

# COUNTRY LIVING

June 2010

## out and about

A small town we love, the joy of berry picking, and pet advice from our country vet

### Seven Reasons to Visit Sandpoint, Idaho

With a vibrant downtown and one of the prettiest lake beaches in the West, this friendly community shines bright come summer.



When the mercury rises, boaters and swimmers flock to Sandpoint's expansive Lake Pend Oreille (pronounced pond-a-ray).

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## out and about



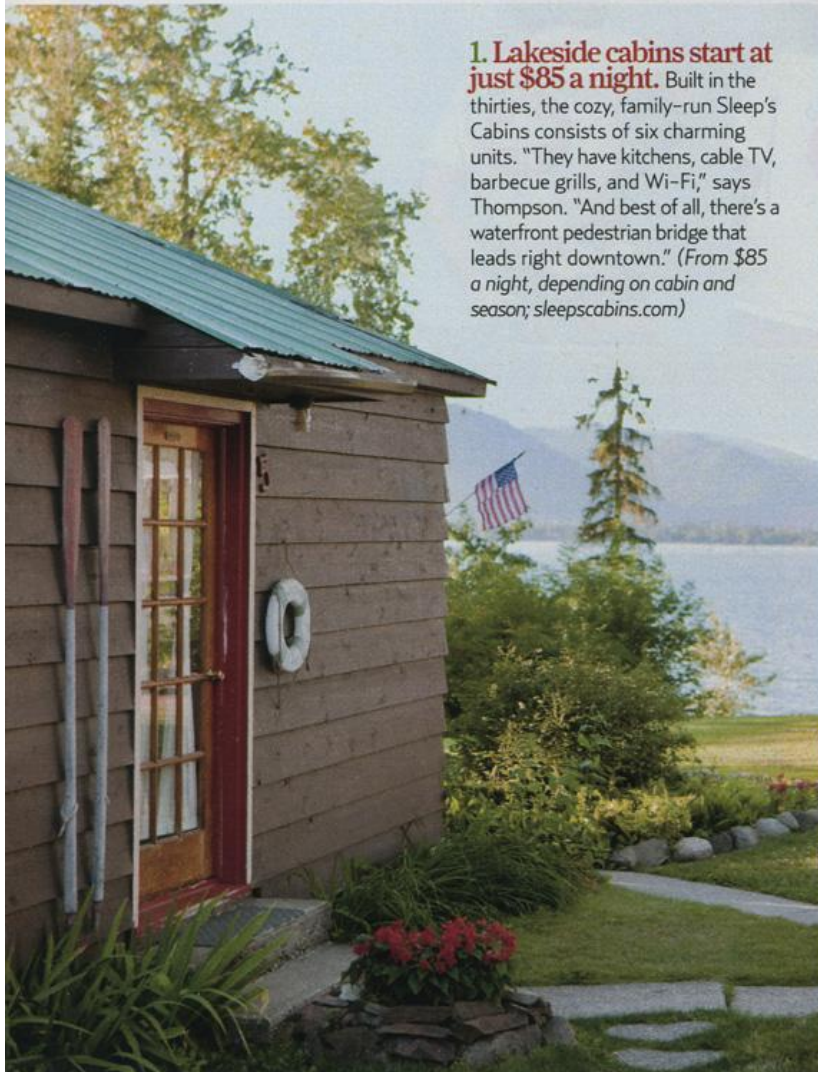
### meet your guide

"Whenever I want to get away from it all, I drive the 80 miles from my home in Spokane, Washington, to Sandpoint, Idaho," says Serena Thompson (*left*), the founder of the Farm Chicks Antiques Show and a *Country Living* contributing editor. "There are only about 6,000 residents, so the town feels really laid-back and friendly. And with the lake, the mountains, and all the pines, you truly sense that you're in the Pacific Northwest." Plus, Thompson adds, "I love the fact that you can waltz into just about any business wearing jeans and flip-flops."



### 2. Great antiques won't set you back a bundle.

"Sometimes I'll drive over for the day just to shop at MarketPlace Antiques," Thompson admits. "The store carries everything from vintage enamel signs to Western landscape paintings to printed textiles from the 1950s—and much more." (208-263-4444)



### 1. Lakeside cabins start at just \$85 a night.

Built in the thirties, the cozy, family-run Sleep's Cabins consists of six charming units. "They have kitchens, cable TV, barbecue grills, and Wi-Fi," says Thompson. "And best of all, there's a waterfront pedestrian bridge that leads right downtown." (*From \$85 a night, depending on cabin and season; sleepsCabins.com*)



### 3. The huckleberry pie rocks!

"Finding a really good slice of homemade pie isn't easy anymore," says Thompson, who gives the Pie Hut bakery high marks for its amazing crusts and fillings. Standouts: the huckleberry (*above*), made with the region's famous wild fruit, and the velvety chocolate cream pie. (208-265-2208)





**4. There's a gorgeous alpine lake in the middle of town.**

"As soon as the weather warms up, everyone heads to City Beach on Lake Pend Oreille. You can swim, rent canoes, take a lake cruise, fish for trout, barbecue, even play horseshoes," Thompson raves. ([sandpoint.com](http://sandpoint.com))

**5. The local theater's on the National Register of Historic Places.**

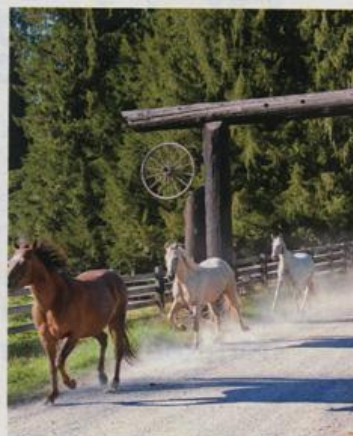
Established in 1927 as a venue for vaudeville shows, the landmark Panida theater now screens blockbusters as well as independent films, and hosts plays and concerts. (208-263-9191; [panida.org](http://panida.org))



PHOTOGRAPH BY (THEATER) KEOKEE/CHRIS BESSLER

**6. You can channel your inner cowgirl.**

"If you want to experience the great outdoors, saddle up at the Western Pleasure Guest Ranch," Thompson suggests. Situated on 1,100 acres between the Selkirk and Cabinet Mountains, the fourth-generation cattle ranch offers daily guided trail rides as well as cabin rentals. (\$55 for a two-hour horse ride; [westernpleasureranch.com](http://westernpleasureranch.com))



**7. A tasty, jumbo-size breakfast costs less than \$10.**

"It's only been open for around two years, but Dish Home Cooking is already packed with regulars," says Thompson. The café serves soups, salads, sandwiches, and pastas—and has a drive-through espresso bar—but don't miss the Veg Head omelet (left), filled with mushrooms, tomatoes, caramelized onions, and goat cheese. (208-265-6100; [dishesandpoint.com](http://dishesandpoint.com))



**getting there**

Fly into Washington State's Spokane International Airport, then rent a car and drive 80 miles northeast to Sandpoint, Idaho, about an hour's drive south of the Canadian border. To learn more about the town, visit [sandpoint.com](http://sandpoint.com).

