

Shriner Peak, WA



Vicinity Location:

About 106 miles northeast of Portland, OR in Mt Rainier National Park.

Directions:

From Seattle: Follow I-5 South for 25 miles and take exit 142A to merge onto WA Highway 18 East toward North Bend/Auburn. Drive 4.4 miles and take the Auburn Way/WA Highway 164 East exit toward Enumclaw for 0.2 mile.

Make a slight right at 6th St SE then turn left at Auburn Way S/C St SE/WA Highway 164. Continue to follow WA Highway 164 for 14.7 miles then turn left at Roosevelt Ave E/WA Highway 410.

Continue to follow WA Highway 410 for 39.4 miles.

Make a slight right onto WA-123 South and drive for 7.5 miles looking for a parking area on the right.

From Portland: Take I-5 North towards Seattle and drive for about 75 miles. Take exit 68 for US-12 East. At the top of the off ramp, turn right onto US-12 and travel about 71.8 miles. This takes you past Morton and through Packwood.

Make a slight left onto WA Highway 123, driving for 8.9 miles. This road is seasonally closed.

There is parking about 500 feet north of the trailhead.

There are no bathrooms at the trailhead. There is a toilet at the summit at the camp.

No permits are needed to park here or enter this part of Mount Rainier National Park.

No pets allowed on national Park trails including this trail.

Length and Elevation:

9.6 miles roundtrip. Elevation at the trailhead is 2,468 feet. Total gain is 3,740 feet and loss is 3,740 feet. Highest elevation is 5,833 feet and the lowest elevation 2,421 feet.

Trail Maps:

Topo Map, Download Garmin .gpx file, Open Garmin .gpx file

Trails: Shriner Peak Trail

Review: September 30, 2024

From the parking area walk along the shoulder of the road using a foot path adjacent to the shoulder. Once you reach the trailhead, you start climbing immediately through a forest of mock trees. There is a mix of older, second growth and old growth hemlocks, and Douglas fir. Some of the trees at the beginning of this trail are 4 feet in diameter or so.

The undergrowth here is mainly vine, maple deer, fern, and vanilla leaf.

You'll pass some nice patches of vine maple as you walk across rocky slopes.

The first 0.25 mile is a pretty steady climb and then it levels out a bit before resuming the uphill climb. Trail is wide and well-maintained. And it doesn't take long to leave the sounds of the road behind you.

The trail gains about 700 feet in elevation over the first mile from the parking lot. There are a few partial views of the mountain to the right but the trail is in the forest for the first part of the hike.

After climbing for about 1.5 miles the trail starts coming out into open areas. Then in about 1.8 miles you reach the first of several switchbacks climbing up the slope of Shriners peak. Here the ground cover has changed so that Oregon grape is the predominant plant, though it is fairly sparse because of the tree canopy.

Climbing higher, the forest transitions into a mixture of Douglas fir, Noble fir, and grand fir. The undergrowth changes from Oregon grape to bear grass, deer ferns, and Kinnick with some huckleberries thrown in.

Climbing the slopes up to switchbacks the forest begins to thin and you can see more of the nearby mountain ridges.

After hiking 2 1/2 miles and gaining 2000 feet you come to a break in the trees where you get your first glimpse of Mount Adams in the distance, but it is mostly hidden behind a nearby no mountain ridge.

A short distance further up the trail there's a switchback with a short spur trail that goes to an outstanding view of Mount Rainier. Take the side trip for a great view looking up one of the river valleys.

The views of Mount Rainier disappear as you ascend higher and higher across the mountain slope. Soon the trail ascends on the west side of the peak and Mt. Rainier is almost a constant companion across the Cowlitz River Valley,. After Hiking about 3 miles and gaining almost 2500 feet you crest a small ridge and drop down a little before the final climb up to the peak.

The trail narrows and switchbacks up to the broad summit where there are open and unobstructed views of Mt. Rainier. You can also see Mt. Saint Helens and Mt. Adams on a clear day

Climb the stairs to the lookout and walk around the deck for plenty of views, though the best views are right where the trail reaches the summit.

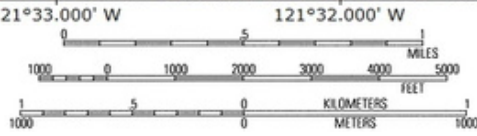
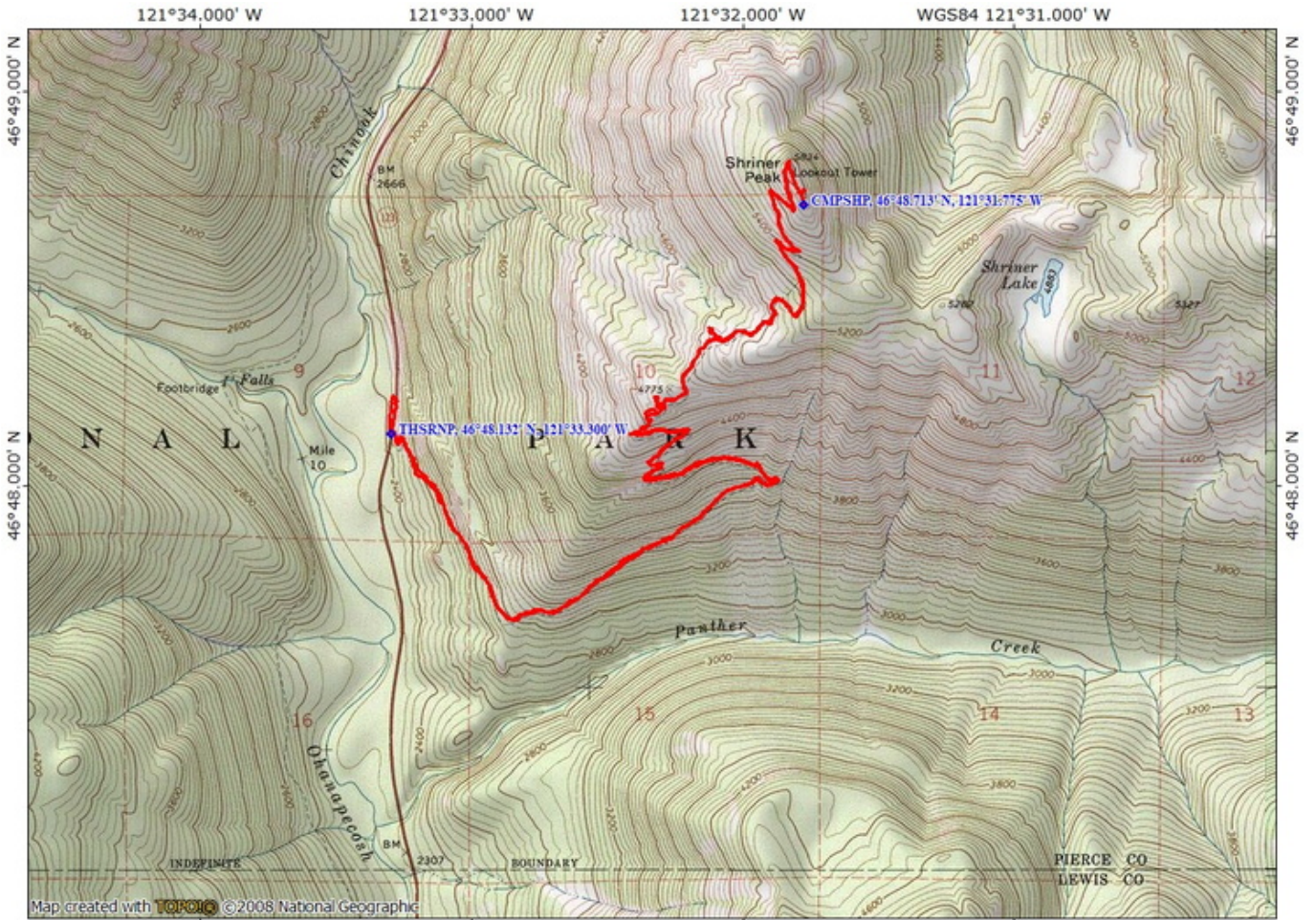
You can take the trail to Shriners Peak Camp and check out the 2 campsites and the toilet.

After enjoying the views make your way back down the trail to the parking area.

Enjoy the photos!!

Gallery Pics

Switchback Steve



TN / MN
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