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## Welcome to Texas! Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

Trip to (Bob Bullock) Texas State History Museum

By Jim Wallgren

Austin, Texas

If you enjoy history and seeing artifacts from the past like I do, then let me tell you about a true Texas treasure located in downtown Austin. Being a wheelchair user for 23 years, I've had both good and bad experiences with museums. The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum is a stop you don't want to miss. The museum was opened in April 2001 and is one of the most accessible museums I've had the pleasure to visit in Texas. Located at the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and North Congress Avenue in downtown Austin, Texas, it's very easy to reach off Interstate 35. I recommend parking in the museum's underground parking garage, which is located on the south side of the building. Handicapped parking is free and easy to locate once you are inside the garage. There is also parking outside directly across the main entrance or east of the building.

Inside the building there are 3 levels of museum displays and a special events hall area with a revolving theme every few months. You will find elevators on both sides of the building. The museum also boasts an

IMAX theater, which offers a variety of programs. The wheelchair seating for the theater enters on the 2nd level. We made the mistake the first time of entering through the main entrance only to be told to take elevators to the 2nd level. The line can get pretty long so this may save you some wait time. The seating was very comfortable and I was able to sit with my family during the show. Another theater at the Bob Bullock Museum is the Texas Spirit Theater. This is a unique



presentation on 3 screens with special effects. The show tells the story of some Texas heroes and the spirit that engulfed this land. The row of seats behind the wheelchair seating is elevated so that everyone has a good view of the screen. After taking in all the sights, I recommend the museum's restaurant. Normally these onsite eateries are marginal at best, but I thought the food was good and reasonably priced for the area. The kid's meals are served in a cowboy hat and my kids got a big kick out of that. The Bob Bullock museum has a lot to offer to people of all ages for a day of fun and exploration of Texas history. The building accessibility makes the trip worry free and more enjoyable.

Our Wheelchair Getaways accessible mini-vans are perfect to transport someone in a wheelchair without all of the transfer hassles. If you know of someone who enjoys museums and history or is just looking for an enjoyable day with family and friends consider going to the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. Visit their website: [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com).

Contact Wheelchair Getaways of Austin at 1-866-616-8267

**Happy New Year From Wheelchair Getaways!**

## **Scoot Around North America**

By Ann Bransom

It is the goal of any traveler to have a safe, convenient, hassle-free trip, wherever they are going. However, more often than not, there are going to be some obstacles that every traveler will have to face and this is particularly true for travelers with disabilities. While Wheelchair Getaways can meet the disabled traveler's transportation needs, sometimes travelers need to rent a wheelchair or scooter when they arrive at their destination. If your Wheelchair Getaways franchise cannot rent you a wheelchair, Scoot Around North America can help.

Scoot Around North America was founded in 1997 and rents wheelchairs and scooters in over 400 locations throughout North America. The company is a family run business, co-founded by brother and sister Lee Meagher and David Vincent. "It all began when my father had a stroke a number of years ago," explains Meagher, "We wanted to travel and not have to bring his scooter with us, but we found it very difficult to find scooters to rent. There is rarely a category for [scooters] in the yellow pages, and the companies that will rent [them], often don't advertise. [Companies] focus on sales, so you need to do a lot of digging to find them." Convinced that others were probably facing the same travel obstacles, Meagher and her brother started Scoot Around North America.

In order to meet their mission, which is "to provide an easy, convenient, way for mature and disabled travelers to enjoy their vacations and other excursions," Scoot Around North America takes rentals through their website or toll free number and makes the arrangements through their vast network of dealers. Renters can either call toll free at 1-888-441-7575 or they may simply fill out a rental request form at Scoot-Around's website: [www.scootaround.com](http://www.scootaround.com). Scoot Around North America can serve practically any travel destination in the United States and Canada. Scoot-Around's scooters and wheelchairs are perfect for cruises, resorts, vacations, conventions, or any other travel experience.

Scoot Around has teamed up with many airlines, cruise lines, and travel agencies to educate agents and employees about making travel more accessible. The company also participates in medical and travel expos and conferences, such as the Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality (SATH), World Congress and Exposition on Disabilities, and Medtrade shows. Their web-

site has extensive links to travel resources for people with disabilities, which is just one more way that Scoot Around North America is dedicated to meeting their customer's travel needs.

Don't let travel obstacles keep you from going on a vacation or business trip. Companies like Wheelchair Getaways or Scoot Around North America not only meet travel needs such as accessible van rentals or wheelchair and scooter rentals, but they can also provide valuable resources to disabled travelers. Call Scoot Around North America today to rent a wheelchair or scooter for your next vacation or business trip!

For more information about Scoot Around North America call 1-888-441-7575 or visit their website at [www.scootaround.com](http://www.scootaround.com).

## **Exciting Accessible Attractions in Portland, Oregon**

By Ann Bransom

Wheelchair Getaways' newest franchise location in Portland, Oregon, would like to invite you to visit this wonderful city! Portland, located in the upper west portion of Oregon, is full of interesting cultural attractions, beautiful museums and historic spots, and fantastic restaurants. This fascinating city will make the perfect destination for your next vacation!

Two interesting educational attractions in Portland are the Portland Art Museum and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. The Portland Art Museum is the oldest art museum in the Pacific Northwest, founded in 1892. The Art museum boasts a large permanent collection including anything from English silver to Asian art. They also offer various exhibitions throughout the year. Admission for adults is \$10, and the museum is open Tuesday through Sunday. The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry offers a variety of fun for all ages. The Science museum has several exhibit halls as well as a planetarium, a genuine submarine, and an Omnimax theater. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday and admission to the museum is \$8.50 for adults and \$6.50 for seniors and children ages 3-13. Both the Portland Art Museum and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry are wheelchair accessible. For more information about the Portland Art Museum, visit their website at [www.portlandart-museum.org](http://www.portlandart-museum.org). For more information about the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry visit [www.oms.edu](http://www.oms.edu).

Some other places to visit in Portland include the

Pittock Mansion and the historic Kennedy School. The Pittock Mansion was built in 1914 and is now considered by Portland natives to be an "architectural treasure." The mansion is perfect for a picnic or a midday stroll. Admission to the mansion is only \$5.50 for adults and \$3.00 for youth, and is open daily. Best of all, the mansion is mostly wheelchair accessible. Just make sure to call the mansion 48 hours in advance at 1-503-823-3623, so they can make accommodations for disabled visitors. The Kennedy School was once a real school, and is now a beloved neighborhood hub in Portland. The building includes a movie theater, small bars, a soaking pool, gymnasium, and even a brewery! The Kennedy School is all located on the first floor, making accessibility very easy for wheelchair and scooter users. The ramp to enter the building is located in the rear of the building where the parking lot is. For more information call the Kennedy School at 1-503-249-3983 or visit their website at [www.kennedyschool.com](http://www.kennedyschool.com).

One thing Portland is not short on is fabulous food for every taste. If you are in the mood for breakfast, why not try the Original Pancake House? The very first Pancake House was founded in Portland in 1953 and visitors can still eat there today! The restaurant is open Wednesday thru Sunday from 7 AM to 3 PM. For a taste of regional cuisine, try the  
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### NATIONWIDE RENTAL INFORMATION:

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Accessible Van Rentals

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Wildwood Restaurant. The chefs cook with ingredients found only miles from the restaurant in the Willamette Valley, giving diners a real taste of the Pacific Northwest. The restaurant is open seven days a week and serves lunch and dinner. If you are looking for something a little more fancy, try the French restaurant Brasserie Montmartre. Designed to give the diner the feel of a Paris nightclub, the restaurant serves up lamb, chicken, seafood, and other unique Parisian cuisine. Diners enjoy dinner with the sounds of jazz being played seven nights a week. The only parts of the restaurant that are not wheelchair accessible are the banquet rooms. All of these restaurants provide great ways to enjoy Portland through its uniquely Pacific Northwest flavors!

The only way for visitors to enjoy the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of this fascinating city is with safe convenient transportation. When you are planning your next trip to Portland or any other city in the great state of Oregon, be sure to call Wheelchair Getaways of Portland to book your accessible van rental. The toll free number is 1-800-351-8267 or you may visit Wheelchair Getaways of Portland online at [www.wheelchairgetaways.com](http://www.wheelchairgetaways.com).