



World's Most Spectacular Sites

Engineering Wonders Make Great Vacation Spots

(NAPS)—A new Web site asks the public to help find the nation's most fascinating engineering sites with an aim to introduce a whole new concept in "tourist destination" while showing how engineering has a large impact on everyday life.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of National Engineers Week, the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) has launched "A Sightseer's Guide to Engineering," a new Web site that encourages vacation visits and online journeys to famous and not-so-famous examples of engineering excellence in each of the 50 states. People who visit the site can nominate personal engineering favorites for possible inclusion at www.engineeringsights.org.

Suggestions so far include the Sky Coaster in Kissimmee, Florida, a thrill ride that gets engineers all a-twitter over the three gargantuan concrete-embedded pylons, each 300 feet tall, that spin riders around in harnesses suspended by lengthy steel cables.

While in Florida, a family might also stop by the Lynx-Lymmo in downtown Orlando. The free circulator bus connects the city's arena and performing arts center with city and county offices and downtown stores. It uses existing traffic right-of-ways, yet has separate lanes that don't interfere with regular traffic. Unique traffic signals control buses at intersections without distracting motorists and lights embedded in the pavement tell passengers when the bus is coming, along with a recorded announcement.

Many of the engineering achievements on the site are historical, such as the Erie Canal that once joined Lake Erie with the Atlantic Ocean. Completed in 1825, the project is credited with ensuring the modern preeminence of New York City as one of the world's most important ports.

An even more significant



Thrill rides, museums and other fascinating destinations are among the sights on a new tourism Web site of great engineering feats at www.engineeringsights.org.

impact on American history may be seen at the workshop of Eli Whitney in Hamden, Connecticut. Now the Eli Whitney Museum, it's where Whitney developed the concept of interchangeable pieces for machinery and where, in 1793, he invented the cotton gin. This machine made de-seeding cotton balls so easy it caused a vast expansion of cotton growing in the South and increased dependence on the use of slaves, an economic move that added impetus to the coming Civil War.

To see what other engineering marvels may be found, and to offer your own ideas log on to www.engineeringsights.org.

For more information on National Engineers Week, which each year highlights the role of engineering in society to increase public awareness and appreciation of technology and the engineering profession, visit www.eweek.org.