

# Attractions

## ARCO

(see the Lost River Valleys)

## CHALLIS

**Challis**, Idaho, nestled in the heart of the Frank Church Wilderness, the largest wilderness area in the lower 48 states offers endless opportunities for fun and adventures. Kick off your summer with the Challis Mountain Lilac Festival. Starting Memorial Day Weekend and continues thorough out the month of June the Festival includes several spectacular events, such as the Challis Arts Festival, gallery exhibits, outdoor concerts, the cowboy poetry reading & wine tasting, golf and bowling tournaments, a horse show & rodeo roping and the Show & Shine car show. There is something for everyone.

High summer means the shooting the heart stopping rapids on the River of No Return and hiking, biking or ATV'ing on mountain trails in the surrounding high desert & forest.

If your idea of high adventure involves a round of golf and a cold beverage, you are in luck. You can enjoy both at the mile high course with site of the spectacular russet and buff colored slopes of the Lost River Range. You can immerse yourself in the rich mining history of the area by visiting the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center or North Custer Museum.

Then relive history by exploring along the old mule train supply route, the Custer Motorway, and a visit to the old ghost towns of Custer and Bonanza.

Chilly nights and cool mornings signal the coming of fall in the mountains of Central Idaho and **Challis** offers visitors both adventure and tranquility. Book a trip with one of the local outfitters to hunt or fish. On the other hand, simply relax and unwind by taking a soak in the hot springs and admire the beauty that surrounds you. As fall fades into winter, pack up your snowshoes and skis, or hop on your snowmobile and enjoy pristine winter landscape. Bald eagles perched in the cottonwoods along the Salmon River are a sure sign of spring. It is the best opportunity to catch the steelhead swimming upriver. Enter your catch in the annual derby and win cash, a chance at a drift boat and dance and stomp at the annual Steelhead Ball.

No matter what time of year you choose to visit, settle in at one of the many types of lodging accommodations available in our area. **Challis** hosts motels, unique bed & breakfast and inns, campgrounds and RV parks. Relax and dine at a local restaurant and meander up Main Street to browse through gift shops and the art gallery



Salmon River near Challis

(photo courtesy Challis Area Chamber of Commerce)

to find that special something to remember time spent in the Wild West. The residents of **Challis** invite you to make their town your vacation destination. Enjoy small town friendliness in the foothills of heaven. For more information visit our website: [www.challischamber.com](http://www.challischamber.com) or call us at (208) 879-2672.

VISIT SCENIC IDAHO!

## CLAYTON

**Clayton**, Idaho is a historic mining town, once owned by Henry Ford, that still remains today. Although not much business remains there today, with a town of 26 people, it has a outstanding museum. A group of about 10 local citizens got together with the desire to preserve, protect, promote, and interpret the local history. They organized the Clayton Area Historical Association, purchased the abandoned old Mercantile building, built in 1880, added it to the National Register of Historic Places, and began restoration for a museum. They have limited funds and use

donations, memberships, and grants to achieve their goals and a great amount of personal labor. It continues to expand with love!

## HISTORY

In 1880 J. E. Clayton, who was a mining engineer from Atlanta, Idaho, chose this location for the mining smelter. Financial backing came from the Idaho Mining and Smelter Company of Omaha, and production began that year. Ore from Bayhorse and the 35 claims along Kinnikinnic Creek were processed here. Some of these claims produced ore that contained 700 ounces to the ton.

The ore was produced during the winter months because 2,000 degrees was required to process it. Ore from Poverty Flat and Germania was also processed here. The Clayton Silver Mine was southern Idaho's leading producer of silver. Despite a 1983 earthquake which opened an underground river that flooded the mine, production continued. Declining silver prices brought an end to this mine.

With the completion of the

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*The Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store  
(photo courtesy The Clayton Area Historical Association)*

smelter and company store, the town grew. The area's mines brought people from Italy, England, China and other parts of the world to **Clayton**. The town had its own brewery. Ice was cut from the smelter hole and stored in the ice house to provide cold beer during the summer months. The horse economy of the day required black-smiths, mule packers, freighters, wheel makers, and ranchers to support it. Miners required food for themselves and their animals. Ranchers provided those essential needs. Housing, hotels, & cafes were a necessary component of mining, so saw mills and the timber industry sprung up to meet their building needs.

The Idaho Mining and Smelter Company sold its interests in the area's production to the Ford Mo-

tor Company in 1926. The Ford Company was also mining the lead which is found along with silver, for its car batteries. The Ford Company consolidated mining claims in the area and continued operations here until 1946 when it sold its claims to the Clayton Silver Mine.

**FAIRFIELD**

**Fairfield** is located at the base of the pristine Soldier Mountain Range. Prior to the settlement of Camas County, the Bannock Indians used the Prairie as their summer camping area.

Here they gathered the Camas and Yampus roots and hunted wild game.

Historically, the town of Soldier, located two miles north of **Fairfield** was a bustling center of commerce, culture and social activity.

The arrival of the Oregon Short Line Railroad in 1911 brought the decline of Soldier.

Some of the buildings were moved and the city of **Fairfield** began to grow.

Several historic buildings still remain standing from the 1882 era that boomed with sheepherders, cattlemen, ranchers, miners and local town folk.

Today, **Fairfield** attracts recreation enthusiasts to golf, ski, snowmobile and enjoy the forest trails by horseback, hiking, biking, camping and off-road travel. **Fairfield** is only a few minutes from Mormon Reservoir and Magic Reservoir, both excellent locations to boat and fish.

The Centennial Marsh Wildlife Refuge is home to numerous birds species and is a popular attraction to bird-watchers. In mid to late spring, the marsh and many other parts of the Prairie become a bluish purple sea of Camas Lilies.

Remember, the first weekend of August is the annual Camas County 4-H Fair. Year-round, **Fairfield**, Idaho, has something to offer. Visit the Caboose for more interesting information about Camas County.

**HAILEY**

*Located on U.S. Hwy. 75, South of Sun Valley.*

**Hailey** is host to tens of thousands of skiers, business people and vacationers annually. The unique community of **Hailey**, only 12 miles from world famous Sun Valley Ski Resort is an outdoor recreation mecca.

Discover your own fishing hole on the Big Wood River. Enjoy an active day of hiking or bicycling on 30 miles of paved bike path. Treat yourself to one of **Hailey's** fine restaurants or exciting night spots. Rest comfortably at a bed and breakfast, hotel or motel before beginning the next day's adventures.

**THE LOST RIVER VALLEYS**

*Covering Arco, Mackay, Howe, Moore, Darlington and Leslie.*

Visiting the **Lost River Valleys** is an educational and entertaining journey. Lost Rivers history started with the Shoshone Indians who traveled the lava beds of what is now Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, and the **Lost River Valley** as part of their annual

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**Camas County Chamber Of Commerce**

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