

# Spokane and the Inland Northwest

Want to know a secret? Spokane is an incredible place to live! It is the hub of the Inland Northwest, a region stretching from the east slopes of the Cascade Mountains, east into Montana, north into southernmost Alberta and British Columbia, and south to the Washington/Oregon/Idaho border. The city of Spokane has a population of 225,000. The greater Spokane/Coeur d'Alene metro area has a population of 800,000, and is growing.

Although we sometimes see ourselves as a big city with a small town atmosphere, the truth is that Spokane has become a very desirable place to live over the past several decades, and is becoming quite cosmopolitan. It is evolving from a typical western heritage community centered around logging, mining, agriculture and railroads, to a highly technical and medically important center for the entire Inland Northwest.

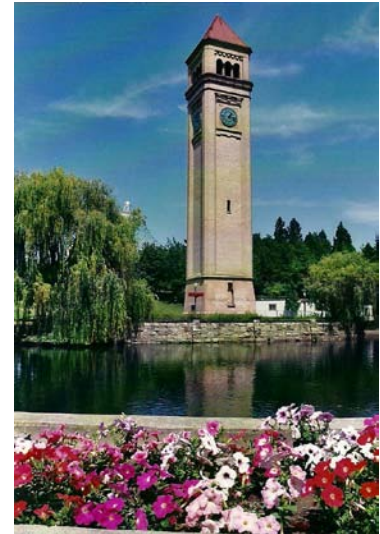
Don't take our word for it. Read what others have said about Spokane. Check out a couple of these sites:

## Fodor's:

<http://www.fodors.com/world/north-america/usa/washington/eastern-washington/spokane/>

## ZAGAT:

<http://www.zagat.com/Index.aspx?ULOC=TY%3DGeo%26D%3DSpokane%26GS%3DGeoChildID%257c4922&SRL=1>



## A Four Season Paradise

What you may not gather from perusing the websites listed above is a discussion of our weather. If you like western weather, you'll love Spokane. We typically have four distinct seasons, and because of our latitude it does get a bit "dark" around here in the winter. But our winters are much warmer than other states this close to the Canadian border. Our snowfall can vary annually from as little as 20" to as high as 95" (!). But the temperature rarely drops below the mid-20 degree mark. Our winter storms arrive via the Gulf of Alaska; our summer weather blows up from the Gulf of California. So, unlike our wet sister cities



along the coast, our summers are very sunny and very dry, with temps infrequently creeping as high a 100+ degrees during the day, and dropping, in typical desert fashion, to much lower and more comfortable temps as the evening progresses. Spring and fall are enviable seasons with cool, sunny days, and warm evenings.

The city is nestled alongside the beautiful Spokane River. Both to the north and south of the downtown area the city rapidly rises in elevation. To our east and north lies the western flank of the Rocky Mountains. To our west and south, the countryside alternates between the rolling hills of the Palouse wheat farm belt and the geologically exceptional channeled scablands.

## Activities within the Region

### **If you like culture, you'll love Spokane!**

Enjoy plays at the Civic Theater, at Interplayers, and at the Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre. Relish the Spokane Symphony, and connect through KPBX public radio and KSPS public TV. Partake of events at the Opera House, and the Fox and Bing Theaters. All kinds of music lighten the air.

### **If you like sports, you'll love Spokane!**

We have professional indoor football, and a championship basketball team from Gonzaga. The Spokane Indians play minor league baseball. There is soccer for all ages, and a minor league hockey team to root for.

### **If you like the out-of-doors, you'll love Spokane!**

We have 18 public golf courses in and around the city. There are five world class snow skiing resorts within a few hour drive from downtown. Enjoy lakes and rivers, fishing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, hiking and mountain climbing.

### **Looking for a good school or medical system, you'll love Spokane!**

Gonzaga and Whitworth Universities, Eastern Washington University, Washington State University, serve the area. The River Pointe campus just east of downtown Spokane combines various institutions of higher learning. We also support two community colleges. Sacred Heart, Holy Family and Deaconess and Children's Hospitals serve the region, and a medical school co-sponsored by the University of Washington and Washington State University has begun to attract students interested in serving the region's rural areas.

## Things to See and Do

Earlier, we described Spokane as the hub of the Inland Northwest. To give you a better feel for what is available in this region envision our city as a stone dropped into a quiet body of water. In your mind's eye follow the ripple marks spreading out from the city center. As you move outward, here are just a few things that you will see aligned with those ripple marks:

### **General**

- Visit Spokane: <http://www.visitspokane.com/visitor-info/>  
<http://www.visitspokane.com/index.cfm>
- Spokane.net: <http://www.visitspokane.com/index.cfm>
- News- Spokesman-Review: <http://www.spokesman.com/>
- Experience Spokane <http://experiencespokane.com/index.shtml>
- Spokane Outdoors <http://www.spokaneoutdoors.com/index.htm>
- Arts <http://www.spokanearts.org/>

## Annual Area Events

- Bloomsday Run <http://www.bloomsdayrun.org/>
- Hoopfest <http://www.spokanehoopfest.net>

## Downtown

- Arena <http://www.spokanearena.com/>
- Riverfront Park <http://spokaneriverfrontpark.com/>
- INB <http://www.inbpac.com/>
- Bing <http://www.mettheater.com/>
- Mobius <http://www.mobiusspokane.org/>
- FOX <http://www.foxtheaterspokane.com/>
- Knitting Factory <http://sp.knittingfactory.com/>
- Davenport <http://www.thedavenporthotel.com/>
- Riverpark Square <http://www.riverparksquare.com/>
- Centennial Trail <http://www.spokanecentennialtrail.org/>
- Interplayers Theater <http://www.interplayers.com/>
- Civic Theater <http://www.northwestmuseum.org/>
- Caterina Winery <http://www.caterinawinery.com/>
- Barrister Winery [http://www.barristerwinery.com/index\\_wine.asp](http://www.barristerwinery.com/index_wine.asp)



## 10 Minutes from Downtown

- Audubon Park <http://spokaneparks.org/index.php/Parks/park/168/>
- Indian Canyon GC <http://spokanegolf.org/Golf/page/341/>
- Downriver GC <http://spokanegolf.org/Golf/page/339/>
- Gonzaga University <http://www.gonzaga.edu/>
- MAC <http://www.northwestmuseum.org/>
- Corbin Park [http://www.historicspokane.org/SR\\_districts.htm](http://www.historicspokane.org/SR_districts.htm)
- Spokane Country Club <http://www.spokanecountryclub.com/>
- Manito Park <http://www.thefriendsofmanito.org/>
- SHMC <http://www2.providence.org/spokane/facilities/sacred-heart-medical-center/Pages/default.aspx#section=page-1>
- Deaconess MC <http://www.deaconessmc.com/Pages/home.aspx>
- Cannon Hill Park [http://www.historicspokane.org/cannon\\_hill\\_park.htm](http://www.historicspokane.org/cannon_hill_park.htm)
- Finch Arboretum <http://spokaneparks.org/Parks/page/99/>
- Dry Fly Distillery <http://www.dryflydistilling.com/>

## 15 Minutes

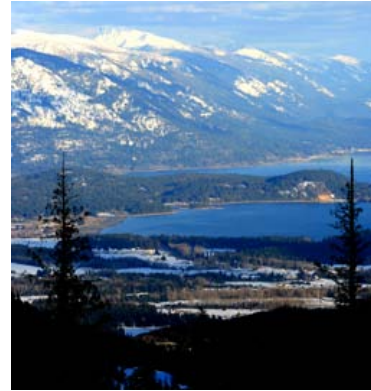
- Whitworth University <http://www.whitworth.edu/>
- Northern Quest Casino <http://www.northernquest.com/>
- Esmeralda Golf Course  
<http://spokanegolf.org/Golf/page/340/>
- Dishman Hills Natural Area  
[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/AboutDNR/ManagedLands/Pages/amp\\_na\\_dishman.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/AboutDNR/ManagedLands/Pages/amp_na_dishman.aspx)
- Manito Golf and CC <http://www.manitocc.com/>



- Creek at Qualchan <http://spokanegolf.org/Golf/page/342/>
- Splashdown Park <http://www.splashdownwaterpark.net/>
- Latah Creek Winery <http://www.latahcreek.com/>

### 30 Minutes

- Coeur d' Alene <http://www.coeurdalene.org/>
- Riverside State Park <http://www.riversidestatepark.org/>
- Cheney <http://www.cityofcheney.org/site/visiting>
- EWU <http://www.ewu.edu/Home.xml>
- Little Spokane [http://www.riversidestatepark.org/little\\_spokane.htm](http://www.riversidestatepark.org/little_spokane.htm)
- Hangman Valley GC <http://www.spokanecounty.org/parks/content.aspx?c=1851>
- Greenbluff <http://www.greenbluffgrowers.com/>
- Walter's Fruit Ranch <http://www.appleranch.com/>
- Trezzi Farm <http://www.trezzi farm.com/>
- Arbor Crest <http://www.arborcrest.com/>
- Townsend Cellar <http://www.townshendcellar.com/>



### 45 minutes

- Turnbull National Wildlife Reserve <http://www.fws.gov/turnbull/>
- Loon Lake [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loon\\_Lake\\_\(Washington\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loon_Lake_(Washington))
- Liberty Lake Park <http://www.spokanecounty.org/parks/content.aspx?c=1868>

### 1 hour

- Mt. Spokane State Park & Ski Area [www.parks.wa.gov/parks/?selectedpark=Mount%20Spokane](http://www.parks.wa.gov/parks/?selectedpark=Mount%20Spokane)
- Coeur d' Alene Casino <http://www.cdacasino.com/>
- Silverwood Theme Park, ID <http://www.silverwoodthemepark.com/>

### 1.5 hours

- Pullman <http://www.pullmanchamber.com/>
- WSU <http://www.wsu.edu/>
- Lake Roosevelt <http://www.nps.gov/laro>
- Grand Coulee <http://www.grandcouleedam.org/>
- 49 Degrees North ski area <http://www.ski49n.com/>
- Sandpoint ID <http://www.cityofsandpoint.com/>
- Steptoe Butte SP [http://www.stateparks.com/steptoe\\_butte.html](http://www.stateparks.com/steptoe_butte.html)
- Silver Mountain ski area <http://www.silvermt.com/>



## 2 hours

- Moscow, ID <http://www.moscowchamber.com/>
- University of Idaho <http://www.uidaho.edu/>
- Sherman Pass <http://www.byways.org/explore/byways/2232/>
- Canadian Border <http://www.hellobc.com/en-CA/RegionsCities/KootenayRockies.htm>
- Priest Lake <http://www.priestlake.org/>
- Schweitzer Mountain ski area <http://summer.schweitzer.com/>
- Lookout Pass ski area <http://www.skilookout.com/>

## 3 hours

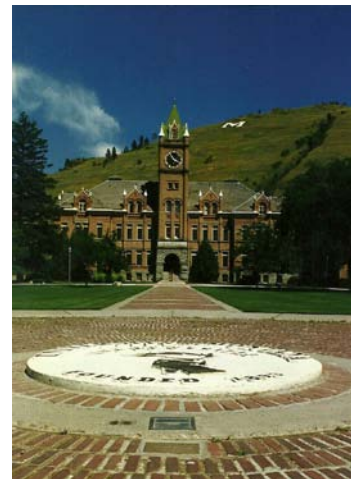
- Creston, BC <http://www.creston.ca/>
- Missoula, Mt <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/>
- U of Montana <http://www.umt.edu/future.aspx>
- Montana Grizzlies <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com/>
- Walla Walla, WA <http://www.wallawalla.org/>
- Chelan, WA <http://www.lakechelan.com/709.html>
- Crawford State Park (Gardner Cave) <http://www.ohwy.com/wa/c/crawfwsp.htm>
- Route of the Hiawatha <http://www.skilookout.com/hiawatha/>
- Gorge at George <http://www.gorgeconcerts.com/>
- Cave B Inn <http://www.sagecliffe.com/Inn.htm>

## 4 hours

- Hell's Canyon NRA <http://www.fs.fed.us/hellscanyon/>
- Pendleton OR [http://www.pendleton.or.us/index.asp?Type=B\\_LOC&SEC=%7B07EEF333-83BA-40A3-BCFC-D24D206ED060%7D](http://www.pendleton.or.us/index.asp?Type=B_LOC&SEC=%7B07EEF333-83BA-40A3-BCFC-D24D206ED060%7D)
- Leavenworth, WA <http://www.leavenworth.org/modules/pages/index.php?pageid=1>
- Winthrop, WA <http://www.winthropwashington.com/>
- Flathead Lake, MT <http://www.flatheadlake.name/>

## 5 hours

- Glacier National Park <http://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm>
- Seattle <http://www.visitseattle.org/>
- North Cascades NP <http://www.nps.gov/noca/>
- Kelowna BC <http://www.hellobc.com/en-CA/RegionsCities/ThompsonOkanagan.htm?S=N>
- McCall ID <http://www.discovermccall.com/>
- Big Mountain <http://www.skiwhitefish.com/>
- Bozeman, MT <http://www.bozemanchamber.com/>
- MSU <http://www.montana.edu/>



### 6 hours

- Mt. Rainier NP <http://www.nps.gov/mora/>
- Portland OR <http://www.travelportland.com/>
- Mt. Hood  
<http://www.skihood.com/?c=129223423334280000>
- Multnomah Falls  
[http://trips.stateoforegon.com/multnomah\\_falls/](http://trips.stateoforegon.com/multnomah_falls/)



### 7 hours

- Olympic National Park <http://www.nps.gov/olym/>
- San Juan Islands <http://www.visitsanjuans.com/index.cfm>
- Vancouver BC <http://www.tourismvancouver.com/visitors/>
- Banff Alberta <http://www.banff.ca/home.htm>
- Mt. St. Helen's NVM  
<http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Volcanoes/MSH/NatMonument/framework.html>
- Boise ID <http://www.boise.org/>
- Big Sky MT <http://www.bigskymontana.org/>



### 8 hours

- Astoria OR <http://www.oldoregon.com/visitor-info/>
- Victoria BC <http://www.tourismvictoria.com/>
- Yellowstone NP <http://www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm>

## Become a Part of This, and More

This is our city, this is our region. For almost 125 years, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane has played a vital and historic part throughout this area. We want to do, and be, even more. All we need is the right minister. Could that person be you?