

Boise & Treasure Valley Newcomer Guide



Welcome to the Treasure Valley. Here is what locals wish someone had told them: who to call for utilities, where things are, and what to do in your first 30 days.

Your first 30 days in Idaho

- ☐ Get an Idaho driver's license within 30 days of living here. [Idaho DMV](#)
- ☐ Register your vehicle once Idaho has been your home for 30 days. Some counties need a VIN inspection. [Registration](#)
- ☐ Ada and Canyon counties no longer require vehicle emissions testing.
- ☐ Register to vote after you have your Idaho license. [voteidaho.gov](#)
- ☐ More from the state: [idaho.gov/moving](#)

Utilities: who to call

Service	Who provides it
Electric	Idaho Power serves most of the Treasure Valley.
Natural gas	Intermountain Gas .
Boise water	Most Boise homes: Veolia Water Idaho. Some areas use other water companies or wells; check your address.
Boise sewer, trash, recycling, compost	Billed by City of Boise Utility Billing , (208) 608-7460.
Meridian, Nampa, Caldwell, Kuna, Garden City	Water, sewer and trash are generally set up through the city's utility billing office.
Eagle & Star	Providers vary by address (city, district or private water company). Call city hall with your address.
Internet	Varies by street. Check your address on the FCC National Broadband Map .

Boise neighborhoods at a glance

Area	What locals mean
Downtown & BoDo	The city center: restaurants, the Capitol, events, the Saturday Capital City Public Market (seasonal).
North End	Historic, tree-lined streets north of downtown, close to the foothills and Hyde Park shops.
East End & Warm Springs	East of downtown, near the foothills and Table Rock; older homes and geothermal history.
The Bench	The raised plateau south and west of downtown (Central, West and Depot Bench). Central, established neighborhoods.
Depot Bench	Around the historic Boise Depot, with views back over downtown.
Boise State / South Boise	Near the university, the river and the Greenbelt.
Southeast & Harris Ranch	Southeast Boise and the Barber Valley along the river; Harris Ranch is a newer planned community.
South Boise ("Southside")	South of I-84 toward Lake Hazel Road: newer subdivisions, quick access to Meridian and Kuna.

Area	What locals mean
West Boise	Suburban neighborhoods around Boise Towne Square and the Boise Spectrum.
Northwest & Collister	Foothill and river neighborhoods north of State Street.

Around the valley

City	Quick take
Meridian	Idaho's second-largest city, just west of Boise. Shopping at The Village at Meridian.
Eagle	Northwest of Boise along the river; larger lots and foothill views.
Star	Growing community west of Eagle.
Kuna	South of Meridian; quieter, more rural feel.
Nampa & Caldwell	Canyon County, west on I-84; Nampa Gateway Center and the Idaho Center.
Garden City	Its own small city surrounded by Boise, along the river.

"West Ada" usually means the West Ada School District, Idaho's largest. It covers Meridian, Eagle, Star and parts of west Boise and Kuna. Always confirm your school by address.

Schools

- [Boise School District](#)
- [West Ada School District](#)
- Kuna, Nampa, Vallivue and Caldwell school districts serve their areas.
- Use each district's boundary lookup to confirm schools for an address.

Hospitals & healthcare

- St. Luke's: Boise Medical Center (downtown), Meridian and Nampa medical centers, and St. Luke's Children's.
- Saint Alphonsus: Regional Medical Center in Boise, plus Nampa and other locations.
- West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell.
- Boise VA Medical Center for veterans.
- Urgent care clinics are throughout the valley; for emergencies call 911.

Shopping & everyday

- Boise Towne Square (west Boise)
- The Village at Meridian
- Downtown Boise and BoDo
- Hyde Park (North End)
- Boise Spectrum (southwest Boise)
- Nampa Gateway Center

Getting around & getting outside

- Boise Airport (BOI) is minutes from downtown.

- Bus service: [Valley Regional Transit](#)
- The Boise River Greenbelt runs for miles along the river through Boise, Garden City and Eagle.
- Foothill trails: [Ridge to Rivers](#). Skiing: Bogus Basin, about an hour up the mountain.
- Road conditions: [511.idaho.gov](#).

Details change. Confirm providers and requirements with the agency for your address. Last reviewed October 2026.

Moving in or around the Treasure Valley? Vantage Moving is a licensed, BBB Accredited mover based in Boise. Our own crews and trucks, flat-rate quotes in writing. [Get a free quote](#) or call 208-740-1291.