

Dinner

Monday, 6.30 – 9.00 P.M.

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Redfish Lake, Idaho - photo courtesy of Idaho Travel Council

Monday, May 17, 2004

6.15 pm

Meet in the hotel lobby to board the open-air train

The open-air train will depart from the hotel at 6:15 p.m. Please gather in the hotel lobby before 6:15 p.m. and begin boarding the train as soon as possible.

From the hotel we will be taken on a tour of historic Boise. Our engineer will provide us with historical facts and information about points of interest as we travel by various landmarks in Boise.

Finally, the train will take us to our dinner destination, the Basque Cultural Center, where we will be treated to Basque fare and entertained by Basque dancers. The cultural center is located just across the street from the Grove Hotel. Following dinner, you are free to return to the hotel or to explore Boise on your own.

Note about attire: On Monday evening, please wear warm, comfortable, casual clothing (jeans and tennis shoes are fine) and bring along a light jacket. A few blankets have been requested for the open-air train ride, but they are reserved for the Hawaii commissioners and their guests; well, maybe the Arizona folks too.

6.15 - 7.15 pm

Train Tour of historic Boise

The Boise story began back in the early 1840s when tracks were laid for the Oregon bound railroad – right through the town. But the city really took root in 1862, when a major gold discovery 40 miles north prompted the need for an army fort. With its newfound security, this frontier community began to flourish.

For the past 26 years the **Boise Tour Train (an 1800s-style locomotive)** has meandered Boise's streets, spreading tales of early gold seekers and the pioneer families that supported them. Our journey through time takes us from the discovery of gold in the Boise Basin and the completion of the **State Capitol Building** in 1920 up to the current construction going on downtown. Boise still maintains a great deal of pioneer architecture, including log cabins, adobe homes, and sandstone buildings. The tours are fully narrated by our enthusiastic engineers and, when finished, you will be almost as knowledgeable as any native **Idahoan**.

Basque style dinner and live entertainment

7.15 - 9.00 pm

Basque Center

The Basque Museum & Cultural Center

The Basque Museum & Cultural Center provides a look into the heritage of the Basque communities of Idaho and surrounding areas.

Boise has long been a central location where Basque immigrants congregated after coming to the United States from the Spanish Basque region. As they established their lives here, Basques became well known for their hard work and perseverance.

The Basque Museum & Cultural Center provides a look into the Basque heritage via exhibits, collections, and tours. As a cultural center, it's a gathering place for events and educational opportunities – in which people of all backgrounds can participate in Basque activities.

Basque Dancers

The Basque people prize music, song and dance. In the summer of 1980 nine men of the Boise *Oinkari* Basque Dancers donned the distinctive folk dance costumes of Oñati – the sash, skirt and castanets – and performed the *Korpus dantzak* for the first time in the U.S. Almost every year since then, at the end of July in Boise, the “trakatan-trakatan” clatter of the dancers’ castanets can be heard as the Idaho *Euskaldunak* (Basques) and their friends gather to celebrate the festival of their patron St. Ignatius. These liturgical dances, dating back several centuries, are characterized by gestures of reverence: they manifest the dancing of prayer.

Basques in Boise

The vast majority of the Basques living in the Boise area came from the province of Bizkaia. Basque names first started appearing here in the late 1800s. Boise has a very close-knit, active Basque community. The following is a list of buildings on or near Grove Street that are all important in keeping the Basque culture alive in Boise.

The Basque Center: Built in the late 1940s as a social club and gathering place, the Basque Center has played an important role in the history of the Basques here. It's used for dance practices for both the *Oinkari* Basque Dancers and the Boise'ko Gasteak Dancers. In the afternoon it's not unusual to find some of the older Basques meeting there to drink coffee, converse, and maybe play some *Mus*, a Basque card game.

The Cyrus Jacobs-Uberauga Boarding House: Built in 1864, it's the oldest surviving brick building still in existence in Boise. Notable historical trivia includes boasting the first indoor bathtub in Boise and wedding site of Idaho's famous Sen. William Borah. It was first rented by Basques for use as a boarding house in 1910 and was purchased by the Uberuaga family in 1917.

The Basque Museum and Cultural Center: This building houses the interpretive exhibits on the Basques and their history in Idaho, a classroom area where Basque language classes are offered two times per week, a library, offices, and a gift shop.

The Fronton Building: It was built as a boarding house by the Anduiza family in 1912 and is unique because of the fronton, or Basque handball court, inside.

Gernika: This Basque pub was established in 1991 and has become a gathering point for many in the community.

