

After a long work week of endless deadlines and rush hour traffic, hit the open road toward Caldwell, Idaho. If you're driving from Boise, you'll pass through Meridian and Nampa to see the suburbs slowly fade away into miles of patchwork farmland, with the rugged Owyhees in the distance.





INDIAN CREEK

Driving into Downtown Caldwell, you'll find a small frontier settlement that's been transformed into a burgeoning community with a thriving food and wine scene. Many chefs, business owners and entrepreneurs from Boise are setting up shop in Caldwell with boutiques, restaurants and more.

Grab a glass of wine or an ice cream cone. Browse the shelves of antique stores for hidden finds. Feel free to roam.

At the center of it all is Indian Creek Plaza. Known as the "front porch of Caldwell," this vibrant outdoor venue is filled with shady trees, arching fountains, splash pads and an outdoor stage — all surrounded by some of Caldwell's best-loved restaurants, retail and entertainment.

Join in a game of cornhole, play with your kids in the fountain or catch a live concert. In the winter, you can look at the hundreds of thousands of colorful holiday lights strung up through town, or ice skate along an outdoor ice track that meanders through the heart of the city.

INDIAN CREEK STEAKHOUSE

After exploring the town a bit by foot, stop by the Indian Creek Steakhouse for a hearty meal. Saddle up to the bar for a local Idaho brew or handcrafted cocktail and order your choice of steak.



One bite into some locally-raised beef and locally-sourced Idaho potatoes and you'll quickly see why this down-home joint is such a local favorite. With a mechanical bull and live local music, feel free to kick up your boots and dance the night away here.







LODGING

Check into a cozy stay at the Best Western Plus Caldwell Inn and Suites. The hotel is located just off I-84 in east Caldwell, complete with a pool, hot tub, fitness center and complimentary breakfast.



If you have an RV or camper, pull up to a campsite at Canyon Springs RV Resort. Located just 10 minutes from Downtown Caldwell, the resort is surrounded by wide-open country and just steps away from a clear blue freshwater pond. The campgrounds also feature full-service hookups and a community lodge where guests can watch the game.

S And The Property of the Party of the Party



LITTLE COW MOUNTAIN FARM

Just 16 minutes southeast is Little Cow
Mountain Farm. Roam the green pastures
and learn how the ranchers tend the land and
take care of the thousands of animals they raise
here. You'll get up close to chickens, cows and horses,
and you might make a furry friend (or two) along the way.

After touring the pastures, go for a quick hike right outside the gates of the farm. You can wander through protected land where thousands of hawks, eagles and other raptors nest. If you're quiet enough, you might spot some deer or elk trotting through the sagebrush.







VINE AND BRANCH RANCH

After working up an appetite, drive over to the Vine and Branch Ranch. Order a fresh plate made with hyper-local ingredients grown right here and at other farms close by.

Pair the Solstice Pasta with some local cider, sit back... and taste the simple life.

Tour the organic gardens here, which grow over 180 veggies, fruits, berries and flowers, all raised by hand. Smell the fresh produce and pick up some snacks along the way.

If you plan ahead, you can sign up to take a class and learn how to can vegetables or make cheese.







LAKEVIEW FRUIT

On the way back to Caldwell, swing by Lakeview Fruit. This classic produce stand has been a hidden local secret for years. Pick through bushels and baskets of fresh local produce, all grown in orchards and farms just miles away. Grab a pie or loaf of artisan bread baked just that morning. Chat with the owner for a while — they'll know all the secrets for picking the best apples.



AMANO

Head back to Downtown Caldwell for some well-deserved margaritas and street tacos at Amano. This up-and-coming local favorite is Farm to Cork Certified — over 80% of their wine menu features wines from the nearby Sunnyslope Wine Region. Run by the Alamilla family, this highend restaurant grinds their own corn for their freshly-made tortillas. Their craft cocktail menu is based on the classic game la loteria — a Mexican game similar to Bingo with pictures.







ORCHARD HOUSE

After sleeping in a while, take a quick
15-minute drive to the Orchard House.
This homey restaurant is tucked alongside
the lush vineyards of Idaho wine country,
serving up lunch to locals and out-of-towners alike.
Enjoy fresh-to-order burgers, soups or salads —
with locally sourced ingredients — and much more.





DEER FLAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Drive 20 minutes east to Deer Flat National
Wildlife Refuge. This protected land circles around
Lake Lowell, one of the largest reservoirs in Idaho.
Underneath the surface are bass, catfish and bluegill.
More than 200 different species of birds — including blue heron
and osprey — nest along the shores. Stroll the trails along the reservoir
and be on the lookout for rare wildlife that call this sanctuary home.



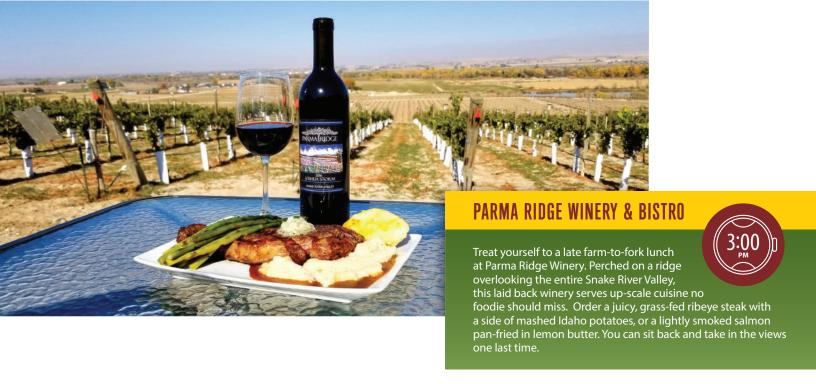




SNAKE RIVER SCENIC BYWAY

Take the scenic route along the Snake River Scenic Byway. This road meanders along the banks of the Snake River, where you'll find dramatic desert plateaus, historic places and the Sunnyslope Wine Region. You can enter the byway along Marsing road, follow the route through patchwork farmland and end up at Old Fort Boise — an important supply post along the Oregon Trail.

Along the trip, you can take a quick wine tasting detour at Ste. Chappelle. Named after a famous European cathedral, the winery looks like a scene taken out of the French countryside. Their tasting room features lofty ceilings with gothic, vaulted windows looking out to the green vistas of vineyards outside.



After getting a taste of the simple life for a weekend, you'll leave the valley feeling a little more grounded, a little more rooted...and maybe even a little more connected to the land we share.

