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Free & Family-Friendly

Get Active Outside with Spokane's Affordable Vacations
Spokane, Washington

1. Canoe or Kayak

- The Little Spokane River is one of the region's best kept secrets as one of the nation's top two birding rivers, according to the US Department of Fish and Wildlife. Put in at the site of Indian Painted Rocks, unclaimed ancient pictographs inscribed on two giant basalt boulders. <http://www.riversidestatepark.org/index.htm>

2. Tear up the Trail

- Hike, bike or skate the Centennial Trail, a 37-mile long paved pathway that follows the Spokane River to the Idaho border and beyond. <http://www.spokanecentennialtrail.org/>

3. Bike More

- From mountain biking to road biking, the Spokane Region has at least 15 major trails. Some of the best are at the top of Mt. Spokane.

4. Enjoy the View

- Drive to the top of Mt. Spokane to the parking lot for the Vista House, a fire lookout built entirely of rock from the mountain by the CCC. Six metal pipes on stands offer a glimpse at lakes throughout the region and the view from the 5,883-foot mountaintop extends into Idaho, Montana and Canada.

copy and paste into browser:

[http://www.parks.wa.gov/parks/?selectedpark=Mount Spokane&subject=all](http://www.parks.wa.gov/parks/?selectedpark=Mount%20Spokane&subject=all)

5. Play in the Park

- Check out our 100-acre Riverfront Park in the heart of downtown with a 26-foot-long Radio Flyer Wagon allowing kids (and kids at heart) to climb into the bed and slide down the handle. Also, feed garbage to the Garbage Eating Goat statue sculpted by a Catholic Nun. Run through the Rotary Riverfront Fountain with 150 different water cycles.
<http://www.spokaneriverfrontpark.com/content.php?id=89>

6. Parks within a Park

- Visit the 90-acre Manito Park with the French Renaissance Garden comparable to those in Europe. But wait, it also has a Japanese Garden, a lilac garden, a rose garden, a conservatory and a duck pond.
<http://www.thefriendsofmanito.org/>

7. Read the Writing on the Wall

- The historic Davenport Hotel, ranked among the finest by Condé Nast, is a great place to step back in time. The hotel offerings a sheet at the front desk with a self-guided tour. Be sure to head upstairs on the mezzanine and look for “Will You Marry Me” painted into the faux woodwork.

8. Take a Tour

- Pick up the Downtown Spokane Heritage Walk brochures and check out one of four walking tours with information on the church where Sonora Smart Dodd first conceived the idea for the international holiday celebrating Father’s Day or discover the site of the World’s Fair Expo ’74, the world’s first environmentally-friendly world’s fair.
<http://www.historicspokane.org/PDFs/Downtown%20Spokane%20Heritage%20Walk.pdf>

9. Catch a Concert

- On Thursday evenings all summer long local bands perform in the park in the historic Browne’s Addition. Families bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy the tunes. No alcohol allowed, so this event is very family-oriented.
www.mybrownesaddition.org
- Northwest Neighborhood Association also has a free summer concert series,
www.nwspokane.org.
- Friends of Pavillion Park at Liberty Lake offer free concerts and movies on Fridays and Saturdays throughout summer, www.pavillionpark.org.

- Spokane Symphony offers two free concerts in the beginning of September at Pavillion Park and Comstock Park. www.spokanesymphony.org.

10. Make a Movie

- 1940's era Garland Theater offers free family friendly movies Monday-Friday at 9:30am all summer long. www.garlandtheater.com
- Spokane Valley Mall Cinemas has free movies Tuesday-Thursday, 10am.
- Downtown Spokane Public Library also has a free summer movie series. www.spokanelibrary.org.

Updated March 2010.