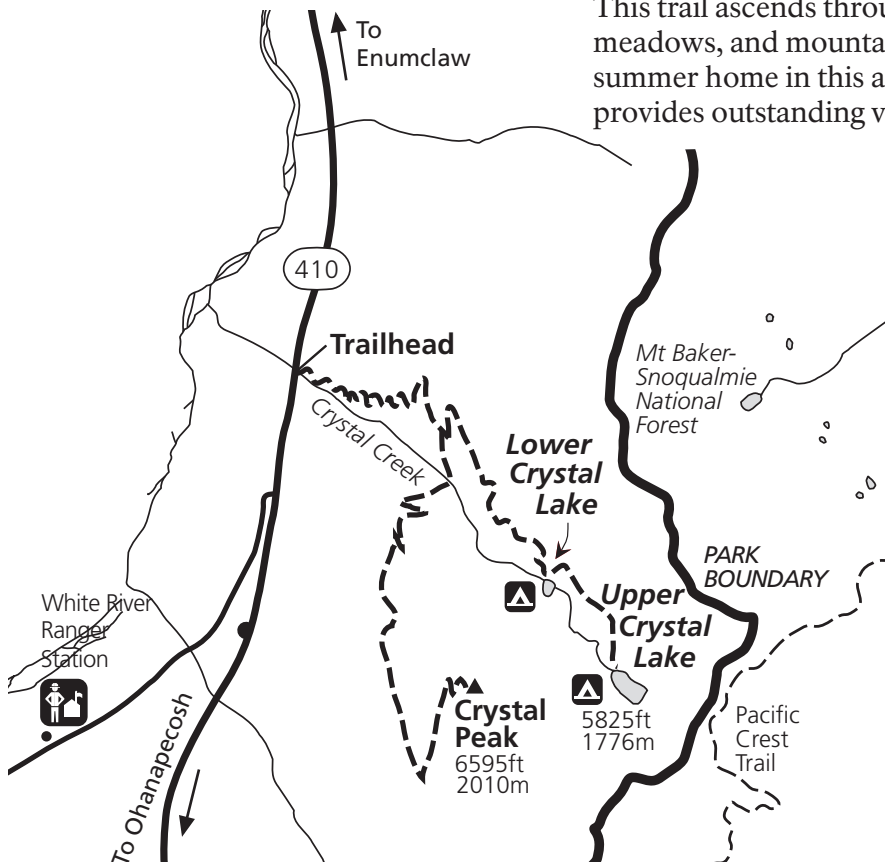




# Crystal Lakes and Crystal Peak

This trail ascends through forest with views of Mount Rainier, subalpine meadows, and mountain lakes. Elk and mountain goats make their summer home in this area. Crystal Peak, the former site of a fire lookout, provides outstanding views of the surrounding landscape.



Do not feed or approach wildlife. Pets and bicycles are not allowed on park trails. Do not pick flowers or collect other park resources (rocks, wood, etc.). Carry the "10 Essentials" and Leave No Trace of your visit. Use a topographical map. Permit required for wilderness camping.

## Trail Description

**Round-trip Distance**  
Upper Crystal Lake: 6.3 miles (10.1 km)  
Crystal Peak: 7.6 miles (12.2 km)

**Elevation Gain**  
Upper Crystal Lake: 2,300 feet (701 m)  
Crystal Peak: 3,070 feet (936 m)

**Hiking Time Round-trip**  
Upper Crystal Lake: 3 hours  
Crystal Peak: 4.5 hours

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Wilderness Camps:** Lower Crystal Lake and Upper Crystal lake

**Trailhead:** The trailhead is located on SR 410 approximately 4 miles (6.4 km) north of Cayuse Pass toward the north park boundary. It is on the east side of the road near Crystal Creek.

## Along the Trail

The Crystal Lakes Trail switchbacks up to a glacier-carved basin, while the spur trail to Crystal Peak winds to the top of an adjacent high point. The scenery makes both trails worth the climb! By late July and early August, the meadows

explode with a wide variety of colorful subalpine wildflowers. Watch for elk and mountain goats grazing on the surrounding slopes and ridges throughout the summer and early fall.