

# Western Heritage Historic Byway

Explore the Western Heritage Historic Byway's vast sagebrush lands and canyon rims of the Snake River. The panoramic, breathtaking view encompasses the snowcapped Owyhee Mountains, the Boise Front, and the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. At Dedication Point enjoy an unforgettable sight overlooking the Snake River's cliffs.



## Local Information

**Kuna Chamber of Commerce**  
208-922-9254  
Send E-mail

Length: 40 miles / 64.0 km  
Time to Allow: One hour to drive the byway

## Visitor Services



### Camping

Camping is permitted downstream of Swan Falls Dam. Fishermen catch and release the mighty White Sturgeon. Channel Cat, Trout and Small Mouth Bass are plentiful, as well.



### Food

Kuna has a large grocery store and a variety of restaurants.



### Gasoline

Gasoline is available.



### Information

For further information, call:

- 800-847-4843 (statewide tourism)
- 208-922-9254 (Kuna Chamber of Commerce)
- 208-888-2817 (Meridian Chamber of Commerce)

## Special Considerations

Idaho 69 is a new 5-lane roadway to Kuna. Swan Falls Road is a 2-lane highway to the Swan Falls Dam. The final mile is a steep grade from the Snake River canyon rim to the dam site. Ice patches occur infrequently during winter weather.

## Western Heritage Historic Byway

The entire byway is paved, beginning with the initial segment (SH-69). The Swan Falls Road segment is a two-lane road used infrequently by large trucks. Low traffic volumes on the byway allow the motorist freedom of movement.

Bring binoculars and a bird field guide, as well as water, food, sunscreen, a jacket, a hat, and comfortable walking shoes.

### Seasons

#### Best Time to Drive

The best time to visit the byway is between February and June, when visitors will see a variety of raptors soaring above the Snake River Canyon.

#### High Season

The byway might be slightly more congested during summer months.

#### Spring

Birds of prey migrate in and are active from March to late June.

## Map and Directions



**Legend:**

 Point of Interest	 Campground	 Featured Byway	 Water	 State Border
 Park	 Picnic/Rest Area	 America's Byways	 Wildlife Refuge	 Urban Area
 Mountain	 Interstate	 Other Byway	 Wilderness Area	 Tribal Nation
 City	 U.S. Highway	 Other Road	 Other Federal Lands	 Military Base
 Capital	 State Highway	 Trail	 Other State Lands	

**Driving Directions**

The byway starts in Meridian.

- From I-84 in Meridian, take I-69 south at exit 44.
- Continue on I-69 for 8 miles to East Avalon Avenue in Kuna.
- Turn south on Swan Falls Road.
- Continue for 21 miles through the National Conservation Area (NCA) Birds of Prey to Swan Falls Dam, where the byway ends.

The state of Idaho has added routes to this byway as part of the Idaho State Scenic Byway program. They are highlighted in green on the map. To drive the rest of the byway turn west onto Victory Lane, north along McDermott Road, west along Warren Spur Road. Then to go to Celebration Park go south along Sinker Road. To continue west from the Celebration Park turnoff, travel Warren Spur Road to Hill Road, head north to Ferry Road, then follow Ferry Road to State Highway 45 and south of SH-45 to the Snake River.

**Getting to the Byway**

**From Boise, ID**

- Take I-84 west to ID-69 in Meridian where the byway begins.

## Road Trip: Taking Flight on the Trail of Discovery

**Departure:** Initial Point, Idaho

**Destination:** Swan Falls Dam, Idaho

**Time to allow:** 1 day

This byway provides an opportunity to view engaging landscapes and visit areas that document human land use from prehistoric times into the early 21st century. At 12 key sites, interpretive displays help educate the travelers on the area's birds of prey, history, geology, and culture. At some locations, trails are available to add further to the high desert experience. Other locations offer stunning views directly from a vehicle window. A day outing lets travelers visit the desert with its special sites and small towns. Half-day adventures are able to visit a couple of sites. Two-day outings allow time to hike trails, explore museums, and seek out solitude.

### Day 1

- **Start: Initial Point**

Initial Point looms out to the desert and presents panoramic views of the Owyhee Mountains and the Boise Front. A one-mile gravel road connects to the base of the butte. A short walk up the rocky, steep access trail brings visitors to an observation deck.



Established in 1867, a U.S. Geological Survey brass marker on the top of this prominent lava butte is the starting survey point in the State of Idaho.

- **Navigation: Celebration Park**



**From previous stop:** 30 minutes / 20 mi (32.0 km)

**Directions:** Drive north on Swan Falls Road to Victory Lane. Drive west on Victory Lane; turn north at McDemott and west on Warren Spur Road; follow to intersection with Can-Ada Road. Turn south on Can-Ada Road, then west on Victory Lane.

As the only archaeological park in southern Idaho, this site provides a rare opportunity for visitors to view petroglyphs carved on boulders by Native Americans and early settlers. Trails lead through boulders scattered by the Bonneville Flood and provide access to Halverson Lake.

- **Stop 1: Dedication Point**



**From previous stop:** 20 minutes / 10 mi (16.0 km)

**Directions:** Head west on Baseline Road to Swan Falls Road. Turn left to head north on Swan Falls Road. Follow wayfinding signs to Dedication Point.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 30 minutes

This site provides an outstanding view of the Snake River Canyon and snowcapped Owyhee Mountains, and is another good place to spot raptors in flight. Interpretive signs describe area plants, wildlife, and geology, as well as aid in identifying the different bird of prey species--prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks, and turkey vultures to name a few.

- **End: Swan Falls Dam**



**From previous stop:** 10 minutes / 4.4 mi (7.0 km)

**Directions:** Continue heading south on Swan Falls Road

**Suggested time at this stop:** 30 minutes

Swan Falls Dam was built in 1901 as the first hydroelectric dam on the Snake River. Originally, the dam supplied power to gold and silver mines in the Owyhee Mountains. Eventually, it provided electricity for settlements and agriculture on the Snake River Plateau. The dam, operated by Idaho Power Company, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

### Totals for Day 1

**Total Distance Traveled:** 34.4 miles / 55.0 km

**Total Travel Time:** 1 hour

**Total Stopping Time:** 1 hour