



THE GREATER SANDPOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
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## SANDPOINT QUICK FACTS

### **Orientation**

The City of Sandpoint is situated on the northern shore of Lake Pend Oreille (pronounced Ponduh-ray) and nestled against the foothills of the Selkirks. It is located in the middle of the northern panhandle of Idaho, 60 miles south of the Canadian border. The city is accessed from the south by the scenic Long Bridge which crosses the lake at the point that it becomes the Pend Oreille River.

### **Climate**

Sandpoint has a moderate 4 season climate. Few days reach subzero temperatures and likewise, few days reach over 90 degrees in the summer. Most of the precipitation occurs in the winter. The City of Sandpoint receives about 33 “ of precipitation annually. The mountains receive 300” of snow on average. Summers are drier with weeks of sunny days in a row.

### **Economy**

The city was founded as a timber community in the 1800’s. As the timber industry winds down, tourism has become a stronger driving force in Sandpoint with the lake, the mountain and many outdoor options. The Greater Sandpoint Area is home to a surprisingly diverse light manufacturing and retail base with notables such as Coldwater Creek, Litehouse Salad Dressings, Unicep Packaging, Encoder Products and Riley Creek Lumber.

### **Distance to Sandpoint from these cities**

Boise, ID.: 450 miles

Coeur d’Alene, ID.: 45 miles

Portland, OR.: 400 miles

Butte, MT.: 340 miles

Spokane, WA.: 80 miles

Calgary, Alberta.: 425 miles

Seattle, WA.: 350 miles

Missoula, MT.: 200 miles

Glacier National Park, MT.: 225 miles

- more -



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## The Lake

Lake Pend Oreille has 111 miles of shoreline, is one the largest freshwater lakes in the Pacific Northwest and the fifth deepest in the nation. The lake is 1172 feet deep with many scenic coves. It is 43 miles in length and 6.25 miles at its widest point. Lake Pend Oreille is home to a U.S. Navy submarine acoustic testing base because of the depth and silence of its southern waters.

Legend has it that it was named for a local Indian tribe which the French Canadian fur trappers called Pend oreilles because of the pendants they wore in their ear lobes. Others contend the lake was named as such because it is shaped like an ear with a long ear lobe.

A truly varied fishery exists with trophy trout taken in Kamloops Rainbow, Mackinaw and the protected Bull Trout, plus, Small and Large Mouth Bass and Cutthroat.

Like the Loch Ness monster in Scotland, legend has it that we have our own water monster in the lake, named the Pend Oreille Paddler. Some say those sightings were actually of giant sturgeon that reached 12 feet in length but that has never been confirmed.

The south end of the lake is bordered by steep cliffs. The north end rises gradually to the Selkirk Mountains. A remarkable lake in every sense, one particularly outstanding feature is most of the southern half of the lake is bordered by National Forest, preserving public access and scenery for perpetuity.

## Three Mountain Ranges

The Cabinets are to the east in Montana, the Selkirks extend to the north into Canada and the Coeur d'Alenes are to the south.

**Idaho Panhandle National Forests:** National Forests comprise 470,000 acres of Bonner County, more than the combined total of all private land ownership in the county. These forests are integrated into the daily lives of local residents and visitors alike through endless recreational opportunities, as well as being a main ingredient in the visual landscape around us.

**Elevation:** 2070 feet

**Population:** 7167

**Time Zone:** Pacific

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