

SNOW MUCH TO DO

Winter's white beckons and challenges us to explore new worlds and adventures.

Join a naturalist for a snowshoe walk through the snowy meadows of Hurricane Ridge. Walks are offered on weekends for all visitors and organized groups. Snowshoes are provided free of charge and people of all ages are invited to participate. Walks begin upstairs in the lodge theater. Please call (206) 452-4501 ext. 230 for further information on the dates and times snowshoe walks are offered. Organized groups must make advance reservations. Naturalists and Rangers will be happy to lend assistance or answer your questions throughout the winter season. Just ask!

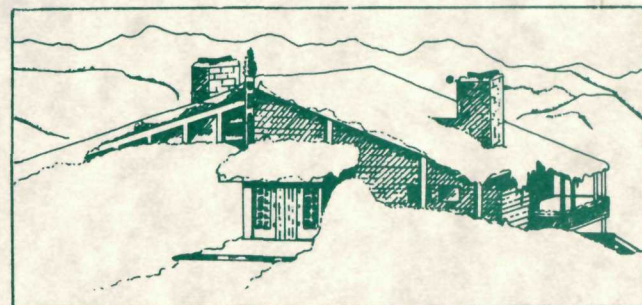
DID YOU KNOW???

- Oversnow foot-extenders (snowshoes/skis) originated in Central Asia over 6000 years ago.
- In America, cross-country skiing did not become a popular sport until the mid-1960's.
- Beneath you, in burrows four feet under the soil, Olympic marmots are hibernating.
- The heartbeat of small animals (i.e. chipmunks) can decrease from 400 to 4 beats per minute during hibernation.
- A 3-foot tall alpine fir might be over 50 years of age, due to harsh high country conditions.
- For reasons unknown, in the Olympics snowshoe hares and weasels remain brown year round, never turning white.
- No two snowflakes are alike! Capture some on your gloved hand for a closer look.
- Horses have been trained to walk on round snowshoes.



FACILITIES

Hurricane Ridge Lodge is open on weekends 9:30 am—4:30 pm, December 17 & 18, and December 31 through March 27. In addition, the Lodge will be open during Christmas Week (December 26—January 1) and on the Federal holidays January 16 and February 20. Exhibits, illustrated programs and a picnic area are provided upstairs. Food service and rentals of cross-country skis, downhill skis and snowshoes are available downstairs. On the slopes, two rope tows and a poma lift will accommodate downhill skiers.



REMINDERS...

- For recorded road and weather conditions, call the Pioneer Memorial Visitor Center, (206) 452-9235 or listen to 1610 AM on your radio.
- Hurricane Ridge Road is open daily, weather permitting, at 9:00 a.m.; closed to uphill traffic at 4:00 p.m. SEVERE STORMS MAY DELAY OR PROHIBIT OPENING.
- Carry tire chains. Watch for ice on road.
- Avoid being trapped by drifting snow or dead battery... back-in parking only.
- For any day trip, except naturalist guided activities, register out at the lodge. Be sure to sign in upon return.
- FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS, check with a ranger for parking, weather, route, and registration information.
- Practice minimum impact... use, don't abuse the winter wilderness.
- Due to sudden storms, NO OVERNIGHT PARKING IS PERMITTED ON THE RIDGE.
- Pets are not allowed on trails or in public buildings, and must be on a leash in parking area.



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SEASON OF SILENCE

WINTER ON HURRICANE RIDGE

Olympic National Park 1989



Snow crystals glisten upon evergreen boughs. Tracks of small animals pattern the whiteness, unveiling secret places! Chilling winds seem to quiet the pulse of life. Winter's call beckons you to her domain on Hurricane Ridge.

Begin your trip to Hurricane Ridge at the Pioneer Memorial Visitor Center. Look for changes in plant and animal life as you drive the 17 miles from sea level to 5,230 feet. From the timberline setting of Hurricane Ridge, unparalleled views are yours under good weather conditions. Gaze south into the snow-shrouded heart of the Olympic Mountains, north to British Columbia, and eastward to Mount Baker and the Washington Cascades.

Hurricane Ridge winter weather, however, is often less than ideal, with characteristic sudden storms. Stunted subalpine fir trees huddle against icy winds, which can scream over meadows at 80 mph. Daytime temperatures seldom drop below 15° F., but wind chill factors can plummet to -30° F.

The Olympic Mountains receive some of the world's heaviest snowfall. While moisture-laden clouds can buffet ocean-facing Mount Olympus with over 150 feet of snow, Hurricane Ridge, located in the drier northeast corner of the park, annually receives only 29 feet.

Yet, despite the winter harshness, life, if only minimal, persists. Hear testimony of the raven overhead.

During winter, wilderness qualities of Olympic National Park are brought a little closer to the road. You need travel only a short distance to sample the undisturbed peace of this season of silence.

WINTER'S WHIMS

Nature is changeable — often with little warning. Be prepared for her whims, aware of potential hazards, and carry appropriate equipment. Put safety first!

Hypothermia lurks. This number one killer of outdoor recreationists results from a combination of cold, wet, wind, and exhaustion, causing the body to lose heat faster than it is produced. Be prepared to avoid hypothermia; know how to deal with it if necessary.

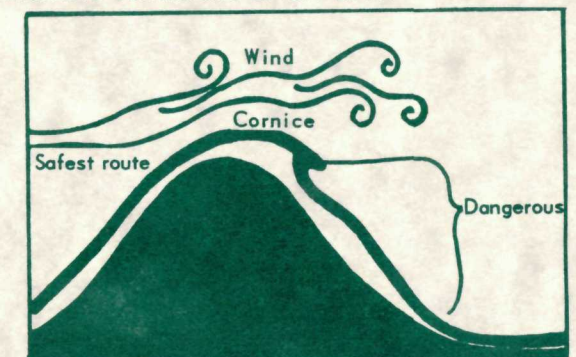
For winter travel, proper clothing and protective devices are a must! Stay dry — body heat can leave wet skin up to 200 times as fast as dry skin. Wool clothing is best in wet winter weather, as it retains heat even when wet. A hat is essential — up to 30% of the body's heat can be lost through the head and neck. Sunglasses cut glare which could lead to snowblindness.

On day and overnight trips be sure to carry the "10 essentials":

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| EXTRA CLOTHING | MAP OF AREA |
| EXTRA FOOD | COMPASS |
| FLASHLIGHT | KNIFE |
| MATCHES | SUNGLASSES |
| FIRE STARTER/CANDLE | FIRST AID KIT |

Always carry repair equipment for cross-country skis and snowshoes: extra ski tips, nylon cord or leather strips to repair ski and snowshoe bindings. To facilitate changing ski waxes, a propane torch is a blessing, especially in a blizzard!

Be aware of **AVALANCHE DANGER!** After a heavy snowfall and during a warming trend, hazards are especially high. Avoid cornices and leeward slopes which could trigger avalanches; it is safest to travel on ridgetops. Check with a ranger for latest avalanche conditions EACH DAY.



SNOWPLAY CAUTION
Snowplay can be dangerous. Use of sliding devices, such as tubes and saucers, is permitted *only* in the designated sliding area near the lodge. Runner sled and toboggan use is discouraged for lack of a suitable area. REMEMBER: steep timbered slopes are EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS; moderate slopes with a clear outrun are less dangerous. Play it safe check with a ranger before you begin

- BE SURE TO REGISTER AT HURRICANE RIDGE LODGE FOR DAY AND OVER-NIGHT TRIPS.

- Most routes and hazard areas are marked with orange plastic pipe.

- Snowshoers and skiers are asked to travel on separate but parallel trails.

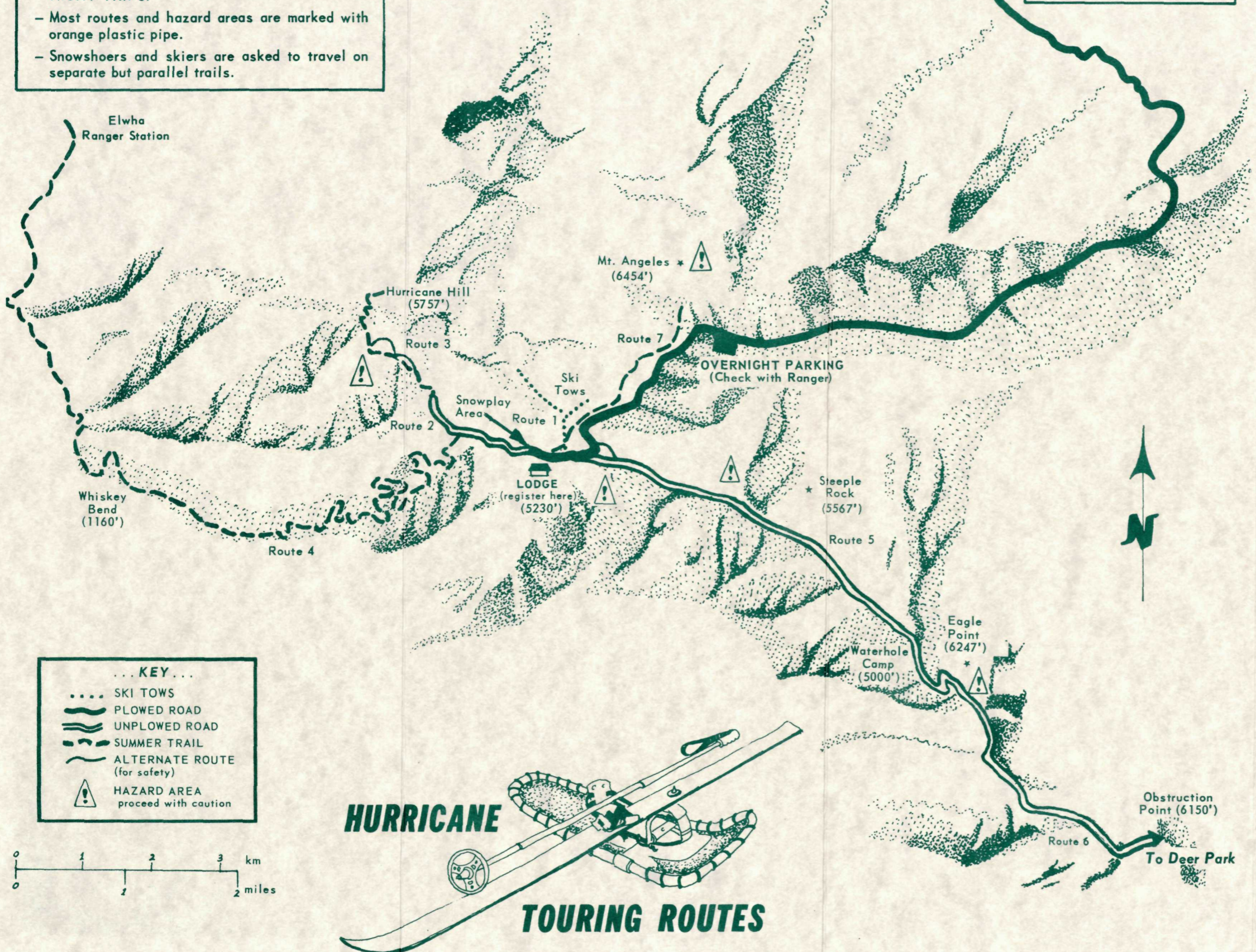
... ROUTE RATINGS ...

- EASIEST
- MORE DIFFICULT
- ◆ MOST DIFFICULT

SNOWSHOE AND CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TOURING ROUTES

All distances are one way.

- ◆ **Route 1 - MEADOWS:**
Located in vicinity of lodge, meadows provide easy terrain to try out new equipment and techniques before venturing onto more difficult routes. Good views are within a short distance.
- **Route 2 - HURRICANE HILL ROAD:**
1½ miles. Most popular route on Hurricane Ridge. Starts west of lodge and follows a snow-covered road. Caution! Sledgers on the first hill. Moderate terrain along ridge crest; some drifts and bumps to challenge your technique. Views both north and south. Ends at Hurricane Hill trailhead.
- ◆ **Route 3 - HURRICANE HILL TRAIL:**
1½ miles. Starts from end of Hurricane Hill Road, climbs 550' to summit of Hurricane Hill. Most of route follows summer nature trail. Some steep sidehills—treacherous when icy. Avoid first sidehill (¼ mile from trailhead) by climbing over knob to north. A second variation from summer trail (½ mile from trailhead) follows a broad valley to the north, but is not recommended because it requires a traverse beneath potentially dangerous cornices (avalanche danger!). Last ½ mile climbs the broad windswept summit to a 360° panorama. Under good conditions, advanced skiers will find this a very rewarding trip.
- **Route 4 - WOLF CREEK TRAIL (Old Elwha Road):**
8 miles to Whiskey Bend. Begins about ½ mile from lodge on the Hurricane Hill Road. Route is rarely entirely snow-covered. First mile crosses several open meadows presenting minor route-finding problems. Route then enters trees, descending to Whiskey Bend (elev. 1160'). It is often necessary to walk the additional 5 miles to Elwha Ranger Station. Due to variable conditions, check with ranger before attempting this route.
- **Route 5 - WATERHOLE CAMP:**
3½ miles. Route follows unplowed Obstruction Point Road. Avoid hazardous sidehill by starting route ½ mile east of lodge on main Hurricane Ridge Road. Look for a sign on the south side of the road. Here, the trail drops down a short, but moderately steep slope, to Obstruction Point Road. First mile is timbered and easy; second section traverses sidehill exposed to weather and possibly difficult when icy. Last mile is again easy and sheltered.
- ◆ **Route 6 - OBSTRUCTION POINT:**
7.8 miles. First 3½ miles same as Route 5. From Waterhole, route climbs steadily to Eagle Point. Final three mile stretch to Obstruction Point (elev. 6150') is above timberline. Views spectacular. Steep sidehill and exposure to storms make this a difficult route. Recommended only under good conditions for advanced skiers. NOTE: Route from Obstruction Point to Deer Park crosses several steep, avalanche-prone, areas - check with a ranger for conditions.
- ◆ **Route 7 - HURRICANE RIDGE TO MT. ANGELES:**
3 miles. Start at top of Intermediate Rope Tow. Follow narrow ridge on south side of Mount Angeles. Route crosses avalanche areas at several points and is not recommended under unstable snow conditions. Stay off cornices. Route ends on lower slopes of Mt. Angeles.



... KEY ...

- SKI TOWS
- PLOWED ROAD
- UNPLOWED ROAD
- - - SUMMER TRAIL
- ALTERNATE ROUTE (for safety)
- ⚠ HAZARD AREA proceed with caution

