

**Special attractions:** ① Franklin Historic District; ② Oneida Stake Academy; ③ Bear River Massacre Site;

④ Lake Bonneville Geological Site and Red Rock Pass; ⑤ Niter Ice Cave; ⑥ Black Canyon Gorge; ⑦ Last Chance Canal;

⑧ Sheep Rock/Oregon Trail; ⑨ Chesterfield Townsite; ⑩ Soda Springs Geyser; ⑪ Hooper Springs; ⑫ Formation Springs;

⑬ China Hat; ⑭ Henry Store; ⑮ Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge; ⑯ Lander Trail; ⑰ Caribou Mountain; ⑱ Tin Cup.

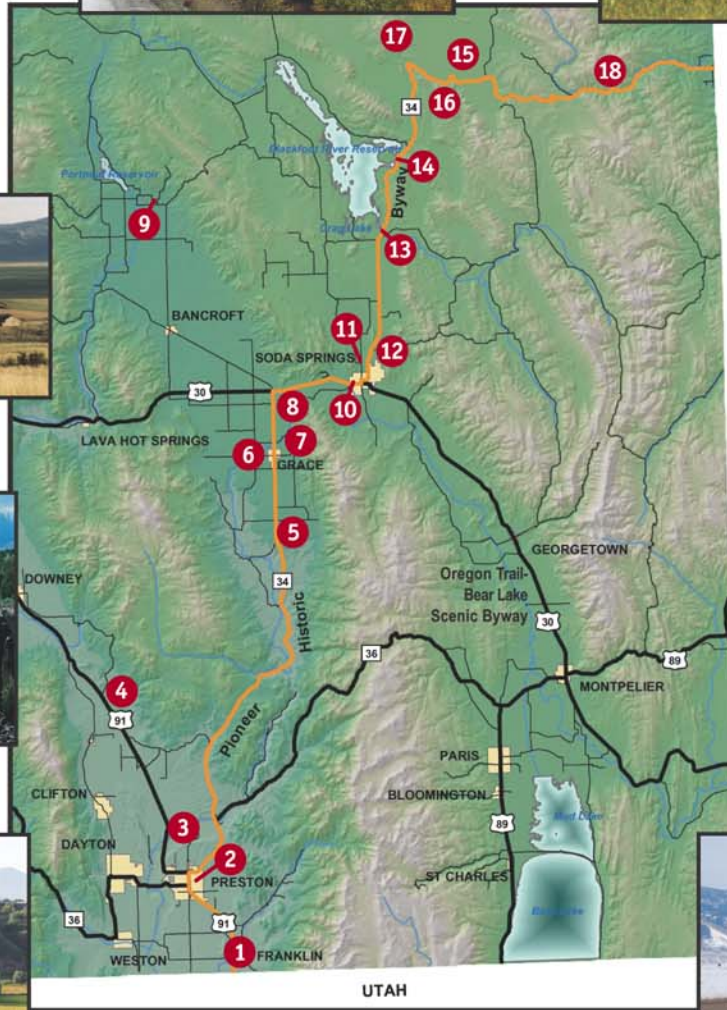


IDAHO

⑰ Caribou Mountain



⑮ Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge



⑨ Chesterfield Townsite



⑥ Black Canyon Gorge



③ Bear River Massacre Site



⑭ Henry Store



⑪ Hooper Springs



⑤ Niter Ice Cave



# Pioneer Historic Byway

## Special Attractions – See next panel & inside

**Location:**

Begins at the Utah state line and follows U.S. 91, then Idaho 34, north to U.S. 30 and then east to Soda Springs where it meets the Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway. From there, north on Idaho 34 to the Wyoming state line.

Length: 127 miles. Allow 2.5 hours.

**Roadway:**

U.S. 91 is a two-lane road with some passing lanes. Idaho 34 is a two-lane road with one moderately steep grade between Wayan and the Wyoming border. This is a heavy snowfall area with most winter travel being made on a snow floor. The section of Idaho 34 between Soda Springs and the Wyoming border may occasionally be closed in the winter.

When to see it: Year around.

Camping: Several in the Caribou National Forest.

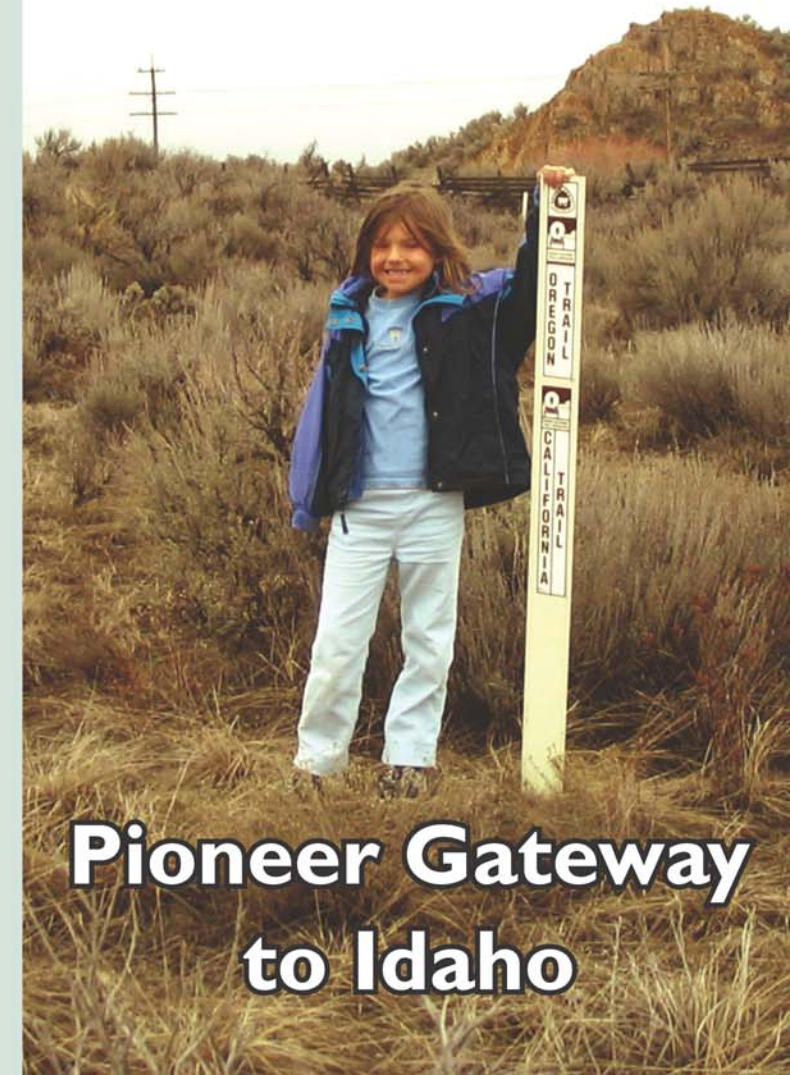
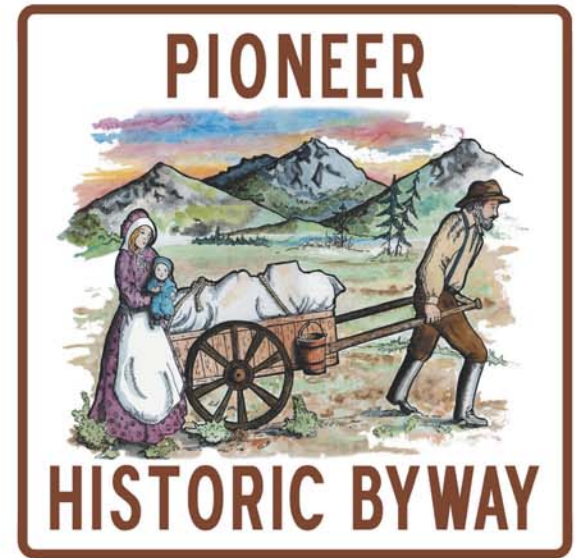
Services: Full services in Preston, Grace, Soda Springs; partial services in Franklin.

**Contacts:**

Preston Area Chamber of Commerce: (208) 852-2703, [www.prestonidaho.org](http://www.prestonidaho.org);  
 Pioneer Country Travel Council: (800) 423-8597 or (888) 201-1063, [www.seidaho.org](http://www.seidaho.org);  
 Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce: (208) 547-2600 or (888) 399-0888, [www.sodachamber.com](http://www.sodachamber.com);  
 U.S. Forest Service-Soda Springs Ranger District: (208) 547-4356; [www.pioneerhistoricbyway.org](http://www.pioneerhistoricbyway.org);  
[www.bywayonline.org](http://www.bywayonline.org).

# IDAHO

This brochure funded in part by a grant from  
 the Federal Highway Administration  
 in cooperation with the  
 Idaho Transportation Department



**Pioneer Gateway  
 to Idaho**



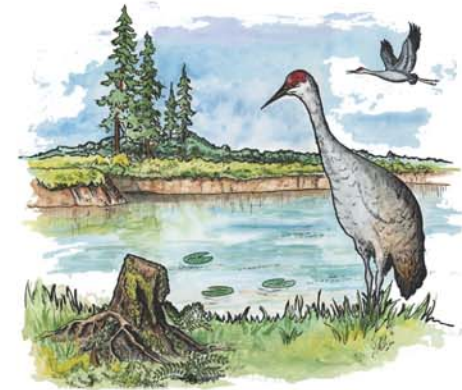


# Pioneer Historic Byway

On this route, travelers can retrace some steps of Idaho's early pioneers and follow the historic path taken by early-day Yellowstone Park visitors. From Franklin, Idaho's oldest settlement, this byway heads north to Soda Springs and on to the Wyoming border. This route offers the shortest distance and time between Salt Lake City and Yellowstone Park.

Along the way you can see the remnants of the first grist mill in Idaho, one of the original Yellowstone Highway markers, the 100+ year old Mormon Oneida Academy, the site of the massacre at Bear River, Devil's Hand, the Niter Ice Cave, Last Chance Canal, cinder cones from extinct volcanoes, a section of the Oregon-California Trail, and many other historical points of interest, documenting early settlement in this portion of Idaho.

Soda Springs offers numerous opportunities for visitors. Among a variety of historic attractions, the town features the world's only captive geyser, with a plume of almost 100 feet. In addition, the nearby Formation Springs Nature Conservancy Area contains a travertine-formed cave and excellent waterfowl and wildlife viewing.



## 9 Chesterfield

Chesterfield established in 1879, is an early Mormon settlement on the Oregon Trail. The town features 23 historic brick buildings built between 1884 and 1904, including the old Chesterfield store. Chesterfield is on the National Register of Historic Places.



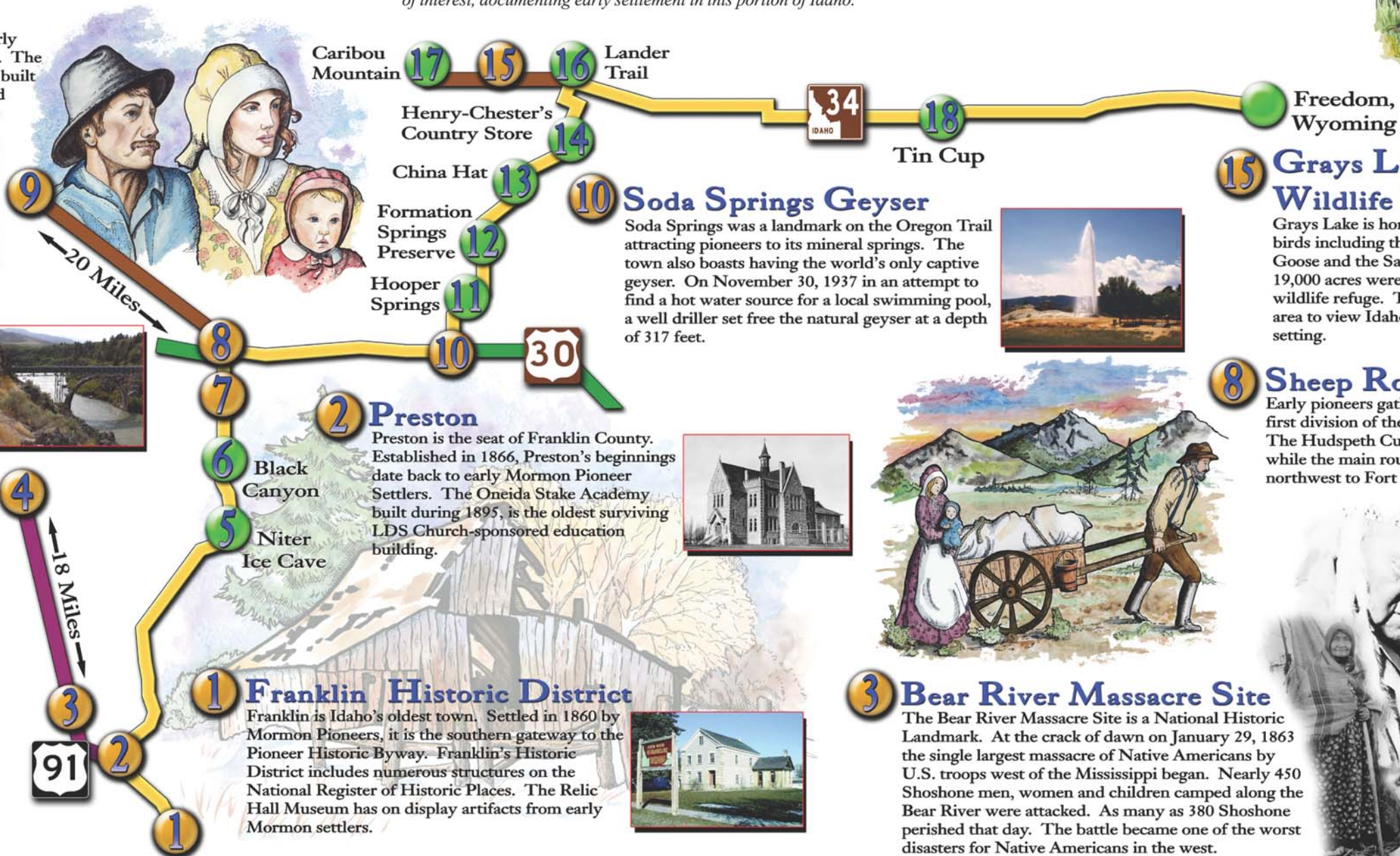
## 7 Last Chance Canal

The Last Chance Canal diverted Bear River water to irrigate Grace Valley. The canal was completed in the early 1900's and was an engineering masterpiece for its time. Without the network of canals, farming in the region would not exist.



## 4 Red Rock Pass

About 14,500 years ago, an earthen dam suddenly broke, beginning one of the largest floods ever recorded in geologic history. Ancient Lake Bonneville, larger in size than Lake Michigan, emptied in a catastrophic torrent. Evidence of the flood, such as melon size gravel is visible along the byway. Today, all that remains of Lake Bonneville is the Great Salt Lake in Utah.



## 1 Franklin Historic District

Franklin is Idaho's oldest town. Settled in 1860 by Mormon Pioneers, it is the southern gateway to the Pioneer Historic Byway. Franklin's Historic District includes numerous structures on the National Register of Historic Places. The Relic Hall Museum has on display artifacts from early Mormon settlers.



## 2 Preston

Preston is the seat of Franklin County. Established in 1866, Preston's beginnings date back to early Mormon Pioneer Settlers. The Oneida Stake Academy built during 1895, is the oldest surviving LDS Church-sponsored education building.



## 10 Soda Springs Geyser

Soda Springs was a landmark on the Oregon Trail attracting pioneers to its mineral springs. The town also boasts having the world's only captive geyser. On November 30, 1937 in an attempt to find a hot water source for a local swimming pool, a well driller set free the natural geyser at a depth of 317 feet.



## 8 Sheep Rock-Oregon Trail

Early pioneers gathered at this location which was the first division of the Oregon and California Trails. The Hudspeth Cutoff went due west to California, while the main route of the Oregon Trail went northwest to Fort Hall.

## 3 Bear River Massacre Site

The Bear River Massacre Site is a National Historic Landmark. At the crack of dawn on January 29, 1863 the single largest massacre of Native Americans by U.S. troops west of the Mississippi began. Nearly 450 Shoshone men, women and children camped along the Bear River were attacked. As many as 380 Shoshone perished that day. The battle became one of the worst disasters for Native Americans in the west.



## 15 Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Grays Lake is home to at least 163 species of birds including the Great Basin Canada Goose and the Sandhill Crane. During 1965, 19,000 acres were set aside as a national wildlife refuge. The refuge is an excellent area to view Idaho's wildlife in a pristine setting.