

LODGING | ACTIVITIES & EVENTS | TRIP TIPS & MAP

ViSiT RAINIER

Summer FAMILY

10 Kid-Friendly Summer Adventures

Nature:
Good for the whole family
Guided Hikes



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.

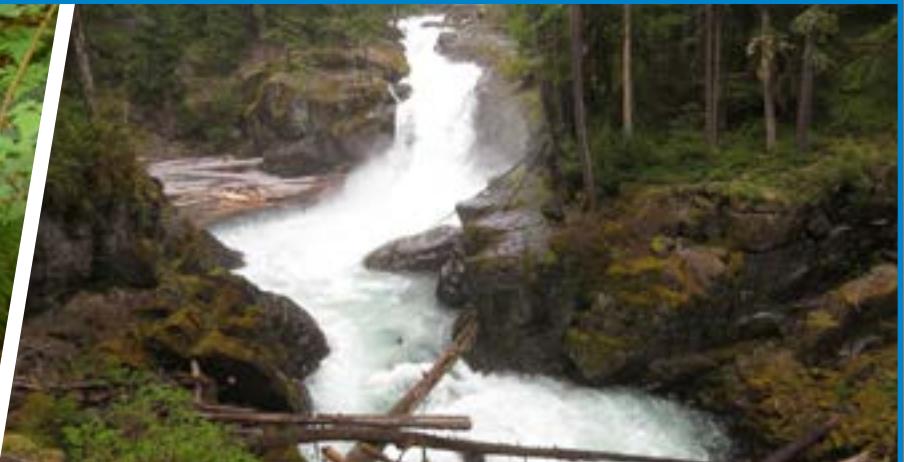


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TOP 10 SUMMER EXPERiENCES

Nature, it's good for you.

Pacific Northwest summers are just plain hard to beat—especially at Mt. Rainier. It's family bonding time at its best. 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 family-friendly experiences at Mt. Rainier you'll want to take advantage of while the sun is smiling on us and the kids are out of school. See how many you can cross off our list this summer.



1

Fun ways for families to play in Mount Rainier National Park

Junior Ranger Program

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. Go here to learn more: visitrainier.com/junior-rangers-at-mount-rainier-national-park

Mount Rainier National Park

(360) 569-2211

Paradise family getaway

Families craving a two-day getaway should look at heading to Paradise. One of the oldest and most dramatic areas in the park, Paradise offers everything the name implies—scenic hikes, epic waterfalls, historic buildings and other treasures families will love. See how one family did their Paradise getaway, and learn from their discoveries...

visitrainier.com/48-hours-with-the-family-at-paradise

Sunrise—the ultimate family daytrip.

Up here, altitude is everything. And if you're looking for a family-friendly daytrip that offers panoramic views of both Mt. Rainier and Emmons Glacier in a hike that's easy enough for kids to do, Sunrise delivers. Read how one family did it:

visitrainier.com/family-fun-a-day-at-sunrise

Tipsoo Lake.

Wildflowers and a crystal-clear lake? Yes, please. Tipsoo is "littles-friendly" because it's easy to get to, but those wanting more of a challenge can find it by tackling the 3.5-mile Naches Peak Loop Trail. Don't be surprised if you see marmots, elk and deer along the way. For pics and pro-tips, visit:

visitrainier.com/tipsoo-lake-for-families



Silver Falls Loop.

This 3-mile hike on the east side of Rainier is oh-so magical. Home to really, really big old growth trees and one incredible waterfall, you'll feel a bit like you're entering a magical kingdom on an island in the middle of the Ohanapecosh River. With ancient Douglas firs, western hemlocks and western red cedars—this is a special place that deserves respect and reverence. Your family will treasure the memory of this hike and feel tiny in the shadows of its ancient giants. Learn more: visitrainier.com/silver-falls-loop

Trail of Shadows.

Short but sweet, this flat, easy hike is great for novice hikers, and is packed with points of interest. Mineral springs paint the meadows in a bouquet of colors, as you walk through towering red alder, western red cedar and lodge pole pine as you make your way to the Longmire Springs Hotel. Cabins, springs, rock outcroppings and a colorful history make this trail worth discovering indeed. Take a closer look at visitrainier.com/trail-of-the-shadows

Plan your adventure!

Mount Rainier National Park

Fees & Passes: nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/fees.htm

Address to use in your GPS: 39000 State Route 706 E, Ashford, WA 98304
(360) 569-2211



2

Visit Crystal Mountain

Ride the gondola at Crystal Mountain Resort.

Make your kids say “wow” with a ride up 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. It’s fun for everyone and perfect for families.

Crystal Mountain Resort

33914 Crystal Mountain Blvd.,
Crystal Mountain, WA 980202
360-663-3050

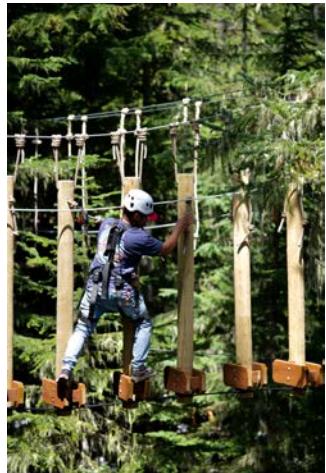
visitrainier.com/scenic-gondola-rides



Flying Raven Adventure Course

Welcome to Crystal Mountain's first-ever aerial adventure course. It's the ultimate outdoor summer challenge. This high ropes course has something for everyone, from seasoned thrill-seekers to first-timers. Located next to the Quick Stop yurt in Discovery Meadow, you can climb up tall evergreen trees where ravens fly high and the creek babbles below.

For families with kids ages 6 and older, participants must be at least 6 years old, weigh at least 50 lbs, and be at least 42" tall. The course is a 3-hour tour, including time to gear up, go through our safety briefing, and navigate the course. Observers are welcome but must stay behind the fencing at all times. The nearby Quicksilver Yurt offers refreshments and a relaxing sundeck for those not on the course. crystalmountainresort.com/things-to-do/activities/flying-raven-adventure-course



Hike with a guide.

For older children that are experienced hikers capable of intermediate to advanced hikes, guided hikes are scheduled at Crystal Mountain throughout the summer. These hikes are a great way to learn from local experts while hiking on trails you may not have ventured on alone.

visittrainier.com/guided-hikes

Try your hand at disc golf—for free!

Thirty holes of disc golf fun await your family 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: visittrainier.com/crystal-mountain-disc-golf



3

Ride a steam train

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 The Polar Express and more!

Plan your adventure!

54124 Mountain Hwy E, Elbe, WA 98330

(360) 492-6000

visittrainier.com/ride-the-mt-rainier-railroad-2



4

Explore 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.

Meet the boys Huckleberry and Hawthorne

If you haven't checked in on the park's grizzly bears, this dynamic fur-covered duo is growing up fast. It's best to see them in person, but you can get a preview here:

visittrainier.com/grizzly-bears



Kids' Trek—at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

Families are such a big part of Northwest Trek, that they built Kids' Trek—one of the largest outdoor playgrounds in the state, just for kids and their imaginations. This nature-inspired playground inspires kids to learn about the natural world while releasing some of their boundless energy.

Keeper Adventure Tours

Have you heard about Northwest Trek's new off-road adventure tour? Hop aboard a custom off-road vehicle with park keepers and prepare to get up close and personal with moose, bison and beyond.

visittrainier.com/keeper-adventure-tours



Start your trek this summer.

Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

11610 Trek Dr. E, Eatonville, WA 98328
(360) 832-6117

visittrainier.com/northwest-trek-wildlife-park

5

Go horseback riding in Elbe or Enumclaw

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. You can even ride on a horse with your child if you're under the weight limit. For more details, click one of the links below.

EZ Times Outfitters

18703 WA-706, Elbe, WA 98330

(253) 350-1141

visittrainier.com/ez-times-outfitters

Echo River Ranch

37901 304th Way SE, Enumclaw, WA 98022

(360) 367-1201

visittrainier.com/echo-river-ranch



6

Explore a sculpture park

Let your kids' imaginations run wild in a sculpture park that transforms junk to art. Resident artist Dan Klenert has turned old tie-rod ends, rusted-out drums, sheet metal, bumpers, and other odds and ends into playful sculptures you and your kids will love.

22410 Washington 706, Ashford, WA 98304

More info: visittrainier.com/family-visit-to-the-ex-nihilo-metal-sculpture-park



7

Go for a hike

There are dozens of kid-friendly trails in Mount Rainier National Park. During the peak summer months visitation at Mount Rainier National Park is at its highest with weekends posing the highest numbers. If you're looking to avoid the crowds and long lines to get into the national park, consider these kid-friendly trails outside of the national park.

Skookum Falls (kid friendly—and dog friendly, too!)

Greenwater and Echo Lakes

Sheep Lake

Nolte State Park Deep Lake

West Loop of the Federation Forest State Park

Use our online directory to sort our list by difficulty, duration, and more.

visittrainier.com/activities/summer-activities/hiking



8

Visit a farm

Pioneer Farm Museum in Eatonville.

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.

Pioneer Farm and Ohop Indian Village

7716 Ohop Valley Road E., Eatonville, WA 98328

(360) 832.6300

visittrainier.com/pioneer-farm-museum-ohop-indian-village

You-Pick Berries at Rusty Plow Farm in Enumclaw.

So long city. Leave the traffic and congestion behind and pick your fill of blueberries on this small, locally owned and operated you-pick farm. Be sure to ask about their limited supply of local honey, too.

23206 SE 448TH Street, Enumclaw, WA

visittrainier.com/rusty-plow



9

Play at a park

We love parks. And surrounding Mt. Rainier National Park is no shortage of smaller parks that are perfect for kids and families. Explore them all on your way into or out of the park. Stop and run off some energy. Take some photos. Have a picnic. And enjoy the sights and amenities each of these unique and beautiful parks offer.

Ashford County Park

Children's play area, walking paths, amphitheater and more.

visitrainier.com/ashford-county-park

Flaming Geyser State Park

Peaceful park that used to be home to a flaming geyser that's now capped, but still interesting.

visitrainier.com/flaming-geyser-state-park-2

Millpond and Smallwood Parks

Dog and family-friendly park and hiking opportunity in Eatonville featuring a skateboard park, play structures and picnic tables. visitrainier.com/millpond-and-smallwood-parks

Nolte State Park

Dip your body or your fishing pole into the lake, have a picnic, and bring your dogs.

visitrainier.com/nolte-state-park-2



10

Ride the Rails

Rail Cycle Mt. Rainier
<https://railcycle.com/>

RailCycle Mt. Rainier offers a family-friendly, pedal-powered rail bike excursion. You can experience the Pacific Northwest's logging and railroading history while enjoying stunning views of lush pastures and forestland. RailCycles are easy to pedal and depart from Eatonville, on the road to Mt. Rainier National Park. You will travel 1.5 miles to a scenic turnaround spot for a 35-minute layover before returning.



Each RailCycle has 4 seats. You can book your own quad cycle for \$161.25, share your bike with a RailCycle guide for \$120.00, or share a cycle with another couple for \$86. There is no minimum age limit. Children under 25 lbs can ride with an adult in a front-style harness or carrier, as long as you can buckle their seatbelt. Children who can sit up on their own must have their own seat and use their seatbelt. Special 5-point harnesses are available for extra security. While not all children may reach the pedals, they can still enjoy the ride.

Children must sit in their own seat and cannot sit on an adult's lap during the ride.



MT. RAINIER AREA LODGING

At Mt. Rainier, where you stay is part of the adventure. Choose from family-friendly 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 to get started.

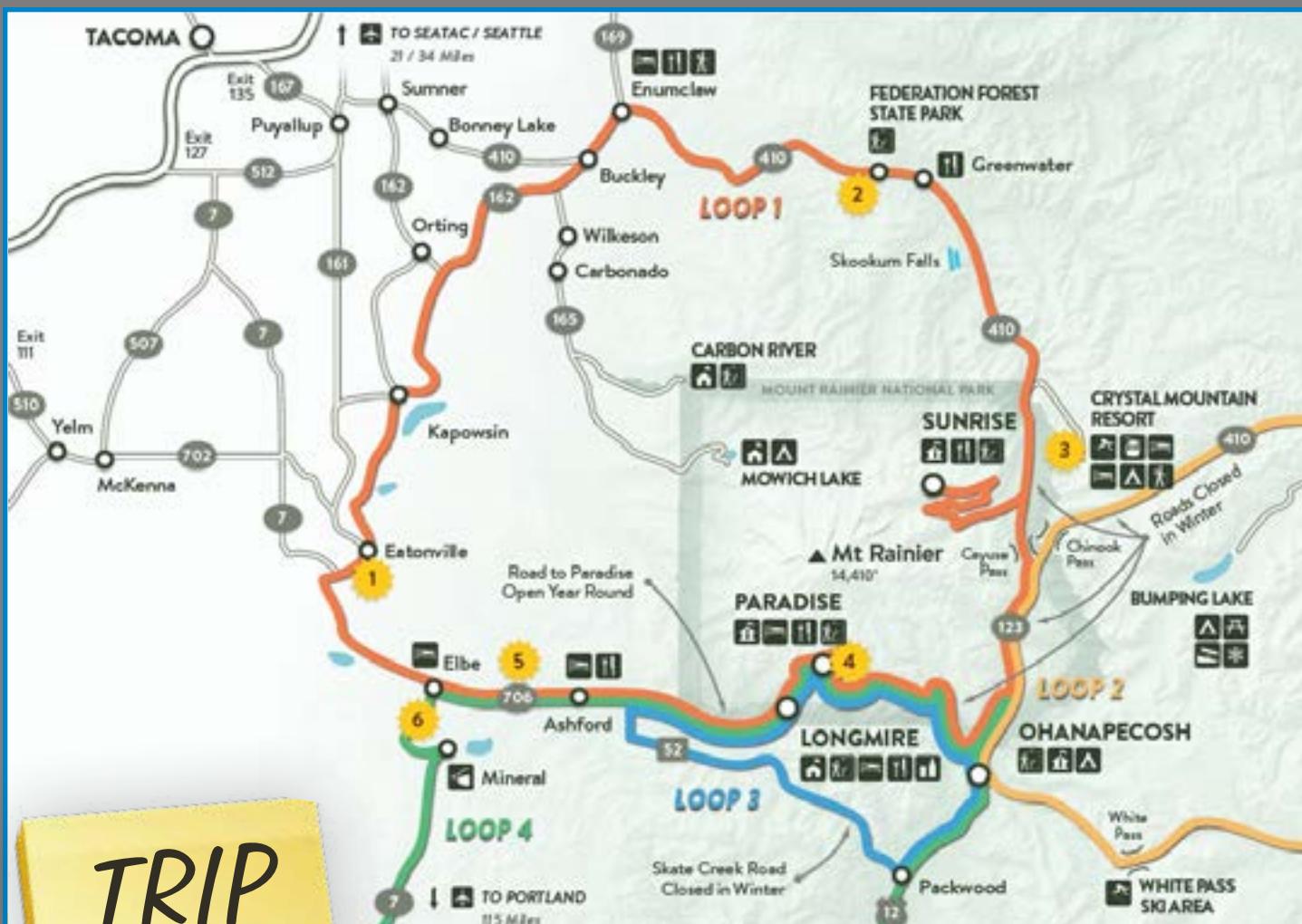


VACATION PLANNERS FOR EVERY SEASON

A Vacation Planner for Every Season— and even your four-legged friends!

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. We even have a new dog-friendly vacation guide, so you can plan a vacation with your bestest, hairiest friend.





TRIP TIPS

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 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**.

