

Bingham County

1. Welcome to Bingham County

A county located almost in the center of southeastern Idaho

Central to everywhere in Southeast Idaho

Let's take you on a little tour highlighting some of our hidden gems

2. As we begin, let's learn a little about Bingham County History

The county was created on January 13, 1885 which is 5 years before Idaho became a state.

Named for Henry H. Bingham, a Pennsylvania congressman who was a good friend of William Bunn, Idaho's territorial governor at the time. Mr. Bingham never lived in Idaho and I wasn't even able to find any record he ever visited here either.

As of 2019, 46,811 people reside within the county.

There are a total of 2,210 sq miles—26 of which are water

Both the Snake River and the Blackfoot River flow through it.

Blackfoot is the county seat.

3. Towns were formed along the Snake River which was the life blood for the farming industry started in the fertile Snake River Valley.

We are going to spotlight 4 of the larger towns founded along the River: Shelley, Firth, Blackfoot and Aberdeen. So let's start in the northeast corner with Shelley. Located just 9 miles south of Idaho Falls, Shelley was started when John F. Shelley built a mercantile in 1892 and convinced the railroad to add a stop.

4. One of the hidden gems of this community is the North Bingham Park which is located at the end of the 1 1/2 mile paved walking path which starts by Shelley High School. It is home to NBC Historical Park. Here you are transported back in time as you stroll through the original restored buildings from the area that have been moved here to create an old town: mercantile, school, livery stable and much more to explore from the 1890 era. Learn what it was like to live back when the sagebrush covered land was changed to farming ground.

5. Also located in NB Park is a full hookup RV complete with dump station, a paved runway for RC airplanes, and

a boat ramp for access to the SR for both jet boats and drift boats. Across the River and just north of the park is also a 9 hole golf course aptly named Journey's End.

6. Shelley is home to the annual Spud Day Event

It started in 1927

Is the 3rd Saturday of September

Free baked potatoes with al the trimmings

Participate in a tug of war over a big pit filled with mashed potatoes!

Or enter the potato race where you see what it was like to harvest potatoes the old fashioned way by picking them up from the ground, placing them in a wire bushel size basket and then racing to the end of the row to dump them in the gunny sack without bruising them.

Miss Russet is also crowned each year.

A funny side note: Shelley High School resembles a modern day spud cellar and so has earned the nickname of Spud Cellar by area schools.

7. Down Highway 91 going south, is the quaint little town of Firth. Firth was also named by the railroad for the man

who gave his land for the section house and water tank. His name was Lorenzo J. Firth and he is also who the town of Lorenzo in Jefferson county is named after. Firth is home to the Little Buckaroo Rodeo where little kids are the rodeo participants. There is a gravel walking path that runs from the schools to the Firth City Nature Park which is on the banks of the Snake River. Directly east of Firth, in the Blackfoot Mountains, is Wolverine Canyon. It is a beautiful drive with places to picnic and camp. It is also where 40 Horse Cave is located. This is a fun steep hike to a large cave said to have held 40 horses and some men during a terrible winter storm.

8. Traveling Highway 91 south from Firth brings you right into Blackfoot on Main Street. Blackfoot was established in 1901 and is known as the Potato Capital of the World because more potatoes are grown and processed here than anywhere else.

9. Located on Main Street inside the old Blackfoot Railroad Depot is the Idaho Potato Museum.

Free taters for out of staters

A potato cafe which has the BEST French fries!!

Native American artist, Andrew Standing Soldier, in 1939.
Stop in sometime and take a look!

14. Jensen's grove is the city's play place. A lake to play in or on, two playgrounds for kids, a frisbee golf course, a skate park and 7 mile long paved walking trail that goes around the lake out past the golf course to Rose ponds. It's a great place to get outside! Nearby is Airport Park and an 18 hole golf course designed by George VonElm who also designed the course at the Sun Valley Resort.

15. Going west and crossing the Snake River, turn onto Highway 39 and head toward Aberdeen. Ten miles from Blackfoot turn into Liberty Road and discover a magical place called The Butterfly Haven. Here is Idaho's largest Butterfly house featuring almost 2000 butterflies flying free in a beautiful indoor garden made especially for them!

28 species from all over the United States including
11 native to Idaho

All of the host and nectar plants for the 28 species
2 water features

And this year we are adding more species of birds
than the 6 species we have had.

Observe butterflies emerging from chrysalis, see butterfly eggs and caterpillars plus some have been lucky enough to watch a caterpillar turn into its chrysalis. Learn about other pollinators like honeybees, too.

16. Come, discover and enjoy this wonderfully peaceful experience among the butterflies!

17. Aberdeen is our last stop. It is named after Aberdeen, Scotland. It is the only town of the four found on the west side of the Snake River.

18. It is home to the USDA-ARS, University of Idaho Research and Extension Center and USDA, NRCS all in the same complex. This is where new varieties of grain and potatoes are developed. Diseases and pests of grain and potatoes are also researched and studied for developing ways to prevent them. Just across the road from the complex you can play 9 holes of golf on the Hazard Creek Golf Course.

19. East of Aberdeen, just a couple of miles, is the American Falls Reservoir which was created by the flow of the Snake River stopped by a dam near the town of American Falls, 23 miles downstream.

Saturday, April 17, 2021

Sportsman's Park is the access to the reservoir on the west side for the Aberdeen area. It boasts a beautiful RV park which also has a dump station and water/electric hookups, two playground areas, a sandy beach, two boat ramps with docks and a 1.1 mile paved walking path around the rim of the reservoir with two lookouts near the water.

Following Highway 39 south from Aberdeen takes you out of Bingham County into Power County heading toward the town of American Falls.