



CVB *media information*

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Fun Facts About Spokane **Spokane, Washington 2010**

Some Facts

- The City of Spokane is home to some 201,000 residents; there are around 500,000 residents in the metropolitan area.
- Located in Eastern Washington, 18 miles from the Idaho border, 280 miles from Seattle and 110 miles south of Canada, the Spokane region features the second largest population base in the state of Washington and is the largest city between Minneapolis and Seattle
- The Spokane River runs through our downtown with spectacular falls on the western end of our city core. Beautiful Riverfront Park also is in the heart of our city
- The region enjoys four distinct seasons with 260 days of sunshine each year.
- The Spokane region is the gateway to the great outdoors. There are 76 lakes, 33 golf courses, five major National Parks, the spectacular Columbia River Gorge, and Grand Coulee Dam all within an easy drive of the city.

Famous People From Spokane

Bing Crosby, singer and actor

Tom Foley, former Speaker of the House 1989-1994

John Stockton, all-time NBA assists leader, retired Utah Jazz

Mark Rypien, MVP Super Bowl XXVI

Ryne Sandberg, Second Baseman for the Chicago Cubs

Tom Sneva, 1983 Indianapolis 500 champion

Craig T. Nelson, star of TV's "The District" and "Coach"

Julia Sweeney, comedienne and former star of "Saturday Night Live"

Jan-Michael Gambill, professional Tennis star

Fun Facts

- The first Father's Day celebration took place in Spokane, Washington on June 19th, 1910, and was conceived by local resident Sonora Smart Dodd.
- Our name comes from the Native American tribe that makes its home in this area and means "Children of the Sun."
- Spokane was host to the first environmentally-themed World's Fair Expo '74. Riverfront Park was converted from a railyard to a park for World's Fair Expo '74.
- Spokane is home to an all-original hand-carved Looft Carousel in Riverfront Park. This 1909 antique is comprised of 54 hand-carved horses and celebrated 100 years in 2009.
- Voted one of 10 All-America Cities in 1974 and 2004.
- Debbie Mumm lives and operates Debbie Mumm Inc. in Spokane
- One of the area's finest attractions is the Spokane River Centennial Trail which links Spokane, WA to Coeur d'Alene, ID. The trail is 67-miles long, up to 12 feet wide, and paved for use by runners, walkers, and bicycles. The trail is closed to all motorized traffic and begins at the confluence of the Spokane and Little Spokane Rivers and connects to the Idaho Centennial Trail for an additional leg into downtown Coeur d'Alene.
- The Spokane Falls, in the center of the city, is one of the largest urban waterfalls in the United States.
- The city's nickname is the Lilac City and each year the 10-day Lilac Festival celebrates the coming of spring.
- Spokane is the home of the Lilac Bloomsday Run, one of the largest timed foot races in the world with over 50,000 participants per year.
- Spokane is the home of Hoopfest, the largest 3-on-3 basketball tournament in the world with 26,000 players aged 7 to 87 from 42 states playing on 410 courts in the streets of downtown.
- Described by Golf Digest as a 'golf mecca' unrivaled "for quality, price, concentration and true, unadulterated public golf," the region features 19 public courses within a 45-minute drive".
- Recently released movies filmed in Spokane include "Home of the Brave" with Samuel L. Jackson, Christina Ricci, Jessica Biel and Fifty-Cent. Cuba Gooding Jr., James Woods, and Burt Reynolds star in "End Game." Chuck Norris was filmed in "The Cutter" and Josh Hartnett stars in "Mozart and the Whale."
- Over the last 20 years, more than two dozen movies have been filmed in the Inland Northwest, including the comedy "Benny & Joon," the coming of age film "Vision Quest," the Robin Williams film "Toys," the natural disaster movie "Dante's Peak," plus "Hangman's Curse," "The Postman," and "Shadow of Fear"

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