

Hot Springs Tour

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BEAR RIVER HERITAGE AREA

Blessed by Water, Worked by Hand

Geothermal activity is evident throughout the Bear River Heritage Area. Natural hot springs were discovered by Shoshone-Bannock Indian tribes and used during their seasonal travels. Modernly, hot springs were developed into commercial operations. Facilities are listed by number as they appear on the back page map. Hours of operation are subject to change, so please call the number given or check Facebook for additional information.

HOT SPRINGS TOUR STOPS — See Corresponding Map (back)

HOT SPRINGS

❶ **Bear Lake Hot Springs**

Bear Lake Hot Springs is located in Idaho, on the beach at the northeast end of Bear Lake. Beach access is available with a pass for day use, picnicking, boating and swimming. Overnight camping sites include a day pass to the beach. A dressing room and showers adjoin the hot mineral pool. Travel US Hwy 89 to St. Charles, ID and head east seven miles on North Beach Road; or take the long route around the entire lake starting in Garden City, traveling south to north along Hwy 30 to North Cisco/East Shore Road.

Location: 6668 North Beach Road
(7 Miles East of St. Charles, ID)

Hours of Operation: Open 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.,
Memorial Day to Labor Day

Information: 208.945.4545
www.bearlakehotsprings.net

❸ **Cub River Canyon Guest Ranch**

Cub River Canyon Guest Ranch is located at the site of Watercress Springs. Watercress Springs is technically not a hot spring, but instead is a “warm spring”. The Shoshone Indians, while traveling back and forth from their summer hunting grounds in Wyoming to their winter camps near the hot water springs on the Bear River northwest of Preston, would stop and camp here. The Hull family established a 620-acre ranch in the early 1900s and the Murdocks have converted the property to year-round recreation facilities which includes the warm water pool.

Location: 1942 North Deer Cliff Road, (about 9 miles up Cub River Canyon, south of the town of Preston, ID)
Information: 208.852.2124
www.cubriverguestranch.com

❹ **Downata Hot Springs**

Natural hot water flows year round through the large swimming pool and hot tub at Downata Hot Springs. The Marshall family bought the ranch in 1907 and built the first pool. The warm water was often used for Mormon baptisms. The Marshalls joined forces with the Evans family and worked through the winter of 1929 to build the resort. Since then the resort has been operated by many families and has recently been upgraded. The clubhouse provides changing rooms and lockers plus a café and game room. A zero depth water playground with water toys is popular with children. Two large hydro tubes provide fun for all ages. The resort accommodates overnighters at a campground with RV hookups, tent sites and teepees. Cabins and yurts available.

Location: 25900 South Downata Road, Downey, ID
(3 ½ miles southeast of Downey on US Hwy 91.)

Hours of Operation: Year round, with different summer and winter hours. Fridays and Saturdays in winter, other off-peak hours by reservation. Open New Year's Eve.

Information: 208.897.5736
www.downatahotsprings.com

❷ **Crystal Hot Springs**

Crystal Hot springs is 13 miles north of Brigham City in the town of Honeyville. The springs were used as a winter campsite by the Shoshone Indians. Then as the Transcontinental Railroad was being built, Chinese workers found the springs and built cedar tubs to capture the waters and provide soothing mineral baths. The first commercial development of the springs was in 1901. The popular resort now features modern attractions such as a water slide, in addition to its traditional soaking pools. Camping facilities are available with and without full hook ups.

Location: 8212 North Highway 38, Honeyville, UT

Hours of Operation: Open seven days a week year round, with shorter hours in winter. Summer hours begin Memorial Day and go through Labor Day. Call for current hours of operation.

Information: 435.279.8104; www.crystalhotsprings.net



Riverdale Hot Springs – Preston, ID



Crystal Hot Springs – Honeyville, UT



Downata Hot Springs – Downey, ID



Maple Grove Hot Springs – Thatcher, ID

HOT SPRINGS TOUR STOPS

Find us on Facebook 

LAVA HOT SPRINGS

Lava Hot Springs is a community rich in western history. The abundance of natural resources in the region such as the odor-free mineral hot springs, plentiful wildlife, and water supplies attracted Shoshone-Bannock Indian tribes who welcomed the opportunity to bathe, rest and worship in an area regarded by all as neutral territory. Westward exploration and expansion brought mountain men, trappers, traders, the Oregon Trail and pioneers to the region. The coming of the railroads provided convenient transportation to the general public and Lava Hot Springs developed into a "health and recreation" area. Ask about massage and other healing modalities at Lava Hot Springs lodging sites.

5 Lava Hot Springs Public Hot Pools

Location: 430 East Main, Lava Hot Springs, ID

Hours of Operation: Open seven days a week year round, with shorter winter hours. Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, open Christmas Eve. Call for current hours of operation.

Information: 208.776.5221
www.lavahotsprings.com

Other sites that offer hot water amenities: Lava Hot Springs Inn with public hot pools, B&B, 208.776.5830; Aura Soma Lava with private hot pool, retreat center, some rooms with private hot tubs, 208.776.5800; The Historic Home Hotel with hot springs bathtubs in most rooms, outdoor hot tub, 208.776.5050.

6 Riverdale Hot Springs

Riverdale Resort features a large outdoor swimming pool and therapeutic hot tub fed by natural hot mineral water. A hydro tube pool and children's pool make this a good family outing. Snack bar, lockers and changing rooms. Overnight lodging available in motel rooms, cabins, RV hookups and tent camping.

Location: 3696 North 1600 East, Preston, ID
Five miles north of Preston, turn west at the intersection of State Hwy 34/36.

Hours of Operation: Monday thru Saturday, year-round. Shorter hours in winter. Closed Sundays.

Information: 208.852.0266
www.riverdaleresort.com

7 Maple Grove Mineral Hot Springs

In the early 1900s a wood-sided pool was built by the Hopkins family, the original homesteaders of this property. The pool has been updated over the years and is still in use today. The Hopkins allowed people to camp and soak, some people even bought meals at the family table. Unfortunately, at the time white people would not share a pool with Indians so the Hopkins dug another pool for them. Each summer Shoshone-Bannock tribe members came from Fort Hall to fish, hunt and soak.

Best known as Hopkins Hot Springs, but under several different owners, the springs were operated commercially until the 1960s. In 1945 the name was changed to Maple Grove Hot Springs. In 1999 new owners purchased the springs and restored the facilities, including crafting three beautiful stone pools that immediately overlook the Bear River. The current owners continue to improve the site.

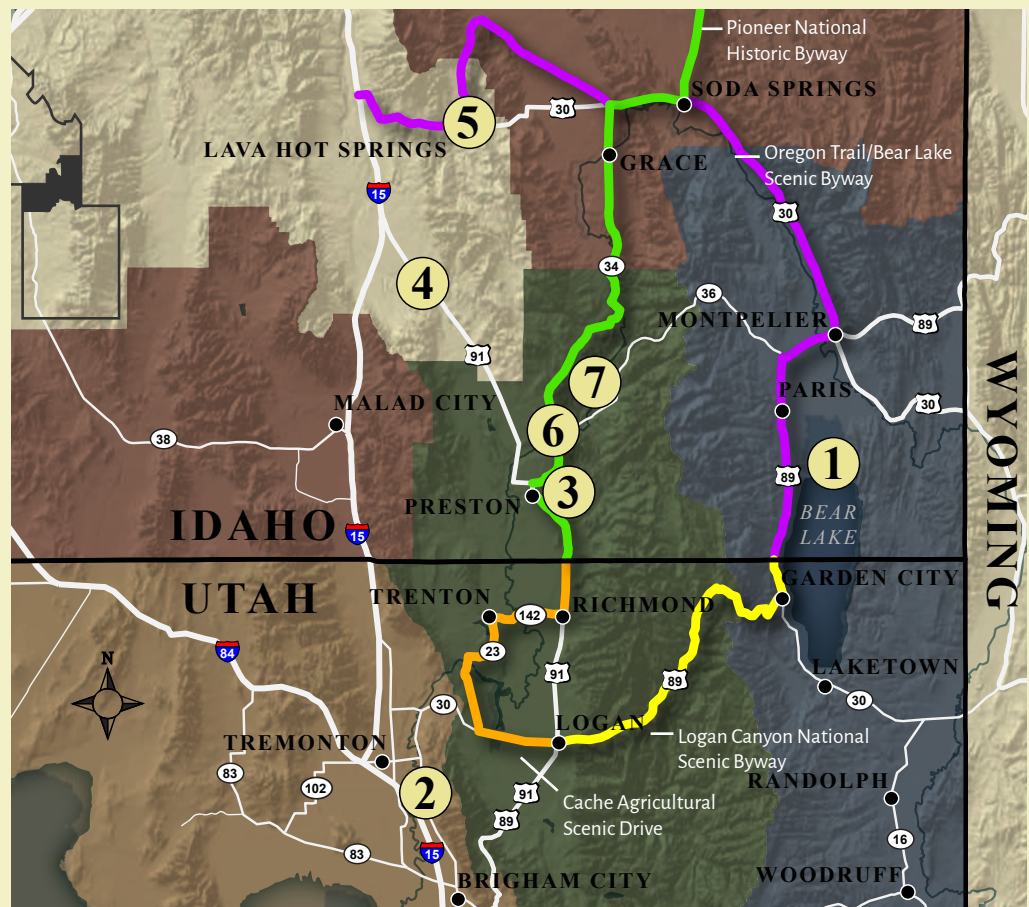
This stretch of the river is home to various songbirds, birds of prey, upland and water fowl including Trumpeter Swan, Wild Turkey, Eagle, Osprey, and Pelicans in various seasons.

Location: 11386 N. Oneida Narrows Road, Thatcher, ID (21 miles northeast of Preston, ID or 15 miles south of Grace, ID.) From State Hwy 34, at the bridge over the Bear River, turn east at 13800 N. Road, take an immediate right and travel four miles along the river to the hot springs. In summer, from Hwy 36, access the hot springs from Maple Grove Hot Springs Road near Mink Creek, ID. See website map for detailed directions.

Hours of Operation: 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. daily, year-round. Call for information about pool cleaning days which may affect hours.

Information: 208.851.2126
www.maplegrovesprings.com

Facilities include shower rooms and a kitchen for patron use. Campsites, yurts and other lodging available. Call for reservations.



SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:



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Bear Lake Convention & Visitors Bureau
Garden City, Utah 435.946.2197
www.bearlake.org

Bear River Association of Governments
Logan, Utah 435.752.7242
www.brag.utah.gov

Box Elder County Tourism
Brigham City, Utah 435.734.3315
www.boxeldercounty.org/visiting.htm

Cache Valley Visitors Bureau
Logan, Utah 435.755.1890
www.explorelogan.com



Southeast Idaho High Country
888.201.1063
www.idahohighcountry.org

For more information or to comment on this tour, contact 435.713.1426 or lisad@brag.utah.gov

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