

# Spokane, Washington

## Joys of Spokane

Spokane is a four-season destination, locally nicknamed the "Lilac City" for the prolific lilac flowers that bloom each spring. Outdoor recreation is abundant, with nearby lakes, rivers, mountains, and parks to explore. The city's slogan is "Near Nature, Near Perfect." Spokane is known as the birthplace of Father's Day, home of Bing Crosby, and for hosting the world's largest basketball tournament each summer. JVs often explore the city's local art scene, festivals, cheap eats, and entertainment. Gonzaga University, a Jesuit institution near the JV house, can be an excellent resource for the community in addition to the local network of support people.

## About Spokane

Known for the Spokane Falls that flow through the heart of downtown, Spokane and the surrounding area is the ancestral and current home of the Spokane Tribe of Indians. The Northern Pacific Railway brought settlers to the area and established the city as a major trading post for fur, timber, and mining. In the 20th century, the city's population continued to climb with settlers, and the city became a hub for agriculture and manufacturing. Spokane hosted the first environmentally-themed World's Fair in 1974 and held its inaugural Bloomsday Run in 1977. The city continues to transition to a more service-oriented economy. It boasts many beautiful parks, universities, and fantastic architecture while facing challenges such as the scarcity of high-paying jobs, homelessness, and areas of high crime. One out of every 5.2 residents of Spokane lives in poverty. Spokane is a beautiful home to many, and we welcome you into its rich history and current context.