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## ***What to do in and around Lewiston, Idaho and Vicinity***

Wondering what to do before or after your rafting trip? Located at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater rivers, Lewiston is a great jump-off point to explore north-central Idaho. Lewis and Clark described this area as a "paradise" when they first arrived almost two hundred years ago. It's easy to rent a car and explore the area.

Today Lewiston boasts activities as varied as the people who visit it each year. Due to the large rivers converging near its center, Lewiston and its neighboring city Clarkston, Washington, provide chances to engage in numerous water sports. Swimmers, sailboarders and water skiers will feel at home in the wide open waters of the area. Both cities are proud of their riverfront parks, art festivals, concerts, and rodeos.

With all the offerings in north-central Idaho, the history of the Nez Perce Indians may be the most dramatic. Once an open range people, the Nez Perce travelled north-central Idaho for centuries trading, harvesting indigenous plants, and fishing for the now-famous Idaho salmon. You can learn more about their culture in Spalding at the [Nez Perce National Historical Park Museum](#) in Spalding, twenty minutes east of Lewiston. This is well worth a visit and has movies, wonderful exhibits, rangers and maps. The Park and Museum are open daily from 8 AM until 5 PM, often with special events later in the day. For a brochure or more information call 208-843-7020.

Following the 1860 discovery of gold at what would become Pierce, Idaho, thousands of miners rushed to the area. By 1865 Chinese miners were allowed in the Pierce mining district. Once the Chinese were permitted, they were quick to arrive.

Situated at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater rivers, and accessible to the Pacific Ocean via the Columbia River, Lewiston, Idaho, became a point of destination for miners and mining supplies. As Idaho's only seaport, Lewiston saw a boom in its economy and growth due to the discovery of gold seventy-five miles northwest of its river location at Pierce, Idaho. As was often the case with such 19th century discoveries of gold, both Chinese miners and support personnel flocked to the area. Although the 1870 census showed only 71 within Lewiston's boundaries, an additional 675 Chinese people were counted in nearby mining areas. Almost all were men. Most of the Chinese who came to Lewiston during the late nineteenth century were from the Toishan district of southern China's Guangdong Province, a rural area of the Chu Jiang (Pearl River) delta. These immigrants brought their religion with them and practiced it here until the latter part of the twentieth century. Their religious belief system, a form of Taoism, combined elements of Confucianism and Buddhism with traditional folk practices and mythology. You can learn more about this at the [Chinese at the Confluence Lewiston's Beuk Aie Temple](#).

If your stay includes more than one day, there are many excursions into Idaho's wilderness. A number of loop drives are possible.

**Going East:** Suggested 1- or 2-day tour - After visiting the Spalding Museum, get back on Highway 12 going east towards Orofino where, after an hour's drive, you'll find the largest hatchery for steelhead trout in the world at [Dvorshak Reservoir](#). This dam was built in 1967 and destroyed one of the most significant steelhead runs in the world, as well as the beautiful canyon of the North Fork of the Clearwater. Self-guided tours are available and worthwhile to learn about the hatchery and the history of this dam.

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*Setting the High Watermark for Outdoor Adventure*

Continuing east from Orofino head to ROW's own [River Dance Lodge](#), where you will find beautiful hand-crafted log cabins and plenty of activities nearby - including hiking, fishing or horseback riding with a local horse outfitter. You can swim in the Clearwater, visit Selway Falls and enjoy the thick-green forests of cedar, pine and fir. It's a peaceful and relaxing place and at the end of the day, relax in the hot tub on the deck of your cabin, and enjoy a meal at the Syringa Café. If you've floated the Salmon River Canyons or Snake River with us, you'll find the scenery here to be very different and a nice contrast. (See \*\* on the next page to read more about the River Dance Lodge.)

You can make a nice loop tour continuing east beyond the River Dance Lodge and following the Lochsa River towards Lolo Pass. As you drive east you'll see various historic markers for sites along the Lewis and Clark Trail, who came this way in 1805. Be sure to stop by the [Lolo Pass Visitors Center](#) as you cross the border into Montana. From here you can continue to Missoula and north to Glacier Park. Or head back west to Coeur d'Alene and Spokane on Interstate 90.

**Going North:** Thirty minutes north of Lewiston/Clarkston is Moscow, home of the University of Idaho. It's a lovely town with nice shopping and walking. You may enjoy stopping by the [McConnell Mansion](#), a museum of history and discovery. Continue north another one and half hours and you come to Coeur d'Alene, a busy resort town on a beautiful lake, and ROW headquarters. Stop by and visit us at 418 E. Coeur d'Alene Ave and enjoy the town's shopping, beaches and restaurants (maybe rent a SUP board for a tour of Lake Coeur d'Alene!). From Coeur d'Alene you can visit Spokane, just 30 miles east, where you might also find your flight home.

**Going south:** The [Hells Canyon National Recreation Area](#) is located near Riggins, two hours south. The Seven Devils mountain group rises up nearly a mile and a half here to form Hell's Canyon, the deepest river canyon in the country. Around the peaks of the Seven Devils hide 30 alpine lakes and miles of hiking trails. To reach the trailhead take gravel road #517 one mile south of Riggins and continue to Windy Saddle Trailhead. Above Windy Saddle Trailhead hike a trail to a view stretching from Heaven's Gate Lookout Information Center. For maps and more information, call the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Riggins office at 208-628-3916.

If you are on your way to Boise, spend the night in the pretty lakeside resort town of McCall, where you'll find all kinds of summer fun and activities.

There are many opportunities for an extended stay in Idaho. On the river, many of our guides can provide ideas to help plan an extension.

\*\*The River Dance Lodge is a place that celebrates wild rivers, nature and adventure. Our cabin resort is located on the banks of the Middle Fork of the Clearwater, one of the original six rivers designated "Wild and Scenic" by Congress in 1968, through the national Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Surrounded by National Forest lands, the resort is adjacent to the 1.1 million-acre Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area, one of the largest in the Nation. It is also close to the Lewis and Clark trail and an ideal location from which to explore the Lolo Trail and Lewis and Clark history. This is a nature-lover's paradise, thick with forests of fir, pine and cedar and dozens of creeks that flow into the three pristine rivers that neighbor the resort – the Selway, Lochsa and Middle Fork of the Clearwater.

**We welcome you** to the River Dance Lodge to relax and enjoy the ambiance of a handcrafted log cabin. You'll find plenty to do with hikes in the nearby forest or swimming from white sand beaches in the crystal waters of the Clearwater, Lochsa or Selway rivers. At the end of the day sooth your body with a soak in your own private hot tub on the deck of your cabin, with a heavenly view of verdant, forested mountains and the gently flowing Clearwater.

Our specialty at the River Dance Lodge is our all-inclusive vacation packages with activities that highlight the best of each season. These packages are designed to make your vacation planning easy since just about everything is included – accommodations, activities, meals and tons of fun!

**There are eight log cabins** at the River Dance Lodge, each with a private hot tub on the expansive front deck. Each cabin also has a comfortable living room with dining table and chairs, a gas fireplace, sitting area and a pull out day bed (trundle bed) with two comfortable single bed mattresses. You'll find unique, character-filled furnishings and local artwork. A kitchen area with a counter, microwave, coffeemaker and small refrigerator is provided along with dishes for

your convenience. Each is stocked with tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, creamer, salt and pepper. Each cabin has a “theme” and is decorated with unique, character-filled furnishings and local artwork.

If you want to experience “glamping” (glamorous camping) our luxury camping wall tents are the perfect solution! Located along a rushing creek, our glamping tents bring back memories of yesteryear. Each is furnished with a king-sized bed (that can be separated into two twins if preferred), chairs, a small table and woodstove. The deck extends behind the tent to create a back porch area that has an antique claw foot bathtub heated by a propane burner. There is also a small sink and counter area outside.

To find out more about these packages visit us online at [www.RiverDanceLodge.com](http://www.RiverDanceLodge.com) or call us at **1-800-451-6034**.

***Drop us a line about any new experiences you have after your river trip. Thanks again for choosing ROW for your vacation, and we hope to see you again soon!***

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