

CAMAS COUNTY

SOUTHERN IDAHO

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Camas County is one of the most quietly stunning spots in Southern Idaho. In the spring and early summer, the valley floor erupts with riots of wildflowers; in the winter, you can ski through deep powder at Soldier Mountain. No matter the season, there's always something intriguing going on in historic Camas County.



Close up of Camas Lilly's in Fairfield, ID



Camas Prairie in Camas County, ID



Ski Kiting at Soldier Mountain in Fairfield, ID

What Is a Camas, Anyway?

Camas County is named after the blue vistas of camas lilies that cover the valley's floor every year — and, for thousands of years, these same plants sustained Native Americans living in this area. The Shoshone-Bannock and Paiute peoples used camas as a food source, roasting the bulbs and drying and saving them for later use. The best time to see camas in bloom is in early June.

This Marsh Has Gone to the Birds

The Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh Wildlife Management Area is one of the most stunning early-summer sights in Idaho. In late May through mid-June, this swampy area is adorned with colorful flower blooms and thousands of birds and their tiny offspring, including ruddy ducks, northern pintails, American wigeons, mallards, gadwalls, lesser scaup, canvasbacks, and blue-winged, green-winged, and cinnamon teals. Access roads allow you to get up close to the birds, and the scenic backdrop is a favorite of birders and photographers alike.

The Family Ski Resort

Soldier Mountain was developed by two friends, Bob Frostenson and Harry Durall, in 1947 after they watched Olympic team tryouts in Sun Valley. The entire operation was built by hand and included two rope tows, which were replaced by chairlifts in 1971 and 1974. Soldier Mountain bills itself as "Idaho's Best-Kept Secret," and ski aficionados agree. With ticket prices at \$38 for adults and \$22 for kids, it's some of the most affordable, family-friendly skiing in the state. When you're ready to warm up, Soldier Mountain's lodge serves up homemade food in the lodge and drinks on the slope-side pub.

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