

# 425

# Road Trips

ADVENTURES FOR MUSIC LOVERS,  
SCIENCE GEEKS, HISTORY BUFFS,  
ROCK HOUNDS, AND THRILL SEEKERS

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###

U.S. POSTAGE



Cape  
Disappointment  
State Park

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ROAD TRIP #1

# Geeks at the Wheel

BY JOANNA KRESGE

*There used to be a day when the word “geek” was derogatory. Individuals branded as “geeks” or “nerds” were ostracized and seen as socially awkward outcasts — albeit often highly intelligent ones. Society has since embraced geeks as we become increasingly dependent on the technology all around us. Virtual reality fanboys, gamers, computer-building savants, STEM enthusiasts, and aspiring engineers are just a few of the stereotypical smarty-pants travelers that might crave a vacation that also exercises the mind.*

## LIVING COMPUTERS: MUSEUM + LABS

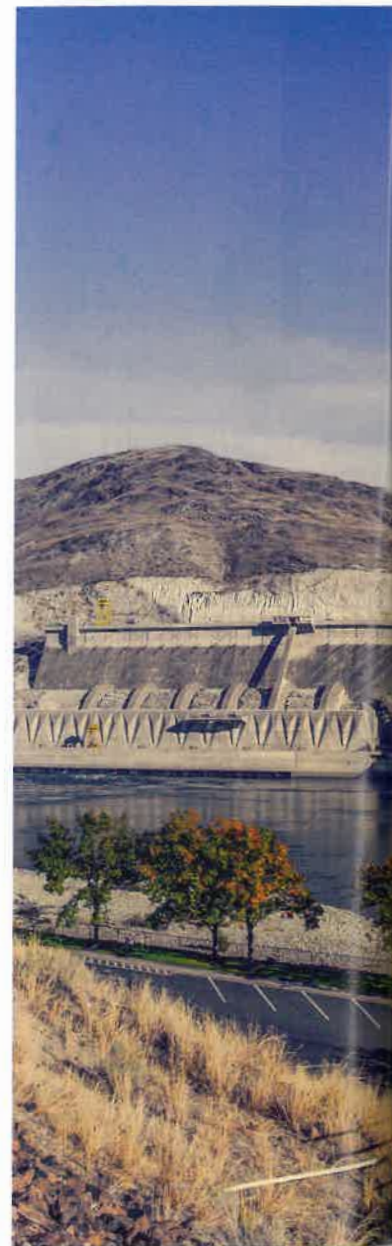
This museum is one of the more-forgotten historical collections in our region, and also one of the most interesting.

This **SoDo-based gallery** provides patrons a hands-on experience with fully restored technology from the 1960s to the present, including a collection of supercomputers,

mainframes, minicomputers, microcomputers, robotics, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence. Not only will these antiquated machines bring about a heavy dose of nostalgia, but they also document the period of development for local tech titan Microsoft. *Seattle*

## MUSEUM OF HISTORY & INDUSTRY

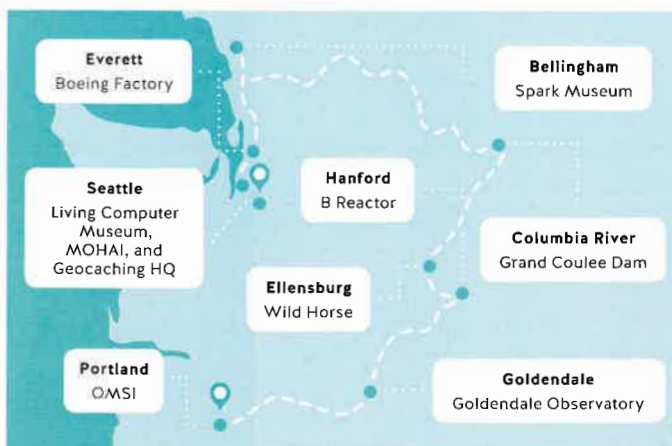
OK, so it isn't a terribly long road trip over the bridge to **MOHAI** — which blends the Puget Sound's rich history with innovative technological advances — but you should definitely make the trip if you haven't visited this museum. Exhibits like the Boeing B-1



plane and Rainier Brewing company's “R” are mainstays, and there are rotating exhibitions throughout the year. *Seattle*

## GEOCACHING HQ

If you are a fan of geocaching, you know that **Geocaching HQ** is the mecca for geocachers around the world. Dig through a life-sized pirate chest of goodies, and sign the official log. If you are a geography nut or a coder, you might also find HQ particularly interesting.







Grand Coulee Dam

Employees often come out and talk tech with guests. Check online before you go; public hours vary. *Seattle*

### **FUTURE OF FLIGHT AVIATION CENTER AND BOEING FACTORY TOUR**

The **Boeing Factory** is fascinating enough as it is, recognized by the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the largest building in the world by volume at 472 million cubic feet, and covering 98.3 acres. Add in tours to experience new

aviation innovations being built, coupled with family workshops and informational displays, and you've got an experience worth flying (or driving) in for. *Everett*

### **SPARK MUSEUM OF ELECTRICAL INVENTION**

They say that lightning doesn't strike in the same place twice, yet at this museum, lightning strikes several times a day as visitors experience the marvel of electricity and other innovations like telephones,

light bulbs, and radios. *Bellingham*

### **GRAND COULEE DAM**

This dam serves as one of the main irrigation, flood-control, and hydroelectric dams on the **Columbia River**. Stop by for a free 50-minute guided tour, where you'll get an up-close glimpse of the pump-generating plant, concluding with a ride across the top of the dam. Also check out a variety of hands-on exhibits at the visitors center, or stick around



### **HUNGRY?**

Try **AFK Tavern** in Everett, a "gaming community center" where geeks can get a 1UP mushroom burger or an order of dragon scales nachos and stay for a round of geeky trivia.

# FUEL UP

Calories don't count during road trips, right? Stop by these joints for a burger, fries, and a large milkshake.

## Hunt for Rocks with a Pro

**B**ob Jackson is a retired geologist who takes families on educational trips to collect cool rocks. His house in Ravensdale is full of them. He used to take his wife's third-grade classes to treasure hunt for gems. When he realized how fun it was, he turned the field trips into a business. Rock-collecting adventures with Jackson can range from an excavation in your backyard to trips that take a couple of days across the Cascades. He takes explorers to rock collecting locations, and to his rock mine, Rock Candy.



"People are into rocks," he said. "But an awful lot of our trips, they don't really have to be into rocks — they just have to be into nature and learning something different."

Jackson, who has been in the area since 1971, said that there aren't as many places to hunt for rocks anymore. Costco now covers one of his favorite spots in Issaquah. If you find a rock but can't figure out what it is, take a picture and email it to Jackson. He's been helping kids identify their rocks for decades. [geologyadventures.com](http://geologyadventures.com)

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RIGHT: JEFF HOBON

**HANSON,  
"MMMBOB"**  
Rachel  
Coward, staff  
photographer

**THE PRO-  
CLAIMERS,  
"I'M GONNA  
BE (500  
MILES)"**  
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Greenman,  
digital editor

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CONNECTION,  
"\$0 GOOD"**  
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### BOOMER'S DRIVE-IN

If you've been to Bellingham, you've probably heard of Boomer's. The quintessential drive-in has to-die-for burgers and waffle fries. It also features a rotating milkshake flavor of the month. *Bellingham*

### THE GOURMET BURGER SHOP

The shop serves up burgers piled so high you'll have to devise a first-bite game plan. If you want a veggie option, there's also a potato burger with truffle mayo. Heaven! *Gig Harbor*

### KING SOLOMON'S REEF

Indulge in breakfast all day. The Reef, as locals call it, dishes up all the comfort food staples, including chicken and waffles and biscuits and gravy. Just looking for a snack? They have gooey chili-cheese tots and fries. *Olympia*

### LAKEVIEW DRIVE-IN

Chicken strip baskets, "world-famous" French fries, and a lakefront view: This spot doesn't get much better. It's got all the classic fixtures of an old-school diner with some lighter fare for those who don't want fried food. *Lake Chelan*

### LEFTY'S BURGER SHACK

Be sure to get an order of "frings," a mixture of fries and onion rings — so good! And people rave about the burgers. Bask in the sun at one of the picnic tables while you enjoy your lunch. Oh, and did we mention it's surf-themed? *University Place*

### LIGHTHOUSE DRIVE-IN

Mmmm, beer-battered fries. The family-owned restaurant takes pride in dishes served up with the freshest ingredients. A

favorite is the "world-famous prawns," a half-pound of jumbo prawns served with house-made tartar sauce. Lighthouse is working to lessen its environmental impact with compostable cups and by recycling cooking oil. *Aberdeen*

### PICK-QUICK DRIVE IN

Every road trip needs at least one ice cream stop. There are 18 milkshake flavors to choose from, or grab a decadent malt. Of course, they have all the other food items you'd expect with Coney-style dogs and hefty cheeseburgers. *Various locations*

### FLIPPING OUT BURGERS AND FRIES

Some say the best burger they've ever had is from this hidden jewel. Located in a strip mall, Flipping Out is known for its perfectly grilled, not-too-thick, not-too-thin, burgers. Love crispy fries? Try their sweet potato, straight-cut, or waffle fries. There's also a tasty veggie burger for the herbivores in the car. *Tacoma*

