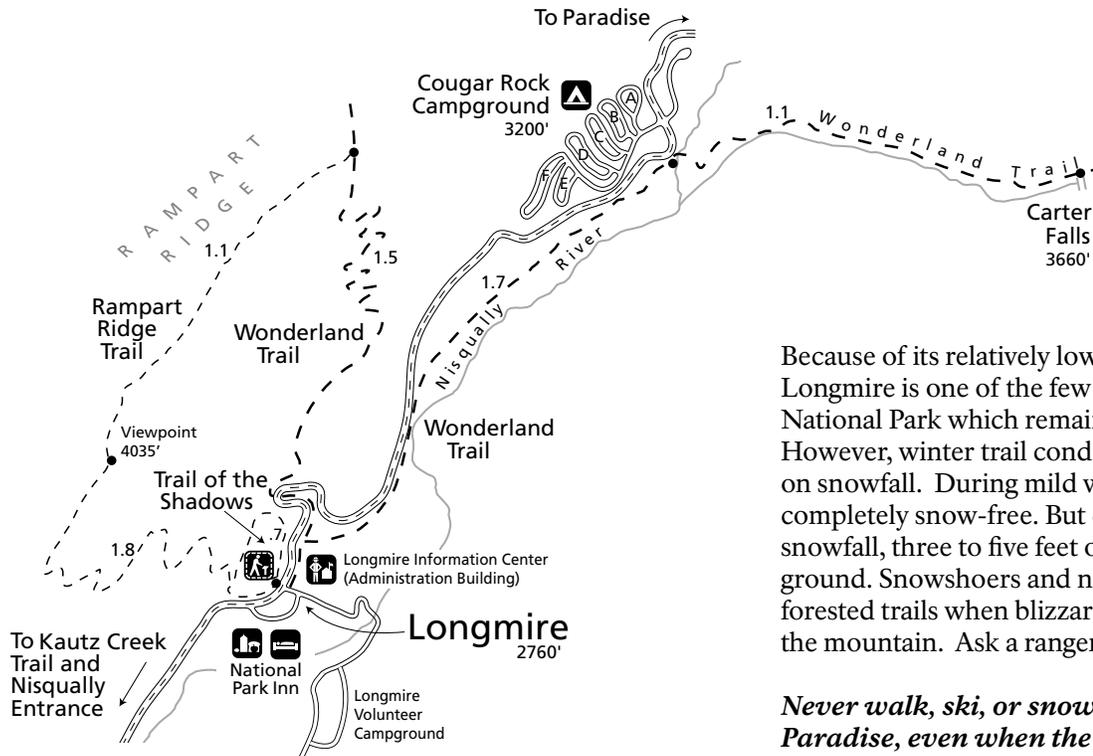




Longmire Winter Trails and Activities



Because of its relatively low elevation at 2,760 feet, Longmire is one of the few areas of Mount Rainier National Park which remains accessible year-round. However, winter trail conditions vary depending on snowfall. During mild winters, the trails may be completely snow-free. But during winters of heavy snowfall, three to five feet of snow may cover the ground. Snowshoers and novice skiers often favor these forested trails when blizzard conditions exist higher on the mountain. Ask a ranger for current conditions.

Never walk, ski, or snowshoe on the road to Paradise, even when the road is closed to vehicle traffic.

<p>Westside Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 miles round-trip to Round Pass • Begins at the junction with the main park road, one mile east of the Nisqually Entrance, climbing gradually to Round Pass following the unplowed road (not shown on map) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty: novice (first 3 miles to Dry Creek)/ intermediate (next 4 miles from Dry Creek to Round Pass) • High avalanche potential at Dry Creek, the first open area at the base of Mount Wow
<p>Kautz Creek</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 miles round-trip to the creek crossing • Begins at Kautz Creek parking area, 3 miles east of Nisqually Entrance (not shown on map) • Difficulty: novice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crossing the creek may be dangerous or impossible if storms or floods have damaged the footbridge; the trail steepens after crossing the creek and routefinding is required
<p>Trail of the Shadows</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.7 mile loop trail; level terrain • Difficulty: novice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins across the road from the National Park Inn
<p>Longmire Volunteer Campground</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 miles round-trip • Begins at parking area adjacent to museum and administration building • Difficulty: novice • Follows paved, plowed road from Longmire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village, over historic wooden suspension bridge, past Longmire Community Building, to loop road through campground • Be alert for vehicles traveling on roads • Some campground roads may not be plowed
<p>Rampart Ridge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.6 mile loop trail; very steep terrain • Begins along the west side of the Trail of the Shadows, across the road from the National Park Inn • Difficulty: advanced trail for snowshoers; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not recommended for skiers • Narrow trail through forest; often requires routefinding. • Do not travel on the Longmire-Paradise Road

Wonderland Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.8 miles round-trip from Longmire to Cougar Rock Campground; rolling terrain • Difficulty: intermediate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow trail through the forest; may require some routefinding • Do not travel on the Longmire-Paradise Road
Cougar Rock Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins at the campground entrance, 2 miles above Longmire toward Paradise • Difficulty: novice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat terrain; follows snow-covered loops of campground • May encounter snowmobiles
Carter Falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.2 miles round-trip along Wonderland Trail • Begins on the curve just below Cougar Rock Campground • Difficulty: advanced • Gradually uphill with some steep sections; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • narrow trail through forest; requires routefinding • Crossing the Nisqually River may be impossible if storms or floods have damaged the footbridge. • Do not travel on the Longmire-Paradise Road
Longmire Winter Activities	While visiting Longmire, the following are available at the Longmire Information Center, located inside the Administration Building:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Ranger activity books • Citizen Ranger Quest activities • Longmire Historic Walking Tour guides
Equipment Rental	Cross-country skis and snowshoes are available for rent at the Longmire General Store from approximately mid-December to early April.	For details, inquire in-person at the General Store, or call (360) 569-2411.
Food Service	Food, gifts and lodging are available daily at the historic National Park Inn. Enter from the	parking area on the south side of the building.
Tire Chains and Safe Driving	<p>All vehicles entering Mount Rainier National Park are required to carry properly fitting tire chains (this includes 4-wheel-drive and all-wheel-drive vehicles). Make sure you can install your chains properly and safely. Snow tires or tire chains may be required while driving in the park. Signs posted along the roadway indicate traction device requirements.</p> <p>Chains are available at local stores in Ashford</p>	<p>and at the Longmire General Store. For your own safety, always follow the traction requirements.</p> <p>Poor visibility and reduced traction present driving hazards during winter. Shady areas and bridge surfaces can be treacherously icy even when other section of roadway are not. Use caution and stay alert!</p>
Nightly Road Closures	The road from Longmire to Paradise closes nightly for safety reasons and to facilitate plowing. Visitors must leave Paradise by 4:30 pm to clear the Longmire gate by its 5:00 pm closure. The uphill gate at Longmire closes at 4:00 pm. It reopens the next morning if road conditions allow safe travel, usually between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. However, some days the weather and snow conditions prevent the	road from opening at all. Keep in mind that all roads are subject to closure at any time. Walking, skiing, and showshoeing on the road to Paradise are not allowed, even when the road is closed. Snowplows and other heavy equipment are operating beyond the gate, and any unexpected traffic (auto or pedestrian) could lead to a deadly encounter.
Overnight Parking and Camping	Parking overnight in Longmire is permitted only in the parking area adjacent to the National Park Inn. Parking outside this area will impede snowplowing operations and could cause an accident. Camping in vehicles and/or at trailheads or parking lots is prohibited. Avoid setting your emergency break—it may freeze!	Wilderness permits are required for all overnight camping. They are available free of charge at the Longmire Information Center, in the Administration Building, open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.