



LIFE Aquatic

An easy thing to remember when attempting to take in as much as possible of Southern Idaho's beautiful, varied scenery along with its many opportunities for recreation: Just add water.

Between the Snake River, numerous ponds and even manmade facilities, the region has just about every aquatic activity covered, from the more active pursuits, such as waterskiing and kayaking, to soaking in the soothing waters of natural hot springs.

Just choose an adventure and dive into the area's many water-based attractions and activities.

TAKE TO WATER
WITH PADDLE SPORTS,
HOT SPRINGS,
FISHING & MORE

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RIVER SPORTS

PADDLE SPORTS

Top spots for kayaking, canoeing and stand up paddle boarding the Snake River include Centennial Park to Pillar Falls and Shoshone Falls; the section near Heyburn and Burley; and around Ritter Island at Thousand Springs State Park in Hagerman.



BOATING, WATERSKIING, WAKEBOARDING & MORE

There's plenty of faster paced action all along the Snake River as it winds through the region, including waterskiing, wakeboarding, jet skiing and windsurfing.

One of the most popular areas is the 20-mile section of the Snake River near Burley. Put in at Riverfront Park or North Freedom Park, which both have good boat ramps. For those who prefer to watch without getting wet, Burley hosts the Idaho Regatta each summer. This portion of the river also includes the 13-mile Murtaugh stretch, which features Class III and IV rapids for intermediate level kayakers and rafters.

Murtaugh Lake in Twin Falls County is another favorite for boating and skiing and includes multiple RV and tent sites for camping along with other amenities.

NEED GEAR?

Hagerman Valley Sports & Mercantile offers kayak and stand up paddle board rentals and more.

441 S. State St., Hagerman

Idaho River Sports has boat, kayak and stand up paddle board rentals at the Heyburn Riverside Dock and its store.

2165 Overland Ave., Burley

AWOL Adventure Sports conveniently sets up with rentals at Centennial Park in Twin Falls.

River & Adventure Toys rents and sells all gear needed for kayaking, rafting, paddleboarding and more.

701 2nd Ave. S., Twin Falls



PARKS & POOLS



SPLISH, SPLASH

Just in time for summer 2016, the splash park opened at the new First Federal Bank Park located at 1250 Sunway Drive N. in Twin Falls. The colorful 3,000-square-foot splash park has 18 different water features for kids to keep kids cool and entertained, such as water cannons and a rainbow mister.

The splash pad is the second phase of the park, which was a gift from the bank in honor of its centennial and opened in 2015. The park is Twin Falls' first full-access park and is designed so people of all ages and abilities can enjoy it. Amenities besides the splash park include a wheelchair-friendly surface, full-body swing and a 66-foot zip-line, to name a few.



SWIM YEAR ROUND

Classes and open swimming sessions happen year round at the 50-meter YMCA/City Pool in Twin Falls. The pool is owned by the city and managed by the Y, so a membership is not required for the open swims.

The pool is enclosed during winter months for enjoyment no matter the weather. In the summer, the "bubble" is removed so swimmers can enjoy the sunshine.

SOAK IN GEOTHERMAL MINERAL WATERS

1000 Springs Resort in Hagerman offers indoor swimming and bathing in geothermal mineral water year round, with choices between a large pool with waterslide, 15 indoor private hot tubs and a kiddie pool.

Miracle Hot Springs in Buhl offers four outdoor public pools, six VIP pools designed for larger groups and available by reservation, as well as 15 private hot pools. Pool temps are optimized for each season of the year.

Banbury Hot Springs in Buhl offers swimmers a large public pool with a rolling log challenge, and several private pools, access to the Snake River, as well as an RV Park and tent camping sites.

FISHING

TAKE TO A LAKE

Anglers who prefer fresh water fishing on lakes have more than 20 lakes and reservoirs from which to choose, and among the most popular are: Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir and Dierkes Lake in Twin Falls County; Dog Creek Reservoir in Gooding County; Oster Lakes near Hagerman National Fish Hatchery; Emerald Lake near Heyburn; and Lake Walcott in Cassia and Minidoka counties.



RIVERS RUN THROUGH IT

The Snake and Big Wood rivers are both popular among local anglers for bass, brook trout, bull trout, sturgeon, walleye, whitefish and more. Idaho Fish & Game recommends three stretches of the Snake: the C.J. Strike Tailwater to Gifford Springs, less Salmon Falls section; the Lake Walcott to American Falls Dam area; and the Lake Walcott to Gifford Springs section. The Big Wood River, which runs through Blaine, Camas, Lincoln and Gooding Counties, offers breathtaking views and unparalleled fly fishing for huge trout.



FISH NUGGETS

Idaho Fish & Game Fishing Planner:

Get all the details on local fishing spots at this link: fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/

Idaho Free Fishing Day:

Everyone can fish Idaho waters with or without a license on the second Saturday every June.

Plenty of Ponds: Favorites include Filer Pond and Kids Pond, Camas Ponds #1 and #2, a new pond at Castle Rocks State Park, and 50 acres of ponds at the Idaho Fish & Game Hatchery in Hagerman.