

### #11 Priest River Experimental Forest

(GPS N48°20.743 W116°50.454 )

Located about 11 miles south of Coolin on the Eastside Road, the Priest River Experimental Forest was established in 1911 for forest research on vegetation, forest climate, water, fire, insects and diseases. The residential facilities include a conference hall, kitchen and dining hall, laboratory, and sleeping quarters. All the buildings but the conference hall are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Staff requests that you call ahead of your visit 208 448-1793.

C

### #12 Woodrat Mine Site

(GPS N48.32.277 W116.54.507)

Located on the west shore of the lake, just south of Luby Bay, are the remnants of the Woodrat Mine. The mine was developed by a shaft



and incline that extended about 200 feet deep and 400 feet east under the lake. In the early 1920's, small shipments of silver and lead ore were made to smelters in the Coeur d'Alene mining district for smelting. The mine was worked periodically until the late 1960's. Now the buildings and machinery are gone, but the large waste rock dump and some scrap iron remain at the site.

C,B

KEY:

C= CAR

B= BOAT

W= WALK

# PRIEST LAKE HISTORICAL TOUR



Priest Lake Museum Association  
P.O. Box 44  
Coolin, Idaho 83821  
[www.thepriestlakemuseum.org](http://www.thepriestlakemuseum.org)

July 2010

**#1 Priest Lake Museum**  
(GPS N46°32.518 W116°55.537)

Located on Luby Bay, north of Hill's Resort, the museum is housed in a log cabin constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935 and 1936.



The cabin, which served as a U.S. Forest Service ranger's home and office, opened as the Priest Lake Museum and Visitor's Center in 1990. The museum contains vignettes of yesteryear, historic exhibits, wildlife displays, and books and videos concerning the region's history. The museum is a "must see" and a good first stop for anyone interested in the history of the area.

Admission is free.  
C,B

**#2 Priest Lake Public Library**  
National Historical Site

(GPS N46.32.505  
W116.55.562)



The Lamb Creek School, which is now the Priest Lake Public Library, was built in

1934 and was one of the last log schoolhouses to be built in Idaho. The school was in operation until 1961, when a new Priest Lake Elementary School was opened. The log school building was used as a teacherage for the head teacher of the new elementary school until 1973. In 1973, the Priest Lake Library was established. In 1999 the old log building was placed on the National Historic Register.

C

**#3 Milwaukee Mine Site**  
(GPS N46°34.318 W116°54.794 )

Located on Kalispell Bay, the former Milwaukee Mine Site is now a day use area. Some of the old mine dumps are visible along the shoreline. About 100 feet offshore are the remains of two sunken wooden boats. (N48°34.330 W116°54.739 & N48°34.340 W116°54.723) The day use area has a restroom, beach and picnic area. C,B,W

**#4 Hanna Flats Cedar Grove**  
(GPS N46°34.318 W116°58.561 )

Located one mile west of milepost 32 on Hwy 57 is the Hanna Flats Cedar Grove and Interpretive Trail. A beautiful ¼ mile walking trail takes you through the giant 400 year old trees – trees that have survived forest fires and logging in the surrounding area. C

**#5 Upper Priest Lake Homesteaders – Geisinger Fox Farm**  
(GPS N48°35.986 W116°51.807 )

Located on the upper north side of the Thorofare is Geisinger Campground, the site of one of several early homesteads in the Upper Priest Lake area. The Geisinger's had a successful ranch raising silver fox for their pelts. During its heyday, there were several cabins, out buildings, fox pens and an orchard on the ranch. All the buildings are gone now, but many of the foundations can still be found. B,H

**#6 Tye II shipwreck**  
(GPS N48°44.535 W116°50.011 )

Resting near the shore on Mosquito Bay are the remains of the Tye II, one of several steamboats that traveled up and down the lake in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Tye II delivered mail, carried passengers and freight, and towed logs down the lake. C,B



**#7 Nell Shipman Point**  
(GPS N48°44.506 W116°50.013 )

Nell Shipman, silent screen actress, writer, and producer, along with her movie crew and "zoo" of wild animals, spent four years at the north end of Priest Lake making silent movies. She built a movie camp called "Lionhead Lodge" during the winter months of 1921-1922. Shipman Point, at Lionhead State Park, was dedicated in her memory in 1977. C,B



**#8 Indian Creek Dam and Flume**  
(GPS N48°38.841 W116°45.489 Park N48°38.725  
W116°46.192 )

This wooden dam and flume head gate were used to float logs from the surrounding mountains to Priest Lake. A full sized model of the flume is displayed at the Indian Creek State Park. C,W



**#9 Vinther-Nelson Cabin**  
National Historical Site  
(GPS N48°34.790 W116°50.300 )

The Vinther-Nelson cabin is located on the north-east side of Eightmile Island. Built by the Crenshaw Brothers in 1897, the log cabin exhibits some remarkable craftsmanship. Each log was cut by hand, and shaped to fit snugly together using a broad axe. The cabin was donated to the U.S. Government by the Vinther and Nelson families and the families now serve as permanent caretakers and curators of the cabin. B



**#10 Historic Coolin – Gateway to Priest Lake**  
(GPS N48°28.826 W116°50.944 )

Located at the south end of Priest Lake, Coolin was the gateway for early visitors to Priest Lake. The first hotel was built in 1890 and the Leonard Paul store opened in 1906. By 1910, Coolin could boast two stores, two hotels, a marina, a school and a saloon. The Priest Lake Museum has prepared a walking tour guide to Coolin and plans to construct a historical photo kiosk on the waterfront later this year. C,B

