

# ViSiT RAINIER

Winter FAMILY



**Top 9  
Winter  
Experiences  
For Families!**

**BEST** Winter  
Travel Deals

**Where to  
stay this  
winter**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE Visit Rainier President



**Winter at Mt. Rainier** offers downhill skiing and snowboarding at Crystal Mountain Resort and White Pass Ski Area. Snowshoeing and snow play at Paradise is an incredible opportunity to witness winter at its greatest. Winter is not only for snow enthusiasts at Mt. Rainier. Much of the region is located well below the normal winter snowline, which means you can hike amazing old growth forests and river valleys. Since the majority of hikers visit in the summer months, you are likely to have the trails all to yourself. Keep in mind that access to the National Park and area roads is subject to winter closures, so please double check road status before heading to your destination.

Mt. Rainier National Park is one of the crown jewels of the National Park System and a true treasure of the nation. At VisitRainier, 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.

See ya on the slopes this winter. 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 9 FAMILY FRIENDLY WINTER EXPERIENCES

## Coolest getaways.

**Winter is a beautiful time of year.** And it's a perfect time to visit the Mt. Rainier Region. If you love skiing or snowboarding, or if tubing and snowshoeing are more your family's speed, you'll find it all here. But even if playing in the snow doesn't top your list, there are still ways to have fun in this region during the cooler months. The following pages are filled with our top 10 ways for families to experience winter at Rainier. Think beyond the day trip and book a cozy room with a hot tub to warm up after your day of mountain fun. We direct you to the best winter travel deals on page 24 so you can stay as affordably as possible. Every season is Rainier season. So don't hibernate this winter—come up and enjoy the mountain at its wintery best.



# 1

## Visit Mt. Rainier National Park – we're open for winter!

While areas of the park close during the winter, many areas remain open for winter fun. And fun you'll have this winter. From skiing, tubing and snowshoeing, to hiking, wildlife viewing and gondola rides, there are many winter adventures waiting for you. Whether you visit the park itself or the surrounding areas, you'll find a lot of fun activities to enjoy this season – some of them blanketed in winter's magical white powder.



# 2

## Go Wildlife Watching at Northwest Trek

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.

### Experience Kids' Trek—NEW at Northwest Trek

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 new, nature-inspired playground encourages kids to learn about the natural world while releasing some of their boundless energy. With Kids' Trek, plus a Zip Wild adventure course and year-round family events, this is a place built for family fun.

Learn more and start your trek at [visittrainier.com/northwest-trek-wildlife-park](http://visittrainier.com/northwest-trek-wildlife-park)



# 3

## Go skiing or boarding at Crystal Mountain or backcountry.

Washington's largest downhill ski area does not disappoint. Come enjoy over 2,600 skiable acres and 57 runs with 3,100 feet of vertical. Just learning? You've come to the right place. Here, kids and adults can rent gear, receive lessons, and even join a kids club. The mountain offers skiing for every level, so whether you're just learning or you prefer more challenging terrain, you'll find what you're looking for. Learn more and plan your family's ski adventure at [visittrainier.com/ski-crystal-mountain](http://visittrainier.com/ski-crystal-mountain)

### Venture into the backcountry at Mt. Rainier with older kids.

If you prefer to earn your turns and your kids are accomplished skiers, Mt. Rainier is a great place for backcountry skiing and boarding. You can even hire a guide or stay overnight. Everything you need to know – from what to pack to where to go – is conveniently located online at [visittrainier.com/backcountry-skiing-at-mount-rainier](http://visittrainier.com/backcountry-skiing-at-mount-rainier)



# 4

## Check out the 5 best snowshoeing trips for families.

Where are the best places for families to snowshoe at Mt. Rainier? We're glad you asked! For easy treks with epic views, see below and follow this link: [visittrainier.com/five-best-family-friendly-snowshoeing-trips-at-mount-rainier](http://visittrainier.com/five-best-family-friendly-snowshoeing-trips-at-mount-rainier)

### Trail of the Shadows

Easy 0.8 mile loop in Longmire: Perfect for beginners with little legs.

### Cougar Rock

Easy 4.0 miles round trip in Longmire: Breathtaking views!

### Reflection Lakes

Moderate 4.0 miles round trip in Paradise: Hike to a magical meadow of frozen lakes.

### Huckleberry Creek

Easy 4.0 miles round trip in the Mt Baker-Snoqualmie Forest: Perfect for kids. Dogs welcome, too.

### River Trail (Blue Diamond Trail)

Easy 3.2 miles round trip in the Mt Baker-Snoqualmie Forest: Beautiful trek with impressive trees. Dogs welcome.



**Take a guided snowshoe tour at Crystal Mountain Resort—ending with dinner.**  
Crystal Mountain offers several fun snowshoe tours throughout winter. Book a popular Snowshoe & Dinner tour if you know you'll work up an appetite after your wintery walk. Book your adventure: [visittrainier.com/snowshoe-tours-at-crystal-mountain-resort](http://visittrainier.com/snowshoe-tours-at-crystal-mountain-resort)

**Snowshoe the Mount Tahoma Trails Association's Trail System.**

The Mount Tahoma Trails Association operates and manages the largest no-fee Hut-to-Hut Trail System in North America for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Approximately 50 miles of trails, 20 miles of which are groomed, provide safe and easy access to 3 ski huts and a yurt. Trails vary from novice to expert, are well signed and are patrolled by an all-volunteer ski patrol. Enjoy the trek for a day or overnight destination in the Ashford area. The trail system is accessed by two Washington State Sno-Parks and although plowed regularly, snow tires and chains may be needed to access the trailheads. Visitors with dogs are welcome on the South District MTTA Trails which grant access to High Hut, Bruni's Snow Bowl Hut and Yurt Side, but dogs aren't allowed in the warming huts, mudrooms, or vestibules. It can be bitter cold at night so visitors may want to consider leaving their dog with a friend at one of the dog-friendly lodging properties in Ashford, or at a kennel. Learn more: [visittrainier.com/mt-tahoma-trails](http://visittrainier.com/mt-tahoma-trails)



# 5

## Enjoy Tubing or Sledding.

### Snowplay and Tubing Near Mount Rainier

For family-friendly winter fun, try the tubing hill at White Pass Ski Area, located near Packwood. The tubing hill offers an exciting slope for all ages, where you only need a sense of adventure to join in the fun—no special skills required. With tubing sessions running throughout the winter season (weather permitting), it's an ideal spot for families looking to experience the thrill of sliding through the snow. For more details and session times, visit the White Pass website here: [White Pass Tubing Hill](#).

**Please note: Snowplay at Mount Rainier's Paradise area is not open this season.**



# 6

## Visit a Reindeer Ranch.

It's every child's dream—meeting a real life reindeer! Rainier Reindeer Ranch makes Christmas dreams come true by giving families the opportunity to get photos with reindeer and Santa.

Your kids will be talking about the time they met a reindeer for years to come. Learn more at [visittrainier.com/rainier-reindeer-ranch](http://visittrainier.com/rainier-reindeer-ranch)



7

## Go for a winter horseback ride in Elbe or Enumclaw.

Love riding horses or always wanted to ride one? Make it happen this winter. 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.

### Elbe

[visittrainier.com/ez-times-outfitters](http://visittrainier.com/ez-times-outfitters)

### Enumclaw

[visittrainier.com/echo-river-ranch](http://visittrainier.com/echo-river-ranch)



# 8

## Take the fam cross-country skiing.

Cross-Country skiing is an invigorating way to explore nature in the winter. Part workout, part fun, this winter activity is popular for good reason. You'll find multiple opportunities to cross-country ski in the Rainier area. Here are a few of our favorites:

### Mount Tahoma Trails Association

The Mount Tahoma Trails Association operates and manages the largest no-fee Hut-to-Hut Trail System in North America for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Approximately 50 miles of trails, 20 miles of which are groomed, provide safe and easy access to 3 ski huts and a yurt. Trails vary from novice to expert, are well signed and are patrolled by an all-volunteer ski patrol. Enjoy the trek for a day or overnight destination in the Ashford area. The trail system is accessed by two Washington State Sno-Parks and although plowed regularly, snow tires and chains may be needed to access the trailheads. Visitors with dogs are welcome on the South District MTTA Trails which grant access to High Hut, Bruni's Snow Bowl Hut and Yurt Side, but dogs aren't allowed in the warming huts, mudrooms, or vestibules. It can be bitter cold at night so visitors may want to consider leaving their dog with a friend at one of the dog-friendly lodging properties in Ashford, or at a kennel. Learn more: [visittrainier.com/mt-tahoma-trails](http://visittrainier.com/mt-tahoma-trails)

### Nordic Skiing at White Pass

Cross country ski on well-established trails through wooded areas and around a lake at the Nordic Center at White Pass. Afterwards, warm up with coffee or hot chocolate in a friendly yurt. Lessons and ski rentals are available. Learn more at

[www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/okawen/recreation/recarea/?recid=77502&actid=91](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/okawen/recreation/recarea/?recid=77502&actid=91)

### Bumping Lake Cross-Country Skiing

Thought by many to provide the best cross-country skiing in the Naches Ranger District, Bumping Lake offers great snow and non-groomed trails. Plenty of trails exist for those at a beginner to intermediate level. Learn more here: [visittrainier.com/bumping-lake-cross-country-skiing](http://visittrainier.com/bumping-lake-cross-country-skiing)



# 9

## Enjoy a scenic winter gondola ride!

Winter is a beautiful season. And what better way to see it than up high from the Mt. Rainier Gondola atop Crystal Mountain. Even if you don't ski, this is a great way to enjoy winter's beauty. Once at the top, you can even experience a memorable meal at the Summit House. Learn more at [visittrainier.com/scenic-gondola-rides](http://visittrainier.com/scenic-gondola-rides)



# MT. RAINIER AREA LODGING

## From Enumclaw to Crystal Mountain and the Nisqually Valley, you've got options.

At Mt. Rainier, where you stay is half the fun. 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. Whatever best suits your mood. 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](http://visitrainier.com/lodging) to get started.



# MT. RAINIER AREA DINING

## Cool weather and hot eats—winter dining on and around Rainier.

Visitors are often surprised by the diversity and quality of dining options in the Mt. Rainier region. From cheery pubs to classic cafes with legendary homemade pies and fresh steak and seafood, traditional dishes from Nepal, vegetarian options, fine dining at 6,872 feet, and fancy restaurants with meals you won't soon forget, food may be as big a part of your discovery as the nature itself. Below are some restaurants to consider. For a complete list of restaurants in the region, go to [visitrainier.com/food-and-drink](http://visitrainier.com/food-and-drink)

## CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN AREA DINING

### 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 slope-side 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*

## 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’s famous for its salmon, trout, steaks, homemade blackberry pie, syrup and vinaigrette. Copper Creek Inn has been a tradition for visitors at Mount Rainier National Park since 1945.

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

[visittrainier.com/copper-creek-restaurant](http://visittrainier.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)

[visittrainier.com/wildberry-restaurant-2](http://visittrainier.com/wildberry-restaurant-2)

## 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, and 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

[visittrainier.com/elbe-bar-and-grill](http://visittrainier.com/elbe-bar-and-grill)

### Pizza Express

Located in a 1910 refurbished train car, 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)

[visittrainier.com/pizza-express](http://visittrainier.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

[visittrainier.com/national-park-inn-restaurant](http://visittrainier.com/national-park-inn-restaurant)

(open year-round)

## ENUMCLAW DINING

The City of Enumclaw offers a thriving restaurant scene, with restaurants that are open year-round. The list below features some of the most popular places for families. For a complete list of restaurants go to [visittrainier.com/food-and-drink](http://visittrainier.com/food-and-drink)

### Historic Mint

This gastro-pub is family friendly. Offers lunch and dinner, appetizers and desserts.

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

[visittrainier.com/historic-mint](http://visittrainier.com/historic-mint)

### Il Siciliano

Cooking true Italian traditional food. Expect wood-fired pizzas, pastas, and fresh cannoli.

1118 Myrtle Ave. Enumclaw, WA 98022 | 360-825-9463

[visittrainier.com/il-siciliano](http://visittrainier.com/il-siciliano)

### 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

[visittrainier.com/jacksons-pizza](http://visittrainier.com/jacksons-pizza)

### 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 to feature fresh seasonal offerings. Chef Natalie Vorpahl, winner of the first season of Cake Wars, is their Pastry Chef and she created an amazing Dessert Menu. The menu focuses on scratch-made and locally sourced items.

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

[visittrainier.com/kellys-restaurant](http://visittrainier.com/kellys-restaurant)

# DINING

*continued*

## Rainier Bar & Grill

If you're looking for good food, charming atmosphere and some history of the Mountain this establishment was named after, you'll find it here. Historic photos adorn the walls, offering authenticity and nostalgia. Wide variety of BBQ, sandwiches, and salads.

1623 Cole St. Enumclaw, WA 98022 | (360) 825-6363

<https://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](https://visitrainier.com/sweet-necessities)

## The Local

This is where moms and dads stop to get some go-power. The Local is a modern-day general store and coffeehouse serving Stumptown Coffee, bagels, muffins and beyond.

1616 Cole St. Enumclaw, WA 98022 | 360-625-0600

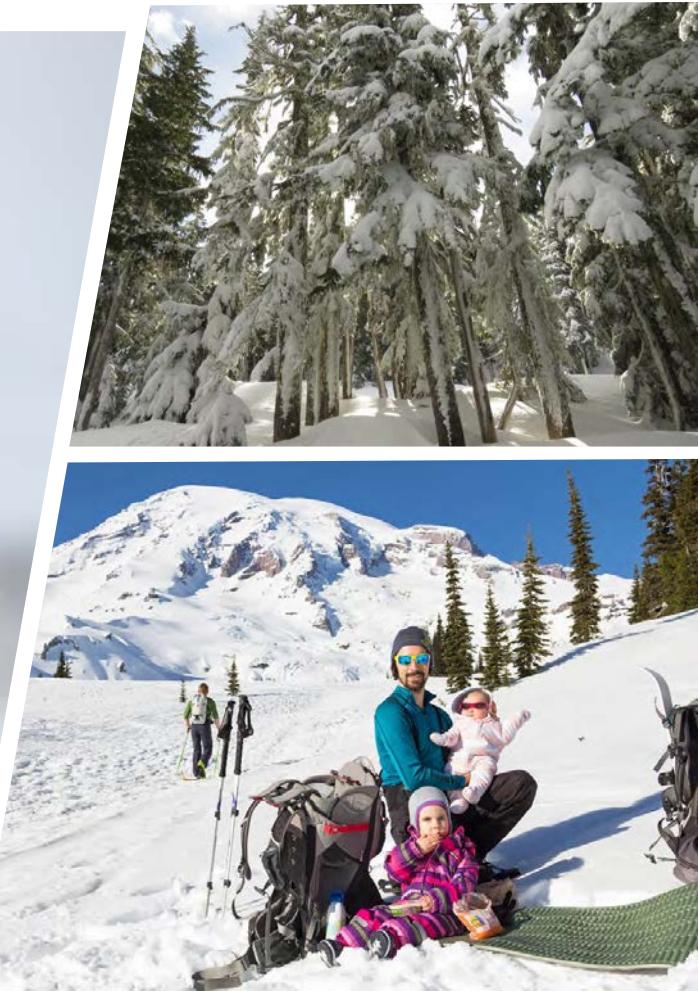
[visitrainier.com/the-local](https://visitrainier.com/the-local)



# TOP TRAVEL DEALS

## Warm up with these cozy Winter Travel Deals!

Upgrade your day trip to a stay trip so you can see more of the mountain. From fun packages to midweek, military and other discounts, we've compiled the region's best winter travel deals in one convenient place. Go to [visittrainier.com/top-travel-deals](http://visittrainier.com/top-travel-deals) to start saving!

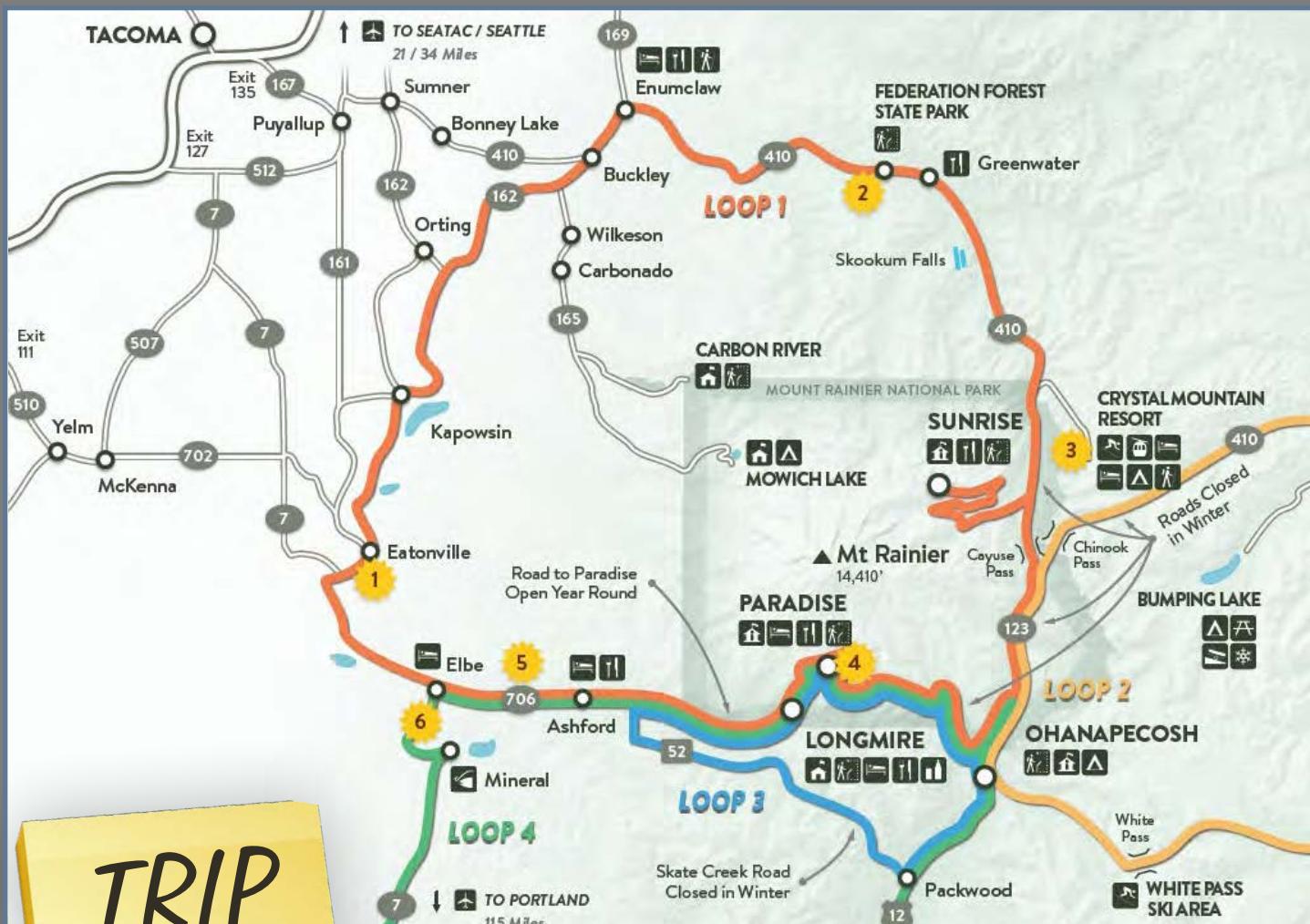


# VACATION PLANNERS FOR EVERY SEASON

**Grab a Vacation Planner for Every Season—  
including one for 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 fall colors to winter snow play, spring waterfalls, and summer wildflowers, 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 best friend.





HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO HELP YOU  
GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR TRIP:

- 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) 569-2211 or visit [@MountRainierNPS](#) on Twitter.
- Pack food and beverages, mittens and hats, and extra tops and pants in case kids get muddy or wet.



### 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.

