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YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE PARKS

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TRAILS
HISTORY
MAPS & MORE!

MOUNT RAINIER, OLYMPIC & NORTH CASCADES



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Welcome



Welcome to the national parks of Western Washington! Congress gave these spectacular mountain reserves their common mission when it established the National Park Service in 1916. All national parks share the same goal: to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

Mount Rainier, Olympic and North Cascades National Parks—three of the 400 plus parks in the National Park System—conserve more than 1.6 million acres of public land and provide enjoyment for millions of visitors each year. Within sight of greater Seattle’s rapidly growing population, these are places where people can reconnect with the natural world and learn about past and present cultures. They provide an essential habitat for a great diversity of plants and animals, and their glaciers and snowfields feed rivers that millions of people downstream depend on.

Mount Rainier, Olympic and North Cascades National Parks are always a visible reminder of the beauty and complexity of the natural world. In 1988, recognizing the importance of these wild expanses so close to an urban center, Congress added over 90 percent of each park to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Today, we recognize the great value these places have for scientific and cultural research and the importance of providing the information needed to protect them.

These national parks, along with many others in Washington State, are here for you to explore and enjoy. From historic sites along the Lewis and Clark trail to the killer whales off the coast of San Juan Island, a side trip to one of Washington’s National Park Service sites (listed in the “More Washington Parks” chapter) is sure to be worth your while!



FUN FACTS

Established: Mount Rainier National Park was established in 1899, Olympic was established in 1938 and North Cascades was established in 1968.

Land Area: The three national parks conserve more than 1.6 million acres of public land.

Highest Elevation: Mount Rainier, at 14,410 feet, is the most prominent peak in the Cascade Range.

Plants & Animals: The dramatic variety of elevation in the three parks creates a large diversity of plant and animal life. Keep an eye out for bald eagles, black bears and elk.

Popular Activities: Hiking, biking, rock climbing and camping are great ways to enjoy the beautiful wilderness of the Pacific Northwest, with views of pristine subalpine lakes, old-growth forests and snow-covered peaks.

Hiking: The best hiking is from May to October, as many roads close in winter.

Camping: All three parks have campgrounds suited for all tastes.



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American Park Network® publishes Oh, Ranger! ParkFinder™, OhRanger.com, and Oh, Ranger!® guides—a collection of visitor guides for public lands all across America—and operates Oh, Ranger! Wi-Fi in parks and public lands. American Park Network is an official partner of the National Forest Foundation, National Parks Conservation Association, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, American Hiking Society and the Student Conservation Association.

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Cover: Ruby Beach at Olympic National Park
Credit: Sean Pavone

What's New!

The Truth About America's Public Lands



"No amount of experimentation can ever prove me right; a single experiment can prove me wrong."

– Albert Einstein

I think everyone can agree that Albert was a pretty smart guy. His quote suggests he was also quite open to being proven wrong. Einstein set the bar for both genius and humility by his unyielding embrace of the scientific method.

In a world where information is often clouded by personal perspective, it's crucial that we follow Einstein's lead and proceed with care when it comes to facts and truth. Facts, by definition, are verifiable, objective data – things we can observe, measure and ultimately prove. In the absence of new learning, facts are grounded in evidence that remains constant despite opinion or belief. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines truth as *"being in accord with fact or reality."* One person's reality may be quite different from another's. Truth, therefore, requires context. If we're open, it's not that hard to see how different life experiences may provide us with wildly different (and subjective) realities.

America's public lands are steeped in both facts and truth. From the geology of the Grand Canyon to the biodiversity in Yellowstone, facts about these places are backed by years of research and scientific study. But the truth of these lands is more complex. It's about the cultural significance they hold, the stories they tell, and the way they connect us to the past and to each other. The truth includes understanding the important role these lands play – for future generations, to native communities, with regard to preservation, as engines of economic development and so

much more. 'Truth' may lead one person to favor mining while another's truth may dictate conservation above all else.

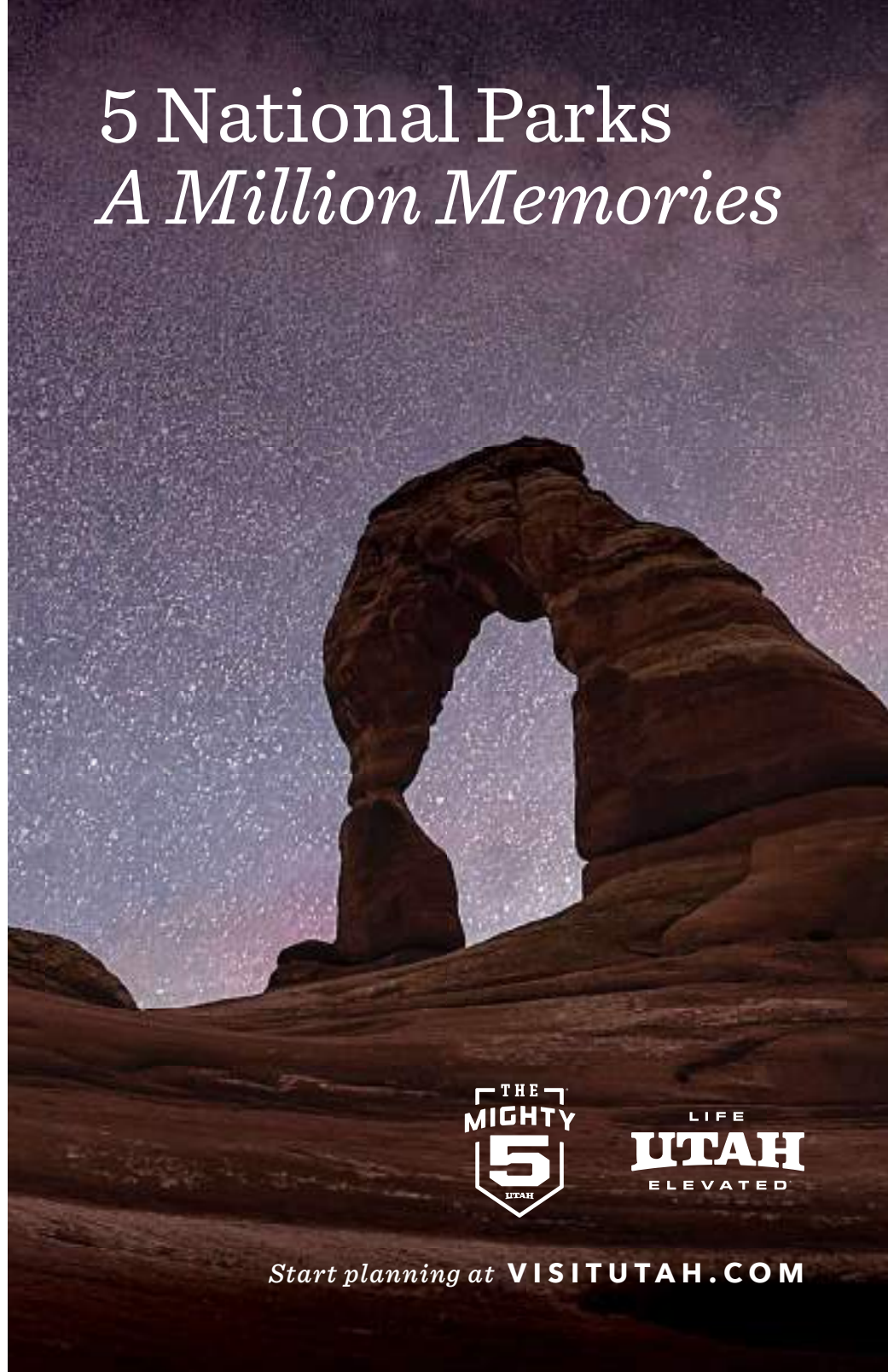
As with many issues, we won't all agree on how to balance facts and truths. Different perspectives exist on how to best utilize public lands. We need to resist the urge to simply dismiss the opinions of others whose views don't align with our own. Facts provide a foundation for understanding. Truth is shaped by personal and collective values. It's essential that we utilize facts in decision-making while, at the same time, embrace the truth in its full complexity. There's never been a better time to commit to listening, remaining open and considering different experiences and values. Only then can we have constructive dialogue that leads us to common ground. The Organic Act of 1916 created the National Park Service and placed equal weight on conservation as it did recreation, which are often in direct conflict. More than a century later, it's still hard to reconcile such opposing goals... and that's a fact!

Let's approach the stewardship of our public lands with an acknowledgement of facts, a respect for truth and an openness to understanding each other's perspectives, especially when we disagree. Together we can ensure that America's public lands remain a rich resource and a legacy for generations to come!

Founder & Editor-in-Chief

mark@americanparknetwork.com

5 National Parks *A Million Memories*



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Mount Rainier

Plan Your Visit



Mount Rainier National Park is located in west-central Washington. Several major cities—including Seattle, Tacoma, Yakima and Portland—are within 150 miles of the park.

GETTING TO MOUNT RAINIER

Car: From Seattle (about 89 miles away) or Tacoma (about 60 miles away), take Interstate 5 South to Highway 512 East, then drive south on Highway 7; continue east on Highway 706 at Elbe, and continue onto the Nisqually Entrance. From Portland, Oregon (about 138 miles away), take I-5 North to U.S. 12 East to Morton, then take Highway 7 North, and turn east on Highway 706 at Elbe, continuing onto the Nisqually Entrance.

Southwest entrance: Follow the above directions to the Nisqually Entrance, which is the only entrance open year-round.

Southeast entrance: From Yakima, take U.S. 12 West, then take Highway 123 North to the Stevens Canyon Entrance.

Northeast entrance: From Seattle/Tacoma, take Highway 410 East; from Yakima, take U.S. 12 West to Highway 410 North to the White River Entrance.

Northwest entrance: Take Highway 165 South to Carbon River Road. *Note: Carbon River Road is currently closed to vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians and there is no alternate route.* In the winter, all park roads are closed except the stretch between Nisqually and Paradise. The road between Longmire and Paradise closes nightly and opens each day dependent on weather and avalanche conditions. Follow the park X feed at x.com/MountRainierNPS. Be advised that construction is taking place

at three intersections along SR 507 and SR 702. Visitors should expect delays when traveling this route. You can also visit nps.gov/mora, or call the park at **(360) 569-2211** for updates.

Note: During winter months, all vehicles are required to carry tire chains when traveling in the park (November 1 to May 1). This applies to all vehicles, regardless of tire type or weather conditions. For more information, visit nps.gov/mora.

Air: The closest major airports are Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (85 miles away), Portland International Airport (131 miles away) and Yakima Air Terminal (134 miles away).

Bus: There is no bus service into the park.

Train: There is no rail service into the park. Amtrak serves Seattle, Tacoma, Lacey and Centralia on its north-south route and Seattle on its east-west route.

Public transportation: There is no public transportation into the park.

Rental cars: Rental cars are available at all of the airports listed above.

PARK ROADS

Due to the dynamic nature of weather at Mount Rainier, unexpected road closures can occur at any time. Between November and April, most park roads are closed altogether due to winter snow. Always check road status before entering the park. For the most up-to-date information regarding road conditions, follow the park's X account, visit nps.gov/mora, or stop by a park visitor center or park headquarters.

Park roads include Nisqually Road, Highway 123, Highway 410, Sunrise Road,

Stevens Canyon Road (connecting Paradise Road to Highway 123) and Mowich Lake Road, an unpaved road in the park's north-west corner that accesses backcountry trails and a primitive campground.

Carbon River Road is closed to the public beyond the park entrance as a result of 2006 storm damage and subsequent flood events. As a result, Carbon River Trail and Mowich Lake are also inaccessible until the bridge to access them can be repaired. The trail to **Ipsut Creek Trailhead** is open for hiking or bicycling for a distance of five miles each way. The trail provides access to the Old Mine, Green Lake, Chenuis Falls and Wonderland Trails. From the closure, it's a 17-mile round-trip hike to the **Carbon Glacier**, the lowest glacier in the continental U.S. The Ipsut Creek Campground is now a hiker-bicyclist camp. Inquire at the Carbon River Ranger Station for current trail conditions.

Stevens Canyon Road is the only road inside the park that connects the west side of the park (Paradise and Longmire) to the east side (Ohanapechosh and White River). The Stevens Canyon Road Rehabilitation Project has been completed, and is now reopened to the public.

OPENING HOURS

The park is open 24 hours a day, year-round, including holidays, except in winter when snow may close entrance roads.

ENTRANCE FEES

Entrance to the park is \$30 per vehicle, \$15 per person for pedestrians and bicyclists and \$25 for motorcyclists. Park visitors can purchase and print entrance passes in advance on recreation.gov.

Please be advised that Mount Rainier National Park has transitioned to a fully cashless fee system and will only accept electronic card payments for entrance and campgrounds fees. Visitors who are only able to pay with cash may purchase a prepaid pass from local vendors before entering the park. Advance campground reservations will continue to be available through recreation.gov and payments for first-come, first-served campsites will be cashless. Concession-run hotels, bookstores and restaurants inside the park will still accept cash or card payments.

Sunrise Corridor will require reservations (\$2 each) to enter this summer. Those reservations are required for entry

FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASSES

A federal recreation pass is helpful if you plan to visit many national parks, forests or other federal lands. For information, call **(888) 275-8747** or visit store.usgs.gov/pass.

Type	Cost	Availability	Details
Annual Pass	\$80 \$20	General public Seniors (62+)	This one-year pass is available on site, by phone or online (see above).
Senior Pass	\$80	U.S. residents age 62+	This lifetime pass is available on site or via mail order. ID required.
Military Pass	Free	Active military and their dependents	This one-year pass is available on site. ID (CAC Card or DoD Form 1173) required.
Access Pass	Free	U.S. residents with permanent disabilities	This lifetime pass is available on site or via mail order. Signed affidavit required.
Volunteer Pass	Free	250 cumulative volunteer service hours	Inquire locally to obtain information about this one-year pass.

between July 4th and September 2nd from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Paradise Corridor will not require reservations for timed entry in 2025. For information about timed reservations, call **(360) 569-6249**, e-mail **MORA_timed_entry@nps.gov** or visit **nps.gov/mora**.

Frequent visitors may purchase a Mount Rainier Annual Pass for \$55, which covers entrance fees for the pass holder and their passengers in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle at Mount Rainier National Park.

Digital passes for select federal public lands, including Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks and Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, are also available at **recreation.gov/pass** or in the **Recreation.gov** app.

EVERY KID OUTDOORS

To help engage and create our next generation of park visitors, supporters, advocates and the Obama Administration in partnership with the Federal Land Management agencies launched the **Every Kid Outdoors** initiative. The immediate goal is to provide an opportunity for every fourth grade student across the country and their families to experience their federal public lands and waters in person and discover our wildlife, resources and history for free.

All kids in the fourth grade have access to their own Every Kid Outdoors pass at **everykidoutdoors.gov**. This pass admits the pass owner and any accompanying passengers in a private noncommercial vehicle to the park. Obtain and print the pass by visiting **everykidoutdoors.gov** to present it at the park. The Every Kid Outdoors pass is valid until August 31, 2025.

WEATHER

Mount Rainier creates its own weather; prepare for all conditions. Dress in layers, and carry a sweater and rain gear. Summer temperatures average in the 70s; winter temperatures average in the 30s. Expect freezing temperatures and snowstorms in winter.

PARK NEWSPAPER

Mount Rainier's newspaper, **Tahoma News**, offers up-to-date information on NPS naturalist walks, programs and other activities. It is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers and also online at **nps.gov/mora**.

VISITOR CENTERS

When you arrive, make your first stop at a visitor center where you can speak to park rangers who can answer your questions. You can learn about ranger-guided walks and evening campfire programs, obtain backcountry camping permits and purchase maps and books. Note: Visitor center hours vary by season. Check **nps.gov/mora** before your trip for up-to-date schedules.

The **Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center** is located adjacent to the upper parking lot at Paradise and boasts exhibits on geology, glaciers, flora, fauna and park history. It is open on weekends from late October to early May, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and daily from early May to mid-June, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call **(360) 569-6571**.

Sunrise Visitor Center, at the end of Sunrise Road, has educational displays and programs on Mount Rainier's subalpine ecology and alpine life zones. Telescopes give you a close-up look of the mountain's lava ridges and glaciers. It is generally open from July through mid-September and is anticipated to open this season July 4. For more information, call **(360) 663-2425**.

One of the NPS's oldest operating interpretive museums, **The Longmire Museum**, is housed in a historic building that was the first park headquarters. It serves as a visitor center and has exhibits about the park's natural and human history, and that of the NPS. It typically operates daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. When the museum is closed, information is available at the Longmire Wilderness Information Center during business hours.

The Ohanapecosh Visitor Center is open in the summer next to the Ohanapecosh Campground. The visitor center has educational exhibits and a book shop. It is generally open late June through mid-September, and is estimated to open this season May 24. For more information, call **(360) 569-6581**.

The Longmire Wilderness Information Center and **White River Wilderness Information Center** are open in the summer and fall, usually from late May to early October. The Carbon River Ranger Station is generally open year-round. The Paradise Wilderness Information Center is open in the summer. All offer trail information and backcountry camping permits.

Park Headquarters is near Ashford, nine miles west of the Nisqually Entrance. For information, call **(360) 569-2211**.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Park facilities and activities that are wheelchair-accessible are indicated by this symbol: ♿ There are reserved, accessible parking spaces for visitors with disabilities, and ramps to all visitor centers and the **Longmire Museum**. **Jackson Visitor Center** is fully accessible. The Sunrise Visitor Center exhibits are accessible, with assistance available for entry to the building. Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh campgrounds have designated campsites for visitors with disabilities. **Cougar Rock** has an accessible picnic area and restrooms. In Longmire, a portion of the east side of the unpaved

Trail of the Shadows loop is accessible with help. Two accessible trails lead to the base of the Paradise meadows, and a portion of the trails at Paradise are accessible with help. Trails near the visitor center at Paradise are paved, but some are steep. Wheelchair users may require assistance. **Kautz Creek Interpretive Trail** is 3.1 miles west of Longmire and 0.1 mile in length. This fully accessible trail leads to a view of the 1947 Kautz Creek mudflow and a spectacular view of the mountain on clear days. Kautz Creek also has an accessible picnic area and restrooms. For more information, contact the park by calling **(360) 569-2211** or visiting **nps.gov/mora**.

VISITOR SERVICES

BANKING SERVICES

ATMs, currency exchange and other banking services are available in Eatonville, Enumclaw, Morton and Puyallup. There are ATMs at Ashford Valley Grocery and Ashford General Store, as well as in Packwood.

GAS STATIONS

There are no gas stations in the park. Gas and repair services are available in Enumclaw, Eatonville, Ashford, Elbe, Morton and Packwood. If your car breaks down in the park, contact a park ranger, or call the park's main number at **(360) 569-2211**.

GIFT SHOPS

There are gift shops at Sunrise Day Lodge, Paradise Inn and Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise. There is also a general store at the National Park Inn at Longmire.

LOST & FOUND

Turn in found items and check for lost ones at a ranger station or visitor center. Call for information **(360) 569-2211** or submit a form online at **nps.gov/mora/lostandfound.htm**.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

From any park phone, call **911** for emergency medical or ranger assistance, or to report accidents or injuries. Park headquarters, visitor centers and ranger stations have first-aid facilities. Hospitals and dental services are in Morton (30 miles south), Enumclaw (45 miles north) and Puyallup (50 miles northwest).

PETS & KENNELS

Pets are welcome at Mount Rainier, but they must be kept on a leash no more than six feet in length or in a cage at all times and are not permitted on park trails or in wilderness areas. Pets are allowed in parking lots, at campgrounds and on paved roads only. Never leave them unattended. Owners must clean up after their pets. The nearest kennel, Pet Ponderosa Resorts & Spas, is located in Graham. For more information, call **(253) 847-7763** or visit petponderosa.com.

POST OFFICE

Postal services are available at Paradise Inn (summer only) and in local communities.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Religious services are offered in the park (summer only) and in local communities. Obtain locations and schedules at park visitor centers.

PARK REGULATIONS & SAFETY

The NPS—as a custodian of Mount Rainier, Olympic and North Cascades National Parks—has set regulations and guidelines to help protect their natural and cultural beauty and to ensure your safety. Please do your part by following the rules outlined in the park newspapers and elsewhere. By working together, we can preserve the parks for future generations.

Mount Rainier Lodging & Dining



Mount Rainier's lodges are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Guests are advised to book as far in advance as possible, especially for summer stays. If you aren't staying onsite, stop by to explore their rustic settings, browse the gift shops or eat in one of the dining rooms. Call **(855) 755-2275** or visit mtrainierguestservices.com for reservations.

The iconic **Paradise Inn** provides a relaxing retreat with panoramic views of mountains and meadows lush with wildflowers. It's usually open May through September. Guest rooms are available with and without private baths. ♿

The lodge has a café, gift shop, dining room and large lobby with stone fireplaces and peeled-log ceiling beams. The **Paradise Inn Dining Room** is filled with natural light during the day and glows from the fireplace in the evening, where guests enjoy local flavors guaranteed to satisfy the heartiest adventurer. Dining hours vary. Check mtrainierguestservices.com/paradiseindining for more details. ♿ ♿ ♿

Nestled in the forest at Longmire, the 25-room **National Park Inn** is open year-round. Guests enjoy stunning views from the north porch and are just steps away from hiking trails. ♿ ♿

The Inn has a dining room, guest lounge and general store with winter cross-country ski and snowshoe rentals. The **National Park Inn Dining Room** serves a variety of diverse flavors of the Pacific Northwest in a rustic, casual setting. Dining hours vary. Check mtrainierguestservices.com/nationalparkindining for more information.

Paradise Camp Deli is located in the Jackson Visitor Center and is a perfect stop for a quick dine-in lunch or snack to go. Open weekends from October 22 to May 3 and daily from May 4 to October 14. Note that specific hours are dependent on Jackson Visitor Center. ♿ ♿ ♿

Sunrise Day Lodge Featuring a snack bar and a gift shop for all of your sightseeing and hiking essentials. Open July through September. Note that there are no overnight accommodations. ♿ ♿ ♿

OUTSIDE THE PARK

There are many lodging and dining options in local communities. Contact the organizations listed here for more information.

- **Packwood Visitor Center**
Southeast corner of the park
(360) 492-7365
packwoodvisitorcenter.com
- **Enumclaw Area Chamber of Commerce**
Northwest corner of the park
(360) 825-7666
enumclawchamber.com
- **Mineral Lake**
Southwest corner of the park
minerallake.com
- **Mount Rainier Business Alliance**
Southwest corner of the park
mt-rainier.com
- **Crystal Mountain Lodging Association**
Northeast corner of the park
staycrystal.com
- **Visit Rainier**
All areas outside the park visitrainier.com
- **Visit Seattle**
88 miles northwest of the park
visitseattle.org
(206) 461-5800 | (206) 461-5888

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Park Headquarters & Information	(360) 569-2211
Emergencies	911 (from any phone located in the park)
Wilderness Information	(360) 569-6650 or (360) 569-6670 or (360) 569-6643 or nps.gov/mora
Camping Information	(360) 569-2211
Campground Reservations	recreation.gov
Road & Weather Information	(360) 569-2211
Special Services Information -	(360) 569-2211
TTY	(360) 569-2177
Mt. Rainier Guest Services	(855) 755-2275
Alpine Ascents International	(206) 378-1927
International Mountain Guides	(360) 569-2609
Rainier Mountaineering Inc.	(888) 892-5462

Mount Rainier History & Culture



As the face of Mount Rainier changes depending on weather, season and time of day, so too does the mountain's interior. Its inner rumblings remind us that it is a mountain whose story is still being told.

LAND OF FIRE

Mount Rainier is an active volcano, but its most recent confirmed eruption occurred about 1,000 years ago. It is part of the **Ring of Fire**, a string of volcanic ranges that almost circles the Pacific Ocean and includes volcanoes in the Aleutians, the western coast of North and South America, Antarctica, eastern Indonesia, the Philippines and Japan. The 1980 eruption of Mount Saint Helens, located about 50 miles southwest of Mount Rainier, and the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines demonstrate the volatile nature of the Ring of Fire.

THE MAKING OF THE MOUNTAIN

Mount Rainier is the highest peak in the Cascades, a volcanic mountain range that stretches from British Columbia to northern California. Mount Rainier was formed not in one great cataclysm, but by many years of volcanic activity. It is a **composite volcano** (or **stratovolcano**) made from sluggish, intermittent lava flows and explosive eruptions of ash and rock.

Volcanoes have been erupting in this region for at least 40 million years. About 500,000 years ago, fiery forces thrust molten rock through a weak spot in the earth's crust. Lava oozed out of the hole, and rock and pumice spewed out violently, resulting in a volcanic cone. Mount Rainier grew to an estimated 16,000 feet above sea level.



MOUNT RAINIER'S HUMAN HISTORY



5000 B.C.E. to C.E. 1800s American Indian tribes live in the foothills of the mountain that some call "Takhoma."

1792 British Navy Captain George Vancouver names the mountain "Mount Rainier" for his friend Rear Admiral Peter Rainier.

1833 Dr. William Tolmie, a Scottish physician at nearby Fort Nisqually, is probably the first European to venture into what is now the park.

1870 General Hazard Stevens and Philemon Van Trump make the first well-documented ascent of Mount Rainier.

1890 James Longmire and his wife build Longmire's Springs, Mount Rainier's first hotel. Fay Fuller, a school teacher from a small town near Olympia, becomes the first woman to climb the mountain.

1899 Mount Rainier is established as the nation's fifth national park.

1915 Automobiles are permitted on the road between Longmire and Paradise.

1930s The Civilian Conservation Corps builds and repairs many park buildings, trails and bridges, which are still used today.

1962 Mount Rainier is the training ground for the successful American expedition to Mount Everest.

1981 Nine out of 11 members of Project Pelion, a group of climbers with disabilities, reach Mount Rainier's summit.

2006 The Great Flood: A deluge dumps 18 inches of rain on the park within 36 hours, causing just under \$28 million in damage.

2025 Mount Rainier National Park celebrates its 126th anniversary.

About 5,600 years ago, the smoldering fires inside Mount Rainier erupted, and the mountainside collapsed. Tons of rock, mud, and debris rolled down the peak's northeast flank. A catastrophic wall of mud cascaded like a river of wet cement across more than 200 square miles, ending in the waters of Puget Sound. This mudslide is called the **Osceola Mudflow**; the towns of Kent, Sumner, Auburn and Puyallup are built on top of the flow. The 16,000-foot summit of Mount Rainier was gone, leaving a northeast-facing depression that measures nearly two miles in diameter.

Small to moderate eruptions have occurred, on average, every few

hundred years in the past 10,000 years. The remains of the older, higher cone are seen in the **Liberty Cap** and **Point Success**. The two craters overlap at the mountain's summit, 14,410-foot Columbia Crest.

Local newspapers published unconfirmed reports of volcanic activity on Mount Rainier during the 1800s, and the mountain may continue to spew ash and steam intermittently, causing small floods and mudflows.

Only time will tell when Mount Rainier will erupt again, or if Washington's highest peak will be eroded by the actions of ice, water and wind.

Mount Rainier Things To Do



Throughout the year you can enjoy numerous activities, from nature walks and fishing to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Always check at a visitor center to confirm times and availability of programs.

SPRING, SUMMER & FALL

PARK PROGRAMS

NPS naturalists offer several interpretive walks and talks, films and guided nature and history walks. Evening campfire programs are held at Paradise and Cougar Rock Campground in the summer. Consult bulletin boards or the park newspaper, **Tahoma News**, for times and topics.

BICYCLING

Cyclists can enjoy challenging and scenic riding throughout Mount Rainier. Cycling in Mount Rainier can be hazardous due to steep, narrow, winding roadways and narrow unpaved shoulders. Bicycles are allowed on park roads, but they are not permitted on any hiking trails. The park does not have any designated bike trails, although the former Carbon River and Westside roads are now open to mountain biking. However, please be aware of hikers also using those routes and yield to them. Bikes are limited to the roadbeds and may not go on trails. There are several significant elevation gains and losses. Cyclists are advised to maintain safe speeds on downhill sections.

September and early October are generally the optimal time for cycling at Mount Rainier. During these months, there are usually fewer vehicles on the roads, and fall colors enhance the atmosphere. After Labor

Day, however, many facilities and services are reduced or discontinued.

Be aware that the park may temporarily close any road to bicycle use. Signs will mark closed roads, and cyclists should check current road status online at nps.gov/mora before planning a trip. Availability of bicycling equipment in or near the park is very limited, and cyclists should be prepared to make their own repairs. For your safety, wear a helmet, and follow the rules of the road.

E-bikes are allowed everywhere that traditional bikes are as long as they possess a motor of less than 750 watts (1 hp). Any e-bike with a motor of more than 750 watts is only allowed on park roads open to vehicles. E-bikes are not allowed in designated wilderness areas.

The Redmond Cycling Club sponsors **RAMROD (Ride Around Mount Rainier in One Day)**. Because of the timed entry reservations, RAMROD will be held on July 31, 2025. Registration is open and will be assigned in the order of signing up. For more information on RAMROD and the 2025 route, visit redmondcycling.club.

BOATING & FISHING

Anglers can try their luck fishing the park's many streams and rivers, but fish are not plentiful because populations are natural and not stocked. Anglers are asked to use **barbless hooks** and **artificial lures**. No licenses are required for boating or fishing within the park. However, Washington State fishing regulations do apply, at the park, stream and lake level. Detailed regulations can be found at nps.gov/mora/planyour-visit/fishing-and-boating.htm and are also available at visitor centers or ranger stations.

Only non-motorized boats are permitted on park waters. On some lakes and rivers, boating and fishing are prohibited. Check visitor centers for specific regulations.

GUIDED TOURS

Let someone else do the driving so you can enjoy more scenery. Several companies offer tours of the area. Find some options at visitrainier.com/transportation-and-tours.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Saddle and pack animals (horses, mules, burros and llamas) are allowed only on the Pacific Crest and Laughingwater Creek trails. Contact the park for more information.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

For more than a century, mountain climbers have been drawn to the towering summit of Mount Rainier. Almost all American mountaineering expeditions train here because of the challenges of its steep slopes and glaciers. Going to the top is rigorous and dangerous and requires proper equipment and training. Before climbing, be sure that you are in good physical shape—the trip is very strenuous. All climbers going above 10,000 feet or climbing on glaciers must pay a fee and obtain a climbing permit. Guide services, including one-day climbing instruction, two-day summit climbs and five-day seminars are available through Alpine Ascents International at (206) 378-1927; International Mountain Guides at (360) 569-2609 and Rainier Mountaineering Inc. at (888) 892-5462.

WINTER

Winter is a great time to explore the park, but be aware that all roads into the park are closed except the road from Nisqually to Paradise. For road and weather information, please call (360) 569-2211.

PARK PROGRAMS

Park rangers lead **guided snowshoe walks** on weekends from late December through late March, snow conditions permitting. The walks leave from the Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center at Paradise. Check at the visitor center or in the park newspaper, **Tahoma News**, for times.

WILDLIFE WATCHING

Winter is the time to discover the hushed world of Mount Rainier, when tracks in the snow reveal the path of a **fox** hunting or a **rabbit** fleeing. Animals like the **white-tailed ptarmigan** and **snowshoe hare** stay active during the winter, and you may see signs of their passing in the snow. Others, such as **marmots** and **black bears**, are fast asleep. Snow hides high-country meadows and transforms the lowland forest into a secretive world. Above it all rises Mount Rainier, blanketed in white. For more information about watchable wildlife, please see the "Nature & Wildlife" chapter. For animal safety tips, see the "Preservation" chapter. **Please do not feed the animals.**

WINTER SPORTS

The **Longmire General Store** rents cross-country ski and snowshoe equipment. Call (360) 569-2275 for more information. **Paradise** is the center for snow play, offering **snowshoeing**, **snowboarding**, **telemarking** and **cross-country skiing**.

To protect underlying vegetation—and for visitor safety—sledding, sliding and tubing are allowed at the Paradise snowplay area only when sufficient snow has accumulated. Rentals are not available.



For answers to all your questions, go to **OhRanger.com**

Mount Rainier Sights To See



"Of all the fire mountains which, like beacons, once blazed along the Pacific Coast, Mount Rainier is the noblest." – John Muir

To appreciate the nobility, diversity and breadth of Mount Rainier, be sure to explore the park's many regions.

LONGMIRE

Enjoy the scenic, forested drive from Nisqually Entrance to Longmire, the park's oldest developed area. Located in the southwestern corner of the park, Longmire is the site of mineral springs found by James Longmire in 1883. He later built the park's first hotel, Longmire's Springs, on this spot. Take a walking tour of the Longmire Historic District and enjoy views of Mount Rainier and the mineral springs along **Trail of the Shadows**, an easy loop trail encircling Longmire Meadow.

PARADISE

When Martha Longmire first saw **Paradise Valley**, she exclaimed, "Oh, what a paradise!" Once you see its lush meadows, carpeted in wildflowers, you will agree. Paradise sits more than a mile above sea level and averages 640 inches of snowfall annually. In the winter of 1971–1972, a record 1,122 inches fell here!

In a land brimming with mountain streams and alpine lakes, **Narada Falls** stands out as spectacular. Along the road between Longmire and Paradise, the falls are formed where the Paradise River cascades 168 feet off a ledge. Take the short but steep trail to the bottom of the falls for a breathtaking view.

Note: All hikers must stay on maintained hiking trails in the Paradise area due to the fragility of the subalpine vegetation.

Radiating out from the summit like the spokes of a wheel, the glaciers of Mount Rainier are its crowning glory. **Nisqually Glacier** is the most accessible and the most studied of Mount Rainier's 25 major glaciers. Its terminus is only about a mile from the glacier overlooks on the Nisqually Vista Trail near Paradise. The **Nisqually Icefall** is a jumble of truck-sized ice blocks poised in a slow-motion tumble down the glacier, sometimes moving as much as three feet a day.

OHANAPECOSH

The **Grove of the Patriarchs Trail** showcases the old-growth forest in the southeastern corner of the park, where western red cedar, Douglas fir and western hemlock—some more than 1,000 years old—tower over the forest floor and the **Ohanapecosh River**. *Note: The Grove of the Patriarchs is closed until further notice due to flood damage. Construction to replace the bridge is scheduled to begin summer 2027.*

SUNRISE

The highest point in the park accessible by car, Sunrise is 6,400 feet in elevation. Situated in the northeastern area of the park, it offers stunning vistas of the dormant volcanoes of the Cascades and **Mounts Rainier, Baker and Adams**. Mount Rainier rises above the tranquil subalpine meadows of Sunrise with the rocky summit of **Little Tahoma Peak** visible to the left. Watch clouds move in from the Pacific, bump into and spill over the mountaintop, and cascade down Mount Rainier's eastern slope.



GLACIERS



Volcanic activity built Mount Rainier, but glaciers shape it. True glaciers consist of at least three layers: snow, mixed snow and ice, and pure ice. They are formed because the mountain's winter snowfall surpasses its summer snowmelt. Season after season, the snowpack accumulates, and its weight compresses the snow below into glacier ice.

Heavy snow accumulation expands the glacier, with its weight pushing and moving the existing ice. This is offset by melting at the terminus (or snout) of the glacier. Glaciers are called "rivers of ice" because they move down the steep mountain valleys, ebbing

and flowing with climatic conditions. The rate of movement varies, depending on the rate of snowfall and snowmelt. Mount Rainier's glaciers can move from just a few inches to up to three feet per day, depending on the steepness of the slope. Great crevasses open in the glacier when stress on the ice cause it to separate. More than 35 square miles of glaciers radiate out from Mount Rainier's summit, the largest collection of glaciers on one peak in the contiguous United States. The mountain has 25 named glaciers and numerous smaller, unnamed glaciers and ice fields.

See **Emmons Glacier**, the largest glacier by area in the contiguous United States, on Mount Rainier's eastern flank. It covers more than four square miles. Located on Mount Rainier's dry, east side, Sunrise receives much less moisture than Paradise. The vegetation is much more sparse here and can be easily damaged. Stay on trails to protect these fragile meadows.

CARBON RIVER

Sequestered in the northwest corner of the park, Carbon River is named for the coal

deposits discovered nearby. Deep in the Carbon River Valley is the sole temperate rain forest in the park, produced by the combination of the area's abundant rainfall and mild weather. Explore the Carbon River Rain Forest at the Carbon River Entrance, or take a scenic drive to Mowich Lake.

Note: The Carbon River/Fairfax Canyon Bridge is closed to all auto, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic until further notice. As a result there is limited access from SR 165 to Mowich Lake Entrance or Carbon River Ranger Station.

Mount Rainier Walking & Hiking



With more than 260 miles of trails, Mount Rainier is a hiker's paradise. Stop by wilderness information centers or ranger stations before embarking on a hike to obtain current trail information. For more information, contact the Longmire Wilderness Information Center at **(360) 569-6650**, the White River Ranger Station at **(360) 569-6670** or the Carbon River Ranger Station at **(360) 829-9639**.

CROSSING STREAMS SAFELY

Hikers should take these precautions to cross streams safely.

- **Choose your crossing spot carefully**, whether you're going to cross on a log, step from rock to rock or wade. Find an area where the water is slow and shallow. Look downstream; if you see logs or other debris that could trap you if you fall in, find a different place to cross.
- **Assess the depth and speed of the water** before deciding to walk across. If the water is up to your knees, it's too deep to ford. Drop in a stick and walk alongside it. If you can't keep up, the water is too fast to wade.
- **Use a sturdy stick or hiking poles for balance** while crossing. Always keep two points of contact on the ground. If you can't see the bottom, probe with the stick before each step.
- **Be careful during log crossings.** Starting down at the water can make you dizzy; try to keep your eyes forward as much as possible. And select a log that isn't too slippery! If the log is wet or stripped of bark, it's likely to be slick.

- **If you do fall into the water**, try to point your feet downstream and keep your head up.
- **When you're ready to cross, unfasten the belt of your pack** so you can ditch it quickly if you end up in the water.
- **Never jump in to help another person**—it's highly unlikely you'll be able to offer any aid in the fast, cold water. Instead, keep the person in sight and follow on the bank until you can safely attempt a rescue.
- **Use good judgment**—if you have any doubts at all about the safety of a crossing, don't do it! Better safe than sorry—you can always go back the way you came.



WALKING & HIKING TRAILS

Trail/Trailhead	Description	Round-Trip Distance Time	Difficulty Elevation Gain
<i>Wonderland Trail Throughout the park</i>	Circle Mount Rainier, passing through subalpine meadows, glacial streams, valley forests and mountain passes.	93 miles 10-14 days	strenuous 22,000 feet
LONGMIRE			
<i>Trail of Shadows Across the road from the National Park Inn at Longmire</i>	This short loop passes through the original Longmire Springs Resort site and circles Longmire Meadow with mountain views.	0.7 mile 20 minutes	easy mostly level
<i>Rampart Ridge Trail Follow Trail of Shadows to trail junction</i>	This steep loop trail passes through forests and offers ridge-top vistas.	4.6 miles 2.5 hours	moderate 1,420 feet
OHANAPECOSH			
<i>Life Systems Trail Ohanapecosh Campground, behind visitor center</i>	Discover the ecology of hot springs and the surrounding forest on this loop trail.	0.5 mile 30 minutes	easy mostly level
<i>Grove of the Patriarchs Trail Just west of Stevens Canyon Entrance</i>	Experience the Ohanapecosh River and walk among 1,000-year-old trees on this loop trail. <i>Closed until further notice.</i>	1.3 miles 1 hour	easy mostly level
PARADISE			
<i>Nisqually Vista Trail West end of lower parking lot at Paradise</i>	Walk through high-country meadows on this loop trail for wonderful views of Mount Rainier and the Nisqually Glacier.	1.2 miles 45 minutes	easy 200 feet
<i>Bench and Snow Lakes Stevens Canyon Road, 1.5 miles east of Reflection Lakes</i>	In summer, this trail of gradual ups and downs is an excellent place to see bear-grass and meadow flowers.	2.5 miles 2 hours	moderate 700 feet
<i>Pinnacle Peak Trail South side of Stevens Canyon Road near Reflection Lakes</i>	This steep trail is a great place to see pikas and marmots and provides dramatic views of Mount Rainier and Paradise.	2.5 miles 3 hours	strenuous 1,150 feet
<i>Skyline Loop North side of upper parking lot at Paradise</i>	Head up the west side of Alta Vista Ridge for spectacular views of Nisqually Glacier and Mounts Adams and Saint Helens.	5.5 miles 4.5 hours	strenuous 1,700 feet
SUNRISE			
<i>Silver Forest Trail South side of Sunrise parking area</i>	Find stunning views of the Emmons Vista Overlooks and explore an old burn area.	2.0 miles 1 hour	easy 150 feet
<i>Burroughs Mountain Trail South side of the Sunrise parking area</i>	This loop trail offers some of the most accessible tundra in the Cascades. Watch for pika and marmots!	4.7 miles 2.5 hours	strenuous 900 feet

Mount Rainier Camping

There are almost 500 campsites where you can spend a night in Mount Rainier's lowland forests. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh Rock campgrounds are available by reservation only for stays between late May to Labor Day and can be made at [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). They are accepted up to six months in advance.

A \$20 fee is charged per night per individual campsite in designated automobile campgrounds. Most campgrounds have running water, flush or pit toilets and a table and fireplace at each site. Cougar Rock and Ohanapecosh campgrounds have accessible campsites. Group sites at these locations require advance reservations between Memorial Day weekend and mid-October. Some campground reservations or permits may be used to replace the timed-entry reservations for Sunrise and Paradise Corridors. Visit [nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm](https://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm) for more information. *Note: Ohanapecosh Campground will be closed until summer 2026 for construction and Cougar Rock will be closed August 4-7 and August 11-14, 2025 for a road paving project.*

CAMPGROUNDS

Campground	Elevation	Individual Site Fee	Season	Water	Toilets	Fire Grates	Max RV Length
Cougar Rock ^{1,3} 179 sites/ 5 group sites	3,180 ft.	\$20	Late May to late Sept. <i>Closed August 4-7; Aug. 11-14, 2025</i>	•	Flush	•	RV: 35 ft. Trailer: 27 ft.
Ohanapecosh ^{1,3} 179 sites/ 2 group sites	1,914 ft.	\$20	Late May to late Sept.	•	Flush	•	RV: 32 ft. Trailer: 27 ft.
White River ² 88 sites	4,400 ft.	\$20	Late June to late Sept.	•	Flush	•	RV: 27 ft. Trailer: 18 ft.
Ipsut Creek	The road to campground is closed to vehicles, but is accessible on foot or bike. A wilderness camping permit is required for overnight stay. No fires or pets. No fee.						

¹Reservations recommended; ²Sites available on a first come, first-served basis; ³Dump station.

Camping opportunities are also available in the national forests near Mount Rainier National Park. Campgrounds are located in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Gifford Pinchot and Wenatchee National Forests. For more information about camping in and around Mount Rainier National Park, visit [nps.gov/mora](https://www.nps.gov/mora).

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING PERMITS

Hikers planning to camp in the backcountry must obtain a **backcountry camping permit**. It is recommended that you make a reservation to secure a permit, which reserves you a specific wilderness camping site for the night of your choice. Free first-come, first-served permits (i.e. walk-up permits) can be issued up to one day prior to your trip start date, or on the start date. Permits must be obtained in person. In summer, they are available at the Longmire, White River and Paradise Wilderness Information Centers and the Carbon River Ranger Station. In winter, go to the Longmire Museum or Jackson Visitor Center. For more information, please call (360) 569-6650 or visit [nps.gov/mora](https://www.nps.gov/mora).

Olympic Plan Your Visit



Olympic National Park is located in North-western Washington, west of the Seattle area on the Olympic Peninsula. Roads provide access to the outer edges of the park, but the heart of Olympic is wilderness—a primeval sanctuary for humans and wild creatures alike.

GETTING TO OLYMPIC

Car: From Seattle (111 miles away) and Tacoma (81 miles away), access the Olympic Peninsula by highway and ferry service across Puget Sound. Main access to Olympic National Park is via U.S. 101, which runs parallel to three sides of the park. There are several entrances to the park; most are open year-round. Hurricane Ridge has limited access and is weather-dependent in the winter. Sol Duc and Staircase access is weather-dependent during winter. Some areas are closed in winter. *Dosewallips is open year-round and offers both saltwater and freshwater activities, though it is closed to vehicles indefinitely.* For updates, call the Olympic National Park Road Hotline (360) 565-3131.

Park areas along the west side: Going from south to north, **Quinalt, Kalaloch, Hoh, Mora, Ozette**. Other coastal areas are accessible from U.S. 101. A spur road leads to Mora's **Rialto Beach**, another goes inland to the **Hoh Rain Forest** and the **Kalaloch beaches** are along U.S. 101.

Park areas along the south side: Spur roads lead into the **Queets** and **Quinalt** valleys and to **Lake Quinalt**.

Park areas along the north side: Take U.S. 101 to **Port Angeles (Park Headquarters), Hurricane Ridge, Elwha, Lake Crescent** and **Sol Duc**. *Note: Olympic*

Hot Springs Road and Whiskey Bend Road at Elwha are closed indefinitely due to a washout. They are open to hikers, cyclists and stock users only. The Elwha area is closed to vehicle traffic beyond the Madison Falls parking lot. Road conditions are subject to change, be sure to visit [nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/current-road-conditions.htm](https://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/current-road-conditions.htm) or call (360) 565-3131.

Park areas along the east side: A spur road from U.S. 101 leads to **Staircase**.

Air: The closest major airport is Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (103 miles away).

Bus: The Dungeness Line, operated by Olympic Bus Lines, provides service between Port Angeles and Seattle. Please call (360) 417-0700 or go to [dungeness-line.com](https://www.dungeness-line.com). Clallam Transit System operates several routes in and around Clallam County that service multiple park destinations.

For more information call (360) 452-4511 or visit [clallamtransit.com](https://www.clallamtransit.com).

Train: Amtrak offers rail service to Seattle, Tacoma, Lacey and Centralia on its north-



south route and Seattle on its east-west route, but service is not available to the Olympic Peninsula.

Ferry: Washington State Ferries has year-round service across Puget Sound and between Port Townsend and Whidbey Island, Edmonds, Kingston, Seattle, and Bainbridge Island, among others. Call **(888) 808-7977** or visit wsdot.wa.gov/travel/washington-state-ferries. Black Ball Transport offers near year-round ferry service between Port Angeles and Victoria, British Columbia. Call **(360) 457-4491** or visit cohoferry.com.

ENTRANCE FEES

Entrance to the park is \$30 per vehicle, \$15 per pedestrian or cyclist, and \$25 per motorcycle. The entrance fee is valid for seven consecutive days and good anywhere in the park. Park visitors can purchase entrance passes in advance on recreation.gov. Online passes must be printed prior to arrival at the park. While in the park, passes must be displayed on the vehicle dashboard. Fees are subject to change. An **Olympic National Park**

 IMPORTANT NUMBERS	
Park Information	(360) 565-3130
Emergencies	911
Wilderness Information	(360) 565-3100
Campground Reservations	(877) 444-6777 recreation.gov
Road & Weather Information	(360) 565-3131
TTY	(800) 877-8339
Lodging & Tours with Aramark Parks & Destinations	(888) 896-3818 olympicnationalparks.com

Annual Pass is \$55 and valid for one year from the month of purchase. Information on the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands pass can be found on page 7 of this guide.

WEATHER

Summer is the warmest and driest time of the year with temperatures typically in the low 70s. Spring and fall are cool and wet, while the greatest rainfall is in December and January, when day-time temperatures average in the 40s. Weather is cold and severe in the mountains, with snow possible year-round at high elevations.

PARK NEWSPAPER

The park newspaper, **The Bugler**, is a great source of information on NPS programs and activities. There is a summer and winter edition. It is available throughout the park and online at nps.gov/olym.

VISITOR CENTERS & RANGER STATIONS

Olympic National Park Visitor Center: Exhibits feature Olympic's natural and cultural history, a Discovery Room for kids and an orientation film. Hours vary according to season. For more information, call **(360) 565-3130**.

Port Angeles Wilderness Information Center: Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Provides access to maps, weather information, and trail reports. Wilderness camping permits and bear canisters available. Call **(360) 565-3100**.

Hoh Visitor Center: Exhibits and information on the Hoh Rain Forest's plants, wildlife and ecology are available. Open daily in the summer; open from Friday to Sunday in the fall. For more information, call **(360) 565-3000**.

Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center: Closed indefinitely after a recent fire, and has been replaced by a visitor contact station.

Kalaloch Ranger Station is open seasonally with daily hours in the summer. It offers information and exhibits on coastal plants and animals. For more information, call **(360) 962-2283**.

Mora, Ozette, Quinault, Staircase and Storm King Ranger Stations are open periodically during the summer.

SPECIAL SERVICES

The park strives to make facilities, services, and programs accessible to all, such as the paved Madison Falls Trail in the Elwha Valley. For more information, call **(360) 565-3130** or visit nps.gov/olym.

VISITOR SERVICES

BANKS

ATMs, foreign currency exchange and other services are found in Sequim, Forks, Hoodsport and Port Angeles.

BOOKSTORES

Discover Your Northwest, a non-profit partner of the park, sells books, maps, posters, games and more at Olympic National Park Visitor Center, Hoh Visitor Center, Kalaloch Ranger Station and Quinault Rain Forest Ranger Station. Proceeds from sales fund education programs, exhibits, visitor brochures and special events in the park. For more information, visit discovernw.org.

CAMPING & PICNIC SUPPLIES

Fairholme Store, Kalaloch Lodge, Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort and Log Cabin Resort carry limited camping and picnic supplies and are open seasonally, excluding Kalaloch Lodge, which is open year-round

but is now a cashless property. Forks, Port Angeles and surrounding towns have grocery and other stores.

EMERGENCIES & MEDICAL INFORMATION

Call **911** for emergency medical or police assistance, or to report accidents or injuries. First-aid facilities are available at visitor centers and ranger stations. Find hospitals and dental services in Port Angeles on the park's northern border; Bremerton on Puget Sound between Seattle and the park's eastern border; Forks on the park's western border; and Aberdeen, 44 miles south of Lake Quinault.

GAS STATIONS

There are no gas stations inside the park. If your car breaks down, contact a ranger, or call the park at **(360) 565-3130**.

GIFT SHOPS

Gifts, handicrafts and souvenirs are sold seasonally at Lake Crescent Lodge, Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort, Log Cabin Resort and Fairholme Store. The gift shops at Kalaloch Lodge and at Lake Quinault Lodge are open year-round.

PETS & KENNELS

Facilities are located in Port Angeles and Sequim. In the park, pets must remain on a leash no longer than six feet and within designated areas. Learn more at nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/pets.htm.

POST OFFICES

Find post offices in Port Angeles, Forks, Hoodsport, Quinault and other towns.

RELIGIOUS SERVICE

A Christian Ministry in the National Parks offers interdenominational services during summer at various locations. Schedule information is available at park visitor centers.

Olympic Sights To See



The three key elements of Olympic National Park—its mountains, forest and coast—may be accessed by U.S. 101 with spur roads leading to most areas. For an orientation to the park, begin your visit at the **Olympic National Park Visitor Center** at 3002 Mount Angeles Road, Port Angeles.

MOUNTAINS

Take the spur road off of U.S. 101 leading to **Hurricane Ridge**. Leaving the coastal plain off the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the road enters the lowland forest at Olympic National Park Visitor Center and winds high up into the mountain ridges. The magnificent vistas of Hurricane Ridge showcase the glacier-covered peaks, subalpine tundra and steep river valleys of the **Olympic Mountains**. In summer, join ranger-led walks to view the wildflowers that carpet the **subalpine meadows**, spreading softly before a backdrop of rugged peaks and glaciers.

Obstruction Point Road is a steep 7.8-mile dirt road going east from Hurricane Ridge (open mid-summer to early fall).

FORESTS

Return to Port Angeles and continue west on U.S. 101. Soon you will see glacier-carved **Lake Crescent**, a deep, freshwater lake known for its Beardslee trout. Travel writer H.F. Dodge wrote of it in 1903, "As I turned for a last glimpse of the beautiful blue lake dissolving in the firs, I said to myself, 'This is surely hard to beat.' Gem indeed of the Olympics, and worth three times the stay." The 0.6-mile "Moments in Time" interpretive trail winds

along the tip of Barnes Point. Less than a mile from the lake is **Marymere Falls**, a ribbon of water cascading 90 feet to a pool below.

West of Lake Crescent, a spur road leads to **Sol Duc**. According to American Indian legend, the **Sol Duc Hot Springs** were formed when two dragons had a great fight that lasted many years. They knocked down all the timber from the tops of the mountains and scattered boulders through the valleys. The dragons' skins flew off and became the mosses and lichens hanging from the trees of the rain forest. When neither dragon could defeat the other, they both crept back to their caves. The hot tears they cried formed Sol Duc and Olympic Hot Springs. Trails here lead to **Salmon Cascades**, old-growth forests and **Sol Duc Falls**.

Access the **Hoh Rain Forest** and its visitor center by taking a spur road off coastal U.S. 101, south of Forks. Located on the moist, west side of the park, 30 miles from the coast, this temperate rain forest receives 140 to 170 inches of rainfall annually. Some of the world's largest trees grow here. Western red cedar and western hemlock can tower more than 170 feet tall, while some Douglas firs can reach 300 feet. Ferns arc like feathers from the forest floor. Mosses shroud the trees, covering the trunks in fuzzy green. The air is heavy with moisture and sounds are muffled. Bare earth is not visible beneath the countless plant species that compete for space and nutrients.

Explore a self-guiding trail or take a ranger-led nature walk. See the "Walking and Hiking" chapter for more details.



Quinalt Rain Forest is located in both the park and Olympic National Forest. Take the North or South Shore spur roads off U.S. 101. Glacier-carved **Lake Quinalt**—with its deep, clear waters and forest-ringed shore—is a popular fishing site. Get a fishing permit from the Quinalt Indian Reservation at local stores.

WHY SO MUCH RAIN?

When it comes to rain, the Olympic Peninsula has few equals; the western valleys of the Olympic Mountains average up to 170 inches of rain annually. Three factors produce the amazing amount of rain that falls on the peninsula—the cool ocean currents, prevailing westerly winds and the Olympic Mountains. While the top of Mount Olympus is deluged by up to 260 inches of precipitation each year, the town of Sequim may get less than 16 inches annually because it is located on the dry northeastern side of the Olympic mountain range.

A COASTAL WORLD

While the large, interior portion of the park is characterized by forests and moun-

tains, the coastal zone is a world apart. Eerie **sea stacks**—remnants of eroded coastal cliffs that loom out of the water—seem to guard the coastline. From Shi Shi Beach to Kalaloch, more than 73 miles of wild beaches off coastal U.S. 101 preserve a remnant of coastal habitat. Most beaches are accessible only by foot or by boat. In the pools and on the rocks of the tidal zone lives a diversity of marine life, including barnacles, sea stars and small crabs.

In summer, join a park ranger for a guided intertidal walk at **Mora** or **Kalaloch**. Paths lead to the ocean from several areas, including Ruby Beach and Beach 4 at Kalaloch. Information is available at the Mora and Kalaloch Ranger Stations in summer.

Ozette, located on a spur road off Highway 112 in the far northwestern corner of the park, offers boardwalk trails to hike (2.8 to 3.1 miles one way) to the beach where you can enjoy the wilderness coast.

Ozette Lake—the third largest lake in Washington—invites visitors to its jewel-like waters. Overnight hikes require wilderness permit reservations. You can also hike, fish and boat, or visit the **Makah Cultural and Research Center** in nearby Neah Bay.

Olympic Lodging & Dining



There are a number of different places to stay and dine in Olympic National Park. Kalaloch Lodge is managed by Delaware North Parks & Resorts. Lake Quinault Lodge, Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort, Log Cabin Resort and Lake Crescent Lodge are managed by Aramark Parks & Destinations.

Kalaloch Lodge is located along U.S. 101, 34 miles south of Forks, perched dramatically above the Pacific coast. All units feature private baths and upgraded furnishings, beds and linens and some have kitchenettes. There are phones near the lobby, a gift shop, a mercantile store and camping supplies. Pet friendly. The **Creekside Restaurant** offers spectacular ocean views, a full bar and local, sustainable cuisine. Please note that Kalaloch Lodge is now a cashless property. For more information, call (866) 662-9928 or visit thekalalochlodge.com. ☰☰☰☰☰

Lake Quinault Lodge is located on the south shore of Lake Quinault in Olympic National Forest. The lobby of this 1920s lodge features living room-style furniture and a fireplace. Find a gift shop, a game room, indoor pool, sauna and complimentary Wi-Fi. Rooms have private baths. There are also seasonal guided lake and rain forest tours and kayak, paddle board and canoe rentals. The **Roosevelt Dining Room**, named after FDR—who visited in 1937—overlooks the lake and specializes

in Pacific Northwest cuisine. Reservations are not required, but they are highly recommended for dinner and for groups of five or more guests. Please note that Lake Quinault Lodge is a cashless property. To make reservations please call the front desk (360)-288-2901. ☰☰☰☰☰

Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort, 41 miles west of Port Angeles in the Sol Duc River Valley, is open from late March to late October. There are 32 cabins, one riverside suite, 17 RV sites and 81 campsites. Gift shop, convenience store, outdoor swimming pool, three hot mineral springs pools and massage therapy. It operates this year from March 21 to November 2, 2025. The **Springs Restaurant** overlooks the hot springs and offers Northwest seafood, chicken, vegetarian fare and burgers. Grab lunch at the Poolside Deli. ☰☰☰☰☰

The Log Cabin Resort is located on the northeast side of Lake Crescent and offers guest rooms in the lodge, lakeside chalets and rustic cabins. This season it will be open from May 16 through September 29, 2025. The lodge has a restaurant, soda fountain, gift shop, general store and boat rentals. Camper cabins and full hook-up RV sites and campsites are also available. The **Sunnyside Cafe** overlooks the lake and offers a friendly, casual atmosphere and traditional Northwest cuisine. ☰☰☰☰☰

Lake Crescent Lodge, built in 1915, sits on the south shore of Lake Crescent and welcomes guests from late April through the end of December, with limited availability in winter. Options include contemporary guest rooms, cozy cottages and historic fireplace cabins. A light-filled sun porch invites guests to lounge, while walking trails and boat and paddle board rentals encourage exploration. The waterfront **Lake Crescent Dining Room** provides a creative take on Pacific Northwest fare in a casual atmosphere. The dining room is open seasonally and hours vary from summer to winter. Reservations are not required for breakfast or lunch; however, dinner reservations are recommended and can be made by calling the lodge at (360) 928-3211. ☰☰☰☰☰

For more information on **Lake Quinault Lodge**, **Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort**, **Log Cabin Resort** and **Lake Crescent Lodge**, call (888) 896-3818 or visit olympicnationalparks.com.



OUTSIDE THE PARK

Accommodations are available in many neighboring communities. For more information about the North Olympic Peninsula, including Port Angeles, Sequim, Port Townsend, Forks and Clallam Bay, visit olympicpeninsula.org. For the Hood Canal area, including Hoodsport, Lake Cushman, Skokomish, Belfair and Shelton, call the Shelton-Mason County Chamber of Commerce at (800) 576-2021 or (360) 426-2021, or visit sheltonchamber.org. For the Lake Quinault and Amanda Park area, visit rainforestresort.com.

KEY



Breakfast



Lunch



Dinner



Wheelchair Access



Open in Winter

RESERVATIONS

(888) 896-3818

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Olympic History & Culture

Tribal members have a strong presence on the Olympic Peninsula. In fact, Olympic National Park is adjacent to the reservations of several tribes. Check with the tribes or park staff to find out about scheduled cultural events and other visitor opportunities.

The **Lower Elwha Klallam, Hoh, Jamestown S’Klallam, Makah, Port Gamble S’Klallam, Quileute, Quinault** and **Skokomish** tribes have traditional and current ties to this land of abundant natural resources, and from it they built a rich culture.

The people of the Northwest Coast live in communal homes called longhouses and practice the potlatch, a social custom that involves elaborate feasting and the exchange of gifts to celebrate significant events. They fish and gather most of their food in spring and summer, enough to last the year. During the mild winters, women weave baskets and clothing from soft red cedar bark, while men carve dug-out canoes and ceremonial items from cedar and other trees.

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN EXPLORERS

In 1775, two Spanish ships made their way along the coast near Point Grenville and the Quinault River, claiming the land for Spain. The Spanish built the first European settlement (actually a stockade) at Neah Bay in 1792. However, their influence was short-lived because the settlement was abandoned after only five months.

In 1788, an English sea captain, **John Meares**, was so impressed by

Mount Olympus that he named it after the mythical home of the Greek gods. The name was made official four years later when Captain George Vancouver entered the name on his maps and referred to the whole range as the Olympic Mountains.

Through the latter part of the 1800s, pioneers moved into the peninsula to farm, fish and cut timber. Like American Indians, American settlers chose town sites along the coasts and rivers. Port Townsend became the first permanent American settlement on the peninsula in 1851. Today, **Port Angeles**—originally designated a federal land reserve in 1862—is the peninsula’s largest town, with a population of 19,500.

NATIONAL PARK STATUS

In 1885 and again in 1890, the U.S. Army led two trips through the region to scientifically survey and document the interior. President Theodore Roosevelt created Mount Olympus National Monument in 1909. It wasn’t until 1938 that President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill designating 634,000 acres as Olympic National Park. Most of the coastal wilderness was added to the park in 1953. The park is now nearly one million acres!

An **International Biosphere Reserve**, as well as a **World Heritage Site**, Olympic National Park is 95 percent wilderness. This 1988 protective federal designation forbids road building, mining, timber cutting, hunting, use of motorized vehicles and other types of use and development within the wilderness boundary.

Olympic Things To Do

From nature walks to snowshoeing, there is much to do in Olympic year-round.

SPRING, SUMMER & FALL

PARK PROGRAMS

The NPS offers free interpretive programs in the summer, as staffing and funding levels allow. These include ranger talks, guided walks and evening programs. Check the park newspaper and bulletin boards, or at visitor centers, for a complete listing of times and topics.

Lake Crescent Lodge and Lake Quinault Lodge both offer interpretive programs by the concessioners, including seasonal guided lake tours at Lake Quinault. For more information, call **(888) 896-3818** or visit **olympicnationalparks.com**.

BICYCLING

Bicycling is allowed on roads, but use caution—many roads are narrow and winding with limited visibility. Biking is prohibited in the backcountry and on trails, except on Spruce Railroad Trail along the north shore of Lake Crescent. Bike rentals are available in some gateway communities. Before your trip, call **(360) 565-3131** for road conditions.

BOATING & WATER SPORTS

With the ocean and so many lakes and rivers, the Olympic Peninsula is perfect for kayaking, canoeing, sailing, whitewater rafting, powerboating and waterskiing. Boat rentals are available at Lake Crescent

Lodge and Log Cabin Resort, and from Lake Quinault Lodge. Ramps are maintained at Lake Crescent and Ozette Lake. Exhilarating whitewater rafting trips are available in early summer on the Queets and Hoh Rivers; check nearby communities for outfitters. Note that because of the Elwha River Restoration Project boating is closed from the Smokey Hill Trail downstream to the former Altair Campground. Boaters are also strongly encouraged to avoid the area around the former Elwha dam, between U.S. 101 and State Highway 112, because of debris.

CAMPING

Reservations are accepted at Fairholme, Kalaloch, Mora and the Hoh Rain Forest campgrounds during the summer season. Note that some of Kalaloch’s campsites have been permanently closed due to bluff erosion. To reserve a site at one of these



campgrounds, visit [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) or call **(877) 444-6777**. There are four National Forest campgrounds at Lake Quinault, two of which are reservation only through [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Walk-in sites may be available on a daily basis through the front desk of Lake Quinault Lodge. All other campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

You must obtain a **wilderness permit** in advance to camp in the backcountry. No self-registration is currently allowed. Call **(360) 565-3100** for more information. Permits are available at [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov), through the **Wilderness Information Center (WIC)** in Port Angeles, and at some visitor centers and ranger stations. **Bear canisters** are recommended in the backcountry and required in some areas. Contact the WIC for more information. Refer to the "Camping" chapter for more camping information.

FISHING

Fishing licenses are not necessary in the park, except when fishing in the ocean from shore, where a Personal Use Food Fish license is required. Washington State fishing regulations are enforced. Get a copy of park fishing regulations at the Olympic National Park Visitor Center, ranger stations or the park website: [nps.gov/olym](https://www.nps.gov/olym). Washington State catch record cards for salmon and steelhead trout are required. You can obtain cards from sports stores and tackle shops in local communities and along U.S. 101. Anglers must punch the card and fill out additional information immediately after catching a salmon or steelhead trout. Fishing for trout is only allowed at Lake Quinault with a tribal permit during the summer. Tribal permits may be obtained at the Amanda Park Mercantile

or at the Quinault General Store. Note: *Elwha River is closed to recreational and commercial fishing to protect populations above former dam sites, though visitors can still sport fish in mountain lakes in the Elwha basin. The Queets, Salmon and Quinault Rivers will be reopened for sport fishing on June 1, 2025. Visit [nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/fishing.htm](https://www.nps.gov/olym/planyourvisit/fishing.htm) for more information.*

WINTER

At lower elevations, snow seldom accumulates more than a few inches and usually does not remain on the ground for more than a few days. Head up the slopes where you'll find true winter. Call **(360) 565-3131** for recorded **Hurricane Ridge** road and weather conditions. Guard against hypothermia by dressing in several layers and being prepared for harsh conditions.

WINTER SPORTS

Hurricane Ridge is the center for winter activities in the park. Hiking trails become **cross-country skiing** and **snowshoe trails**. There are several trail options at Hurricane Ridge. Picnic tables offer a great view. You can also **downhill ski** at Hurricane Ridge. The slopes are open weekends and holidays from mid-December through late March, weather permitting. Please note that the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center, which used to rent our winter gear, is indefinitely closed due to a recent fire. For more information on winter activities offered at Olympic please call **(360) 565-3130**.



For answers to all your questions, go to **OhRanger.com**

Olympic Walking & Hiking



The diversity of hiking trails at Olympic allows you to explore the beaches of the wild coastline, immerse yourself in the cathedral valleys of the Olympic Wilderness, or lift yourself up onto the

craggy peaks of the Olympic Mountains. For more information about Olympic National Park trails, call **(360) 565-3100**. For Olympic National Forest trails, call **(360) 956-2402**.



WALKING & HIKING TRAILS

Trail Trailhead	Description	Round-Trip Distance Time	Difficulty Elevation Gain
<i>Meadow Loop Trails Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center Note that this trail may be unavailable due to the closure of the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center.</i>	Travels through subalpine environment full of wildflowers in the summer. Watch for deer and listen for the call of ravens.	0.25-0.5 miles 30 minutes	easy level
<i>Hurricane Hill End of Hurricane Ridge Road</i>	Travels to the top of the hill for beautiful vistas. Wildflowers are numerous in the summer. Watch for Olympic marmots.	3.2 miles 2 hours	moderate 700 feet
<i>Moments in Time Nature Trail Between Lake Crescent Lodge and NatureBridge</i>	Offers views of Lake Crescent, an old-growth forest and former homesteads.	0.6 mile 30 minutes	easy level
<i>Marymere Falls Storm King Ranger Station</i>	Spectacular views of 90-foot Marymere Falls.	1.8 miles 1.5 hours	moderate 400 feet
<i>Staircase Rapids Across the bridge from Staircase Ranger Station</i>	Trail winds through forest with moss-covered trees along Skokomish River.	2.0 mile 1 hour	easy 200 feet
<i>Hall of Mosses Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center</i>	This famous loop trail is located in the Hoh Rain Forest. Mosses blanket the branches of many different kinds of trees.	0.8 miles 1 hour	easy 100 feet
<i>Spruce Nature Trail Hoh Rain Forest Visitor Center</i>	This trail exemplifies the rain forest with dense lush vegetation. Elk and deer are often seen in the area.	1.2 miles 1.5 hours	easy level
<i>Ruby Beach Near Kalaloch Lodge</i>	One of the region's most photogenic coastlines, the beach is named for tiny red garnets found with patches of fine sand.	0.2 mile 30 minutes	easy level
<i>Ozette Lake - Cape Alava - Sandpoint Trail Ozette Ranger Station</i>	Part of the trail follows a wooden walkway through lush, coastal forest to Cape Alava, then follows the beach to Sandpoint.	9 miles 5 hours	moderate minimal

Olympic Camping



Whether deep in the rain forest, on a lakeshore or on a cliff above the ocean, camping in Olympic National Park is unparalleled. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, except at Fairholme, Hoh, Kalaloch, Mora and Staircase where reservations are required from May 16 to September 15. Sol Duc also requires reservations from March 21 to November 2. They can be made at [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) or by calling **(877) 444-6777**.

Camping is also available by reservation at the Log Cabin Resort and the Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort. Most camp-

grounds have drinking water and flush or vault toilets, and are equipped with a picnic table and fire grate. Campgrounds in the Sol Duc Valley at the Log Cabin Resort have hook-ups and can accommodate RVs up to 35 feet. Some campgrounds are closed in the winter. If park campgrounds are full, others may be available in Olympic National Forest. Call any United States Forest Service (USFS) ranger station for more information at **(360) 956-2402**. For backcountry camping in the park, contact **(360) 565-3100**. See the "Things to Do" chapter for more camping and reservation information.



CAMPGROUNDS

	# of Sites	RVs*	FEE/NIGHT
Deer Park	14	no	\$15
Fairholme	88	yes	\$24
Graves Creek	30	no	\$20
Heart O' the Hills	97	yes	\$24
Hoh	78	yes	\$24
Kalaloch	170	yes	\$24
Lake Quinalt	55	yes	\$25
Log Cabin Resort	38	yes	\$25-\$44 plus tax
Mora	94	yes	\$24
North Fork	9	no	\$20
Ozette	15	yes	\$20
Queets	20	no	\$15
Sol Duc Hot Springs Campground	82	yes	\$33 plus tax
Sol Duc Hot Springs RV Park	17	yes	\$58 plus tax
South Beach	55	yes	\$20
Staircase	49	yes	\$24

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- **Coverage for theft and vandalism:** Could help with repairs or replace your trailer with less out-of-pocket expenses if it's lost or stolen.
- **Natural disasters and weather events:** May cover the cost of damage from storms, floods, or other natural disasters.

Is your travel trailer covered under your home or auto insurance?

While your home or auto policy can protect your trailer in certain instances, it can also leave you with gaps in your coverage.

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North Cascades Plan Your Visit



It is difficult to describe the majesty of North Cascades National Park Service Complex. Words like magnificent, vast and rugged only hint at the awesome nature of this portion of the expansive Cascade Range. Nestled along the Canadian Border in Washington State, the complex is a conglomeration of one national park and two national recreation areas. Together, these three—**North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area** and **Lake Chelan National Recreation Area**—form the core of one of the largest and wildest wilderness areas in the contiguous United States.

In addition to its stunning natural splendor, the park complex offers many recreational opportunities within its more than 684,000 acres, including ranger programs, nearly 400 miles of hiking trails, turquoise lakes for boating, world-class mountains, cross-country ski trails, hundreds of backcountry campsites and rivers teeming with fish for anglers. Visit nps.gov/noca for more information.

OPERATING HOURS & SEASONS

The park complex is always open, but access is limited by heavy snow in the winter. Be aware that the North Cascades Highway (State Route 20), the major access road through Ross Lake National Recreation Area, is typically closed between milepost 130 and 171 from mid-November to mid-April. The exact opening and closing of the highway depends on snow and avalanche conditions. Reopening is usually accomplished by early May. Please be advised on the following additional road closures: Cascade River Road and Silver/Skagit Road. Cascade River Road is anticipated to reopen in July. Visit nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/road-conditions.htm to stay up to date on road closures.

ENTRANCE FEES

There are no entrance fees for the North Cascades National Park Service Complex itself, though there are fees for some camp-



grounds (up to \$24 a night). A dock fee pass (\$10 per day or \$75 per year) is required on Lake Chelan from May 1 through October 31. Backcountry permits are required but have limited availability; during the summer season, they cost \$10 for visitors 16 and older (visitors 15 and under are free) plus a nonrefundable \$6 reservation fee. There will be no charge for backcountry permits from early October through mid-May. For more information visit nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/backcountry-reservations.htm

INFORMATION CENTERS

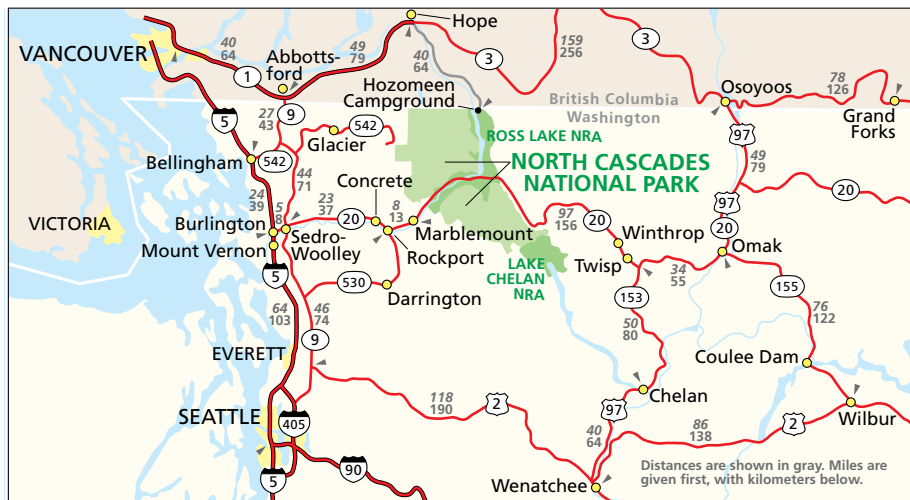
The **Park & Forest Information Center**, located on the North Cascades Highway (State Route 20) in Sedro-Woolley, is open year-round. Hours may vary based on staffing. The station is operated jointly with the Mount Baker Ranger District of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and features a relief map of the region's parks and forests, an information desk, book sales, maps and other items. For more information, please call **(360) 856-5700**.

The **North Cascades National Park Visitor Center**, located near Newhalem—milepost 120 of State Route 20—is open from mid-May to late September. Hours may vary. The center features a variety of programs and exhibits, including ranger talks, theater programs, a Junior Ranger Program and natural history exhibits. Several short, acces-

sible interpretive trails, a campground, group campsites, restrooms and a picnic area are nearby. Note that Newhalem Crag East and West (Ryan's Wall) are closed this season until July 15 to protect peregrine falcon nesting aeries. Please call **(206) 386-4495 ext. 11** for more information.

The **Wilderness Information Center** is approximately one mile down Ranger Station Road, which leaves the North Cascades Highway (State Route 20) at milepost 105.3 in Marblemount. The center is open daily from late May through early October. Hours may vary by season; call for more details. The center features exhibits on wilderness and backcountry travel, book sales, maps and other items. This center is the main backcountry permit office for North Cascades National Park and the adjacent Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas. For information, call **(360) 854-7245**.

The **Golden West Visitor Center**, located near the north end of 50-mile-long Lake Chelan, is only accessible via passenger ferry, trail or floatplane. The center, which is a short walk from the Stehekin ferry landing, is open daily from late May to early October from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It features a gallery with works by local artists, an audiovisual program, ranger talks, exhibits on the natural and cultural history of the area, an information desk, book sales, maps, seasonal children's programs and evening programs. For information, call **(509) 699-2080 ext. 14**.



More Washington Parks

EBEY'S LANDING NATIONAL HISTORICAL RESERVE

Located on picturesque Whidbey Island, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve provides a vivid historical record of Pacific Northwest history, including the exploration of Puget Sound by Captain George Vancouver in 1792; early settlement by Colonel Isaac Ebey, an important figure in Washington Territory; growth and settlement resulting from the Oregon Trail and the Westward migration; the Donation Land Laws (1850-1855); and the continued growth and settlement of the town of Coupeville, one of the oldest towns in Washington State.

The historical landscape of the reserve appears much as it did a century ago.

Enjoy a self-guided driving or bicycle tour, and visit roadside exhibits on the early history of the Pacific Northwest. A self-guided walking tour of the Town of Coupeville is also an option. Choose from various hikes and explore beaches, bluffs, woodlands and prairies. Visit the Admiralty Head Lighthouse at Fort Casey Historical State Park, or see several of the reserve's historic blockhouses dating back to the 1850s. The reserve does not close,



but visitor recreation opportunities vary by season. For more information, visit nps.gov/ebia or call (360) 678-6084.

FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



The London-based Hudson's Bay Company established an extensive fur-trading network throughout the Pacific Northwest, utilizing two dozen posts, six ships and about 600 employees during peak seasons. Fort Vancouver was the administrative center and principal supply depot of this "Columbia Department," controlling 700,000 square miles stretching from Russian Alaska to Mexican California, and from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. The fort became a center of activity and influence, supported by a multicultural village with inhabitants from over 35 different ethnic and tribal groups. The first hospital, school, library, gristmill, saw mill, shipbuilding and orchard in the region were all centered at Fort Vancouver.

The park's living history programs, demonstrations, exhibits and archaeology digs help bring to life the people and stories of the British Hudson's Bay Company's headquarters and main supply depot, as well as the Oregon Trail and the U.S. Army's subsequent post. Visit and explore the premiere historical archaeology site in the Pacific Northwest!

The park is open Tuesday through Saturday year-round except major holidays. Operating hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in summer and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in winter. Note: The McLoughlin House Unit is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (360) 816-6200 or (360) 816-6230, or visit nps.gov/fova.

A collage of four images: a waterfall cascading down a rocky cliff, a cowboy on a horse performing a trick, a bison in a field, and a historic wooden building with a sign that reads "BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST".

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KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

"Gold! Gold! Gold! Gold!" read the headline of **The Seattle Post-Intelligencer** on July 17, 1897. Two tons of gold had just arrived from the Yukon Territory in Canada on the steamship **Portland**; its 68 passengers were virtual millionaires who had been mining for less than a year. About 100,000 people, from all walks of life, were energized by this news to seek their fortunes in the Yukon.

Motivated by four years of economic depression, most stampeder saw the Klondike gold fields as an attractive alternative to continued poverty and unemployment. To reach the gold fields, stampeder would travel 1,000 miles by ship, walk over 1,000 miles through frozen mountain passes, and voyage 550 miles down the Yukon River. A few of the stampeder would become extremely wealthy; all would experience the adventure of a lifetime. Come in for a visit and ask yourself, "Would I have gone on the gold rush?"

Established in 1976, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is now one part of five units of Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park. Klondike Gold Rush has a sister park in Skagway, Alaska and Parks Canada has three sites (Bennett, British Columbia; Whitehorse, Yukon Territory; Dawson City, Yukon Territory). In January 2006, the park relocated to a new home within the Pioneer Square Historic District—the Cadillac Hotel (circa 1889). Damaged by an earthquake in 2001, the Cadillac Hotel has been renovated and retrofitted to "better-than-new" condition.

The visitor center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Films are available on a regular schedule during the summer and upon request during the winter. From late May through September, the park provides a summer program, which includes ranger-guided walks through the Pioneer Square Historic District, ranger talks and gold-mining demonstrations. For more information, contact the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park: 319 Second Avenue South, Seattle, WA, 98104; **(206) 220-4240**; nps.gov/klse.

LAKE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The Columbia River has drawn people to its waters for more than 9,000 years. Today, the park's most popular activities include fishing, camping, hunting and boating. Visitors also enjoy swimming, picnicking and exploring historic sites.

The area once served as fishing grounds for American Indians. In 1880, the U.S. Army established a fort above the confluence of the Spokane and Columbia Rivers. In 1898, the fort was closed and the buildings were converted to an American Indian boarding school and tuberculosis hospital. The American Indian experience at Fort Spokane is representative of American Indian experiences across the country.

For the 2024 season, the Fort Spokane Visitor Center will be open Thursday through Monday 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be contacted at **(509) 754-7800**.

Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area is located in the northeast corner of Washington and stretches north from the Grand Coulee Dam for 150 miles. For more information, call **(509) 754-7800** or visit nps.gov/laro.

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

The Lewis & Clark Corps of Northwest Discovery's expedition across western America helped to shape the nation that we are today. The park preserves sites that mark the success of key parts of their mission, including successfully arriving at the Pacific, making ready for the return trip home, maintaining friendly relations with the homeland tribes and preparing maps and revising journals that would record their discoveries.

Walk where Lewis and Clark and the rest of the Corps of Discovery walked as you explore sites that embody the stories of hardship and danger, of surprising collaboration and adaptations, and of exploration and discovery.

The primary visitor center at Fort Clatsop offers ranger-led programs, exhibits, films, a museum store, trails, and picnic facilities. The park is open daily from

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the winter and until 6 p.m. from late May to Labor Day. For more information, visit nps.gov/lewi or call **(503) 861-2471**.

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Nez Perce National Historical Park consists of 38 sites throughout Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The park stretches across much of the traditional homeland of the Nez Perce people—who call themselves the *nimí-pu*—and brings together many aspects of their history.

The park commemorates places where the U.S. Army encountered groups of Nez Perce during the summer of 1877. Each event started with a surprise assault on Nez Perce families and resulted in many deaths on both sides. The national park recognizes the historical significance, inspiring landscape and spiritual importance of the sites.





Park sites located in Washington include the burial site of Chief Joseph the Younger and the Nez Perce campsites at Nespelem. Chief Joseph died in 1904 and was buried in a sacred cemetery alongside many people who perished during the 1877 conflict. After his death, the Nez Perce continued their traditional way of life at the campsites at Nespelem. This site recognizes the last place where Joseph lived; it is not a developed park site.

The park headquarters and main visitor center are located just across the border in Spalding, Idaho. The main visitor center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily during the summer. During the winter (October through April) the park is open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information, call **(208) 843-7009** or visit nps.gov/nepe.

SAN JUAN ISLAND NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

This park was created based on the idea that individuals and nations can solve their problems peacefully without resorting to violence. It was here in 1859 that the United States and Great Britain nearly went to war over a pig shot by an American farmer. Actually, it was a bit more complicated than that. Pressures had been building between the two nations over possession of the San Juan Island group since 1846 when the Treaty of Oregon left ownership unclear. Thus came the "Pig War" crisis, at the height of which more than 500 U.S. Army soldiers and three British warships were nose to nose on the island's southern shore, not 10 miles from Victoria, B.C. Fortunately, officials on both sides quickly restored calm, and the nations agreed to a joint military oc-

cupation of the island until the boundary could be decided. The American soldiers and British Royal Marines remained for 12 years until Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany, as arbitrator, awarded the islands to the United States.

Today the park is an ideal place to hike, picnic, play on the beach, watch wildlife and enjoy a wealth of programming, including the summer living history events.

The grounds and outdoor exhibit areas are open 24 hours a day, daily. The English Camp Visitor Center is generally open from May–September, and the American Camp Visitor Center from March–November. Visitor center hours vary. For more information please call **(360) 378-2240** or visit nps.gov/sajh.

WHITMAN MISSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The Whitman Mission National Historic Site recognizes the significance of Dr. Marcus and Mrs. Narcissa Whitman's mission—an important outpost on the Oregon Trail—and addresses the historic events surrounding their deaths. The native Cayuse people considered Dr. Whitman a medicine man, but the drugs he used during an 1847 measles epidemic did not work. Suspicions about the doctor's care and rising tensions from the influx of white settlers prompted the Cayuse to kill the Whitmans and 11 others, initiating the Cayuse War.

The park is located on Whitman Mission Road in Walla Walla. The visitor center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the winter and daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the summer. It is closed during federal holidays. Call for more information **(509) 522-6360** or visit nps.gov/whmi.

The park ecosystems in Washington State are vast and varied, ranging from the temperate rainforests of Olympic to the glaciers and snowfields of Mount Rainier to the lakes and streams of North Cascades.

OLYMPIC

From tiny unique flowers on icy peaks to sea stars patrolling foaming tidepools, myriad species find refuge in the sanctuary of Olympic National Park. With 95 percent of the park a congressionally designated wilderness, Olympic is host to subalpine meadows, rocky alpine slopes and glacier-capped summits. The park also protects one of the largest remaining blocks of old-growth forest and temperate rain forest in the lower 48 states. Its sandy beaches and rocky offshore islands harbor a wealth of marine plants and wildlife.

You can find nine kinds of endemic plants and 20 kinds of endemic animals at the Olympic Peninsula. These species—including the **Olympic chipmunk**, **Flett's violet** and the **Olympic torrent salamander**—developed during the last ice age when glaciers isolated the region. As advancing ice covered surrounding areas, the mountaintops became a refuge for plants and animals, which survived and evolved into unique species or subspecies. For a chance to spot the endemic **Piper's bellflower** growing out of cracks in the rocky ledges, or hear the whistle of an **Olympic marmot** in the distance, visit Hurricane Ridge or Deer Park.

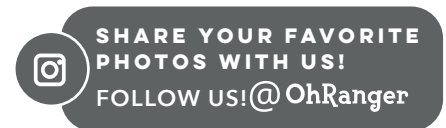
MOUNT RAINIER

Mount Rainier is a volcano born of fire and built up above the surrounding

country by repeated eruptions. It is part of a complex ecosystem, with diverse vegetation that reflects the varied climatic and environmental conditions across the park's 12,800-foot elevation gradient. The higher elevation zones feature subalpine meadows, while the lowland forests are home to **hemlock**, **Douglas fir** and **western red cedar**. Mid-elevation forests extend upward from 4,000 to 6,000 feet elevation and contain **Pacific silver fir**, **Alaska yellow cedar**, **western white pine** and **noble fir**. Approximately 58 percent of the park is forested, 23 percent is subalpine parkland, and the remainder is alpine, half of which is permanent snow and ice.

NORTH CASCADES

Steep mountains coupled with an amazing variety of rock and water features contribute to the tremendous biodiversity of North Cascades National Park Service Complex. The park gets its name from its abundance of waterfalls, and thousands of miles of rivers and streams originate from the park's glaciers, lakes and ponds. Variation in elevation, soil types, rainfall, and exposure combine to form eight distinctive life zones from the lowland forests and wetlands to the alpine peaks and glaciers. To walk among the ancient **hemlocks** and **Douglas firs** in the park's renowned old-growth forests, check out Big Beaver, Thunder Creek, and River Loop Trails.





BALD EAGLE MR O NC

The national bird of the United States, the bald eagle lives in coastal woodlands and along waterways. It eats salmon carcasses and fish, grabbed from the water with its talons. Bald eagles mate for life and can live up to 30 years in the wild. After Alaska, Washington State is home to the largest population of bald eagles in the United States. • **Weight** 10–20 pounds • **Size** 2–4 feet tall; 6–8 feet wingspan • **Active** Year-round

BLACK BEAR MR O NC

It is unlikely that you'll encounter a black bear, one of two large predators in the parks (the other is the mountain lion). Black bears are active from spring through fall, moving around the woods and mountains eating berries, fish, or whatever food they can find. By fall, black bears claim a den beneath a rock or fallen tree to sleep for the winter. • **Weight** 200–470 pounds • **Size** 5–6 feet long • **Active** Spring, summer and fall



MARMOT MR O NC

The Olympic marmot (*Marmota olympus*) and the hoary marmot (*Marmota caligata*) live in subalpine meadows and alpine tundra. They whistle a high-pitched alarm call when disturbed. Every morning, these sociable creatures visit each other's burrows. During hibernation, a marmot's heart-beat slows from 130–140 beats per minute to four per minute. • **Weight** 6–20 pounds • **Size** 15–30 inches long • **Active** May through September

OCHRE SEA STAR O

Among the best known of all marine invertebrates, ochre sea stars are characterized by their five-armed shape. Their hues range from orange to brown to purple and they usually grow to be 10 to 12 inches across. Ochre sea stars are ravenous hunters, feeding on mussels, snails, and other slow-moving creatures. They are commonly found on rocks and in tidepools. • **Weight** 1–2 pounds • **Size** 8–10 inches long • **Active** Year-round



ROOSEVELT ELK MR O

A larger subspecies of the North American elk, the Roosevelt elk lives in the Pacific Northwest where it browses among the lowland rain forests and open meadows of the upper zones. Protection of the elk was a primary reason for the creation of Olympic National Park. Descendants of the introduced Rocky Mountain elk (*Cervus elaphus melsoni*) live in Mount Rainier National Park. • **Weight** 400–1,000 pounds • **Size** 4–5 feet tall at shoulders • **Active** Year-round

STELLER'S JAY MR O NC

Steller's jay is recognizable by its crest and vibrant blue and black color. Its distinct cry sounds like "SHAACK! SHAACK!" but it can also mimic other bird calls, including those of hawks and warblers. The Steller's jay has the most extensive range of any North American jay; it can be found from Alaska to central California and as far east as the Rocky Mountains. • **Weight** 4–5 ounces • **Size** 13 inches from tip to tail • **Active** Year-round

MOUNT RAINIER

Become a Junior Ranger. Get a Junior Ranger booklet for free at any visitor center or ranger station. Complete the activities to earn a Junior Ranger badge, or attend a Junior Ranger program in the summer.

Go on a Citizen Ranger Quest. Ask at a park visitor center for one or more Quest worksheets, which explore topics like the history, science and stewardship of the park. Complete one and earn a Citizen Ranger certificate; complete four and earn a Citizen Ranger patch.

Go for a walk in the woods. Walk the Trail of the Shadows at Longmire. This and other short nature trails have self-guiding booklets or interpretive trail exhibits.

Enjoy a campfire. Join a park naturalist for a guided walk and campfire program.

Visit a nature center. Check out the visitor centers at Paradise, Sunrise, Longmire and Ohanapecosh.

Go on a photo safari. Take pictures of special flowers, glaciers, big trees and other park features. At home, use the photos to make a vacation scrapbook.

OLYMPIC

Become a Junior Ranger. Learn about the park's plants and animals by picking up a Junior Ranger booklet at any visitor center or ranger station. Complete the activities to earn your Junior Ranger badge. **Get your hands on a Discovery Pack.** Imagine exploring the park with nature guides, maps, a journal and binoculars! Borrow a Discovery Pack at several visitor centers in the park.

Discovery Room. In this wonderful room of interactive exhibits, you can touch

a whale vertebra, solve a giant puzzle or visit a mini ranger station. Fun for children of all ages!

Walk with a Park Ranger. Get the real scoop on nature during a guided walk. On a forest walk, see if you can find a banana slug, a salamander or maybe even a Roosevelt elk! On a tidepool walk, look for sea stars or witness an octopus turn colors.

Take a hike. Many short, fun nature trails have self-guiding booklets. Hike the 0.8-mile Hall of Mosses Trail in the Hoh Rain Forest or the 0.4-mile Living Forest Trail behind the park visitor center.

NORTH CASCADES

Become a Junior Ranger. Pick up a Junior Ranger booklet and complete the activities inside to earn your badge and certificate. Park Headquarters are in Sedro-Woolley; the Wilderness Information Center is in Marblemount; the North Cascades Visitor Center is near Ne-whalem; the Glacier Public Service Center, Hozomeen and the Golden West Visitor Center are in Stehekin.

Gather your family for a fun-filled educational experience, connecting with nature at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center on Diablo Lake.

Get out on the water by renting a canoe, kayak or motorboat.

Stay a weekend in the cozy lodges, and enjoy kid-friendly meals in the lakeside dining hall. For more information, call **(360) 854-2599** or visit **ncascades.org**.



For answers to all your questions, go to **OhRanger.com**

Preservation



Abundant rain and mild winters create the perfect environment for trees in the Pacific Northwest to grow large and old. Not long ago, ancient forests of **Douglas fir** and **red cedar** blanketed nearly all of the Pacific Northwest. Most of the old giants are gone from the Northwest, but in the wilds of our national parks you can visit groves that have never been cut and retain all the characteristics of an old-growth forest.

Old-growth forests are defined as having stands of trees more than 200 years old, but they may be much older. In Mount Rainier, Olympic and North Cascades National Parks, many trees are 500 to 1,000 years old! Diversity is another hallmark of Pacific Northwest old-growth forests, where hundreds of species of flora and fauna occupy the old-growth ecosystem.

After over 150 years of logging, about 15 percent of old-growth forests remain in the Pacific Northwest, roughly half of which is within Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks. In a region where timber is a core industry, these are among the last preserves for old-growth Douglas-fir forest.

SOMETHING IN THE AIR

Acid rain and **fog** generated in the Puget Sound area, carried toward the park by winds, have caused high ozone levels at Mount Rainier. Researchers, assisted by park employees, are monitoring the pollution and trying to pinpoint its sources. Several sites at Mount Rainier and Olympic's Hoh Rain Forest watershed are the focus of studies, which include monitoring visibility, precipitation, fog and acid rain effects.

HUMAN IMPACT

In 2000, human waste from the more than 40,000 backpackers and 10,000 climbers finally took its toll on Mount Rainier. The resulting decline in water quality is causing serious problems in the wilderness. To help solve this, the NPS provides toilet facilities at major climbing camps and a **blue bag system** for climbers going higher than 10,000 feet. Backpackers are asked to use pit toilets at trailside camps.

Fragile subalpine habitats are being destroyed by hikers who crush plants and overturn rocks. Ongoing education in both parks encourages hikers to stay on trails, tread lightly, not pick flowers and help the parks preserve delicate ecosystems.

In recognition of the NPS's early master planning to preserve the park, Mount Rainier National Park was designated a National Historic Landmark in March 1997.

RECYCLING

More than 1.2 million visitors to Mount Rainier throw away about 350 tons of solid waste each year. To reduce trash bound for landfills, the NPS instituted a recycling program at Mount Rainier. Marked bins are located at park facilities, lodges, campgrounds and roadways. **Rainier Guest Services (RGS)**, the park concessioner and the NPS also have employee recycling programs. In addition, RGS gives priority to purchasing recycled and recyclable products from vendors with recyclable packaging.

Olympic National Park and North Cascades National Park Service Complex provide **recycling bins** as well. Pay attention while in the parks, keeping an eye out for which lodges and other locations recycle



and what specifically they accept, whether solely aluminum or cardboard and certain plastics, too.

RESTORING THE ELWHA ECOSYSTEM

The Elwha River is transitioning from its dam-bound era to a river wild and free. The river was severely altered by 100 years of dams. Biologists say it could take a generation or more to heal. It is rare to get to witness a river reborn. Scientists are watching, measuring, monitoring, and evaluating the changes in an effort to understand the river evolution processes. What we learn from the Elwha River Restoration Project will help inform future dam removal and restoration projects. For more information on this exciting evolution, visit nps.gov/olym/learn/nature/elwha-ecosystem-restoration.htm.

CONTROLLING NONNATIVE SPECIES

The NPS is concerned about exotic (non-native) species introduced by humans into

natural ecosystems. Exotic species interfere with the health of native plants and animals in the parks. Olympic National Park is working to control non-native plants, including Scotch broom, Canada thistle and English holly. You can help by cleaning plant material off your shoes, clothing and vehicles before entering the park, and by packing out food and trash.

POACHING

Poaching—the illegal shooting of wildlife and collecting of plants and other resources—is a growing problem within Olympic and Mount Rainier National Parks. As logging roads are built into areas bordering the park, access into once-remote parts improves, making it easier for poachers to enter and exit the park undetected. Poachers not only steal valuable resources that belong to everyone, but they also damage and destroy plants and animals. Immediately report incidents of poaching by contacting a park ranger. Call **(360) 565-3000** in Olympic or **(360) 569-2211** in Mount Rainier.

Who's Who At The Parks ■ Photography



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Since its founding in 1916, the NPS has endeavored to preserve America's parklands for generations to come. It is responsible for preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks, protecting the fish and wildlife therein and providing for the public use and enjoyment of the parks.

ARAMARK PARKS & DESTINATIONS

Aramark operates Lake Crescent Lodge, Log Cabin Resort, Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort, Fairholme Store and Hurricane Ridge gift shop and snack bar, as well as Lake Quinault Lodge in Olympic National Forest. Please note that the Hurricane ridge gift shop and snack bar are closed due to the indefinite closing of the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center.

DELAWARE NORTH PARKS & RESORTS

Delaware North Parks & Resorts operates Kalaloch Lodge in Olympic National Park. For more information, call **(866) 662-9928** or visit thekalalochlodge.com.

GUEST SERVICES INC.

Guest Services Inc. runs the North Cascades Lodge at Stehekin, located at the north end of Lake Chelan. It offers lake and mountain-view rooms and operates a full-service restaurant, gift shop and campground. Call **(855) 685-4167** or visit lodgeatstehekin.com.

RAINIER GUEST SERVICES (RGS)

Rainier Guest Services is the park

concessioner at Mount Rainier National Park, Paradise Inn, National Park Inn, Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center and Sunrise Day Lodge. RGS offers the finest service for guests while helping the NPS preserve the natural and cultural history of Mount Rainier. Visit mtrainierguestservices.com or call **(855) 755-2275** for more information.

ROSS LAKE RESORT

This floating resort on the southwest shores of Ross Lake is only accessible by boat, ferry, or trails. Featuring 15 cabins and a marina, this is the sole facility located on the lake. The resort's season runs from June 5 through October 31. For more information, call **(206) 486-3751** or visit rosslakeresort.com.

WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARK FUND (WNPf)

WNPf is dedicated to ensuring that all people can experience, understand and love Washington's parks. It provides financial resources used for critical needs, like storm repair, or the restoration of natural and cultural resources. For membership information, call **(206) 623-2063** or visit wnpf.org.

NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE

North Cascades Institute—a nonprofit environmental education organization and park partner—aims to conserve Northwest environments through education. The institute offers day and overnight programs, including natural history seminars, school and graduate programs and summer youth adventures. For more information, call **(360) 854-2599** or visit ncascades.org.

Exploring our national and state parks is one of the best ways to reconnect with nature—and bringing along a camera or binoculars can elevate your experience. Whether you're a seasoned photographer, a casual wildlife or bird watcher, or a first-time visitor hoping to spot something special, a few tips can help you get the most out of your time on the trail.

Photography isn't just snapping images—it's a way to tell a story, capture fleeting moments, and preserve the atmosphere of a place. In our parks, images can reflect the splendor of a landscape, the subtle beauty of wildlife, or the unbridled energy of a waterfall. Whether you're aiming to document your journey, make art, or simply share your experience with others, thoughtful technique makes a big difference. To get the most out of your park visit:

- **Time it right:** Shoot during golden hours (early morning or late afternoon) when the light is soft and warm. Avoid harsh midday sun when shadows are strongest.
- **Pack light but smart:** A mirrorless or DSLR camera with a wide-angle lens for landscapes and a zoom for wildlife covers most situations. Bring extra batteries!
- **Use a tripod:** For steady sunrise or night shots, use a lightweight tripod for better stability.
- **Compose carefully:** Follow the "rule of thirds" to add depth to your images.

A good pair of **binoculars** is the perfect companion for your trip—they don't just bring distant wildlife into view—it enhances your awareness of your surroundings, helps you spot elusive creatures, and allows you to witness natural behaviors without threatening them. Whether you're birding, watching

predators from afar, or scanning the treetops for movement, using binoculars skillfully can turn a simple hike into a rich, immersive experience. Here's how to get the most from them:

- **Choose the right specs:** An 8x42 pair offers a great balance of magnification, brightness, and stability for most users.
- **Adjust for your eyes:** Use the center focus wheel and diopter ring to fine-tune clarity.
- **Stabilize your view:** Rest your elbows on a surface or use a trekking pole for added support.
- **Scan with purpose:** Look for movement or color changes in the landscape. Animals are often camouflaged and reveal themselves through motion.

To protect both the environment and wildlife, always stay on marked trails to avoid damaging fragile ecosystems. Give animals plenty of space by using zoom lenses or binoculars, and follow all park regulations regarding restricted areas and seasonal closures. Moving quietly and minimizing noise not only reduces stress on wildlife but also increases your chances of witnessing natural behaviors without human interference.

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Using cameras and binoculars encourages observation and you'll begin noticing subtle things—a fox's behavior at dusk, the changing texture of bark in different light, or a flash of color in the canopy. These tools sharpen your senses and help you build a stronger connection with the outdoors.

From photographing fog rolling through a valley to spotting a hawk soaring overhead, the combination of thoughtful observation and the right gear brings national and state park adventures to life.

Editor's Picks



There are many great experiences at parks and public lands in Washington State. Here are a few of our favorites:

Witness the damage from the massive 1980 eruption at **Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument**.

Visit **Hole-in-the-Wall**—an eroded arch north of Rialto Beach, and marvel at rocky island and sea stacks off the coast of Olympic National Park.

Hike a part of the **Pacific Crest Trail** as it runs along the eastern edge of Mount Rainier National Park and experience the dramatic mountain terrain of the region.

Scout for **killer whales** along the coast of San Juan Island National Historical Park.

Catch a glimpse of the largest unmanaged herd of **Roosevelt elk** in the world, and find out why Olympic National Park was almost named Elk National Park.

Visit the **Klondike Gold Rush Seattle Unit** for a taste of the 1897-1898 stampede to the Yukon gold fields.

Splash around in **tide pools** at Olympic National Park to see purple and red sea urchins, orange sea cucumbers and more diverse aquatic life.

Walk the end of the **Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail** and relive the experience of the expedition that opened a path to the West for the United States.

Visit the **gorges** at Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, the result of the largest scientifically documented floods in North America

Explore the **glaciers** of Mount Rainier—the most heavily glaciated peak in the United States—with more than 35 square miles of snow and ice radiating from the summit.



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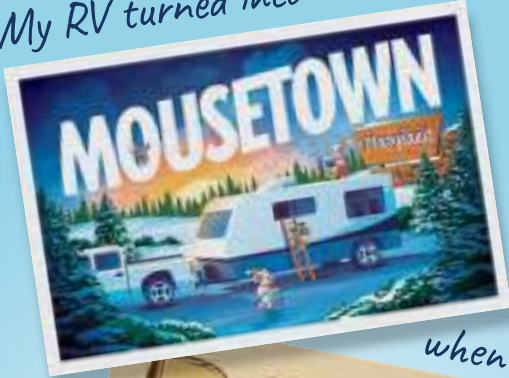
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