

Drive the Byways

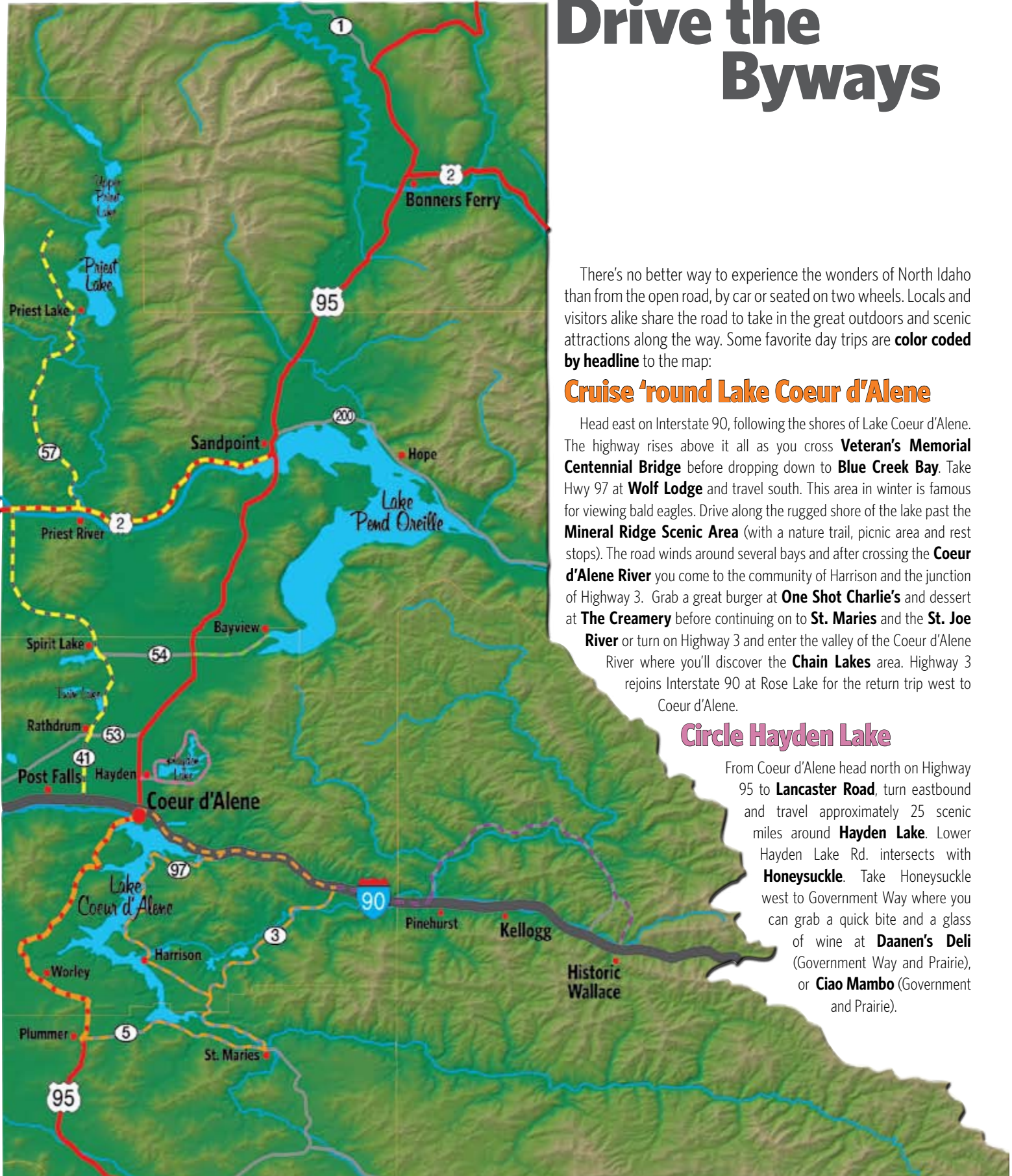
There's no better way to experience the wonders of North Idaho than from the open road, by car or seated on two wheels. Locals and visitors alike share the road to take in the great outdoors and scenic attractions along the way. Some favorite day trips are **color coded by headline** to the map:

Cruise 'round Lake Coeur d'Alene

Head east on Interstate 90, following the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The highway rises above it all as you cross **Veteran's Memorial Centennial Bridge** before dropping down to **Blue Creek Bay**. Take Hwy 97 at **Wolf Lodge** and travel south. This area in winter is famous for viewing bald eagles. Drive along the rugged shore of the lake past the **Mineral Ridge Scenic Area** (with a nature trail, picnic area and rest stops). The road winds around several bays and after crossing the **Coeur d'Alene River** you come to the community of Harrison and the junction of Highway 3. Grab a great burger at **One Shot Charlie's** and dessert at **The Creamery** before continuing on to **St. Maries** and the **St. Joe River** or turn on Highway 3 and enter the valley of the Coeur d'Alene River where you'll discover the **Chain Lakes** area. Highway 3 rejoins Interstate 90 at Rose Lake for the return trip west to Coeur d'Alene.

Circle Hayden Lake

From Coeur d'Alene head north on Highway 95 to **Lancaster Road**, turn eastbound and travel approximately 25 scenic miles around **Hayden Lake**. Lower Hayden Lake Rd. intersects with **Honeysuckle**. Take Honeysuckle west to Government Way where you can grab a quick bite and a glass of wine at **Daanen's Deli** (Government Way and Prairie), or **Ciao Mambo** (Government and Prairie).



Enjoy the View in Bayview

North of Coeur d'Alene on Hwy 95 at the small town of **Athol** is the junction of Hwy 54. East on Hwy 54 is the town of **Bayview** and **Farragut State Park**. The second largest State Park in Idaho, located on **Lake Pend Oreille**, it's on the site of a former U.S. Naval Training Center opened during World War II. The Navy still operates an **Acoustical Research Center** at Bayview. This beautiful area has lots to see and do... mountain biking, cross country skiing, camping, picnicking, swimming, boating and wildlife watching, including majestic mountain goats on the steep cliffs above Lake Pend Oreille.

See the Silver Valley

Start your day early and from Coeur d'Alene head east on I-90 around **Lake Coeur d'Alene** and over **4th of July Pass**. Just past the **Cataldo Mission** take Kingston Exit 43 and travel north. Pop into the **Enaville Resort** (established in 1881), also known as the **Snake Pit** and famous for Rocky Mountain Oysters. Follow the **Coeur d'Alene River** road for **26 scenic miles** to **Murray** and experience yesteryear at the **Sprag Pole Museum** and Inn. Museum admission is free. Continue east back to I-90 and **Historic Wallace** where every downtown building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Take a **Sierra Silver Mine tour** and see the famous **Oasis Bordello**. On I-90 westbound, side trip to **Kellogg** for a gondola ride to the top of **Silver Mountain**.

See the sunset over Lake Coeur d'Alene as you return from this full day drive.

Northern Sights... Pend Oreille River/Priest Lake

From **Sandpoint** head west on Highway 2 following the scenic route along the **Pend Oreille River**. At **Priest River** you can turn north on Highway 57 (use same route for return trip) and visit **Priest Lake**, a popular summer resort area known as one of the most pristine lakes in the world. With miles of **snowmobile** and **cross country ski trails**, it is also a worthwhile winter trip.

Optional route - at Priest River you can proceed west to **Oldtown**, Idaho. Just west of Priest River is **Albeni Falls** hydroelectric dam and visitors center. Continue west, turn south at Oldtown onto Hwy 41. The two lane road proceeds through forested areas and the communities of **Blanchard** and **Spirit Lake**. Beautiful **golf courses** in Blanchard (Stoneridge) and Twin Lakes (south of Spirit Lake) have on-premise restaurants. Just south of Spirit Lake, the junction of Hwy 54 allows you to return to north to Sandpoint or south to Coeur d'Alene via Hwy 95. Or continue south on Hwy 41 and go through historic **Rathdrum** and on to I-90.

Scenic Route to Coeur d'Alene Casino

East on I-90 over **4th of July Pass** to Exit 34. The **White Pine Scenic Byway** goes south through **Rose Lake** to **St. Maries**. Then west on state Route 5 through **Heyburn State Park** (some nice rest areas for wading or fishing) on **Lake Chatcolet**. Continue on to **Plummer** then North on Hwy 95 to The **Coeur d'Alene Casino Resort**. 24-hour gaming, restaurants and major events. About **120 miles**.

International Selkirk Loop

Named the "**West's Best New Scenic Drive**" by Sunset Magazine the **International Selkirk Loop** is a 280-mile scenic drive traversing through North Idaho, Eastern Washington and Southern British Columbia.

Starting in **Sandpoint**, the route goes through dozens of charming rural towns. You'll travel through **glacial valleys**, along 100-mile long lakes surrounded by 7,000 foot peaks. The region is home for endangered species such as the woodland **caribou** and **grizzly bear** as well as the **white sturgeon** in the Kootenai River. Deer, elk and moose are prevalent.

Activities along the route include **golf**, skiing, fishing, and Wildlife Refuges. There are hiking trails throughout the **Panhandle National Forest** and **Colville National Forest** as well as hundreds of miles of groomed snowmobile trails.

Other attractions along this route are the **worlds longest free ferry ride** (45 min), a **brewery tour**, a **gold mine tour**, **hot springs**, a mining **ghost town**, a historical **Russian village** tour, award winning **museums**, a **house made of glass** embalming bottles tour, nationally recognized small arts communities with world class shopping and rails to trail cycling paths.

For longer stays there are five **Super Side Trip Loops** that depart from the main route varying in length from 50 miles to 110 miles. All roadways are two-lane paved with pull-outs and periodic passing lanes. 888)823-2626 or www.selkirkloop.org.

US citizens need a passport or visa to enter Canada.