

# Mount Rainier

NATIONAL PARK • WASHINGTON

*Not merely the dominant peak of a chain of snow mountains, it is the only peak in view, majestic in its isolation, reaching 8,000 feet above its neighbors. It is superb in its boldness, rising 11,000 feet in 7 miles; one of the world's grand mountains—an arctic island in a temperate zone.*

Mount Rainier, a towering, ice-clad dormant volcano, dominates this national park. The most superb landmark of the Pacific Northwest, it rises to 14,410 feet a few miles west of the crest of the Cascade Range. Its gleaming mantle of ice is composed of many glaciers, more than are on any other single mountain in the conterminous United States. This mantle conceals all but the most rugged peaks and ridges of Mount Rainier. In delightful contrast to this bold landscape are the parklike subalpine forests with their flower-covered meadows and dense montane forests downslope.

The mountain is an extraordinarily effective natural exhibit of the tremendous earth forces which eons ago created the Cascade Range. Successive volcanic eruptions of several kinds built up Mount Rainier about a million years ago, and glaciers sculptured the mountain to its present shape.

From mid-June through October, warm, sunny days are mixed with cool, rainy ones. The experienced visitor comes prepared for rain and coolness as well as sunshine and heat.

From November through May, heavy snowstorms are frequent. At Paradise, 5,400 feet elevation, as much as 80 feet of snow falls in winter and may lie as deep as 30 feet; 5 to 14 feet may remain on the ground in June, and 3 to 8 feet in July.

Flowers in the high meadows begin to appear in mid-June as the snow recedes. In late July and early August, the bloom is at its height, and the meadows are luxuriant with color.

Late in August the huckleberries, vine maple, and mountain-ash begin to turn red. Fall color is at its best in mid-October.

## HOW TO REACH THE PARK

Park headquarters, at Longmire, is 70 miles southeast of Tacoma, and 95 miles southeast of Seattle. Consult a current Washington State roadmap for the best route to one of the park's four entrances.

Late June to early September, daily bus service is available from Tacoma and Seattle. No transportation is scheduled in winter. For rates, write to the Rainier National Park Co., Box 1136, Tacoma, Wash. 98400.

Rental cars are available at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, 85 miles northeast of the park.

## DRIVING PARK ROADS

The park roads from the end of Wash. 706 at Nisqually Entrance to Paradise and on Wash. 410/123 from the northeast boundary through Ohanape-cosh are open all year except when snow closes them for short periods. Chains are required for winter driving.

All other park roads are closed by snow about November 1 and are not open again until between June 15 and July 1, depending on snow conditions.

Stop at overlooks marked "POINT OF INTEREST AHEAD" for grand views and exhibits on the mountain's features.

The curving mountain roads demand careful driving. Observe posted speeds; drive defensively. Use lower gears for steep hills. Help prevent traffic jams by using turnouts and parking areas while observing wildlife or scenery.

*Service stations* are at Longmire (all year) and Sunrise (summer only).

## ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVICES

*Hotels.* National Park Inn at Longmire is open from early May until mid-October; Paradise Inn, from mid-June until Labor Day. Write to the Rainier National Park Company, Box 1136, Tacoma, Wash. 98400, for reservations and rates. There are no overnight accommodations at Sunrise or Ohanape-cosh, but they are available near the park at Ashford, Packwood, White Pass, Crystal Mountain, and Enumclaw.

*Campgrounds* are open throughout the park in summer, on a first-come-first-served basis. Stays are limited to 14 days a season. Sunshine Point Campground at Nisqually Entrance is the only one open all year. A trailer dumping station is at Cougar Rock Campground, but there are no trailer utility hookups in the park.

*Camping* is allowed in designated sites only. Fire permits are required in the back country outside of designated campsites. Use only dead and down wood for fires. Build fires only in the places provided. Do not leave fires unattended; use water to extinguish them completely.

**Report unattended fires to a ranger.**

*Food service.* In summer, snackbars are operated at Longmire, Paradise, and Sunrise; cafeterias at Longmire and Paradise; dining room at Paradise Inn. In winter, food service is available at Paradise on weekends only during the ski season.

*Stores.* In summer, basic groceries are on sale at Longmire, Paradise, and Sunrise, and some backpacking foods are available from the Rainier Ski and Guide Service at Paradise. All other stores are outside the park.

*Equipment sales and rental.* Summer mountain climbing and winter skiing and sliding equipment is sold and rented at Paradise.

*Mail and Telephone.* Address of park is Longmire, Wash. 98397. Phone at park headquarters, Longmire, is 206-569-2211.

## NATURALIST SERVICES

To become better acquainted with Mount Rainier, information, publications, and exhibits are available at Longmire and Paradise Visitor Centers all year and at Ohanape-cosh and Sunrise in summer.

Conducted trips and evening programs are scheduled from late June through Labor Day. Ask for the printed program at visitor centers and ranger and entrance stations.

Self-guiding trails are found at Kautz Mudflow, Longmire Meadow (Trail of the Shadows), North

Puyallup (Auto Trail), Nisqually Glacier Vista, Ice Caves Trail, and Emmons Vista.

## ACTIVITIES

*Hiking.* Explore the park's scenery along 300 miles of trails. Go prepared with map and compass, or a guide booklet that can be purchased at visitor centers. Always register at trailheads. Tell a responsible adult where you are going and when you will return. Carry rainwear, extra clothing, and food on longer hikes. Stay on the trail. Steep snowbanks are dangerous; avoid them.

If lost, hurt, or caught by fog or darkness, *wait*. Do not try to travel. Build a fire. Stay by it. Rescuers will find you.

*Fishing.* Licenses are not required. The season for stream fishing is from the third Sunday of May through October 31; lake fishing from July 4 through October 31. The Ohanape-cosh River and its tributaries are limited to fly fishing only. Other regulations are available at ranger stations and visitor centers, and on bulletin boards.

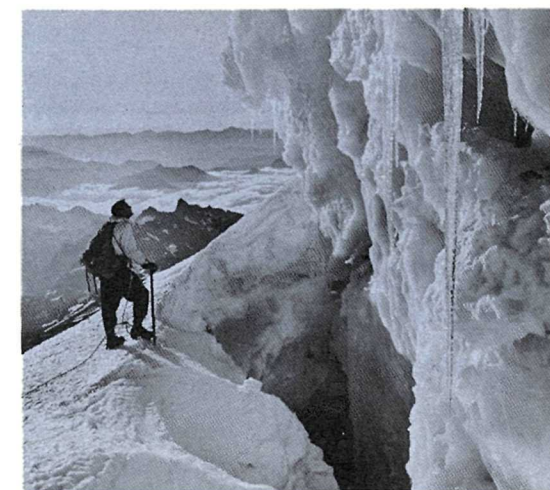
*Horses.* You may ride the trails anywhere in the park except in the Paradise, Longmire, and Sunrise areas. Feed should be carried. Stock must be kept in designated areas more than 100 yards from campgrounds or trails. Rental horses are not available in the park. For information on routes, write to the superintendent in advance or ask a park ranger.

*Winter sports.* On weekends from December through April, ski tows operate at Paradise. You may slide on platters or inner tubes on slopes near the visitor center. Snacks, equipment, and ski lessons are available on weekends. Ski tourists should ask rangers for routes and conditions.

## CLIMBING

The challenge of Mount Rainier—its 14,410-foot elevation and its large glaciers—is accepted by many climbers. Its steep unstable rock and heavily crevassed glaciers, coupled with sudden devastating storms demand that climbers be well conditioned, well equipped and clothed, and know mountain travel and survival techniques.

The Rainier Ski and Guide Service at Paradise offers 1-day snow-and-ice climbing schools, guided summit climbs, and 5-day climbing seminars. They also sell or rent equipment.



To ensure the safety of prospective summit climbers, special regulations have been established by the National Park Service in consultation with local mountaineering groups. For complete summit-climbing rules, including a specific equipment list, write to the superintendent.

*The climbing season* starts the second weekend in May, weather and routes permitting, and continues through the second weekend in September.

*Registration* by climbing parties must be made with a ranger before and after each trip. Solo climbing is prohibited. Permission to climb is based on the party's experience on similar glaciated mountains, proper equipment, leadership, and party strength. Climbers under 21 years of age must have written permission of a parent.

## WILDLIFE

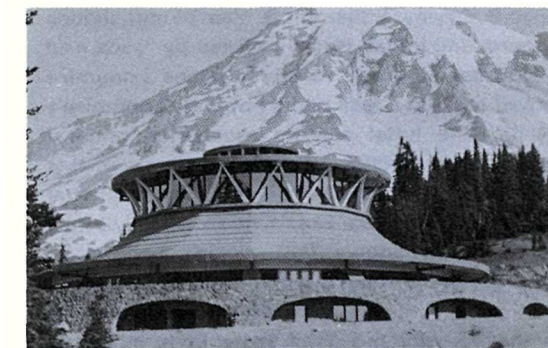
Deer and bear may approach you for a handout, but it is unlawful and dangerous to feed or touch any wild animal. Look for mountain goats on cliffs, ridges, and snowfields.

## TREES AND FLOWERS

All natural features, including rocks, plants, and animals are protected by law, and must be left in place and unharmed. In the next decade, 20 million others will see the park as you leave it.

*Pets* must be confined or leashed at all times for the protection of park wildlife and visitors. Pets are prohibited on trails or in public buildings.

*Firearms* must be cased, broken down, or packed. Hunting is prohibited.



## HAZARDS

Stay on roads and trails and keep children under control so they will avoid serious falls.

Snowbanks are fun to slide on, but they may hide rocks, cliffs, or streams. In spring, snow tunnels form over streams and may collapse under a person's weight.

Glaciers contain deep, hidden crevasses; rocks fall continuously from their snouts. Keep away.

Weather changes may be sudden and violent. Go prepared for wind and rain.

Emergency help and first aid is available at any ranger station.



## ADMINISTRATION

Mount Rainier National Park, established on March 2, 1899, has an area of 378 square miles. It is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Longmire, Wash. 98397, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.







**Sunrise (6,400-foot elevation)**  
Alpine wildflowers and a classic view of Mount Rainier and Emmons Glacier await you at Sunrise. Here, whitebark pine and Engelmann spruce join subalpine fir and mountain hemlock to form a scattered elfin forest at the upper limit of tree growth. Stop at Sunrise Point, 6,100 feet, for views north to Mount Baker and Glacier Peak, and south to Mount Adams, Mount Hood, and Mount St. Helens. From Sunrise Visitor Center, where exhibits tell the mountain's geologic history, watch mountaineers scaling the glaciers and mountain goats climbing on Goat Island Mountain. A network of trails leads to spectacular scenes of mountain and glacier.



**Paradise (5,420-foot elevation)**  
Wildflowers in July and August, fall colors in September, and snow as deep as 30 feet in April. These attractions, combined with a closeup view of Mount Rainier and Nisqually Glacier, make Paradise an exciting place. Walk the trails but leave the wildflowers unpicked and untrampled so other visitors can enjoy them, too. Overlook the Nisqually Glacier from the Nisqually Glacier Vista loop trail. Hike 3 miles to the ice caves. Climb from here to Camp Muir at 10,000 feet or to the 14,410-foot summit (see CLIMBING). Ski or slide the snowy slopes from December through April.



**Longmire (2,761-foot elevation)**  
Enroute to climb the mountain August 13, 1883, George B. Bayley, Philemon B. Van Trump, James Longmire, and Indian Henry camped by "soda and iron springs of great variety." James Longmire returned to build a trail and a hotel at "Longmire's Springs." The hotel and its associated mineral baths are gone, but the old stopping-place remains as the headquarters of Mount Rainier National Park. From here, you can: Explore the 1/2-mile Trail of the Shadows that circles Longmire's Meadow; climb a steep 3.5-mile trail to 5,955-foot Eagle Peak for a grand view of Mount Rainier; or take the Wonderland Trail from Longmire that leads 6.4 miles to Indian Henry's Hunting Ground.



**Ohanapecosh (1,900-foot elevation)**  
Deep forests of western hemlock and western redcedar along a fast-moving river invite you to pause and wonder. See Silver Falls, 1 mile north of Ohanapecosh, a favorite goal for casual hikers from the campground. Fish the Ohanapecosh River, where sport is the object. (Artificial flies are required.) The Grove of the Patriarchs offers you a glimpse into a forest nearly 1,000 years old. Steep trails lead 6 miles to Three Lakes and the Cascade Crest, 4 miles to Shriners Peak Lookout, or 4 miles to Cowlitz Divide.

