

Hot Pool Tour



Forces of nature created them for us to enjoy, thankfully without the sulfur or chemical odor usually associated with natural hot springs. Several locations are developed and popular with tourists and locals alike.

American Falls Indian Springs Resort & RV is named for the historic encampment of Native Americans at this natural hot springs 2 miles southwest of American Falls on Hwy 37. Modern improvements include a large park with shelters, a large heated swimming pool, spacious RV parking and tent sites. Nearby Massacre Rocks State Park is popular with Oregon Trail history buffs. For information call (208) 226-7700 or IndianSpringsResortAndRV.com.



Downey Downata Hot springs (pictured left and below) is 3 1/2 miles southeast of Downey on US 91. Natural hot water flows year round through this large swimming pool and hot tubs. The facility provides a meeting room, snack bar, restaurant, arcades and tranquility room with sauna and massage room. During the summer, children enjoy the large water playground. Two large hydrotube rides and pool slides thrill all ages. The resort accommodates overnighters at several cabins and yurts or RV Park with hookups, tent sites and tepees. Picnic areas are available for summer reunions. Winter and summer groups welcome. For information go to DownataHotSprings.com or (208) 897-5736.



Lava Hot Springs At Idaho's World Famous Hot Springs, 2.5 million gallons of naturally-filtered odor free spring water flows through five hot pools at five different temperatures each day. Heated sidewalks and floors in the modern dressing rooms warm your feet to and from the pools.



Numerous hot pools and indoor tubs are located throughout town at outdoor locations and in a number of hotels. Located 11 miles east of I-15 exit 47 on US 30. For information on Idaho's World Famous Hot Springs visit LavaHotSprings.com or call 800-423-8597. For other pool information call the Lava Chamber of Commerce at (208) 776-5500, or visit LavaHotSprings.org.

Thatcher Maple Grove Hot Springs is located along the scenic Bear River Oneida Narrows canyon. They are open every day 10am-10pm, year-round, offering three natural, therapeutic hot pools of varying temperature. Facilities include shower rooms and a kitchen for the use of all patrons. Campsites are available and can be reserved individually or by groups. Maple Grove Hot Springs information at (208) 851-1137 or MapleGroveHotSprings.com

Preston Riverdale Resort features a large outdoor swimming pool and hot tubs fed by natural hot water, including a therapeutic jetted tub. A hydrotub pool and children's pool make this a good family outing. A gaming room and snack bar complement the changing and locker rooms. The resort has eight motel rooms with hot tubs in every room. Riverdale Resort is next to the Bear River in a very scenic valley five miles north of Preston at the intersection of state hwy's 34 & 36. information at (208) 852-0266, or RiverdaleResort.com.

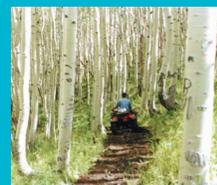


Recreation Tour



Tourists and residents alike list outdoor recreation as the number one reason they are in Southeast Idaho. In this short space we can't list all the places and endeavors available. Listed below and next panel are some of the highlights.

Camping Two National Forests and two state parks provide tent and RV space with nature. More are available from privately owned campgrounds.



Fishing 44 lakes & reservoirs plus numerous rivers & creeks create a memorable fishing experience.

Trails More than 1,000 miles of groomed trails for motorized ATVs and mountain bikes are within the public lands of Southeast Idaho. Non motorized trails

for hiking, backpacking and riding horses are available in several areas. The most impressive is the 55-mile Highline Trail traveling the mountain tops from Soda Springs to the state border on the south. Visit www.trails.idaho.gov for public land trail maps.

Water Sports

Water skiing, Stand Up Paddleboarding, jet skiing and pleasure boating are mostly done on the three largest lakes & reservoirs at American Falls, Bear Lake and Soda Springs, plus the Snake River at Massacre Rocks. Blackfoot has a fun multi-use recreation spot right off the freeway called Jensen Grove.

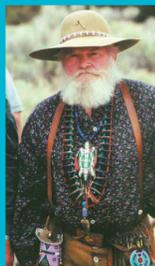


Rodeo Nearly every weekend during summer there is a small town rodeo somewhere in the area, usually accompanied by several events of local flavor to make them exciting spectator outings.



Mountain Rendezvous

Definitely a Kodak moment. A spectator and participation event in early summer near Marsh Creek.



Golf courses open to the public by city, # of holes, & phone (all area codes 208): Aberdeen-9, 397-3308; American Falls-9, 226-5827; Bear Lake-9, 945-2744; Blackfoot-18, 785-9960; Grace-9, 425-3233; Lava Hot Springs-9, 776-5048; Montpelier-9, 847-1981; Pocatello Highland-18, 237-9922; Pocatello Riverside-18, 232-9515; Preston-18, 852-2408; Soda Springs-9.

Birdwatching You'll see many birds along your travels and want to know what they are. Call 888-201-1063 for your free "Birding Trails in Southeast Idaho" brochure.



Winter Recreation



Winter snow brings new enthusiasm for outdoor recreation for its enjoyment and the anticipation of the trip to the hot pools afterward. Plus, you can plan multi-day trips that include overnight lodging in backcountry yurts or a cozy hotel room.



Snowshoeing Many of the summertime trails make a great place to enjoy winter's scenic beauty. The Highline Trail or the Bear River countryside, where steam from natural geothermal

waters rise, create stunning photography opportunities. Take a loop or head up a mountain draw with fido with the Park n Ski program. Seven plowed lots lead to five trails just South of Pocatello.

Ice Fishing

on Bear Lake, American Falls and other Reservoirs is a popular pastime. Call 888-201-1063 for your free "Ice Fishing in Southeast Idaho" brochure.



Cross Country Skiing

Groomed courses are found at Soda Springs and the Mink Creek Nordic Center on Scout Mountain south of Pocatello or buy a Park-n-Ski pass to break your own trail from the plowed parking lots.



Alpine Skiing & Snowboarding

For an honest challenge, ski Pebble Creek Ski Area on Mount Bonneville east of Inkom. Chairlifts have been expanded to take skiers close to the summit. Festivals like the Telemark, the Snowboard, and the Wildflower Festival add to the ski area's popularity. Even spectators enjoy the Cowboy Downhill. Participants ride a saddle attached to a barrel that has

snow skis bolted to the bottom over two jumps. Very few make it to the bottom without falling off.

Snowmobiling

Enjoy the winter sport with the largest number of avid followers. There are numerous snowmobile clubs throughout this region. Forest Service and County crews groom over 600 miles of trails for the enjoyment of riders and protection of the environment. Five or more official hillclimbing contests are put on over the winter. Call 888-201-1063 for



your free "Snowmobiling in Southeast Idaho" Trail Maps or download them from www.seidaho.org/snowmobile.htm.



Pioneer Tour



Follow the Mormon pioneers (from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) that moved north from Salt Lake City to establish new farming communities in this area. The best way to follow this history is to take the same geographical steps they did.

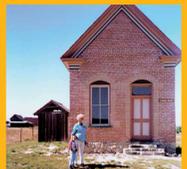


The first settlement was at Franklin, now known as Idaho's oldest city. The walking tour of Franklin's still standing buildings include Idaho's first home, the original grist (flour) mill, the Z.C.M.I. store, the Relic Hall Museum and others.



We continue north on US 91 to Preston for the next Mormon pioneer settlement. Here we view the Oneida Slake Academy. This hand hewn sandstone building was completed by church craftsmen 114 years ago for educational purposes. The building was recently moved to ensure its preservation.

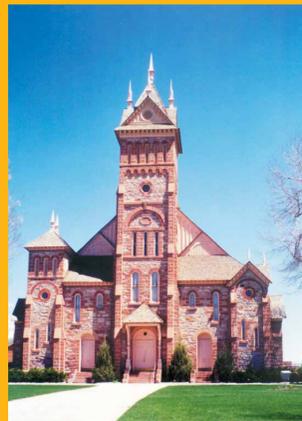
At the north end of Preston we stay on state highway 34, known as the Pioneer Historic Byway, through Thatcher, Grace, and Last Chance Dam, then on to Chesterfield. This settlement is now without residents, but not abandoned. Each summer work crews of descendants of its founders come back to continue its preservation. Chesterfield is unique in church history because it is the only Mormon pioneer settlement the Oregon Trail passed through.



Proceeding to Soda Springs on US 30 finds a summer home built for Brigham Young, 2nd President of the Church. Highway 34 (the Pioneer Historic Byway) proceeds north out of Soda Springs to the Mormon pioneer settlement of Freedom, Wyoming. To view the other several church settlements we will instead travel the Oregon Trail Auto Route (US 30) southeast to Montpelier then turn southwest on US 89 to Paris. Charles Rich was the prominent church leader appointed by Brigham Young to build settlements in this valley, which he accomplished prodigiously, founding seven in 1863-64.



This called for an appropriate meeting house, the result of fifteen year toil being the magnificent Paris Tabernacle in 1889 (bottom photo). It was designed by Don Carlos Young, and is an impressive red sandstone building quarried from Indian Creek on the east side of Bear Lake. Tours 9:30-5:30 pm Memorial Day through Labor Day.



Geology Tour



Three forces of nature shaped this landscape to become mountains and valleys: shifting land plates to push the mountains up, two major volcanic eruptions and finally the massive Bonneville Flood. Several river and stream courses were altered by these natural events, but most lakes and reservoirs came by the hand of man to fill the need for crop irrigation and electric power.



Looking at a map of the United States people wonder how Idaho's eastern and western borders were decided in such an irregular pattern. The northern and southern borders of the state are nice straight lines by contrast. The simple explanation is the western border was the coastline of the Pacific Ocean until California, Washington and Oregon rose up from the ocean floor pushing Idaho upward to become the western side of the Rocky Mountains.

This also explains the border of Idaho and Montana. The highest point of the Rockies became the Continental Divide, defined by where the snowmelt runoff from these mountains goes. Montana's water runs southeast to the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers to the Atlantic Ocean. Idaho's water runs northwest to the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean.

The Bear River flows westward from the Rockies. It starts in the Utah mountains, flows northwest to Idaho's Bear Lake Valley, on to Soda Springs where it turns south through Preston and empties into the Great Salt Lake, which doesn't make much sense. It travels over 400 miles to cover a distance of only 90 miles. It used to flow through Pocatello to the Snake River. Then a rift volcano still visible near the intersection of state highway 34 and US 30 raised the valley floor and sent a wall of molten lava 40 miles west to Pocatello. A second major flow occurred shortly after along the same path. These flows turned the Bear River southward. The remnants of these flows are spectacular to see at Grace, McCammon, Inkom and Pocatello.

The final geographic event affecting Southeast Idaho occurred just 15,000 years ago. Prior to that, much of Utah and Nevada were covered by Lake Bonneville. What is now Preston was underwater but current day Downey was dry. Then at Red Rock Pass (bottom photo) the natural dam broke and sent a wall of water estimated to be 300 feet high northwest all the way to the Pacific ocean. The boulders (pictured above) and landscape of Marsh Valley were tumbled and polished by this event.



Niter Ice Cave is located approximately 3 miles south of Grace just off the main highway. Located near St. Charles, Minnetonka (pictured top) is the largest limestone cave in the state. Formation Springs and Cave located at the base of the scenic Aspen Mountains are near Soda Springs.



Oregon Trail Tour



The greatest voluntary migration that any nation had known, the Oregon Trail, passed through Southeast Idaho. Historic landmarks and cultural sites still remain for today's Byway and Auto Tour visitors. The photo above is Sheep Rock Point near Soda Springs, named for the Rocky Mountain Sheep the pioneers saw there as they traveled. It is a major crossroads of history, geology and geography. Here the valley floor was lifted by two major volcanic eruptions that changed the course of the Bear River. The 55 mile Highline Recreational Trail starts here. The Oregon and California Trails made their first parting here and later the Oregon Shortline Railroad came through to serve the Northwest.



The naturally carbonated water of Hooper Springs (pictured) in Soda Springs was a delight to Oregon Trail encampments between 1840-60 and still is to modern travelers.

The wagons had traveled thirty miles that day from the previous camp at Clover Creek, now named Montpelier. At Clover Creek they celebrated having crossed the last of the Rocky Mountains. From here on it was all downhill following the river to Oregon.



The National Oregon/California Trail Center at Montpelier utilizes film, paintings, historical displays and live interpreters dressed in period costume to help visitors share in the "Living History" of the trail. Visitors will walk on the very soil of the Clover Creek Encampment.

After Soda Springs the next encampment was at Fort Hall, a wooden stockade trading post on the present day Shoshone-Bannock Indian Reservation. A replica of Fort Hall is located in Pocatello near the Pocatello Zoo. From there they traveled along the Snake River to the next campsite at present day Massacre Rocks State Park west of American Falls. The park has campsites for tents and RVs along the river. The visitor center has a number of artifacts and diaries from early wagon travelers.

The photo below is the Oregon Trail Country Club at Soda Springs. The golfer is hitting her golf ball out of original wagon ruts still intact from the Trail.



Museum Tour



BANNOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Avenue of the Chiefs, Pocatello ID (208) 233-0434 Exhibits illustrate Pocatello's early railroad history and Shoshone-Bannock Indian artifacts. Adjacent to the Fort Hall Replica and the Ross Park Zoo in Pocatello.

BINGHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM 190 N. Shilling Ave., Blackfoot ID (208) 785-8065 Resembles a southern plantation home and houses an historic collection of classic dolls and Native American artifacts. Tours available.

DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS MUSEUM Main Street, Soda Springs ID (208) 547-3706 The Daughters of the Utah Pioneers built this museum in 1983. It features antiques, photographs, and books depicting local history.

ENDERS HOTEL & HISTORICAL MUSEUM 76 S. Main St., Soda Springs, ID (208) 547-4980 Historic hotel next to Geyser Park Visitor Center. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Features 30 rooms, historical artifacts, and antiques.

FORT HALL REPLICA Avenue of the Chiefs, Pocatello ID (208) 234-1795 Enter the 19th Century world of explorers, trappers, fur traders, Native Americans, pioneers, Gold seekers, and historic figures.

FRANKLIN IDEAH RELIC HALL Main Street, Franklin ID (208) 646-2290 The only state owned museum outside of Boise. Houses many relics brought or acquired by pioneers, including photo collection.

IDAHO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY 5th Ave and Dillon St, Pocatello ID (208) 282-3317 Idaho's Natural History: Don't just see it, experience it! Discover dinosaurs, ice-age mammals, & how to live off the land. Kid's Discovery Room!

IDAHO POTATO MUSEUM 130 NW Main St., Blackfoot, ID (208) 785-2517 In the historic Oregon

Short Line Railroad Depot. Free box of Idaho Hash Brown Potatoes, and potato pins to children. Gift Shop, RV Parking, park for picnic.

MASSACRE ROCKS STATE PARK 3592 Park Lane, American Falls, ID (208) 548-2672 A Historic Area operated by the State of Idaho. The park has stories to tell which date back to times best described in geologic terms.

MUSEUM OF CLEAN 711 S. 2nd Ave., Pocatello, ID (208) 236-6906 Come interested, Leave inspired. Walk into an avensome 75,000 sq. ft complex of excitement, education and inspiration for the whole family. Open Tues-Sat 10am-5pm.

THE NATIONAL OREGON/CALIFORNIA TRAIL CENTER 320 N. 4th Street, Montpelier, ID 866-847-3800 In beautiful Bear Lake Valley on the historic site of the original Oregon Trail. Built to preserve, perpetuate and promote pioneer history and heritage of the Oregon/California Trail and the Bear Lake Valley. The Rails and Trails Museum is located inside the Trail Center.



ONEIDA PIONEER MUSEUM 27 Bannock St., Malad City, ID (208) 766-4847 Built in 1914 as a Drug Store. Original pressed-tin ceiling and safe are in good condition and are interesting features.

PARIS HISTORICAL MUSEUM 345 Main Street, Paris, ID (208) 945-2212 Displays local history artifacts and located directly across the street from the LDS Tabernacle in Paris, Idaho. Memorial Day-Labor Day.

SHOSHONE BANNOCK TRIBAL MUSEUM Exit 80 off I-15, Fort Hall, ID 800-806-9229 With old photographs, displays and exhibits you learn how the Shoshone-Bannock people lived and settled the area around eastern Idaho, told from their point of view.

SOUTH BANNOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL CENTER 110 E. Main St., Lava Hot Springs, ID (208) 776-5254 Permanent and rotating exhibits about Lava Hot Springs area history as well as Arimo, Inkom, Downey, McCammon, Virginia and Swan Lake.

