

Day trips Bargain travel Easy & amazing hikes

Northwest  
edition

# Weekend Trips

# 34

## Fall getaways to take *now*

**WEEKENDS:** Cannon Beach |  
Tacoma | Walla Walla |  
Sisters | Bowen Island

**ESCAPES:** Wenatchee Valley |  
Boulder | Taos |  
Palm Springs | Hana

# 268+

## IDEAS

where  
to stay  
and eat

Display until November 9, 2009  
SUNSET.COM

\$7.99



Sunset specials



The lobby of chic Hotel Murano. **BELOW** At the Museum of Glass, glimpse artists at work; children gain ideas and inspiration at the Open Art Studio.

# Tacoma

All aboard Amtrak for a quick family trip to museums, hot dogs, and blown-glass art



36 Sunset Weekend Trips 2009



**FOR KIDS**, it's as much about the journey as it is about the destination, so traveling by train can transform a short trip into a full-on adventure. For this eco- and kid-friendly excursion, begin in Seattle and ride the rails to the colorful Tacoma Museum District, where three museums within three blocks can keep the curiosity of the entire family going for hours. *Tip: Wednesdays offer Midweek @ the Museums, joint admission to all three at a discount.*

**INFO Amtrak** Catch a train from Seattle's King Street Station to the Tacoma Station (from \$11 one way; reservations required; [amtrak.com](http://amtrak.com) or 800/872-7245). Cross the street to the Tacoma Dome Station, and catch the light-rail Tacoma Link (free; [soundtransit.org](http://soundtransit.org) or 888/889-6368) on E. 25th St. to Union Station/19th Street to start your tour.

**EAT Hello, Cupcake** Chocolate with chocolate buttercream for kids, mocha with coffee buttercream for you. \$2.25 each; 1740 Pacific Ave.; 253/383-7772.

**Hot Rod Dog** Custom sausages from Blue Max Sausage Co. \$; closed Sun; 1742 Pacific; 253/593-6030.

**The Rock Wood Fired Pizza and Spirits Pizza**, with dough for kids to shape. \$; 1920 Jefferson Ave.; 253/272-1221.

**GO Washington State History Museum** Hit the info desk to turn potentially boring browsing into a third-floor scavenger hunt; clues take kids from current technology to prehistoric geology. \$8, \$6 ages 6-18; closed Mon-Tue; 1911 Pacific; [washingtonhistory.org](http://washingtonhistory.org) or 888/238-4373.

**Chihuly Bridge of Glass** Walk the art-filled bridge from the history museum to the Museum of Glass.

**Museum of Glass** Take part in the Kids Design Glass program, where once a month the winning child's fantasy is transformed into art before your eyes. \$12, \$5 ages 6-12; closed Mon-Tue; 1801 Dock St.; [museumofglass.org](http://museumofglass.org) or 866/468-7386.

**Tacoma Art Museum** Wander back over the Bridge of Glass to the museum's Open Art Studio. \$9; closed Mon-Tue; 1701 Pacific; [tacomaartmuseum.org](http://tacomaartmuseum.org) or 253/272-4258.

**Dock Street Marina** Steal some peaceful moments outside by the bobbing boats. 1817 Dock; 253/250-1906.

**SLEEP Hotel Murano** Sweet dream: Send the kids home by train while you check into this swank Tacoma hotel. Okay, maybe not. Besides, the whole family will enjoy the stay, walking through halls lined with works by more than 40 glass artists from all over the world. From \$159; **Artsy Fartsy Package** (from \$189) includes a room and two tickets to all three museums; [hotelmurano.tacoma.com](http://hotelmurano.tacoma.com) or 888/862-3255. —KATHRYN TRUE