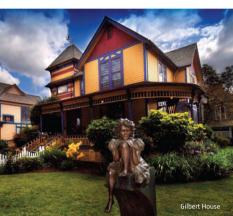




Day Trips Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. Eatonville, Washington Travel tip: An easy day trip from Seattle.

Near Eatonville—an easy day trip from Seattle/Tacoma-Northwest Trek is just made for filling a day with enough smiles to last a week. This is one of the country's premier wildlife parks and features fauna. large and small, native to the region. Ride the tram and let your auide introduce the kids to herds of bison, elk and more in their natural habitat, and then walk the paved path to view animals of the predatory sort

in their enclosures. In the process, the kids will have fun learning why they should care about conservation. There's never a dull moment in this wild animal kingdom. nwtrek.org, traveltacoma.com



A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village. Salem, Oregon

Travel tip: An easy day trip from Portland.

Any museum where children can learn without realizing they're learning is a treasure. Downtown Salem's Riverfront Park is home to a complex of three historic homes that have been turned into one of the best children's museums in the Northwest, A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village. (Gilbert, who resided in one of the homes, was the inventor of the Erector Set.) At A.C. Gilbert Discovery Village, kids build on the Gilbert legacy of hands-on learning by engaging with fun, interactive exhibits in the sciences, arts and humanities-more than a

Spring Family Fun

dozen exhibits, such as Imagination Playaround, Nano (all about nanoscience) and Go Figure! (where kids learn math skills and parents might pick up a few tips on helping with math homework). acgilbert.org. travelsalem.com

World Center for Birds of Prev. Boise, Idaho

Travel tip: Located on the outskirts of Boise, an easy day trip from the city.

Children always marvel at birds bigger than they are, and World Center for Birds of Prev will have little jaws dropping. Harpy eagles, falcons, vultures and many more species from around the world occupy this center at the forefront of conservation, research and education. You can tour the exhibits to view the birds, or, even better, attend one of the daily live presentations in the theater or take a behind the scenes tour. peregrinefund. org/world-center, boise.org



World Forestry Center Discovery Museum, Portland, Oregon Travel tip: This is an in-city activity, accessible by car or public transportation.

This museum, in the heart of Portland's Washington Park, claims one visit "will change the way you look at trees." It's only fitting that this museum is located in a region dominated by forests. But the exhibits gren't confined to Northwest forests:



they take visitors to the forests of Asia. Africa and South America as well. In this 20,000-square foot museum, you can take a wet-free raft ride, view the forest from a bird's-eve view, learn all about different forestry occupations and much more. worldforestry.org/

Overnight Trips Cama Beach State Park, Camano Island. Washington

Travel tip: Overnight in a cabin at Cama Beach, an easy drive from Seattle.

At Cama Beach, the family can vacation like it's 1939. True, the kids might scoff at the notion, but once they arrive, you'll hear protests when it's time to pack up and leave. The magic is the combination of a '30sera fishina resort with rustic cedar cabins, a pristine beach on the Salish Sea's Saratoga Passage, a seemingly endless forest of towering conifers and the resident Center for Wooden Boats, where you can rent a boat and might even get acquainted with a real boat builder. Cama Beach is popular with families and groups so make reservations well in advance. parks. wa.gov/camabeach, cwb.org/locations/ cama-beach, whidbeycamanoislands.com





Silver Rapids Indoor Waterpark Resort. Kellogg, Idaho

Travel tip: Overnight at Silver Mountain Resort's Morning Star Lodge.

For some families a wild frolic in a vast indoor water park is the stuff spring break dreams are made of. A vacation stay at Silver Mountain Resort's Morning Star Lodge makes those dreams come true. The youngest in the family will love Pollywoa Pond, while the oldest kids (like dad) will race to Gold Rush and Prospector Plunge. With 10 separate water features, Silver Rapids Indoor Waterpark Resort has fun in store for every member of the family. When reserving, check out the Splash & Stay package to keep some cash in your wallet. silvermt.com. visitidaho.org/regions/northern

Wildlife Safari. Winston, Oregon Travel tip: Nearby family lodging at Windmill Inn of Roseburg (windmillinnrosebura.com).

More than 600 animals from around the world in hundreds of acres of drivethrough habitat is what you'll find at Wildlife Safari near Roseburg, Wildlife Safari is an acclaimed conservation and education facility, accredited by

the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is renowned for its successful cheetch breeding program. Pile the kids in the car and ao on vour verv own safari, then treat the family to their choice of an upclose animal encounter

maybe strolling with cheetahs or helping feed the bears and lions. wildlifesafari.net, southernoregon.org

Victoria Bug Zoo. Victoria, British Columbia

Travel tip: Kid-friendly lodaina at Royal Scot Hotel & Suites (rovalscot.com).

Who doesn't love creepy crawlers? At Victoria Bua Zoo these many-leaged creatures are much more than mere insects and spiders. Bring in the family to watch exotic buas in action, most not native to the Northwest Become friends with a scorpion or a giant Sonoran centipede. Test your bravery by handling a tarantula or millipede as long as your forearm. Watch the industrious residents of Canada's largest ant farm ao about their highly organized workaday lives. Once you visit the 40 species at the Victoria Bug Zoo, you'll think twice about ever stepping on a bug again. bugzoo.com, tourismvictoria.com

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