



Idaho, Anytime:

Your All-Season Pocket Guide

Every season shines in the Gem State. From golden autumn leaves and snowy downhill thrills to blooming trails and summer lakes, this pocket guide is your all-season pass to adventure.

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Fall: Endless Golden Hour



As soon as autumn's crisp air blankets the state, fall colors and the seasonal flavors take center stage.

Leaf Peeping

From mid-October to early November, Idaho's leaves are at their peak. Throw on some layers and visit top spots like:

- Deep Creek Trail
- Mores Mountain Interpretive Trail
- Lewiston Levee Parkway Trail
- Phantom Falls Trail
- Pocatello City Creek Trail System
- Marshall Ridge
- Palisades Creek Trail





Scenic Byways

Queue up a playlist and drive the [City of Rocks Backcountry Byway](#), [Salmon River Scenic Byway](#), [Payette River Scenic Byway](#) or [Sawtooth Scenic Byway](#) for foliage-lined roads, ghost towns and abundant wildlife.



Bucket List Adventures

- Feel the brush of feathers during the [World Center for Birds of Prey's](#) fall flights
- Soak in [hot springs](#) framed by golden hillsides
- Bundle up for an evening of [stargazing](#) at the Bruneau Dunes Observatory

Chase more fall colors by visiting [visitidaho.org/fall-for-idaho](#).



Winter: Embracing the Elements

From powdery summits to cozy après spots, Idaho's winter delivers adventure by day and warmth by night—no hibernating here!

- Snowmobile through powdery backcountry trails in [Island Park](#)
- Snowshoe amongst towering rocks at [Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve](#)
- Lace up your ice skates and glide along Caldwell's [Ice Skating Ribbon](#), then see the city of Caldwell transform into a [Winter Wonderland](#) with more than one million holiday lights
- Race down the snow tubing lanes at Bogus Basin's [Tubing Hill](#)

Gear up for 28,000 feet of vertical terrain across 18,000 Gem State acres: [visitidaho.org/things-to-do/alpine-skiing-snowboarding](#).





Dressed in Holiday Style

Idaho winters shine bright with celebrations across the state—snow sculptures and festivities at the McCall Winter Carnival, eccentric energy at Fire & Ice WinterFest and millions of twinkling lights at the Coeur d'Alene Holiday Lights Show, just to name a few! 'Tis the season to eat, drink and be merry in the Gem State.

Find up-to-date travel information, including road conditions, detours and closures, at 511.idaho.gov or download the free app.



Après-Ski

Whether your style is handhelds from La Parilla taco truck at Rotarun Ski Area or velvety fondue at Sun Valley's Roundhouse, warming up after a day on the mountain has never been tastier. Staying in Boise? Head to the Basque Block for tapas and sangria.



Bucket List Adventures

- Watch the adrenaline-filled action of skijoring in Sun Valley or Wallace
- Dash through the snow in a horse-drawn sleigh through Idaho's snowy meadows
- Mash into adventure with a dog sledding tour at Grand Targhee Resort



Uncover more unique winter experiences at visitidaho.org/winter-in-idaho.



Spring: The Gem State in Full Bloom

When the snow gives way to sunshine, Idaho awakens with a rush of energy—wildflowers bloom, waterfalls surge and festivals fill the air with music.



Wildflowers

From May through July, wildflowers are at their peak and have begun to add pops of color throughout Idaho's unique landscapes. Here are some local favorites and rare blooms:

- Known as Idaho's state flower, Syringa blossoms smell like oranges and grow in clusters on this perennial shrub. This fragrant flower flourishes from late May through July in the Boise National Forest.
- The Elkhorn Clarkia was discovered by Meriwether Lewis in the early 1800s in Idaho's Bitterroot Mountains and was named after his fellow explorer, William Clark. These antler-shaped purple petals can be found in central Idaho.
- The Dwarf Monkey flower can be found during 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.
- In late May and early June, Camas lilies blanket the Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh Wildlife Management Area.



Waterfalls

Melting snow means spring is undoubtedly one of the best times to see these roaring showstoppers.

- Visit **Shoshone Falls**, known as "Niagara of the West." See it from viewing platforms at the Shoshone Falls Park or get up close and personal by kayaking or paddling to the base.
- Feel the mist of Upper **Mesa Falls** as it cascades over an ancient volcanic super-eruption.



Wildlife

Don't forget to pack your binoculars! Keep your eyes peeled for bears, birds of prey, elk, moose and more as you adventure throughout the Gem State. For birders itching to get a glimpse of sandhill cranes, take a trip to Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the largest breeding concentration of Sandhill cranes in North America. Nesting usually begins in early April.

Bucket List Adventures

- Bike the Route of the Hiawatha, starting in May
- Dig for star **garnets** at Emerald Creek Garnet Area—just be sure to get a permit and note that opening weekend falls on Memorial Day weekend—or hunt for opals at **Spencer Opal Mine**
- Dance the night (and day!) away at Boise's five-day **Treefort Music Fest** in March

For more spring inspiration, visit visitidaho.org/spring-in-idaho.



Summer: Longer Days, Bigger Adventures

Seasons change, but the magic of summer—its sights, sounds, and flavors always take us back to memories that never fade. Sink your toes into warm sand, indulge in juicy huckleberries and let your mind drift as you listen to the music of the mountains. This is summer in Idaho.



Lakes & Beaches:

From kayaking and paddleboarding to beach volleyball and scuba diving, Idaho's beaches (yes, you read that right!) will have you trading salt water for fresh water.

- [Payette Lake, McCall](#)
- [Lake Cascade, Cascade](#)
- [Lake Coeur d'Alene, Coeur d'Alene](#)
- [Lake Pend Oreille, Sandpoint](#)
- [Lake Lowell, Nampa](#)
- [Bear Lake, St. Charles](#)
- [Priest Lake, Coolin](#)
- [Dierkes Lake, Twin Falls](#)
- [Sandy Point Beach, Boise](#)



Whitewater Rafting

Idaho is home to 3,100 miles of navigable whitewater—more than any other state in the lower 48. Dive into *The 3100°* six-part YouTube series and uncover the wild rapids, breathtaking canyons and rich stories that shape Idaho. With half, full and multiday trips designed for everyone—from families with young paddlers to thrill-seekers chasing big waves—this is where every river story starts.

Watch the series now at

visitidaho.org/3100-whitewater-adventures



Bucket List Adventures

- Take on Hells Canyon, North America's deepest river gorge, with a thrilling **jet boat tour**, a cultural jet boat tour with the Niimipuii **scenic drive**
- Raise a glass of Idaho wine in any (or all) of the state's three **American Viticultural Areas**
- Kick up some dust and cheer on barrel racers at a local rodeo
- Treat yourself to Idaho's state fruit through a variety of huckleberry-infused foods



Photo credit: Kristin Luna/@lunaticatlarge.

Vibrant Colors & Rhythmic Beats

Connect with Native cultures under the warm summer sky at an Idaho powwow, where drumbeats, dancing and vibrant regalia honor the state's deep Indigenous heritage. Throughout the season, Tribal communities welcome visitors to experience traditions passed down through generations—from competitive dances to local food, art and storytelling.

High Notes in High Places

Summer in Idaho comes alive with music, mountains and open-air magic. Check out the world-class Sun Valley Music Festival, riverside performances at the [Idaho Shakespeare Festival](#) or for a laid-back lakeside vibe, head to the Festival at Sandpoint. Whether you're drawn to symphonies, classic theater or genre-spanning concerts, Idaho's [summer festivals](#) set the perfect soundtrack for warm nights and wide-open adventure.

More sun-lit adventures await at visitidaho.org/summer-in-idaho.



TRAVEL WITH CARE

Idaho's great outdoors are something truly special, and we all share in the responsibility of protecting them. As you explore, please recreate responsibly to help preserve Idaho's beauty and sense of adventure for everyone, today and in the years ahead. Know your limits, check the forecast, and be sure someone knows your plans—safe adventures are the best kind.

- Stay on marked trails & avoid muddy paths
- Pack out trash—yes, even apple cores & banana peels!
- Keep a safe distance from wildlife
- Drown out campfires

For more tips on how to travel with care, visit visitidaho.org/travel-with-care.