



Old Idaho Penitentiary State Historic Site

Idaho's Territorial Prison, 1870-1973

Educational Resource Kit

Interpretive Programs For Educational Groups

The Old Idaho Penitentiary served as Idaho's prison from 1870 until 1973. After the penitentiary closed in 1973, the site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the Idaho State Historical Society offers your class unique interpretive programs.

Our interpreters will share stories of notorious prisoners, escapes, and prison life. Your students will hear how inmates quarried the stone and built the prison themselves and they will gain an understanding of the penitentiary's place in Idaho history.

🔑 Your keys to unlock the past

- 🔑 Typical Class Visit
- 🔑 Planning Your Visit
- 🔑 Creative Program Options
- 🔑 How To Schedule Your Visit
- 🔑 The Day Of Your Visit
- 🔑 Teacher Guided Class Visits Without Reservations
- 🔑 Maps



Sandy Thomas

Before Your Visit – Preparing Your Class

- 🔑 Vocabulary
- 🔑 Old Idaho Penitentiary Timeline
- 🔑 ***A Place of Confinement: Constructing the Old Idaho State Penitentiary, 1872 - 1973***
- 🔑 Famous Prisoners
- 🔑 Diamondfield Jack
- 🔑 Escapes
- 🔑 Executions
- 🔑 Riots
- 🔑 List of Offenses
- 🔑 Lesson Plans
- 🔑 Bibliography

🔑 TYPICAL CLASS VISIT

View “Doin’ Time“	- 20 min.
Interpreter led walk in the Yard	- 75 min.
Small group exploration with your adults	- 15 min.
Restroom/bus loading time	- 10 min.
Total time for your visit	- 2 hours

🔑 PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Program Grade Level:

4th grade – Adult

(Younger students will enjoy viewing “Doin’ Time” and exploring the Yard with their adult chaperones.)

Admission Fees:

Students and adults receive the discounted educational admission price of \$2. To receive the educational discount, the entire group must pay, upon arrival, with one amount of cash or with one check.

Make checks payable to the Idaho State Historical Society.

At least one adult teacher or parent chaperone is required for every ten students. Four to five adults can be accommodated with each typical class sized group. Teachers and bus drivers receive complimentary admission.

Open All Year:

Interpretive programs for educational groups are only scheduled Labor Day through Memorial Day. Regular admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for children 6-12.

Chaperones:

At least one adult teacher or chaperone is required for every ten students. Four to five adults can be accommodated with each typical class sized group. Our volunteer interpreters and staff members cannot be responsible for supervising your students. It is suggested that, prior to your arrival, each adult be assigned to a group of no more than ten students and be informed of his/her responsibility to manage the group’s behavior. Students of every age group must remain with chaperones for the entire visit.

Group Size:

10 to 50 students can best be accommodated at a time although up to 75 students can be scheduled if necessary. If your group is larger, please call or e-mail us for suggestions on how to plan your trip so that we may accommodate you.

Program Length:

2 hours.

Dress:

Most of your program is outdoors and the cellhouses are unheated. The large stone buildings radiate cold in the winter and heat in the summer. Please have your students dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. Umbrellas are recommended in rainy weather.

Handicap Access:

Call us to discuss access for students with special needs.

Facilities:

Main prison yard, cellhouses, Women's Ward, restrooms, cold drink machine, picnic area, hiking trails to the Penitentiary sandstone quarry and Table Rock. In nice weather, our lawns and picnic tables outside the wall are pleasant for lunches. A soft drink machine is available in the restroom building.

Within walking distance:

- ❖ Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology, 368-9876
- ❖ Idaho Botanical Garden, 343-8649
- ❖ Quarry and Table Rock hiking trails
- ❖ Quarry View Park

🔑 CREATIVE PROGRAM OPTIONS

Art, photography, creative writing, science, problem solving, a trip to the Old Penitentiary can enhance your curriculum. Draw or photograph the foreboding sandstone buildings, challenge your students to plan their own escapes, let your students' imaginations roam while writing letters home from inside a prison cell. Call us with your own creative ideas.

🔑 HOW TO SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT

Call us at 208-334-2844

Or

Email us at:

rachelle.littau@ishs.idaho.gov

Please make reservations for interpretive programs at least 4 weeks in advance. We suggest reservations for April and May be made in the fall – but in any case no later than March 1. Please consider coming in the less busy fall or winter months. During summer months, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, we are unable to schedule programs for educational groups.

Prices and schedules are subject to change and availability.

🔑 THE DAY OF YOUR VISIT

Arrival Time:

Please be ready to start at the confirmed time. **If your group is delayed, please call us as soon as possible at 334-2844.** Our historical interpreters are volunteers from the Boise area, and we do not ask them to stay more than twenty minutes beyond the scheduled program time, unless we know of special circumstances that are causing your delay. **Plan that your program will take two hours.**

Location:

2445 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, Idaho 83704

From downtown Boise, follow Warm Springs Avenue 1.5 miles east to Old Penitentiary Road, turn left and proceed up the hill. See below for important bus parking instructions.

Parking:

A bus driver map will be sent to you with your confirmation letter and can also be found in the “MAPS” section. Please make a copy for each bus driver.

It is important that buses park and unload in the bus parking area only.

Turn left before the Idaho Botanical Garden and proceed to the large bus unloading and parking area behind the Bishops’ House. Please do not bring buses up to the entrance area. They create a very unsafe situation. You will be asked to turn and go back to the bus parking area and your class will lose time with their planned program. Please call ahead for instructions for buses equipped with wheel chair lifts or for other special needs.

Unloading:

While your group is unloading, have one teacher come to the main entrance area.

Bring:

- ❖ Confirmation Letter with lower left block completed with numbers of students, adults, etc.
- ❖ Collected cash or one check for all visiting classes arriving at the same time.

Students should proceed to the main entrance area and gather in their class groups. Restrooms are to the right of the entrance. Please remind students that no food, beverages, **or gum** are allowed inside the prison yard.

🗝️ TEACHER GUIDED CLASS VISITS WITHOUT RESERVATIONS

While we encourage you to help your students get the most out of their visit by scheduling an interpretive program, your class is welcome to visit during our regular hours, 12 to 5 PM, without a reservation. We suggest, however, that you phone ahead to avoid congestion with other groups.

We require at least one adult chaperone be assigned to 10 or fewer students (one per five is suggested), and that students stay with chaperones through the entire visit. Our video, *Doin’ Time*, will help orient your class at the beginning of your visit. Please encourage your students to dress for the weather. Follow important bus parking and unloading instructions.

🗝️ MAPS

- Bus Driver Map
- Main Yard Map

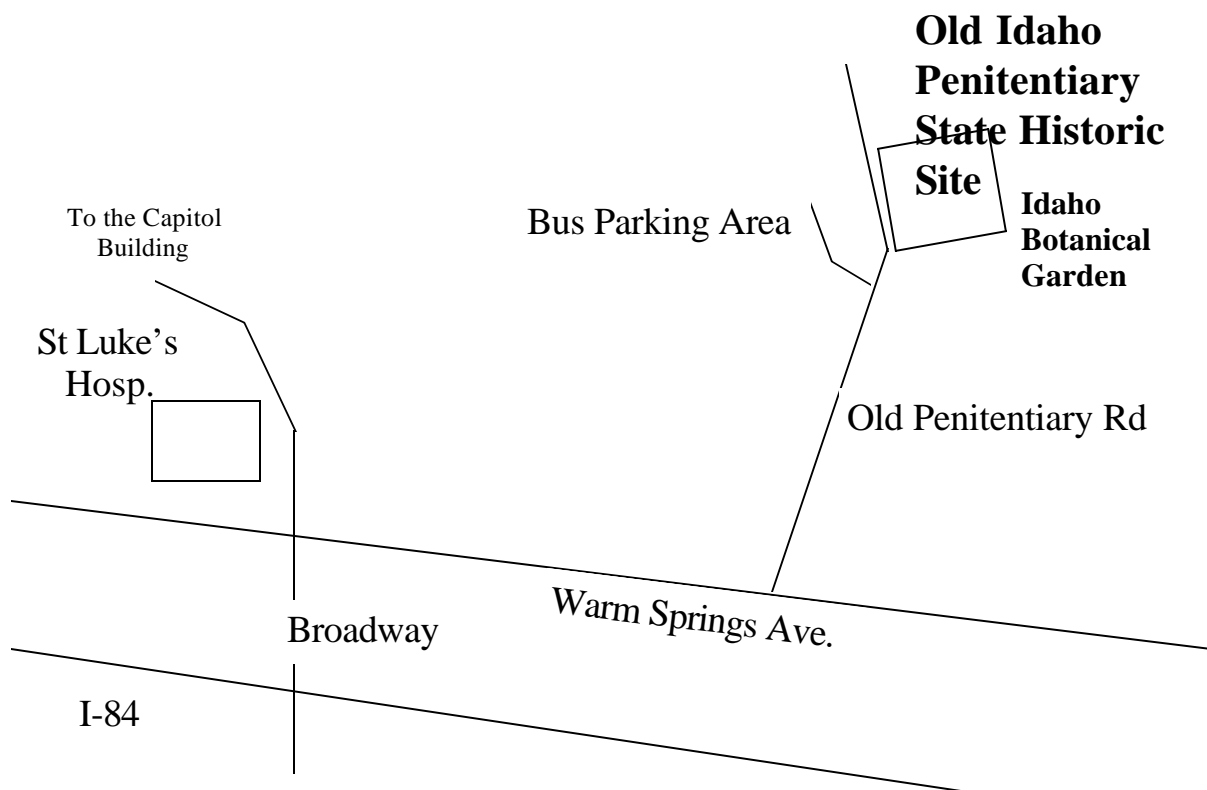
Bus Driver Map to Old Penitentiary

Teachers: Please make copies of this page for each bus driver.

Very important! Bus Parking:

Please do not bring buses up to the entrance area.

Follow signs and **turn left** before the Idaho Botanical Garden to the **bus parking area** behind the Bishops' House. For safety reasons, buses proceeding up to the entrance area will not be allowed to unload and will be directed back to the bus parking area. This may cause your class to lose time on their planned program.





Old Idaho Penitentiary State Historic Site

2445 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, Idaho 83712 208-334-2844

<http://www2.state.id.us/ishs/Sites.html#anchor1254440>

100 Years of History WALKING GUIDE

At The Entrance

In the auditorium view *Doan' Time*, 18 minutes. See how the massive stone buildings were built and what it was like to be a prisoner here.

Sandstone Buildings - center yard

Visit the oldest cellhouses, the Dining Hall, and the other stone buildings.

Stucco Buildings - far side of yard

Continue to the far left corner to see Solitary Confinement and then over to the ISHS exhibits housed in the big building originally built as a shirt factory but used for many purposes over the years.

Concrete Cellhouses - lower yard

See the newest additions, 4 House and 5 House, *Maximum Security*, built in the 50s. Death Row and the Gallows are upstairs in 5 House.

Back Toward The Exit

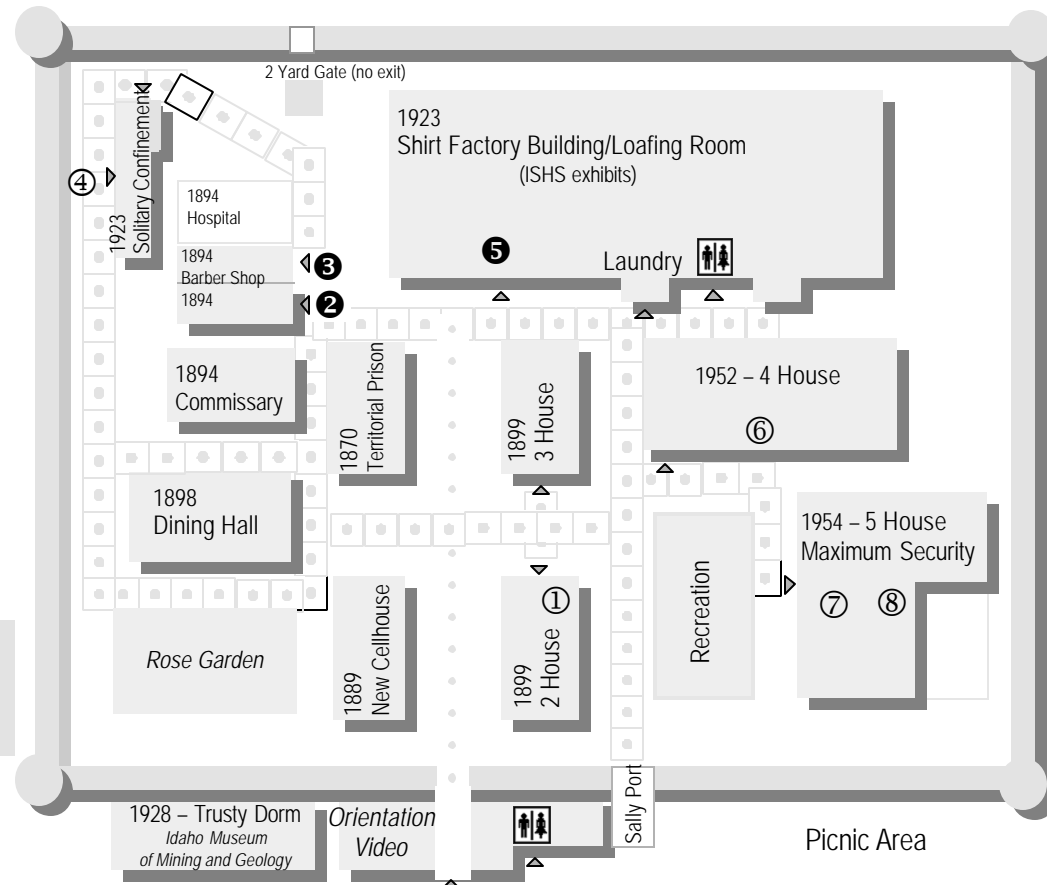
See the basketball court, the Sally Port, the wall, and the rose garden.

Outside The Wall

Visit the Women's Ward. Also, view the exteriors of other buildings up and down Old Penitentiary Road, or take a hike up the Quarry and Table Rock Trails.

To Barns & Outbuildings
Interiors not open to public

Upper Rose Garden



Old Idaho Penitentiary History Displays:

- ① *Turn of the Century Prisoners & Riots*
- ④ *Siberia*
- ⑥ *Contraband*
- ⑦ *Vicious Steel (1st floor)*
- ⑧ *The Finishing Post - Hangings (2nd floor)*
- ⑨ *"Our Ward is Rather Small"*

Entrance & Information

Idaho State Historical Society Exhibits:

- ② *Electricity*
- ③ *Marked Men - Tattoo History*
- ⑤ *Transportation*

Quarry & Table Rock Trailhead

Parking