



Idaho Day

Idaho Day - March 4, 2015

Last year the legislature established an official IDAHO DAY to be observed each year on March 4th. It will be a day to educate about Idaho, her culture, her history, her diversity, her beauty, her resources and her greatness.

Let our first IDAHO DAY set a standard for all those that will follow.

Interesting Facts about Idaho

Idaho's History

- On August 12, 1805, members of the Lewis and Clark expedition were the first white men to enter what is now Idaho and placed the first American flag into Idaho soil.
- Idaho was the last state discovered by Europeans.
- Assistance provided by the Shoshone and Nez Perce Indian tribes made it possible for the Lewis and Clark expedition to pass through Idaho.
- President Abraham Lincoln signed the act creating the Idaho Territory on March 4, 1863. William Wallace, Idaho's first governor and later delegate to Congress, was invited by President Lincoln to attend Ford's Theater.
- Idaho entered the Union as the 43rd state on July 3, 1890.
- Kullyspell House, a trading post on the shores of Lake Pend Oreille, was the first building erected in Idaho. (1809)
- The Cataldo Mission, near Kellogg, is the oldest building standing in Idaho. (1853)
- The first water rights filed upon Snake River water was entered by the Eagle Rock and Willow Creek Canal Company on June 11, 1880.
- The Great Seal of Idaho was designed in 1890 by Mrs. Emma Edwards Green, the only state seal designed by a woman.
- The first alpine chairlift was used in Sun Valley in 1936. The fee was .25 cents per ride.

Idaho's Geography & Outdoor Gems

- Idaho has 83,557 square miles, about the size of Great Britain, and has a population of 1.6 million.
- Idaho's mountains rise to a height of 12,662 feet. Lewiston has the lowest elevation at 756 feet. Mt. Borah is Idaho's highest mountain and was once located three miles under water.
- Idaho has 3,100 miles of rivers, more than any other state; there are over 2,000 lakes.
- The city of Lewiston has the farthest inland sea port on the Pacific Coast of the United States.
- Idaho has more roadless alpine wilderness areas than any other state except Alaska.
- Hells Canyon (a mile deeper than the Grand Canyon) is the deepest gorge on the North American continent.
- 63% of Idaho is public land.

Turn the page for more interesting facts about Idaho. ⇨

- The Salmon River has no dams and is the longest stream lying wholly within one state.
- Bruneau Dunes State Park contains North America's tallest single structured sand dune, measuring 470 feet high.
- Higher than Niagra, Shoshone Falls, on the Snake River near Twin Falls, plunges over a rim nearly a thousand feet wide and drops two hundred and twelve feet down.
- The "Craters of the Moon" National Monument presents a volcanic landscape that played a pivotal role in the first successful moon landing.
- The Hagerman Fossil Beds hold some the best preserved prehistoric horse fossils in the United States.
- The Shoshone Ice Caves present an elaborate network of lava tubes that have been iced over by air currents making it one of Idaho's natural wonders.
- Henry's Fork is arguably the single most proclaimed fly fishing trout stream in the United States.
- Idaho has the largest nesting area in the world for eagles, hawks and falcons.
- Elk River is the home of the Idaho Champion Western Red Cedar Tree, the largest tree in the state. Estimated to be over 3,000 years old, this giant is more than 18 feet in diameter and stands 177 feet tall.
- Idaho lies halfway between the equator and the North Pole.

Idaho's People & Places

- According to FBI statistics, Idaho has the lowest crime rate in the west.
- Idaho has five Native American tribes: Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai, Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute.
- Television was invented in Rigby, Idaho, by Philo Farnsworth.
- Boise hosts the largest Basque population in America.
- Oakley has more 19th century homes per capita than any other town in Idaho.
- The Statehouse in Boise is geothermally heated from underground hot springs.
- The Perine Bridge in Twin Falls is the only man made structure in the United States where base jumping is allowed year-round without a permit.

Idaho's Industry, Commerce & Agriculture

- Idaho's big money makers (industry) are: agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, timber and mining.
- The National Reactor Testing Station near Idaho Falls became the world's first site to use nuclear fission to produce electricity.
- Electrical power rates in Idaho have been the lowest in America.
- Idaho is the leader in producing lambs as well as one of the top wool producing states in the nation.
- Idaho has the second largest unbroken stretch of irrigated farm land in the United States.
- Idaho is the largest producer of small seeds in America: alfalfa, onions, carrots, beans, clover, etc.
- Roughly 85% of all commercial trout produced in the U.S. come from Hagerman Valley.
- Known as the Gem State, Idaho produces 72 types of precious and semi-precious stones, more than any other state.
- Idaho is the number one producer of potatoes, barley, trout, Austrian winter peas and lentils.