

LODGING & DINING | ACTIVITIES | TRIP TIPS & MAP

VISIT RAINIER

Winter

Top 10 Winter Excursions at Rainier!

Romantic Mountain Getaways
Season's Best Travel Deals



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.

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.



TABLE OF Contents

Go skiing or boarding at Crystal Mountain or backcountry	5
Plan a Snowshoeing Adventure!	6
Go for a winter horseback ride in Elbe or Enumclaw	7
Enjoy a scenic gondola ride!	8
Just say SPAaaaaahhhh	9
Go Tubing or Sledding	10
Where to stay – with a pet or a partner	11
Go cross-country Skiing at the Mount Tahoma Trails Association	14
Grab a beer, a glass of wine, or a coffee.	15
Watch Winter Elk Herds Feed at Oak Creek	17
Mt. Rainier area Lodging	18

TOP 10 RAINIER 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 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 to winter at Rainier. Think beyond the day trip and book a cozy cabin with a hot tub to warm up after your day of mountain fun. We direct you to the best winter travel deals on page 28 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

Go skiing or boarding at Crystal Mountain or backcountry.

Discover Crystal Mountain Resort!

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. The mountain offers skiing for every level, so whether you're just learning or looking for challenging terrain, this is the place. Learn more and plan your ski adventure at visitrainier.com/ski-crystal-mountain

Venture into the backcountry at Mt. Rainier.

If you prefer to earn your turns, 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 visitrainier.com/backcountry-skiing-at-mt-rainier



2

Plan a Snowshoeing Adventure!

Ranger-led snowshoe walks at Paradise.

Want to trek with a trusty guide? You're in luck. Book your ranger-led trek at Paradise – perfect for beginners! Learn more at visittrainier.com/ranger-led-snowshoe-walks

Take a guided snowshoe tour at Crystal Mountain Resort— ending with drinks or a dinner.

Crystal Mountain offers several fun snowshoe tours along their terrain throughout winter. Book a popular Snowshoe & Sip tour or a Snowshoe & Dinner tour if you know you'll work up an appetite after your wintery walk. Book your adventure at visittrainier.com/snowshoe-tours-at-crystal-mountain-resort

Plan your own snowshoeing trek along a popular route.

When it comes to snowshoeing on or around Mt. Rainier, you've got options. Short walks or long walks. Easy walks or challenging walks. Guided walks or solo treks. Day walks or overnight adventures. You can do it all here. Follow this link to see the trails and read up on huts, guides and beyond: visittrainier.com/activities/winter-activities/snowshoeing



3

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

Enumclaw

visittrainier.com/echo-river-ranch



4

Enjoy a scenic 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. Learn more at visitrainier.com/scenic-gondola-rides



5

Just say SPAaaaaahhh

Feeling a little sore after skiing or hiking? A visit to an area spa may be just what the doctor ordered. From massages to skin and body treatments to yoga and beyond, you'll find several options for relaxing and rejuvenating during or after your visit. See your options here: visittrainier.com/indulge-yourself-at-a-spa



courtesy of Wellspring Spa



courtesy of Stormking Spa

6

Go Tubing or Sledding

Snowplay and Tubing Near Mount Rainier

You don't have to be a kid to enjoy the thrill of sledding and tubing.

While weekends bring in families, weekdays offer a quieter experience on the tubing hill at White Pass Ski Area, near Packwood. With fewer crowds and shorter lines, it's an ideal time to experience the fun at your own pace. The tubing hill provides a no-skill-required adventure through the snow —just bring your enthusiasm and enjoy the ride. For details on weekday sessions, check out White Pass here: [White Pass Tubing Hill](#).

Note: Snowplay at Mount Rainier's Paradise area is closed for the 2024/2025 season.



7

Where to stay – with a pet or a partner.

“Paw”sitively Hygge — Top places to stay with your dog!

We love dogs. Here are a few places to bring your four-legged friends for a visit and overnight stay.

LOGE Alta Crystal

Why you’ll love it:

Dog friendly suites can be reserved. Plus, the trails in the national forest are open to visitors with dogs. That means you can hike or snowshoe all around Alta Crystal Resort. Alta Crystal Resort is also the only lodging property in the Mount Rainier region with both a heated outdoor pool and a hot tub that is open year-round. While your doggo can’t go for a swim with you, it is good to know about the hot tub and pool so you can pack your swimsuit. Alta Crystal Resort also offers snowshoe rentals and is a nice place to stay and go snowshoeing with your dog.

Book it: visittrainier.com/LOGE-Alta-Crystal



Village Inn

Why you'll love it:

The Queen Rooms on the ground floor are pet-friendly rooms that are separate from the other rooms making it so you have easy access in and out. Walk out your door and play in the snow with your dog. Within walking distance of Alpine Inn and Snorting Elk. (Take-out food available)

Book it: visittrainier.com/village-inn

Westwood Chalet

Why you'll love it:

Cabin in the woods. Outdoor private hot tub. Within walking distance of the Nisqually River which is a nice spot to walk your dog on or off leash.

Book it: visittrainier.com/westwood-chalet

Wonderland Lodge

Why you'll love it:

This upscale vacation rental is located in a forested area. Spacious. Private hot tub outside on the deck. Wood stove. One bathroom has a big Jacuzzi and the other has a steam room.

Book it: visittrainier.com/wonderland-lodge

Romantic Getaways for 2

Stormking Cabins and Spa

As featured in Northwest Best Places and Best Places to Kiss in the Northwest, Stormking Cabins and Day Spa offers private deluxe cabins each with a private hot tub. The yurt-style cabin accommodations at Stormking are among the finest in the Mount Rainier area.

Book it: visittrainier.com/stormking-cabins-day-spa



Wellspring Cabins and Spa

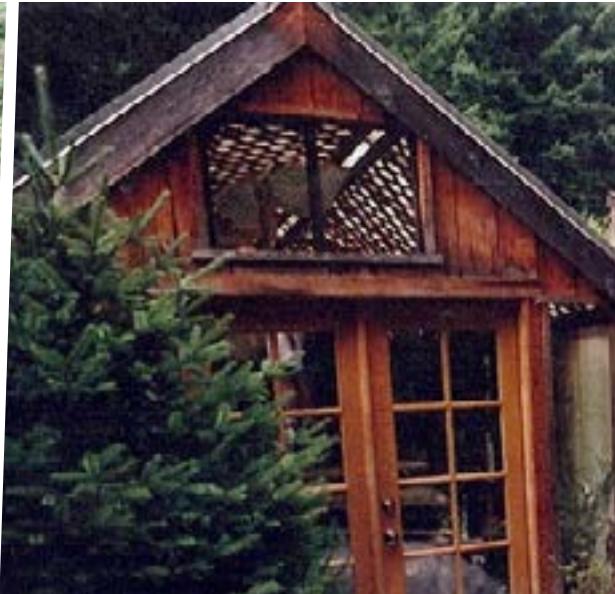
Wellspring is an ideal base for a mountain getaway in every season—the peaceful solitude offering the space for quiet contemplation, or for a romantic interlude with that special someone.

Book it: visittrainier.com/wellspring-woodland-spa-retreat-center

Wooded Paradise

Stay in a quaint A-frame built in 1965 and recently remodeled. It's cozy. It's romantic. It's perfect for a getaway for two.

Book it: visittrainier.com/wooded-paradise/



8

Go cross-country Skiing at the Mount Tahoma Trails Association.

Utilize an impressive Hut-to-Hut 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 Snow-Parks and although plowed regularly, snow tires and chains may be needed to access the trailheads. The MTTA trails are a wilderness setting, visitors need to be self-sufficient and aware of winter hiking conditions.



9

Grab a beer, a glass of wine, or a coffee.

COFFEE STOPS:

Whittaker's Café and Espresso, Ashford

Espresso. Waffles. Ice cream. Bagels. Snacks. Sweets and Wi-Fi. You'll find it all here at Whittaker's Café in Ashford, along with a serving of charming local history.

30204 State Route 706 E, Ashford, WA 98304 | (360) 569-2439

visittrainier.com/whittakers-cafe-and-espresso

Dewitt's Elbe Junction, Elbe

Step back in time at this quaint old-time grocery store. You'll find expertly brewed Stumptown Coffee, plus gourmet snacks and beverages, locally sourced artisan gifts, and charm to spare.

54209 State Route 7, Elbe, WA | (360) 524-7707

<https://visittrainier.com/elbe-junction>

The Local, Enumclaw

This modern day general store and coffeehouse serves Stumptown Coffee and a friendly smile in a mountain gateway town. Come in for a coffee and a chat.

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

<https://visittrainier.com/the-local>



Nomad PNW, Wilkinson

Get caffeinated in style at the charming and delicious Nomad PNW Cafe and Coffee Shop. Sip cappuccinos, cold brew coffee and tea, and be sure to try their pastries and empanadas.

529 Church Street, Wilkeson, Washington | (360) 761-7771

visittrainier.com/nomad-pnw

WINE TASTING:

Leony's Cellars, Enumclaw

Delicious wine without pretense. That's what you'll find at this family-owned boutique winery located in Enumclaw.

626 Railroad St, Enumclaw, WA 98022 | (360) 500-9942

visittrainier.com/leony's

CRAFT BEER:

Cole Street Brewery, Enumclaw

Pull your palette on up to the bar at Enumclaw's craft brewery, offering a selection of small-batch, handcrafted deliciousness.

2551 Cole Street Suite R, Enumclaw, WA 98022 | (425) 275-7396

visittrainier.com/cole-street-brewery

SPIRITS:

Pursuit Distilling Company, Enumclaw

This is the only place you can buy the exclusive, limited edition Pursuit Distilling Company spirits. Everything about this place is an art, from the one-of-a-kind stainless steel and copper still to the spirits that are carefully crafted here. Taste, shop, and enjoy a cocktail in the tasting room.

2321 Cole St. Suite 102, Enumclaw, WA 98022 | (360) 226-3966

visittrainier.com/pursuit-distilling-company



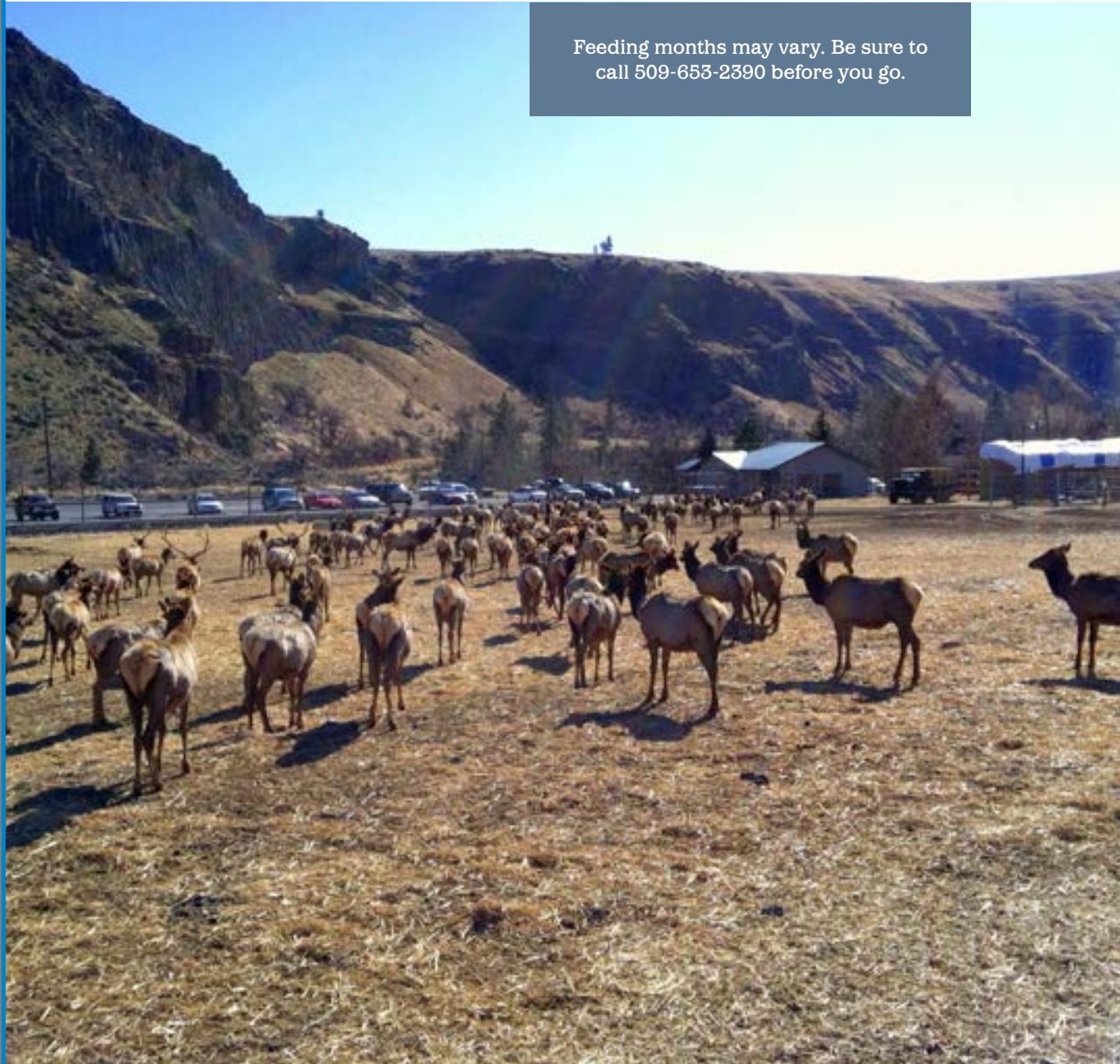
10

Watch Winter Elk Herds Feed at Oak Creek

If you've never seen an elk herd, you're in for an experience. Herds featuring up to 1,200 elk, including 90 bulls with branched antlers, feed during the winter at Oak Creek. Visitors come from all over to watch these spectacular animals each year, and you can, too. January and February are the best months for viewing. Pack warm clothes, binoculars and a camera, and come see an experience you won't soon forget.

Learn more at visitrainier.com/oak-creek-elk-feeding-area

Feeding months may vary. Be sure to call 509-653-2390 before you go.

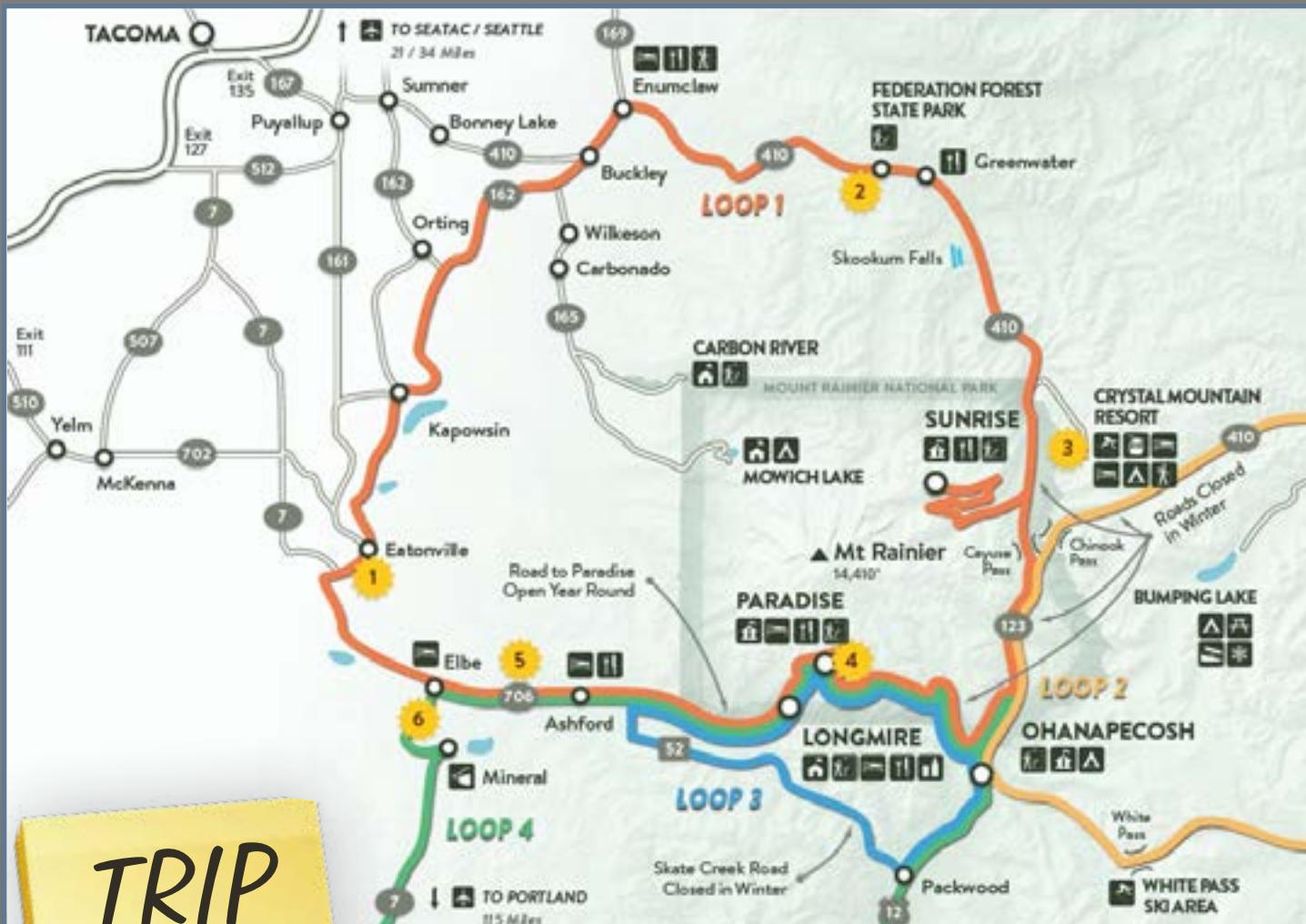


MT. RAINIER AREA LODGING

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 to get started.





TRIP TIPS

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

- Pack the **10 Essentials** when planning outdoor recreation.
- Remember all vehicles are required to carry chains when traveling in Mount Rainier National Park during the winter. No exceptions.
- Check road conditions before you go. wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/trafficalerts
- Fuel up. Gas stations are spread throughout 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](http://MountRainierNPS),
- Pack food and beverages, mittens and hats, and extra tops and pants in case you 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.

