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The Weirdest Roadside Attraction in Every State

By THRILLIST TRAVEL
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Jason Hoffman/Thrillist

There are many variables that make a fantastic road trip, but none are more universal than the urge to take a needlessly long detour to see something weird on the side of the road. Our highways are dotted with oddities that are as head-scratching as they are alluring: highly specific museums dedicated to fossils and pop stars, gigantic versions of everyday items plunked into a field for no discernible reason, and so, so many dinosaurs. With wanderlust in mind and weirdness in our hearts, we teamed up with road-trippers from across the country and found the oddest, most wonderful and puzzling roadside attraction in every state. Better stock up on **gas station snacks**: there are going to be many, many detours in your future. **MORE:** Plan your next roadtrip with **the most scenic drives in every state**



World's Largest Brick | [Alabama's Astonishing Attractions](#)

Alabama

World's Largest Brick

Montgomery

Before you make a pit stop in Montgomery to see this oversized ad for Jenkins Brick Company, you should know one thing: it's no longer technically the world's largest brick. No, it was bested by a bigger brick from Denton, TX, in 2007. That said, since this brick is made from a lot of little bricks, it's still unofficially considered the world's largest brick... made of bricks. So, continue to delay your trip to Gulf Shores to take a look. -- Sophie-Claire Hoeller



Hammer Museum | RUBEN M RAMOS/Shutterstock

Alaska

Hammer Museum

Haines

Like many of the following items on this list, you'll find that the name of our favorite roadside attraction in Alaska is rather self-explanatory. This is a museum, and it is devoted to hammers. You'll find around 2,000 of them on display at this roadside stop off Haines Highway -- one of **our favorite scenic drives in the US** -- some dating back to Roman times. There are other hammer museums in other cities, but this one was the first. Open May through September, admission to the Hammer Museum costs \$5; kids 12 and under get in free. "If you have any trouble finding us," the museum's website instructs, "just look for the 20 foot hammer out front." -- Kastalia Medrano

MORE: Check out Thrillist's ultimate guide to Juneau



Rainbow Rock Shop | DCA88/Shutterstock

Arizona

Rainbow Rock Shop

Holbrook

Route 66 isn't what it used to be, but the roadside town of Holbrook maintains some of the highway's magic appeal thanks to its unexpected collection of cement dinosaurs outside the Rainbow Rock Shop. The dinosaurs, some up to 25 feet tall, were built by the shop's owner and cost a few cents to pose with. Strangely enough, these aren't the only dinosaurs you'll find in the town: others come from the International Petrified Forest and Painted Desert -- a now-defunct tourist attraction that offered access to some of the area's petrified wood and fossils. -- Jamie Killin



Arkansas Alligator Farm and Petting Zoo

Arkansas

Arkansas Alligator Farm & Petting Zoo

Hot Springs

It's not the pygmy goats and baby alligators that make this 117-year-old petting zoo such a gem, though their presence -- along with primates and wolves and the whole alligator feeding thing -- certainly makes it worth a stop. No, it's the merman that really lands it on this list. The leathery oddity straight out of an old tabloid looks like somebody stitched the bug-eyed head of a mustachioed gym teacher to a fish. That's... kind of it. And it's kind of incredible. -- Andy Kryza



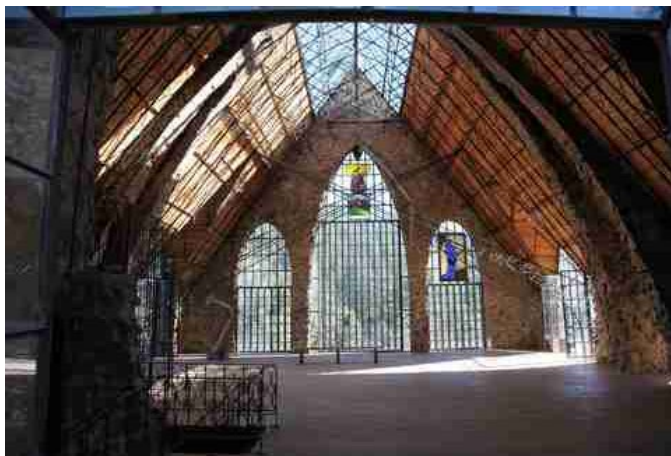
[Winchester Mystery House](#)

California

Winchester Mystery House

San Jose

Apparently Sarah Winchester, heir to her family's firearms fortune, thought that the ghosts of every single person killed by the company's then-innovative repeating rifle -- so, like, half the casualties of the Old West -- were haunting her. So she began construction on a mansion designed specifically to discombobulate the spirits. Think: hallways as narrow as you walk them. Stairways that lead to nowhere. Windows that overlook... other rooms. Decoy toilets everywhere. In all, it's 24,000 square feet and 160 rooms of ghost thwarting madness, and one of America's most haunted attractions. Also, they have axe throwing in the stables, just for fun/to make things interesting if anyone, you know, gets possessed. -- AK



[Bishop Castle](#)

Colorado

Bishop Castle

Rye

A 160-foot-tall structure of stone and steel, **Bishop Castle** includes four towers, two catwalks, a ballroom, and a whole lot of wrought-iron railings and flourishes. It's a bona fide castle, too, complete with drawbridge and fire-breathing dragon, all built by one man, Jim Bishop. You can walk the bridges between the towers, albeit at your own risk. Or just admire the decor, which ranges from hand-painted signs airing Jim's personal views to an arm with an axe sticking out of the floor in the main hall. - Cheryl Rodewig



[The Philip Johnson Glass House](#)

Connecticut

The Glass House

New Canaan

Just off Merritt Parkway in New Canaan lies the Glass House, which, I mean, look at it. Built in the late 1940s, the Glass House was masterfully designed by modern architect Philip Johnson to play with light reflection in a way that'll have you mesmerized from the moment you first lay eyes on it. A designated National Historic Landmark, the Glass House is open to (ticketed) visitors May through November.

Tours start at \$125, and book in advance if you can -- they're often sold out. -- KM



Delaware

Oddporium

Arden

Delaware's **Oddporium** bills itself as a gallery of the peculiar and bizarre, and it lives up to its promise with a deliciously dark twist. Browse vintage electroshock therapy kits, embalming pumps, and jewelry tenderly handmade from bat skulls. One glass case displays torture -- er, medical -- devices, while another sports a collection of bones (from legally obtained species, they're quick to point out). Not everything's for sale, so you're not walking out with that cyclops pig, but you might pick up a bat in a glass coffin that will look nice by your bed. Sweet dreams.-- CR



[Discover Crystal River Florida](#)

Florida

Monkey Island

Homosassa

Head to Florida's Western coast, on the Homosassa River, and you will find Monkey Island. Naturally, your first question here is: Are there actual monkeys on Monkey Island? To which we are pleased to report: There are. A family of spider monkeys has had the run of Monkey Island for decades. They used to live on the mainland, but kept escaping and being rude to tourists -- pickpocketing, biting, presumably a lot of poop-based vandalism. Thus, they now live on their lil monkey Alcatraz. Roll up to the Homosassa Resort and you can watch them while you enjoy food and drinks at the resort's Yardarm and Crabhouse. Safely out of reach, the monkeys -- Ralph, Ebony, Eve, and Emily -- will in turn enjoy their own snacks while watching you. -- KM



Doll's Head Trail

Georgia

Doll's Head Trail

Atlanta

It may look like something out of a demented Toy Story scene, but this two-and-a-half mile trail hidden within Constitution Lakes Park has a unique history. The park was originally used as the site of the South River Brick Company but in the early 1900s when the company stopped digging massive holes in the ground to extract clay for bricks, nature ran its course and the holes started to fill with rainwater. And thus, the lakes were born. The story of the uh, interesting trail however, begins with **Joel Slaton**, a local carpenter, who in 2011 began finding discarded doll parts and other pieces of what others would consider "junk" throughout the trail area. Over the years, Slaton began arranging and building art displays with these abandoned scraps and voilà! Now you have an interactive art display full of muddy, creepy doll heads in the depths of a muggy patch of woods. Have fun! -- Kristen Adaway



Dole Plantation

Hawaii

Pineapple Garden Maze

Wahiawa

You've probably seen at least a couple of corn or hay bale mazes in your life, the type that pop up around Halloween, but there are only a handful of botanical mazes in America that are fixtures yearround, of which the Pineapple Garden Maze is one. Reigning titleholder of "World's Largest Botanical Maze" for the past decade, this Dole Plantation garden stretches across three acres and comprises some 14,000 plants. Wander inside the maze and see how long it takes you to reach its giant pineapple center. **Tickets** start at \$7. -- KM



Bordello Museum | D.Guisinger/Flickr

Idaho

Oasis Bordello Museum

Wallace

Located in a quaint little mining town, the Oasis bordello actually operated up until 1988, meaning the artifacts in this downtown building (and its infinitely creepy basement) include old-timey dresses, gas lamps (so romantic!), antique guns, and, weirdly, some VHS tapes encased in glass. The tour includes trips to the rooms, which include lists of johns' names, which is... probably not really that great a look for mining magnates who are still alive. -- AK



Leaning Tower of Niles | [Ken Lund/Flickr](#)

Illinois

Leaning Tower of Niles

Niles

While it's roughly half the rival of the famed Italian tower (94 feet to Pisa's 177-foot stature and a mere 7.4 feet off of vertical vs. Italy's 15-foot lean), the Midwestern version built in 1934 holds its own as a tourist attraction. Stop by while swinging over to the first franchised McDonald's in nearby Des Plaines and take all the "dad photos" of you pushing it over. -- Nicole Bruce



World's Largest Ball of Paint | [Stephen/Flickr](#)

Indiana

World's Biggest Ball of Paint

Alexandria

Once upon a time this was just a normal baseball... but more than four decades and 24,350 coats of paint later, it's a 4,200-pound ball of paint, and the world's largest at that. Does it look like a giant testicle? Kind of. Would it be a solid nuclear option when engaged in a life-or-death paintball grudge match? Definitely. -- AK



The Voyage Home Riverside History Center

Iowa

The Future Birthplace of Captain Kirk

Riverside

Did you know this Iowa town is the future birthplace of James T. Kirk, Captain of the USS Enterprise and the future's foremost lover of centuries-old Beastie Boys jams? His 23rd century DOB (March 22, 2228) is engraved on a stone monument located behind a hair salon at Riverside's Voyage Home Riverside History Center. While they first claimed the Starship Enterprise captain in 1985, the museum didn't open its doors until 2008. It's since become a hub for Star Trek collectibles, home-built exhibits, and alternate history disputes. -- NB



World's Largest Things, Incorporated

Kansas

The World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things

Lucas

How's this for meta: Erika Nelson dedicates her time to visiting big-ass roadside attractions -- think the world's largest bottle of ketchup -- then photographs them, goes home, and makes a miniature version to display at her little museum of little versions of big things, which is open "by chance." It's one-stop shopping to see all of America's weirdest roadside oddities... kind of. -- AK



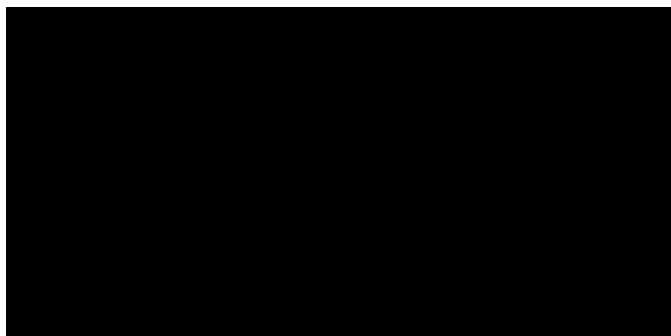
[Dinosaur World, Kentucky](#)

Kentucky

Dinosaur World

Cave City

There is a longstanding tradition in my family: If you see a dinosaur on the side of the road, you stop immediately. Dinosaur World is one of the best collections of life-sized behemoths in the country, with hundreds of thunder lizards -- T-rexes, raptors, you name it -- scattered around a dog-friendly property. It's located near the stunning Mammoth Cave, so that means that of course there are woolly mammoths kids can climb on. And by kids I mean grown-ass men who annoy their families by making them stop at every dinosaur on the American roadside. -- AK



Louisiana

Kentwood Historical & Cultural Museum

Kentwood

Britney Spears was once the world's biggest star – many of us watched her at her peak and throughout her highly-publicized downfall, subsequent comeback, and current indefinite hiatus. As true fans know, Britney's story began in a dusty town off I-55 near the Mississippi/Louisiana border. What many don't know is if you go there, you'll find a shrine to the princess of pop built inside an old funeral home. The unofficial Britney Spears museum is packed with memorabilia including calendars, dolls, life-sized cutouts and wings from her Femme Fatale tour. The most precious exhibit is her childhood bedroom, moved from her parents' house up the road. --

Joel Balsam



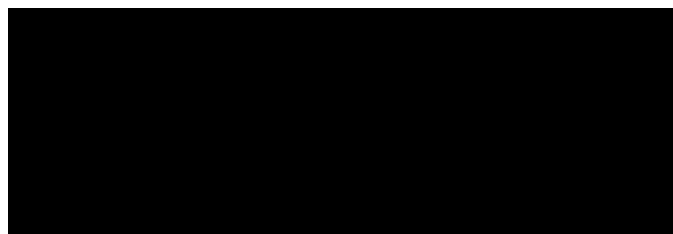
[Wild Blueberry Land](#)

Maine

Wild Blueberry Land

Columbia Falls

Driving along US-1 in Columbia Falls, you will know you have come upon Wild Blueberry Land when you spot the giant blue geodesic dome designed to resemble half a giant blueberry. But we wouldn't send you here if it was just a big blue circle to get out of your car and stare at and take a picture and then get back in your car and leave. This is a seven-acre, family-run blueberry-themed theme park. Everything is blue. You can learn about sustainable farming, play some mini golf, snack on some berries, and check out the offerings at the bakery tucked inside the dome. No prizes for guessing what varieties of baked goods are sold there. -- KM





Maryland

The William P Didusch Center For Urologic History

Linthicum Heights

Have you ever wondered what sorts of medical tools man has jammed up his penis through the years? Curious if people used to make dildos out of whale bones with secret compartments to hold pipe tobacco? WELL YOU'RE IN LUCK! The national urology museum can show you all of these things and more: Victorian anti-masturbation devices, medical samples, other household items dudes have pushed up their peehole. It's a damn good time, and it's FREE! If you're peckish after your visit, visit the Cracker Barrel right across the street. -- Allison Robicelli



Paper House | Dardero/Wikimedia Commons

Massachusetts

The Paper House

Rockport, MA

In 1922, Ellis Stenman wanted to see if he could insulate his summer house with newspaper. Somehow, the experiment turned into a full-fledged obsession, and he ended up using 100,000 newspapers to actually build it -- at least everything but the roof, floors, and frame. This also might serve as an antidote to the whole "print is dead" thing... maybe it just needs to pivot to construction products. -- AK



World's Largest Working Chainsaw | [gelle.dk/Flickr](#)

Michigan

Da Yoopers Tourist Trap

Ishpeming

"Yooper" is Michigan slang for a person who lives in the state's pristine and isolated Upper Peninsula (folks on the south side of the Straits of Mackinac are called trolls). Da Yoopers is a novelty band formed by actual Yoopers who sing about fishing and cars in goofy accents that may or may not be fake. And Da Yoopers Tourist Trap is an ode to both UP life and tacky, slightly funny shit. There's a ton of folk art, including the world's largest working chainsaw, a tableau of beer-drinking deer hanging out in a man-hunting lodge, lots of outhouses, and a gift shop with a large section dedicated to the hilarity of farting. There's nothing quite like it. That's probably a good thing, but good luck not stopping. -- AK



SPAM Museum

Minnesota

The SPAM Museum

Austin

We're not saying you'll walk into this surprisingly gorgeous, ultra-modern ode to America's most misunderstood mystery meat with a newfound appreciation of the stuff, but we're also not saying that won't happen. You'll find out the history of SPAM, including its massive cultural cache in island diasporas. You will be tempted to buy an ironic t-shirt or register as a SPAMBassador. And you will definitely be tempted to purchase a can of pumpkin spice SPAM. -- AK



Margaret's Grocery | [Peter Burka/Flickr](#)

Mississippi

Margaret's Grocery

Vicksburg

People have been working to save Margaret's Grocery & Market for years. The iconic roadside stop off US Highway 61 is possibly the most distinctive grocery store you'll ever see, its aesthetic a blend of folk art and Byzantine Empire. Desperately in need of restoration, Margaret's Grocery is currently closed for repairs, its future uncertain. But just because you can't buy anything inside doesn't mean the place is any less mesmerizing to look at, and this is just one of those things you want to see before you die, or before it's gone, whichever comes first. You can look at the ongoing fundraising efforts to restore Margaret's Grocery [here](#). -- KM



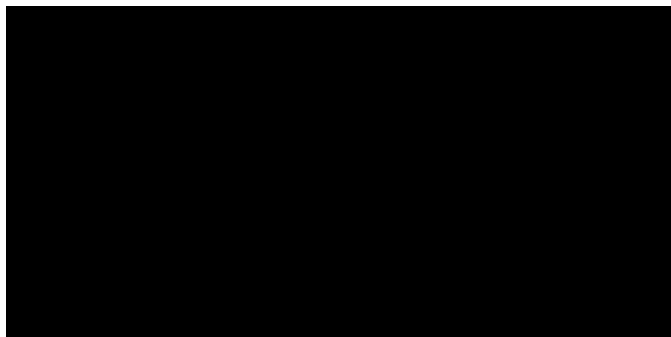
[Precious Moments Chapel and Gift Shoppe](#)

Missouri

Precious Moments Chapel

Carthage

Just off the highway in southwest Missouri the sweet figurines of Precious Moments beckon from their very own compound. But rather than the collectible-sized moppets you may remember from grandma's cabinet -- or perhaps your nightmares -- these cherubs are fully child-sized, depicting everything from anime-eyed clowns to a 9/11 fireman sporting a single tear (try going to sleep now). Former janitor, artist, and inventor of the Christian dolls Samuel J. Butcher conceived of the handsome Precious Moments Park as a space to pay homage to God. The manicured gardens, cafe, visitors center, and gift shop (of course) are worth perusing but it's the Chapel that's the main draw: 5,000 square feet nodding to the Sistine Chapel, with stained glass and 84 murals depicting Bible stories, hand-painted by Butcher himself. Admission and tours of the Chapel are free. -- Vanita Salisbury



Montana

Havre Beneath the Streets

Montana

OK, this is a little outside the box for a state littered with cool roadside fossil museums and whatnot, but there are only so many dinosaurs and ghost towns we

can write about, and seldom is a roadside attraction actually under the road. There's basically an entire city underneath the town of Havre, a series of underground tunnels that houses the preserved remains of a Chinese laundry, opium dens, and even a bordello. And since this is a West, the saloon still stands too. It's basically a living museum of a boomtown past, one that's slightly creepy and endlessly fascinating. -- AK



Nebraska Rest Area | CrackerClips Stock Media/Shutterstock

Nebraska

Nebraska Rest Area

Box Butte-Wright-Lake Election Precinct

There's a well-known roadside attraction along US Highway 87 known as **Carhenge**, which is like Stonehenge but with cars. It's lovely! Definitely stop and see it. But keep driving just a couple of miles North up the 87 and you will come to the actual roadside attraction I'm here to tell you about, which is the Nebraska Rest Area. The Wifi is free. The toilet is non-flushing. That's it. Enjoy. -- KM



Goldwell Open Air Museum | VIKVAD/Shutterstock

Nevada

Goldwell Open Air Museum

Beatty

Words like "ghost" and "death" are particularly appropriate to use in any description of Goldwell, located just outside the historic ghost town of Rhyolite and near the eastern edge of **Death Valley National Park**. Now exceedingly well-documented on Instagram, the open-air museum is a quirky sculpture park in the middle of the Amargosa Desert -- specifically known for the ghoulish, shrouded figures staged in a reinterpretation of Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*. Belgian artist Charles Albert Szulaski launched the museum with these plaster figures in 1984. He followed his *Last Supper* up with two more pieces featuring the same haunting figures, though only one, *Ghost Rider* (featuring a shrouded figure with a bicycle), still stands. Other European artists followed his lead, and today, there are seven sculptures on display in the middle of this eerie godforsaken desert, and it is free and open to the public 24/7. -- Nicole Rupersberg



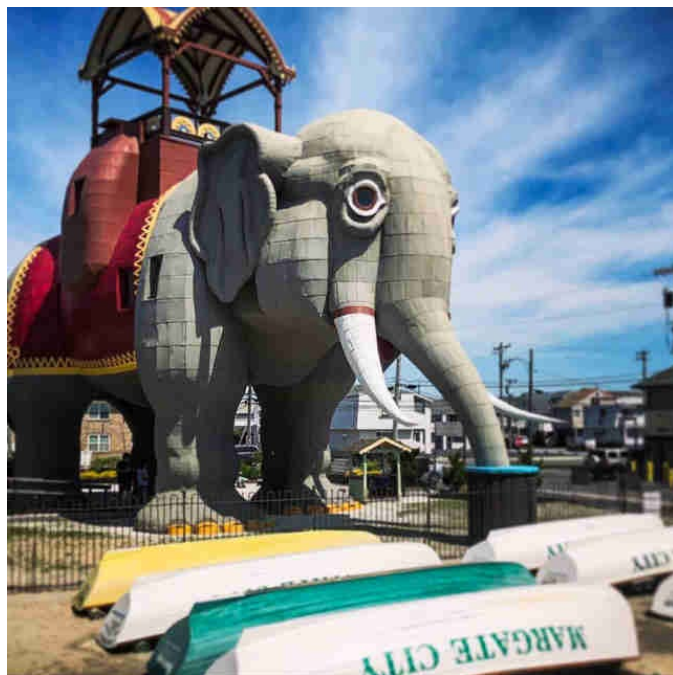
Chicken Farmer Rock | NH Department of Transportation

New Hampshire

Chicken Farmer Rock

Newbury

The story of Chicken Farmer Rock is as follows: At some point in the '70s or '80s, the words "CHICKEN FARMER, I LOVE YOU" were painted on a rock by the side of the road in the small town of Newbury. Legend holds that this was the work of a boy too shy to confess his crush on a girl living on a chicken farm there to her face. The rock became a local treasure, and its message remained there, lightly maintained by Newbury residents, until around 15 years ago when one of these anonymous restorations updated the message to "CHICKEN FARMER, I STILL LOVE YOU." In 2011, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation responded to some horrible person's complaint about the art and painted over it. The rock's unnamed custodians, though, didn't take long to paint it back. -- KM



Lucy the Elephant

New Jersey

Lucy the Elephant

Margate City

There are infinite roadside attractions in America, but one of them was the first and it was Lucy (no relation to Lucy, the first human ancestor remains ever discovered). Built in 1881, this six-story elephant resides in Margate City. She has survived lightning strikes, Hurricane Sandy, being converted into various restaurants and taverns and summer homes, and one (1) vanity presidential run. She's a National Historic Landmark, and most importantly is much more than simply something that's fun to look at -- you can climb up the spiral staircase inside her leg and take in the view from upstairs. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults, \$4 for kids ages 3-12, and zero dollars for babies. -- KM



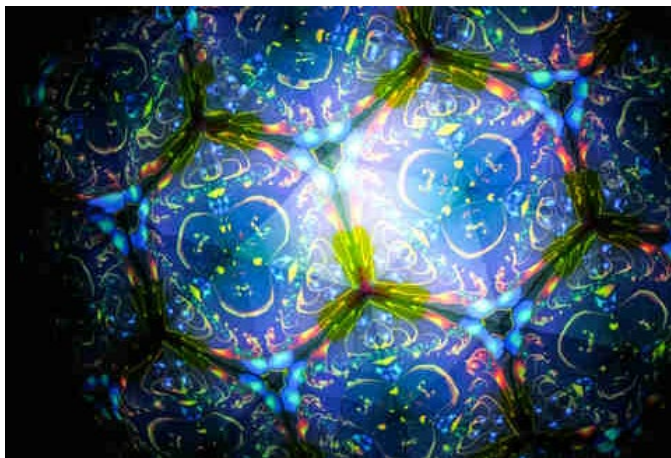
Roswell Welcome Sign | Sean Pavone/Shutterstock

New Mexico

Basically everything in Roswell

Roswell

Is it fair to call an entire town a roadside attraction? Probably not. But the sheer number of alien-related shit populating the streets of Roswell makes it unavoidable. There are makeshift spaceships you can tour. Straight-up UFO "museums." A fake-ass alien autopsy site. Gift shops galore. If there are actual aliens tucked away in Roswell, they pulled the ingenious move of hiding in plain sight, surrounded by every kind of gaudy, over-the-top kitsch as possible. Well played, Martians. -- AK



Flickr/Jason Eppink

New York

World's Largest Kaleidoscope

How large is the world's largest kaleidoscope? Large: 56 feet tall and 38 feet across, housed inside what was formerly a grain silo. You can lie back on the floor and look up at the refractions like you're **stargazing**, but in a trippy way, and with surround sound. The show -- the collection of moving images projected before you -- changes

seasonally, so you could visit over and over and find the experience is never quite the same. Admission costs \$5; kids 11 and under get in free. -- KM



World's Largest Chest Of Drawers

North Carolina

World's Largest Chest of Drawers

High Point

Oh, you didn't know that High Point was the Home Furnishings Capital of the World? Well, this 38 foot dresser is here to remind you. It was built in 1926, making it very desirable to colossal antiques collectors, and comes complete with two gigantic socks. Unfortunately, the world's biggest pair of underpants is in Egypt. -- AK



Enchanted Highway | Education Images/Universal Images Group/Getty

North Dakota

The Enchanted Highway

Regent

Driving across the flat North Dakota prairies can be pretty monotonous, so the towering, whimsical sculptures along a 32-mile stretch of Highway 21 (now the Enchanted Highway) between Regent and Gladstone can seem to come out of nowhere. Metal sculptor and retired school teacher Gary Greff's metal works -- from giant metal deer and a huge grasshopper to a complex underwater world -- pop up every few miles along the empty road to keep you from zoning out on the open road. -- NB



BibleWalk

Ohio

BibleWalk

Mansfield

Yeah, Ohio has traditional roadside attractions like weird museums, giant robots, and the Goodyear gosh-darn blimp. But if you want to get a genuinely weird experience,

look no further than the BibleWalk. We generally stayed away from non-Precious Moments-related religious stuff, but BibleWalk is our exception. This is not, mind you, something marketed as weird: your snickering will not be appreciated. But if you can control yourself, you'll be treated to the Madame Tussaud's of Biblical tableaux, a wax museum dedicated to martyrs, Reformation, and other pious figures. The fact that many of the wax figures appear to be actual repurposed celebrity effigies -- look, kids, it's Clark Gable and Liz Taylor -- gives it a surreal, slightly hilarious edge, one whose mileage will definitely vary depending on your disposition or feelings about wax figures, fire, and brimstone. -- AK



Blue Whale

Oklahoma

The Blue Whale

A giant, friendly whale in the middle of a landlocked state is, in and of itself, odd. But the story of the ocean titan dipping halfway into a pond makes it even more strange/wonderful. Built as a gift from husband to wife, the whale became the centerpiece of a larger roadside attraction, The Animal Reptile Kingdom, which itself was built to resemble Noah's Ark. As the couple grew old, the attraction was abandoned, with the ark falling into disrepair. But the whale remains vibrant. Yes, this sounds like the setup for a Scooby-Doo mystery -- as abandoned amusement areas are wont to -- but it's actually a very charming site to see along Route 66, where its presence has perplexed drivers for four decades. -- AK



Oregon Vortex House of Mystery | [Sean O'Neill/Flickr](#)

Oregon

The Oregon Vortex

Gold Hill

"Keep Portland Weird" is a popular Stumptown mantra following in the proud tradition of stealing stuff from Austin, but the City of Roses has nothing on the weirdness at the Oregon Vortex. Ok, stuff rolling up hill isn't as weird as strip-club karaoke nights, but it's still jarring. There's a slanted house, and a tendency for objects to vary in size based on where you're standing. Yes, there are optical-illusion "vortexes" everywhere, but Oregon's is the gold standard, especially now that it's legal to smoke weed before you go. -- AK



Winber Trolley Graveyard | [bill baker/Flickr](#)

Pennsylvania

Vintage Electric Streetcar Company

Windber

Journey into Pennsylvania's coal country and you may come upon the small town of Windber. There lies the Vintage Electric Streetcar Company, more commonly known

as the Windber Trolley Graveyard. It contains 14 long-decommissioned trolley cars, trucked into the Pennsylvania woods by a trolley enthusiast Ed Metka. This means the scrapyards are private property -- don't try to find it on your own, but do email vesco@aol.com to set up a tour (\$30). -- KM



[The Fantastic Umbrella Factory](#)

Rhode Island

The Fantastic Umbrella Factory

The Fantastic Umbrella Factory does not have just umbrellas. The Fantastic Umbrella Factory has everything. A regionally beloved bazaar and the shopping experience to end all shopping experiences, this outpost of US Highway 1 is a collection of five stores where you can pick up every conceivable type of artisanal wares -- lots of them local -- from plant baskets to blown glass to vintage eyeglasses to drums to organic vegetables growing around the premises. There is also a bamboo forest, a seasonally open cafe, and a petting zoo (goats, emus, chickens, ducks). -- KM



[Tea-rific Teapot Museum](#)

South Carolina

Tearfictteapot Museum

Elloree

Some folks collect buttons. Others collect postcards. But then there's the elite few of us who have an entire collection of teapots. Tearfictteapot Museum in Elloree is essentially the teapot headquarters of the United States, just judging by how many pots the place is filled with (over 5,000!). General admission is \$6 for adults and \$12 if you want a tour, actual tea to drink, and other cool goodies. -- KA



Wall Drug Store | YuniqueB/Shutterstock

South Dakota

Wall Drug

Wall

The first time you see one of the charming, hand-painted Wall Drug signs on the highway leading to South Dakota, you'll be charmed. By the 100th time, you'll be confused, maybe swearing off visiting out of principle. But Wall Drug cannot be avoided if you're on I-90, largely because it's the last stop for gas before/after the Badlands. But what the heck is it? It's like a gigantic greatest-hits collection of roadside kitsch, with an entire town built around the sprawling drugstore. Once there, you'll experience dinosaurs both statuesque and animatronic. You'll see giant jackalopes, singing cowboys, Western art, a shooting gallery, and the requisite tacky Western tropes. As advertised, the ice water is still free, the donuts are delicious, and the open-face turkey sandwich is a gut buster. You will leave with a bumper sticker that says "Where the heck is Wall Drug." In a state that also boasts the Mitchell Corn Palace, it manages to be the kind of roadside America. -- AK



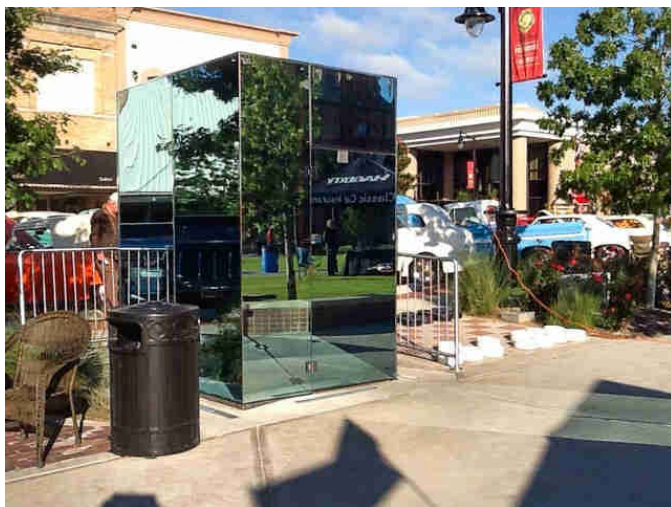
[Titanic Museum Attraction](#)

Tennessee

Titanic Museum Attraction

Pigeon Forge

If you've ever wanted to know what it was like to board the RMS Titanic -- y'know.. before its tragic final journey -- you're in luck. Yes, I know, Pigeon Forge is for tourists, but the Titanic Museum Attraction is something you truly have to see with your own eyes. According to its [website](#), it is the "world's largest Titanic museum attraction." The interior and exterior of the museum look just like the actual ship so you'll get all the bang for your \$27. You'll walk through real-life replicas of the corridors, rooms, and even the Grand Staircase while imagining you're a millionaire in 1912. Eh... **before 2:20am**, of course. Speaking of passengers, everyone who enters the ship receives a boarding pass of someone who actually boarded or worked on the real Titanic -- **all of whom are deceased**. Not creepy at all, right? -- KA



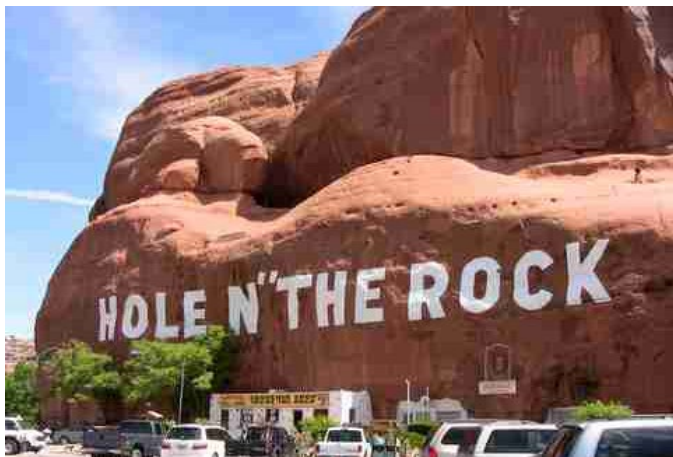
[Public Glass Restrooms on the Square in Sulphur Springs Texas](#)

Texas

Glass-Walled Public Toilets

Sulphur Springs

Drive into the small town of Sulphur Springs and you might have the good fortune of making a pit stop at the only see-through public toilets in America. Don't worry, though, you can definitely use them -- they're only see-through in one direction, i.e. you can see everyone going about their business outside but no one can see you, on the inside, doing yours. -- KM



[Hole N' The Rock](#)

Utah

Hole N' The Rock

Moab

You're driving down US Highway 191, thinking vaguely of finding a place to pull over and stretch, maybe get some snacks, when you see, in the distance: a massive red rock face with blazing white detailing. You drive closer. "HOLE N' THE ROCK". Is it ... literally a hole in the rock? It is, kinda, yes. Hole N' The Rock is a 5,000-square-foot home carved into the rock where you'll also find a trading post, general store, art collection, and petting zoo -- camels, zebras, albino raccoons... you are wondering whether you can feed them, yes you can. "WE ARE NOT YOUR DESTINATION:" explains/yells the Hole N' The Rock website, "WE ARE AN AMAZING STOP ALONG THE WAY." -- KM



The Museum of Everyday Life | [Kyle Clark/Facebook](#)

Vermont

The Museum of Everyday Life

Glover

This tiny roadside museum in Glover, in northeastern Vermont, is dedicated to the mundane and the familiar. To the sorts of objects that don't often make it into museums, or at least not before several centuries have passed. Pencils. Scissors. Toothbrushes. Keys. But not everything here is static -- there are intermittent puppet shows and other live performances, and sometimes guided tours. The museum is self-serve. Make your donations at the door; turn off the lights when you leave. -- KM



Dinosaur Land | [Tess Dixon/Flickr](#)

Virginia

Dinosaur Land

White Post

Seventy-five miles outside of Washington, DC lies a prehistoric oasis worth the detour -- Dinosaur Land. What originally began as a small gift shop has transformed

into a massive park scattered with over 50 towering, handmade dinosaur statues. If you weren't a dinosaur expert before, you'll leave the park a genius: there's just about every species, from lumbering Stegosaurus to the creepy, meat-eating Coelophysis (the lizard-like guys who terrorized everyone during Jurassic Park). I'm partial to the kind of derpy-looking T-rex, who stands next to the long-necked, plant-eating Apatosaurus in a way that makes it seem like they're just gossiping. Open every month except January and February, with admission starting at \$6. -- Kalina Newman



Jake the Alligator Man | [lmhavingfun42/Wikimedia Commons](#)

Washington

Marsh's Free Museum

Long Beach

Located in a sprawling old house in the picturesque coast town of Long Beach, Marsh's has the requisite nautical souvenirs (shells, pufferfish, you know the drill), plus a rude love detector that keeps calling me a dud. But it's also home to Jake the Alligator Man, a former star of the Weekly World News tabloid who appears to be the mummified corpse of a half man/half alligator hybrid. Obviously, much like fellow WWN star Bat Boy, Jake's a fake. But that didn't stop Marsh's from encasing him in glass and creating a shrine for him. Every year Marsh's throws Jake a birthday bash, and the resultant party draws weirdos in art cars from throughout the country to the sleepy hamlet, turning it, for one weekend, into the weirdest town in a state that's not exactly starved for the bizarre. Once you visit, you'll start noticing "I brake for Jake" bumper stickers on cars throughout the country. The alligator man is fake. His cult is real. -- AK



Mystery Hole | [Matt/Flickr](#)

West Virginia

Mystery Hole

Fayetteville

Near New River Gorge in Fayetteville -- another of **our fave scenic drives** -- lies Mystery Hole. What will you see here? That depends on you. Some report seeing objects roll uphill instead of down. Some find furniture balanced in ways that furniture should not be able to balance. Gravity, it seems, does its own thing here. Mystery Hole is open May through October. **Guided tours** cost \$7.50, and be sure to leave your phone and all electronic devices in your car -- they are forbidden during the tour, and if you're caught with one you won't get a refund. -- KM



Upside Down White House | [aaronmir/Flickr](#)

Wisconsin

Upside-Down White House

Wisconsin Dells

Just like the real White House, you'll need a guide to take you through the Top Secret Inc. house resting on its roof in the Wisconsin Dells, a city itself that could

well be considered one big-ass tourist trap. And only then will you begin to uncover the mysterious conspiracy, which will just be the start of explaining why the world stands on its head. The thing could well be an apt metaphor for our current political climate. But sometimes, an upside-down monument is just an upside-down monument. -- NB



The World's Largest Elk Horn Arch | david_jones/Flickr

Wyoming

The World's Largest Elk Horn Arch

Afton

Afton is a tiny town in middle-of-nowhere Wyoming -- otherwise known as "Wyoming" -- but the little hamlet south of Jackson has a hell of a unique centerpiece. Assembled from the antlers of more than 3,000 elk, the town's elk horn arch stretches across four lanes of the sleepy town's road, weighing in at a whopping 15 tons. That's enough antlers to decorate every hunting lodge in Wyoming and still have leftovers to decorate dozens of hip "New American" restaurants in bigger cities. — AK

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I confirm I am at least 21 years old

Popular In The

Uber Will Let You Bring Your Pet...

Wendy's Just Made a Dungeons &...

We Ranked Ireland's...



RedCherries

But I already ride Ubers with my dogs for free



CyanTurtle

Man I would buy a physical copy of that



PurpleGrapes

i dont know why the writer would just state somethin..

Conversation (6)



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PurpleWheel · 2d
I've actually put a coat of paint on the worlds largest paint ball, twice. :)

Reply · Share · 3 Likes ·

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CyanRing · 21 Aug
I feel so enriched now

Reply · Share · 4 Likes ·



RedRaindrop · 2d
Yes, Very cool

Reply · Share · 1 Like ·



PurpleDucky · 3d
Murica

Reply · Share · 1 Like ·



OrangePizza · 3d
The first McDonald's in Des Plaines was torn down last year, alas.

Reply · Share · 1 Like ·



RedFlower · 21h
Dinosaur Land is tacky AF, but there's something charming about the paper mache (I think) dinosaurs and the little kids who love them. Love me some Dino Land.

Reply · Share ·



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