

Explore

Your Guide to Visiting the Treasure Valley: Summer 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

As you arrive in the Treasure Valley, you'll immediately notice the Boise Foothills to the north, a major attraction for locals who bike or hike their more than 100 miles of trails. The warm summer air is pleasant and dry, and the long summer days mean there's plenty for you to see and do!

After your campus visit, it's off to the **Idaho Shakespeare Festival** (idahoshakespeare.org). Nestled against the Boise Foothills, the Idaho Shake-



Beat the summer heat at Roaring Spring Water Park, the Northwest's largest water park.

spare Festival is completely outside with amphitheater seating. Despite its name, the festival features more than Shakespeare's plays—classic and contemporary comedies and dramas, even musicals, take the stage. Dinner can be purchased at Café Shakespeare, located directly outside the amphitheater. Or, you can bring in your own picnic to enjoy.

It will be dark by the end of the play, so it's time to call it a night unless you want to take in some Downtown Boise night life. Eighth Street has coffee shops, frozen yogurt and more. We recommend **Pie Hole** (205 N. 8th St.). It's a funky little place perfect for people watching, and you can enjoy unique concoctions like Potato Bacon Pizza on its street side patio. Or you can check out the Basque Block and enjoy some authentic Basque cuisine at **Bar Gernika** (202 S. Capitol Blvd.).

Day 2

Summer can be quite hot here in the high desert, so



The Basque block in Downtown Boise is a great place to enjoy an outdoor lunch or dinner during summer.

our next stop is **Roaring Springs Water Park** (roaringsprings.com) for an all-day excursion. Roaring Springs is the Northwest's largest water park, so you'll have no trouble finding plenty to do. Be sure to catch the Cliffhanger, a crowd-pleasing thrill!

If you prefer a more natural water adventure, join the masses in **floating the Boise River**. Whether you prefer a tube or a raft, all the equipment you need is available for rent at **Barber Park** (4049 S. Eckert Rd., Boise), the starting point of your floating journey. The 6-mile float to Ann Morrison Park takes up to two hours, plenty of time to relax and enjoy the picturesque river. A shuttle bus will take you back to Barber Park.

Tonight, take it easy and catch a movie at the **Reel Theater** (2105 Caldwell Boulevard, Nampa). The inexpensive tickets and concessions make this theatre a favorite of C of I students. The Reel Theater also is home to The College of Idaho's Free Movie Mondays. On the way home, stop for dinner at **Messenger Pizzeria** (1224 1st St. South, Nampa). Messenger recreates New York-style pizza with tasty offerings such as its Chuck Norris (pesto, sausage, roasted red peppers and jalapenos) and Drunken Goat (goat cheese, figs, bacon, arugula and balsamic vinegar) pizzas.



Enjoy views of the scenic Boise River while walking or biking along the Boise River Greenbelt.

Day 3

The day starts off with a hike to **Table Rock** (trail map available at ridgetorivers.org), one of Boise's most popular landmarks. Southeast of Downtown



Sample the produce of local farmers, view the work of local artisans, try out delicious baked goods and much more at the Capital City Public Market.

Boise, it offers a grand view of Boise and the Treasure Valley.

Afterwards, we'll continue our exploration of Boise—named one of the West's 20 towns of the future by *Sunset* magazine—by heading to **Zoo Boise** (zooboise.org) and its collection of more than 80 species, including tigers, African lions and giraffes. Surrounding the zoo is **Julia Davis Park**, a beautiful place to sunbathe and a convenient outlet to the **Boise River Greenbelt**, which runs for 30 miles through the Treasure Valley.

For dinner, you can head to **Boise Fry Company** (111 Broadway), which we'll take to-go. Drive a few minutes outside of downtown to the historic **Boise Depot** (2603 West Eastover Terrace), and eat your bison burgers and fresh fries while enjoying spectacular views of Downtown Boise and the Idaho State Capitol, one of the state's architectural treasures, with the Boise Foothills rising behind them.

If you're here on a Saturday, consider waking up early for the **Capital City Public Market** (capitalcitypublicmarket.com) and the **Boise Farmers Market** (theboisefarmersmarket.com) in Downtown Boise. Favorites of Boiseans, the markets feature dozens of local farmers, artisans, bakeries, wineries and more.

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