



# COUCH POTATO'S GUIDE TO MOUNT RAINIER

Want to see Mount Rainier without the hiking exertion? We have the ultimate tour for you! Take this relaxed excursion around the mountain that includes incredible vistas, lovely stops along the way and yes – of course delicious food! Get ready for a one-of-a-kind experience for the self-proclaimed couch potato!



## Day One:

**Stop #1: Seattle Ballooning** Relax on this incredible hot air balloon ride at sunrise, with majestic Mount Rainier as your backdrop. If you only take one hot air balloon ride in your life – take this one – it's magical. Experience floating silently above lakes, forests, and beautiful farmland at a height of 3,000 to 5,000 feet, while viewing the Cascade and Olympic Mountains. Shared flights (maximum 4 people), start at \$295.00 per person, private flights at \$1,400. Summer flights start VERY early, so be on time!

*Rainier Tip: No food or drink will be provided by the balloon company. Best to bring a granola bar or two for the drive to this adventure.*

*Suggested Total Time for Balloon Experience: 2.5 hours, (not including drive time to location)*



DIRECTIONS: From Seattle or Olympia, it's about an hour's drive to your destination to board your balloon.



## Stop #2: Breakfast at Charlie's

Open at 7am, this may not be your idea of romantic, but you'll be in love with the hearty breakfasts these folks serve up. Menu items like the Cowpie, Manwich and stick to your ribs Chicken Fried Steak and Eggs will boost your energy for your adventures to come today!

DIRECTIONS: Head towards Enumclaw on Hwy. 164, then follow Porter Street. Take a left onto Monroe and another left onto Roosevelt / Hwy. 410 and continue heading east. The restaurant will be on your right just before you exit town.

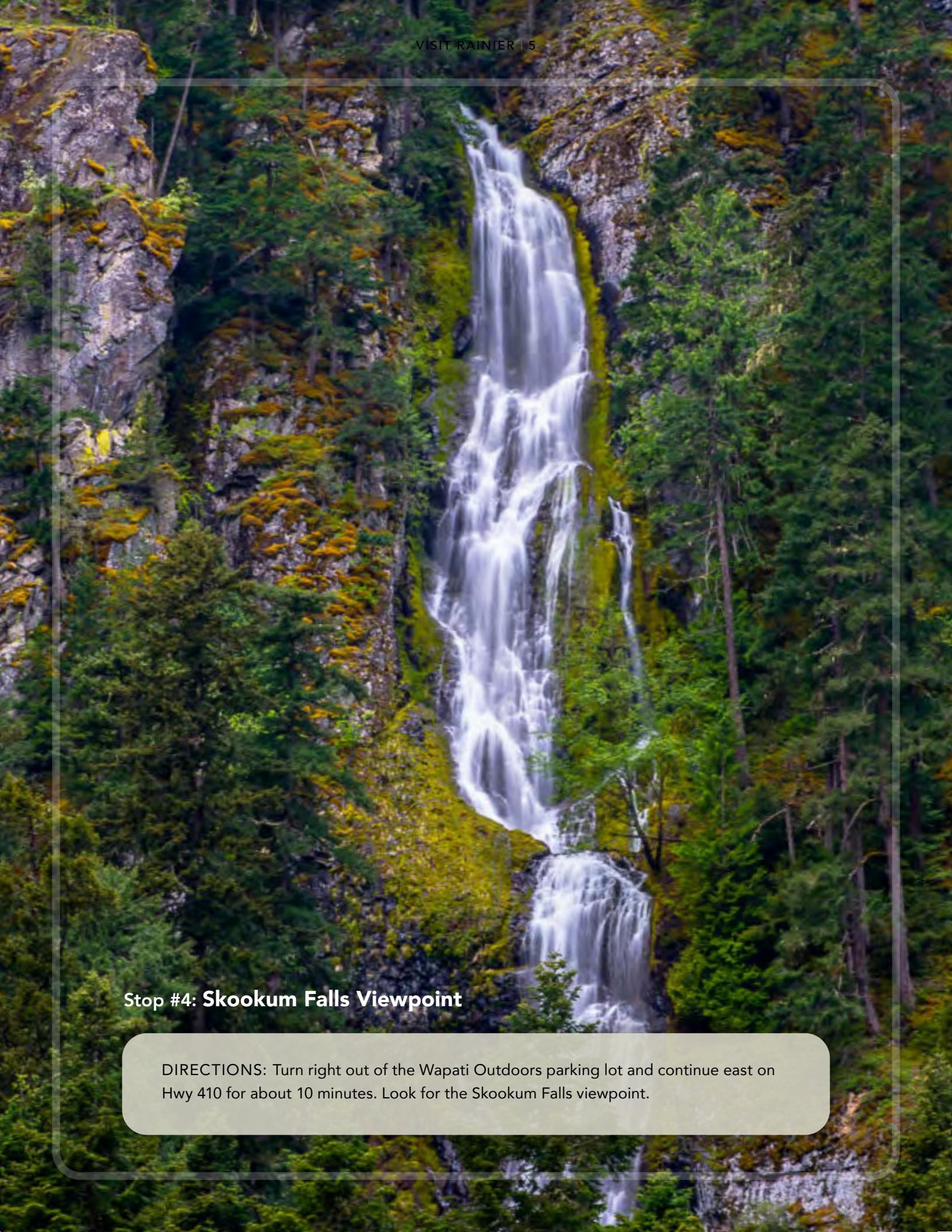


### Stop #3: **Wapati Outdoors**

Are you ready for some incredible local shopping and maybe some coffee? Just after you cross the bridge look for the shop – it will be on your right. This local shop has a great selection of local honey, amazing huckleberry shakes and ice cream – as well as an espresso stand. The shop offers a wide variety of clothing geared for the outdoors also in case you need an extra hat, pair of gloves or any type of outdoor gear – they have it all!

*Rainier Tip: Greenwater takes speeding seriously, so as soon as you see the reduced speed sign, reduce your speed – State Troopers frequently set up shop here to help with speed enforcement.*

DIRECTIONS: Head east on WA-410 E/SE 448th St/Roosevelt Ave E toward Mountain View Dr. Continue onto Chinook Pass Hwy/ SE Enumclaw Chinook Pass Rd and drive about 20 minutes to the quaint little village of Greenwater.



## Stop #4: Skookum Falls Viewpoint

DIRECTIONS: Turn right out of the Wapati Outdoors parking lot and continue east on Hwy 410 for about 10 minutes. Look for the Skookum Falls viewpoint.



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## Stop #5: Crystal Mountain Resort Scenic Gondola Ride

In the summer months, Washington State's premier ski resort, highlight stunning views of Mount Rainier and the surrounding peaks. Take a ride on the Mt. Rainier Gondola, that will soar 2,400 vertical feet to the summit where you will find astounding views of Mt. Rainier and the beautiful Cascade Range on a clear day. You'll also be just a few short steps away from the Summit House, Washington's highest elevation restaurant.

*Rainier Tip: If you plan to dine at the Summit House, reservations are strongly recommended. Bring water, snacks, and warm clothing for unpredictable mountain weather.*

*Suggested Time at Crystal Mountain: 2 Hours*



DIRECTIONS: Continue east on Hwy 410, then turn left onto Crystal Mountain Blvd/NF-1802. Follow the road into the upper parking lot and take a short walk to the Gondola. Drive approximately 45 minutes.

### Stop #6: Reflection Lakes

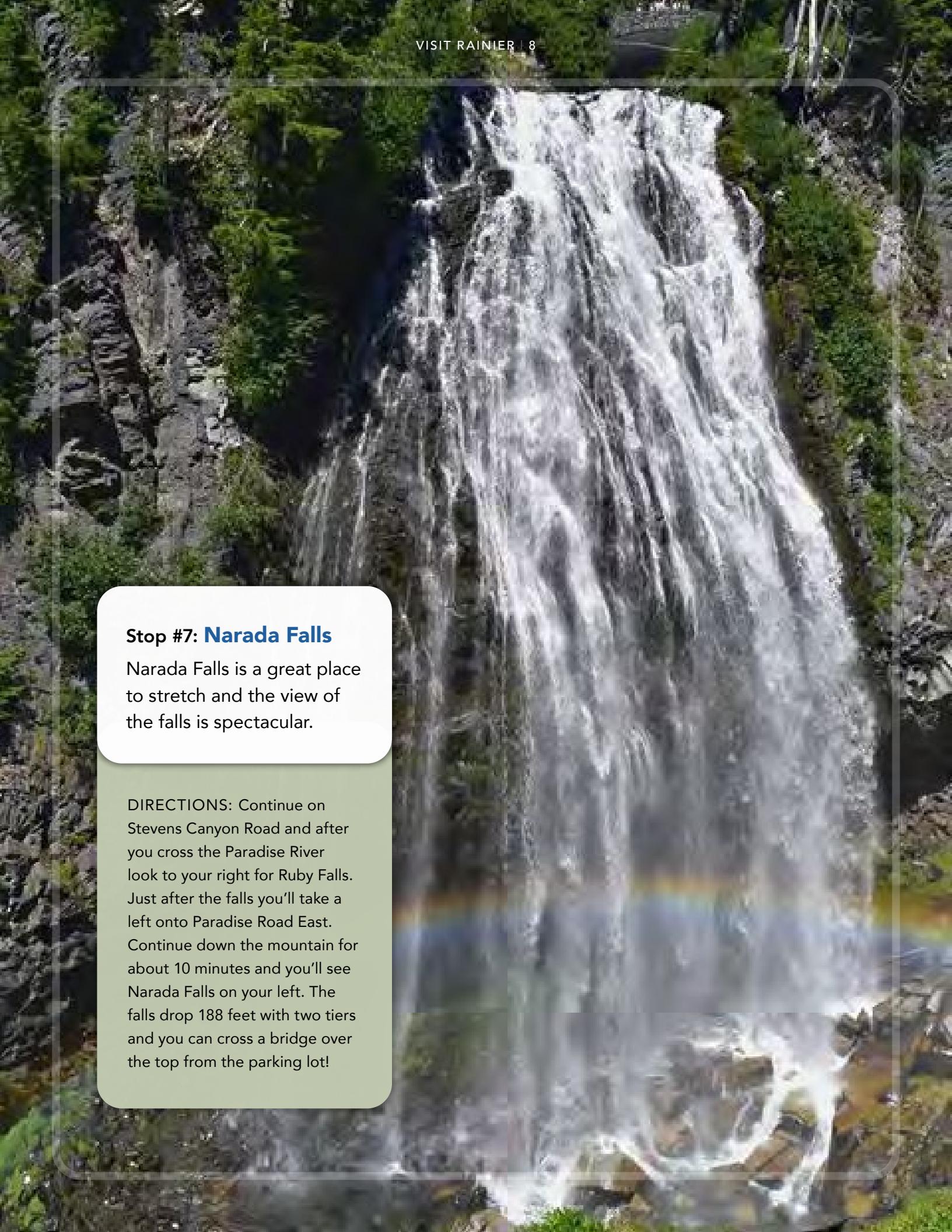
Reflection Lakes – this is one of the most iconic views of Mt. Rainier! Take lots of photos to remember this gorgeous area!

DIRECTIONS: Turn left onto WA-410 E, Chinook Pass Hwy and WA-410 E to WA-123 S. Continue on WA- 123 South and turn right onto Stevens Canyon Rd. The view is on your right after a 1.5 hour drive through some of the most breathtaking scenery available in Mount Rainier National Park!

### Stop #7: Narada Falls

Narada Falls is a great place to stretch and the view of the falls is spectacular.

DIRECTIONS: Continue on Stevens Canyon Road and after you cross the Paradise River look to your right for Ruby Falls. Just after the falls you'll take a left onto Paradise Road East. Continue down the mountain for about 10 minutes and you'll see Narada Falls on your left. The falls drop 188 feet with two tiers and you can cross a bridge over the top from the parking lot!





### Stop #3: National Park Inn Check-in

You've had a full day's worth of incredible experiences – enjoy early afternoon arrival at this historic park lodging. If you'd prefer to enjoy other accommodations in the Elbe / Ashford area of Mount Rainier National Park, there are over [20 lodging options](#) – pick the perfect place for you!

*Rainier Tip: Make reservations well ahead of your stay to ensure you'll be accommodated in the establishment of choice.*



## Stop #9: Copper Creek Restaurant

Located in the small town of Ashford, the historic Copper Creek Restaurant offers indoor or outdoor seating. All bread products are made in-house, so buns, rolls, bread – all are amazing. Local favorites will make your mouth water as you explore their menu. Also, save room for dessert as they're known for their legendary blackberry pie à la mode.

Before you go – you might ask for Copper Toppers – these are killer cinnamon rolls for your breakfast in the morning.

*Rainier Tip: Don't wait too late to go to dinner, the Copper Creek Inn Restaurant closing time is seasonal – check their website for updated hours.*

Suggested Time for Dinner: 1 Hour





DIRECTIONS: Continue West on WA 706, for approximately 20 minutes, the park is on your left.

### *Day Two:*

**Stop #1: Ex-Nihilo Sculpture Park** After you've enjoyed your Copper Toppers for breakfast, a true treasure in Ashford, founding artist Dan Klennert's creations come to life here. The new resident artist, Jay Bechtold has been hard at work and has completed several pieces now on display. You'll see dinosaurs, seahorses, giant spiders, a heavy metal band (made of iron) and so much more. Dan and Jay hope to collaborate on a future piece together, a 60-foot seahorse. No admission fee is required and Dan's work has been displayed throughout the United States including Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, and Canada.

*Rainier Tip: Check out the restrooms and FYI, the hand sink is attached to the main building.*

Suggested Time at the Sculpture Park: 1.5 Hours





## Stop #2: Cottage Bakery and Cafe

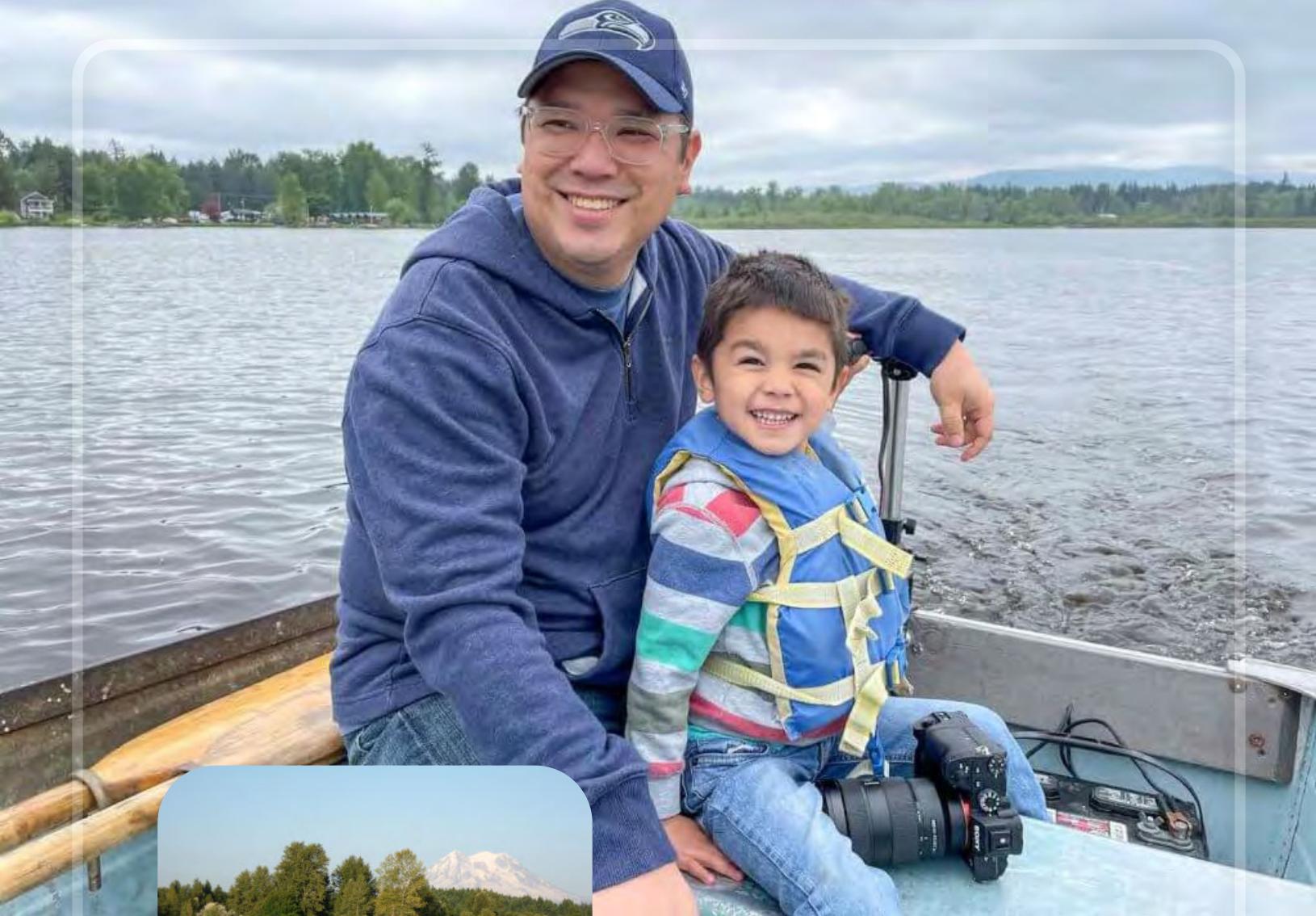
If you weren't able to get any Copper Toppers last night, or just need a great espresso – this is your stop. Although currently dining in is not possible, you can still grab a homemade donut or pastry to go along with your awesome espresso to get the morning started right. If you call ahead, they can tell you what pastries are available and have your coffee and order ready for your arrival.

*NOTE: You won't want to miss anything today, so we recommend grabbing some sandwiches or paninis here - for a fun picnic lunch after your next stop. Our favorite is the Cottage Turkey Cranberry.*

*Rainier Tip: They can run your order out to your vehicle too, however, be patient as their staff is limited.*

*Suggested Time at Bakery:  
20 to 30 minutes*

**DIRECTIONS:** From the Elbe / Ashford area; drive west on Hwy. 706, that becomes Hwy 7. Then turn right on Alder Cutoff Road East and continue – this will turn into Center Street E. At the stoplight, you'll take a right onto Washington Avenue and the bakery is a cute yellow house on the left side of the street. Drive time is approximately 30 minutes.



DIRECTIONS: Continue heading north on Hwy 161. Turn left onto Eatonville Cutoff Rd, then turn left onto Stringtown Rd E. Turn left onto WA-7 S, then take a slight right at Silver Lake Road East, take a right and stay on Silver Lake Rd then take a left and then follow the signs to the resort. It's about 10 minutes to the resort from Eatonville.

### Stop #3: **Henley's Silver Lake Resort**

You've seen Rainier by air, and land – are you ready to take on the water? Henley's Silver Lake Resort has the only boat access on scenic Silver Lake available to the public. They have a variety of boats available to rent, including rowboats, paddleboats, and boats with electric motors. Daily boat rentals run from \$15.00 to \$65.00, based on the type of boat rented. The fishing season starts at the end of April.

*Rainier Tip: Weather can be unpredictable, bring rain gear for your comfort just in case.*

*Suggested Ride Times: 1 to 2 hours*



#### Stop #4: Point Ruston in Tacoma

Enjoy the Public Market, a fine selection of restaurants and lots of shopping opportunities! This is where your journey ends – or is it? Our friends at [Travel Tacoma](#) have more itineraries to explore the region's mountains, city and waters.



DIRECTIONS: Return to WA -7 and head north, this road will turn into Pacific Avenue. Stay on this road as you go through the city of Tacoma. Marvel at the interesting architecture along the way in the downtown area. Pacific will turn into Ruston Way which will wind along Commencement Bay to Point Ruston. Drive is about 50 minutes.