

# IDAHO SNAPSHOT

## DARK SKIES



Idaho is home to the nation's first and only International Dark Sky Reserve. The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), the authority on light pollution worldwide, has recognized three distinct areas in the Gem State that offer excellent opportunities for night-sky viewing of the Milky Way, meteors, planets and more:

- [Central Idaho \(Reserve\)](#)
- Ketchum, Idaho (Community)
- Craters of the Moon National Monument (Park)

Thanks to Idaho's low population and abundance of open land, dark skies can also be enjoyed outside of these designated areas. Whether you're camping or enjoying an evening stroll, Idaho's starry skies are sure to impress.

## SCENIC BYWAYS & WILDLIFE

The open road is one of the best ways to experience Idaho's natural beauty. Take a ride on one of [31 scenic byways](#) that wind through mountain passes and dense forests and past rushing rivers and sparkling lakes.

Covered by mountains, forests, canyons, deserts, rivers and lakes, it's no surprise the Gem State is home to an abundance of wildlife spanning air, land and water habitats. Impressive mammals like bears, bison and moose, hundreds of bird species and other creatures traverse the state's wildlife refuges and facilities like [Yellowstone Bear World](#).

Before embarking on your next Idaho birding adventure, ornithophiles will want to view the [Idaho Birding Trail](#) and print out the [Birds of Idaho Field Checklist](#) to track your progress.



## BASQUE CULTURE



Boise is home to [The Basque Block](#), a city street dedicated to preserving the rich culture and history of the area's Basque community. Experience the unique Basque language, history and customs at The Basque Museum and Cultural Center. Grab a spot on a patio and enjoy authentic Basque cuisine and drinks like house-made paella, Basque chorizo, pintxos (tapas), sangria and Kalimotxo (red wine and cola over ice).

If you want to experience a true Basque celebration, don't miss [Jaialdi](#), a six-day festival held every five years in Boise, where attendees are treated to authentic Basque food, music, games, performances, dancing, a professional soccer match and so much more (did we mention the food!?) The next Jaialdi takes place July 26-31, 2022.

## IDAHO CRAFT BEER



Beer tourism has become increasingly popular in the past few years and Idaho has benefitted from the trend. The Gem State is #1 in barley production and #2 in hop production in the nation. These fresh ingredients, combined with the state's clear mountain water and skilled brewers, create the perfect hyper-local craft beer experience. Idaho now boasts 82 (and expanding) breweries. Every April, [Idaho Craft Beer Month](#) celebrates the uniqueness of Idaho's craft brews with events and tastings.

## IDAHO WINES

Home to 65 wineries and over 1,300 acres of vineyards, with more on the horizon, [Idaho's wine industry](#) is surging and receiving national acclaim in the process. With three American Viticultural Areas (AVA), The Snake River Valley AVA, Lewis-Clark Valley AVA and Eagle Foothills AVA, Idaho has plenty of wine options to explore. Schedule a tour, drop in for a tasting or spend the weekend at an Idaho winery, where you'll find friendly winemakers who are thrilled to share their stories.



## MOUNTAIN BIKING



With more than 12,000 miles of single-track crossing the state and ranging from easy to extreme, you'll find a trail for every level of rider. [Silver Mountain Bike Park](#) claims North America's longest single-stage gondola, which provides access to 3,400 feet of some of Idaho's best lift-served downhill trails. [Soldier Mountain](#), Idaho's newest bike park, is set to open four lift-served trails—one for each riding level—in 2021. The Express chairlift at [Tamarack Resort's Bike Park](#) takes riders to mid-mountain where you'll have access to 20 trails and 1,700 feet of vertical, packed with everything from groomed trails to rock slabs, steep runs, rocky chutes and other technical terrain.

For Northern Idaho visitors seeking more leisurely rides, [Route of the Hiawatha](#) is a rail-to-trail experience on a 15-mile downhill stroll through 10 train tunnels and across seven sky-high trestles surrounded by the spectacular Bitterroot Mountains. The 72-mile paved [Trail of the Coeur d'Alene's](#) connects quaint small towns through scenery peppered with sparkling lakes and forested mountains.

**LAURIE MCCONNELL**

Tourism Communications Specialist  
208.287.0781 | [laurie.mcconnell@tourism.idaho.gov](mailto:laurie.mcconnell@tourism.idaho.gov)  
[visitidaho.org](http://visitidaho.org)  
[@visitidaho](https://www.instagram.com/visitidaho)

