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# GETAWAYS

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BEST TRIPS IN 2019

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Autumn

38

Teton  
Valley,  
Idaho

A fall sunset illuminates the South Fork of the Snake River in Eastern Idaho's Swan Valley.

## LEARN MORE

For lodging, dining and other planning resources, contact Yellowstone Teton Territory, [yellowstoneteton.org](http://yellowstoneteton.org).

# Scenic Splendor ON THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

BY TAMARA MULDOON

Experience the “quiet side” of the Grand Tetons during a fall getaway to Eastern Idaho. Autumn is an ideal time to visit, when vividly colored foliage and cooler weather call for outdoor activities and leisurely sightseeing drives along scenic and historic byways.

Drive there, or fly into Idaho Falls and rent a car. The largest city on the state's eastern side, Idaho Falls makes a convenient hub for exploring the region. Or, travel about the countryside, lodging in smaller towns like Rigby, Rexburg, St. Anthony and Driggs.

## RIGBY

In Rigby, visit the Philo Farnsworth TV and Pioneer Museum to learn about the man who invented television. Detour to Heise Hot Springs ([heisehotsprings.net](http://heisehotsprings.net)) near Ririe where you can play golf, go zip-lining and swim in the 92-degree pool. The resort also offers guided fishing trips.

## REXBURG

Rexburg is the southern terminus of the Fort Henry Historic Byway. Take a spin on the Idaho Centennial Carousel, the state's only antique wooden carousel. Learn about the great Teton Flood at the Museum of Rexburg, see vintage U.S. military aircraft at the Legacy Flight Museum, and enjoy a nostalgic movie night at Teton Vu Drive-In theater.

Stretch your legs on Cress Creek Trail for panoramic views of the Snake River's South Fork. See wildlife up close at Yellowstone Bear World ([yellowstonebearworld.com](http://yellowstonebearworld.com)), a 120-acre drive-through animal park featuring black and grizzly bears, elk, deer, mountain goats, bison and moose.

Birders will love Camas National Wildlife Refuge. There, more than 10,000 acres host thousands of ducks, geese and swans during peak spring and fall migration seasons. You might even see moose, which frequent the refuge wetlands.



St. Anthony Sand Dunes

© Bureau of Land Management, photo by Bob Wick via Flickr.com



Yellowstone Bear World

© Yellowstone Bear World

## ST. ANTHONY

The St. Anthony area presents many options to get outdoors and enjoy nature. Stroll along Henry's Fork Greenway in St. Anthony, a 2.4-mile paved trail beside Henry's Fork of the Snake River.

The amazing St. Anthony Sand Dunes—more than 10,000 acres of white quartz sand dunes, some up to 400 feet high—is a popular off-road-vehicle site also used for hiking and horseback riding. Visit Egin Lake day use area for access to the dunes.

## ASHTON

From Ashton, follow Mesa Falls Scenic Byway to Island Park, gateway to the lakes and trails of the Targhee National Forest. Along the route, don't miss namesake Mesa Falls—actually two falls. Lower Mesa Falls is accessible by a short hike. Pay the nominal fee to visit impressive Upper Mesa Falls, as high as a 10-story building. Check out the historic Visitor Center and one-mile Mesa Falls Nature Trail.

## TETON VALLEY

For a close-up view of the Teton's western face, drive the 69-mile Teton Scenic Byway between Ashton and Swan Valley. Along the way, the towns of Teton, Victor and Driggs make great pit stops. This route is also part of the Yellowstone-Grand Teton Loop, which continues through those national parks in Wyoming and Montana.

Known for winter skiing, Grand Targhee Resort ([grandtarghee.com](http://grandtarghee.com)), located east of Driggs in the Teton foothills, offers lift-accessed hiking and biking trails from spring through fall.

## SPENCER

Spencer, located on the Lost Gold Trails Loop drive, shows why Idaho is called the "Gem State." Several businesses give visitors the chance to dig for opals, then have the stones polished and mounted into jewelry.

In Eastern Idaho in autumn, daytime temperatures range in the 50s to 70s Fahrenheit, dipping into the 40s or 30s at night, yet with little precipitation. These frosty nights turn the deciduous trees lovely shades of red and gold. Visit from mid-September through October for the best fall color. 🍂

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