

## Science Museums in the West

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Forget test tubes and Bunsen burners. Today's young Einsteins can rap with robots, dabble in DNA, or seek outer space anomalies at a host of interactive science museums.

**Arizona Science Center** Phoenix, Arizona. Meet the locals — tortoises, iguanas, and Gila monsters — and see how various scientific subjects relate to the Grand Canyon State. (602) 716-2000, [www.azscience.org](http://www.azscience.org).

**Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose** This purple, 52,000-square-foot building houses an eclectic mix of eye-opening exhibits, from bubbles and springs to seeds and ham radios. (408) 298-5437, [www.cdm.org](http://www.cdm.org).

**Discovery Museum Science & Space Center** Sacramento, Calif. Get down to earth with local flora and fauna. Or experience a simulated space mission at the reservations-only Challenger Learning Center. (916) 575-3941, [www.thediscovery.org](http://www.thediscovery.org).

**Exploratorium San Francisco** Stuffed with more than 600 exhibits, this museum was ranked as one of the 10 greatest of its kind by *Discover* magazine. Make reservations to worm your way through the pitch-black, labyrinthine Tactile Dome. (415) 397-5673, [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu).

**Explorit! Science Center** Davis, Calif. From oceanography to chemistry, the common theme of the center's hands-on exhibits changes five times a year. Interact with the pros during the monthly Meet the Scientist program. (530) 756-0191, [www.explorit.org](http://www.explorit.org).

**Lawrence Hall of Science** Berkeley, Calif. Feed your head with biology, mathematics, and astronomy at this smorgasbord of science. (510) 642-5132, [www.lawrencehallofscience.org](http://www.lawrencehallofscience.org).

**Lied Discovery Children's Museum** Las Vegas. The six-story Science Tower features Viscosity Tubes, the Everyday Pavilion, and, for toddlers, the Desert Discovery exhibit. (702) 382-3445, [www.ldcm.org](http://www.ldcm.org).

**Oregon Museum of Science and Industry** Portland. Five exhibit halls, eight interactive labs, and a retired navy submarine (see article at right). Need we say more? (503) 797-4000, (800) 955-6674, [www.oms.org](http://www.oms.org).

**Tech Museum of Innovation** San Jose, Calif. Computer geeks take note. Each year, more than 500,000 people interface with the Tech's advanced gizmos and gadgets. (408) 294-8324, [www.thetech.org](http://www.thetech.org).

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