



EASTERN IDAHO: THE PEACEFUL SIDE OF THE PASS

BY JENN WINTER

Drive over the Teton Pass from Jackson Hole and find yourself face to face with Wydaho, one of the best-kept secrets in the mountain west. This unique area straddling the Wyoming-Idaho state line, is defined by its beauty and abundance of year round recreation opportunities. From world-class skiing and snowboarding in the winter months to fishing, horseback riding, golf and hiking in the summer, Wydaho is teeming with adventure for explorers of all ages and abilities.



The Idaho side of the pass is quiet, peaceful and serene – but no less beautiful than her wild Wyoming sister. Impressive mountains, rushing rivers and lush, green valleys make up the southeastern corner of America's 43rd state. Amidst all that vast beauty sits Natural Retreats Teton Springs Lodge & Spa, a 51-room full-service hotel and a collection of sixteen luxury log cabins. Set on the western slope of the Teton Mountain Range, Teton Springs Lodge & Spa offers guests pristine accommodations, an exquisite spa, the largest outdoor heated pool in the area and tennis courts, as well as hiking trails and stocked ponds on the grounds. Golfers of all levels will enjoy the Headwaters Golf Course, a stunning 19-hole course designed by golf legend Byron Nelson, PGA touring pro Steve Jones and renowned golf course architect Gary Stephenson.

Teton Springs Lodge & Spa is a proud recipient of the coveted Trip Advisor Hall of Fame award and was voted the #1 Hotel in Idaho by U.S. News & World Report for 5 consecutive years. Guests looking to experience the beauty and serenity of Idaho will start their journey by speaking with a member



of the Natural Retreats Xplore Team. Acting as a complimentary concierge service, dedicated members work with each guest to personally curate an unforgettable vacation experience.

The Xplore team will make recommendations based on the make up of each group. "I like to get to know a bit about the guest before suggesting an activity or an area of interest," reports Xplore Team member, Brittany. "For families looking for a traditional western-style vacation I like to recommend a trail ride through the Big Hole Mountains and a guided wildlife tour of nearby Grand Teton National Park." Brittany especially recommends visiting the park this summer as the National Park Service celebrates its centennial season. Of course, the Xplore Team is also happy to set tee times, book spa services, make dinner reservations and see to it that kitchens are stocked upon arrival.

Continue another half hour into

Idaho to discover South Fork Lodge, a full-service fishing lodge and outfitter, also operated by Natural Retreats. Historic and beloved, South Fork Lodge offers guests a fly fishing experience unlike any other. Imagine big, open skies, incredible sunrises, sheer rock cliffs and some of the best fly fishing in the country – all right at your doorstep. South Fork Lodge is a place where adventure meets luxury and first-class amenities meet an impressive commitment to customer service.

This all-inclusive, 18 room lodge sits on a dramatic bend of the South Fork of Idaho's Snake River. In addition to the upscale lodge rooms, a 4-bedroom River House and a handful of Fisherman's

Cabins are available to guests. Located onsite is the Riverside Bar & Grill, a delicious restaurant offering seasonal menus that feature local ingredients and are prepared by

executive chef, Casey O'Brien. It's not uncommon to see anglers, both visitors and locals, enjoying a nightcap around the outdoor fire pit as they share laughs and retell the day's fishing adventures.

South Fork Lodge has a national reputation as one of the most treasured resources for outdoor recreation the United States. Its 65 miles of the iconic Snake River are known by many as some of the best dry fly fisheries in the country. What's more, these waters are home to one of the largest populations of naturally reproducing Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

A large part of what makes this place so special are the expert guides. South Fork Lodge traditionally employs some of the best fly fishing guides in the industry, many of whom have spent decades fishing and guiding on the Snake. Like the trout, these knowledgeable men and women return to this stretch of the river year after year. Xplore Team member, Stephen, notes that many of the guides are requested by name. "Some of our guests have been coming for years and always fish with the same guide." But no matter the fishing experience, the guides at South Fork Lodge will work with guests to ensure that they have the best possible experience on the river. "If you're new to fly fishing, I strongly recommend starting out with a casting lesson at the lodge." Stephen and the rest of the Xplore Team are happy to arrange lessons and pair first time visitors with expert guides.

A highlight for many guests is an overnight at South Fork Lodge's exclusive Riverside Camp. This safari-style camp combines the natural beauty of the area with a sophistication and elegance to create an incredibly authentic ambiance. "You really haven't experienced the Snake until you've visited the Riverside Camp." Stephen encourages all of his guests to add this nightlong excursion to their itinerary.

Trips to Teton Springs Lodge & Spa and South Fork Lodge can be arranged either individually or in tandem. Call the Xplore Team or visit the Natural Retreats website to learn more.

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