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## Sandpoint Quick Facts

### Orientation

The City of Sandpoint is situated on the northern shore of Lake Pend Oreille (pronounced Ponduh-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.

	<b>Avg Min Temp F</b>	<b>Avg Max Temp F</b>
Jan.	20.3	32.3
Feb.	22.8	38
Mar.	27.7	46.3
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>

### Economy

The city was founded as a timber community in the 1800's. As the timber industry winds down, the economy has shifted to a combination of manufacturing, tourism and retail. Bonner County

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Administrative Offices and Visitor Center

231 North Third Avenue ▪ P.O. Box 928 ▪ Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

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has seen higher than national average growth in population since the 1970's thanks to a better quality of life, and surrounding recreation opportunities in the mountains and lakes. This has contributed to growth in the construction, real estate, health care, and service provider segments.

**Notable employers:**

Bonner General Hospital  
Pend Oreille School District  
Coldwater Creek women's apparel corporate headquarters  
Litehouse food products manufacturer  
US Forest Service  
Schweitzer Mountain Resort

**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](http://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](http://artinsandpoint.org))
- Arts Alliance – art classes and workshops, hosts events ([artsalliance.info](http://artsalliance.info))

**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 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.

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