

Attracting Attention

Gem State Treasures • BY JAIME ARCHER

Visitors can take ranger-guided tours of a lava tube at Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve.

Long ago, a giant serpent lying on a mountain, in what is now south-central Idaho, was angered by lightning that disturbed its rest. It coiled around and squeezed the mountain until the pressure caused rocks to crumble, stones to melt and fire to shoot out of the cracks. Liquid rock flowed from the fissures. The heat destroyed the slow-moving serpent, and today, visitors can see its ashes (cinders) and charred bones (basaltic lava). —Source: National Park Service, which credits *Indian Legends from the Northern Rockies* by Ella E. Clark, University of Oklahoma Press.

This legend has been passed down for generations as a way to tell the story of the dramatic landscape that in 1924 was designated **Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve**, according to the National Park Service website (nps.gov/crmo).

Located about 75 miles southeast of Sun Valley, the 750,000-plus-acre site includes the Great Rift, a series of cracks in the earth's crust that cumulatively stretch 52 miles. Lava periodically erupted from the cracks 15,000 to 2,000 years ago, creating more than 700 square miles of lava fields, punctuated by cinder cones and craters. In 1969, Apollo 14 astronauts Alan Shepard, Edgar Mitchell, Joe Engle and Eugene Cernan explored Craters of the Moon to learn more about volcanic geology in preparation for collecting rocks on the actual moon.

Today, hiking options range from the 10th-of-a-mile **Spatter Cones Trail** to an 8-mile roundtrip trek on the **Wilderness Trail to Echo Crater**. The Wilderness Trail winds past cinder cones and lava trees—columns of lava that cooled in the shape of tree trunks that burned when the lava was hot. From Echo Crater's rim, hikers can view the Great Rift and descend 300 feet to walk in the shade of limber pines.

Visitors can also join rangers on guided summer tours of the Indian Tunnel lava tube cave or obtain permits for self-guided explorations of Indian Tunnel and the monument's other four lava tube caves. Flooded with sunlight in places where the ceiling



JOSHUA HENSON / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES

A northern harrier at the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area.

collapsed, Indian Tunnel is also decorated with rocks arranged in circles by the Shoshone, according to the Park Service.

In winter, the Craters of the Moon Natural History Association lends (\$5 donation requested) snowshoes at the park visitor center for trekking the 1.5-mile **Snow-**

shoe Loop Trail through a landscape that is now a striking black-and-white masterpiece. Ranger-led Snowshoe Walks take place in January and February.

A 7-mile cross-country-ski trail, groomed as snowpack and staffing allow, lets visitors explore the impressive winter scene via mostly flat and gently rolling terrain, with one steep hill by Inferno Cone.

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve is one of the many exceptional attractions

contributing to Idaho's reputation for recreational variety. Here are a few more:

Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area

(blm.gov), about 40 miles south of Boise

Home to the greatest concentration of nesting birds of prey in North America, the 484,000-acre conservation area, established in 1993, offers outstanding bird-watching. Each spring, some **800 pairs of raptors** come to the area to mate and raise their young. In spring and summer, visitors can view prairie falcons, ferruginous hawks, and many species of owls, including burrowing owls. The winter months provide opportunities to catch sight of bald eagles. Year-round, look for raptors such as golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, northern harriers, short-eared owls and western screech owls.

Also year-round, weather permitting, a **56-mile driving loop** provides access to prime viewing sites on Barker and Swans Falls roads. Along the loop, drivers can stand at Initial Point, on a lava butte that was the starting point for Idaho's 1867 land survey, and at Dedication Point, which boasts breathtaking views of the Snake River Canyon and soaring raptors.

In addition, visitors can hike and mountain-bike designated trails, as well as fish for smallmouth bass, catfish and other species on the Snake River near Swan Falls Dam and in the **Swan Falls Reservoir**.

Payette River and Lake, McCall Area

(mccallchamber.org), about 115 miles north of Boise

The **Payette River Scenic Byway** (Highway 55)—a National Scenic Byway—runs about 115 miles from



GARY ERTTER / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES

the town of Eagle, west of Boise, to the town of New Meadows, north of McCall. The byway parallels the Payette River for much of the route, with opportunities for kayaking, fishing and whitewater rafting. The **North Fork Class V** stretch of river between Smiths Ferry and Banks contains some of North America's most challenging whitewater.

And about 50 miles north of McCall, the **Riggins area** is a gateway to exciting whitewater rafting on the Salmon River.

On its way to McCall, the scenic byway passes Lake Cascade and **Lake Cascade State Park**, with fishing for kokanee as well as species such as rainbow trout and bass. Summer activities in the park include hiking, mountain biking, sailing and windsurfing.

In winter, visitors can ice-fish or go Nordic skiing in the state park, or ski at **Tamarack Resort**, on Lake Cascade's northwest shore. The resort also offers



JOHN WEBSTER / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES

Above: The Payette River is known for its exceptional whitewater.

Left: Scenic fishing in the McCall area.

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At the northern end of the Payette River Scenic Byway, the town of **McCall** sits on the southern shore of another lake, Payette, which was carved out by a glacier 10,000 years ago. The 5,330-acre sapphire-colored jewel is also near the Payette National Forest, while **Ponderosa State Park**—offering hiking, biking, snowshoeing and cross-country-skiing, along with canoe and kayak rentals from an onsite vendor—

includes most of a 1,000-acre peninsula that juts into the lake.

The McCall area is also known for the quality of its snowmobiling, and for the skiing and snowcat adventures at **Brundage Mountain Resort**.

The lakefront **Shore Lodge** in McCall is a great base from which to explore the region in every season, and also offers amenities such as fine dining, a spa, and golf privileges at the award-winning Whitetail Club.

Idaho



GLENN OAKLEY / IDAHO STOCK IMAGES

Nez Perce National Historical Park (nps.gov/nepe), less than 15 miles east of Lewiston

The Nez Perce National Historical Park, created in 1965, has 38 total sites, across four states—Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington—with 26 of those in Idaho. Visitors can start their tour about 11 miles east of Lewiston at the **Spalding site**, home to the park's visitor center and museum. Nez Perce lived and fished in this area for centuries, and in 1838, Henry and Eliza Spalding located the state's first Presbyterian mission here. Its foundation remains.

The museum displays Nez Perce artifacts ranging from regalia and historical photos to a necklace made with grizzly bear claws. Nearby is a late-1800s store/trading post, and a picnic table overlooking the Clearwater River.

The park's **Canoe Camp** site, about 35 miles east, marks the area where Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce experts made canoes in the autumn of 1805 to carry the Corps of Discovery toward the Pacific Ocean. The Nez Perce had saved the expedition members' lives when they had stumbled, exhausted and starving, out of the Bitterroot Mountains.

About 30 miles southeast of Canoe Camp lies the hill known as **Heart of the Monster**. According to a Nez Perce legend, after destroying a terrifying monster, Coyote created the Nez Perce by washing the monster's blood off his hands at this spot.

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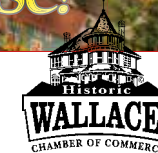
Falling for Wallace

You'll be charmed by this one-of-a-kind place. Listed entirely on the National Register of Historic Places, Wallace, Idaho offers year-round recreation, Hall of Fame cycling trails, renowned fishing, hiking & top-tier ski resorts plus a host of dining, lodging and imbibing choices—all amid the beauty of the Bitterroot Mtns., this is the place to do everything or nothing at all—and still have a great time.

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For More Information: The Historic Wallace Chamber of Commerce
208.753.7151 director@wallaceidahochamber.com
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John Darrington Photography



South Fork
WILDERNESS
RANCH

Every once in a great while, a slice of heaven becomes available for a special buyer.

The South Fork Wilderness Ranch is a rare treasure completely surrounded by the Central Idaho Wilderness, federal land managed by the Payette National Forest. The ranch has direct access to outstanding fishing, hiking and horseback trails, big game hunting and chukar hunting.

The location has so much solitude that peace and quiet are only interrupted by the sweet song of a bird, the whistle of a red-tailed hawk or the spine-tingling bugle of a bull elk.

The nearest neighbors are the legendary Mackay Bar Guest Ranch, 15 miles away, at the confluence of the South Fork with the mighty Salmon River – River of No Return – and the 2.3-million-acre Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, the largest in the continental United States.

This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to acquire your own wilderness ranch in the iconic Salmon River Country and shape it as you wish. The property will be protected for future generations by the seller before closing with a conservation easement.

For more information:
Call Don Miller at (208) 830-6644 or visit
SouthForkWildernessRanch.com/horizon

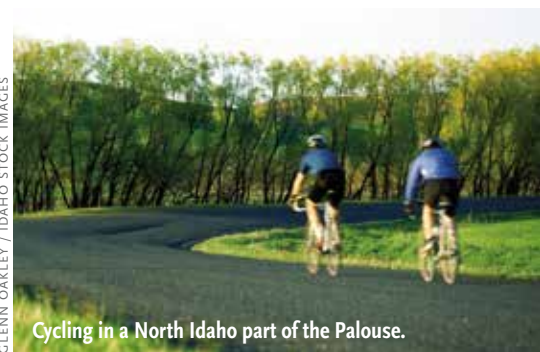


Another key site is about 50 miles south of Heart of the Monster. The **White Bird Battlefield** was the location of a June 1877 battle between the Nez Perce and the U.S. Army that began a series of pursuits and conflicts, culminating with the October 5 surrender of Chief Joseph in which he gave his famous poignant speech that included the words, "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

Moscow/Palouse area

(moscowchamber.com and visitpalouse.com)

Bicycle amid fields of wheat, barley and lentils in the scenic agricultural area known as the Palouse. The paved 11-mile **Latah Trail** starts in Moscow and follows the path of the former Moscow-Arrow rail line east to Troy, where 4 miles of gravel path continue on to Bear Canyon. The Latah Trail also connects in Moscow to the 2.23-mile **Paradise Path** along Paradise Creek, and to the approximately 7-mile **Bill Chipman Palouse Trail** from Moscow west to Pullman, Washington.



Cycling in a North Idaho part of the Palouse.

In addition, Moscow is a gateway to the 208-mile Palouse Scenic Byway, which can be accessed in Pullman. The byway provides stunning views of the region's crop-planted, multicolored rolling hills.

Visitors in Moscow also enjoy the **Saturday Farmers Market**, May through October, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year. The approximately 100 vendors include North Idaho's certified-organic **Pokey Creek Farm**, which grows produce such as sweet carrots, sweet onions, potatoes, beets and strawberries; **Sisters Cookie Company**, baking varieties ranging from almond-coconut and molasses-ginger

Puzzle on page 66.



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Performing-arts companies present musical and theatrical productions; galleries showcase visual arts; and museums include the **Appaloosa Museum**, devoted to the historic horse breed, including the relationship between the horse and the Nez Perce.



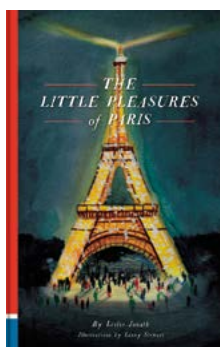
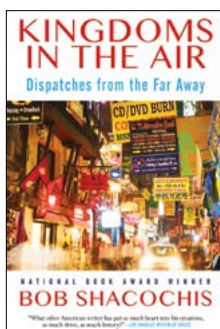
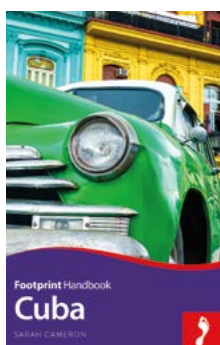
Moscow has an Appaloosa Museum.

At the **University of Idaho**, visitors can stroll through the 63-acre **Arboretum and Botanical Garden**, whose grounds are organized into Asian, European, and Eastern and Western North American subgardens, with hundreds of species. These range from lilacs, European roses, daylilies and horse chestnuts to Asian vines, Austrian pines, Norway maples and incense cedars.

The university's annual **Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival**—taking place Feb. 23–25 next year, when it will celebrate its 50th anniversary—features celebrity jazz masters. Festival music and dance workshops are open to the public. ■

Jaime Archer is a Northwest writer.

Alaska Airlines (800-ALASKAAIR; alaskaair.com) provides service to cities throughout Idaho. For more information on unique Gem State recreation, go to visitidaho.org.



BOOKS

Globe-Trotting by the Book

A good travel book—whether it's a recently updated guidebook or a travelogue by a skilled observer—enhances a reader's travel experience and provides ideas for future trips. The following recent releases span cities and continents, spotlighting destinations from Rio to Reykjavík. With beautiful photos, travel tips and anecdotes, these books inspire explorations of the exotic, foreign and unknown. —*Jaime Archer and Emily Fourcroy Smith*

ANDY STEVES' EUROPE

By Andy Steves; Avalon Travel
From Andy Steves, son of travel guru Rick Steves, comes a guide for travelers hoping to see Europe without breaking the bank, with in-depth city guides and multicity travel plans tailored to varied travel interests.

FOOTPRINT HANDBOOK: CUBA

By Sarah Cameron; Footprint Handbooks
A guide that features Havana and also covers other major Cuban towns, with hotel, restaurant and entertainment suggestions, as well as an overview of Cuban history and culture.

KINGDOMS IN THE AIR

By Bob Shacochis; Grove Press
A collection of culture and travel essays in which award-winning author Shacochis recounts adventures from Nepal to Mozambique.

THE LITTLE PLEASURES OF PARIS

By Leslie Jonath; Illustrated by Lizzy Stewart; Chronicle Books
Organized by season and beautifully illustrated, Jonath's book delights in the famous as well as overlooked charms of Paris, from the stained glass at Sainte-Chapelle to candied violets at the city's oldest sweet shop.

LONELY PLANET RIO DE JANEIRO

By Lonely Planet and Regis St. Louis; Lonely Planet
This easy-to-read guide suggests itineraries, top attractions and month-by-month trip plans, to enjoy tastes of Rio outside of the Olympics' Maracanã Stadium.

THE ROUGH GUIDE TO ICELAND

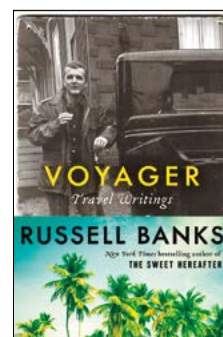
David Leffman and James Proctor; Rough Guides
Stunning photographs, helpful historical background and sections about particular locations and regions of interest—including Southwestern Iceland, the area near Reykjavík—set this guidebook apart.

VOYAGER

By Russell Banks; Ecco
Part memoir and part travel guide, acclaimed novelist Banks' new nonfiction work weaves personal discoveries into breathtaking descriptions of his travels, from the Caribbean to Senegal, Edinburgh to the Himalayas.

THE WONDER TRAIL

By Steve Hely; Dutton
Comedy writer Hely blends history and humor in recounting his trip from Los Angeles to the tip of Chile, giving readers a lively take on his travels and encounters with different cultures in South America.



More World Travel

► *Insight Guides: Ecuador & Galápagos* By *Insight Guides*.

Known and lesser-known attractions, with highlights of the exotic Galápagos Islands.

► *Nomad Deluxe* By *Herbert Ypma; Assouline Publishing*. Ypma's dazzling photos are

complemented by anecdotes and commentary from wide-ranging travels.

GADGETS

Everything but the Kitchen Sink

Innovations for the top chef of the household **BY JAIME ARCHER**

Depending on the situation, cooking can be a pleasant way to unwind at the end of the day or a hurried task that takes time out of a busy schedule. Whether you're cooking an elaborate holiday dinner or whipping up a quick meal, this set of kitchen gadgets can help cut down on prep time so that you can spend more time at the dinner table with friends and family.



Kilner Butter Churn

This easy-to-use tool turns room-temperature whipping cream into soft, silky butter (available from numerous retailers, including mtbaker-mercantile.com; \$39.99).

MORE KITCHEN GEAR

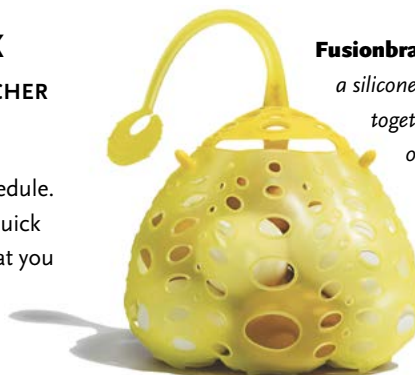
iTouchless Bag Resealer Powered by batteries, these resealers glide along the edges of open plastic bags to create an airtight seal. The resealer's size makes it easy to pack for picnics or camping, and its magnetic base allows for storage on the fridge (itouchless.com; \$21.95 for a set of two).

Split Decision Pie Pan For the family that can't choose between apple or pumpkin pie, this pan comes with two bases: One lets bakers create traditional whole pies, the other is divided for baking two flavors at the same time (chicagometallicbakeware.com; \$24.99).

Zyliss FastCut Herb Dicer Guide this device's five cutting wheels through herbs; this tool can dice herbs finer than some cooks can with a knife (zyliss.com; \$16.99).



Fusionbrands FoodPod FoodPod—a silicone bag that keeps food items together when boiling, blanching or steaming—also has holes for easy draining and a clip to attach the bag to saucepans (fusion-brands.com; \$15).



Oxo Good Grips Jar Opener with Base Pad This device improves a user's leverage for opening tightly sealed jars; the nonslip pad helps hold jars steady on the counter (oxo.com; \$9.99).



Chef'n GarlicZoom Garlic Chopper The sharp blades of the GarlicZoom mince three to four peeled garlic cloves at once, in seconds (chefn.com; \$9.99).



The Watermelon Claw This stainless steel tool cuts into halved watermelons and then serves as tongs to remove slices, leaving behind the rind. It works best with large rather than small melons (watermelonclaw.com; \$7.99).



Brews, Brats and More

Don't let the name fool you. **Oktoberfest** season traditionally starts in September, and modern festivities can run through fall—including the following events.

Seattleites and visitors can enjoy sipping their choice of more than 80 local craft beers, as well as German favorites, at **Fremont Oktoberfest** (Seattle, WA; September 23–25; 206-633-0422; fremontoktoberfest.com). Festivalgoers can get into autumn spirit by watching artists at work in the Texas Chainsaw Pumpkin Carving Contest or participating in the Alpine Climb 5K, which culminates with a finish-line beer for those over 21. • Head south to the City of Roses for the **Paulaner Oktoberfest** at Oaks Park (Portland, OR; September 23–25; 503-233-5777; oaksoktoberfest.com) to enjoy performances by the Polka Tones and to compete in games such as the Pretzel Toss, in which participants attempt to ring pretzels around a post. • Attendees of **Denver Oktoberfest** (Denver, CO; September 23–25 and September 30–October 2; thedenveroktoberfest.com) can participate in activities such as keg bowling, stein hoisting and the Long Dog Derby, with racing wiener dogs. —*Jaime Archer*

ON DECK AROUND SEATTLE

SketchFest Seattle, Sept. 15–24; sketch-comedy festival, with local favorite groups such as Day Job and Love Snack; multiple venues; sketchfest.org.

Seattle Mini Maker Faire, Sept. 17–18; projects blending art, craft and engineering; hands-on workshops; EMP Museum; makerfaireseattle.com.

Port Townsend Film Festival, Sept. 23–25; more than 90 new independent films; kid-friendly outdoor screenings nightly; downtown Port Townsend, WA; 360-379-1333; ptfilmfest.com.

Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair, Oct. 8–9; collectible books, prints, maps and more; Seattle Center Exhibition Hall; 206-323-3999; seattlebookfair.com.

Seattle Interactive Conference, Oct. 18–19; presentations and events relating to social media, gaming and more; The Conference Center; 206-568-3781; seattleinteractive.com. —J.A.

HAWAII

Island Inspired

Hawaii's mid-Pacific location has, over time, given rise to plants, such as the *koa* tree, and cultural objects, such as the 'ukulele, that are distinct from those in the rest of the world.

Local materials and objects will be displayed in the 24th-annual **Hawaii's Woodshow**, September 17–October 2, a competition and public exhibition at Linekona Gallery at the

Honolulu Museum of Art School.

Entries may take the form of furniture, instruments and decorative sculptures, among other objects. The show promotes knowledge of how forestry practices in the archipelago benefit its ecology and economy.

Call 808-221-5171 or visit woodshow.hawaiiiforest.org.

—*Matthew Gulick*



Michael P. Smith's sculpture *Beyond the Reef* is made of locally grown mango wood.



OREGON

Off to the Races

THIS SUMMER, 1,050 teams of runners (eight to 12 per team) will race 198 miles from Oregon's tallest mountain, through the state's biggest city and out to the Pacific Ocean in the 35th-annual **Hood to Coast Relay**, August 26–27. The race's participants will represent 36 countries and each U.S. state; they will include Olympians as well as novice runners.

Participants and fans can catch stunning views of the mountaintop from the starting line near Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood. At Hawthorne

Bridge in Portland, an additional 4,000 walkers and 600 high school runners—participating in affiliated **PDX to Coast** events—will join the Hood to Coast runners as they head out to the finish line in Seaside, on the coast. This town will host an awards ceremony, beer garden, VIP food area and live music on August 27.

Alaska Airlines is a sponsor of the Hood to Coast Relay. Visit hoodtocoastrelay.com to learn more. —Jaime Archer

Runners in the Hood to Coast Relay start on Mount Hood (shown above, in a prior year) and finish on the beach at Seaside, Oregon (shown below).

COURTESY: HOOD TO COAST RELAY (2)

