

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a valley. The river is dark blue and flows from the upper left towards the lower right. The banks are lined with trees in vibrant autumn colors of orange, red, and yellow. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Alaska Airlines

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Horizon EDITION

Inviting Idaho

Outstanding recreation in the Gem State

lodgings, the stylish, boutique Hotel 43, for an afternoon tour of three of the breweries on the trail: Highlands Hollow Brewhouse, 10 Barrel Brewing Co. and Crooked Fence Brewing. For visitors without local family and friends to do the driving, Stacy suggests touring via ReCab, whose taxis run on recycled frying oil. The cost of touring the above three breweries by cab would likely start at about \$30 before tips.

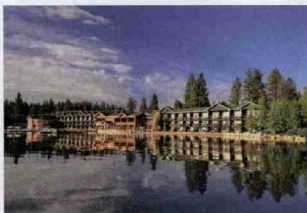
The first stop on our tour, Highlands Hollow, is about two miles from Hotel 43 and on the road to Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, which makes the brewery a popular refreshment spot for skiers, cyclists and hikers. Old ski lift chairs adorn the outside entrance, while inside, an open fireplace and high ceilings framed by exposed timbers give "The Hollow" an après-ski feel. We were greeted by brewmaster Chris Compton, who offered a sampling of pours, including the signature Hippy Shake, whose full-bodied, big-hop flavor made me an instant fan.

Now Camie and I are sharing a chicken Caesar salad as we enjoy the Spoon Tongue light ale (named for the original master brewer's dog, which had a long, spoon-shaped tongue), and the sweet and malty Lone Pine golden ale.

We'd love to linger, but it's time to get our passports stamped and head to our next stop. Getting a stamp from each brewery in the Boise Ale Trail program will let us benefit from special offers.

Our next stop is 10 Barrel, a roomy space with exposed industrial ductwork. A collection of gleaming aluminum brewing barrels serves as a centerpiece for the large room.

The brewery's name stems from its founding with a 10-barrel system—which produces about 1,000 barrels a year, or about 4,770 pints a week.



Shore Lodge/McCall: The historic, recently remodeled Shore Lodge on Payette Lake, in the fun-filled mountain town of McCall, is just 110 miles north of Boise. Amenities at Shore Lodge include a spa, a fitness center, a movie theater, fine dining, a marina, a private beach, a year-round outdoor pool and hot tub, and access to the Whitetail Club golf course. The resort also provides complimentary shuttle service to Brundage Mountain Resort. The scenic McCall area offers recreation such as winter downhill skiing (at three ski areas), Nordic skiing, snowshoeing and tubing, and spring-to-fall kayaking, boating, bicycling, golfing and hiking.

Those barrels feature more than 20 varieties. My favorite turns out to be the Sinistor Black Ale, one of the brewery's flagships. Its deep-black color looks intimidating, but the ale is surprisingly light, with delicious chocolate notes and a smooth finish.

We end our tour at the Crooked Fence Brewing Co. Barrelhouse in the Boise suburb of Garden City. Crooked Fence cans some of its beers, because cans act like miniature kegs, keeping beer fresh longer than bottles, and cans are more portable and less expensive than glass bottles, says Marketing Director Kelly Knopp.

The decor at Crooked Fence is comfortable Old West rustic, and the brews come in options ranging from Aviator Raspberry Blonde to Sins of Our Fathers Imperial Stout. We like both varieties, and also find the delicious, crisp Rusty Nail Pale Ale—which has essences of citrus and caramel—to be a memorable brew.

After a great afternoon of beer tasting, we look forward to a future visit to Boise to get our passports stamped at the other six breweries—maybe as soon as this January, when we can also take a winter-wonderland stroll of the Boise River Greenbelt trail and watch the Broadway in Boise presentation of *Camelot* at Boise State University's Velma V. Morrison Center for the Performing Arts. Broadway in Boise sponsors include Alaska Airlines.

Coeur d'Alene

I tee my ball up and wipe the sweat from my palms as I eye the daunting 14th green—The Coeur d'Alene Resort's

