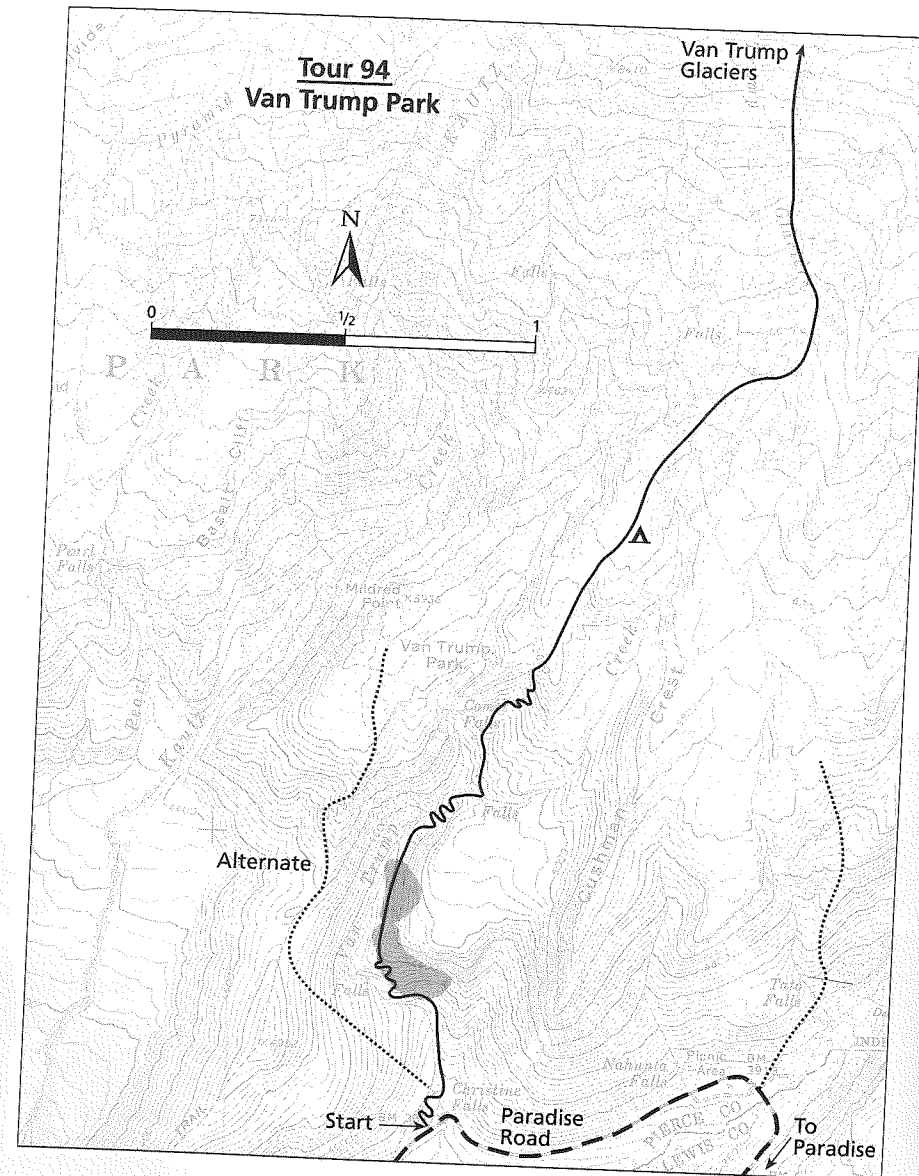


Enter the park via the Nisqually entrance and drive to the Christine Falls trailhead, about 3 miles above Longmire.

The trail crosses Van Trump Creek 0.3 miles above the road and continues up the right side of the creek. From here to Comet Falls (another mile), the trail contours along a steep hillside above Van Trump Creek. About 200 yards below the falls, climb a steep hillside to the right (east) of the falls for 700 feet. You have arrived in Van Trump Park.



Van Trump Park on Mount Rainier's west side (Photo by Joe Catellani)

Good skiing is possible all the way to 10,000 feet. This side of the mountain is generally more sheltered from the wind than the Muir snowfield. Consequently, the snow tends to be less wind damaged.

Descend via the approach. Avoid being seduced into the Kautz Creek drainage by luscious gullies. They are hard to reverse and will force you into hiking out through the Kautz Creek drainage.

**Alternative Route:** When there is a deep snowpack, another approach