



# FACT SHEET

## NATURAL WONDERS

- Shoshone Falls in Twin Falls is 212 feet high – 36 feet higher than Niagara Falls.
- At 7,900 feet, Hells Canyon is the deepest river-carved gorge in North America, even deeper than the Grand Canyon.
- The world's densest populations of nesting eagles, hawks and falcons can be found at the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area.
- The Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness is one of the largest wilderness areas in the Lower 48, second only to Death Valley in California.
- A sand dune within Bruneau Dunes State Park rises 470 feet above the surrounding desert floor, making it the tallest single-structured sand dune in North America.
- Idaho has three International Dark Skies designations:
  - Ketchum is an International Dark Skies Community
  - Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is a Dark Skies Park
  - 1,416 square miles in central Idaho (including the cities of Ketchum, Stanley and Sun Valley) make up the Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve – the first international dark sky reserve in the U.S. and one of only 13 dark sky reserves worldwide

## HISTORY & HERITAGE

- Idaho is home to five federally recognized Native American tribes: The Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock, and Shoshone-Paiute.
- Boise is home to the largest population of Basques per capita outside the Basque Country in Spain and France.
- Jaialdi, meaning 'festival' in Basque, celebrates the colorful Basque culture. One of the largest Basque festivals in the world, Jaialdi is held every five years in Boise. Due to COVID-19 precautions, the 2020 event was rescheduled to July 26-31, 2022. The next Jaialdi will return to its regular schedule in 2025.
- Malad City has the largest concentration of Welch ancestry outside of Wales.
- Farragut State Park and adjoining Lake Pend Oreille were home to a Naval Training Station during WWII.
- In the Old West mining town of Wallace, all of the downtown buildings are listed on the National Historic Register.
- Sun Valley Resort, the first destination ski resort in the United States, is home to the world's first chairlifts.
- The Oregon Trail crossed southern Idaho, leaving behind historic landmarks and sites to explore.

## QUIRKY TIDBITS

- Lewiston is the most inland seaport on the west coast, welcoming cruise and cargo ships that travel up the Columbia River.
- Idaho had a nationally-renowned wine industry until Prohibition closed it down. Today, it is Idaho's fastest growing agricultural industry with three AVAs and more than 65 wineries producing over 25 varietals of wine.
- Idaho ranks 11th in breweries per capita with over 80 breweries statewide, and more in development.
- Idaho is the largest producer of barley and the second largest producer of hops in the U.S.
- Idaho is known as the "Gem State" because 72 types of precious and semi-precious stones can be found here, including rare stones found nowhere else in the Americas.
- "The Center of the Universe" is located in Wallace.
- Boise's Freak Alley is the largest, open-air mural gallery in the Northwest.
- North America's longest gondola ride can be found at Silver Mountain Resort in Kellogg.
- The Wild Huckleberry is the state fruit and can be found on menus throughout the region.

## GEOGRAPHY

- Idaho is bordered by Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and Canada.
- Idaho is home to more miles of whitewater than anywhere else in the continental U.S., making it a paddlers' paradise.
- Idaho has nearly 600 registered campsites, which include those within 30 state parks, 10 national forests and on other public lands.
- 31 scenic byways crisscross the state, highlighting stunning scenery and area histories.
- The highest elevation point is Mt. Borah at 12,662 feet, and the lowest is 738 feet above sea level in Lewiston.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Idaho is the 13th largest state in the union, covering 83,557 square miles.
- Idaho's birthday is July 3, 1890.
- Boise is the state capital.
- Idaho has six primary commercial airports, with the largest in Boise. The Spokane International Airport also provides service to northern Idaho.
- Idaho enjoys four seasons, with mostly dry, warm summer and fall months and milder winters than locations east of the Continental Divide.

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