

A large public fountain in a park with many water jets and people playing. The fountain is the central focus, with numerous vertical jets of water spraying upwards. In the foreground, a young boy in green shorts is running through the water. Other children and adults are visible in the background, some sitting on a bench. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a paved area.

CENTER STAGE

In the heart of downtown Boise lies the **Grove Plaza**. The Grove plays host to all sorts of events including Alive After Five, Holiday Tree Lighting, concerts and pancake feeds. Come, bring a picnic lunch, and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Grove Plaza. There's even a fountain where kids (and kids-at-heart) can play!

Game On

> SPORTS

< A game for every season



There's no denying it: Boise is a sports town. No matter the season, sports fans can find a team to follow and a game to watch.

Boise State Athletics

Most noted for the famous blue turf of its football field, that's just the start of Boise State Athletics. Sure, the consistent BCS football bowl game contenders are always a hot ticket, but so are other great BSU sports programs, including men's and women's basketball, gymnastics, tennis and soccer. **Find more info and game schedules at bronzosports.com.**

Idaho Steelheads

Great ECHL hockey action from the multi-time Kelly Cup Champions. Catch a game October through March.

Boise Hawks Baseball

Affiliated with the Chicago Cubs, the Hawks play in Memorial Stadium in Northwest Boise. A fun atmosphere with great in-between inning entertainment, classic stadium foods and foothill views.

Idaho Stampede

Catch the Portland Trailblazers affiliate of the NBA's Development League right in the center of town at CenturyLink Arena.

Les Bois Park

Live horse racing several days a week in a scenic venue right along the Boise River.

Firebird Raceway

Professional and amateur drag racers gather at Firebird Raceway, just north of Boise, April through October.



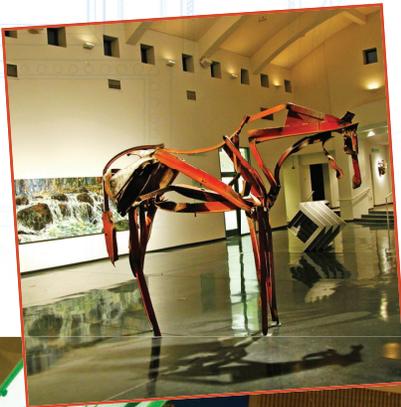
HOW'D BOISE STATE GET THAT BLUE TURF?

Known by fans as the "smurf turf" and by players as "the blue," Boise State Football's blue field is synonymous with the program. But it wasn't always that way. For 16 seasons the Broncos played on traditional green AstroTurf.

Then, in 1986, with the old AstroTurf wearing out, the athletic director decided Boise State should install blue turf. The University president agreed and the turf debuted with a 70-0 victory over Humboldt State. College football has never been the same!

Creativity lives here

The scope and depth of Boise's art scene takes many first-time visitors by surprise. After all, few mid-sized cities can match — either in quantity or in vibrancy — Boise's artistic and cultural opportunities. Best of all, there's something for everyone.



< Boise Art Museum (BAM)

With an impressive collection of permanent exhibits and ever-changing selection of temporary exhibits, BAM is always fun and fresh.

After a visit to BAM, visitors often head downtown (it's walkable!) to browse the range of private galleries sprinkled throughout the city's core. Favorites include the **Cole Marr Photo Gallery** in BoDo and **Boise Art Glass** on Myrtle St., where you may be lucky enough to catch a glass-blowing artist in action.



Wherever you go in Boise, you'll find lots of public art. Boise is one of only a handful of cities its size with a city department dedicated to promoting arts and history.

The result is public art on almost every street in Boise. Some, like the bronze statues on the Grove, are traditional. Others, like the historic lenses that let you peer into the past, are less so.

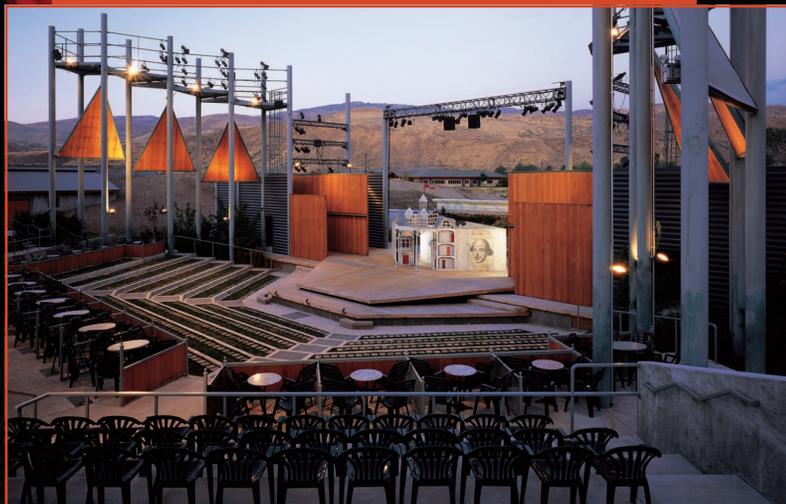


Evenings and weekends in Boise come alive with theater, music and dance. For fine arts, the **Boise Philharmonic, Idaho Dance Theater** and **Opera Idaho** all call the capital city home.

Or catch a show at the **Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Knock 'Em Dead Dinner Theater** and more. Schedules vary, though there's nearly always something happening.

Check boise.org for details.

The Bard is in Boise.



Shakespeare under the stars. What could be better on a midsummer night? Grab your picnic basket - or order from the on-site Cafe Shakespeare - and head to the Idaho Shakespeare Festival Amphitheater and Reserve for a theatrical experience like no other!

Nestled against the Boise River, surrounded by wildlife and native plants, the 770-seat, state-of-the-art amphitheatre features five plays from June through September. While Shakespeare is featured each year, the Festival offers up eclectic plays and musicals from Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* to Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*.

Family

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Make free time, “we” time. Boise’s family-friendly lifestyle means lots of opportunities for visiting families to get out and play.

Zoo Boise

Giraffes, tigers and Madagascar hissing cockroaches, oh my! Zoo Boise is a charming, “just right-sized” zoo right in the middle of the city. From its African exhibit to its penguin pavilion, there’s lots here to keep kids entertained.

Discovery Center

Science comes alive at the Discovery Center. This hands-on, experiential museum provides a host of opportunities for kids and adults to learn, explore and discover.

MK Nature Center

Explore the biology of our northwest forests in this interactive exhibition and nature trail. Wander through meadows and woodlands, peer into the underwater workings of a freestone stream and more. Free!

Idaho Aquarium

Discover tropical sea life in the inland Northwest. As Idaho’s only not-for-profit, saltwater aquarium, the Idaho Aquarium provides opportunities for learning and fun through large-scale saltwater tanks of sharks, rays, colorful fish and more. Kids especially love the touch tanks.

Roaring Springs

Get wet and wild! Roaring Springs Waterpark lets adults and kids alike fulfill their need for speed or relaxation. After a few hours of high-speed water rides and the churning wave pool, you can always chill out in the Endless River.

Wahooz

Adjacent to Roaring Springs, this family fun center includes mini golf, go-carts, batting cages, laser tag and more. Open year-round.

Exploring the MK Nature Center >



Time



Idaho Botanical Garden

A living “museum” of specialty gardens that educate and inspire. But don’t just think of it as a summer activity. The Garden plays host to a number of special events and exhibits year-round.

The Village at Meridian

The Village has it all. Specialty and apparel shops, state-of-the-art cinema, enviable restaurants, and a one-acre park with children’s play area, a concert and outdoor event space, seasonal ice skating, comfortable seating, and fire pits.

Natatorium Pool & Hydrotube

Originally the site of a geothermally heated water park, this public pool in East Boise provides hours of entertainment for kids of all ages.

Park it.

Boise has dozens of parks for families to enjoy. Here are a few of the more unique options:

Ann Morrison Park

One of Boise’s largest parks, Ann Morrison has something for everyone. But families particularly love the large, shaded playground for the younger kids and the free disc golf course for the entire family.

Rhodes Skate Park

A public urban skate park with a half pipe, rails and ramps. Perfect for the shredder in your life.

Camel’s Back Park

Sure the large playground and grassy areas are nice, but what keeps many coming back to this North End favorite is the climb up the Camel’s Back Park trail. Take in the stunning city views and, for the adventurous, enjoy a run straight down from the peak.

Veterans Memorial Park

Kids love exploring this park’s natural areas, including trails along the Boise River and the Veterans Memorial Park pond system. Perfect for swimming, fishing or just relaxing.

