

# THE EMPTY NESTERS' GUIDE TO ROAD-TRIPPING THROUGH IDAHO

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On a Northwest road trip, happenstance routes us happily through Twin Falls, where dinner at Elevation 486 had been adamantly recommended.

We veer off Interstate 84, and after a few miles of flat terrain, the earth opens to reveal the amazing Snake River Canyon. A unique restaurant, Elevation 486, sits at the canyon's edge, and its patio offers a stupendous view of the river dividing two pristine golf courses 486-feet below.

The food, especially the fresh trout, is equally fantastic; Idaho is not just about taters, after all. At sunrise, we drive to Shoshone Falls where the sun is shining and a rainbow arches over the wide, raging waterfall, awakening us to Idaho's natural beauty. Sensing that Twin Falls is a mere morsel on Idaho's plate, we're hungry for more and detour to Boise for a waterfront lunch.

After enjoying juicy burgers with live music at The Sandbar Patio Bar and Grill, we walk along the Boise River Greenbelt and witness surfers maneuvering the wave at Boise Whitewater Park and paddleboarders navigating Quinn's Pond. The Capital City Public Market is suggested to us, so we zip downtown, passing the impressively domed and pillared Idaho State Capitol (partially eclipsed by a pedal-powered bike bar). In an hour, we absorb the super city vibe before returning to our original route.

We continue on our northwest road trip and find ourselves in northern Idaho at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. Poised 17 stories high and towering over Lake Coeur d'Alene, a deluxe-view room with a private balcony feels like a honeymoon suite where couples may preside over the marina and their lake subjects below. Shuttle boats ferry guests to the beach club or the golf dock for 18 extraordinary holes, including the famous Floating Green. Eleven dining venues deliver foodie delights with lake views. Calories and hearts melt while hiking the adjacent Tubbs Hill, brimming with wildflowers and varied lake perspectives.

Coeur d'Alene is a natural launch pad for daytrips, such as jet boating in Hells Canyon near Lewiston. Take a wild and scenic ride on the Snake River with views of big-horn sheep grazing the rocky mountainsides and eagles,



*Coeur d'Alene Resort*



*Bison Ranch Tour*