This adventure promises a wild ride through Hells Canyon, North America’s deepest river gorge and one of Idaho’s most pristine landscapes. You’ll drive alongside the mighty Snake River as it twists through the canyon, and stop to take in breathtaking scenery, play in the water, or cast a line. The road stops just beyond the Hells Canyon Dam, but you can venture farther into the wild on a raft or jet boat.

Hells Canyon is remote, so fill up on gas, drinks, and snacks before you leave Council or Cambridge. Bring binoculars and possibly water shoes and bathing suits for splashing and soaking along the way. Keep an eye on the clock during this trip as you cross from Mountain time to Pacific time along the drive.

Total Drive Time: 7 Hours 28 Minutes
Total Mileage: 287
Best Time to Travel: Spring-Fall
Scenic Byways:
  + Payette River Scenic Byway
  + Hells Canyon Scenic Byway
Good For:
  + Young Free Spirits
  + Adventure Seekers
  + Go For It Families
  + The Bucket Lister
Eat:
  + McCall Pancake House, McCall
  + Evening Rise Bread Co, McCall
  + Gateway Store & Café, McCall
  + Pueblo Lindo, McCall
  + Shy Simons Pizza, Council
Visit the Hells Canyon Visitor Center and take OR-86 for the stunning, sweeping views from Hells Canyon Overlook. Completely worth the extra three hours round trip, the spot is perfect for a picnic stop before heading back to McCall for the day. Keep an eye on the clock! You’ll lose and/or gain an hour depending on which direction you’re driving.

THINGS TO EXPLORE
A Weiser River Trail
B Payette Lake
C Ponderosa State Park
D Gold Fork Hot Springs
E McCall Lake Cruises
F Jug Mountain Ranch
G McCall Golf Club

BOOK A BOAT TRIP
Many jet boat tour operators offer 2- and 5-hour jet boat tours, and full-to multi-day rafting and fishing trips. While Hells Canyon Adventures launches from the visitor center along this route, many more operators depart from points farther north along the Snake River. Check Idaho’s Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board or Raft Idaho to find your perfect outfitter for this experience.