



WEEKI WACHEE SPRINGS

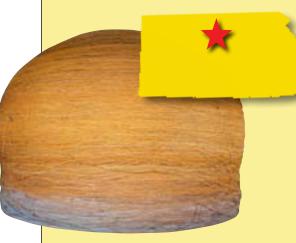
WHERE: Spring Hill, Florida **GET HERE:** Find this Gulf Coast kitsch classic, a state park since 2008, at the intersection of S.R. 50 and Hwy. 19, 45 minutes north of Tampa and 2 hours west of Orlando. **BACKSTORY:** The water's a consistent 72 degrees in this crystalline natural spring, where the mermaids of Weeki Wachee have been putting on shows since 1947. **CONTACT:** weekiwachee.com



BALL OF TWINE

WHERE: Cawker City, Kansas **GET HERE:** Take Hwy. 24 through Cawker City, 17 miles west of Beloit.

BACKSTORY: The world's largest ball of sisal twine is more than 50 years old and still growing. Frank Stoeber got the ball rolling in 1953; in four years it weighed 5,000 pounds and contained 1,175,180 feet of twine. Now owned by Cawker City, the attraction weighs 9 tons, with close to 8 million feet of twine. Travelers can stop by to add more!



WHERE: Catoosa, Oklahoma

GET HERE: Drive just west of the twin steel bridges over the Verdigris River on old Route 66.

BACKSTORY: Lifelong Catoosa resident Hugh Davis built this aquatic oddity in 1972 as an anniversary gift to his wife, Zelta, an avid collector of all things related to whales. Before the 80-foot-long structure even got its first coat of paint, people began stopping to cannonball off its tail fin, coast down its sides and peek through the holes in its head. Swimming is no longer allowed, but old Blue remains open to curious travelers.

CONTACT:

bluewhaleroute66.com



Antique Shell Station

WHERE:

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

GET HERE:

Take Exit 195 off Interstate 40, 25 miles west of Greensboro.



BACKSTORY:

In the 1930s, the Quality Oil Co. built eight clamshellshaped stations based on the Shell Oil logo. The Winston-Salem structure is the only one still standing, now protected as a state landmark. Come with a full tank—the pumps are now dry—and don't forget your camera.

Tell Us About Your Silliest Side Trips

Have a roadside wonder in your hometown, or a favorite that you found on your last trip? Share your best snapshots with us online at facebook.com/reminiscemagazine.



Bob's Big Boy

LOCATION:

Burbank, California

GET HERE:

Exit Hwy. 101 toward Burbank, 20 minutes north of Los Angeles.



BACKSTORY:

Built in 1949, this Bob's restaurant is the oldest one in the U.S. still serving customers. In recent years, owners added a patio and revived the car hop service on weekend nights. If you stop by for a double decker burger, visit the "Beatle Booth," which displays a plaque that pays tribute to a visit by the Fab Four in 1965.







The Shady Dell

WHERE:

Bisbee, Arizona

GET HERE:

Bisbee is off Hwy. 80, about 95 miles southeast of Tucson.



BACKSTORY:

Nine vintage aluminum trailers, including the 1949 Airstream you see here (featured in **Brides** magazine that year), transport quests back to the 1950s at this RV resort. The interiors have been restored and furnished in high midcentury modern style, from leopard carpets and breakfast booths to a hand-carved Polynesian-style tiki bar. Book ahead to spend the night in one of these retro rides.

CONTACT: theshadydell.com



GENERAL SHERMAN TREE

WHERE: Sequoia National Park, California

GET HERE: The park is about 60 miles east of Fresno.

BACKSTORY: This tree dwarfs even its fellow sequoias in the famous Giant Forest. By volume, it's the largest tree in the world, measuring 275 feet tall and 102.6 feet in circumference at its base. A park trail leads directly to the General, making it easy to stare up at this natural wonder.

CONTACT: nps.gov

GRACELAND

WHERE: Memphis, Tennessee

GET HERE: Exit Interstate 55 toward Brooks Rd. & Elvis Presley, 10 minutes from downtown Memphis.

BACKSTORY: Walk in the footsteps of rock 'n' roll royalty on a guided tour of the King's 14-acre estate, which includes a final stop in the Meditation Garden where Elvis is buried. Inside the Graceland mansion, guests get a peek at the star's living room and kitchen, as well as the famous Jungle Room, a funky 1970s
Hawaiian-style retreat designed as

Presley's own little piece of paradise.

CONTACT:

elvis.com/ graceland

