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**EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS PLANNED IN 2015 & BEYOND IN BOISE, IDAHO**

March 17, 2015 – Boise, Idaho continues to gain attention as one of the hidden gems of the northwest. The “City of Trees” is increasingly recognized for its exciting downtown and easy access to outdoor adventure. Last year the destination welcomed new non-stop air service and additional attractions for visitors. Boise’s growth will continue in 2015 with new meeting places and event centers, local attractions and places to dine. The following is the latest compilation of tourism developments in the region.

*\*Updates are listed alphabetically by category*

**Airline Access**

**Los Angeles Non-Stop Flights**

[Allegiant Air](#) announced in February it is adding a non-stop flight from Boise to Los Angeles International Airport. The jet service will start June 5 and will operate twice a week. To celebrate the seasonal flight the company is offering one-way fares for as low as \$43 while seats are available. The flights will operate twice a week.

**Salt Lake City, Utah Non-Stop Flights**

[Alaska Airlines](#) announced new flights from Boise to Salt Lake City in 2014. Alaska began flying non-stop from Salt Lake City to Boise, Idaho, and Las Vegas and between Salt Lake City and San Francisco in June 2014. The new flights add to previously announced service between Salt Lake City and Portland, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Jose, which also start in June.

**Seattle New Expanded Service**

[Delta Airlines](#) will add four flights daily from Boise to Seattle beginning May 2015. Seattle is currently the top destination market for those travelling from the Boise Airport. Delta’s Connection carrier SkyWest Airlines will operate the flights. SkyWest is building a \$19.5 million maintenance hangar at the Boise Airport that is slated to open Fall 2015.

**Dining**

**Capitol Cellars**

A new political-themed restaurant and wine bar will be opening in downtown Boise during 2015. Restaurant founder Charles A. “Skip” Smyser is an attorney, lobbyist and former Republican state legislator. All the dining spaces will be politically themed including tables called the “Speaker,” “Pro Tem,” “Governor” and “Lobbyists”. The restaurant will serve a limited breakfast, full lunch and dinners that highlight local ingredients. The small space will seat 58 people. Smyser also purchased an adjacent unit to use as a private dining room and wine cellar space.

**Guru Donuts**

Guru Donuts is a local company dedicated to making donuts from scratch, using local ingredients and vegan options too. Guru began selling their tasty confections at local farmers markets. Soon they were providing daily donuts to area coffee shops and grocery stores. Finally in early 2015, Guru Donuts found their new home in the historic

Adelmann Building in downtown Boise together with the Boise Fry Company. Guru Donuts is open every day from 6 a.m. until 2 p.m., or until donuts sell out. Learn more about Guru Donuts through their [website](#).

### **Juniper**

The owners of this new restaurant in downtown Boise believe in providing patrons with upscale flavors and food in a casual and fun setting. Juniper opened in August 2014. Most recipes and drinks on the menu feature ingredients from local farmers, breweries and wineries. Juniper's classically trained chef Aaron Wermerskirchen created a menu filled with funky and delicious dishes inspired by different styles from around the world. To learn more about Juniper, visit their [website](#).

### **Kindness**

Kindness opened in August 2014 in the newly remodeled Owyhee Hotel and Plaza, which now features apartment-style living and office space. For 15 years, Kindness was a catering company. The owners, Anna and Michael Tapia wanted to transition their business into a full-service restaurant. The restaurant features intimate bar seating as well as long banquet tables designed to allow strangers to meet and have a "kind" discussion over a great meal. To learn more about Kindness, visit their [website](#).

### **The Mode Lounge**

The Mode Lounge opened in Boise's historic Mode Building in March 2014. The lounge draws inspiration from 1960s cocktails culture. In addition to classic cocktails the striking menu features 21<sup>st</sup> century drinks made with house syrups garnished with culinary works of art. The owner, Russ Crawforth, has embraced the Mode Building's proud and extensive Boise history and works to integrate that history into seasonal events at the lounge. To learn more about the Mode Lounge, visit their [website](#).

## **Event Centers & Meeting Places**

### **Boise Centre Expansion**

The Boise Centre on the Grove—now simply referred to as the Boise Centre—was completed in 1990. An expansion project will ultimately double the space available. Phase 1 of the expansion project is underway, with completion set for 2016. Groups and conventions will soon be able to enjoy a new 15,000-square foot ballroom, serviced by a 7,000-square foot, state-of-the-art kitchen. In addition, the expansion calls for another 14,000 square feet of meeting room space and 7,000 square feet of pre-function space. The new additions to Boise Centre will be connected to the existing facilities by an enclosed concourse. The attached structures surround the Grove Plaza, a Boise landmark and central gathering place for residents and guests alike. Learn more about the Boise Centre's expansion by visiting their [website](#) or contacting Mary-Michael Rodgers at [mrogers@boisecentre.com](mailto:mrogers@boisecentre.com).

During construction for the expansion, the Garner Company commissioned [Sector Seventeen](#), a group of talented graffiti artists, to assemble popup art along the walkway of iconic Boise landmarks as well as what the completed Boise Centre expansion will look like. See a video of their work [here](#).

### **Jack's Urban Meeting Place (JUMP)**

JUMP will be one of the most unique buildings of its kind in the nation. Named for Idaho agribusiness icon J.R. Simplot, this \$70 million project is scheduled for completion in 2015. JUMP is a not-for-profit, interactive creative center combined with a community-gathering place in the heart of downtown Boise. JUMP's six-story 65,000 square foot main building will include five interactive learning studios, each with a name that indicates the activity that can be explored (Kitchen, Movement, Makers, Multi-Media and Inspiration). The site will also include event and meeting spaces, a public park, outdoor amphitheater and multistory displays with antique tractors to honor to Simplot's agricultural roots. For more information about JUMP, visit their [website](#) or contact Kathy O'Neill at [ksilveroneill@msn.com](mailto:ksilveroneill@msn.com).

## **Lodging**

### **The Grove Hotel**

The Grove Hotel, located in the heart of the downtown Boise core completed a \$4.5 million renovation in 2014. With 234 hotel rooms, The Grove Hotel is physically attached to the 5,000 seat CenturyLink Arena which is home to the Idaho Steelheads professional hockey team as well as the Idaho Stampede of the NBA Developmental League. The Grove has agreed to a covered walkway easement with the Boise Centre addition due to be completed in 2016. That partnership means guests can access the shops and meeting space at the Boise Centre addition without walking outside.

### **Hotel 43 Renovations**

Boise's Hotel 43 just finished a dramatic renovation. Improvements to standard rooms include updated furnishing and designs, swapping in Euro-style mattresses and replacing bathtubs with tiled showers. The downtown hotel's atrium now includes Boise-themed artwork created by local artists. The landscaping will receive a fresh update in spring 2015. For more information about Hotel 43, visit their [website](#).

### **New 10-Story Hotel in Downtown Boise**

Developers recently announced a 190-room extended-stay hotel. Jared S. Smith, the hotel's developer, intends to build a branded 10-story hotel with studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom extended-stay rooms with kitchenettes in each room. No flag brand has been announced yet. The projected cost exceeds \$20 million, according to Smith. The new hotel will sit on 37,000 square feet.

### **New 7-Story Hotel in Downtown Boise**

Obie Development Partners of Eugene, Ore. recently announced that it submitted an application to the city of Boise for a seven-story, 104-room hotel. The developers told reporters they hope to break ground late this summer and finish construction by the end of 2016. The project is expected to cost \$25 million.

### **Wyndham Garden Boise Airport**

This longstanding hotel, formerly the Boise Hotel and Conference Center is transitioning into the Wyndham Garden Boise Airport. Renovations are underway on this new venue and promises to be completed by spring or summer 2015. The venue will feature 116 rooms and is 12,000 square feet at a prime location near the Boise Airport.

## **Recreation**

### **Boise Bike Share**

A new bike-rental program will be rolling out onto the streets of Boise in April 2015. Boise Bike Share is a form of alternative transportation designed to provide people who live, work and visit downtown Boise with a convenient and healthy way of making short trips without contributing to pollution or congestion. The blue and green bikes represent the project's sponsors, St. Luke's Medical Center and Select Health. The program will start with 114 bikes parked at 14 stations around the downtown Boise area. Learn more about Boise Bike Share on their [website](#).

### **Esther Simplot Park**

Construction started on the new 55-acre Esther Simplot Park in the west end near downtown on Feb. 23, 2015. When finished, the park will encompass more than 17 acres of ponds suitable for fishing, wading and swimming. The park will also include trails, wetlands, boardwalks, docs, shelters, grassy open areas, and a playground and wildlife habitat. The park development is being privately funded by the Simplot family foundation. The Esther Simplot Park is the newest addition to the "Ribbon of Jewels," a string of riverside parks named for prominent women in the community. The park is expected to be completed in Spring 2016. For more information about the Esther Simplot Park, visit the City of Boise [website](#).

### **Rhodes Park**

The city of Boise is renovating Rhodes Park—a popular downtown skate park beneath a large overpass—with nearly \$1.4 million in public and private funds. The renovated park will feature a new skate park and obstacle course. It is scheduled to open by late summer, 2015. The goal is to create an active, vibrant, family-friendly park. It will include public art opportunities, integrated LED lighting, native plants, storm water-collecting planters, local stone and solar

panels. The designs feature themes inspired by 1950s American car culture. To learn more about Rhodes Park, visit the City of Boise [website](#).

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**About Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau:**

The Boise Convention and Visitors Bureau is a non-profit organization, founded in 1982, by the Greater Boise Auditorium District. Its mission is to enhance the City of Boise's economy through the marketing, promotion and selling of the city and region as a site for conventions, corporate meetings, trade shows, pleasure travel, and cultural, sport and special events.