

Boise, Idaho Fact Sheet

Boise...A Rare Blend

Boise, Idaho's Capital City is a rare blend -- a blend of urban and hometown, with interesting and unique sites and attractions, the inviting outdoors, unlimited recreation and diverse cultural offerings.

At the foot of the scenic Boise Front, Boise boasts several Fortune 500 companies with national and international headquarters or divisions, sprawling high-tech campuses, a major university and regional medical centers. A city that enjoys its easily accessible outdoors, the City of Trees offers a pleasant contrast of mountains meeting desert.

Location: Southwest Idaho
Interstate 84 runs east-west on the outskirts of Boise. Boise is 157 miles from Sun Valley, 57 miles from the Oregon border, 431 miles from Portland, 336 miles from Salt Lake City

Nickname: City of Trees

History: According to oral history, French-Canadian fur trappers named Boise in the early 19th century. The trappers, after crossing the hot, dry desert, crested a hill and gazing down upon the woods surrounding the Boise River, exclaimed, "Les bois! Les bois!" ("Woods! Woods!") Fort Boise was established in July of 1863 to keep peace in the mining camps and to protect the Oregon Trail pioneers from Indian raids. The City of Boise was established quickly and served as a service center for gold and silver miners in the nearby mountains and foothills. Boise's name is most fitting. The wooded Boise River is now the scenic backdrop for a beautiful and popular greenbelt path and so many species of trees have been planted that today Boise is known as "The City of Trees."

Elevation: 2,838 feet above sea level

Population: 211,000 - Boise city limits
593,000 - Metropolitan area

Climate: Boise enjoys four distinct seasons. Its location on a high desert plain brings mild winters and low humidity.

Average daily temp.	Summer	Winter	Annual
Maximum	90.6	37.1	62.8
Minimum	58.5	22.6	39.3
Mean	74.6	29.9	51.5
Annual precipitation	11.7 inches		

Transportation: Boise Airport's expansion was completed in September, 2004 and features a new terminal building and concourse, meeting rooms, expanded food court, meet and greet lobby for arriving passengers and an increased number of security checkpoints providing a more efficient experience for travelers.

Boise is served by most major airlines: Delta, Northwest, Southwest, United, U.S. Air, SkyWest, Horizon Air, Alaska Airlines and Frontier.

Rental cars, limousines, taxi service and public bus transportation are available. Most hotels offer complimentary airport shuttles. As Boise is very bike-friendly, bike lanes are common throughout the city.

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Time Zone: Mountain Standard Time, Mountain Daylight Time.

Mountains: Boise Front – foothills visible north of Boise
Owyhee Mountains - south of Boise

River: The Boise River – A calm river, the Boise is great for fishing or floating. The Greenbelt, a 25-mile riverfront pathway ideal for walking, jogging, bicycling and skating, runs through the city and follows the banks of the Boise River.

Large Boise Companies: Boise Cascade, Albertsons/SuperValu, Micron Technology, J.R. Simplot Company, Trus Joist-A Weyerhaeuser Company, URS Corporation - Washington Division

Economy: High-tech (Hewlett-Packard, Micron Technology and others), government, medical (Mountain States Tumor Institute, two regional medical centers, Veterans Hospital and a variety of other facilities), education (Boise State University, Idaho State University satellite campus)

Convention Center: Boise Centre has 50,000 square feet of flexible meeting and exhibit space, a 349-seat auditorium and 20 flexible meeting room combinations. The Centre is located downtown with many restaurants, shops, attractions and 800 hotel rooms within walking distance. Boise Centre is just four miles from the airport.

Hotel Room Tax: 7 percent

Sales Tax: 6 percent

Boise Kudos: Best Place for Business and Careers #9 – Forbes Magazine, May 2009
Top 10 Cities where Salaries are Increasing #6 – Forbes Magazine, June 2009
No 8. Hotspot for Young Professionals to Live and Work in the U.S. – Next Generation Consulting, June 2009
#4 Best Places to Live 2009 – U.S. News & World Report, June 2009
#8 Nation's Best Cities for Quality of Life - Bizjournals, March 2009
#5 Best Market for Small Business- Bizjournals, February 2009
13th Ranking – Least Costly Places to do Business – KMPG – April, 2008
#1 Adventure Town – *National Geographic Adventure*, September 2006
Ranked the 4th Best Places for Business and Careers – *Forbes Magazine*, May 2006
Boise River named one of West's top 12 rivers - *Sunset Magazine*, June 2003
Best Town to Live and Ride – *Bike Magazine*, June 2003
Boise Airport 7th Best in the World for passenger satisfaction – *J.D. Powers global passenger survey published in Aviation Week & Space Technology Magazine*, June 2005

Professional Sports: Boise Hawks (Baseball, minor league, Chicago Cubs)
Idaho Steelheads (ECHL Hockey)
Idaho Stampede (NBA D-League Basketball)

Unique Boise Attractions:

Basque Museum and Cultural Center (208) 343-2671 – Boise is home to the largest concentration of Basques per capita in the U.S., Boise also has North America's only Basque museum, the internationally renowned Oinkari Basque Dancers and authentic Basque eateries.

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Unique Boise Attractions cont'd.

M. K. Nature Center (208) 334-2225 – A living museum, this unique river observatory allows visitors to witness the activity in an Idaho river through underwater viewing windows.

Kathryn Albertson Park (208) 384-4240 – The 40-acre walking park in the heart of the city features ponds with fountains, interpretive signs, island gazebos, thousands of trees and plants and a wetlands area.

Greenbelt (208) 384-4240 – The 25-mile riverfront Greenbelt, ideal for walking, jogging, bicycling, skating and just plain relaxing, meanders through Boise. The envied pathway connects several parks throughout the city.

Old Idaho Territorial Penitentiary (208) 334-2844 – One of four territorial prisons still in existence in the U.S., the imposing sandstone compound includes a self-guided walking tour, transportation museum and the nation's largest collections of historic arms and military memorabilia.

Idaho Black History Museum (208) 433-0017 – Housed in the historic original St. Paul Baptist Church, the Idaho Black History Museum is a showplace of historical photos, crafts and other artifacts reflecting the role of Black culture in the diverse heritage of Idaho, the West and the nation.

World Center for Birds of Prey (208) 362-8687 – Visitors can see rare falcons and eagles up close and the inner workings of an endangered species program. This unique center on the outskirts of Boise is the most sophisticated facility in the world for breeding and releasing birds of prey.

World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame (208) 343-7224 – A one-of-a-kind museum, the Hall of Fame showcases the memorabilia of world-class athletes who are honored for their humanitarian service beyond the world of sport.

Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Conservation Area (208) 384-3300 or 284-3338 – Less than an hour from Boise, this natural refuge along the Snake River is home to the largest concentration of nesting eagles, hawks and other raptors.

Whitewater Capital (208) 342-1438 – Touted as "the Whitewater Capital of the World," some of Idaho's world-class rapids beckon just minutes from Boise on the Payette River. Half-day, full-day and overnight river trips of varying skill levels are available for the adventurous or not so adventurous.

"Snake River Valley" Appellation Wineries – Idaho's only AVA stretches across 12 counties in Southwest Idaho and 2 counties in Oregon. The region boasts many award-winning wineries with more on the way. Lush orchards give way to scenic valleys and rugged mountains, providing the ideal setting for wine tasting or Jazz at the Winery, a popular summertime tradition.

Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area (208) 332-5151 – Only 16 miles from downtown Boise, the ski area boasts some of the best night skiing, in the country, one of the largest ski schools in the Northwest, a tubing hill and both alpine and nordic runs (some solar lit) and trails suitable for beginner to expert skiers and snowboarders.

Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial (208) 345-0304 – This memorial is an example of what can happen when a community and an entire state come together for a cause. The first in the United States to honor Anne Frank, it offers a lesson on courage, strength, dignity of human spirit and the value of human rights for all men and women, and will have a lasting impact on those who visit.

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