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Boise, Idaho Tourism Developments Continue to Hit New Highs
Hotel, Meeting and Epicurean Boom Among the Highlights

May 1, 2017 – 2017 continues to bring in new hotel openings, a wide range of epicurean happenings further elevating Boise’s status as a foodie city and new convention and meeting developments for business travelers. Now more than ever is the time to consider a visit to the City of Trees. Below is the latest listing of tourism developments in the Boise area, listed alphabetically by category.

Airline Access

American Airlines to begin Nonstop Service to Chicago

On July 5, 2017, American Airlines will begin nonstop service between Boise and Chicago O’Hare International Airport. American Airlines will join United Airlines as the two carriers providing service between Boise and Chicago O’Hare. Southwest offers nonstop summer-seasonal service to Chicago Midway.

Southwest Nonstop Service to San Diego

Southwest Airlines begins nonstop service between Boise and San Diego. The flight, which launches on June 4, will run once daily, Monday through Friday and use a Boeing 737. The Boise airport now has direct flights to more than 20 unique locations.

Dining and Spirits

Barbarian Brewing

Barbarian Brewing opened in Garden City, Idaho in 2015. Since that time, their popular sour and barrel-aged beers grew in popularity. Husband and wife duo James Long and BreAnne Hovley have already expanded the brewery at the Garden City location, but recently announced that they are opening a tasting room in downtown Boise. The beer is unique because Barbarian Brewing ages beers in wine, whiskey and bourbon barrels and adds regional fruits.

City Center Wines

City Center Wines is a new store in the historic “Old Boise” district. Owners David Hansen and Linda Lloyd are a brother-sister team who dreamed about bringing international wines and beers to their hometown of Boise. They focus on european and domestic wine and beer sales, with a focus on small producers who practice organic or bio-dynamic farming.

[El Gallo Giro](#)

Downtown Boise has a new authentic Mexican restaurant on Main Street. El Gallo Giro is run by the Prado family, originally from Michoacan, Mexico. They opened their first restaurant in Garden City in 1997 with the goal of having the most authentic Mexican restaurant in Idaho. Now they are bringing that successful style to Boise and defining themselves as the best place to enjoy Mexican cuisine.

[Even Stevens Sandwiches](#)

Even Stevens was founded by Steve Down to help turn the service industry into a force for social good. For each sandwich sold, Even Stevens donates a meal to a local non-profit organization. To date in Boise, the restaurant has donated nearly 80,000 meals to their local non-profit partners--the Idaho Foodbank, St. Vincent de Paul, Boise Rescue Mission and Corpus Christi House.

[Camel's Crossing](#)

The newest addition of the Hyde Park district of [Boise's North End neighborhood](#) is Camel's Crossing. The former antique store is turning into a beer and wine bar with high-end charcuterie food, including salads and sandwiches. The owners--Scott and Caitlin McCoy--envision a contemporary twist on a 1970s lounge where people can sit and talk. Camel's Crossing is set to open in the spring.

[Gas Lantern Drinking Co.](#)

The Gas Lantern Drinking Company is a cocktail-and-wine focused bar with an English-pub feel. Owners plan to open a location in downtown Boise by late March. The new space on Capitol Blvd. is part of a growing food and drink coalition planned on the corner of Fulton St. and Capitol Blvd downtown.

[Longdrop Cider](#)

Longdrop Cider is Boise's first ever hard cider tasting room. The cidery has been growing a Boise following during their past several years brewing cider from Idaho apples. Local and regional foragers source ingredients for ciders that respect the seasons. Longdrop owner Chris Blanchard prides himself on not using high fructose corn syrup, artificial colors or flavors.

[Mad Swede Brewing](#)

Jerry Larson, founder and owner of Mad Swede Brewing Company, started brewing beer more than 30 years ago. He decided to open their own brewery with the goal of making fine-tuned brews. Their new tasting room opened in Southwest Boise at the end of 2016 and now features nine craft beers on tap.

[Manfred's](#)

Manfred's is a new creative comfort food restaurant attached to Woodland Empire Ales on Front Street in downtown Boise. The restaurant combines two of Boise's favorite institutions--Bar Gernika and Archie's Food Truck--and now offers twists on classic dishes. The menu offers a

variety of dishes, from croquettes to ‘unicorn meat sloppy joes.’ Guests can order food in the brewery tasting room, in the restaurant, or take it away. Manfreds is open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday.

Paddles Up Poke

Paddles Up Poke is Idaho’s first poke restaurant and is set to open in spring 2017. The new restaurant fills the space of popular local gift shop, Mixed Greens, which is moving into a larger space. Paddles UP Poke will feature assembly-line style bowls with raw meats like salmon or shrimp on a bed of rice, or with mixed greens.

Richard’s Café Vicino Relocates

Richard’s Café Vicino—a staple of Boise’s North End neighborhood—has relocated downtown to the new Inn at 500 Capitol. The restaurant has a 70-seat dining room divided into three “vignettes” of seating to maintain the intimate atmosphere of Café Vicino. There is also a 28-seat, full-service bar and 12-seat private dining room on the ground floor and a 100-seat grand banquet room on the second floor. The new restaurant has a popular Italian menu items from the North End location, and expanded hours to offer lunch, weekday breakfast and Sunday brunch.

Smoke & Thyme

Smoke & Thyme started as a blog and a supper club. But after growing a group of foodie supporters, Chef Jack Greenall is adding a 40-foot mobile kitchen. Smoke & Thyme will serve customers from Longdrop Cider Co., the Gas Lantern and White Dog. Smoke & Thyme plans to have seasonal menus, supper clubs and still cater for private events.

The HandleBar Boise

A new cyclist-themed bar is planned for downtown Boise. A coming soon sign for “Handlebar” is outside the building, which is currently undergoing renovations. It promises bikes, beer and wine coming spring of 2017.

The STIL

The STIL--Sweetest Things In Life-- is planned to open in the BoDo district of downtown Boise. The STIL is a locally owned, sourced and produced artisan ice cream shop with the aesthetic of a local brewery. Customers will enjoy unique flavors of ice cream and sorbet that incorporate beer, wine and espresso. The location will have indoor seating for 12 and outdoor seating for 28. The STIL is projected to open in summer 2017.

The Tavern at the Owyhee

The original Owyhee Hotel in downtown Boise had a white-glove restaurant called The Gamekeeper, that closed before the hotel underwent intensive renovations. The Owyhee’s newest addition is a steak and seafood restaurant called the Tavern. The new restaurant boasts menu items like scratch-made sauces and prime grade foods. The restaurant is open daily for food and dinner.

[Waffle Me Up](#)

Waffle Me Up continues the trend of moving mobile food operations into permanent locations. This husband and wife-owned company started with a cart at the Boise Farmers Market, and then launched their brick-and-mortar location on Capitol Blvd. in late 2016. Waffle Me Up offers European liege waffles--fresh-made, buttery, yeast-risen dough and sugar pearls. They use fresh, local ingredients for the savory and sweet waffle variations.

[Westward Coffee](#)

Westward Coffee & Supply is a self-proclaimed "pocket-sized" coffee shop that recently opened in downtown Boise. The name is a reminder of why their team loves the west--a rogue spirit, freedom to roam and enjoy a space and place. Their small shop is designed to cultivate closeness and community. They still take their shop out to the community with their "coffee bike," which is set up to deliver their cold brew throughout the city.

[White Dog Brewing](#)

Owners of the Bozeman, Montana-based White Dog Brewing Co. plan to open a Boise location in spring 2017. The tasting room will be in the same brewery block with Longdrop Cider, Gas Lantern Drinking Co and Smoke & Thyme. The brewery has 12-15 tap handles planned, and will revive a few select recipes from the former TableRock Brewpub. The brewery will also bring its popular "frost rail" bartop to Boise--a chilled rail down the middle of the bar that keeps beer cold.

Recreation

[Bogus Basin Upgrades](#)

Bogus Basin has outlined upcoming improvements and changes to the resort, including \$4.3 million focused on improving summer activities. Additions include a ropes course, a canopy tour, an alpine coaster, summer tubing, a large amphitheater, a pump track, disc golf and expanded summer programs.

[X Games launches Boise Park Qualifier](#)

The ESPN X Games will host the world's top athletes in a park qualifier event on June 10, 2017 at the Rhodes Skatepark in Boise. The Park Qualifier features three disciplines: men's skateboard park, women's skateboard park and BMX park. Additionally, they will host events on June 9 to narrow the field of participants.

Event Centers & Meeting Places

[The Cellar](#)

Popular downtown Boise restaurants Bittercreek Alehouse and Red Feather Lounge introduced a new, intimate event space in early 2017. "The Cellar" seats 10-20 guests comfortably for dinner, and up to 35 people for cocktail parties and casual events. The Eight Street location offers guests a variety of service options, including pre-fixe and buffet-style menus.

[Grove Plaza Renovation](#)

Boise's Grove Plaza is a central location for concerts, local events, and the landing place for local meetings and conventions. In May 2015 the plaza started to undergo renovations to enhance the community experience and use more environmentally responsible practices. The renovations, in conjunction with other major construction projects with the City Center Plaza Building and Boise Centre expansion, launched in 2016. The Plaza will re-open for summer 2017 with an enhanced water fountain, new bricks, supplemental shade structures, urban trees, lighting and sound equipment, and open Wi-Fi access.

Esther Simplot Park Opening

Esther Simplot Park opened November 2016. The new 55-acre park includes 23 acres of ponds, trails, docks, grassy areas, playgrounds, bridges, fishing and swimming areas. The park connects with the Boise River Greenbelt--a 25 mile long paved path along the Boise river. The park is the most recent addition to the "Ribbon of Jewels," a string of riverside parks named for prominent local women.

Main Street Station

Commuting around Boise just got a lot easier. Downtown Boise now has a multi-modal center located adjacent to The Grove Plaza. The newly named Main Street Station is an underground transit center owned and operated by Valley Regional Transit. The station has eight bays for busses, a customer service office, bike storage area with repair station, a Boise Police satellite office and new public art.

Payette Brewing Expansion

Idaho's largest brewery, Payette Brewing, recently opened its new flagship location in downtown Boise. The \$4.5 million expansion has a production facility, tasting room and event space. The new location features ample parking, a tasting room, beer garden and green space. To date, the facility has been used for corporate meetings, retreats and will host their first wedding reception this summer.

Hotels

Inn at 500

Boise's newest boutique hotel hosted their grand opening in February 2017. The Inn at 500 Capitol sits on the corner of Capitol Boulevard and Myrtle Street in downtown Boise. The 110-room hotel comes from Obie Development Partners LLC, based in Eugene, Ore. As part of a luxurious stay, guests will enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner at Richard's Restaurant, pet-friendly accommodations and walkability to all Boise has to offer.

Under Development & Proposed

The hotel business has been booming in Boise. Three new hotels are under construction in the downtown corridor and another two are proposed:

- *Residence Inn by Marriott* on the corners of Broad Street and Capitol Boulevard is nearing completion. The facility will have 180 rooms and is projected to open July 2017.

- *Hyatt Place* at 10th and Bannock Streets is getting close to completion. It will have 152 rooms and is projected to open by June 2017.
- *Hilton Garden Inn* at Front and 13th Street has been proposed.
- *Front Street and 6th Street* - Old Boise General Manager Clay Carley, in partnership with Middleton, Wisc.-based Raymond Group, has a proposal for an eight-story, 144-room hotel with a 675-space parking garage on 1.1 acres. A hotel brand has not been identified yet.

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About the Boise Convention and Visitors Bureau: The Boise Convention and Visitors Bureau is a nonprofit organization that works to enhance Boise's economy through the marketing, promotion and selling of the city and region as a site for conventions, corporate meetings, trade shows, leisure travel, cultural, sports, and special events. Each year, Boise hosts hundreds of meetings and special events, which are significant contributors to the local economy. The Boise CVB was established in 1982.