Welcome to Paradise! Due to its location on the slopes of Mount Rainier, Paradise often receives significant amounts of snow in autumn. Recreating in early season snow offers challenges and hazards unique to this time of year. Here is some information to help you get the most out of your visit. A map of the Paradise area is on the reverse side.

Safety First!

The following information will help you prepare for hazardous conditions created by colder weather and early snowfall. Keep in mind that there is limited cell phone coverage inside the park.

- Hypothermia and frostbite are cold weather 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.
- A reliable map and compass skills are needed as snowy trails can be difficult to follow.
- Avoid crossing steep, snow-covered slopes where a fall could be disastrous. Turn around instead. Pinnacle Peak Trail and other higher trails often have hazardous slopes. Take an ice axe and know how to use it.
- Be aware that any drainage dry or wet can create a snow bridge and fall hazard. Falling through thin snow bridges into streams can lead to serious injury or death. Stay alert for the muffled sound of running water.
- Falling into snow oaks around trees, and adjacent to logs and rocks, can cause injury. Avoid getting too close.
- Avoid stepping on wet, slippery rocks, especially near streams and waterfalls.
- Avoid stepping onto snow cornices. They may collapse under your weight.
- Beware of avalanche dangers!
- Before starting your hike, stop by ranger stations for current trail conditions.
- Winter-like storms can hit Mount Rainier anytime of year with unpredictable and rapidly changing conditions. Obtain a current weather forecast and come prepared.

Protect Your Park

Paradise meadows are fragile and can be damaged any time of year. To protect the meadows, it is essential that you hike only on constructed trails or on snow that is deep enough to protect plants. Stepping off the trail, even for a minute, damages the meadows.

Leashed pets are only allowed in parking areas. Do not take your pet on snow-covered trails.

Enjoy wildlife at a distance and keep human food properly stored. Do not feed wildlife, including birds. Pack out all litter.

Sledding and Sliding

Sledding is not allowed anywhere in the park except at the Paradise snowplay area and not until sliding runs are constructed and officially open for the season. The Paradise Snowplay Area is closed until snow-depth is sufficient and the area is groomed (usually late December or early January).

Skiing and Snowboarding

A minimum of 5 feet of snow is advised for skiing and snowboarding. Avoid damaging exposed vegetation. Do not cross snow-free areas. Obtain further information at the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise or the Longmire Museum.

Dangerous Terrain

Avalanche forecasts

Each person should carry and know how to use a beacon, probe, and shovel. Avalanches can occur at any time in the Paradise area. Check the map on the back for known avalanche zones and consult with a ranger about current avalanche conditions. Winter storms along the Muir Snowfield can produce hurricane force winds, blind snow, and white out conditions. These conditions challenge even the best mountaineers. Give advance notice of your plans to a responsible person so they can contact rangers if you fail to return.

Carry The Ten Essentials

- map of the area
- compass
- extra food & water
- first aid kit
- headlamp or flashlight, extra bulb & batteries
- 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.

Do I Need a Climbing Permit?

If you are camping in the Paradise area or backcountry, you need a wilderness permit. If you are traveling above Camps Muir or Schurman (i.e., above 10,000 feet) or on any glacier, you need a climbing permit.

Climbing permit self-registration is available at the porch of the Paradise Ranger Station (small A-frame by small flagpole in upper parking lot).

Wilderness camping self-registration permits are available on the porch of the Longmire Museum or porch of Longmire Administration building from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.
To Longmire 8 mi.
Paradise Water Supply
No Camping
Nisqually Glacier

Reflection Lakes 4854'
Louise Lake 4597'

Mazama Ridge Route
Paradise Valley Route

Nisqually Vista
Paradise Inn (Closed)

Inspiration Point

Narada Falls

Glacier Vista

Paradise Water Supply
No Camping

Paradise Inn (Closed)

Paradise Valley Route

5400'

4th Crossing

Glacier Vista

Panorama Point

SJN Rute

Skyline Route

Nisqually Vista

Paradise

Barn Flats (unmarked but easy)

Overnight Parking

Visitor Center (Closed)

Paradise Inn

Paradise Valley Route

Unplowed Roads (Easy - Intermediate)
Marked Routes (Intermediate)
Unmarked Routes (Difficult)
Route Finding Skills Required!

Contour Interval 100 Feet
Rev. 10/21

Primary Avalanche Danger Areas
Not limited to these slopes.
Check Forecast!

Plowed Roads — No walking, skiing, sliding, or snowboarding!

Unplowed Roads (Easy - Intermediate)

Route-finding and hazard assessment skills needed at Paradise when snow-covered.

No marked routes in Autumn at Paradise.

No pets outside parking areas.

An emergency phone is located in the hallway to the restrooms in the upper parking lot.

Road may close each evening at the Longmire gate. Check signs.

Overnight parking in designated areas only.

Camping, including sleeping in vehicles, is prohibited in parking lots.

Permits required for camping.

Sledding only permitted at Paradise Snowplay Area once officially open.

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