

LODGING & DINING | ACTIVITIES | TRIP TIPS & MAP

VISIT RAINIER

Summer 2020

8 Ways to Get your Vitamin Nature this Summer

Outdoor Dining Guide + Lodging Tips!

Summer Travel Deals



A MESSAGE FROM THE Visit Rainier President



Every season is unique at Mt. Rainier, but summer has a special place in my heart. The hiking, biking, wildlife and wildflowers are so amazing that you could spend a lifetime exploring and still not see it all. Whether you want to climb to the top, explore wildflower meadows, sit by the stream or take in the vistas by car, there is something here for everyone seeking a memorable experience in nature. Summer is by far the most popular time of year for Mt. Rainier tourism, so be sure to factor that in to your travel plans—but certainly don't shy away from popping in for a

couple nights or longer if the opportunity arises. It's a big mountain, after all.

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 out enjoying the Mt. Rainier region this summer. As always, if you have any questions or comments, we'd love to hear from you at 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 8 SUMMER EXPERIENCES

Nature, it's good for you.

Pacific Northwest summers are just plain hard to beat—especially at Mt. Rainier. But one thing you may not expect is just how great you'll feel—and how much better you'll sleep—after escaping the city and your electronic leashes. Some doctors are even prescribing a week in nature to help reduce stress and reset your body's natural circadian rhythm. When it comes to your internal clock, nature knows best. Even if you can't get a full week away, you'll be surprised how much you can pack into a visit to the Mt. Rainier region when you stay a night or two. We know your summer calendar fills up fast, so we've highlighted 10 experiences at Mt. Rainier you'll want to take advantage of while the sun is smiling on us. See how many you can you cross off our list this summer.



1

Play in the National Park

There are many ways to see the park. Here are some of our favorites.

Picnics in the Park.

What's better than a picnic? A picnic in one of the country's most picturesque national parks. There are four designated picnic areas in the park. For a list of the most picnic-able spots in the park, visit [visitrainier.com/picnics-in-the-park](https://www.visitrainier.com/picnics-in-the-park)

Wildflowers.

When it comes to wildflowers, Mt. Rainier likes to show off a bit. A world-renowned location to see wildflowers' color display, here you'll find seemingly endless fields of color popping up in July and August.

Click here to see the top 10 Wildflower Hikes:

[visitrainier.com/wildflower-hikes](https://www.visitrainier.com/wildflower-hikes).

For wildflower updates, an identification guide and more, go to:

[visitrainier.com/activities/wildflowers-and-wildlife/wildflowers](https://www.visitrainier.com/activities/wildflowers-and-wildlife/wildflowers)

Camping

When it comes to camping in Mt. Rainier National Park, you've got options no matter the season. Campsites are available on a first come, first served basis, but you can reserve sites at the Cougar Rock and Ohanapeosh campgrounds by visiting [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). White River Campground provides an excellent base camp setup with trails in the immediate area. One of the park's most scenic campgrounds is Mowich Lake, which is worth the extra effort to camp near the crystal-clear waters. Ohanapeosh Campground is the largest campground in the park at lower elevations, and it offers warmer temperatures and sheltered locations to stay out of the direct heat. Cougar



Rock offers great camping with a view just up from the Nisqually River, and it's surprisingly private. Read more about each of these campgrounds inside the park here: [visitrainier.com/stay/campgrounds/camping-inside-the-natl-park](https://www.visitrainier.com/stay/campgrounds/camping-inside-the-natl-park).

If you plan to camp just outside the park, your options increase significantly. View all of your options, and a map, here: [visitrainier.com/stay/campgrounds](https://www.visitrainier.com/stay/campgrounds)

Guided ranger walks at Sunrise

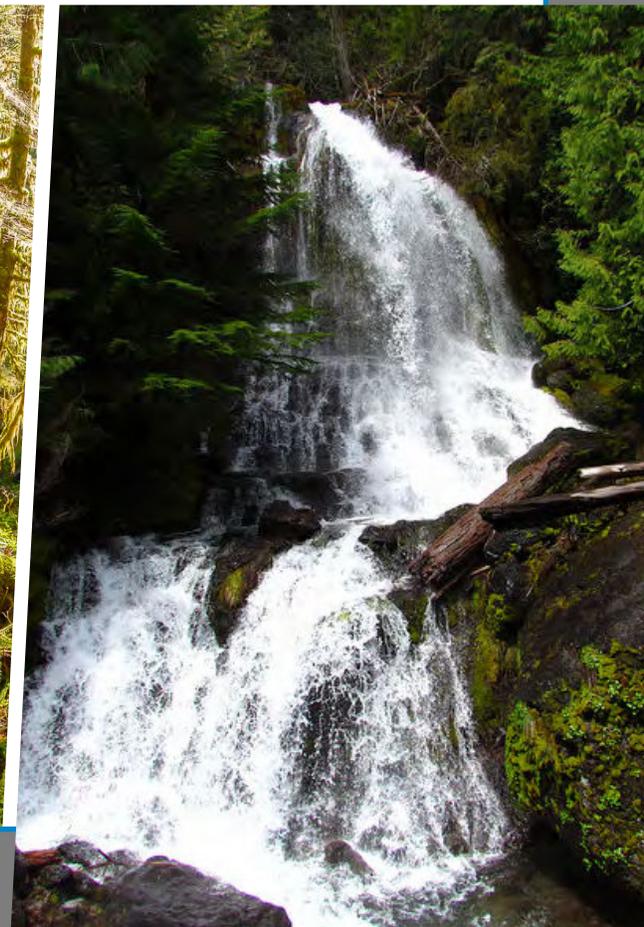
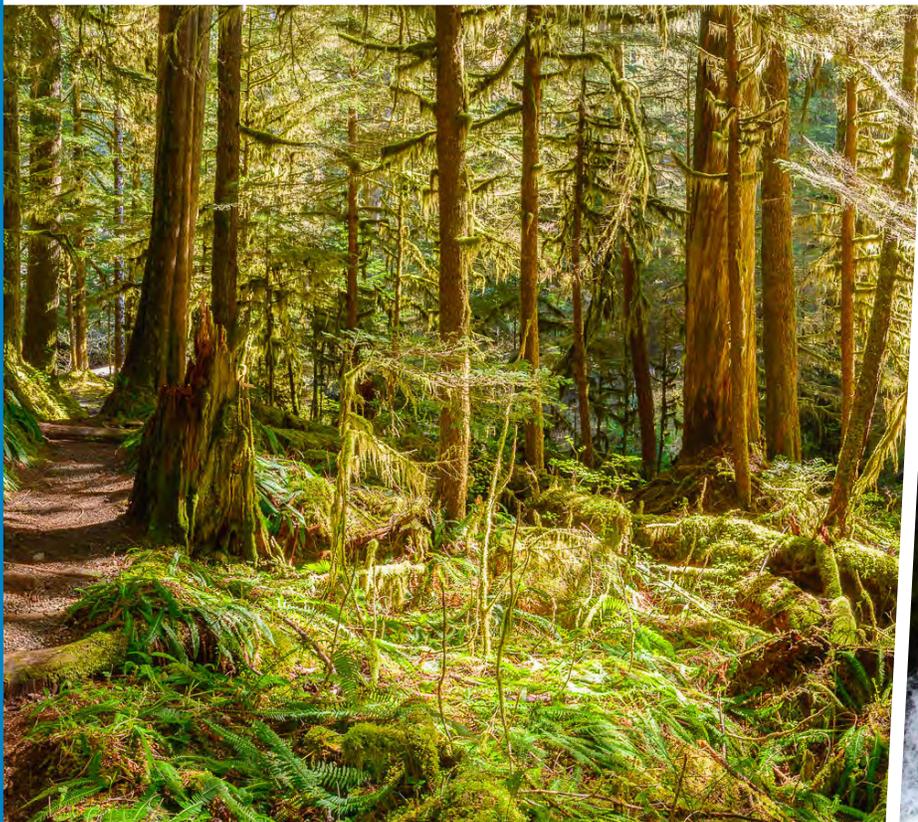
Up here, rangers know best. And you can take advantage of their knowledge with a guided ranger walk—no matter the season. It's the best way to learn about the mountain and appreciate it in a whole new way. [visitrainier.com/places-and-attractions/park-regions/sunrise](https://www.visitrainier.com/places-and-attractions/park-regions/sunrise)

Trek to Silver Falls at Ohanapecosh

Waterfalls are a big attraction, for obvious reasons. And if you want to see the park's best waterfall, you'll need to make the trek to Silver Falls at Ohanapecosh. It's an incredible force to behold. To get there, just take the easy 3-mile Silver Falls Loop from the Ohanapecosh Campground. For directions and more information, go to [visitrainier.com/trek-to-silver-falls-at-ohanapecosh](https://www.visitrainier.com/trek-to-silver-falls-at-ohanapecosh)

Visit a temperate rainforest at Carbon River

Ready to get your moss on? Explore the unique ecosystem of an inland temperate rainforest at Carbon River. This deep canyon receives 70 to 90 inches of rainfall annually, embracing the roaring, glacier-fed Carbon River. Come marvel at the long-hanging moss, towering Douglas firs, and endless ferns and lichens in this peaceful forest. Learn more at [visitrainier.com/visit-the-temperate-rainforest-at-carbon-river](https://www.visitrainier.com/visit-the-temperate-rainforest-at-carbon-river)



2

Get your summer hike on

Hiking trails lead to many of the most beautiful spots at Mt. Rainier National Park: Crystalline high mountain lakes, cascading waterfalls, meandering streams, sub-alpine meadows carpeted in flowers, and peaks offering vistas of the glaciers of Rainier. The granddaddy of them all is the famous Wonderland Trail, a multi-day journey covering over 93 miles that encircles the entire mountain.

Find trails in all corners of the park, for all ability levels. Use the sortable list below to find the perfect hike for you. [visitrainier.com/activities/summer-activities/hiking](https://www.visitrainier.com/activities/summer-activities/hiking)



3

Visit Crystal Mountain

Ride the scenic gondola at Crystal

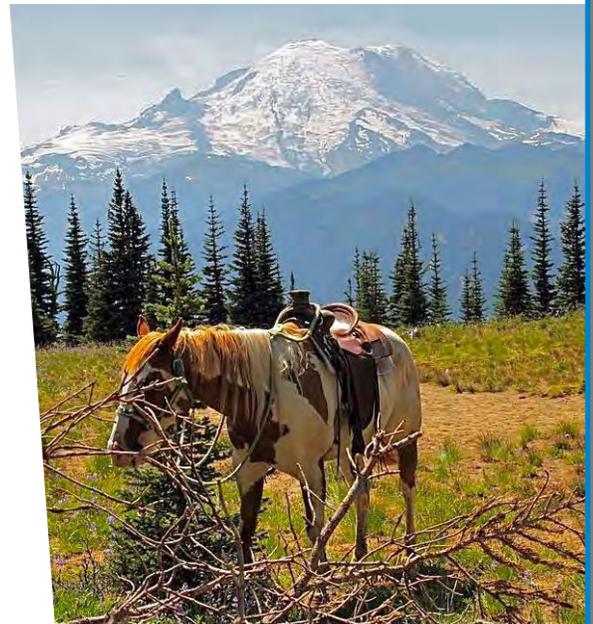
You can ride the gondola in summer or winter, and even dine at Washington's highest restaurant, the Summit House, once at the top. The pictures don't do it justice, so we recommend you make the trip yourself. Go to visitrainier.com/scenic-gondola-rides or call 360.663.3050 for more information.

Dine at the Summit House

Washington State's highest elevation restaurant. Get ready for a great meal at 6,872 feet. The Summit House offers terrific food with a view that's equally impressive. Grab a drink and a snack or a full meal, then savor the view. For more information and to see a menu, go to visitrainier.com/summit-house.

Go horseback riding

Let someone else do the walking – book a horseback tour from EZ Times Outfitters. These guided trail rides and trained horses offer experienced and new riders a memorable outing with the chance to make a new four-legged friend. For more information, visit visitrainier.com/chinook-mountain-outfitters.



Play an epic disc golf course

Thirty holes of disc golf fun await you at Crystal Mountain. This challenging, yet fun course is free, scenic, and open summer through early fall. While the course is free, you must purchase a gondola ticket to get to the top. Learn more: visitrainier.com/crystal-mountain-disc-golf

Take a wildflower walk

There's no shortage of hikes on and around Crystal Mountain—and many of them offer an excellent opportunity to walk among the wildflowers. Go at your own pace, and enjoy identifying the various flowers, or take a guided tour to learn more from a resident expert.

Mountain Yoga

Yogis rejoice. Breathe in and out that clean mountain air during a yoga class on the mountain. Better yet, book a room and namaste a while.



4

Take a drive on 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 at the Chinook and White Pass byways:

visitrainier.com/chinook-scenic-byway

visitrainier.com/white-pass-scenic-byway

For information on additional scenic drives, visit:

visitrainier.com/activities/summer-activities/driving-tours



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5

Go Horseback Riding

Love riding horses or always wanted to ride one? Make it happen this summer. EZ Times Outfitters and Echo River 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

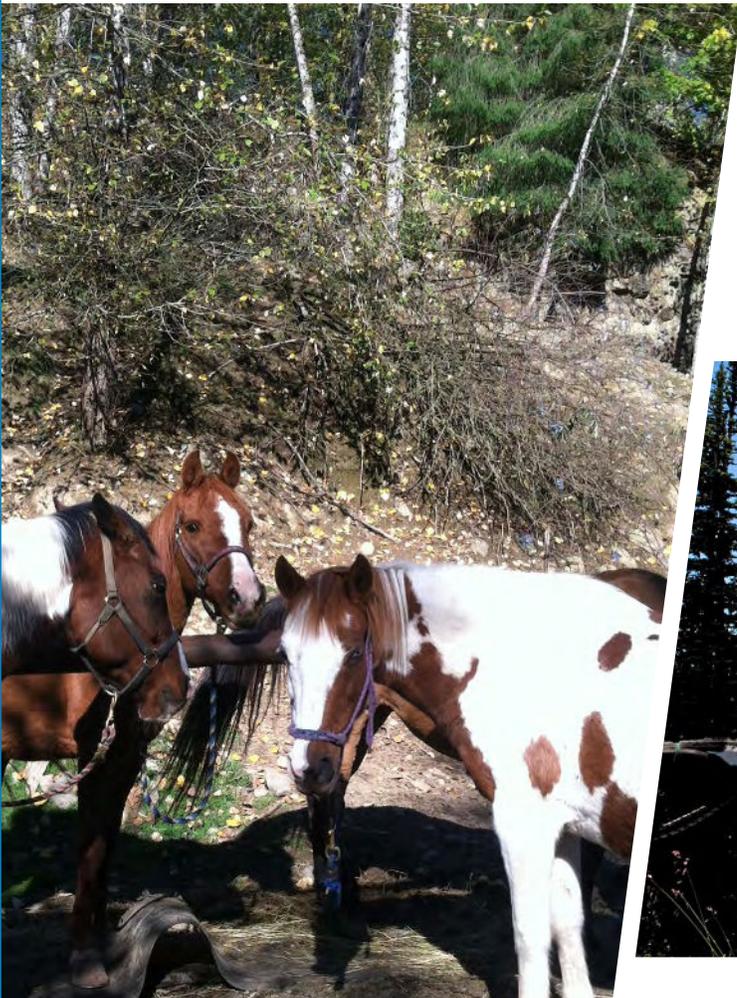
visitrainier.com/ez-times-outfitters

Echo River Ranch

37901 304th Way SE, Enumclaw, WA 98022

(360) 367.1201

visitrainier.com/echo-river-ranch



6

Get a bird's eye view of Mt. Rainier on a hot air balloon or glider flight

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. Learn more at visitrainier.com/hot-air-balloon-rides

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 searching for thermal air pockets as you stealthily glide through the air like a bird. Learn more at visitrainier.com/glider-flights.



7 See wildlife in the wild

Deer. Elk. Marmots. Picas. Foxes. Cougars. Black bears. And beyond! There are 63 species of mammals, 16 species of amphibians and five species of reptiles waiting to be seen at Mt. Rainier. Seeing wildlife will likely be one of your most memorable experiences at Mt. Rainier. Of course, we ask you to keep the wildlife wild by not touching, feeding or approaching any animals. For more tips, including how to see animals – and the best times to see them – go to [visitrainier.com/wildlife-viewing](https://www.visitrainier.com/wildlife-viewing).



Go Off-Road at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park to see wildlife without the hike

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 see moose, bison and beyond—without taking a hike. And be sure to plan enough time to try your skill at a ropes course, zip-line, and 30-foot climbing wall.

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

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



8

Mountain Biking and Trail Running

Mountain Biking at Rainier

Yes, you can mountain bike in the Mt. Rainier area. From relatively flat single track to challenging climbs, there are many options for seeing the area from your bike, whether you're a beginner or an experienced rider. Because bikes are prohibited on some trails, it's important that you plan out your trip ahead of time. Follow this link to learn everything you need to know about the park's bike-friendly trails, and have a great ride!

[visitrainier.com/activities/summer-activities/biking/mountain-biking](https://www.visitrainier.com/activities/summer-activities/biking/mountain-biking)

Trail Running

Mt. Rainier is a beautiful place to walk, hike, or run! Break away from your flat-road routine and enjoy trail running that takes you through moss-filled forests and past waterfalls with the sweet scent of pine filling the air. When you're done running, hot tubs and spas and great meals to help you recover are never far away. Follow this link to learn more about trail running at Rainier:

[visitrainier.com/activities/summer-activities/trail-running](https://www.visitrainier.com/activities/summer-activities/trail-running)



MT. RAINIER AREA LODGING

At Mt. Rainier, where you stay is part of the adventure. Choose from rustic cabins or comfy yurts, posh resorts and lodges, traditional hotels and motels, vacation rentals, cozy bed and breakfasts, or RV and campgrounds. Your trip your call. We've even created an online lodging planner to help narrow your search. You can hunt 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](https://www.visitrainier.com/lodging) to get started.



MT. RAINIER AREA OUTDOOR DINING

Outdoor Dining in the Great Outdoors

Summertime means more meals under the sun, so we've compiled a list of the best places to enjoy the best food outdoors.

Nisqually Valley (Ashford, Longmire, Paradise)

Basecamp Bar & Grill

Rated 4.5 out of 5 on TripAdvisor, this Ashford bar and grill is known for their palette-pleasing pizzas, all-natural beef burgers, thirst-quenching microbrews and other tasty menu items served in a park-like setting. Work up your appetite on the free outdoor climbing wall.

30027 State Route 706 E, Ashford, WA 98304 | (360) 569-2727

visitrainier.com/rainier-basecamp-bar-grill

Copper Creek Inn

Rated the #1 restaurant at Mt. Rainier on TripAdvisor and “one of the state’s greatest rural restaurants” by Lonely Planet tour guide, this country cooking oasis is worth the trip for their famous blackberry pie alone. We recommend starting with their fresh salmon, trout or steak. Don’t miss this one!

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

visitrainier.com/copper-creek-restaurant

Wildberry Restaurant

Enjoy a “Taste of Two Worlds”—traditional American mountain menu with authentic Sherpa Himalayan cuisine of Nepal. Owned by Lhakpa Gelu Sherpa, who holds the world speed record on Mount Everest, and his wife Fulamu, you’ll be treated to curry, samosas, lentil soup, steamed dumplings, and rice pudding on the Nepalese side of the menu, and steak, burgers, trout, sandwiches and more on the American side. A treat indeed.

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

(spring open date TBD estimated mid-May)

visitrainier.com/wildberry-restaurant-2



DINING *continued*

National Park Inn

This casual dining experience in Longmire serves up signature Bourbon Buffalo Meatloaf, Home-Style Pot Roast, Cedar Plank Red Trout, and so much more. Be sure to leave room for blackberry cobbler topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

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

visitrainier.com/national-park-inn-restaurant

(open year-round)

Enumclaw

Griffin and Wells

This popular neighborhood restaurant serves up fresh seasonal favorites and local fare with a gourmet touch. You can't go wrong here.

1239 Griffin Ave. Enumclaw, WA 98022 | (360) 226-3084

[/visitrainier.com/griffin-and-wells-cafe](http://visitrainier.com/griffin-and-wells-cafe)

The Historic Mint

With 28 beers on tap and fantastic food, this is a great option for game day or any other day.

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

visitrainier.com/historic-mint

Kelly's Restaurant and Lounge

Specializing in sustainable and unique wine and beer sourced from the surrounding Pacific Northwest and other parts of the world, Kelly's gets it right. You'll find tapas, lunch, dinner and dessert on their menu, and a commitment to fresh, quality ingredients in every bite.

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

visitrainier.com/kellys-restaurant



DINING *continued*

Crystal Mountain / Sunrise

Alpine Inn

Located at Crystal Mountain, this elegant option pairs old-world atmosphere with gourmet dishes, fine wine and handcrafted northwest brews. Pasta. Seafood. Steak. It's all here. Vegetarians welcome.

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

visitrainier.com/alpine-inn

Summit House

Perched atop Crystal Mountain at 6,872 feet, the Summit House offers terrific food with a remarkable view. Warm up with hearty soups, chili, gourmet pizzas, pasta, fondue, fresh salads and more. It's a dining experience you won't soon forget.

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

visitrainier.com/summit-house

(opens for the season mid-June)



TOP TRAVEL DEALS

Summer'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 to start saving!

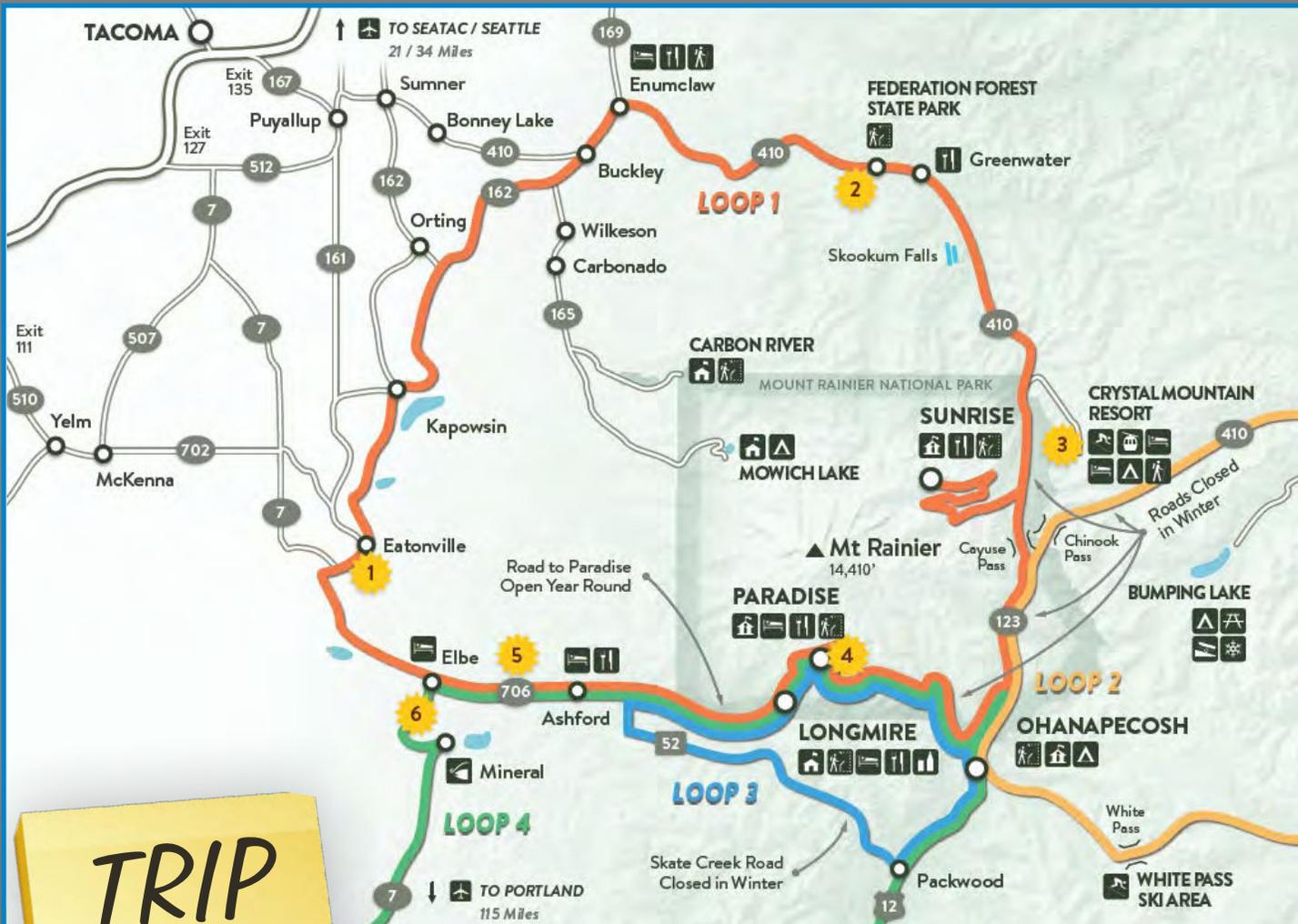


VACATION PLANNERS FOR EVERY SEASON

A Vacation Planner for Every Season—Next up, Fall.

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 VisitRainier 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:

- Print out your map or bring a GPS. Don't rely on your phone to have signal.
- Pack sunglasses and sunscreen
- Wear layers and comfortable walking shoes
- Accidents happen so pack a first-aid kit for the car and one for the backpack
- Pack a snack and water. It's important to stay hydrated.
- Pack bug spray.
- Check the Washington Trails Association at wta.org for trip reports before hitting the trails to get the latest trail conditions. wta.org
- When camping, hiking or biking the trails remember to pack the [10 Essentials](#).



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](#).

