Owyhigh Lakes

According to legend, the Owyhigh Lakes were named after Yakama Chief “Owhi”, who loaned horses to Theodore Winthrop (after whom the Winthrop Glacier was named), when Winthrop was on a trek across the Cascades in the mid-1850s. This hike offers solitude amongst lakes, meadows, and mountains.

Do not feed or approach wildlife.
Pets and bicycles are not allowed on park trails.
Do not pick flowers or collect other park resources (rocks, wood, etc.).
Carry the “10 Essentials” and Leave No Trace of your visit.
Use a topographical map.
Permit required for wilderness camping.

Trail Description

Round-trip Distance: 7 miles (11.3 km)
Elevation Gain: 1,350 feet (411 m)
Hiking Time Round-trip: 3.5 hours
Difficulty Level: Moderate

Wilderness Camp: Tamanos Creek

Trailhead: Drive through the White River Entrance and proceed 2 miles (3.2 km) to a parking area on the right. The trailhead is located across the road.

Along the Trail

Although this hike offers no views of Mount Rainier, it does offer an array of secluded mountain lakes and meadows aglow with wildflowers in mid-summer.

The jagged cliffs of Governors Ridge rise high above the lakes to the east while Tamanos Mountain lies directly west.