

# Explore



## Your Guide to Visiting the Treasure Valley: Fall Itinerary

Welcome to The College of Idaho! Students say our Idaho setting is one of the best things about attending the C of I — from world-class opportunities for outdoor recreation to the many activities going on in the Northwest's third most populous metro area, there's always something new to experience. We invite you to spend a few days in the Treasure Valley and sample some of Idaho's treasures.

### Day 1

Fall is a vibrant time at The College of Idaho as students return to campus, enjoying warm days on the tree-lined Quad. After your campus visit, take part in one of Idaho's favorite adventures by rafting the Payette River at **Bear Valley River Co.** ([bearvalleyrafting.com](http://bearvalleyrafting.com)). Enjoy the grand mountains along the Payette or cool off by taking a dip in a swimming hole along the river.

Afterward, you'll be ready for dinner. Try a great burger or wrap at **Stewart's** (2805 Blaine St., Caldwell) just a few blocks from the C of I. Then, come back to campus



*Idaho's rivers are among the world's best for whitewater rafting, no matter your skill level.*



*Caldwell is the heart of Idaho's wine country, which includes Bitner Vineyards.*

and take in a women's volleyball match at J.A. Albertson Activities Center. Games typically begin at 7 p.m.; let the Office of Admission know in advance that you'd like to attend and we can probably get you free tickets!

### Day 2

Today, reap the bounty of the harvest in the Treasure Valley, where the climate is favorable for growing many fruits and vegetables. Start off the day by visiting one of the numerous local farmer's markets; if you're here on a Saturday, the **Capital City Public Market** ([capitalcitypublicmarket.com](http://capitalcitypublicmarket.com)) and **Boise Farmers Market** ([theboisefarmersmarket.com](http://theboisefarmersmarket.com)) in Downtown Boise feature dozens of local farmers, artisans, bakeries, wineries and more.

Next up, enjoy the sights and smells of the gorgeous Idaho wine country. Centered around Caldwell, the Snake River Valley Appellation is one of the nation's up-and-coming wine regions. Enjoy a visit to **Bitner Vineyards** ([bitnervineyards.com](http://bitnervineyards.com)) and sample their delicious, award-winning wines. Ron Bitner '68 is one of three C of I graduates owning a local winery. Ask to see his 1965 football team portrait and explore the beautiful grounds and breathtaking views of the Snake River Valley.

For a classy dinner, try **Brick 29 Bistro** (320 11th Ave. South, Nampa). This local favorite has won numerous awards for its meals and desserts. Be sure to ask the wait staff about where Brick 29 got its name.

Now that the sun has set, it's time to explore a corn maze! The **Farmstead Corn Maze** in Meridian (farmsteadfestival.com) features a new maze every year along with hayrides and other activities. If you prefer a good scare there's also a haunted corn maze — all sorts of creatures will stalk you and give you a scream!

### Day 3

Get ready to experience Boise, named by *Forbes* magazine as the No.2 Best City for Raising a Family and *Sunset* magazine as one of the West's 20 towns of the future (boiseidaho.gov/note-info/boise-list-of-lists). Downtown is just a short 30-minute drive from The College of Idaho.

Start off your day with a visit to the Old Idaho Penitentiary and Idaho Botanical Gardens. The **Old Idaho Penitentiary** (2445 Old Penitentiary Road) opened in 1872 and housed some of the West's most desperate criminals. Today, you can experience more than 100 years of that unique prison history with a visit to solitary confinement, cell blocks and the gallows. The Old Pen features historic buildings and special exhibits including the J. Curtis Earl Memorial Exhibit of Arms and Armaments. Adjacent to the Old Pen is the **Idaho Botanical Garden** (idahobotanicalgarden.org). In addition to more than 800 species of plants, the garden features a variety of educational programs and entertainment, cultural and community events.

For lunch, head to **Big Jud's** (1289 Protest Road), a burger joint featured on "Man vs. Food" and ranked as a "MUST Eat Burger" in Idaho on FoodNetwork.com's 50 States 50 Burgers map. If you're interested in joining the elite to have their photo posted on the wall, you can



*Idaho Botanical Garden and Old Idaho Penitentiary are next to each other at the base of the Boise Foothills.*



*Downtown Boise as seen from the Boise Depot.*

tackle their 1- or 2-lb burgers. Be sure to save room for their tasty fries or tater tots and a huckleberry shake.

After lunch, head over to the **Boise Depot** (2603 West Eastover Terrace) to learn about Boise's railroad history and enjoy spectacular views of Downtown Boise and the Boise Foothills. This overlook of the City of Trees is especially colorful in the fall when leaves are changing. Next, head into the heart of the city and Julia Davis Park. If you are in the mood for more history, learn about the adventures of Lewis and Clark and Sacagawea at **Idaho History Museum** (history.idaho.gov). If you love animals, check out **Zoo Boise** (zooboise.org) and its collection of more than 80 species. For art lovers, **Boise Art Museum** (boiseartmuseum.org) presents approximately 20 exhibits every year. And for those fascinated by science, check out the **Discovery Center of Idaho** (scidaho.org).

A short walk or drive will take you into Downtown Boise, where you can enjoy shopping from local merchants. One favorite is **Taters** (249 S. 8th St.), a store focused on Idaho's most famous export, our potatoes. Browse the novelty gifts and some surprising products made from potatoes to take back home with you. Then, wrap up your day by stopping for dinner at one of the many locally-owned restaurants along 8th Street. **Fork** (reservation recommended) and **Bittercreek Ale House** offer locally produced northwestern cuisine, while **Shige Japanese Cuisine** and **Mai Thai** offer modern Asian cuisine.

Want dessert? Take a one mile drive down to the **Ram Restaurant & Brewery** (709 E Park Blvd.) and order their bread pudding. Yummy!

**For more information about Idaho's treasures, visit [collegeofidaho.edu/ouridahosetting](http://collegeofidaho.edu/ouridahosetting).**