



THE GREATER SANDPOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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SUMMER AND WINTER RECREATION

SUMMER

Golf

With no shortage of golf in the greater Sandpoint area, golfers will find scenic beauty and challenging golf courses. Hidden Lakes and StoneRidge are both part of the Idaho Golf Trail, a vacation package that includes 6 golf courses connected by scenic byways.

Hidden Lakes Golf Resort: Open to the public. 8 miles east of Sandpoint. This par 71 course has water features on 17 of the 18 holes. The golf course is recognized as the most scenic in the northwest and was rated the most challenging course in Idaho, Montana and Eastern Washington by the Pacific Northwest Golf Association in 2001. A new spectacular log clubhouse, restaurant, lounge and golf shop occupy 17,000 square feet beside the Pack River. Open March to November.

Mirror Lake Golf Course: A 9-hole golf course 9 miles south of Bonners Ferry. Known for its scenic, natural setting. Open to the public.

Elks Golf Course: Located in Sandpoint, the course is well groomed and reasonably priced. Open to the public.

StoneRidge Golf and Recreational Community: A 650-acre community with a nineteen hole championship golf course set amidst the natural beauty of Northern Idaho. This par 71 course offers just enough water hazards and white sand bunkers to keep golfers on their toes. Open to the public.

Mountain biking

Sandpoint is known for its outstanding mountain biking from easy to expert. Our National Forests offer a myriad of mountain biking experiences. From the Pend Oreille Scenic Byway (SH 200), one can reach a variety of terrain and trails, either north of the lake or above the Green Monarchs looking west. From the Bottle Bay Road, one can bike the very scenic Gold Hill trail, and from the Sagle Road, one can bike the Mineral Point trail beyond Garfield Bay. Trail maps are available from the Ranger Station in Sandpoint.

Schweitzer Mountain hosts the NORBA National Mountain Bike Championships each summer, bringing the top pros in the world to the area and almost 2000 competitors in all. A full network of trails awaits you at Schweitzer with lift served downhill riding and 30 miles of cross country single track.

- more -

WWW.SANDPOINTCHAMBER.COM OR WWW.SANDPOINTONLINE.COM





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Priest Lake offers easy single track trail that rolls around the shoreline and the forest. The trail north of the lake is intermediate to expert level.

All About Adventures offers single- and multi-day mountain bike tours in the region. The Green Owl Rendezvous is a single day ride that starts at the top of Schweitzer Mountain and descends scenic forest service roads to the Green Owl Tavern outside of Priest River.

Road biking

Ride across The Long Bridge, turn left on Bottle Bay Rd. and ride out to Bottle Bay. Grab lunch at the Bottle Bay Resort and ride back or continue on to Sagle Road and turn right. Follow for 10 miles and turn right onto Hwy. 95, and take the bike path back across the bridge and into town.

Hiking

Hiking trails abound in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. One can choose between the Selkirks, the Cabinets or the Monarchs for easy day hikes from Sandpoint. Details and hiking information can be found at: www.fs.fed.us/ipnf

The Sandpoint Ranger District: has trail maps and other outdoor information. Trails access the southern portion of the Selkirks, some of the more popular hikes being the Roman Nose or Chimney Rock trails. 208.263.5111.

Bonnors Ferry Ranger District: has over 300 miles of well maintained hiking trails. Trails access the southern portion of the Selkirk Mountains and numerous alpine lakes and wildlife habitat. 208.267.5561.

Kootenai Wildlife Refuge: A wetland area that was formed as a refuge in 1965 from the revenues of Ducks Unlimited Stamps. 2774 acres of wetlands are home and resting place to migratory waterfowl such as tundra swans, American widgeons, osprey, bald eagles, northern harrier and red-tailed hawks. Located outside of Bonnors Ferry. 208.267.3888.

Priest Lake Ranger District: Easy shoreline excursions, to deep scenic cedar forests and panoramic vistas of the Selkirks and Priest Lake. 208.443.2512

Lake sports

The lake is truly spectacular. The water temperature ranges from 70 to 74 degrees in the summer making it perfect for a refreshing plunge on the hottest of days. Most of the shoreline is public, making the scenery pristine and the lake uncrowded.

Sandpoint is the largest community on the lake. Other communities include Hope, Trestle Creek, Clark Fork, Bayview, Garfield Bay, Lakeview and Bottle Bay. Explore these communities, their resorts, public boat launches, marinas and scenic parks.





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Public Beach: Spend the day at **City Beach**, just blocks from downtown Sandpoint. Lifeguards are on duty during the summer months, and the park provides a beautiful spot to take a stroll or play on the playground.

Motor boat rentals: are available in Sandpoint and Hope. **Hidden Lakes Watersports** near Hope offers seadoos, pedal boats and ocean kayaks. **Sandpoint Marina** has boats and personal watercraft for rental. The lake's protected coves provide excellent wakeboarding and water-skiing.

Public boat launches: Lakeview and City Beach in Sandpoint, Garfield Bay, Trestle Creek, Hope, Johnson Creek, Sam Owen Campground and Bayview.

Canoe and Kayak: Two of the most popular paddling spots are the Pack River Delta and Clark Fork River Delta, both reached from the Pend Oreille Scenic Byway. Kayak rentals are available through **Full Spectrum Tours** in Sandpoint. They can make great suggestions for your excursion, or if you prefer, they also offer guided tours for the day or overnight trips as well. **Hidden Lakes Watersports**, located on the Pack River between Sandpoint and Hope, rents kayaks. An ideal location to go paddle the Clark Fork Delta.

Sail: Lake Pend Oreille is ideal for sailing thanks to its stunning scenery and prevailing southwesterly winds. Bayview is a sailing mecca. The Sandpoint Sailing Association hosts weekly regattas and social competitions. Rentals available at **Windbag Marina** in Sandpoint.

Lake cruises: Enjoy a scenic and peaceful cruise on the lake with **Lake Pend Oreille Cruises** on The Shawnodese, a classic new vessel with grand old style, built by the Captain himself. The first mate, and wife to the captain, is your tour guide. She informs passengers on the natural and geologic history of the area. Tours are available in the spring, summer and fall, for daily cruises or private charters, also, weekly dinner cruises and sunset dessert cruises. For a unique tour experience, take the **Delirious Duck Tour** which leaves from Monarch Mountain Motel. The duck is an amphibious vehicle that starts with a land tour of Sandpoint and drives straight into the lake at City Beach for a lake tour.

Fishing and fishing charters: Whether you want to troll from your own boat, cast from a public shoreline, charter a vessel, fish from a pier or hike into a mountain lake, there is fishing around the area for almost everyone. Lake Pend Oreille is home to rainbow, mackinaw and bull trout, small and large mouth bass, perch, crappie, bluegill and cutthroat trout. The world record Kamloops (a rainbow trout), was caught in 1947, a whopping 37 pounds! Fishing charters are available through **Diamond Charters** and **Eagle Charters** and from the docks in Hope and Garfield Bay.





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Horseback riding

There are many beautiful trails in the area on which to ride your own horses. The US Forest Service office in Sandpoint has a map of the scenic, peaceful trails that wind through mature forest and across open meadows. Horse trail riding tours are available through **Mountain Horse Adventures** on Schweitzer's designated horse trails or through **Idaho Outdoor Experience** on forest service trails. **Western Pleasure Guest Ranch** and other outfitters offer scenic horse trail rides in the area.

Hunting

The state's best white tail and mule deer as well as prize elk herds can be found in the area along with other big game, waterfowl, and upland game. Open to both rifle and bow hunters. A limited number of black bear and moose permits are allowed. There are also wild turkey and three species of grouse. Duck and goose hunting are prime in the Kootenai Valley. **Kootenai Wildlife Refuge** issues a limited number of licenses for waterfowl.

Silverwood Theme Park

Located 30 miles south of Sandpoint, Silverwood is modeled after a turn of the century Victorian Town complete with a steam train, traditional amusement park rides, shows, an antique aircraft museum and games of skill. The park boasts 3 big-time roller coasters including two world famous wooden coasters. Boulder Beach is the only water park of its kind in the Northwest and offers a smorgasbord of chills for the whole family with four monster water slides, a gigantic wave pool and all-new high-speed body slides. The body slides are just you, the water, pitch darkness, 62 foot vertical drops and speeds up to 50 m.p.h..

Schweitzer Mountain

Take the scenic 11 mile drive up to Schweitzer Mountain for scenic chairlift rides, spectacular lake views and great mountain biking and hiking. The mountain village at 4700 feet, has lodging at the White Pine and Selkirk Lodges, restaurants including a fine dining restaurant, **The Chimney Rock Grill**, and shops. www.schweitzer.com

Walk or Bike The Long Bridge

A Sandpoint landmark, the Long Bridge has been welcoming residents home and tourists to the town since 1910 when the first of 4 bridges was completed. Then, it was considered the longest wooden bridge in the world connecting Sagle, Idaho to Sandpoint, Idaho at the north end of the lake. Twenty four years later, a new and safer wooden bridge was constructed in its place. The third bridge was a concrete and steel structure that is still standing and now used as a pedestrian and bike bridge. It runs right alongside the 4th and current Long Bridge. The bridge is still as magical as it was in the early 20th century. Tourists and residents alike are often awestruck when they drive onto the bridge and see the expanse of mountains, lake and Sandpoint just on the other side.





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Wildlife viewing

On the lake, visitors will frequently spot swans, geese, ducks, loons, and great blue heron. In the sky, osprey, bald eagle and a variety of hawks make their habitat in the area. In the forest, find moose, black bear, grizzly bear, elk and caribou.

WINTER

Skiing/snowboarding

Schweitzer Mountain overlooks the town of Sandpoint and Lake Pend Oreille. The resort boasts 2500 acres of skiing terrain and a vertical drop of 2400 feet with 62 designated runs and 300 inches of annual snowfall. It is famous for its massive bowls, gladed terrain and its down-home friendly atmosphere. The mountain village (4700 ft.) at the base area is an 11 mile drive from downtown Sandpoint and features lodging, restaurants, shops, rental shops and ski school. Schweitzer is also open in the summer for scenic chairlift rides, prime mountain biking and hiking.

Back country skiing

There are limitless options for back country skiing in the Idaho Panhandle National Forest (the southern Selkirk Mountains). **The Selkirk Powder Company** operates at the top of **Schweitzer Mountain**. Sherpa cat skiing accesses thousands of acres of untouched powder on the backside of Schweitzer. The **Caribou Mountain Lodge** offers accessible and affordable back country lodging accommodations for the self guided, self catered back country skiers. The lodge is solar and wind powered, offering flush toilets and hot showers as well as a wood fired sauna.

Nordic skiing

Schweitzer Mountain offers over 25 kilometers of groomed and ungroomed trails. Ski rentals and lessons are available. **Farragut State Park**, south of Sandpoint, has 7.5 miles of groomed trails, weather dependent. **Priest Lake** is 1 1/2 hours from Sandpoint with 12 miles of groomed trails of variable levels. **Round Lake State Park**, 10 miles south of Sandpoint, has an easy 3 mile trail around Round Lake.

Snowmobiling

North Idaho has, arguably, some of the best snowmobiling in the country. **Priest Lake** offers more than 400 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Eastern Bonner County has an extensive network of groomed trails in the Trestle Creek drainage and across the Clark Fork River into the Green Monarchs area. The **Selkirk Powder Company** offers guided snowmobile tours off the summit of Schweitzer into the Selkirk Mountains. The **Sandpoint Winter Riders** organizes group trips in the area and posts information on groomed trails. www.idahosnowbiz.com/winterriders.shtml.

Snowshoe Hiking

Snowshoe hiking is available on the designated trails at **Schweitzer** and any forest service trails in the **Idaho Panhandle National Forest**. www.fs.fed.us/ipnf

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