

## **DAY 11 - IDAHO (return trip)**



**Shoshone Falls -- this is all we saw.**

**"The Niagara of the West"**

**Often referred to as the Niagara of the West, Shoshone Falls is a must-see attraction in Twin Falls, Idaho. At 212 feet tall and 900 foot wide, Shoshone Falls is one of the largest natural waterfalls in the United States surpassing the height of the famous Niagara Falls. Shoshone Falls is located on the Snake River as it carves its way through a deep basalt Canyon on its way to the Columbia River.**

**<https://www.tfid.org/309/Shoshone-Falls>**

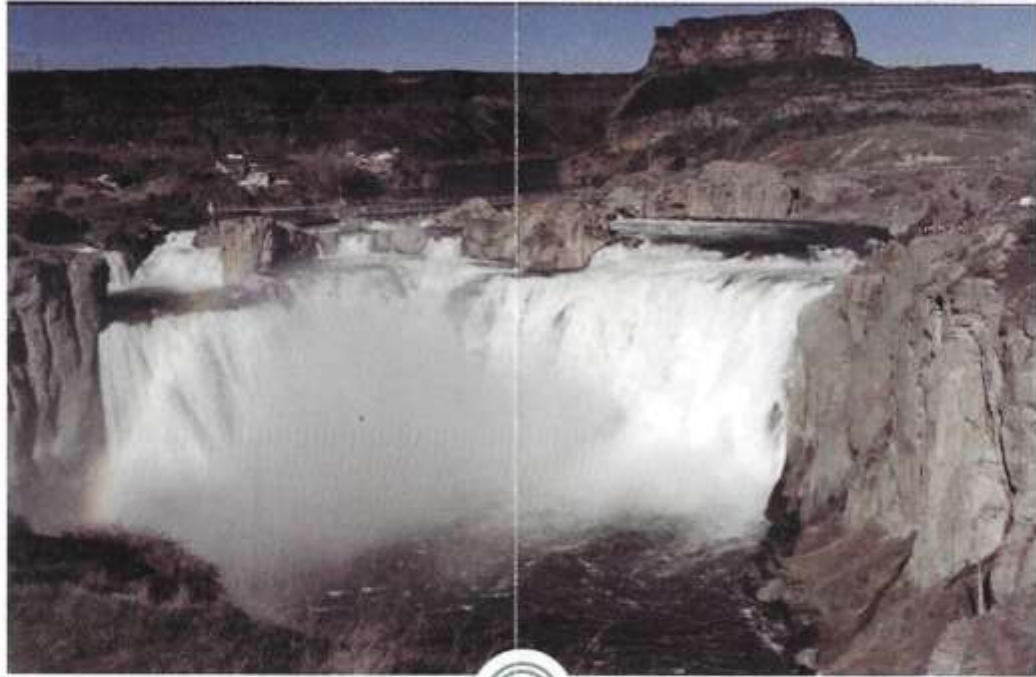








Postcard showing what it should look like (in May-June)



**History of Shoshone Falls Park:** As you drive the winding road into the Snake River Canyon northwest of Twin Falls, try to imagine the forces that could have created this geological marvel. Shoshone Falls and the fantastically eroded basalt cliffs surround it are relics of the Bonneville Flood, a catastrophic torrent that ripped through the canyon about 15,000 years ago. Now, Shoshone Falls tumbles 212 feet to the canyon floor. The water falls' terraced 1,000 ft span is one of Idaho's most magnificent sights. Certain sections of the Falls have names: Bridal Veil and Brides Maid (or Train) are on the upper left, below those two is Bridal Falls, the Two Graces are in the center, and the Sentinel is on the right.

In 1932, Frederick J. Adams and Martha Stone Adams donated the Shoshone Falls park to the City of Twin Falls with the stipulation that the land be maintained as a public park for park purposes only and for the beneficial use and enjoyment of all people. The year after the Adams family donated the land, the State of Idaho donated land on the west side of the park to the City of Twin Falls.





**Spring, when the snowpack begins to melt, is the best time to see Shoshone Falls. In the summer months, a portion of the river is diverted for irrigation purposes, which reduces the flow over the falls. In the Fall, you will often experience a minimal flow where Shoshone Falls will appear nearly dry. At this time, the majority of the water coming down the Snake River is used to recharge the reservoir system upstream of Shoshone Falls.**

**The Snake River serves as the lifeblood of our region. Harnessing the water from the Snake River for irrigation is a crucial part of our local economy. Twenty miles upstream, the water is diverted to irrigate over 500,000 acres of farmland. It is estimated that the crops produced in these fields are worth \$62,000,000 annually.**

**<https://www.tfid.org/309/Shoshone-Falls>**



Most of the rocks underlying the Snake River Plain originated from massive lava flows related to eruptions of the [Yellowstone hotspot](#) over many millions of years. Shoshone Falls flows over a 6-million-year-old [rhyolite](#) or trachyte lava flow that intersects the weaker [basalt](#) layers comprising the surrounding [Snake River Plain](#), creating a natural [knickpoint](#) that resists water erosion.

Formed by the cataclysmic [outburst flooding](#) of [Lake Bonneville](#) during the [Pleistocene ice age](#) about 14,000 years ago, Shoshone Falls marks the historical upper limit of fish migration (including [salmon](#)) in the Snake River, and was an important fishing and trading place for [Native Americans](#). The falls were documented by Europeans as early as the 1840s; despite the isolated location, it became a tourist attraction starting in the 1860s.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoshone\\_Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoshone_Falls)





The Snake River is a major river in the interior Pacific Northwest region of the United States. About 1,080 miles (1,740 km) long, it is the largest tributary of the Columbia River, which is the largest North American river that empties into the Pacific Ocean. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake\\_River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_River)



**Driving towards the capitol building in Boise, Idaho.**





The Idaho State Capitol in [Boise](#) is the [home of the government](#) of the [U.S. state](#) of [Idaho](#).

The architects used varied materials to construct the building and their design was inspired by [Classical](#) style of [architecture](#) of [Ancient Rome](#) and [Ancient Greece](#) for examples. Its [sandstone](#) exterior is dug and cut from the state-owned quarry at nearby [Table Rock](#) in [Ada County, Idaho](#).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho\\_State\\_Capitol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_State_Capitol)



The floor contains a [compass rose](#); in its center is a [sundial](#) that has minerals found in Idaho.





On the first floor of the capitol building, when looking upward to the dome, 13 large stars and 43 smaller stars can be seen. The 13 large stars represent the [thirteen original colonies](#) and the 43 smaller stars indicate that Idaho was the forty-third state to enter the union.



**Construction:** four types of marble were used -- red marble from Georgia, gray marble from Alaska, green marble from Vermont, and black marble from Italy.

Plasterers were tasked with restoring [scagliola](#), a composite of [selenite](#), glue, and natural pigments, imitating [marble](#) and other hard stones. During its 1905-1920 construction, the Idaho State Capitol's original architects used a combination of white marble and matching scagliola to create a "Capitol of Light," so called because the materials would glow in natural light in the [rotunda](#).

There are 219 pillars in the original building – Doric, Corinthian, or Ionic – and each pillar is made up of marble dust, plaster and [scagliola](#). Scagliola is a mixture of granite, marble dust, gypsum and glue dyed to look like marble. This artificial marble was created by a family of artisans in Italy.

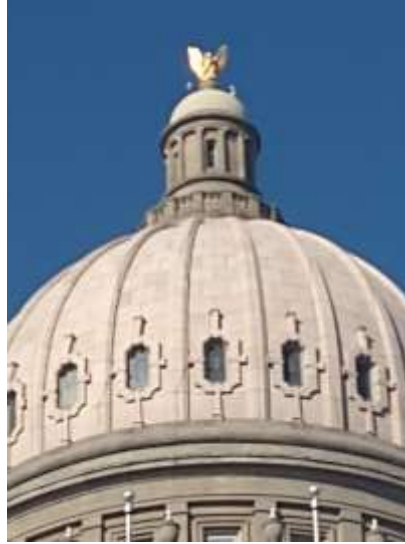




**A replica Liberty Bell stands at the base of the stairs to the capitol building. The US Department of the Treasury gave the bell to the state in 1950.**







**Idaho's capitol building. A gilded copper eagle made from components of the USS Idaho battleship perches atop the Capitol Dome. It's difficult to guess its size from such a distance, but it is 5'7" tall.**



**Statue of Abraham Lincoln at Idaho's Capitol. President Abraham Lincoln signed the law that created the Idaho territory in March 1963.**



# Welcome to Bliss Rest Area

I-84 Westbound,  
Milepost 133



## Road Reports

Idaho - 511.idaho.gov  
Call 8-5-5 or visit us  
on 1-888-IDA-ROAD

Washington - 511.wa.gov

Oregon - 511.oregon.gov

California - 511.california.gov

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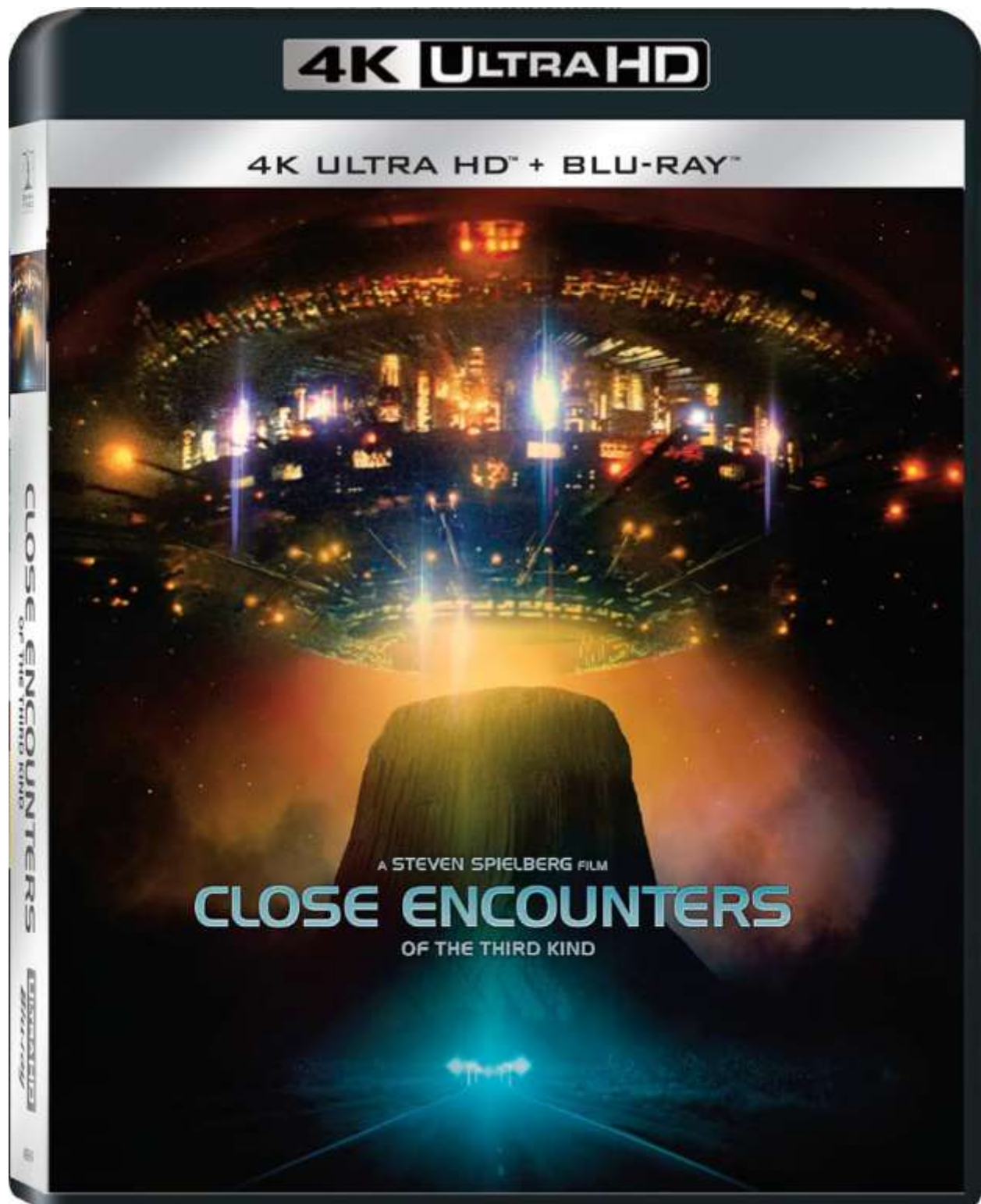
Alaska - 511.alaska.gov

Hawaii - 511.hawaii.gov

## Legend

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- Idaho Highway
- City
- Rest Area
- Gateway Rest Area & Visitor Centers
- Weather Station
- Countdown





We watched this “Devils Tower” (Bear Lodge) movie when we returned home. It brought back memories of our adventure at that place in Wyoming.