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Sandpoint Quick Facts

Orientation

The City of Sandpoint is situated on the northern shore of Lake Pend Oreille (pronounced Pon-duh-ray) and nestled against the foothills of the Selkirks. It is located in the middle of the northern panhandle of Idaho, 60 miles south of the Canadian border. The city is accessed from the south by the scenic Long Bridge, which crosses the lake at the mouth of the Pend Oreille River.

Elevation: 2070 feet

Population: 8200

Time Zone: Pacific

Days of Sunshine: 174

Climate

Sandpoint has a moderate 4-season climate. Few days reach subzero temperatures and likewise, few days reach over 90 degrees in the summer. Most of the precipitation occurs in the winter. The City of Sandpoint receives about 33 " of precipitation annually. The mountains receive 300" of snow on average. Summers are drier with weeks of sunny days in a row.

| | Avg Min Temp F | Avg Max Temp F |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Jan. | 20.3 | 32.3 |
| Feb. | 22.8 | 38 |
| Mar. | 27.7 | 46.4 |
| Apr. | 33.9 | 57.2 |
| May | 40.2 | 66.3 |
| Jun. | 45.9 | 73.2 |
| Jul. | 48.5 | 81.9 |
| Aug. | 47.0 | 81.0 |
| Sep. | 41.0 | 70.5 |
| Oct. | 34.0 | 57.0 |
| Nov. | 28.3 | 41.5 |
| Dec. | 23.1 | 34.1 |

*Source: Western Regional Climate Center, <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?idsand>

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Economy

The city was founded as a timber community in the 1800's. As the timber industry winds down, tourism has become a stronger driving force in Sandpoint with the lake, the mountain and many outdoor options.

Notable employers:

Pend Oreille School District, 650 employees
Coldwater Creek women's apparel corporate hq, 600-700 employees
Lighthouse food products manufacturer, 400 employees
US Forest Service, 150 employees
Schweitzer Mountain Resort, 60 – 600 seasonal employees.

Fine Arts

The last two decades have seen Sandpoint blossom as an arts community. At the center is the community-owned Panida Theater, which hosts weekly concerts, movies, and events. (panida.org)

We have two very active arts organizations:

- Pend Oreille Arts Council (POAC) – hosts arts shows and events, brings in national performing arts groups (artinsandpoint.org)
- Arts Alliance – art classes and workshops, hosts events (artsalliance.info)

Average Home Price

2008:
2005: \$289,619
2002: \$168,369

Distance to Sandpoint from these cities

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Boise, ID.: 450 miles | Calgary, Alberta.: 425 miles |
| Coeur d'Alene, ID.: 45 miles | Seattle, WA.: 350 miles |
| Portland, OR.: 400 miles | Butte, MT.: 340 miles |
| Spokane, WA.: 80 miles | Missoula, MT.: 200 miles |
| Glacier National Park, MT.: 225 miles | |

The Lake

Shoreline: 111 miles
Depth: 1172 feet
Length: 43 miles
Width: 6.25 miles at its widest point. Fifth deepest freshwater lake in the nation.

Legend has it that it was named for a local Indian tribe which the French Canadian fur trappers called Pend oreilles (meaning Ear hangs in French) because of the pendants

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they wore in their ear lobes. Others contend the lake was named as such because it is shaped like an ear with a long ear lobe.

Fish: A truly varied fishery exists with trophy trout taken in Kamloops Rainbow, Mackinaw and the protected Bull Trout, plus, Small and Large Mouth Bass and Cutthroat. Like the Loch Ness monster in Scotland, legend has it that we have our own water monster in the lake, named the Pend Oreille Paddler. Some say those sightings were actually of giant sturgeon that reached 12 feet in length but that has never been confirmed.

Topography of the lake: The south end of the lake is bordered by steep cliffs. The north shore rises gradually to the Selkirk Mountains. One particularly outstanding feature is most of the southern half of the lake is bordered by National Forest, preserving public access and scenery for perpetuity.

Other facts: Lake Pend Oreille is home to a U.S. Navy submarine acoustic testing base because of the depth and silence of its southern waters.

Three Mountain Ranges

The Cabinets are to the east in Montana, the Selkirks extend to the north into Canada and the Coeur d'Alenes are to the south.

Idaho Panhandle National Forests: National Forests comprise 470,000 acres of Bonner County, more than the combined total of all private land ownership in the county. These forests are integrated into the daily lives of local residents and visitors alike through endless recreational opportunities, as well as being a main ingredient in the visual landscape around us.