Welcome to Idaho

Idaho is blessed with unmatched geological diversity — stunning mountain peaks, deep river gorges, thundering whitewater rapids, pristine lakes and more designated wilderness areas than you'll find anywhere else in the lower 48 states. You'll find virtually every kind of outdoor recreation imaginable. Eighteen ski resorts provide both winter and summer fun. Outstanding trails traverse the state for hiking, biking, horseback riding and backpacking. Rivers tumble through timbered canyons for exhilarating jet boating and rafting. A vacation in Idaho truly is an Adventure in Living.

The First Lady and I would like to introduce you to the “Ida” book series. Ida is a barnstorming pilot of the past, who flies back in time on a journey for historical discovery.

[link to Ida book series]

As you travel across Idaho, you'll discover that our history and culture is as diverse as our geography. Please explore the wonders of our great state. You'll find Idaho is not only an unforgettable place to visit, but also a great place to live, work and raise a family.

While you're in Idaho, I encourage you to dial 5-1-1 for Idaho Traveler Services, including road conditions, weather reports and tourism information. I hope you enjoy your travels, and remember to wear your seat belt. As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

– C.L. “Butch” Otter
Governor of Idaho

Idaho's State Parks

Idaho's State Parks and Recreational Trailways offer the same outstanding diversity as its landscapes. You can camp in the forest, along the bluffs of a meandering river, by lakes and streams, or in the shadow of shifting sand dunes. Explore self-guided nature trails or mining history, see Idaho's oldest building (Coeur d'Alene's Old Mission State Park), and walk through fields of wildflowers or in the ruts of the Oregon Trail. Photograph waterfalls or try your hand at rock climbing, birding, boating, biking, fabulous fishing and much more! Tent & RV campsites, cabins, yurts and group facilities are available for your use in most of Idaho's state parks.

You've Gotta Get The Pass

The Idaho State Park Annual Passport offers tremendous savings for individuals or families planning to frequent any of Idaho's State Parks.

Idaho's Attractions

Northern Idaho

Silverwood Theme Park — North of Coeur d'Alene you'll find the Northwest's largest theme park with more than 65 thrilling rides for all ages, including a large water park, Boulder Beach. 208 683-3400

Northern Idaho Lakes — Serene Priest Lake offers relaxation at either rustic resorts or a state park campground. Lake Pend Oreille is renowned for fishing, while Lake Coeur d'Alene boasts a world-class, all-season resort on its northern shore. 208 664-3194

North Central Idaho

Nez Perce National Historical Park — The only national park that commemorates people instead of a place, the Nez Perce Tribe. Headquarters at Spalding with 38 sites in three states. 208 843-7001
The $40 sticker covers your motor vehicle entry fees until December 31st of the purchase year. Grab your State Park Passport at any Idaho State Park Regional Service Center or by calling 208-334-4199.

A special invasive species sticker must be purchased for all boats in and visiting Idaho. The fees fund vessel inspections, wash stations, and informational materials to assist Idaho with preventing aquatic invasive species like the quagga mussel. Idaho Invasive Species Fund sticker prices are $22.00 for boats registered outside of Idaho and $7.00 per non-motorized vessels. Discounts for non-motorized commercial fleets are available. Stickers can be purchased online, by mail or at any Idaho State Park.

**CAMPING CABINS & YURTS**

Cabin allows you to enjoy and afford camping experiences with your family in Idaho State Parks even if you don’t own the gear. These rustic units provide amenities such as lockable windows and doors, beds, tables, benches, A/C and heat. Reservations for campsites, cabins, yurts and group facilities can be made up to 9 months ahead, but no later than three days in advance of your arrival.

Explore our parks, make reservations and purchase stickers online at parksandrecreation.idaho.gov.

**IDAHO’S RECREATION AREAS**

Idaho’s outdoor charm is shaped by 13 national forests and 26 state parks. Within Idaho lies more wilderness than in any of the other lower 48 states. Whether you experience the state from a jet boat, raft, car or RV, or fly directly into Idaho’s backcountry, the sheer grandeur of the state’s landscape will leave you breathless. National forest and BLM lands host some of Idaho’s top attractions - The Sawtooth Mountains, Hells Canyon, six wild and scenic rivers, Mesa Falls and Mt. Borah, Idaho’s highest peak at 12,662 feet.

See for yourself at idahobyways.gov. For online reservations visit recreation.gov or call 877 444-6777.

The Rivers — The Snake River flows through Hells Canyon, America’s deepest river gorge. The Lower Salmon near Riggins makes for a fun family rafting adventure. The Selway emerges pristine from the wilderness to join the Lochsa, which then becomes the Clearwater. The area is steeped in Lewis & Clark and Nez Perce history. 208 507-1904

**SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO**

**Boise: The Capital City** — A vibrant downtown, gracious neighborhoods, a lively art and culture scene, museums, professional sports, a major university, a local ski resort and numerous golf courses make Boise a fun and flavorful destination. 800 635-5240

**Payette River Valley: Cascade | Donnelly | McCall** — A four-season recreation paradise with Lake Cascade, Brundage Mountain Resort and McCall, nestled on shimmering Payette Lake. 800 635-5240

**SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO**

**City of Rocks National Reserve** — Stunning granite columns loom over a high desert valley at this popular climbing and camping area south of Albion. 208 824-5539

**Snake River Canyon** — The Perrine Bridge spans 1,500 feet across the 500-foot-high Snake River Canyon at Twin Falls. An observation point is located at the adjacent visitor center. 866 894-6325

**SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO**

**Bear Lake** — Known for its striking turquoise water, Bear Lake is transformed by a dazzling array of reds, yellows, and pinks at sunrise and sunset. 800 448-2327

**Lava Hot Springs** — For centuries, the Bannock and Shoshone Indians gathered at these natural hot springs, calling them “the healing waters.” Today the resort remains a popular attraction year-round. 208 776-5500

**EASTERN IDAHO**

**Famous Fly-Fishing Streams** — The Henry’s Fork of the Snake River, which winds through Harriman State Park, and the South Fork of the Snake are no secret to anglers. Outfitters are available to teach the fine art of fly-fishing. 800 634-3246

**Mesa Falls** — Descend into a hidden canyon northeast of Ashton to view two astonishing waterfalls on the Henrys Fork. Upper Mesa Falls (114 ft) provides a network of viewing platforms and a visitor center. 800 634-3246

**CENTRAL IDAHO**

**Craters of the Moon National Monument** — A 750,000-acre, diverse array of volcanic features to explore including volcanic riffs, cinder cones, spatter cones, shield volcanoes, and lava caves. A visitor center & gift shop will enhance your knowledge. 208 527-3257

**Sun Valley and the Sawtooth Mountains** — World-renowned Sun Valley Resort is Idaho’s premier winter-summer adventure destination while the nearby Sawtooth Mountains hold wonders for all to see and experience. 800 878-7950

(For more information on all of Idaho’s attractions, see visitidaho.org or call 1.800.VISIT.ID & order a free copy of our Official Idaho Travel Guide or other publications.)
**Southeastern Idaho**

**OREGON TRAIL-BEAR LAKE SCENIC BYWAY**
Cruise by beautiful Bear Lake, which straddles the Idaho-Utah border, and continue through Oregon Trail country. The lake is known for its turquoise-blue water, especially when viewed from the Hwy. 89 summit high above Garden City, Utah. 800 448-2327

**PIONEER HISTORIC BYWAY**
Ride the route of Idaho’s pioneers through the towns of Franklin and Preston where you can see many quaint homes and churches now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Preston became nationally-known when the movie “Napoleon Dynamite”, which filmed there, became a comedy classic. 800 423-8597

**Eastern Idaho**

**MESA FALLS SCENIC BYWAY**
From this road in the Targhee National Forest near Ashton, you can hear the thunder of both Lower and Upper Mesa Falls as the Henrys Fork of the Snake River drops into pools below. These are two of the last pristine waterfalls of consequence in the west. 208 652-7520

**TETON SCENIC BYWAY**
Meander through the lush, rolling farmland of eastern Idaho (origin of the famous potato) to the ranchland of the Teton Valley, catching glimpses of the peaks of the Teton Range along the way. 208 354-2500

**FORT HENRY HISTORIC BYWAY**
Pass herds of deer, elk and through game bird habitat on the way to the Fort Henry Monument. Visit the St. Anthony Sand Dunes and the Camas Meadow Nez Perce Battleground. 208 624-4870

**LOST GOLD TRAILS LOOP**
Best traveled between mid-April and November, this 48-mile loop detours from the Fort Henry Historic Byway through Dubois providing an opportunity to visit the opal mines in Spencer. 208 374-5330

**Central Idaho**

**LEWIS & CLARK BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY**
High mountain meadows and rolling hills look as pristine today as when Lewis & Clark crossed Lemhi Pass in 1805. This 39-mile gravel road is usually closed from November to June. 208 756-2100

**PEAKS TO CRATERS SCENIC BYWAY**
With the most diverse scenery of any of Idaho’s byways, this 140-mile drive will take in Craters of the Moon, the Lost River Valley and Mt. Borah, Idaho’s highest peak. 208 527-8977

**PONDEROSA PINE SCENIC BYWAY**
Journey from the heart of the Stanley Basin, through Lowman and past Idaho City, a mining-era town which was once the northwest’s largest city. The drive concludes in Boise, Idaho’s capital. Check road conditions in winter. 208 727-5013

**SACAJAWEA HISTORIC BYWAY**
Delve into the historical legacy of Sacajawea, the Lemhi-Shoshoni woman from the area near Salmon who served as an interpreter for Lewis and Clark. 800 727-2540

**SALMON RIVER SCENIC BYWAY**
Follow the course of the River of No Return from Lost Trail Pass to the town of Stanley where three scenic byways unite. In route are the magnificent Sawtooth Mountains, the Land of the Yankee Fork State Park and the towns of Salmon and Challis. 208 727-5013

**SAWTOOTH SCENIC BYWAY**
Climb 315 miles up Highway 75 into the heart of central Idaho, from the high desert to the Sawtooth Mountains at Stanley. Highlights include Sun Valley (North America’s first ski resort), Galena Summit, and Redfish Lake. 208 774-3411
Lights, camera—are we there yet?
We’ve captured the Idaho experience in a whole new way. Join us for an online film and interactive experience following a real-life family as they travel across Idaho experiencing many of our top attractions. During the casting call, Pacific Northwest families were asked to nominate a family member in desperate need of a vacation. A Seattle family with an overworked dad was selected and promptly whisked away to Idaho for ten days of adventure, rest, and rejuvenation in Idaho’s scenic wonder, exciting recreation, top-notch dining, luxury accommodations, and more.

Check out their adventure and get ideas for yours at visitidaho.org. Order an RV guide at rvidaho.org.
**IDaho Information**

- **Road Information**
  Dial 5-1-1 or visit [511.idaho.gov](http://511.idaho.gov) for road reports, weather conditions, traveler information and more. If your phone company does not support 5-1-1 or if you are calling from outside of Idaho, dial 1-888-IDA-ROAD (888-432-7623).

- **Idaho Division of Tourism**
  800 847-4843 or 208 334-2470
  visitidaho.org

  Stay updated on Idaho travel information by following us on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube.

- **Idaho RV Campgrounds Association**
  208 345-6009, 800 RV IDAHO (784-3246)
  rvidaho.org

- **Idaho Transportation Department**
  208 334-8000 or 5-1-1
  ltd.idaho.gov
  511.idaho.gov

- **Idaho Parks and Recreation Department**
  208 334-4199
  parksandrecreation.idaho.gov

- **Idaho Department of Fish and Game**
  208 334-3771
  fishandgame.idaho.gov

- **Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association**
  800 496-3246 or 208 342-1438
  ioga.org

- **North Idaho Tourism Alliance**
  208 664-3194
  visitnorthidaho.com

- **North Central Idaho Travel Association**
  877 364-3246
  northcentralidaho.info

- **Southwestern Idaho Travel Association**
  800 635-5240
  visitsouthwestidaho.org

- **South Central Idaho Tourism & Recreation Development Assoc.**
  800 255-8946
  visitsouthidaho.com

- **Yellowstone Teton Territory**
  800 634-3246
  yellowstoneteton.org

- **Pioneer Country Travel Council**
  888 201-1063, 208 776-5221
  seidaho.org

- **Central Idaho Rockies Association**
  800 634-3347, 208 726-3423
  visitsunvalley.com

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**Scenic Byways**

[idaobyways.gov](http://idaobyways.gov)

To receive a Scenic Byway Brochure call 1.800.VISIT.ID. For the latest info on Idaho’s Top 10 Scenic Drives visit drivethetopo.com or become a fan of our Scenic Byways facebook page.

* Designated one of the Top 10 Scenic Drives in the Northern Rockies

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**Southwestern Idaho**

**Hells Canyon Scenic Byway**

Hugging the east side of a massive canyon that divides Idaho and Oregon, this drive leads to Hells Canyon Dam. Consider adding a float or jet boat trip offered by one of Idaho’s many licensed guides - the best way to experience the towering peaks. 208 549-4200
**Northern Idaho**

**INTERNATIONAL SELKIRK LOOP SCENIC BYWAY**
This unique, scenic roadway wanders through two countries, two states, three Indian Reservations, and a variety of towns. 888 823-2626

**LAKE COEUR D'ALENE SCENIC BYWAY**
Follow Hwy. 97 along the eastern shoreline of sparkling Lake Coeur d’Alene for one of the most beautiful drives in Idaho. 877 782-9232

**PANHANDLE HISTORIC RIVERS PASSAGE**
This picturesque country drive takes you along the route of explorer David Thompson, who canoed it in 1809 in search of a passage to the Columbia River. 800 800-2106

**PEND OREILLE SCENIC BYWAY**
Drive the breathtakingly beautiful north shore of the largest lake in Idaho, through the communities of Hope and Clark Fork, to the Cabinet Gorge Dam. 800 800-2106

**ST. JOE RIVER SCENIC BYWAY**
Watch for eagles and osprey as you drive leisurely along the shadowy St. Joe River, the highest navigable river in the world, and deep into the forest to Avery, an old pioneer town. 208 245-3563

**WHITE PINE SCENIC BYWAY**
Often undiscovered by visitors is the tranquil setting of the small lakes and marshes near the lower Coeur d’Alene River, which can be seen during a leisurely drive through the largest forest of white pine trees in America. 208 245-3563

**WILD HORSE TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY**
Idaho’s northernmost scenic byway, part of the International Selkirk Loop, follows the Kootenai Tribe’s historic path to fishing grounds at Lake Pend Oreille. 888 823-2626

**North Central Idaho**

**ELK RIVER BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY**
This relaxing backcountry drive meanders through a vast evergreen forest in the Clearwater Mountains with many wildlife-viewing opportunities. 208 476-4335

**GOLD RUSH HISTORIC BYWAY**
Begin at the junction of Highways 11 and 12 and meander through the towns of Greer, Weippe, and Pierce past historic sites of the gold rush era of the mid-to-late 1800s. 208 435-4406

**NORTHWEST PASSAGE SCENIC BYWAY**
This beautiful byway follows the route of Lewis and Clark along the Clearwater and Lochsa Rivers. 877 364-3246

**Main Oregon Trail Backcountry Byway**
Follow the route pioneers on the Oregon Trail took and stop to walk in genuine trail ruts. Begin the byway at Three Island Crossing State Park, where travelers had to decide where to cross the Snake River. 208 587-4464

**Owyhee Uplands Backcountry Byway**
Explore the remote high desert of Owyhee County, past expanses of sagebrush, gnarled stands of junipers and the sheer red cliffs of river canyons. 208 384-3300

**Payette River Scenic Byway**
This riverside drive guides you along the wet and wild Payette River through Cascade and on to McCall and picturesque Payette Lake. Combine your drive with an exciting whitewater ride on the Payette River. 208 634-0700

**Snake River Canyon Scenic Byway**
Meander through the rich agricultural land of the Treasure Valley area past Idaho’s orchards and vineyards on this 53-mile drive. En route you can pause for wine tastings and visit local produce stands. 208 454-0087

**Western Heritage Historic Byway**
Wagons loaded with gold mined in the Owyhee Mountains once took this route over desert trails to Fort Boise. Today it passes through southern Idaho farmland to the rugged Snake River Canyon, Swan Falls Dam and the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. 208 922-9254

**Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway**
The turbulent South Fork of the Payette River Canyon is the attraction along this route between Banks and Lowman. Experience rafting, fishing, wildlife-viewing, soaking in hot springs or even catching an outdoor musical theater performance. 208 462-3241

**South Central Idaho**

**Thousand Springs Scenic Byway**
Cascading from cliff walls above the Snake River near Hagerman are numerous springs believed to be the reappearance of the Lost River, which sinks into lava fields 90 miles away. 800 255-8946

**City of Rocks Backcountry Byway**
Pioneer names can still be seen written in axel grease on some of the rocks at this California Trail landmark. Rock climbers from around the world come to experience the challenges offered by the City of Rocks. 208 824-5519