

Boise, the capitol of Idaho, was named by French trappers who shouted “les bois” (the woods) after arriving at the river (Boise River) lined with trees and surrounded by rolling hills. The area served as a stopping ground for settlers headed west to Oregon.

Boise has many cultural attractions. The Basque Museum & Cultural Center interprets the history of the Basques in Idaho and their old-world origins. Other museums in the city include the Boise Art Museum; the Discovery Center of Idaho, an interactive science center; Idaho Black History Museum; Idaho Historical Museum; Museum of Mining and Geology; Old Idaho Penitentiary State Historic Site; Idaho Military History Museum; Warhawk Air Museum, which teaches World War II and aviation history; and the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame, which features athletes who use their time and talent in humanitarian activities.

Opportunities for concerts, shows, and theater are varied and consist of Boise Baroque, a chamber orchestra and chorus that focus on works of the Baroque period; Boise Contemporary Theater; Boise Little Theater; Boise Master Chorale; Boise Philharmonic; Darkwood Consort, a viola and bass clarinet duo; Idaho Dance Theatre; Idaho Shakespeare Festival; Knock Em Dead Dinner Theater; Opera Idaho; Prairie Dog Productions, which performs musical melodrama parodies; Stage Coach Theater; and Trey McIntyre Project, which focuses on contemporary ballet.

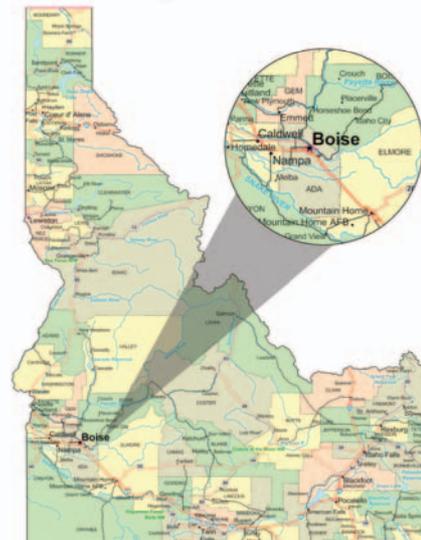
NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown is the civic, economic, and cultural heart of Boise and the site of the Idaho State Capitol Building, the Idaho Supreme Court, Boise City Hall, Ada County Administration Building, and South 8th Street and Hays Street historic districts. Downtown residential options consist of townhomes, condominiums, lofts, and apartments interspersed among commercial buildings.

Historic mansions line Harrison Boulevard in the North End neighborhood, which includes part of the downtown area. Hyde Park, with its boutiques and popular restaurants, is in the middle of the North End. Another part of the downtown area, the East End’s historic street Warm Springs Avenue, has Victorian homes, many of which have geothermal heat. The East End also has many modern homes. The Northwest neighborhood includes some of Boise’s most exclusive subdivisions as well as older farm homes and farmland. The Boise Bench neighborhood contains a mixture of 1950s brick bungalows and grand homes overlooking downtown Boise. One end of the Southeast neighborhood is dominated by Boise State University, which is surrounded by apartments and smaller single-family residences; intense infill development and gentrification has occurred here in recent years. The other end is dominated by Micron Technology and the subdivisions that house its employees and planned developments on the outskirts of Boise, such as Surprise Valley and Harris Ranch. The Highlands area, located at the base of the Boise foothills, consists of approximately 35 subdivisions with single-family and multifamily housing. Construction began in the 1950s and 1960s and continues currently; however, much of the area remains undeveloped because of the steep slopes.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Boise’s Parks and Recreation Department operates 112 parks and facilities, including Idaho IceWorld, an indoor family ice-skating center; Zoo Boise; Fort Boise Community Center; Warm Springs Golf Course; outdoor pools; after-school programs; skate parks; and off-leash dog parks. In downtown, Julia Davis Regional Park contains a rose garden and several



museums. Ann Morrison Park has gardens, tennis courts, lighted softball diamonds, soccer and football fields, a picnic pavilion, and children’s playground. Kathryn Albertson Park features paved footpaths with signage describing wildlife and environmental themes. The city’s 30-mile biking and walking greenbelt along the Boise River connects these parks, Boise State University, and other recreational areas.

The Idaho Botanical Garden, which occupies the site of the farm and nursery of the former Idaho State Penitentiary, has numerous specialty gardens. The World Center for Birds of Prey offers live bird presentations and exhibits about the history and sport of falconry.

Professional sports teams include the Idaho Steelheads (hockey) and Idaho Stampede (basketball).

EDUCATION

The Boise School District operates 34 elementary schools, 8 junior high schools, and 5 high schools and serves approximately 25,000 students. The district offers several special programs, including a Harbor Method school, a Montessori program, and the Treasure Valley Mathematics & Science Center for 7th- to 12th-grade students with a strong interest to excel in mathematics and science.

Opportunities for higher education in Boise include Boise State University, which has undergraduate and graduate programs including a department of nursing graduate program; Boise Bible College, which offers bachelor’s and associate’s degree programs; the University of Idaho–Boise, which is primarily a graduate school; and Stevens–Henager College, which offers bachelor’s, associate’s, and master’s degree programs. Brown Mackie College, Apollo College, and ITT Technical College offer bachelor’s and associate’s degree programs. The College of Western Idaho at Boise State University is a community college.

HEALTH CARE

Boise is served by two medical centers that operate almost 800 beds. In addition, the city has a hospital dedicated to surgery, a behavioral health hospital, a long-term acute-care facility, and a rehabilitation hospital. The Boise VA Medical Center provides highly sophisticated primary and secondary care with some tertiary services.

CITY STATS

2007

City Population	202,736
Metropolitan Statistical Area	586,600
Per Capita Personal Income, Boise City–Nampa, ID (MSA)	\$35,737