



# Downtown Twin Falls

There's a reward in store for visitors who venture beyond the shopping centers and restaurants of Blue Lakes Boulevard North. Downtown Twin Falls, where pioneering entrepreneurs first built a city on the desert, still teems with individuality. Downtown you'll find Prasai's Thai Cuisine, an eatery extremely popular with the locals; Crowley's, a soda fountain with 1950s charm; Jensen Ringmakers, where goldsmiths fashion elk ivory jewelry; and Rudy's, a kitchen-gadget store where tourists go nuts over Idaho wines, trout fillets, buffalo steaks, and other local specialty foods. Benno's Fine Jewelry is a paradise for clock collectors, with everything from hand-carved German cuckoos to the atomic radio-wave variety, and numerous home-furnishings stores satisfy fine tastes. That's only a sampling.

Businesses on Main Avenue or nearby in the Historic Warehouse District have something to enthrall every member of your family. While one visitor combs the extensive selections of quilting fabrics or indulges in massage and a spa pedicure, another might be drawn to the archery equipment and scuba gear. Indoor go-cart racing at Nazz Kart and the costumes and gags at Poindexter's Novelty Shop might appeal to the children in the family – or others young at heart.

Downtown is Twin Falls' undisputed center of art, architecture and antiques. Within just six blocks of

Main Avenue you'll find four of the city's antiques shops -- including ANNETiques etc., where Anne Pullan's pottery-repair expertise is a lifesaver for collectors all over the United States. In addition to three art galleries, Main Avenue's brick buildings themselves are a treat for the art lover, as fervor for historic renovation spreads among property owners. Inspired to try a little artistic creation of your own? At Hands On, a remarkably cheerful pottery studio, visitors can fashion a tile-and-glass mosaic in one session and leave with a grout kit to finish the job at home.

One warning, however: Most downtown shops are closed on evenings and Sundays, and a few close on Mondays, too. But downtown has other evening options, including Irish-themed pub O'Dunken's, a historic movie theater and – on Friday evenings – wine tastings at Rudy's. Tuesday through Saturday nights, D'On's Restaurant offers lobster, prime rib, and shrimp, the latter prepared in six different ways. In the Warehouse District, enjoy a hand-crafted brew and dinner at Trail Creek Pub & Brewery or a flick at the Lamphouse "art-cinema" theater.

You might be able to pick up a specialty cooking class at Rudy's while you're in town; check the schedule online at [cooksparadise.com](http://cooksparadise.com). Even that is easy to do downtown, because the Twin Falls Public Library provides free Internet access to anyone. Just look for the lovely brick structure next to City Park's playground.

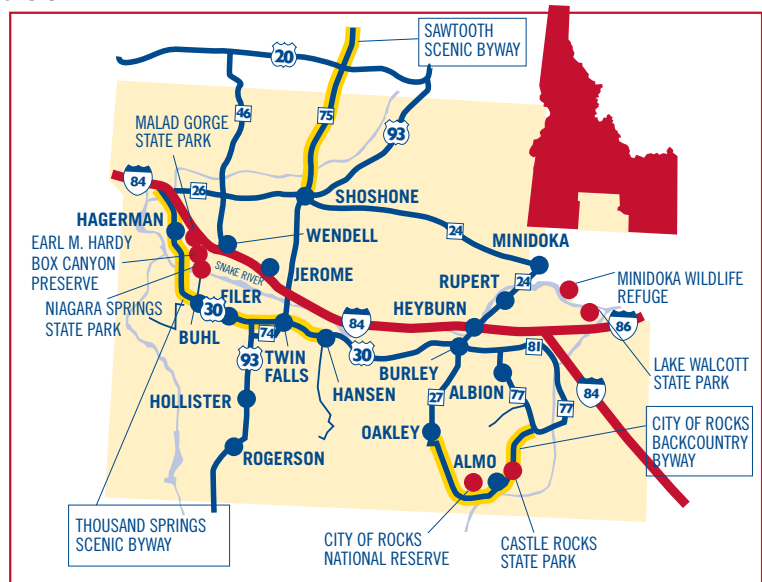
## EVERYDAY HISTORY

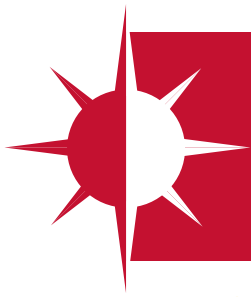
For a quirky bit of nostalgia, try a visit to the Twin Falls County Historical Museum, where photos of early fieldwork share space with the hand-written original of a poem by a presidential candidate. But much of museum is devoted to the stuff of everyday lives: Valentines and a Victrola, pretty dishes and paper dolls, bloomer patterns and perfume bottles. The museum's shelves brim with miscellany, and every corner yields a surprise.

The volunteer-run museum is in the former Union School building

– itself a 90-year-old relic – 3 miles west of Twin Falls on U.S. Highway 30. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday through Saturday. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.





## Twin Falls

Where the scenic Snake River meets fertile farmground, the city of Twin Falls has long been the center of commerce and entertainment for eight counties of south-central Idaho – and for a sizable chunk of northern Nevada besides. And the city is growing, thanks to retirees who love the convenience and culture of a city paired with rural charm – and thanks to working folks who’d rather battle whitewater rapids than noisy traffic after a day at the office. Job creation here has made Twin Falls one of the state’s most robust economic engines in recent years. And there’s plenty here to satisfy a visitor’s appetite, whether for adventure, art, antiques, or eateries.

### There’s Lots to See and Lots to Do

Twin Falls offers attractions for every traveler’s taste. A growing assortment of shopping destinations, for instance. Or a municipal swimming pool that’s covered in winter. Or the Herrett Center for the Arts and Science – a museum that boasts Native American artifacts, a variety of local art, a mock jungle, a high-tech planetarium, and an educational observatory that’s the envy of many a larger city.

The canyons, however, are the pride of Twin Falls. Scenic in-town walking trails wind along the floor of the intimate Rock Creek Canyon and the rim of the mighty Snake River Canyon. Accessed from a park beneath the magnificent arches of the Perrine Bridge, the Centennial Park Trail is a quick way to enjoy the canyon’s astonishing scenery and abundant wildlife as you follow a long stretch of undeveloped riverbank. Fishing, golfing and swimming attractions line the Snake River Canyon at Twin Falls’ north edge. And even when drought reduces the flows plunging over Shoshone Falls, it’s worth a visit to the lush, roomy park overlooking the city’s

famous falls. From there, walkers with extra energy and a taste for urban wilderness can choose a trail ascending from the park to the canyon rim above, or one circling nearby Dierkes Lake.

Feeling more adventurous? Outfitters lure tourists and locals alike with hot-air balloon rides and helicopter tours that showcase splendid views of the Snake River gorge. To experience the Snake at closer range, the summer traveler might launch a raft, kayak or canoe.

Need a little help finding your way to Twin Falls’ diverse attractions? The Buzz Langdon Visitor Center at the north end of town offers an array of brochures and a knowledgeable volunteer staff. Situated at the south end of Perrine Bridge, “the Buzz” greets travelers from early spring through autumn. Be sure to ask the staff for a schedule of the city’s plentiful arts events and community festivals, to round out your Twin Falls visit.

### Get Off the Beaten Path

Anyone interested in Oregon Trail-era history or an easy-access mountain experience should head southeast from Twin Falls. An easy drive from town, the historic Stricker Ranch at Rock Creek – with its trading post and turn-of-the-century pioneer house – is a relic of Oregon Trail days. Self-guided tours are available year-round, and you couldn’t ask for a more peaceful picnic spot than the lawns surrounding the historic structures. Just beyond the Stricker site, the South Hills are home to a family-friendly ski resort and miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and snowmobiling. Whether it’s the season of wildflowers or of golden aspens, the South Hills are truly a quick escape to nature.