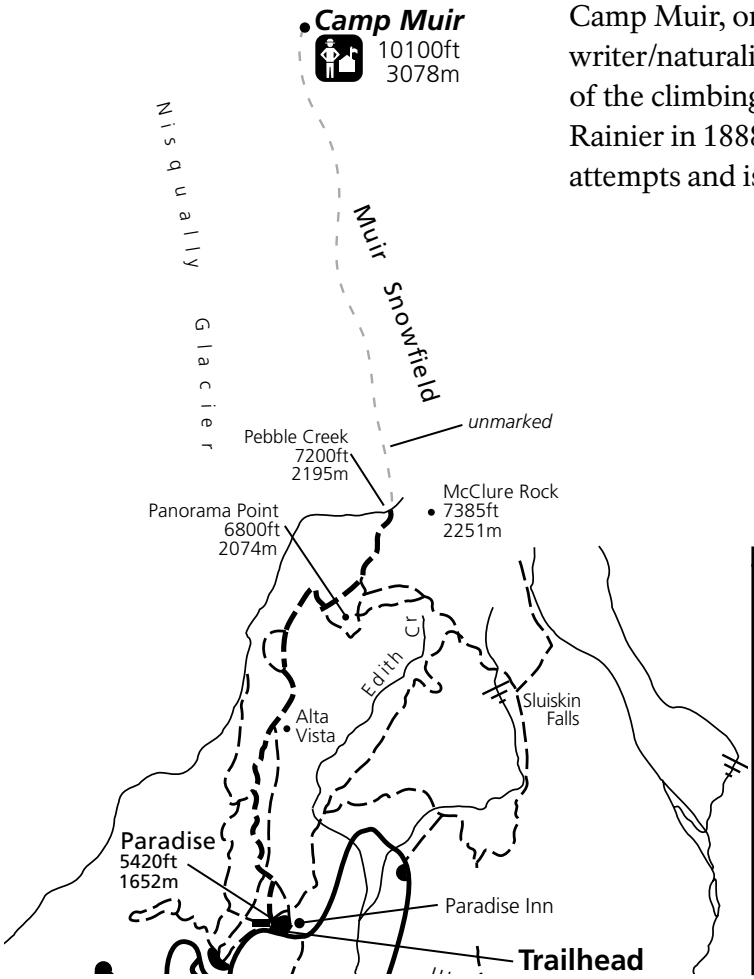
Camp Muir



Only experienced hikers and climbers should attempt this unmarked route. Camp Muir, originally known as Cloud Camp, was named Camp Muir after writer/naturalist John Muir summited the mountain. Muir was a member of the climbing party that made the sixth recorded ascent of the Mount Rainier in 1888. Camp Muir is one of the primary high camps for summit attempts and is a favorite campsite with climbers.

Travel only on maintained trails or on snow.
Do not pick flowers.
Carry the "10 Essentials" and Leave No Trace of your visit.
Pets and bicycles are not allowed on park trails.
Do not feed or approach wildlife.
Use a topographic map, compass and GPS.
Permit required for wilderness camping.
Permit and climbing pass required for any travel on glaciers or above the elevation of high camps (Camps Muir and Schurman).

Route Description

Round-trip Distance:
9 miles (14.5 km)

Elevation Gain:
4,680 feet (1426 m)

Hiking Time Round-trip:
6 to 8 hours

Difficulty Level:
Strenuous

Trailhead: The trailhead is located on the uphill side of the upper parking lot at Paradise.

Along the Route

Follow the Skyline Trail 2.3 miles (3.7 km) upward to Pebble Creek. Be sure to treat water before drinking from the creek! Here the trail ends and the Muir Snowfield begins. The next 2.2 miles (3.5 km) is an unmarked route involving an ascent of 2,900 ft (884 m) up the snowfield.

Warning: White-out conditions and inclement weather can occur suddenly on the Muir Snowfield at any time. Use the information listed on the back for navigating on the snowfield. Be prepared for changing conditions and unexpected difficulties!

Mount Rainier National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Get Your Bearings

Mistakes in navigation while traveling to or from Camp Muir during storms and "white-outs" have resulted in lost climbers and hikers and fatalities. To decrease the possibility of this happening to your party, this map shows compass bearings to and from Camp Muir (true and magnetic north) as well as the coordinates (latitude/longitude) of landmarks along the route. This map will not substitute for a USGS topographic map.

Proper bearings alone will not ensure a safe trip. Camp Muir and the Muir Snowfield are nearly surrounded by glaciers: the Nisqually Glacier to the west, the Cowlitz Glacier to the north and east, and the Paradise Glacier to the south and east. A minor error in navigation may lead you onto these glaciers where there are numerous crevasses and other hazards. Stay on course. You may have to correct your direction of travel to the windward due to strong winds, usually out of the west or southwest.

Always beware of steep cliffs to the east of Camp Muir and Anvil Rock and to the east of McClure Rock. These cliffs, obscured by snow and cornices in the winter, have been the sites of mountaineering tragedies. Panorama Point is a dangerous avalanche area.

While traversing the Muir Snowfield, approach rock islands with care because of holes which form around rocks as snow melts. Crevasses occasionally open up on the snowfield in the vicinity of Anvil Rock in late summer and may be hidden by snow.

Map scale

0 750 1500 3000

feet

Contour interval: 200 feet
Magnetic declination: 16.5° East
GPS datum: WGS84

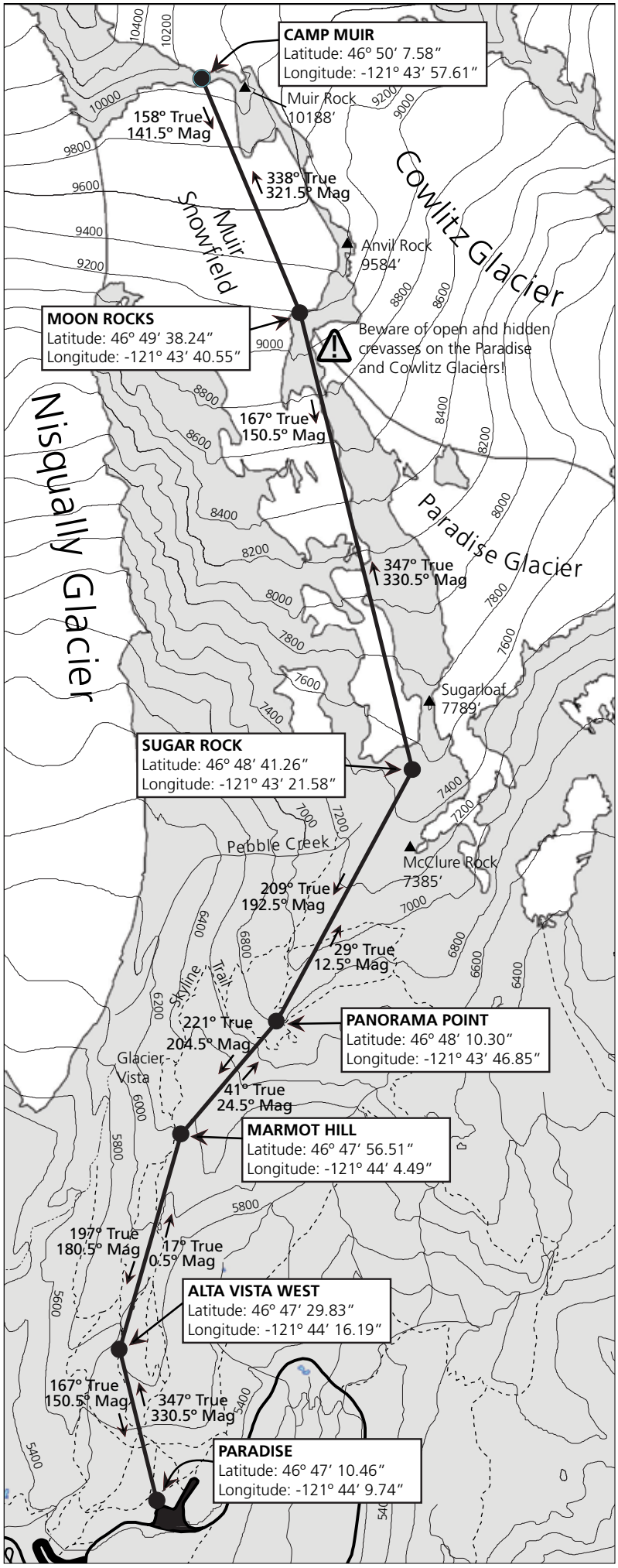
Snow and Ice

Bare Ground (during maximum snowmelt)

Maintained Trails

N W E S

GPS coordinates (latitude/longitude) are provided in degrees/minutes/seconds (DMS) and use **WGS84** datum. GPS units must use correct configuration, including projection and datum, for results to be accurate. Serious errors will occur if GPS units are not configured correctly!



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