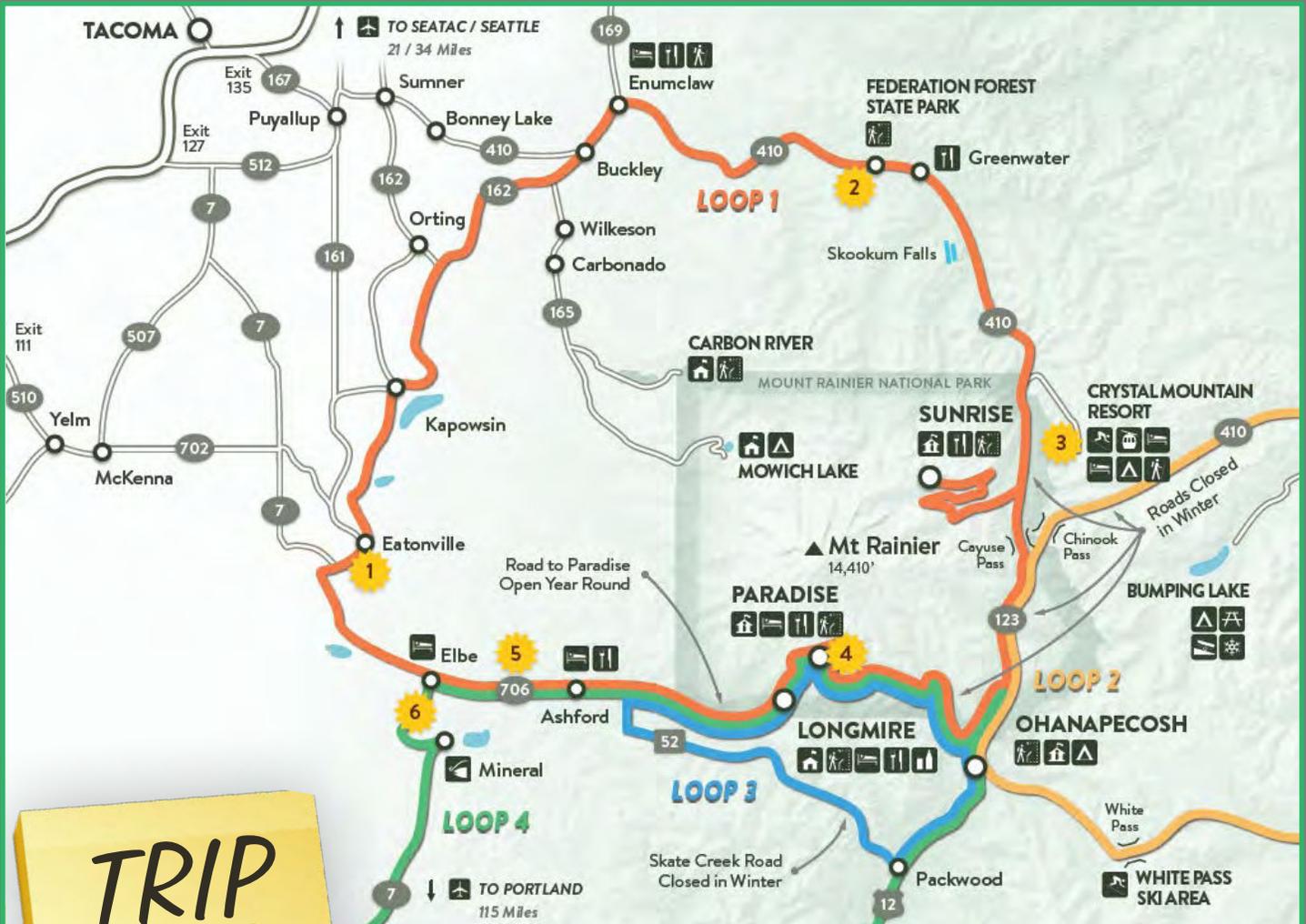


# VACATION PLANNERS FOR EVERY SEASON

**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 to 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.

