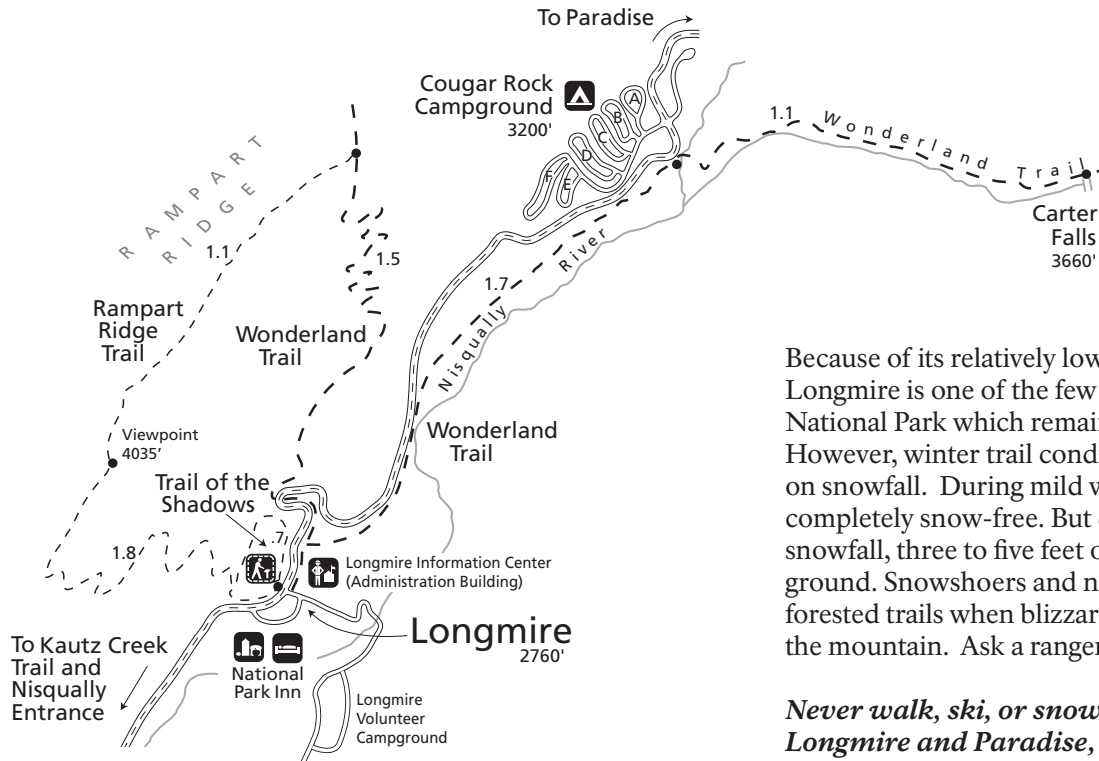




Longmire Winter Trails and Activities



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 between Longmire and Paradise, even when the road is closed to vehicle traffic.

Westside Road

- 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)
- 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

Kautz Creek

- 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
- Crossing the creek may be dangerous or impossible if storms or floods have damaged the footbridge; the trail steepens after crossing the creek and route-finding is required

Trail of the Shadows

- 0.7 mile loop trail; level terrain
- Difficulty: novice
- Begins across the road from the National Park Inn

Longmire Volunteer Campground

- 1.5 miles round-trip
- Begins at the parking area adjacent to the Museum and Administration Building
- Difficulty: novice
- Follows paved, plowed road over the historic wooden suspension bridge, past the Longmire Community Building, to the loop road through the campground
- Be alert for vehicles traveling on roads
- Some campground roads may not be plowed

Rampart Ridge

- 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; **not recommended for skiers**
- Narrow trail through forest; often requires route-finding.
- 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 route-finding • 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; narrow trail through forest; requires route- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> finding skills • 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 Museum, located across from the Administration Building:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Ranger activity books • Citizen Ranger Quest activities • Longmire Historic Walking Tour guides
Wilderness Camping Permits	Wilderness permits are required for all overnight camping. They are available free of charge at the Longmire Museum (daily) or at	the Longmire Wilderness Information Center (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday).
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>Between November 1 and May 1, all vehicles entering Mount Rainier National Park are required to carry properly fitting tire chains* (including 4-wheel-drive and all-wheel-drive vehicles). Tire chains may be required at anytime while driving in the park. Signs posted along the roadway indicate traction device requirements.</p> <p>Chains are available at local stores outside of the park. For your own safety, always follow</p>	<p>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 sections of roadway are not. Use caution and stay alert!</p> <p><i>* Autosocks are allowed for passenger vehicles under 10,000 pounds as an alternative to tire chains.</i></p>
Nightly Road Closures	The road from Longmire to Paradise is closed unless it can be plowed and opened for safe public access. Check @MountRainierNPS on Twitter for road status (account not required). Departing Paradise by 3:00 pm is recommended to clear the Longmire gate by its 4:00 pm closure. The uphill gate at Longmire closes no later than 3:00 pm. It reopens the next morning if road conditions allow safe travel, usually between 9:00 am and 11:00 am.	However, some days weather and conditions prevent the road from opening at all. Keep in mind that all roads are subject to closure at any time. Walking, skiing, and snowshoeing 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	Parking overnight in Longmire is permitted only in the parking area behind to the National Park Inn. Parking outside this area impedes snowplow operations and may cause an	accident. Camping in vehicles and/or at trailheads or parking lots is prohibited. Avoid setting your emergency break—it may freeze!