

YOUR TRAVEL STYLE: Laid-Back Outdoors (Summer)

"the earth laughs in flowers" –Ralph Waldo Emerson



**BREATHE IN.
BREATHE OUT.
REPEAT.**

**Ahhhh... fresh air,
spectacular vistas,
gurgling streams.**

What could be better than a relaxing vacation in the great outdoors of Southwest Idaho? Short answer: not much. It's almost like this area was designed to help you slow down and take it all in. From pristine mountain lakes to grandiose desert canyons and lazy river floats to striking sand dunes, you'll find it here. With so much to do, we can't list it all here, but here are some top picks:

Also Consider

HIKING: It's everywhere around here. Check out the Boise and Payette National Forest for some of your best options.

GOLF: Blue skies & green fairways.... what could be better? Southwest Idaho has 20+ golf courses. Tee off on elevated high desert mesas or putt beside a lakeside green.

TAKE A FLOAT:

We may be known for our whitewater, but Southwest Idaho also offers many flatwater opportunities for those who'd rather chill than thrill. For a wilderness experience, try the North Fork of the Payette River near McCall. The beautiful mountain setting overflows with opportunities for wildlife viewing.

By far, the most popular float in Idaho is the Boise River right through downtown Boise. Thousands of locals and visitors use this family-friendly 6-mile float to be at the heat. The put-in is in Southeast Boise and the take-out is right in the center of town in Ann Morrison Park. Restrooms, equipment rentals, even a shuttle bus are all available.

FLY FISHING: Take your pick: mountain lakes, freestone stream, desert rivers. Southwest Idaho has them all. Choose from guided trips or just grab your gear and head out on your own. Favorite destinations include:

South Fork of the Boise River: a blue-ribbon trout fisher just an hour from Boise and near Pine and Featherville.

Boise River – in town: an excellent tailwater fishery in the heart of town.

McCall area: Bring your float tube or just wade. Numerous lakes and streams around McCall provide great fishing most of the year. Try Louie Lake, Brundage Reservoir, Browns Pond, Upper Payette Lake.

CAMPING: Your options are nearly endless. Some favorites include camping on the shores (a peninsula, actually) of Payette Lake at Ponderosa State Park, or at the base of North America's tallest sand dune at Bruneau State Park. You can also find dozens of other options along the Snake River or near Idaho City. For a unique experience, stay at Givens Hot Springs or camp on-site at Starlight Mountain Theatre.

HELL'S CANYON: You gotta see this. Not only is the canyon a wonder in itself, you can also get in some great fishing, jetboating and wildlife viewing while here.



SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY:

Visit Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey to learn through interactive exhibits and intimate encounters with live birds, including the endangered California Condor, Harpy Eagle, and Aplomado Falcon.



Southwest
IDAHO

wonderful.

FIND MORE IDEAS ON WHERE TO STAY AND WHAT TO DO WHEN WANDERING
SOUTHWEST IDAHO, GO TO WWW.VISITSOUTHWESTIDAHO.ORG

Things To Do

Where To Stay

In a word, anywhere. Many looking for some laid-back time head for the "Payette River Mountain Area" that ranges from Garden Valley to McCall and also includes the Cascade and Donnelly areas. You should also consider the Hell's Canyon area, either at one of the area's hotels, bed & breakfasts or campgrounds.



Start Planning

FIND A GUIDE: Idaho Guides & Outfitters Association 208-338-7830

BOTANICAL GARDEN: Idaho Botanical Garden 208-343-8649

ENTERTAINMENT: National Old Time Fiddlers Contest 208-549-0255

BIRDS OF PREY: Birds of Prey 208-362-3716