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World's largest aircraft, Spruce Goose in Oregon is worth a visit (photos)

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The Spruce Goose, well worth seeing
Credits: The Spruce Goose



Slideshow: Spruce Goose in Oregon well worth a visit



Video: The Spruce Goose

World's largest aircraft, Spruce Goose in Oregon is worth a visit (photos)

World travelers heading for Oregon should be sure to check out the **Spruce Goose**. This is the largest airplane ever made and it has actually flown.

Contrary to popular belief, the Spruce Goose is not made out of spruce, but rather birch wood. Only a tiny portion of spruce wood is used.

Here are some facts on one of mankind's best attempts to conquer the skies:

- * The plane only ever flew one time, on November 2, 1947.
- * It was known as **Hughes Flying Boat**.
- * It was built as a personnel and material carrier.
- * The Spruce Goose was designed to avoid WWII German submarines that had been sinking ships.
- * It cost \$18 million dollars from the government and \$7 of **Howard Hughes'** personal money to build.
- * It had to be built without using materials needed for the war (like steel and aluminum).
- * The Spruce Goose was almost six times bigger than any aircraft of its day.
- * **Howard Hughes** decided to fly the plane unannounced while he was doing a taxi test.
- * The Spruce Goose traveled for just over a mile and went up to 70 feet in the air. That flight lasted around a minute.

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- * The flight proved the skeptics wrong. The Spruce Goose could, indeed, fly.
- * The name Spruce Goose was given by the press and although Hughes did not like it, it stuck.
- * After its famous flight, the Hughes Flying Boat was kept out of the public's view for 33 years.
- * After Hughes died, the plane was moved to Long Beach by entrepreneur **Jack Wrather** so it would not have to be destroyed. It was close to the ship, the **Queen Mary**.
- * In 1983 it was put on view to the public.
- * In 1993 the plane was bought again, this time by **Captain Michael King Smith** who had it dismantled and brought by boat and truck to **McMinnville, Ore.** where it is on view today.

San Francisco residents can fly to Oregon by finding deals online at [www.kayak.com](#) or, like this Examiner, can do the 11 hour drive from San Francisco in one or two days. Directions can be found on [www.googlemaps.com](#)

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


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