Boise is... "A rare blend. The City of Trees is a mix of urban and outdoors; active and relaxing; family-friendly and dynamic. Boise boasts several Fortune 500 companies with national and international headquarters or divisions, sprawling high-tech campuses and a major university with a distinctive blue football field. This city, nestled beneath the Boise Foothills and a river running through it, enjoys its easily accessible outdoors as much as its eclectic urban offerings." —Brian Cantwell, Seattle Times

Facts about Boise

**Pronunciation:**
“Boy-see” (not “Boy-zee”)

**Location:**
Southwest Idaho

**Nickname:**
City of Trees

**Elevation:**
2,730 feet above sea level

**Population:**
According to the Boise Valley Economic Partnership (BVEP), Boise is the 99th largest city in the nation with a population of 250,420 in the Boise city limits and 683,525 in the greater metropolitan area.

**Climate:**
Boise enjoys four distinct seasons. Its location on a high desert plain brings mild winters and low humidity, as well as hot and dry summers. The city enjoys 234 sunny days.

**Average Daily Temperature:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Max.</th>
<th>Min.</th>
<th>Ave.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>90.6°F</td>
<td>58.5°F</td>
<td>74.6°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>37.1°F</td>
<td>22.6°F</td>
<td>29.9°F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>62.8°F</td>
<td>39.3°F</td>
<td>51.5°F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Annual Precipitation:**
12.1 Inches

**Annual Snowfall:**
21.4 Inches

**Brief 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 up on 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.

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.”

**Flights:**
The Boise Airport (BOI) is served by six airlines that offer direct flights to 20 major U.S. markets with connecting flights to thousands of cities worldwide. Service is provided by Allegiant, Alaska, American, Delta, Southwest and United Airlines. Located just three miles south of downtown Boise, the Boise Airport features a modern terminal building and concourse, meeting rooms, food court and a meet-and-greet lobby for arriving passengers.

**Transportation:**
Boise GreenBike provides people who live in, work or visit Boise with a new mobility option. Checkpoints throughout the city have rentable bicycles ready for use. Boise is a bike-friendly city with bike lanes throughout downtown and a 25-mile greenbelt. Rental cars, limousines, taxi service, Uber, Lyft and public bus transportation are available throughout the city. Most hotels offer complimentary airport shuttles.
Time Zone:
Mountain Standard, 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 River is great for fishing or floating. The Greenbelt, a 25-mile paved riverfront pathway ideal for walking, jogging, bicycling and skating, runs through the city and follows the banks of the Boise River.

Large Boise Companies:

Economy:
High tech (Hewlett-Packard and Micron Technology, among others), government, medical (St. Luke's Regional Hospital System, Mountain States Tumor Institute, Saint Alphonsus Health System, Boise VA Medical Center and a variety of other facilities) and education (Boise State University, Concordia University School of Law, College of Western Idaho University of Idaho Law Center and Idaho State University satellite campus).

Convention:
The newly-expanded Boise Centre has 92,500 square feet of flexible meeting and exhibit space, and 29 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 Boise Airport.

Hotel Room Tax:
7%

Sales Tax:
6%

Sports:
Boise Hawks (Minor League Baseball, Colorado Rockies), Idaho Steelheads Hockey (Dallas Stars), Boise State Broncos (College Athletics). Boise also has the Simplot Sports Complex—a 161-acre large special use area in Southeast Boise and Willow Lane Athletic Complex with 6 lit softball fields. There are more than ten city parks perched along the Boise River that include a mix of soccer fields, tennis courts, beach volleyball and softball fields. The latest park addition features a wave shaper at the Boise River Park; a public space with excellent amenities for kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, surfing and rafting.

Unique Boise Attractions:
Basque Museum and Cultural Center
(208) 343-2671, 611 W. Grove St.
Boise is home to the largest concentration of Basques per capita in the U.S., and Boise also has North America’s only Basque museum, the internationally renowned Oinkarl Basque Dancers and authentic Basque eateries.

M.K. Nature Center
(208) 334-2225, 600 S. Walnut St.
A living museum, this unique river observatory allows visitors to witness the activity in an Idaho river through underwater viewing windows

Esther Simplot Park
614 N Whitewater Park Blvd.
An expansive 55-acre site encompasses approximately 23 acres of ponds suitable for fishing, wading and swimming. The park features include trails, docks, wetlands, boardwalks, shelters, grassy open areas, a playground, bridges and restrooms. A meandering stream will connect the park’s two ponds with Quinn’s Pond. It is the most recent addition to the “Ribbon of Jewels”—a string of riverside parks named for prominent local women.

Boise River Greenbelt
(208) 384-4240
Multiple starting points, including Kathryn Albertson Park. The 25-mile riverfront Greenbelt, ideal for walking, jogging, bicycling, skating and general relaxing, meanders through Boise. The paved pathway connects several parks throughout the city.

Idaho Black History Museum
(208) 433-0017, 504 Julia Davis Dr.
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. Located in Julia Davis Park.

World Center for Birds of Prey
(208) 362-8687, 5668 W. Flying Hawk Ln.
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) 343-362-8687, 1910 University Dr.
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 sports.

Snake River Valley Wine Region
There are nearly 30 Idaho wineries within a 45 minute drive of downtown Boise. Ten wineries and vineyards are located in the Southwest Idaho Urban Wine District. The region boasts award-winning wines and innovative wineries. Lush orchards, scenic valleys and rugged mountains provide the perfect backdrop for wine tasting.

Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area
(208) 332-5151
Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area
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 of which are lit by solar powered lights for night skiing) and trails suitable for beginner to expert skiers and snowboarders. There is also a master plan in place for an alpine slide, summer tubing, ropes course and more.
Unique Boise Attractions (cont.):

Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial
(208) 345-0304, 777 S. 8th St.
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 U.S. to honor Anne Frank, it offers lessons on courage, strength, dignity of human spirit and the value of human rights for all men and women, and it will have a lasting impression on those who visit.

Table Rock
Southeast of downtown Boise
This prominent local landmark is a popular spot for hikers and outdoor adventurers. Table Rock offers challenging hiking and mountain biking trails, and is easily accessible from the Old Idaho Penitentiary parking lot. Offering stunning views of the Boise skyline, foothills and the Treasure Valley, Table Rock is a favorite among trail enthusiasts.

Idaho Botanical Garden
(208) 343-8649, 2355 Old Penitentiary Rd.
Located in Boise's Old Penitentiary historical district, the Idaho Botanical Gardens enhances the community’s quality of life by promoting a love of nature, and offering an enriching garden experience through educational programs, botanical collections, a variety of entertainment, cultural and community events.

Idaho State Capitol Building
(208) 334-2475, 700 W Jefferson St.
Idaho's Capitol Building is the only one in the United States heated by geothermal water. The hot water is tapped and pumped from a source 3,000 feet underground. Geothermal energy has a long history in Boise starting back in the late 1800s.

Ridge to Rivers Trail System
The Boise Foothills rise above Idaho’s capitol and largest city. An interconnected network of roads and trails wind through these hills, not only linking neighborhoods with public lands, but also connecting people with the natural environment. With more than 190 miles of trail, there is something for everyone.

Warhawk Air Museum
(208) 465-6446, 201 Municipal Dr.
The Warhawk Air Museum is dedicated to preserving and teaching the history of American veterans and their contributions to the freedom we value today. The museum offers the opportunity to experience these lessons through the historical memorabilia and personal memories being preserved there.

JUMP (Jack's Urban Meeting Place)
(208) 639-6610, 1000 W. Myrtle St.
JUMP was created to be a place where everyone can discover new possibilities and explore their potential. Inspired by Jack (J.R.) Simplot, the facility has everything from a tractor museum, all the way through to classes and events where visitors can learn new skills.

Idaho Shakespeare Festival
Each spring and summer the Idaho Shakespeare Festival produces great theater that’s designed to entertain and educate. The outdoor theater produces approximately five plays each year allowing residents and visitors to experience classic and contemporary renditions of Performance Theater under the stars. Seasons run from mid-May through the end of September.

For additional information about Boise, visit www.boise.org or call 800.635.5240.

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