

SKY

△ DELTA

FEATURING

GLACIERS AND MOOSE IN ALASKA
LONDON STYLE INSPIRATION
BREAKING ANOTHER GLASS CEILING
1 CITY 5 WAYS: HONG KONG
VICTORIA'S MANY CHARMS

MAY 2016

RYAN LEWIS
AND THE
30/30
PROJECT

PLUS

EXPEDIA

ANNA FARIS

REGGIE
WATTS

PUGET SOUND
AND THE
GREAT
OUTDOORS

THE
SEATTLE
ART
MUSEUM

CHEF ETHAN
STOWELL

GLASSYBABY

THE CEO OF THE
BILL & MELINDA
GATES FOUNDATION,
SUE DESMOND-
HELLMANN, ON ITS
WORLD-SAVING
MISSION

▽
ALL ROUTES
LEAD TO—AND
FROM—THE THRIVING
EMERALD
CITY

SEATTLE

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ashington's other massive chain of pinnacles—the Cascades—emerged from the Ring of Fire, the molten rainbow-shaped arc along the Pacific's edges that contains 75 percent of all Earth's active volcanoes. Ease into the alpine experience at Snoqualmie Falls, a 268-foot cataract a half-hour drive east of Seattle.

It's free to park and visit the observation platform, but splurgers may want to pop into the adjacent Salish Lodge (which may appear familiar from its cameo in the original *Twin Peaks* hit TV series).

The region's highlight remains Mount Rainier National Park, anchored by its eponymous 14,410-foot volcano: the most glaciated peak in the Lower 48. The gleaming snow cone often appears to

loom over Seattle, though it's actually 65 miles southeast of the city.

Companies such as International Mountain Guides can help alpinists summit this iconic landmark. It requires months of training, not to mention a serious cash outlay on gear, ranging from lightweight titanium sporks to potentially life-saving ice axes. Yet even with excellent preparation,

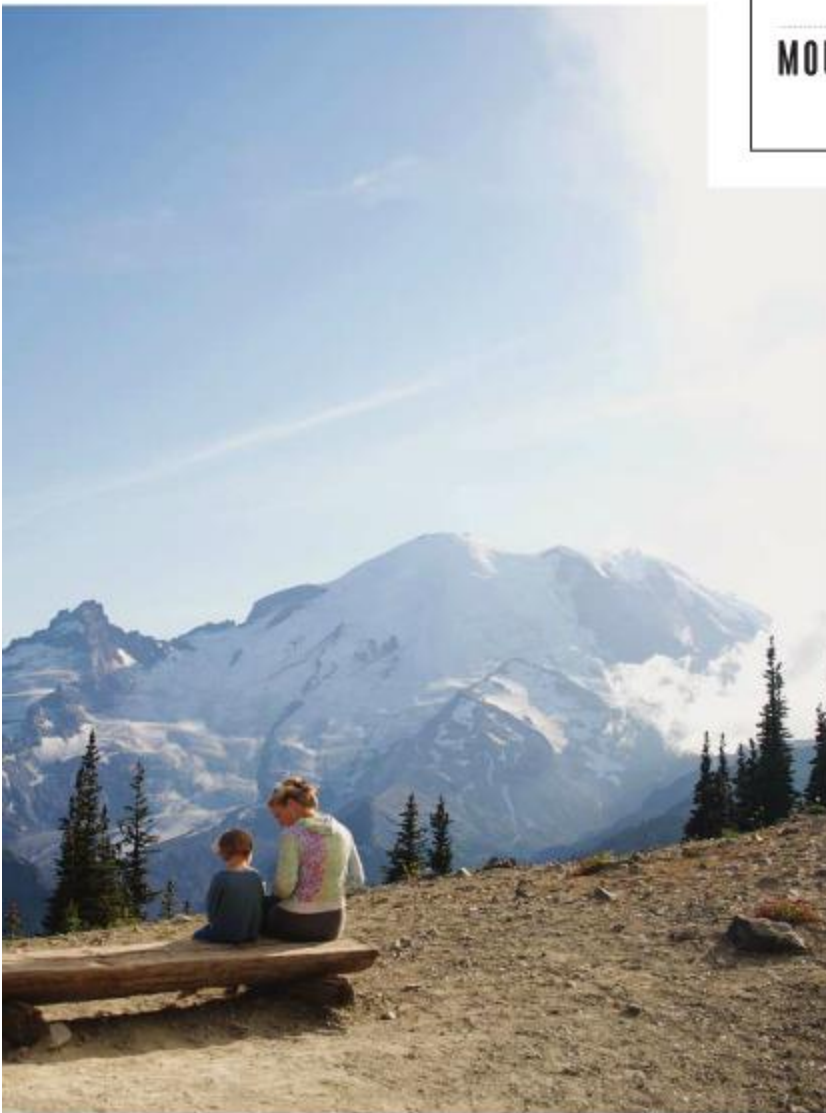
more than half of climbers don't reach the peak due to weather, avalanches, fatigue, injuries and other curve balls.

Get a taste of the high country with a 9-mile round-trip day hike from the Paradise Jackson Visitor Center (5,400 feet) to

Camp Muir (10,100 feet—beyond this, the park requires climbing permits). More easygoing trekkers can explore the wildflower meadows near the 1916 Paradise Inn—perfect for inexperienced folks, as are day tours from outfitters such as Evergreen Escapes. Come winter, this valley becomes a hot spot for sledding and snowshoeing. Hardy types even can build igloos and hollow out snow caves when the drifts grow deep enough (typically December through April).

For more classic resort comforts, turn to Crystal Mountain, 12 miles northeast of Rainier. The state's first ski gondola can reveal views all the way to Mount St. Helens. At 6,872 feet, Summit House—Washington's most elevated restaurant—serves goodies such as bison chili, Astago linguini and lemongrass-gin cocktails. An outdoor area includes a "paw-tio" for summertime travelers accompanied by their four-legged friends.

Finally, get off the beaten track—and the road network entirely—in Stehekin, a mountain community accessible only by boat, plane or foot. Rent a bike or kayak to view pioneer ruins and spot pictographs along the shore. What better ways to explore the headwaters of Chelan, America's third-deepest lake? ▼



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