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## Sunny, solo Pacific Northwest road trips to take while maintaining coronavirus-mandated social distancing

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Hello to the summer of road trips.

Always a favorite American pastime, miniature expeditions are the way to get out this summer, as the [coronavirus pandemic](#) and Gov. Jay Inslee's ensuing stay-home order has many of us eager for a way to travel ([at an appropriate physical distance](#)).

Luckily the Pacific Northwest is a beautiful place, and there's more to the region than mossy forests and alpine lakes. Bring a mask, hand sanitizer and a camera: These are just a few places to get a change of scenery while keeping your contact with people low — a conscious precaution as counties in Washington move through the phases of reopening.

Walla Walla



**The route:** Head east on I-90 then south on state Route 243 at the Columbia River. Stop at [Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park](#), which has one of the largest diversities of petrified tree species in North America. ([Washington parks are still fully operational.](#)) Consider another detour to the [Hanford Reach National Monument](#), where plutonium reactors remain that once fueled the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. The area is now home to undisturbed wildlife, including commonly spotted porcupines. After heading south about 35 miles on state Route 243, take state Route 240 east and follow signs for the U.S. Route 12, headed east to Walla Walla.

**When you're there:** Wine is the name of the game in Walla Walla and it would be a shame to miss it. Consider staying on the property at a winery, like the [Inn at Abeja](#), so you'll never be far from the vineyard but can time your visit for low crowds. (Tasting rooms have reopened statewide, and the Inn at Abeja and other hotels remain open and available for reservations.) Or pick up a to-go bottle (or two) from [The Thief Fine Wine & Beer](#) (offering [delivery and curbside](#) service) and relax on your hotel's patio with cheese from [Walla Walla Cheese Company](#). When you're ready for adventure, rent wheels from [Allegro Cyclery](#) (yes, they're still rolling, and offering a "bike pick-up and delivery" service) and take a scenic ride on one of the local paths outlined by [Walla Walla Valley Cycling](#). Just need an afternoon in the sun? [Pioneer Park](#) has several walking paths and a duck pond to keep you (and kids, if they're with you) entertained.