Mount Rainier National Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Winter Recreation

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.

Protect Your Park
- Remember to pack out all trash. Early summer snow melt exposes trash left behind.
- Leashed pets are permitted only in picnic areas, campgrounds, parking lots, and along roads currently open to public vehicles.
- 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. To dispose of used blue bags, a blue bag barrel is available in the tunnel to the restrooms in the upper Paradise parking lot.
- Cutting of vegetation and collecting or gathering of wood is not permitted.
- Do not dry clothing or gear in the restroom tunnel.
- Camping and cooking in any building or in the restrooms zone 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.

Dangerous Terrain
Learn to identify avalanche terrain. Get the daily avalanche forecast from Northwest Avalanche Center at www.nwac.us. Each person should carry and know how to use a beacon, probe, and shovel. Avalanches occur with frightening regularity in the Paradise area. Check the map on the back for known avalanche zones. Ask a ranger for current avalanche conditions.

Skiing and Snowboarding
A minimum of 5” of snow is advised for skiing and snowboarding. Avoid damaging exposed vegetation.

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. If you encounter shrubs, trees, or bare ground while digging, choose a different spot. Party size is limited to 6 persons or up to 12 people from the same household until COVID safety standards are met.

Backcountry Camping
Backcountry permits are required year-round. If you plan to winter camp in the backcountry, permits are available the day of arrival at the Longmire Museum, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm and at the Longmire Wilderness Information Center, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Friday through Sunday. In selecting your campsite, choose a location that is a minimum of 300 feet from plowed roads and parking areas, marked routes, trails and buildings, and at least 100 feet from water.

Group Campsites
Group campsites are closed until COVID safety standards are met.

Winter Parking & Vehicle Safety
Vehicles parked overnight must be left in the designated overnight parking areas at Narada Falls, Longmire, or the Paradise lower parking lot. If designated areas are full, contact a park ranger. See the map above for more details.

All vehicles are required to carry tire chains when traveling in the park. Know how to install them and obey the traction requirements.

Camping in vehicles is not permitted.
Winter “10 ESSENTIALS”
1. Shovel (avalanche rescue)
2. Full Length Insulated Sleeping Pad
3. Stove & Fuel (melt water)
4. Heat Packs
5. Goggles & Wool/Pile Hat
6. Gloves (waterproof/lined)
7. Avalanche Transceiver
8. Avalanche Probe
9. Reliable Weather & Avalanche Forecasts
10. Map, Compass, & GPS (with extra batteries)

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

Plowed Roads — No walking, skiing, sliding, or snowboarding!
Unplowed Roads
(Easy - Intermediate)
Marked Routes
(Intermediate)
Unmarked Routes
(Difficult)
Route Finding Skills Required!
Contour Interval 100 Feet

Road closes each evening at the Longmire gate.
Overnight parking in designated areas only.
Camping prohibited in parking areas.
Sliding permitted at Paradise snowplay area only.
No pets outside parking areas.
Permit required for camping.
An emergency phone is located in the hallway to the restrooms in the upper parking lot.