

## **Boise – Worth A Trip**

Located along the river where the desert meets the Rocky Mountains, Boise is one of America's most livable and likable cities. With a population of 211,000, Boise offers the culture and entertainment of a large urban area in a place that feels a little like everyone's hometown. In fact, several Fortune 500 companies call Boise home. Quality of life is high and residents and visitors alike enjoy the unique blend of natural beauty and urban comforts. Boise is located on a high desert plain and has a surprisingly mild climate. The city sees very little rain or snow – an average of 12 inches each per year – and the moderate temperatures and low humidity make it the perfect place to play year-round.

Convention groups will find Boise offers the perfect mix for business and pleasure. Boise Centre, the city's downtown convention center, offers more than 50,000 square feet of meeting space. There are several meeting hotels in Boise and over 6,000 hotel rooms in the city; 800 of those within walking distance of the convention center.

Visitors will be surprised by all Boise has to offer. The city is proud of its philharmonic orchestra, opera, ballet and theater companies and summer Shakespeare festival that features outdoor performances along the Boise River. The Gene Harris Jazz Concert Series and Art in the Park continue to be favorites among both locals and visitors. Museums are plentiful and include the World Center for Birds of Prey, M.K. Nature Center and River Observatory, the Old Idaho Penitentiary – one of only four remaining territorial penitentiaries, the Discovery Center of Idaho, Idaho Historical Museum, Idaho Black History Museum, the Boise Art Museum, Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial and the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame.

Culture and entertainment mix nicely with the abundant outdoor recreation. Summer brings plenty of sunshine when a bike ride or a walk along the 25-mile Greenbelt, or a round of golf at one of the area's beautiful courses can easily follow a day's work. For those who like a bit more adventure, try mountain biking in Boise's foothills, floating the Boise River on an inflatable raft or inner tube, or whitewater rafting on the Payette River, just 45 minutes north of the city. In the winter, enjoy nordic skiing and snow tubing at Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area or spend a day - or night - skiing or snowboarding the resort's groomed downhill trails. Boise's indoor ice-skating rink is open year-round.

Sports fans can enjoy the city's professional athletic teams, including the Idaho Steelheads ECHL hockey, Idaho Stampede NBA D-League Basketball and Boise Hawks baseball. Idaho Downs features both thoroughbred and quarter horse racing and simulcast racing and betting during the off-season.

Boise has many fine restaurants offering a wide variety of cuisine in both casual and elegant settings – everything from coffee houses to brew pubs, diners to fine dining. Boise Towne Square Mall, Boise Factory Outlets, and the downtown districts' boutiques, galleries and antique stores will tempt the savvy shopper. Downtown Boise is alive with events, entertainment and a variety of dining and unique shopping options. Alive After Five on Wednesday evenings, the Downtown Public Market on Saturday mornings and First Thursday are just a few of the popular events.

Boise's rare blend of urban amenities and outdoor recreation opportunities offers something for everyone, from convention attendees to individuals to families. Plan a visit to Boise soon!

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