



Idaho in Full Bloom:

# *Your Spring Passport*

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# Spring Has Sprung

As Idaho's flora and fauna begin to defrost and awake from their winter hibernation, the wonder of an Idaho springtime abounds with vivid colors and plenty of opportunities to get outside and celebrate a change of season.

Whether you're experiencing the scent of blossoming wildflowers on a hike, feeling the mist from cascading waterfalls, listening to music at a festival or tasting the flavors of a local craft beer on your lips, spring in the Gem State is a beautiful time of year to revive your senses and make lifelong memories.

For more spring inspiration, visit [visitidaho.org/spring-in-idaho](https://visitidaho.org/spring-in-idaho).



# Blossoming Beauties

## Wildflower Identification

Idaho is home to more than 50 varieties of endemic wildflowers—meaning they're only found in the Gem State. From May through July, spring's blossoming beauties are at their peak and have begun to add pops of color throughout Idaho's unique landscapes, spanning alpine slopes and grassy meadows to lava fields and high desert expanses. Here are some local favorites and rare blooms.

*Keep in mind that the time and length of blooms are largely dependent on location and weather conditions.*

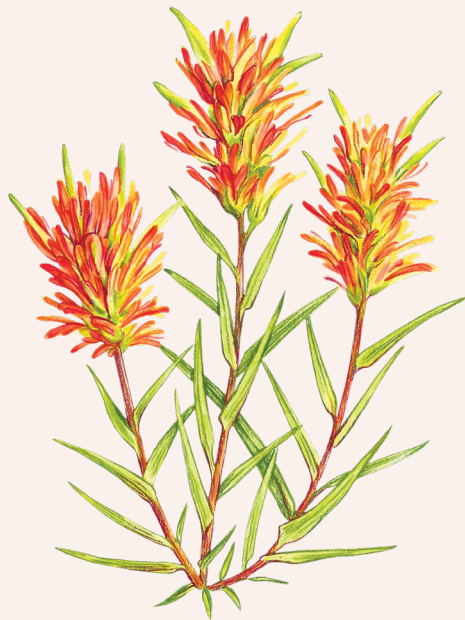
*And remember to never pick the wildflowers—they are part of the ecosystem for pollinators, birds and small animals!*



# Christ's Indian Paintbrush

*(Castilleja christii)*

This yellow flower is extremely rare and is only found on the summit of Mount Harrison.





# Camas Lilies

(*Camassia*)

These purple-blue flowers blanket south central Idaho in late May.



# Syringa

(*Philadelphus lewisii*)

Known as Idaho's state flower, Syringa blossoms smell like orange blossoms and grow in clusters on this perennial shrub.





# Elkhorn Clarkia

(*Clarkia pulchella*)

This purple flower was discovered by Meriwether Lewis in the early 1800s in Idaho's Bitterroot Mountains and was named after his fellow explorer, William Clark.



# Arrowleaf Balsamroot

(*Balsamorhiza sagittata*)

This showy yellow flower can easily tolerate and thrive in desert conditions.





# Idaho Trillium

(*Trillium petiolatum*)

Recognized as part of the lily family, this Idaho wildflower's large leaves are the star of the show, as they can change colors from pink to purple and even to red with age.



# Dwarf Monkeyflower

(*Mimulus nanus*)

You can find these little flowers in mid-June at Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve. Only the toughest flowers bloom here after battling a lack of moisture and temperatures that can climb to 150° F.





# Payette Beardtongue

(*Penstemon payettensis*)

These purple-blue beauties can only be found in small portions of Idaho, Montana and Oregon.



# Put a Spring in Your Step

## Must-Hike Trails

As warming temperatures transform once snowy trails into lush, vibrant pathways, Idaho beckons you to get outside and experience the sights and scents of an Idaho spring on a hiking adventure.

Whether your plans include a multiday backpacking trip or a quick afternoon jaunt, don't forget to Travel With Care and remember to avoid muddy trails or stepping outside of the path—both of which cause severe erosion and damage to vegetation (like those beautiful wildflowers!).

### NORTHERN

- Shoreline Loop Trail
- Iron Mountain Trail

### NORTH CENTRAL

- Snake River Trail in Hells Canyon
- Idler's Rest

### SOUTHWEST

- Upper Hazard/Hard Creek Basin Trail
- Lower Crooked River Trailhead

### SOUTH CENTRAL

- Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh Wildlife Management Area
- North Crater Trail

### SOUTHEAST

- Wiggle Worm Trail
- Pebble Creek Ski Area
  - Don't miss the Pebble Creek Wildflower and Music Festival in June!



### EASTERN

- John Muir Trail
  - This trail is ADA-accessible!
- Keg Springs



### CENTRAL

- Alpine Lake Trail
- Fishhook Creek Trail

For more hiking trails and inspiration, visit [visitidaho.org/things-to-do/hiking-backpacking](https://visitidaho.org/things-to-do/hiking-backpacking).





# Go With the Flow

## Waterfalls You Can't Miss

Spring is undoubtedly one of the best times to see these roaring showstoppers. With a waterfall that outshines Niagara Falls (yes, you read that right!) and a mix of expansive cascades and gushing gorges, prepare to see and feel the power of nature.

### Shoshone Falls

Known as the Niagara of the West, Shoshone Falls' powerful cascades carve through the basalt canyon of the Snake River. Get up close and personal at the main viewing platform.



### Upper Mesa Falls

Contrasting the remnants of an ancient volcanic super-eruption, Upper Mesa Falls' thunderous curtain of water is as tall as a 10-story building.



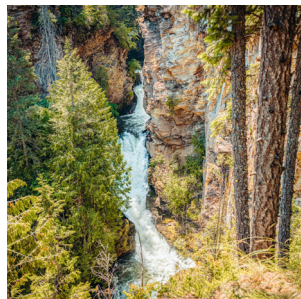
### Earl M. Hardy Box Canyon Springs Nature Preserve

One of the six units that make up Thousand Springs State Park, this waterfall will transport you to a tropical paradise with its clear-blue water and lush vegetation.



### Myrtle Falls

Snuggled into a rocky gorge, Myrtle Falls is a spectacular 100-foot waterfall that emerges from a dense cedar grove. After traversing the gentle switchbacks, take a seat on the bench and enjoy the view.







## Get Out Your Dancing Shoes

Treefort Music Fest

In March, the City of Trees starts bumping to the sound of more than 500 artists at Treefort Music Fest, an annual five-day music festival that includes numerous forts featuring food, culture, wine and beer, comedy and much more in downtown Boise.

The jam session starts now at [visitidaho.org/treefort](https://visitidaho.org/treefort).



## Grab Your Binoculars

The Wonders of Idaho Wildlife

As the sun melts the snow to reveal buds of green, Idaho's wildlife quickly follows. Keep your eyes peeled for bears, birds of prey, elk, moose and more as you adventure throughout the Gem State. Just remember you're visiting their home—keep your distance and never feed them.

Idaho is packed with great places to see birds, especially





## Put the Pedal to the Metal

Idaho's Scenic Byways

along the Idaho Birding Trail, which spans four different regions. If you're itching to get a glimpse of sandhill cranes, take a trip to Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

For more places to go bird watching, visit [visitidaho.org/things-to-do/wildlife-viewing-birding](https://visitidaho.org/things-to-do/wildlife-viewing-birding).

With icy roads in the rearview mirror, take advantage of Idaho's 31 scenic byways this spring. Roll down the windows and discover charming towns, postcard-worthy views and plenty of adventure.

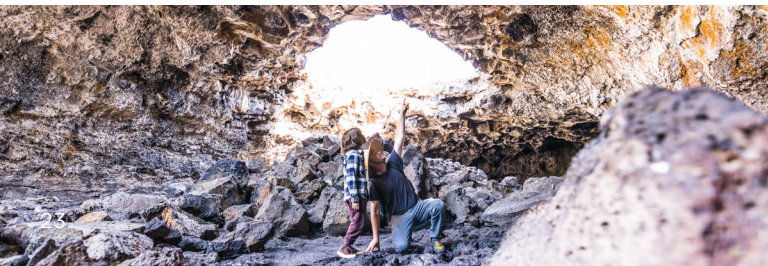




# To the Moon & Back

## Peaks to Craters Scenic Byway

Explore sky-piercing peaks, captivating craters and out-of-this-world lava flow formations along this byway. Then, make a stop at Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve for Centennial Celebrations like star parties and full moon hikes.



# Journey Back in Time

## Pioneer Historic Byway

Whether you're up for a thrilling ATV ride or would rather spend an afternoon birdwatching, this byway has the best of both worlds.

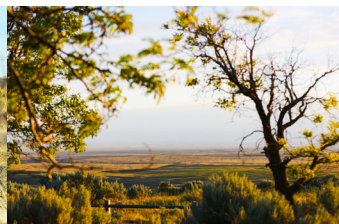
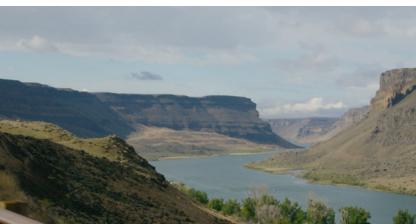




# The Wild Southwest

## Western Heritage Historic Byway

Meander through farmland and rocky terrain, then make a pit stop at Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area—home to the greatest concentration of nesting raptors in North America.

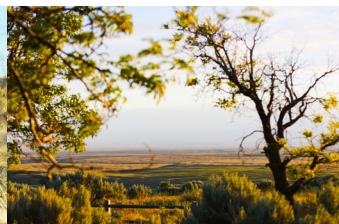


# Calling All History Buffs

## Main Oregon Trail Backcountry Byway

Follow the route of the pioneers who journeyed through the Idaho desert and learn about their experiences.

Discover all of Idaho's 31 scenic byways by visiting [visitidaho.org/things-to-do/scenic-byways](https://visitidaho.org/things-to-do/scenic-byways).





# Travel With Care

## Protecting the Beauty in Bloom

As you explore Idaho this spring, remember to take all your trash with you and stay on marked trails. If you encounter a muddy trail, turn back. Hiking or biking on muddy trails causes severe erosion and damages vegetation.

Learn more at [visitidaho.org/travel-with-care](https://visitidaho.org/travel-with-care).