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ROW's Short Guide to Boise, Idaho

Before or after your trip with ROW on the Middle Fork of the Salmon, or the Snake River in Hells Canyon, you might want to explore Boise, capital of Idaho. Known as the "City of Trees," Boise is nestled against the foothills of the Rocky Mountains with a clear river meandering through its center.

Downtown Boise (about 10 minutes from the airport, taxi fare @\$10-\$11) is not a huge area and encourages exploration by foot. There are numerous historic buildings and lots of shopping.

Boise is home to the largest community of Basque people outside their native Europe, and their heritage is preserved at The [Basque Museum and Cultural Center](#) at 6th and Grove. Their hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 10am-4pm, Saturdays 11am-3pm. Call first to be sure they're open at 208-343-2671. There are also several Basque restaurants in town.

At [Julia Davis Park](#) you'll find a number of attractions. The park is an 89.4-acre regional park located near downtown Boise. It is the home of Zoo Boise, the Boise Art Museum, Idaho State Historical Museum and Idaho Black History Museum, Julia Davis Park is the cultural and historic heart of the city. The park also features a formal Rose Garden, a playground, duck pond, restrooms and a section of the Boise River Greenbelt (Trivia - Idaho has more millionaires per capita than any other state.)

- [Idaho State Historical Museum](#) – (Open Tuesday thru Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 1-5pm; Phone 208-334-2120)
- [Boise Art Museum](#) - (Open Tuesday thru Saturday 10am-5pm, Sundays 12-5pm; phone 208-345-8330)
- [The Discovery Center of Idaho](#) - features interactive educational exhibits for children and adults of all ages. Phone 208-343-9895.
- [Zoo Boise](#) – (Open 9am-5pm, 7 days a week) is well worth a visit and has a river otter display as well as the largest birds of prey display in the Northwest.

Bird lovers should visit the [World Center for Birds of Prey](#) where endangered peregrine falcons and other raptors are studied and reared. Their new Interpretive Center is at 5666 West Flying Hawk Lane, and is open 9am-5pm Tuesdays thru Sundays. Call them at 208-362-3716 for more information.

At the [Morrison-Knudsen Nature Center](#) you can see Idaho's native fish species in a "mountain stream" display. Elsewhere on the 4.5 acre Center you'll see habitat demonstrations of desert, wetland, formal gardens and agricultural plants attractive to wildlife.

MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

We recommend the [Red Lion Downtowner](#) for accommodations in Boise (208) 344-7691. In addition there are many very nice hotels in Boise. A little outside of downtown is the [Riverside Boise](#) (208-343-1871).

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