

Explore

THE COLLEGE
of IDAHO



Your Guide to Visiting the Treasure Valley: Spring 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 myriad 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

A visit to The College of Idaho in the spring—with the season's mild weather and blooming flowers and trees—is sure to delight. During your campus visit, you're likely to see students studying or basking in the sun in Morrison Quadrangle or playing Frisbee golf. In the morning, take a campus tour with a Student Ambassador, attend a class in the major



Enjoy Sprints, Karts, Speedway Cycle racing events and much more at Meridian Speedway.

you're considering and enjoy lunch in Simplot Dining Hall.

After lunch, take a walking tour of **Caldwell's historic neighborhoods** (brochure available at the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce, 704 Blaine St.) and check out Indian Creek in downtown Caldwell. Get your afternoon caffeine fix at **The Bird Stop Coffee House** (718 Arthur St.), which hosts local bands and open mic nights throughout the year, then check out one of many local parks that helped make Caldwell one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People.

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. Then finish up the day by checking out an action-packed race at the **Meridian Speedway** (meridianspeedwayonline.com).

Day 2

Spring is a wonderful time to observe Idaho's remarkable wildlife, and today you'll get a chance to see the numerous species of birds that live and migrate through the state. Choose one of the following:



Indian Creek is a popular destination in downtown Caldwell, with businesses such as The Bird Stop Coffee House along its banks.



Lake Lowell is a favorite destination for birdwatchers.

Visit **Lake Lowell** and **Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge** (fws.gov/deerflat), less than a 10-minute drive from campus. This beautiful locale offers free, year-round enjoyment of wildlife from sunrise to sunset. Visitors in March and April are likely to spot bald eagles, hawks and falcons among many other species. Visitors that come in the late spring could spot at least five species of owls. The Lake Lowell Bird Tour is a 29.5 mile car tour, so pack a picnic and find a scenic spot along Lake Lowell to enjoy lunch.

Or head to the **World Center for Birds of Prey** (peregrinefund.org), set atop a scenic hill overlooking Boise. The 580-acre campus consists of breeding facilities for endangered birds of prey, the Archives of Falconry and the Velma Morrison Interpretive Center, which invites you to explore the amazing world of raptors eye-to-eye. Come experience the courtyard full of native and non-native birds and view daily raptor presentations, tours and interactive exhibits like Condor Cliffs and the center's avian art gallery. If you're crazy or just really into birds (both?), try fitting these two choices into your day!

For dinner try another local favorite, **El Gallo Giro** (482 W. 3rd St., Kuna). People drive in from miles and miles around to enjoy a festive environment and the greatest Mexican food in Idaho.

Day 3

Fishing is a favorite springtime activity for many Idahoans. World famous rivers and numerous ponds

offer opportunities to catch trout, salmon and other fish, and most city parks in Boise have their ponds stocked with fish by Idaho's Department of Fish and Game. Park your car at the **MK Nature Center** (600 S. Walnut St., Boise) and walk through the interactive museum and exterior grounds. Be sure to take a minute to spot a sturgeon weighing in at hundreds of pounds as some inspiration for your fishing adventure. Then exit onto the Boise River Greenbelt, which connects parks and natural areas along its 30-mile route. Find a picturesque spot along the river to stop and cast a line.



Chef Lou's Westside Drive-In is famous for its Ice Cream Potato and prime rib special on Fridays and Saturdays.

When you're ready for lunch, head down State Street just west of Downtown Boise for a burger and tots from **Chef Lou's Westside Drive-In** (1939 W. State St.). This vintage drive-in was featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives" and is home of the famous Ice Cream Potato (A must try!). Afterwards, you'll be ready to head to the **Boise Foothills** for a hike! More than 100 miles of trails for hiking, biking and riding make the foothills one of the jewels of Boise, named by *Sunset* magazine as one of the West's 20 towns of the future. Enjoy the clean air and blue skies as you look out over the City of Trees, and there's a good chance you'll also see some deer, elk, quail, foxes or other wildlife.

For dinner, **Bardenay** (610 W. Grove) is a local favorite that is the nation's first restaurant distillery. Its innovative menu features delicious Northwest cuisine that is sure to please!

For more information about Idaho's treasures, visit collegeofidaho.edu/ouridahosetting.