

Mount Rainier

NATIONAL PARK



Flora and fauna

Welcome to one of **Washington State's** **oldest national parks—** **Mount Rainier.**

Towering over Puget Sound at 14,411 feet (4,612 meters), Mount Rainier sits southeast of Seattle, and is one of the state's most famous landmarks. Outdoor enthusiasts—whether hikers, climbers or simply sightseers—will find pleasure in the park's rich offerings of conifer forests, waterfalls, glaciers, and abundant wildlife. Approximately two million people visit the park each year and many of them have returned year after year.



Visitor services

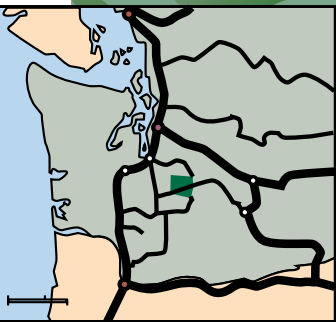
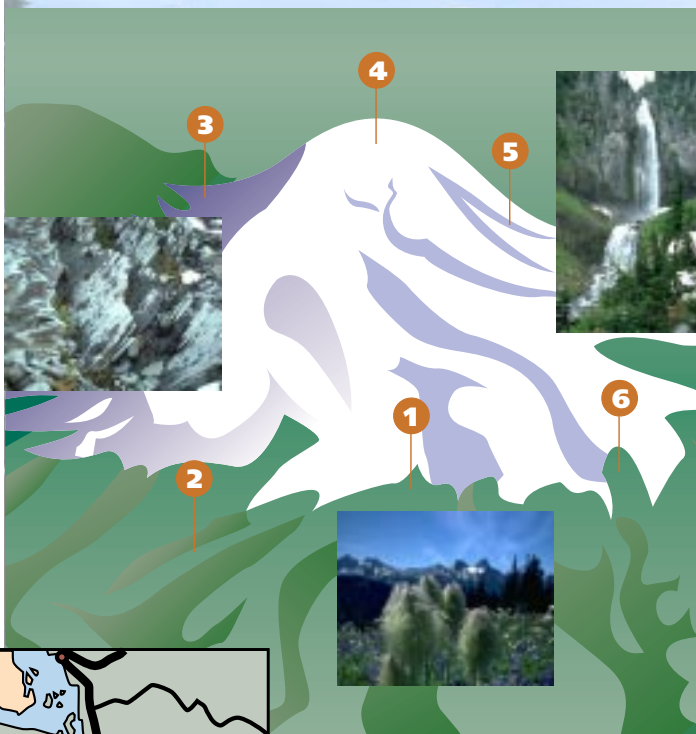


Wildlife

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Throughout the year, you can enjoy numerous park activities and programs, including guided nature walks, cross-country skiing, and showshoeing. Check the park newspapers for current programs and schedules. Mount Rainier National Park contains 577 campsites, all available on a first-come, first-

served basis. Register at the ranger station or visitor center in the area in which you plan to camp. All campgrounds have running water, toilets, and a table and fire-place at each site. A back-country permit is required for camping outside designated campsites and is available free of charge.



- 1** Paradise
- 2** Ipsut Creek
- 3** Cougar Rock
- 4** Sunshine Point
- 5** Longmire
- 6** White River

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WILD LIFE IN THE PARK

Subalpine zone

The subalpine zone is characterized by tree “islands” interspersed among open meadows. It is these meadows that, during July and August, host a show of spectacular color. More than 30 flower species provide a rainbow of hues: yellow, red, pink, purple, and

orange against the brilliant green background of the meadow grasses. The timing and quality of the floral display is determined by the amount of snowfall and summer temperatures. These subalpine meadows are found at elevations between 4,000 and 6,500 feet.



Elk

Olympic Elk were native to the Mount Rainier region, but, sadly, they were hunted to extinction long ago. The elk that inhabit the park now are Rocky Mountain Elk, descendants of the animals brought in during a restocking program that began in the early 1900s.

Hoary Marmot

Perch yourself on a rock in a high meadow in Mount Rainier National Park just as the summer sun rises, and you may be able to enjoy viewing the morning rituals of the hoary marmots.



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