

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

How to Plan the Perfect Trip to McCall, Idaho

Visit McCall to enjoy hot springs, excellent skiing, and an idyllic yurt where you can snowshoe to dinner.

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Many states conjure up specific images when you hear their names. For example, my mind wanders to redwoods when I hear California and mountains when I think of my home state of Virginia. Before I traveled to Idaho, the first thing that came to mind was potatoes, but a visit to the state did an excellent job of altering my opinion. I'm not sure if it was while I was soaking in hot springs during a snowstorm or skiing for the first time that I fell in love with McCall, Idaho.

The state holds a special allure that keeps calling people back, and that's what happened to longtime resident Lisa Whisnant. When driving through the state, McCall was simply a stopping point to grab a sweet treat and enjoy the beauty of Payette Lake. "McCall was always on my radar," she says. "I thought, maybe someday I could come and live here." A few years later, the opportunity arose to become a whitewater rafting guide with Canyons River Company in McCall. She jumped at the chance and has invested in the community for the past four decades.

Best Hotels & Resorts

Shore Lodge: If you are looking to spend some time on the water, Shore Lodge on Payette Lake is your spot. Rent a stand-up paddleboard, golf the 18-hole course, or roam on a complimentary bike. "It's always fun to go to the Shore Lodge in the summer and sit by the water and have lunch," says Whisnant. Winter is also an active time, as guests can soak in the hot tubs or borrow snowshoes and explore.