

In the midst of the city
or miles from anything,
the great outdoors is
greater than ever.

BY JULIE FANSELOW

splendid surroundings

A lazy day on the Boise River.

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With a river running through downtown and mountains beckoning just beyond, Southwest Idaho feels like paradise to anyone who enjoys being outdoors. Here’s a sampling of activities you can try with an hour, a half day, or more.

IF YOU HAVE:

	ONE HOUR	You have time to walk or bike along the Boise Greenbelt . This popular paved path runs on both sides of the Boise River. Most sections are open to cycling, skating, and strolling. Or try your luck fly fishing in the Boise River . You'll see anglers casting right downtown.
	TWO HOURS	Take a hike or mountain bike ride in the Foothills , Boise locals' name for the city's mountainous backdrop. For a quick adventure, check out the trails behind the Old Idaho Penitentiary (east of downtown along Warm Springs Avenue) or the Hulls Gulch area, accessible via the north end of Eighth Street.
	HALF A DAY	If it's summer, take a whitewater trip on the Payette River , 45 minutes north of town. Cascade Raft offers half-day trips that range from mild to wild. Or in winter, hit the slopes at Bogus Basin , Boise's own backyard ski mountain.
	A FULL DAY	Experience Tamarack Resort , a four-season luxury resort two hours north of Boise on the shores of Lake Cascade. The Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed Osprey Meadows golf course is a natural feast for the senses, with stunning views and wildlife wandering the greens. Winter activities include skiing, boarding, and backcountry adventures on snowmobile.
	MORE THAN A DAY	Boise is less than three hours from the Sawtooth National Recreation Area , a gem of the West, with pristine lakes tucked amid mountain peaks. Southeast of Sawtooth, Craters of the Moon National Monument features fantastic landscapes of ancient lava flows.

(THIS PAGE, FROM TOP) GREENBELT PHOTO BY KELLI BAXENDALE / OTHERS @IDAHOStockIMAGES.COM; FOOTHILLS, GLENN OAKLEY; PAYETTE RIVER AND TAMARACK, CHAD CASE; SAWTOOTH, FRED STILLINGS (OPPOSITE PAGE) ©CHAD CASE, IDAHOStockIMAGES.COM

Happy Trails

Boasting 52 runs and seven lifts serving 2,600 acres of skiable terrain, Boise's local ski resort, Bogus Basin, is just 16.5 miles from downtown. "We're really fortunate to have a quality mountain so close to town," says general manager Mike Shirley.

Bogus is run by a nonprofit organization, making it as affordable as it is accessible, with season passes from \$199 and adult lift tickets starting at \$20. See bogusbasin.org for more details. —JF

Bogus Basin offers Alpine and Nordic skiing, with runs to fit any skier's skill level.

Thank you for
learning about
our hometown...
We love it here and
you will too!

www.cityofboise.org