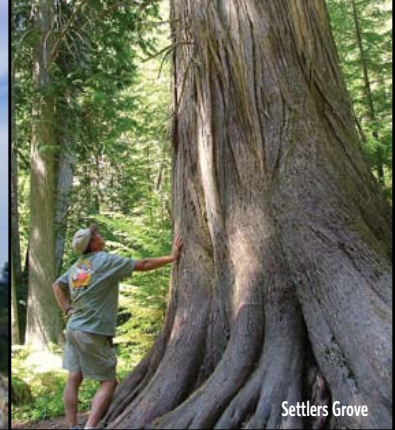




Lake Coeur d'Alene



Farragut State Park



Settlers Grove

When you want to spend a day or a few hours in the great North Idaho outdoors, these back-to-nature itineraries are ideal for the whole family!

## Shoot A Picture

The perfect souvenir of your North Idaho vacation are photographs of the great outdoors and abundant wildlife. The 2,774 acre **Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge** is located in **Boundary County**, surrounded by **Deep Creek** and the **Kootenai River** to the east and the **Selkirk Mountains** on the west, its purpose to provide resting and feeding habitat for migrating water fowl. The viewing route is approximately four miles and accessible by car, biking or hiking. Open to visitors daily, office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 267-3888

Just minutes from downtown Coeur d'Alene, the 88-acre **Cougar Bay Preserve** is a virtual wildlife nursery on the shores of **Lake Coeur d'Alene**. Cougar Bay attracts migrating and nesting waterfowl, numerous shorebirds, songbirds, moose, beaver, otter and deer. It offers 5+ miles of **interpretive hiking trails**, canoeing and kayaking, and wildlife and bird watching. Information kiosk and restroom available. 676-8176

Another great aspect to North Idaho is the opportunity to **view wildlife** without having to climb a mountain or hike into the back country. Elk, moose, deer, osprey and Canada geese are often visible in town.

**Photographs** can be taken from the comfort of a climate controlled boat with **cruises** on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Lake Pend Oreille, Spokane River and St. Joe River making for spectacular viewing spring, summer and fall. Call **Lake Coeur d'Alene Cruises** 765-4000, **Serendipity Houseboat** 877-767-8592, **Spokane River Queen-Red Lion Templins** 773-1611, **Lake Pend Oreille Cruises** 255-LAKE and the **St. Joe River Cruises**, 686-1308.

The **Camera Corral** in downtown Coeur d'Alene is the only full-service camera specialty store where you can upgrade your equipment and have photographs developed and enlarged.

## Rock Stacks

Spend a morning or afternoon in **Farragut State Park** and **Bayview** where the scenery is spectacular, even by North Idaho standards. From **Coeur d'Alene** drive north on US 95 for 20 miles to Highway 54 where you'll head east to the **visitor center** entrance. One mile north of the center on the west side of the road there's a number of **rock piles** in various heights and configurations. Up close they're fascinating, a balancing act of roadside rocks in an assortment of formations. Just as interesting are the explanations for the rock stacks... created by **extraterrestrials**? Maybe **Native American** in symbolism and structure? A **resident** with abundant artistry? Local legend notes about the Farragut rock stacks is that when one tumbles, it's replaced seemingly overnight. Continue on another 3.5 miles to Bayview, and enjoy the views and one of several marina cafes.

## Aviation Museum

Opened in July 2007, the **Dr. Forrest Bird Aviation Museum and Invention Center** is a world-class educational experience centered around the themes of aviation and innovation. The display features twenty of Dr. Bird's personal **aircraft** dating back to 1929.

From Coeur d'Alene travel north on US 95 for approximately 34 miles towards Sandpoint to Sagle Road. Turn right (east) for 11.8 miles and turn left onto Bird Ranch Road, which leads to Bird Aviation Museum and Invention Center. Open Monday through Friday by Appointment only. To arrange your visit, please call 255-4321 birdaviationmuseum.com

## Snow Shoe

Strapping on a pair of snow shoes and making **first tracks** in fresh snow on a sunny winter day is as good as it gets for North Idaho outdoor recreation. If you're a novice or enjoying an outing with younger family members, the **Centennial Trail** is ideal. Park at the trailhead

on Northwest Blvd. at I-90 Exit 11 in Coeur d'Alene and hike a flat trail along the Spokane River, through Coeur d'Alene City Park along the lake. See p. 46 for more on snow shoeing.

## Fernan Lake

At the east end of Sherman Avenue in Coeur d'Alene turn right, just past the Idaho Panhandle Forest office and go two blocks to the paved parking lot at **Fernan Lake**. Sit on the public dock and drop your fishing line or watch the hundreds of wild ducks and Canada geese who make their winter home there. This quiet lake is the ideal spot for the family to enjoy a **picnic lunch** just a few blocks from eastbound and westbound entrances to I-90.

## Ancient Cedars

**Settlers Grove of Ancient Cedars** is an Idaho National Forest hiking and biking trail just north of historic Murray in the **Silver Valley**. The grove contains century-old trees, some with trunks up to 10 feet in diameter. Plan to spend the entire day on this outing. Take I-90 east from Coeur d'Alene to Kingston Exit 43 (29 miles). Drive the scenic Coeur d'Alene River Road another 25 miles northeast to Eagle. A gravel road takes you 5 miles to the grove. An **easy walk** on hard packed trails, the trail head features a large parking area. A few miles east of Eagle is the Sprag Pole Inn and Museum in Murray where you can have a great meal while you share stories of the day.

## Watch Eagles Soar

Bald eagles enjoy **Lake Coeur d'Alene** as much as we do, arriving in November in their **annual migration**. A popular place at the east end of the lake is **Higgins Point**, a paved trail with a viewing area about 1/4 mile from the parking lot. Information kiosks and a view of the eagles from your car also makes this a fun outing for all ages. **Wolf Lodge Bay** on Lake Coeur d'Alene as well as other numerous locations on **Lake Pend Oreille** draw the regal visitors. Highway 200 between **Sandpoint and Hope** is another viewing venue.



Centennial Trail



Fernan Lake



Waters are rich with salmon that have spawned and died, offering the eagles abundant winter food. The eagles remain in the area until about the **third week of January**. It takes less than ten minutes to get from Coeur d'Alene to the eagles winter habitat. From I-90 and U.S. Highway 95, go east on I-90 to exit 15-Sherman Avenue, then continue on Coeur d'Alene Lake Drive to Higgins Point. Special **eagle viewing cruises** on Lake Coeur d'Alene and Lake Pend Oreille are popular, Lake Coeur d'Alene Cruises, [cdaresort.com](http://cdaresort.com) or Lake Pend Oreille Cruises, [lakependoreillecruises.com](http://lakependoreillecruises.com). While the winter months provide views of a large number of eagles, year 'round these symbols of America can be seen in their natural North Idaho habitat.



## Historical Coeur d'Alene

There's history on every street corner in the Coeur d'Alene area. **Walking and driving tours** will point visitors to the sights. Local historian **Robert Singletary**, in collaboration with the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce Leadership class, produced an audio CD to guide you on a driving tour of historical sites in the Coeur d'Alene city area. Copies are available for sale through the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center. [cdachamber.com](http://cdachamber.com)

The City of Coeur d'Alene also has an online brochure available through the Parks Department for the **Historical Forest Cemetery** walking tour. [coeurdaleneidaho.org](http://coeurdaleneidaho.org)

FIND THEM ON THE WEB

**Aviation Museum and Invention Center**  
[birdaviationmuseum.com](http://birdaviationmuseum.com)

**Centennial Trail**  
[northidahocentennialtrail.com](http://northidahocentennialtrail.com)

**City of Coeur d'Alene Parks Department**  
[parks.cdaid.org](http://parks.cdaid.org)

**Serendipity Houseboat & Events Center**  
[serendipityhouseboat.com](http://serendipityhouseboat.com)

**Camera Corral**  
[cameracorral.com](http://cameracorral.com)

**Kootenai Wildlife Refuge**  
[fws.gov/kootenai](http://fws.gov/kootenai)

**Lake Coeur d'Alene Cruises**  
[cdaresort.com](http://cdaresort.com)

**Lake Pend Oreille Cruises**  
[lakependoreillecruises.com](http://lakependoreillecruises.com)

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Itineraries



Look for this symbol throughout The Guide for more itineraries.