

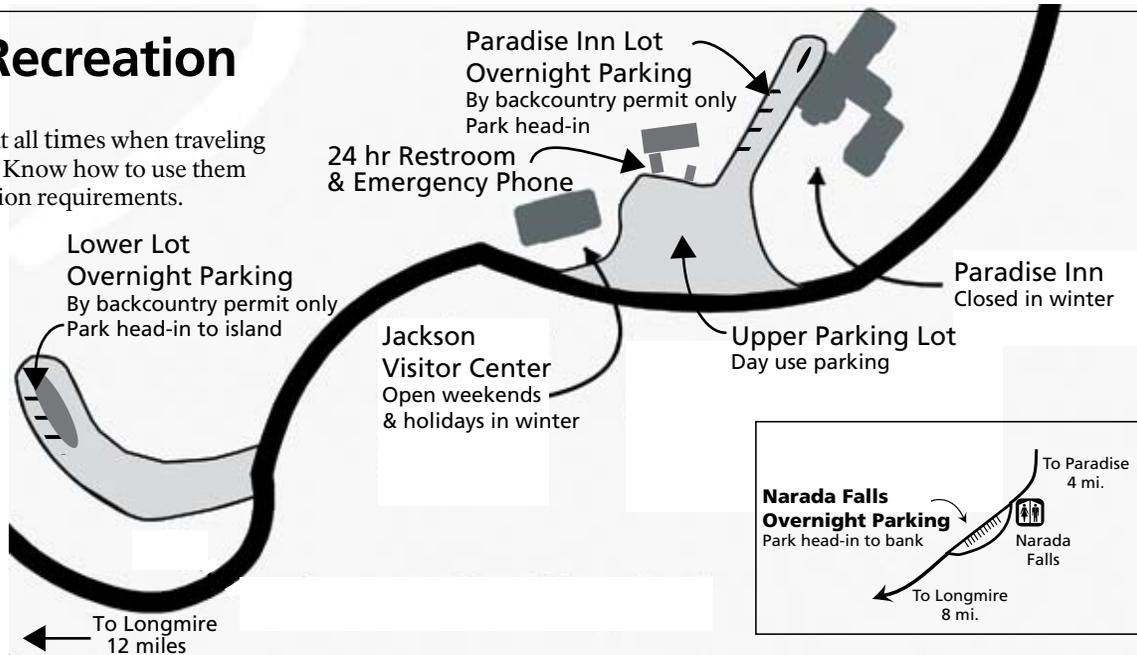
Mount Rainier National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Winter Recreation

Carry tire chains at all times when traveling in the mountains. Know how to use them and obey the traction requirements.



Safety First!

Hypothermia and frostbite are winter hazards which can lead to serious injury or death. If you are spending time outside, dress sensibly, drink lots of fluids, and take warm-up breaks indoors.

Keep a sharp eye out for snowplows. Never ski, snowshoe, or hike along plowed roads, even when they're closed. Snow plows can be working at any time.

Protect Your Park

- Remember to pack out all trash. Trash left behind melts out in early summer.
- Pets are allowed only on plowed parking lots and sidewalks and must always be on a leash.
- Use fuel stoves. Campfires are not permitted.
- Enjoy wildlife at a distance and keep human food properly stored.
- Dispose of human waste properly—use restrooms where available, or ask a ranger for a “blue bag”. Blue bags are for disposal of human waste when camping. Using blue bags keeps water clean, protects fragile vegetation from digging and allows more people to use this area without leaving impacts. A blue bag barrel is available in the tunnel to the restrooms in the upper parking lot for disposal of used blue bags.
- Cutting of vegetation and collecting or gathering of wood is not permitted.
- Please do not dry clothing or gear in the restroom tunnel.
- Camping and cooking in any building or in the restroom tunnel is not permitted.

Sledding and Sliding

Sledding and sliding are permitted only in the designated snow play area at Paradise. Trees, tree wells, and cliffs make other areas dangerous.

For everyone's safety, use “soft” sliding devices—flexible sleds, inner tubes, and saucers. No hard toboggans or runner sleds.

Dangerous Terrain

Avalanches occur with frightening regularity. Check the map on the back of this handout for avalanche zones and ask a ranger for the forecast before you start. Backcountry travel is not recommended when

avalanche conditions are high to extreme. Carry the ten essentials and know how to use them. Notify a responsible person of your plans so they can contact rangers if you fail to return.

Skiing and Snowboarding

A minimum of 5' of snow is advised for skiing and snowboarding. Avoid damaging exposed vegetation. Obtain further information at the Jackson Visitor

Center at Paradise (weekends and holidays) and the Longmire Museum (daily).

Snow Camping

To snow camp a minimum of 5' of snow at Paradise and 2' in other areas of the park is required to protect fragile subalpine vegetation. A minimum of 8' of snow is recommended to construct snow caves.

trails, and buildings and at least 100' from water.

In selecting your campsite, choose a location that is a minimum of 300' from plowed roads and parking areas (to avoid being buried by snowplows), marked routes,

If you encounter shrubs, trees, or bare ground while digging, choose a different spot. For the safety of others, collapse igloos and snow caves before you leave.

Maximum group size is up to 12 people.

Backcountry Camping

Backcountry permits are required year-round. If you plan to winter camp in the backcountry, permits are available daily at the Longmire Museum. On weekends and holidays permits can also be obtained at the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise. In selecting

your campsite choose a location that is a minimum of 300' from plowed roads and parking areas, marked routes, trails and buildings and at least 100' from water.

Group Campsites

Groups of more than 12 people can snow camp only at Paradise. Groups must camp in the designated group camping areas and are required to use restrooms to dispose of human waste. Due to limited group sites in winter it is suggested that groups of 13

or more make reservations by calling 360-569-2211 ext. 6003, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time at least two weeks in advance. Reserved group site permits can be picked up at the Longmire Museum by 4:30 p.m. on the day of arrival.

Winter Parking & Vehicle Safety

Vehicles parked overnight must be parked in the overnight parking areas at Paradise, Narada Falls or Longmire. If designated areas are full contact a park ranger. See the map above for more details.

portion of the Jackson Visitor Center parking lot or directly across from the Paradise Inn only.

Camping in vehicles is not permitted.

Overnight parking at Paradise is in the lower

