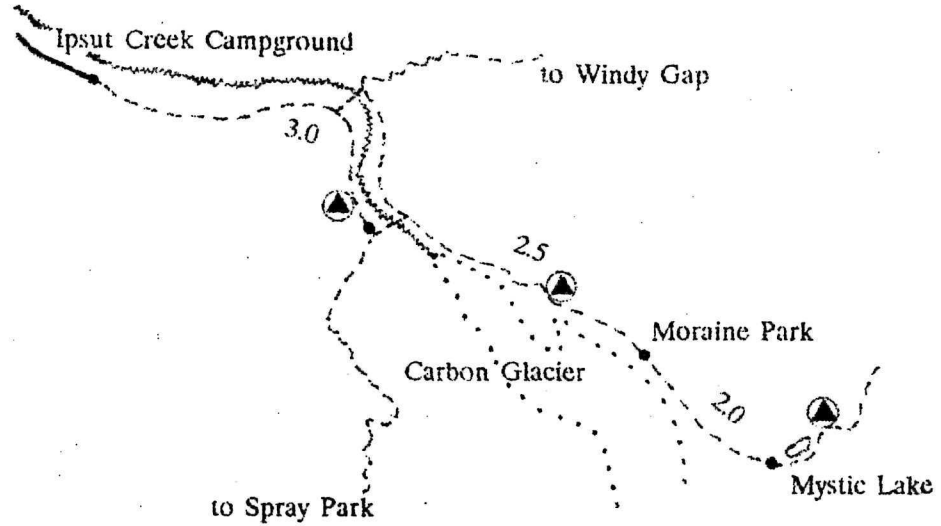


# Carbon Glacier & Moraine Park



The Carbon River flowing from the snout of the glacier was so named for the coal deposits discovered in the surrounding area early in the 1870s.

## Trail Description

	Carbon Glacier	Moraine Park
Distance, round-trip	7 miles	11 miles
Elevation gain	1200 feet	3300 feet
Hiking time, round-trip	3 hours	7 hours
Wilderness camp	yes	yes

The first three miles of the Wonderland Trail toward Moraine Park maintains a gentle uphill grade as it parallels the Carbon River. Soon after meeting the trail to Seattle Park, the Wonderland Trail crosses the river on a suspension bridge just below the snout of the Carbon Glacier. A right turn when the Wonderland Trail meets the Northern Loop (after crossing the bridge) will lead hikers to the glacier and up a steep series of switchbacks through the forest to Moraine Park.

## Along the Trail

This hike offers a close-up view of the lowest glacier in elevation in the contiguous 48 states and the source of the Carbon River. Do not approach the glacier, rock and ice fall is common! In mid-summer Moraine Park presents a colorful array of wildflowers and outstanding views of Mount Rainier.

## Trailhead Location

The trailhead is located at the road end at Ipsut Creek Campground, five miles inside the northwest entrance to the park at Carbon River.

## Backpacking

Three camps are located along this section of trail at distances of 2.9 miles (Carbon River), 4 miles (Dick Creek), and 7.8 miles (Mystic Lake) from the trailhead. Permits are required for camping and are available parkwide at ranger stations, visitor centers and hiker information centers. Treat water before drinking. Fires are not permitted. No pets on trails.