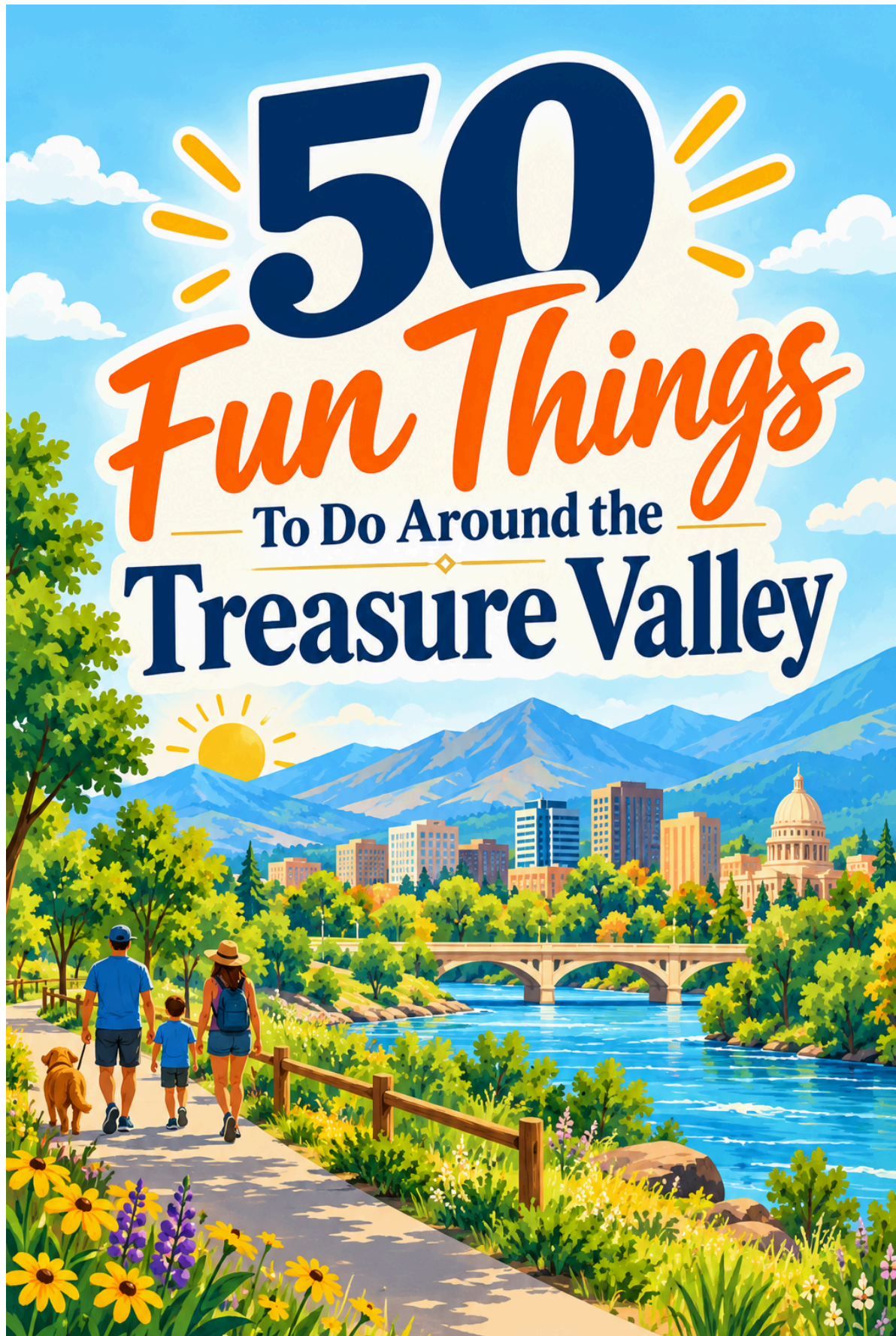




50

Fun Things

To Do Around the

Treasure Valley

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Family Fun & Kid-Friendly Adventures

10 perennial picks for families, kids, and easy outings around the Treasure Valley

These are the kinds of outings local families return to again and again — from waterparks and indoor play to baseball, museums, parks, and hands-on experiences. Use this section when you want an easy, crowd-pleasing idea for a weekend, school break, or afternoon outing.

1. Spend the Day at Roaring Springs Waterpark

FAMILY

KIDS

Why it's fun: Roaring Springs is one of the Treasure Valley's biggest summer family attractions, with water slides, wave pools, lazy river fun, kiddie areas, and plenty of ways for kids, teens, parents, and grandparents to cool off when the Idaho heat kicks in.

Best for: Families, kids, teens, birthday outings, visiting relatives, and hot summer days.

Good to know: This is a good full-day outing. Go early, bring sunscreen, and check the park's current hours, tickets, and seasonal schedule before heading out.

More info: [Roaring Springs official site](#)

2. Play Arcade Games, Mini Golf, Bowling, or Go-Karts at Wahooz

FAMILY

KIDS

DATE

Why it's fun: Wahooz is a strong year-round pick because it works for birthdays, family nights, rainy days, winter days, smoky summer afternoons, and “we need to get the kids out of the house” days. It gives families a lot of options in one place instead of needing to plan a complicated outing.

Best for: Families, kids, teens, birthday parties, grandparents with grandkids, casual date nights, and group outings.

Good to know: Because there are multiple activities in one location, this is a good choice when your group has mixed ages or different interests.

More info: [Wahooz official site](#)

3. Explore the New Park at Expo Idaho

FAMILY

KIDS

Why it's fun: The new Park at Expo Idaho is one of the biggest new outdoor additions to the Treasure Valley, giving families, walkers, cyclists, kids, and Greenbelt users a fresh place to get outside in Garden City. With open space, nature-based play areas, recreation features, and connections to the Boise River and Greenbelt area, it is designed to become an easy go-to spot for casual outdoor fun.

Best for: Families, kids, walkers, cyclists, nature lovers, Greenbelt users, casual outings, and anyone looking for a new Treasure Valley place to explore.

Good to know: Because this is a new public space, check the official page before visiting for current opening details, access points, parking, amenities, and any phased-opening updates.

More info: [The Park at Expo Idaho future-planning page](#)

4. Visit Zoo Boise in Julia Davis Park

FAMILY

KIDS

Why it's fun: Zoo Boise is a classic Treasure Valley family outing, especially for kids who love animals and parents who want something easy, walkable, and educational. Since it sits inside Julia Davis Park, you can pair the zoo with a picnic, playground time, the Greenbelt, or nearby museums.

Best for: Families, kids, grandparents with grandkids, animal lovers, and visiting relatives.

Good to know: Check current hours, admission, special events, and animal experiences before you go. Zoo Boise is also a good choice when you want something that feels fun without requiring an entire day.

More info: [Zoo Boise official site](#)

5. Explore Hands-On Exhibits at the Discovery Center of Idaho

FAMILY

KIDS

Why it's fun: The Discovery Center of Idaho is a hands-on science and learning destination in Boise, making it a great choice for curious kids, families, and anyone who likes interactive exhibits. It is especially useful when you want an indoor activity that still feels active and engaging.

Best for: Families, kids, STEM lovers, rainy days, smoky days, cold days, and school-break outings.

Good to know: The Discovery Center often features rotating exhibitions, so it's worth checking what is currently on display before planning your visit.

More info: [Discovery Center of Idaho official site](#)

6. Visit the Children's Museum of Idaho in Meridian

KIDS

DATE

Why it's fun: The Children's Museum of Idaho is built around imaginative, hands-on play for younger children. It is a strong option for families with little kids who need an outing that is safe, interactive, and designed specifically for children.

Best for: Younger kids, parents, grandparents, playdates, rainy days, and birthday-season outings.

Good to know: This is especially good for younger children rather than teens. Check admission, hours, memberships, and any special programming before you go.

More info: [Children's Museum of Idaho official site](#)

7. Go Trampoline Jumping at JumpTime Meridian

FAMILY

KIDS

Why it's fun: JumpTime is a high-energy indoor option where kids can jump, play, and burn off energy. It is especially handy when the weather is too hot, too cold, smoky, or just not cooperating.

Best for: Kids, tweens, birthday parties, active families, and rainy-day backup plans.

Good to know: This is a good option when kids need movement, but adults may want to check age areas, waiver requirements, grip socks, and current hours before heading over.

More info: [JumpTime Meridian official site](#)

8. Try an Indoor Adventure Day at Urban Air Meridian

FAMILY

KIDS

Why it's fun: Urban Air Meridian is an indoor adventure park with activities designed for active kids and families. It is a good choice for birthdays, school breaks, indoor energy-burning, and days when you want a bigger outing without being outside.

Best for: Families, kids, tweens, teens, birthday parties, and indoor activity days.

Good to know: Check attraction availability, passes, hours, waiver requirements, and age/height guidelines before going.

More info: [Urban Air Meridian official site](#)

9. Catch a Boise Hawks Baseball Game

FAMILY

KIDS

DATE

Why it's fun: A Boise Hawks game is a relaxed, family-friendly sports outing with the classic summer feel of baseball, snacks, music, and a night at the ballpark. Promotional nights and special events can make it even more fun for families.

Best for: Families, baseball fans, date nights, dads and kids, groups, and visiting relatives.

Good to know: Check the current schedule and promotions before you go. Some games include special theme nights, giveaways, or post-game activities.

More info: [Boise Hawks official site](#)

10. Visit a Local Splash Pad or Community Park

FAMILY

KIDS

LOW COST

Why it's fun: The Treasure Valley has plenty of parks and splash pads that make it easy to create a simple outing without spending much money. This is perfect when you want something casual, close to home, and kid-friendly.

Best for: Families, young kids, grandparents with grandkids, summer afternoons, and free or low-cost fun.

Good to know: Check your city's parks and recreation page for current splash pad hours, seasonal openings, closures, and park rules.

More info: [Boise Parks and Recreation](#)

Later sections will cover date nights, outdoor adventures, food and local flavors, arts and culture, seasonal favorites, and quick low-cost fun around the Treasure Valley.

Date Nights & Grown-Up Outings

8 perennial picks for couples, evenings out, and relaxed local grown-up fun

This section focuses on easy, repeatable Treasure Valley outings for couples and grown-ups - from theater and live music to wine tasting, spa days, and polished dinner-night plans. These are great when you want something a little more special than staying in, without needing a huge production.

11. See a Show at the Morrison Center

DATE NIGHT

ENTERTAINMENT

Why it's fun: The Morrison Center is one of the Treasure Valley's best go-to date-night venues, with Broadway tours, concerts, comedy, and special performances that instantly make the evening feel more memorable than a standard dinner out.

Best for: Couples, theater lovers, music fans, special occasions, visiting friends, and polished night-out plans.

Good to know: Check the current calendar early, because popular shows can sell quickly. This is a strong choice when you want a planned night that feels a little more elevated.

More info: [Morrison Center official site](#)

12. Enjoy the Idaho Shakespeare Festival

DATE NIGHT

ENTERTAINMENT

GROWN-UP

Why it's fun: Few local outings feel more classic than an evening at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival. With outdoor theater, pre-show music, and a relaxed summer atmosphere, it's one of the Treasure Valley's signature date-night experiences.

Best for: Couples, theater fans, summer evenings, anniversary outings, and anyone who likes a little culture with their picnic.

Good to know: Bring a blanket or low-back chair, arrive early, and check the show schedule before you go. This is especially good in warmer months.

More info: [Idaho Shakespeare Festival official site](#)

13. Stroll, Dine, and People-Watch in Downtown Boise

DATE NIGHT

Why it's fun: Downtown Boise is ideal when you want flexibility. You can build your own date night with dinner, dessert, drinks, live music, a walk through the city, or a stop at a local event - all without committing to one single plan.

Best for: Couples, visiting friends, casual dates, dinner nights, and spontaneous weekend outings.

Good to know: A downtown Boise night works especially well when you want options. Park once, walk around, and decide as you go.

More info: [Downtown Boise official site](#)

14. Plan a Wine Tasting Day in Sunnyslope

DATE NIGHT

GROWN-UP

Why it's fun: The Sunnyslope Wine Trail offers one of the Treasure Valley's most scenic grown-up outings, with vineyard views, tasting rooms, rolling countryside, and an easy pace that feels relaxed and local.

Best for: Couples, adult friend groups, anniversary plans, and anyone who enjoys wine and scenic drives.

Good to know: This is best as a daytime or early-evening outing. Check winery hours and consider choosing two or three stops instead of trying to overpack the day.

More info: [Sunnyslope Wine Trail information](#)

15. Catch Live Music at The Riverside Hotel or Treefort Music Hall

DATE NIGHT

ENTERTAINMENT

Why it's fun: Live music instantly upgrades an evening out, and both The Riverside Hotel and Treefort Music Hall offer strong local options depending on the night. It's a good mix of atmosphere, entertainment, and something a little different from the usual dinner routine.

Best for: Couples, music lovers, local nightlife fans, visiting guests, and fun low-pressure date nights.

Good to know: Look at each venue's event calendar before choosing your night. One may suit a more relaxed vibe while the other may be better for a true concert outing.

More info: [Treefort Music Hall](#)

16. Do a Dinner-and-Movie Night at The Village at Meridian

DATE NIGHT

Why it's fun: The Village makes it easy to pull together a simple, polished night out with dinner, dessert, movie options, and a walkable setting that feels lively without being complicated.

Best for: Couples, easy date nights, double dates, and weekday evenings when you want a reliable plan.

Good to know: This is a strong choice when you want convenience. Everything is close together, so it's easy to adjust the plan depending on timing and mood.

More info: [The Village at Meridian](#)

17. Book a Couples Spa Day or Relaxing Massage

DATE NIGHT

Why it's fun: Not every grown-up outing has to be high energy. A spa or massage day can be one of the most relaxing ways to reconnect, especially after a busy week, a stressful season, or when you want something calm and restorative.

Best for: Couples, anniversaries, self-care days, gift outings, and anyone who prefers relaxing experiences over busy events.

Good to know: Reservations are usually a smart idea. This works especially well as a daytime date or as part of a larger special-occasion plan.

More info: [Spa Urbana at Hotel Renegade](#)

18. Take a Sunset Walk and Dinner in Eagle

DATE NIGHT

Why it's fun: Eagle is great for a quieter evening with a small-town-upscale feel. A sunset walk followed by dinner or dessert makes for an easy local date that feels polished without needing much planning.

Best for: Couples, relaxed date nights, local residents, and anyone who likes scenic, low-stress outings.

Good to know: This is best when you want a slower pace. Pair a riverside or neighborhood-area stroll with dinner and keep the evening simple.

More info: [Visit Eagle information](#)

Outdoor Fun & Easy Adventures

8 perennial picks for fresh air, scenic views, and easy Treasure Valley outings

This section is for the days when you want to get outside without overcomplicating the plan. From riverside walks and foothills trails to summer floats, state parks, and scenic day trips, these are easy outdoor ideas that help you enjoy the Treasure Valley in a simple, repeatable way.

19. Walk or Bike the Boise River Greenbelt

FAMILY

COUPLES

OUTDOOR

Why it's fun: The Boise River Greenbelt is one of the Treasure Valley's most iconic outdoor experiences. It gives you miles of riverside paths, shady stretches, park connections, bridge views, and easy access to some of Boise's best casual scenery.

Best for: Families, couples, walkers, cyclists, visitors, casual exercise, stroller walks, and low-cost outdoor time.

Good to know: Choose a short stretch instead of trying to do the whole thing. Start near Julia Davis Park, Ann Morrison Park, Esther Simplot Park, or another easy access point and build the outing around that.

More info: [Boise River Greenbelt information](#)

20. Hike Camel's Back Park and the Foothills Trails

FAMILY

OUTDOOR

Why it's fun: Camel's Back and the nearby foothills trails offer one of the easiest ways to get a quick outdoor adventure without leaving Boise. You can do a short climb for views, a longer hike through Hulls Gulch, or a simple park-and-trail outing.

Best for: Hikers, walkers, active families, dog walkers, visitors, and anyone who wants a scenic Boise view.

Good to know: Check trail conditions before going, especially after rain or during hot weather. Bring water and choose a route that matches your group's ability level.

More info: [Ridge to Rivers Camel's Back / Hulls Gulch area](#)

21. Float the Boise River in Summer

FAMILY

Why it's fun: Floating the Boise River is a classic summer tradition. It is relaxed, scenic, refreshing, and one of those experiences that makes summer in the Treasure Valley feel official.

Best for: Families with older kids, teens, adult groups, visitors, summer weekends, and warm-weather outings.

Good to know: Always check current river conditions, shuttle information, safety rules, and float season status before going. Life jackets and basic river safety matter.

More info: [Float the Boise official site](#)

22. Visit Kathryn Albertson Park for a Peaceful Nature Walk

FAMILY

COUPLES

OUTDOOR

Why it's fun: Kathryn Albertson Park is a calm, scenic Boise park with ponds, paths, wildlife viewing, and a quieter feel than many busier parks. It is a great choice when you want nature without a difficult hike.

Best for: Couples, families, photographers, walkers, birdwatchers, grandparents, and low-key outdoor time.

Good to know: This is more of a peaceful walk than an active playground-style outing. It is especially nice in the morning, near sunset, or when you want a quiet reset.

More info: [Kathryn Albertson Park information](#)

23. Take the Family to Bogus Basin for Year-Round Fun

FAMILY

COUPLES

OUTDOOR

Why it's fun: Bogus Basin is much more than a winter ski spot. Depending on the season, it can mean skiing, tubing, mountain biking, hiking, scenic chairlift rides, summer activities, events, and a quick mountain escape from the valley.

Best for: Families, outdoor lovers, active couples, visiting relatives, winter fun, summer adventures, and mountain views.

Good to know: Check the current operating schedule and open activities before driving up. Weather and seasonal operations can change the available options quickly.

More info: [Bogus Basin official site](#)

24. Explore Lucky Peak or Sandy Point Recreation Area

FAMILY

LOW COST

Why it's fun: Lucky Peak and Sandy Point are great when you want water, sunshine, and an easy outdoor getaway close to Boise. Depending on the season and area, you can enjoy beach time, picnicking, swimming, paddling, boating, or simply relaxing near the water.

Best for: Families, swimmers, boaters, paddleboarders, picnic groups, visitors, and hot summer days.

Good to know: Check state park information, parking rules, water conditions, fees, and seasonal access before visiting. Sandy Point can be especially popular during hot weather.

More info: [Lucky Peak State Park information](#)

25. Spend an Afternoon at Eagle Island State Park

FAMILY

OUTDOOR

LOW COST

Why it's fun: Eagle Island State Park is a strong west-valley outdoor pick with open space, paths, picnic areas, water access, and room to spread out. It is an easy choice for a simple afternoon away from traffic and screens.

Best for: Families, walkers, picnics, casual outdoor days, kids, and west Treasure Valley residents.

Good to know: Check current park rules, entrance fees, water conditions, and seasonal amenities before heading out. Some activities may vary by season.

More info: [Eagle Island State Park information](#)

26. Visit Celebration Park and the Snake River Canyon

FAMILY

Why it's fun: Celebration Park offers a very different Treasure Valley outdoor experience, with Snake River views, basalt formations, petroglyphs, walking areas, and a sense of local history. It is a great mini-adventure when you want scenery beyond the Boise River corridor.

Best for: Families, history lovers, geology fans, photographers, visitors, and people who like scenic day trips.

Good to know: This is a better daytime outing than an evening stop. Bring water, check the weather, and review park information before making the drive.

More info: [Celebration Park information](#)

Markets, Food & Local Flavors

7 perennial picks for local tastes, market strolls, and easy food-focused outings

This section is for the days when you want the outing to be simple, tasty, and local. Markets, food trucks, coffee stops, dessert runs, and cultural dining experiences are easy ways to explore the Treasure Valley without needing a big plan.

27. Browse the Capital City Public Market

FAMILY

DATE

FOOD

Why it's fun: The Capital City Public Market is one of Boise's classic local outings, with farmers, makers, food vendors, flowers, baked goods, handmade items, and a lively downtown feel. It is an easy way to spend a Saturday morning while supporting local vendors.

Best for: Families, couples, visitors, food lovers, local shoppers, and anyone who enjoys a relaxed downtown stroll.

Good to know: Go earlier if you want easier parking and the best selection. Bring a reusable bag and check the current location and season schedule before you head downtown.

More info: [Capital City Public Market official site](#)

28. Visit a Treasure Valley Farmers Market

FAMILY

DATE

FOOD

Why it's fun: Farmers markets are one of the easiest ways to enjoy the Treasure Valley like a local. Depending on the market, you can find fresh produce, flowers, baked goods, coffee, crafts, food trucks, music, and a simple reason to get out of the house.

Best for: Families, couples, food lovers, visitors, Saturday mornings, weeknight outings, and anyone who likes shopping local.

Good to know: Different markets operate on different days and seasons, so check the current market calendar before going. Try rotating between Boise, Meridian, Caldwell, Eagle, Nampa, and other nearby markets.

More info: [Boise Farmers Market official site](#)

29. Try Indian Creek Plaza Events and Food Stops in Caldwell

FAMILY

DATE

VISITORS

Why it's fun: Indian Creek Plaza is one of Caldwell's most active gathering places, with concerts, markets, festivals, food events, ice skating in season, and a walkable downtown setting. It is a great west-valley pick when you want food, music, and local energy in one place.

Best for: Families, couples, visitors, Caldwell-area residents, market fans, music lovers, and easy evening outings.

Good to know: The plaza's calendar changes throughout the year, so check what is happening before you go. It is especially useful for summer evenings, seasonal events, and casual downtown exploring.

More info: [Indian Creek Plaza events calendar](#)

30. Make a Dessert Run for Ice Cream or Local Sweets

FAMILY

DATE

FOOD

Why it's fun: Sometimes the best outing is simple: pick a local ice cream shop, bakery, donut shop, chocolate shop, or dessert stop and make that the whole plan. It works for families, casual dates, after-dinner drives, and low-effort nights when everyone needs a treat.

Best for: Families, couples, kids, grandparents, visiting friends, casual dates, and simple weeknight fun.

Good to know: Turn it into a mini tradition by trying a different local dessert place each time. This is also a great add-on after parks, movies, markets, concerts, or a walk downtown.

More info: [Visit Boise restaurants and treats](#)

31. Plan a Food-Truck Night Around the Valley

FAMILY

DATE

FOOD

Why it's fun: Food trucks make it easy for everyone to choose something different while still eating together. The Treasure Valley has food truck parks, rotating vendor lineups, brewery stops, community events, and seasonal gatherings that can turn dinner into a casual outing.

Best for: Families, groups, casual date nights, food lovers, visitors, and anyone who likes relaxed outdoor dining.

Good to know: Check current food truck lineups before going because schedules can change. Green Acres in Boise is a good example of a seasonal outdoor food truck park with rotating local trucks, drinks, and live music.

More info: [Green Acres Food Truck Park official site](#)

32. Explore Boise's Basque Block and Basque Dining

DATE

FOOD

VISITORS

Why it's fun: Boise's Basque Block is one of the city's most distinctive cultural areas, with history, food, architecture, and a strong sense of local identity. It is a great place to walk, learn, eat, and introduce visitors to something uniquely Boise.

Best for: Couples, visitors, food lovers, history fans, downtown outings, and anyone looking for a local cultural experience.

Good to know: Pair a walk through the Basque Block with a meal, a visit to the Basque Museum, or a downtown Boise evening. Check hours for restaurants, shops, and museum stops before going.

More info: [The Basque Block official site](#)

33. Do a Coffee Shop Hop Through Boise, Meridian, and Eagle

DATE

FOOD

VISITORS

Why it's fun: A coffee shop hop is a simple, flexible way to explore the Valley without a big plan. Choose two or three local coffee spots, try a new drink or pastry, and use the outing as a casual date, work break, friend meetup, or low-key weekend adventure.

Best for: Couples, friends, solo outings, remote workers, visitors, and easy low-cost exploring.

Good to know: Pick a neighborhood or city for the day instead of trying to cover the whole Valley. Boise, Meridian, Eagle, and nearby towns all have local coffee stops worth discovering.

More info: [Visit Boise coffee guide](#)

Arts, Culture & Local History

7 perennial picks for museums, murals, performances, landmarks, and Boise-area heritage

This section is for the days when you want an outing with a little more depth - something creative, historic, educational, or uniquely local. These picks work well for visitors, date nights, family learning days, quiet afternoons, and anyone who wants to better understand the Treasure Valley.

34. Visit the Boise Art Museum

FAMILY

DATE

VISITORS

Why it's fun: The Boise Art Museum is a polished, easy-to-enjoy cultural stop in Julia Davis Park, with exhibitions, collections, educational programs, and a calm indoor setting that works well when you want something creative without needing a huge plan.

Best for: Art lovers, couples, families, visitors, solo outings, rainy days, smoky days, and quieter afternoons.

Good to know: Check current exhibitions and hours before you go. This pairs nicely with a walk through Julia Davis Park, Zoo Boise, the Greenbelt, or a downtown meal.

More info: [Boise Art Museum official site](#)

35. Explore the Idaho State Museum

FAMILY

VISITORS

CULTURE

Why it's fun: The Idaho State Museum gives locals and visitors a better feel for Idaho's history, places, people, and culture. It is a strong pick when you want an outing that is educational, indoors, and still interesting for different ages.

Best for: Families, visitors, history fans, homeschool outings, grandparents with grandkids, and anyone who wants to learn more about Idaho.

Good to know: Plan enough time to move through the exhibits without rushing. Since it is in Julia Davis Park, it can easily be combined with other nearby stops.

More info: [Idaho State Museum official site](#)

36. Tour the Old Idaho Penitentiary

VISITORS

CULTURE

Why it's fun: The Old Idaho Penitentiary is one of Boise's most memorable historic sites, with old cell blocks, stories from Idaho's past, and a setting that feels very different from a typical museum visit. It is part history lesson, part walking tour, and part local curiosity.

Best for: Older kids, teens, adults, history fans, visitors, photographers, and anyone who likes unusual local landmarks.

Good to know: Some areas may feel more intense for younger children, so use your judgment. Check tour options, hours, and special events before visiting.

More info: [Old Idaho Penitentiary official site](#)

37. Visit the Basque Museum and Cultural Center

DATE

VISITORS

CULTURE

Why it's fun: The Basque Museum and Cultural Center is a great way to understand one of Boise's most unique cultural stories. It adds context to the Basque Block and gives visitors a deeper appreciation for the people, food, festivals, and traditions that helped shape the area.

Best for: Visitors, couples, history lovers, cultural outings, downtown explorers, and anyone interested in Boise's Basque heritage.

Good to know: Pair this with a walk through the Basque Block or a nearby meal for a fuller experience. Check current hours and exhibits before you go.

More info: [Basque Museum and Cultural Center official site](#)

38. See a Performance by Opera Idaho, Ballet Idaho, or the Boise Philharmonic

DATE

VISITORS

Why it's fun: Live performing arts can turn an ordinary night into something special. Opera Idaho, Ballet Idaho, and the Boise Philharmonic all bring a more elevated cultural option to the Treasure Valley, whether you are planning a date night, a special occasion, or a memorable outing with guests.

Best for: Couples, music lovers, arts supporters, special occasions, visitors, and anyone wanting a more refined evening out.

Good to know: Look ahead at seasonal schedules and choose the experience that fits your group. Some performances are more formal, while others may be approachable for first-time attendees.

More info: [Opera Idaho](#) | [Ballet Idaho](#) | [Boise Philharmonic](#)

39. Tour the Boise Depot and Enjoy the View

FAMILY

DATE

VISITORS

Why it's fun: The Boise Depot is a classic local landmark with Spanish-style architecture, gardens, and one of the best elevated views of downtown Boise and the foothills. It is simple, scenic, and especially good when you want a quick local stop that still feels special.

Best for: Visitors, couples, photographers, families, history fans, and quick scenic outings.

Good to know: The grounds are often the main draw, but interior access and tours can vary. Check current public hours or event access before planning around an inside visit.

More info: [Boise Depot information](#)

40. Spend Time at Freak Alley Gallery

DATE

VISITORS

LOW COST

Why it's fun: Freak Alley Gallery is a colorful outdoor mural gallery in downtown Boise and a fun stop when you want something quick, creative, and very local. It is easy to pair with coffee, dinner, shopping, or a walk through downtown.

Best for: Visitors, teens, couples, photographers, art lovers, downtown strolls, and low-cost outings.

Good to know: Because it is outdoors and public, it is an easy drop-in stop. Go during daylight if you want the best photos and easiest viewing.

More info: [Freak Alley Gallery official site](#)

Seasonal Favorites & Local Traditions

7 perennial picks for fairs, festivals, holidays, pumpkins, lights, and classic local moments

This section is for the annual traditions and seasonal outings that give the Treasure Valley its rhythm - summer fairs, fall farms, holiday lights, hot air balloons, and community celebrations. Dates change each year, but these are the kinds of experiences worth watching for again and again.

41. Go to the Western Idaho Fair

FAMILY

SEASONAL

Why it's fun: The Western Idaho Fair is one of the Treasure Valley's classic late-summer traditions, with rides, fair food, animals, exhibits, concerts, competitions, and the kind of easy nostalgia that works for kids and adults.

Best for: Families, teens, kids, grandparents, fair-food fans, visiting relatives, and anyone who likes a big seasonal outing.

Good to know: Check dates, admission, parking, concerts, and daily promotions before you go. Fair days can be busy, so plan ahead if you are going with younger kids or a larger group.

More info: [Western Idaho Fair official site](#)

42. Visit Christmas in Color or a Local Holiday Light Display

FAMILY

DATE

HOLIDAY

Why it's fun: Holiday lights are one of the easiest ways to create a fun seasonal outing without overplanning. Drive-through displays, neighborhood lights, and community holiday events make it simple to turn an ordinary winter evening into something memorable.

Best for: Families, couples, kids, grandparents, holiday visitors, and low-effort winter fun.

Good to know: Holiday displays can change locations, dates, and ticket requirements from year to year, so always check the current season details before you go.

More info: [Christmas in Color Boise information](#)

43. Enjoy Winter Garden aGlow at the Idaho Botanical Garden

FAMILY

DATE

HOLIDAY

Why it's fun: Winter Garden aGlow turns the Idaho Botanical Garden into a bright holiday walking experience with thousands of lights, seasonal atmosphere, and a festive setting that feels different from everyday winter routines.

Best for: Families, couples, kids, visitors, holiday dates, and anyone who likes festive winter traditions.

Good to know: This is an outdoor evening event, so dress warmly and check ticket availability, entry times, and weather conditions before heading out.

More info: [Winter Garden aGlow official page](#)

44. Pick Pumpkins and Do a Fall Farm Visit

FAMILY

DATE

SEASONAL

Why it's fun: A fall farm visit is one of the simplest ways to enjoy the season. Pumpkin patches, corn mazes, hayrides, farm animals, cider, photo spots, and harvest activities make this an easy family or date outing when the weather starts to cool.

Best for: Families, kids, couples, fall photos, grandparents, visitors, and seasonal weekend fun.

Good to know: Farm activities are seasonal and weather-dependent. Check each farm's hours, ticketing, attractions, and age-friendly options before going.

More info: [Lowe Family Farmstead](#)

45. Go to Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic Events

FAMILY

DATE

VISITORS

Why it's fun: The Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic is one of the most visually memorable local traditions, with colorful hot air balloons rising over Boise and special events that make Labor Day weekend feel magical.

Best for: Families, photographers, visitors, couples, early risers, and anyone who loves a big local tradition.

Good to know: Balloon launches are highly weather-dependent. Go early, check the daily schedule, and watch official updates for launch status or changes.

More info: [Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic official site](#)

46. Watch Fourth of July Fireworks and Festivities

FAMILY

HOLIDAY

Why it's fun: Fourth of July celebrations across the Treasure Valley bring together fireworks, food, music, parades, community events, and classic summer-night energy. It is one of the easiest annual traditions to turn into a family outing or neighborhood gathering.

Best for: Families, kids, visiting relatives, friend groups, and anyone who likes community celebrations.

Good to know: Fireworks locations, times, parking rules, and event details can change each year. Check city event pages and local updates before making your plan.

More info: [City of Boise events calendar](#)

47. Plan Around the Canyon County Fair or Local Summer Festivals

FAMILY

SEASONAL

VISITORS

Why it's fun: Local summer fairs and festivals are a great way to explore beyond Boise and Meridian. The Canyon County Fair, city festivals, plaza events, rodeos, concerts, and community celebrations help make the Treasure Valley feel bigger, friendlier, and more connected.

Best for: Families, kids, teens, grandparents, west-valley residents, visitors, and anyone looking for classic summer fun.

Good to know: Use official calendars when planning because festival dates, times, ticketing, and entertainment schedules can change each year. If it is outdoors, check the weather too.

More info: [Canyon County Fair official site](#)

Quick, Easy & Low-Cost Fun

3 simple ideas to complete the 50-activity guide

This final section keeps things simple, flexible, and affordable. These last three ideas complete the 50-activity guide with easy outings you can repeat anytime.

48. Pack a Picnic for Julia Davis Park or Settlers Park

FAMILY

DATE

VISITORS

Why it's fun: A simple picnic can turn an ordinary afternoon into a real outing. Julia Davis Park in Boise gives you museums, the zoo, the Greenbelt, open space, and downtown access, while Settlers Park in Meridian is a strong family-friendly option with room to play and relax.

Best for: Families, couples, kids, grandparents, visitors, casual dates, and low-cost weekend fun.

Good to know: Keep it simple: sandwiches, drinks, a blanket, sunscreen, and maybe one nearby add-on like a playground, museum stop, walk, or dessert run afterward.

More info: [Julia Davis Park information](#) | [Settlers Park information](#)

49. Do a Treasure Valley Playground Tour

FAMILY

DATE

LOW COST

Why it's fun: A playground tour is a simple way to make a normal day feel like an adventure for younger kids. Pick two or three parks in Boise, Meridian, Eagle, Star, Nampa, or Caldwell and turn it into a mini road trip with snacks, music, and a treat stop at the end.

Best for: Families with young kids, grandparents with grandkids, playdates, free fun, and easy weekend mornings.

Good to know: Choose parks near each other so the outing stays fun instead of becoming too much driving. Check restrooms, shade, splash pads, and parking before choosing your stops.

More info: [Boise Parks and Recreation](#) | [Meridian Parks](#)

50. Take a Scenic Drive Through Eagle, Star, and Middleton

DATE

VISITORS

Why it's fun: Sometimes the outing is the drive itself. Eagle, Star, and Middleton offer a slower-paced Treasure Valley feel with open skies, farmland edges, neighborhoods, small-town stops, and chances to pair the drive with coffee, dessert, parks, or a local restaurant.

Best for: Couples, visitors, relaxed afternoons, grandparents, quiet dates, and anyone who wants to explore without a packed schedule.

Good to know: Pick one simple destination - coffee in Eagle, a park in Star, or dinner near Middleton - and let the drive become part of the experience.

More info: [Visit Eagle Idaho](#) | [City of Star Parks and Recreation](#)

Thanks for reading

Enjoy this guide, save it for later, and use it whenever you need a fresh idea for getting out around the Treasure Valley.

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