Mount Rainier National Park
Wilderness Trip Planner

Wilderness Reservations & Lottery
https://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/wilderness-permit.htm

Downoadable Park Publications
https://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/publications.htm

Mount Rainier NP Website
www.nps.gov/mora

Leave No Trace
https://lnt.org/

Mount Rainier Maps and Books
Discover Your Northwest https://www.nps.gov/mora/learn/bookstore.htm

Trail/Backcountry Camp Conditions
https://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/trails-and-backcountry-camp-conditions.htm

Mount Rainier National Park is a source of inspiration, providing boundless opportunities for exploration, solitude, and contemplation. It encompasses 236,381 acres, ranging in elevation from 1,610' to 14,410' above sea level. The mountain is an active volcano encased in over 35 square miles of snow and ice, surrounded by old growth forest and stunning wildflower meadows. Over 97% of the park was designated Wilderness by the Washington Wilderness Act in 1988; 3% of the park is designated as a National Historic Landmark District.

The park offers over 260 miles of trails, including the historic 93-mile Wonderland Trail that encircles the mountain. Over 500,000 wilderness enthusiasts venture beyond the park's developed areas each year to experience the wilderness firsthand. The park also offers world-class climbing opportunities. Approximately 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier each year—about half make it to the summit, the rest are turned back by weather, fatigue, or other factors.

This Wilderness Trip Planner has been developed to assist you with planning a safe and enjoyable wilderness experience in Mount Rainier National Park. Please visit the park website (www.nps.gov/mora) or contact a Wilderness Information Center for additional information, current conditions, and to obtain your required wilderness permit.

Wilderness Camping & Climbing Permits

Wilderness Camping and Climbing permits must be obtained in person.

Wilderness Camping and Climbing permits are available at the Longmire, Paradise, and White River Wilderness Information Centers (WICs) and at the Carbon River Ranger Station during the summer season. In winter, permits are available in Longmire (daily) or by self-registration at Ohanapecosh and Carbon River Ranger Stations, and at the park's northern entrance (SR410 at Crystal Mountain Blvd).

CLIMBING PERMITS

Summit attempts or glacier travel above 10,000' requires the purchase of an annual climbing pass. Climber registration is required before each climb.

- Two climbers per party minimum, unless you have obtained prior written authorization for a solo climb from the Superintendent.
- Climbers must be at least 18 years old or have written parental permission.
- A Climbing Pass is $53/person 25 years and older, and $37/person 24 years and younger, per calendar year. Proceeds from pass sales go toward climber education and safety, and high altitude human waste disposal.

WILDERNESS PERMITS

A permit is required for *all* wilderness camping, year-round.

- ***Individual permits*** are issued for parties of up to 5 people or one immediate family. ***Group permits*** are issued for parties of 6 to 12 people. Maximum group size is 12 (some exceptions for winter camping at Paradise). Group permits allow permit holders to camp only in trailside group campsites.
- Permits are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis up to one day before your trip begins.
- Permits are issued for specific locations and nights. The number of permits issued for each camp or zone is limited.
- Permits can be issued for a maximum of 14 consecutive nights.

Reservations

Reservations are available for backpackers and climbers who wish to camp in the backcountry of Mount Rainier National Park. For early access lottery dates and general on-sale reservations, please visit https://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/wilderness-permit.htm . Reservations are optional and not always needed. However, reservations are recommended for many of the popular camps, Wonderland Trail itineraries, and for those wanting to climb on weekends from Memorial Day weekend through August. A reservation fee applies. Visit the park website (www.nps.gov/mora) or call (360) 569-6650 (May-September) for details.

Trailside Camping

Most backpackers prefer to use campsites established and maintained by the National Park Service. These camps have toilet facilities, marked sites, food storage poles, and a nearby (untreated) water source. Camping along trails is allowed *only* at the established trailside camps. There are more than 125 individual campsites for use by parties of 5 or fewer backpackers, and over 20 group campsites for use by parties of 6 to 12 persons. These trailside group campsites are the only locations where groups may camp in the Mount Rainier Wilderness (see map on reverse).

Crosscountry Camping

Although certain areas of the park are designated as day-use only, (i.e., developed areas at Longmire, Paradise, and Sunrise) most of the park lies in crosscountry zones which are available for camping. Within established crosscountry zones you choose your own campsite. Campsites must be located at least 1/4 mile away from any road or established trail and at least 100 feet away from lakes, streams, and wetlands. All crosscountry zones, like the trailside camps, have limits on the number of parties allowed. Camping in a crosscountry zone requires navigation skill, and LNT knowledge to camp safely and avoid impacting park resources. Crosscountry camping is not permitted for parties hiking the Wonderland Trail.

Alpine Camping

Alpine zones provide climbing and alpine hiking opportunities in areas above treeline. Camping is allowed only on permanent snow or ice or on bare ground areas *previously used* as campsites. Group size is limited to 12 persons camping on snow and ice, and 5 persons camping in established bare ground campsites. *Clearing new tent sites on rocky or snow-free areas is prohibited!* Alpine plants depend on the shelter of rocks to survive. Of particular concern is the area within the boundaries of the Muir Snowfield between Pebble Creek and Anvil Rock. **Summit attempts or glacier travel above 10,000' requires the purchase of an annual climbing cost recovery fee. Climber registration is required before each climb.**

Wilderness Camping in Winter

Although winter camping on snow (at least 5' deep) is allowed nearly everywhere in the park, the most popular and accessible areas are Paradise, Reflection Lakes, and Mazama Ridge. Permits are available daily at Longmire. Self-registration is available at the Carbon River and Ohanapecosh Ranger Stations and at the winter closure of SR410 near Crystal Mountain. Visit the park website for information on large group (13 or more) snow camping at Paradise.

For Your Safety

- Be prepared for wet, cold weather at any time. Many trails remain snow-covered into July. Snow can fall during any month of the year. Wear layers of rain- and wind-resistant clothing.
- Carry a topographic map, compass, and altimeter, and know how to use them. Snow-covered trails are difficult to follow.
- Major glacial rivers may have washed-out bridges. All glacial river levels rise and fall each day as temperatures change. If bridges are gone, cross the river in the morning when water volume is usually lower. If crossing is too hazardous, turn back.
- Purify or filter all water before drinking.
- Hang food or use portable bear resistant canisters. Poles for hanging food are provided at designated camps.
- Learn what to do if you encounter a mountain lion or a bear.
- Sprained ankles and twisted knees are common injuries. Wear proper footwear and watch your step.
- Don't travel when visibility is poor. Wait until you can see well enough to travel safely.
- Do not travel alone. Tell someone your travel plans.

For the Preservation of Wilderness

Wilderness is a special place. Please do your part to keep it that way. **The following items/activities are prohibited on trails or in the Wilderness:**

- Fires (backcountry stoves OK)
- Bicycles
- Littering
- Short cutting switchbacks
- Pets (except leashed on the Pacific Crest Trail)
- Use of weapons (including firearms, bow/arrow, slingshot, etc.)
- Disturbing any natural, cultural, or archeological feature
- Feeding, disturbing, or hunting wildlife. Do not allow animals to get into your food because of improper food storage.
- Contaminating any source of water (i.e., using soap)
- Camping within 100 feet of water (except in a designated camp)
- Disposing of human waste within 200 feet of water or within sight of a trail
- Camping without a permit or camping in locations not indicated on your permit.

Planning Your Visit

Mount Rainier is one of the snowiest places on Earth! From mid-October through June, road access is limited and trails at higher elevation (above 2,000 feet) are snow-covered, making route-finding a challenge. Visitation is highest from mid-July through mid-September, when trails and campsites are generally snow-free.

- Obtain a topographic map or hiking guide to help choose your destination and route. Use the map on the reverse side of this planner to choose your campsites, but not to navigate by!
- When selecting your route, consider the mileage and elevation gain involved. Steep, high ridges between river valleys make even short distances difficult. Be sure each member of your party is prepared for the choices you make.
- Please note the restrictions on group size for each location where you consider camping.
- Be flexible and have multiple alternative campsites in mind when planning your itinerary. If solitude or getting your first-choice campsite is important, remember that July and August are the busiest wilderness use months and that weekends and holidays are the busiest days.
- Always carry the "10 Essentials" and know how to use them!
- Inform someone of your travel plans. Tell them to notify rangers promptly if you are overdue by calling (360) 569-6600.

The 10 Essentials

- map of the area
- compass & altimeter
- extra food & water
- first aid kit
- flashlight, extra batteries & bulb
- sunglasses & sunscreen
- pocketknife
- extra clothing & rain gear
- emergency shelter
- matches in a waterproof container (*For emergency use only; fires are not allowed in Mount Rainier's Wilderness.)*

Contact the park regarding current conditions and closures. Call (360) 569-6650 (May through September) or visit our website at www.nps.gov/mora.

Maps and Books

Books, maps, and a variety of other interpretive materials are sold by Discover Your Northwest (DYN), a non-profit organization benefiting educational programs in the national parks and forests of the Pacific Northwest. Visit a sales facility within the park or contact the Mount Rainier Branch of DYN to obtain a sales catalog. Discover Your Northwest, Longmire, WA 98397. (360) 569-6790, https://www.nps.gov/mora/learn/bookstore.htm.

Additional information is available on topics of special interest to backpackers. Free publications including *Wonderland Trail, Climbing, Stock Use,* and *Fishing Regulations Brochure* are available on the park's website at https://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/publications.htm.

"Leave No Trace" Wilderness Ethics

Leave No Trace of your visit by incorporating these ideas and practices into your wilderness experience. They are especially important when camping in crosscountry and alpine areas.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Design your trip to match your expectations and outdoor skill level. Seek information about your destination and the *en route* difficulties you might encounter. Know what to expect regarding weather, trail conditions, permit requirements, and group size limits. Select your route, clothing, food, fuel, and equipment based on this information and the skill and fitness level of your group members. Set realistic and achievable goals.

Repackage food. Reduce bulk, weight, and litter. Use reusable containers or plastic bags.

Select appropriate equipment. For example, gaiters allow you to stay on the trail when it's wet or muddy. Lightweight camp stoves, freestanding tents and collapsible water containers give you the flexibility to camp in the most impact-resistant site available.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces. *In popular or high-use areas, concentrate hiker use.* Hike on existing trails, never shortcut switchbacks, and select durable rest spots next to, but off of, the trail so you will not block the path of others and cause subsequent widening of the trail. In trailside wilderness camps, camp only in designated sites. In crosscountry or alpine zones, choose a durable campsite at least 100 feet from water and trails. Minimize impact at a campsite. Never scrape away leaves or needles. Avoid enlarging existing sites. Wear soft-soled shoes around camp. ***Campfires are not allowed in the wilderness.*** Clean your camp when you leave. *In crosscountry areas, spread use and avoid places where impact is just beginning.*

Dispose of Waste Properly. Pack out all trash and food waste left over from cooking. ***Waste water from cooking:*** Use hot water and elbow grease, not soap. Remove all food particles by straining cooking and wash water before disposing of it using a broadcasting method. Pack the particles out with leftover food. ***Waste water from washing:*** Avoid contaminating water supplies by not washing directly in the water. Soap is not necessary. Rinse off at least 200 feet from any water source.

All trailside camps at Mount Rainier have pit or composting toilets. In crosscountry zones, use the "cathole" method to dispose of solid waste. To promote decomposition, choose a site in organic soil. With a small trowel dig a cathole six to eight inches deep and four to six inches in diameter. Defecate in the hole and mix in dirt and cover to disguise the hole. ***Pack out all toilet paper***—do not burn it. Urinate on the soil surface, away from vegetation and water.

Climbers on Mount Rainier must utilize the "blue bag" system to pack out solid human waste. "Blue bags" are available at ranger stations and the high camps. They contain one clear bag, one blue bag, and twist ties. To use the "blue bag," defecate on the snow away from the climbing route and rest areas. Collect the waste using the light blue bag like a glove. Turn the blue bag inside-out and secure with a twist tie. Place the blue bag in the clear bag and secure with a twist tie. Deposit full bags in collection barrels at Camp Muir, Camp Schurman, White River WIC or Paradise. Do not drop used blue bags in trash cans—it's unsanitary and illegal!

Leave What You Find. *Avoid site alterations.* Leave all sites as you found them. Do not dig trenches, level sites, or construct tables or chairs. *Avoid damaging live trees and plants.* Never hammer nails into trees or girdle trunks with tent lines. *Leave natural objects and cultural artifacts.* All natural and cultural resources such as rocks, antlers, or fossils, pot shards, and projectile points, must be left undisturbed. It is illegal to disturb or collect these resources in a national park. If you find an artifact, leave it in place and report its location to a park ranger.

Respect Wildlife. Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow, approach, or feed them. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers. Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely. Avoid wildlife areas during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter. ***Pets are not allowed in Mount Rainier's Wilderness.***

Be Considerate of Other Visitors. Respect their experience and desire for solitude. Talk quietly in camp and on the trails. Don't walk through others' camps. Rest just off the trail on a durable site. Camp away from scenic attractions and water. Camp in your assigned site. Please pick up after less thoughtful people who have gone before you.

The National Park Service is a cooperating agency in the *Leave No Trace* educational program. For more information on this program or to obtain educational materials, call (800) 332-4100 or visit the official Leave No Trace website at www.lnt.org.

NEED MORE INFORMATION? (area code 360)

Longmire WIC (May-Sept.)	569-6650
Longmire Museum/General Information	569-6575
Paradise WIC/climbing info (summer)	569-6641
White River WIC (summer)	569-6670
Carbon River Ranger Station (summer)	829-9639

E-mail: morawildernessreservations@nps.gov

Revised 4/2022

Wilderness Trip Planner Map

Wilderness camping permits, climbing permits, and park information are available at the Carbon River Ranger Station five miles west of the entrance.

Road is ~~closed to vehicles~~ at the entrance. Open to foot and bicycle traffic only.

Eastside wilderness camping and climbing permits are available at the White River Wilderness Information Center in summer. In winter, permits are available at the USFS/NPS office in Enumclaw or by self-registration at the park's north entrance (SR 410 at Crystal Mountain Blvd).

- Wilderness Trailside Camp
- Frontcountry Campground
- Wilderness Patrol Cabin
- Frontcountry Ranger Station
- Fire Lookout
- Shelter

- Surfaced Roadway
- Unsurfaced Roadway
- Park Boundary
- Trails
- Wonderland Trail
- Streams, Lakes, Glaciers
- 3.7 Trail distances in miles (approx.)

0 1 2 3 4 5 MILES

WILDERNESS TRAILSIDE CAMPS

Most backpackers use the trailside camps listed below. Individual sites have a capacity of five people and group sits have a capacity of twelve people.

Camping by permit is also allowed in undesignated sites within crosscountry and alpine zones throughout the park.

Camp	Indiv. Sites	Group Sites	Elev. Feet
Berkeley Park	2	1	5375
Camp Curtis	2	-	8685
Camp Muir	110*	-	10080
Camp Schurman	48*	-	9440
Carbon River	4	1	3195
Cataract Valley	6	1	4620
Deer Creek	2	-	2950
Devil's Dream	7	1	5060
Dick Creek	2	-	4185
Dick's Lake	1	-	5675
Eagle's Roost	7	-	4885
Fire Creek	3	1	4300
Forest Lake	1	-	5660
Glacier Basin	5	1	5965
Golden Lakes	5	1	5130
Granite Creek	3	1	5765
Indian Bar	4	1	5120
Ipsut Creek	12	2	2360
James Camp	3	1	4620
Klapatche Park	4	-	5515
Lake Eleanor	3	1	5000
Lake George	5	1	4320
Lower Crystal Lake	2	-	5450
Maple Creek	4	1	2815
Mystic Camp	7	1	5570
Nickel Creek	3	1	3385
N. Puyallup River	3	1	3750
Olallie Creek	2	1	3940
Paradise River	3	1	3805
Pyramid Creek	3	-	3765
Shriner Peak	2	-	5355
Snow Lake	2	-	4690
South Mowich River	3	1	2605
South Puyallup River	4	1	4000
Summerland	5	1	5940
Sunrise	8	2	6245
Tamanos Creek	4	1	5270
Three Lakes (H)	2	1	4680
Upper Crystal Lake	2	-	5825
Upper Palisades Lake	2	-	5835
Yellowstone Cliffs	2	-	5180

(H) = horse sites available

Backpacker sites are also available at the Mowich Lake and White River frontcountry campgrounds.

*Space at Camp Muir and Camp Schurman is allotted by the number of people rather than by the number of parties.

Trail and Backcountry Camp Conditions
Trail and backcountry camp conditions are posted on the park website and updated regularly throughout the summer season www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/trails-and-backcountry-camp-conditions.htm

Road Opening Status
Contact the park for road opening date www.nps.gov/mora.

! This map is for reference only and is not intended for navigation purposes. Locations and mileages may vary.

In summer, wilderness and climbing permits are available at the Wilderness Information Centers at Longmire, White River, and Carbon River, and at the Paradise Climbing Information Center.

In winter, permits are available at Longmire (daily) or the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise (weekends only).

Mount Rainier National Park
Geographic Information System
REVISED 4/22 pw