**AMERICAN INDIANS**

Native people have played a major role in shaping Idaho's heritage and continue to live here. Five tribes call Idaho home: the Kootenai (KOOT-NEE), Coeur d'Alene (CORE-D-A-LANE) and Nez Perce (NEZ-PURSE) in the north; and the Shoshone-Bannock and Paiute (PIE-OOT) in the southeast and south. As a tribute to the important influence of American Indians, many Idaho streets, towns, landmarks, and counties are named after these tribes and their place names.

**IDAHO’S MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD**

Designated in 1931, Idaho’s state bird is a fairly small thrush with a round head, thin bill, and brilliant blue feathers in the male.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- The world’s first ski chair lift was invented in Sun Valley, one of Idaho’s top ski and summer resort towns.
- Potatoes, barley, lentils and trout are ranked among Idaho’s top crops.
- Idaho has a seaport. The port of Lewiston allows the transportation of millions of bushels of crops down the Snake and Columbia Rivers for overseas shipment.
- Philo T. Farnsworth, from Rigby, invented the first complete television system with both a receiver and a camera, in 1927. The idea came to him at age fifteen.
- Idaho has the largest theme park in the Pacific Northwest: Silverwood Theme Park.

**IDAHO’S CLIMATE**

Idaho has a four-season climate. Most of the state enjoys dry, warm summer and fall months. Winters are shorter and milder than other locales east of the Continental Divide. Idaho is fairly dry between late June and the first snow of winter. With lots of sunshine, it’s an excellent state to visit any time of year.

**IDAHO’S STATE HORSE: THE APPALOOSA**

These spotted horses were bred by the Nez Perce Indians as early as 1750 but lost ground after the Nez Perce War of 1877. Named the Idaho State Horse in 1975, the breed was brought back to prominence by the Nez Perce.

**IDAHO FACTS & STATS**

- Population is just over 1.7 million
- Capital is Boise
- Two time zones—Mountain and Pacific
- More than 2,000 lakes, including Lake Pend Oreille (POND-A-RAY)—the 13th deepest lake in the world
- Borders six states: Oregon, Washington, Montana, Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming, as well as Canada’s province of British Columbia to the north

**LITTLE KNOWN FACTS**

- Five historic pioneer trails—Lewis and Clark, Nez Perce, David Thompson, California and Oregon—cross Idaho. Wagon ruts are still visible in southern Idaho.
- The Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness is the largest wilderness area in the 48 contiguous states with 2.3 million acres of rugged, unspoiled backcountry.
- One of the deepest river gorges in North America is Hells Canyon—7,900 feet deep. Yes, it is deeper than the Grand Canyon.
- Idaho’s salmon River, known as “The River of No Return,” is the longest free flowing river within one state in the lower 48 states.
- Idaho has 4,930 miles of waterways—rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs. Idaho has more miles of waterways than any other state except Alaska.
- Idaho’s Salmon River, known as “The River of No Return,” is the longest free flowing river within one state in the lower 48 states.
- Idaho is home to more than 1,500 miles of mountain bike trails.
- Idaho is home to 66 ski resorts, including legendary Sun Valley.
- Idaho is the state with the greatest number of snowboarders.
- Idaho is known as the “Gem State.” Just about every gem stone has been found here.
- Idaho’s national parks are: Craters of the Moon, Nez Perce, Frank Church River of No Return, and Hells Canyon.
- Idaho’s official gem is the star garnet.
- Idaho’s official tree is the pine.
- Idaho’s official bird is the Idaho’s Mountain Bluebird.
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Idaho’s seal became official in 1891 by an act of the state Legislature. The Latin motto, “Esto Purpetua,” means “let it be perpetual.” It’s the only state seal designed by a woman.

A blue field with a gold border, the state flag proudly displays the state seal with the words “State of Idaho” in gold block letters on a red ribbon.

The syringa is a wildflower similar to the mock orange and grows in clusters of white blossoms on a branching shrub.

The western white pine is abundant north of the Clearwater River. The largest western white pine in the world stands 219 feet high near Elk River, Idaho.

Known as the Hagerman Horse because it was discovered near the south central town of Hagerman, these 3.5 million year-old fossils are closely related to today’s zebra. The site is now Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, one of the largest fossil deposits in North America.

Named for the reddish-orange color on the underside of its jaw, the cutthroat trout is native to Idaho. Popular with anglers, it and several subspecies have been named as state fish in six other western states. Idaho’s Free Fishing Day is an annual event held the second Saturday every June.

Governor Brad Little and First Lady Teresa Little

This brochure was designed with you in mind. Inside you will find that Idaho is a place of great beauty, rich history, and abundant outdoor adventure. Idaho’s geographic features range from deep gorges and canyons to soaring mountain peaks.

The state bird of Idaho—the mountain bluebird—is a small, brilliant blue bird found throughout the American northwest. Birdwatching is a popular activity in Idaho. With 175 sites and 2,000 miles of trail, the Idaho Birding Trail represents a collection of bird watching hotspots, diverse habitats, and a glimpse of Idaho’s rich natural heritage.

www.idahobirdingtrail.com