Mount Rainier National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Paradise Autumn Recreation



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!

? Visit nps.gov/mora for road updates and closures.

! Route finding and hazard assessment skills are needed in Paradise area when snow-covered.

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 moats 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 station 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

The sledding runs at Paradise will not open this year.

Sledding is not permitted elsewhere in the park.

Dangerous Terrain

Avalanche forecasts www.NWAC.US

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, blinding 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 outside designated campgrounds, which are closed in winter.*

Skiing and Snowboarding

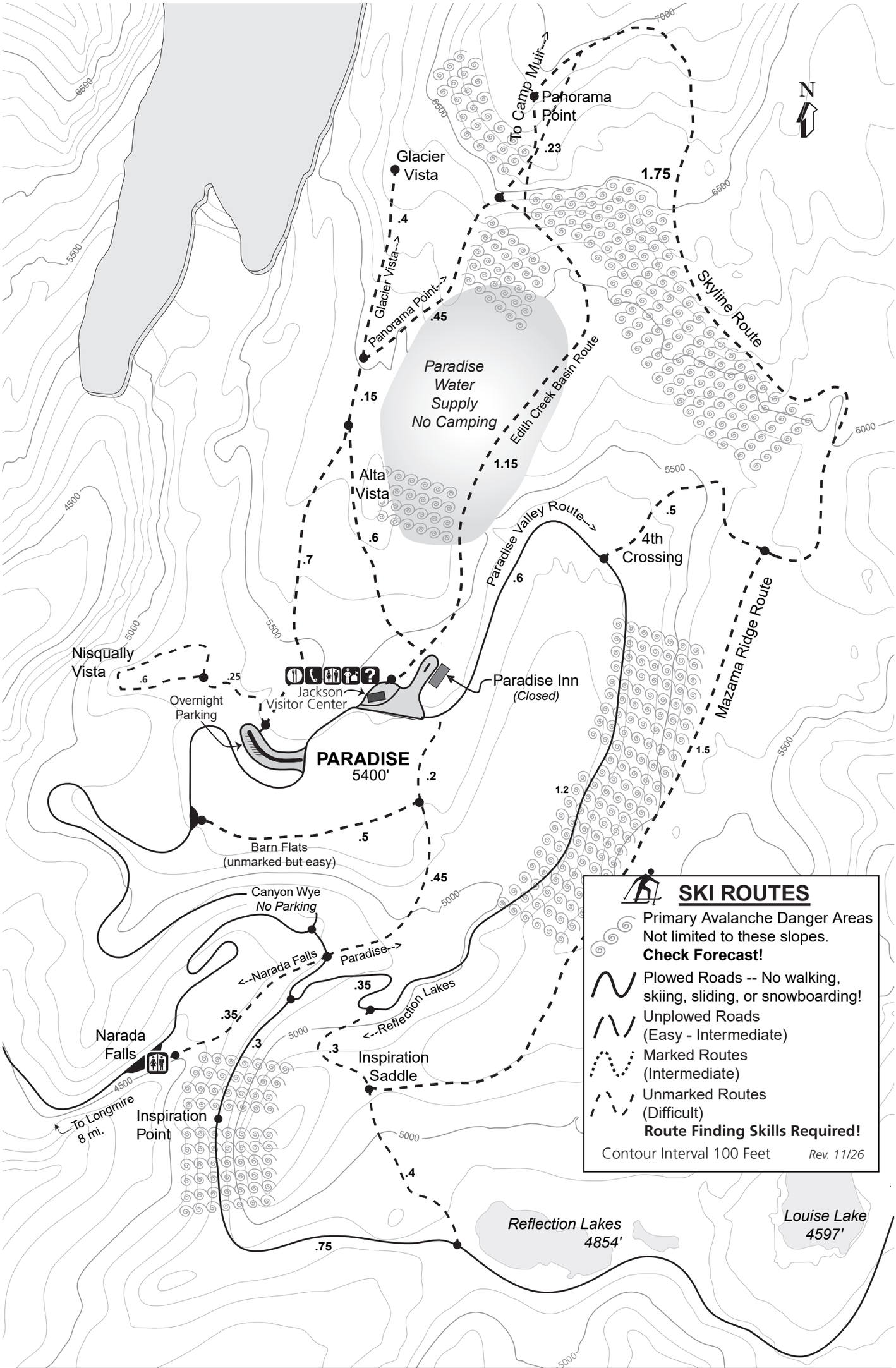
A minimum of 5 feet of snow is advised for skiing and snowboarding. Avoid damaging exposed vegetation. *Do not cross snow-free areas*. Obtain further information at the Jackson Visitor Center at Paradise or the Longmire Museum.

Do I Need a Camping 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 on the porch of the Paradise Ranger Station (small A-frame by small flagpole in upper parking lot).

Wilderness camping permits are available at the Longmire Museum from 9 am - 4 pm.



- 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.
- *Route-finding and hazard assessment skills needed at Paradise when snow-covered.*
- No marked routes in autumn at Paradise.
- Permits required for camping.
- Sledding runs will not open this year.
- No pets outside parking areas.
- An emergency phone is located in the hallway to the restrooms in the upper parking lot.