

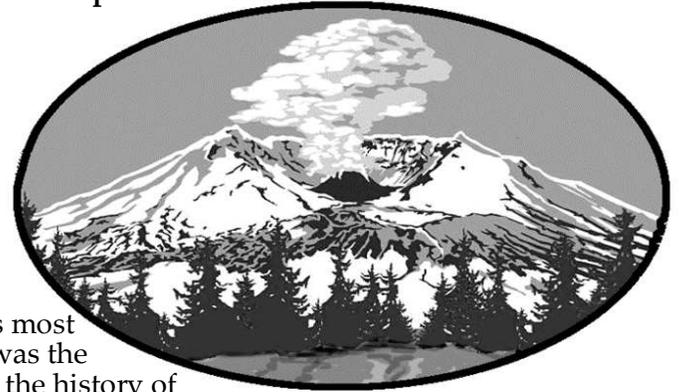
# Mt Rainier & Mt St Helens

June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Mt St. Helens... on May 18th, 1980 the eruption of Mt St. Helens disrupted the lives of thousands and changed more than 200 square miles of rich forest into a grey, lifeless landscape. Now, more than thirty years later, the land around the mountain is slowly healing. Nature may be covering the scars of the 1980 eruption, but many people will never forget what happened that spring day. Mt Rainier... the highest peak in the Cascade Range at 14,411 feet. The "mountain" is surrounded by old growth forest and stunning wildflower meadows... It is an active volcano encased in over 35 square miles of snow and ice, which makes it the most heavily glaciated peak in the lower 48.

**Included:**

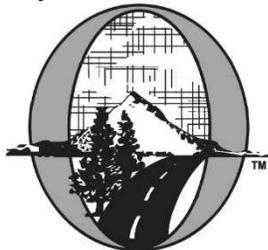
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North we go... we'll indulge in a wonderful lunch at Parkers Steakhouse before making our way up... Mt St Helens. She is most famous for her catastrophic eruption on May 18, 1980, which was the deadliest and most economically destructive volcanic event in the history of the United States. Fifty-seven people were killed; 250 homes, 47 bridges, 15 miles of railways, and 185 miles of highway were destroyed. The Mt St. Helens National Volcanic Monument was created to preserve the volcano and allow for its aftermath to be scientifically studied. First stop is Johnston Ridge Visitors Center, named after the volcanologist David Johnston, who was camped out on this ridge observing the volcano when it blew. His final words were "Vancouver, Vancouver, this is it." This site has an awesome view, as well as great exhibits and an award-winning film. We'll also visit the Forestry Center... It tells the story of Mount St. Helens and the remarkable recovery of forests, fish and wildlife following the eruption. We'll make our way back down the mountain, our home for the night is the Red Lion in Kelso... Enjoy dinner here before saying goodnight.

Today we ride the Mt Rainier Rail Road & take in their Logging Museum... Enjoy the distinct noise of a steam whistle as the train travels into the forest. We'll stop at the logging museum where you'll be treated to the most comprehensive collection of steam locomotives in North America! Sit back, relax, and take in the sights and sounds of the misty forest as we roll along. Afterward we'll stop at Mineral Lake Lodge to take in the most picturesque view of Mt. Rainier reflecting in Mineral Lake. Next a couple of favorites... the king of waterfalls, Comet Falls, named because of its resemblance to a Comet's tail, and the very popular Narada Falls - its name is a Hindu word meaning "pure". The Nisqually Glacier Bridge crossing the glacier fed Nisqually River is a picturesque wooden bridge sitting high above Nisqually Glacier. Welcome to Paradise... we'll stop at the visitor's center before we head to our home for the night... Newly renovated Paradise Inn... Designated as one of the "Great Lodges of the West," Paradise Inn provides a relaxing retreat in Mount Rainier National Park. Paradise was built in the popular style of the period with large timber frame exposed on the interior. You'll have some time to get cozy in your room before dinner

We'll head home but the fun isn't over... We'll stop at "The Grotto" the National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother. This beautiful 62-acre shrine and botanical garden provides a peaceful retreat... After our catered lunch take a leisurely walk in this beautiful place! Join us on one of our most scenic adventures...



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**The Fine Print:** A 24 person minimum is required for this tour to operate. Tour deposits and payments are subject to penalties unless the minimum is met and the tour is canceled. Cancellation insurance is available by calling our office. OregonWest Excursions is not liable for damage, delay, or inconvenience which may occur through acts or defaults of any other company or person engaged in providing services, provisions, accommodations, transportation or facilities in connection with this tour, nor are we liable for any acts of war, whether declared or not, damage, loss, or acts of God connected with this tour.

**A \$100 deposit will hold space; balance is due by April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019**