

DISCOVER *Your Authentic* SOUTHERN IDAHO

stay  play

Photo by Sasha Segraves



sponsored content section

Waterfalls

WATERFALL WAYFINDING:

There are hundreds of waterfalls, and they're not just a treat for the eyes: Did you know water in motion creates negative ions that help the body create the chemical that lowers stress and improves mood? Here's your guide to some of our best-known falls – and getting all the good vibes you can while you're here!

1 Shoshone Falls

Known as the Niagara of the West, 212-feet tall and 1,000 feet across, this one is best in the spring and early summer.

2 Twin Falls

Namesake for the city of Twin Falls, what was formerly two falls now flows into one just upriver from Shoshone Falls.

3 Perrine Coulee

View this 197-foot wonder from the trail above or drive into the canyon and walk beneath its thundering curtain of water and mist.

4 Pillar Falls

Water cascades and pools around two towering stone pillars between Shoshone Falls and the Perrine Bridge.

5 Auger Falls

A gentle cascade of rolling water makes this site both mesmerizing and relaxing. Park at Auger Falls Park and do the short hike, or bike to see the falls.

11 Earl M. Hardy Box Canyon

North America's 11th-largest spring winds through the canyon, creating a sapphire blue waterfall. This one requires a (totally worth it!) hike.

13 Upper and Lower Salmon Falls

Located on the Snake River near Hagerman, these falls are impressive at all flow levels.

15 Mermaid Cove

Drops in two falls south of Jerome create a small oasis, or cove, that gives spectacular sunset views from the east in the summer and fall.

12

Ross Falls & Phantom Falls

These smaller falls located in the South Hills are dependent on snow runoff and are beautiful amid mountain scenes every season.

14

YOUR *Guide* TO GOOD VIBES

Thousand Springs Area Falls

Easiest to see are Lemmon Falls, which is next to Ritter Island and the Minnie Miller Springs area. Other unnamed waterfalls can be seen south of Hagerman along the canyon.



Caldron Linn

The powerful, thundering waters of the Snake River northeast of Murtaugh rush over rugged terrain, giving kayakers a serious skills test during high water. High-clearance vehicles are a must to reach this one.



Niagara Springs Falls

Gushing water flows from the canyon walls near Buhl. While multiple falls can be seen in this area, Niagara Springs is the largest.

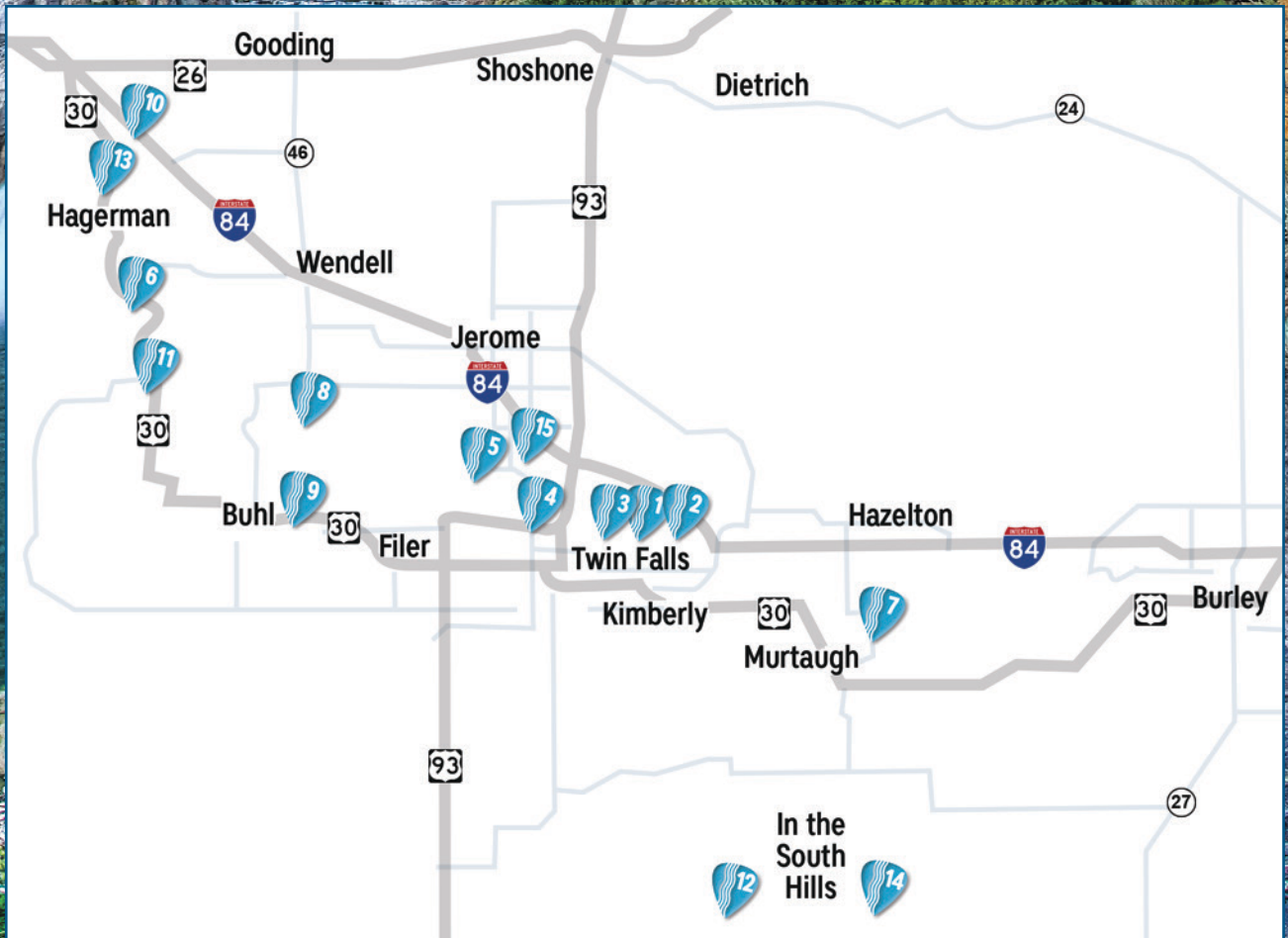


Malad Gorge & Devil's Washbowl

The Little and Big Wood rivers combine into the Malad River, which drops 60 feet into the Devil's Washbowl. This flows 1.5 miles in a narrow canyon to the Snake River.



Shoshone Falls - Courtesy of Visit Idaho



Day Trips

Adventure PLANNER:



CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE

GO: From the Mini-Cassia Visitor Center, take Idaho 77, which becomes City of Rocks Back Country Byway in Albion. 47 miles; approximately 1 hour

BASICS: Towering rock spires – some more than 2.5 million years old! Spectacular climbing on 600+ routes. Twenty-two miles of hiking trails. Wildlife watchers can seek out 173 documented species of birds, including the Cassia Crossbill.

ROADSIDE ATTRACTION: The circa 1893 Albion State Normal School, home to Haunted Mansions of Albion each fall, makes for spooky selfie year round.

BEFORE YOU GO: Train for the real rocks at Gemstone Climbing Center in Twin Falls, and pack a swimsuit for a soak at Durfee Hot Springs.

EAT: Pizza at Rock City and baked goods at Tracy's General Store, both in Almo.

STAY: Choose among 64 campsites, or book the (very cool) yurt or lodge at Castle Rocks State Park "next door." For many more amenities yet still a rustic feel, stay at Almo Inn.

CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT & PRESERVE

GO: From the Shoshone Visitor Center, take US 26 East; 63 miles; approximately 1 hour

BASICS: Volcanic flows more than 15,000 years ago forged this otherworldly terrain, above ground and below. As for pondering those "other worlds," consider visiting in the fall at night, when stargazing is at its peak at this certified International Dark Sky Park.

ROADSIDE ATTRACTION: Just north of Shoshone you can tour Mammoth Cave, the world's largest public volcanic cave, and Shoshone Indian Ice Caves, a 1,000-foot, ice-lined lava tube.

BEFORE YOU GO: Bring a hoodie and a headlamp if you want to explore a lava tube cave at the park. There are so many, but the park has five developed for recreational camping.

EAT: Breakfast or lunch at Manhattan Cafe in Shoshone or chicken-fried steak at Eagle's Nest in Dietrich and a mile-high ice-cream cone at Shoshone Snack Shack.

STAY: 42 first-come, first-served campsites near the visitor center. Nearest lodging is 18 miles east in Arco.



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NATIONAL PARK PROPERTIES



HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

GO: From the Buhl Visitor Center, take US 30, a.k.a. Thousand Springs Scenic Byway; 22 miles; approximately 30 minutes

BASICS: Go first to the visitor center in Hagerman to see the rare, ancient horse fossils found here, and use the two designated byway overlooks for a closer look at the striking landscape. Then take your pick among the hot springs experiences at Miracle or Banbury Hot Springs or 1000 Springs Resort.

ROADSIDE ATTRACTION: What's 8 million years old, 48-foot-tall, weighs 40 tons and held

atop a 3-foot by 17-inch pedestal? Balanced Rock near Castleford, a must-see.

BEFORE YOU GO: Waterproof your phone or camera, then rent a kayak at Miracle or Banbury Hot Springs and paddle about a mile to the crystalline waters of Blue Heart Springs.

EAT: Chocolate milk and ice cream that dreams are made of at Cloverleaf Creamery in Buhl, or classic retro fare at Oxbow Diner in Bliss.

STAY: Billingsley Creek Lodge in Hagerman offers creek and state park views.

MINIDOKA NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

GO: From the Twin Falls Visitor Center, take US 93 North to go east on Fall City Road, then Idaho 25 East to Hunt Road. 17 miles; approximately 25 minutes.

BASICS: A peaceful yet relatively stark landscape for this region sets an appropriate, reflective tone at this site of a former detention center for Japanese Americans relocated during the last three years of World War II.

ROADSIDE ATTRACTION: Stop at the Mountain View Barn to find local products and a great farmers market during the summer and fall.

BEFORE YOU GO: Fuel up on food before you set out at Twin Beans in Twin Falls, which is often cited as having the best crepes and coffee in town.



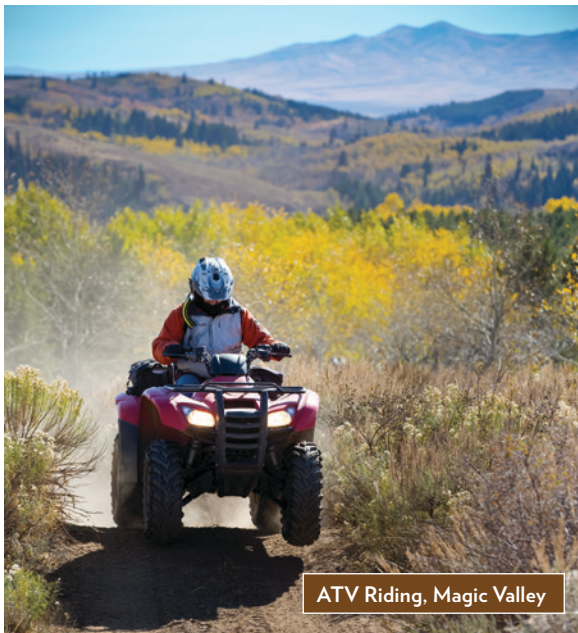
RYAN KOZU

EAT: Stop in El Sombrero Restaurant for authentic Mexican fare or grab a sandwich and tea at Renew.

STAY: Rent a cabin or grab a campsite at the Twin Falls/Jerome KOA, which has a cafe, gift store and a mini-golf course for extra fun.

Mountains

LOOK TO THE Mountains



ATV Riding, Magic Valley

OFF-ROAD, OPEN AIR

Venture to the South Hills below Twin Falls, Burley, Kimberly and Hansen for an impressive network of well-marked ATV/RAZR trails that cut across mountainous terrain covered in lush forests and briskly meandering creeks.

The Diamondfield Jack Campground area is a great starting point, and the Minidoka Ranger District offers detailed trail maps for the entire Rock Creek Recreation Area at its office in Burley and online at fs.usda.gov.

Magic Valley ATV Riders welcome visitors along for rides, and recommend spring and fall to fully enjoy the area's gorgeous wildflowers and changing fall color.

SNOW MEANS GO!

The South Hills area also is a top pick for snow sports, as are places in the northernmost part of the region.

Idaho has more groomed snowmobile trails than any other western state (more than 7,000!), and you can connect to them most easily at Gooding County Snow Park; Howell Canyon south of Burley; three trailheads in Fairfield; Malcomsen Parking Area in Pine; and the Diamondfield Jack Snowmobiling Area south of Hansen.

For skiing and snowboarding at every level, check out Magic Mountain, Pomerelle Mountain resorts to the south and southeast and to the north, Soldier Mountain Ski Area, which offers cat skiing deep into the rugged backcountry.



Skiing, South Hills



Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh near Fairfield



earthtosarahwp Finding new places everyday in my backyard. 📍

Last night was one of the most beautiful hikes I've been on. The entire trail was covered in purple flowers, and it lead to the most magical place. 6 miles of paradise. Thanks for good company @mtn_beaut 🌻

SUMMER MOUNTAIN MAJESTY

When warmer temps arrive, the same blanket of snow that creates a winter wonderland has a hand in transforming the landscape into technicolor spring and summer scenes of green bursting with wildflowers of nearly every shade of the rainbow.

This is the time to see (and kayak) Lake Cleveland and Independence Lakes, alpine lakes in the Albion Mountains to the south.

Spring and summer are also prime for the more primitive, all-natural hot springs experiences near Fairfield: Worswick Hot Springs is accessible by car during warm months, but Skillern Hot Springs makes you work for it on a 6-mile hike!

Valley

DOWN IN THE Valley

STAY GROUNDED

Trail walking, riding or jogging may be on more level land in the valley, but the experience and views are far from "flat."

There are hiking and walking trails galore throughout the region, but an easy must-do for any visitor is to hop on the Snake River Canyon Rim Trail at the Twin Falls Visitor Center. Its 10 miles give up-close views of the canyon, a vantage for watching BASE jumpers catapult from the I.B. Perrine Bridge, and waterfall views.

Hike and camp among interesting rock formations at Little City of Rocks near Gooding. Love to golf? The region has some of the best values and views anywhere at a dozen courses. Disc golfers love the course at Lake Walcott.



Disc Golf, Lake Walcott, Rupert



Kayaking, Blue Heart Springs, Hagerman

MAKE A SPLASH

This is nothing short of paradise for paddlers, boaters and anglers. The Snake River's best spots for SUP, canoeing and kayaking include the stretch from Twin Falls' Centennial Park to Shoshone Falls, Hagerman/Thousand Springs State Park, and the smooth waters near Burley and Heyburn, which is also a preferred for power boating.

Whitewater paddlers love the Class V Milner Mile and Malad River. Other favorites are Lake Walcott State Park and Dierkes Lake.

A few favorite fishing spots include the Snake River, Rock Creek, Salmon Creek Falls, Niagara Springs and Billingsley Creek. Kids will like casting a line Camas Ponds, Castle Rocks Pond and Freedom Fishing Ponds.



idahowatersports What a beautiful G23 Super Air Nautique! The sunset was good too... #nautique #g23 #iws #boat #boatlife #idaho #sunset #idahome

TAKE TO THE AIR

If you like to push the edge with adventures, this is the place! BASE jumpers know that the 486-foot I.B. Perrine Bridge spanning that Snake River Canyon is where many have done solo jumps, while anyone looking for a thrill can book a jump with an experienced jumper at Tandem BASE.

Less-daring devils, can "Zip the Snake" with AWOL Adventure Tours with ziplining experiences in the canyon floor. And to pay homage to one of the most spirited thrill seekers of all time, take the Snake River Canyon Rim Trail and ascend the dirt ramp that was part of Evel Knievel's attempt to jump the canyon in 1974.



Zipling, Snake River Canyon

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BASE Jumping, Twin Falls



BITES, BREWS & FINER DINING, TOO

Explore our growing menu of options for sampling local flavor (the literal kind – food and drink!). Two new breweries, Koto Brewing Co. and Milner's Gate, opened in downtown Twin Falls, of course bringing new brews and delicious food, too.

Get those only-in-Southern-Idaho views at Morey's Steakhouse, Canyon Crest Dining & Event Center and Elevation 486.

There's also the new Kassiani Restaurant, Bakery & Events, which features locally sourced food, and an olive oil and vinegar tasting bar.

E Street Deli in Rupert is another new local favorite with savory sandwiches and soups. Or take a drive to Stampede Burger in Gooding for mouthwatering eats.



Koto Brewery, Twin Falls



Morey's Steakhouse, Burley



Lost N Lava, Shoshone



jesscuz_ I'll just be here all weekend!
#farmhouse #farmanimals
#goodingrodeo #rodeo



ali.stolzman Another fair week is in the books!!!
We spent our grocery budget on fair food 🍌, the babies are thoroughly convinced they are joining the rodeo circuit as soon as we buy them a horse 🐎 and the realization that they start school in two days hit the big kids hard tonight 😂😂 We are exhausted but had sooooo much fun our last week of summer break!!!

FAIRS, RODEOS & PIONEER SPIRIT

Learn about the region's Western heritage at fairs, rodeos and thoughtfully preserved historic sites. To start: The county fairs and rodeos are epic. Every summer, each county pulls out all the stops with livestock shows, rodeo competition, parades, dancing, music, crafts – and, of course, yummy fair food and spectacular carnival midways.

Meanwhile, at the circa-1865 Rock Creek Station and the Stricker Home Site south of Hansen, you can explore the house, store, several outbuildings and a pioneer cemetery. And don't miss late 1880s pioneer signatures left in axle grease at City of Rocks National Reserve.

ENTERTAINMENT & THE ARTS



Magic Valley Folk Festival

Delight your senses with a night on the town that includes a theater or music performance at the College of Southern Idaho's Fine Arts Center, which regularly hosts internationally touring productions.

Other notable venues for performing arts include the King Fine Arts Center in Burley, the historic Wilson Theatre in Rupert and Howells Opera House in Oakley.

Visual art is celebrated in grand style during the Magic Valley Arts Council's annual Art & Soul of the Valley event and the Thousand Springs Festival of the Arts on Ritter Island. The Herrett Center for Arts & Science galleries are another worthwhile destination for visual art.

Explore
the Region



FAIRFIELD

Next to the Sawtooth National Forest and Sun Valley, Camas County has some of the area's most pristine natural landscapes and exceptional outdoor recreation year round.

A must-do in the winter? Soldier Mountain Ski Area. In the spring? Camas Lily Days.

Fairfield, the county's only city, has a very strong sense of community and rich history, best experienced during its annual Pioneer Picnic each July, which has been happening since 1915. Another great event for family fun is the Camas County Rodeo, also held in July.



BURLEY, OAKLEY, DECLO, ALBION, MALTA, ALMO



One of the state's southernmost areas, Cassia County is rich in natural resources for recreation. It is home to Castle Rocks State Park, City of Rocks National Reserve and Pomerelle Mountain Resort, as well as 26 miles of accessible Snake River shore – making it a haven for boaters, fishermen and paddlers.

Even if you're not into outdoor sports yourself, the festive atmosphere surrounding events like the Idaho Boat Regatta and Spudman Triathlon is something to behold for spectators. Meanwhile, shopping and dining in Burley's town center is a safe bet for more leisure fun, too.





Rupert Square



RUPERT, HEYBURN, PAUL

Scenic highlights of Minidoka County include the surreal lava landscapes of Craters of the Moon National Monument to the north and to the east, Lake Walcott State Park, where you can make a day of birding, fishing or disc golf (get supplies at the park's store). Top it off by relaxing at a campsite or cabin at the water's edge.

Rupert, the county seat, has a historic town square and is the place to go for interesting shopping, dining and culture. Shop around the square, enjoy a meal at Henry's, catch a show at the historic Wilson Theater (circa 1920) and check into the Drift Inn for a cozy night of rest and relaxation.



Tea Kettle Cave



GOODING, WENDELL, HAGERMAN, BLISS

Like fishing? This is one of the largest trout-producing areas of the country. Many of Gooding County's most unique spots involve water, such as Malad Gorge, a narrow canyon and waterfall; Earl M. Hardy Box Canyon, the largest spring in the U.S.; Ritter Island State Park; Billingsley Creek, and the Thousand Springs area.

Situated on the Snake River Plain, Gooding County offers a broad range of outdoor fun and attractions. Hikers love the many odd rock formations at Gooding's Little City of Rocks. And speaking of rocks, you can learn about the rich historic records they often hold within them at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument.

Explore the Region



Downtown Twin Falls

TWIN FALLS, BUHL, KIMBERLY, FILER



With the Snake River Canyon to the north and South Hills below, Twin Falls County is literally surrounded by breathtaking scenery.

Stop first at the Twin Falls Visitor Center to chart your course from mild to wild. Think: Mountain biking, rock climbing, bird-watching, kayaking, shopping, BASE jumping, fishing ... take your pick.

There's fun to be had all four seasons here, too. You can play gold year round in the uniquely temperate town of Buhl. Warmer months are best for visiting Balanced Rock, Murtaugh Lake or Salmon Creek Falls Reservoir. When it's cooler, the South Hills are home to epic snow sports.



Horseback Riding



SHOSHONE, RICHFIELD, DIETRICH

Situated between Twin Falls and Sun Valley, Lincoln County is steeped in history, and the best place to learn about it is at the local history museum, naturally. It's in Shoshone, where all the town's original buildings still stand along the Union Pacific Railroad that bisects the city.

There's plenty to do outdoors, like fishing, horseback riding, riding ATVs, hunting and disc golf (at Mary L. Gooding Park).

Favorite summer festivals include Shoshone Arts in the Park, Richfield Outlaw Day and Lost N Lava Cowboy Gathering. Don't miss the area's unique shops and great eateries.



Idaho Central Credit Union Park

JEROME, HAZELTON, EDEN



Originally platted for its wondrous views of the Sawtooth Mountains, Jerome County grew from its agricultural roots, which you can explore at the Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum.

Things to do include an outdoor public pool, a skate park, golf by the Snake River Canyon or camping and boating at Wilson Lake Reservoir.

The county is home to the Minidoka Relocation Camp and National Historic Site, one of 10 Japanese American internment camps set up during World War II. The site gives visitors a fascinating look into this time in history and is undergoing multiple improvement projects to better interpret that story.



REGIONAL *Events* PLANNER

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SIGNATURE EVENTS
THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN IDAHO

April

ART & SOUL OF THE MAGIC VALLEY IN TWIN FALLS

Art is on display for public voting over two weeks at dozens of businesses throughout the community in this largest prize-awarding, public-voting art contest in the Northwest

June

TWIN FALLS OLD TOWN CRITERIUM

Cyclists compete for cash prizes on a downtown course in this official USA Cycling event. Attendees can also enjoy live music, a beer garden and food vendors.



July

CAMAS COUNTY RODEO IN FAIRFIELD

The Camas County Rodeo, an ICA/IMPRA/ProWest co-sanctioned event, is always the second full weekend in July and marks its 12th year in 2020.

SHOSHONE ARTS IN THE PARK

More than 40 artists from around the Western U.S. show their creations in just as many mediums as the centerpiece of a weekend filled with art, food, music and fun.

MAGIC VALLEY FOLK FESTIVAL IN RUPERT & BURLEY

A weeklong celebration packed with activities including a kickoff parade, plus workshops and gala performances – all with the mission to connect people of different ages, ethnicities and religions.

SPUDMAN TRIATHLON IN BURLEY

This family-friendly event features a 1.5K swim in the Snake River, a 40K bike ride and a 10K run in the beautiful countryside.

SEE MORE EVENTS
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magazine.



August

JOE MAMA'S CAR SHOW IN JEROME

More than 400 classic cars and thousands more people converge on City Park to raise money for local charities.

December

RUPERT CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE

Bundle up to enjoy hot chocolate, chili and cinnamon rolls while watching Santa light the Christmas tree followed by fireworks.

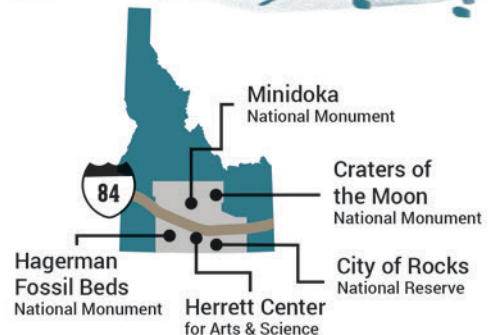
SOMETIMES IT'S GOOD TO FEEL

SMALL



At the Herrett Center for Arts & Science, you can travel to a black hole or the ends of the earth. See tools and artifacts used by some of America's earliest peoples. Marvel at the majesty of the night sky. Since 1980, the Herrett Center has inspired generations of adults and kids alike through its unique collection of art and science. Located on the College of Southern Idaho campus, the Herrett Center is open Tuesday-Saturday. Gallery admission is always free. Visit herrett.csi.edu or call (208) 732-6655 for more information.

At City of Rocks National Reserve, you can camp under skies so clear the vast Milky Way seems within your grasp. Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is recognized as an International Dark Sky Park, one of only a handful worldwide. And the Herrett Center for Arts & Science explores the heavens above with year-round observation parties, fascinating exhibits and planetarium programs. Visit Southern Idaho and get some perspective on your place in the universe.



Uncover Wonder.
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