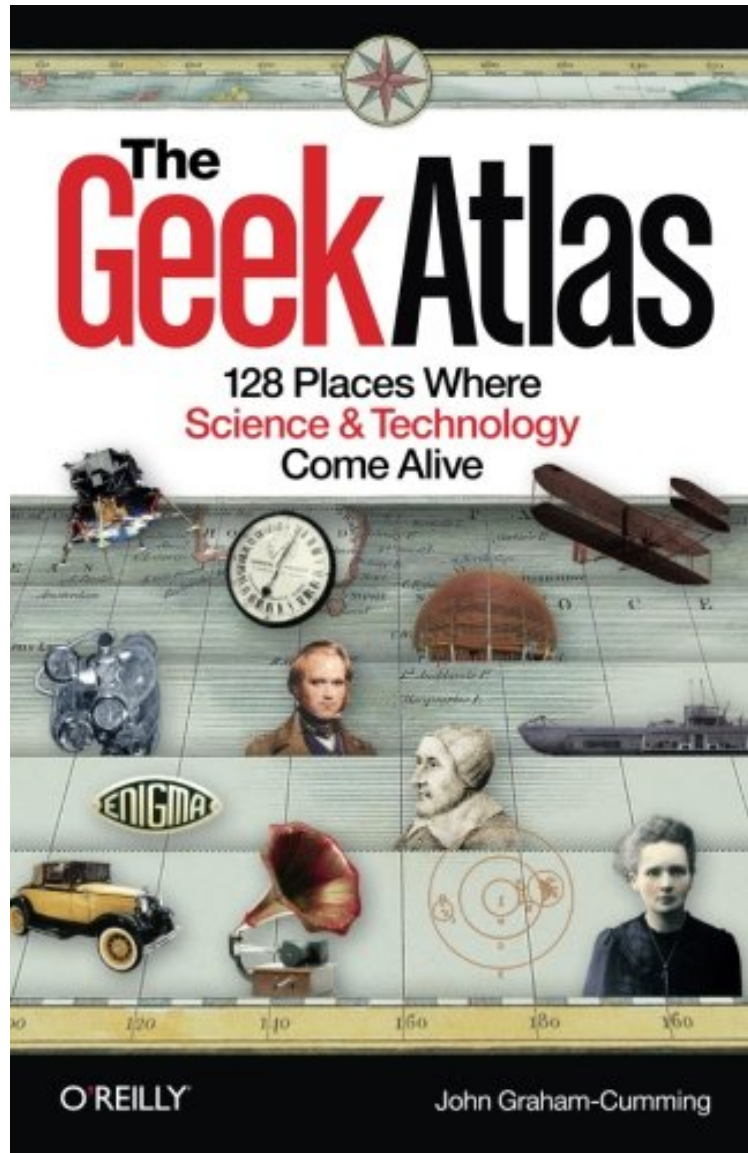


# The Geek Atlas: 128 Places Where Science and Technology Come Alive

John Graham-Cumming

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#610857 in Books John Graham Cumming 2009-06-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x 1.06 x 5.501, 1.38 #File Name: 0596523203544 pages The Geek Atlas 128 Places Where Science and Technology Come Alive | File size: 39.Mb

**John Graham-Cumming : The Geek Atlas: 128 Places Where Science and Technology Come Alive** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Geek Atlas: 128 Places Where Science and Technology Come Alive:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I highly recommend this wonderful book By Matthew G. Woodard I am a new father, and I bought this book with one thing in mind: to find new science-related places to take my son as he grows up. I imagined classic family vacations that might have been planned by Clark Griswold, with a little more emphasis on learning than is typical of a National Lampoon movie. I am happy to say I'm not disappointed. In fact, I got much more out of this book than I'd planned. Within minutes of opening the book, I'd found three must-see locations that I could visit just on a trip back home to my family. The atlas includes the details you need to plan a satisfying trip. Its clear what locations are child friendly, which have food available, etc. But this only scratches the surface of the material. The inclusion of related information, anecdotes, and a real discussion of the scientific background of each site turns a travel guide into so much more. If you've ever enjoyed watching a show on the discovery channel that delves into the curious stories and theories behind a famous person or place, you'll love the book. The author writes with an entertaining style that I enjoy, and I think will capture the attention of anyone with an interest in the sciences. As my son grows up, I plan to stimulate his interests by sharing the book with him. I have an older niece who is beginning to take a interest in such things, and I have similar plans for her. I recommend the same to any parent interested in sparking their kids' imaginations. Finally, I wanted to mention some personal connections I have with the book. I was a physicist in college, and I was fortunate to participate in a number of programs during my time at university that took me to a few of the places mentioned in the book. I got a nostalgic thrill when I discovered that places from my past were in the book, and I appreciate my own experiences more after reading about them. The history behind the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia is a great example. I wish that I had an Atlas back then. I would have gotten even more out of my travels. I highly recommend this wonderful book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you love science, this book should always part of your travel planning! By Pedro Moura Pinheiro 128 fascinating and worthwhile places to visit, some very off the beaten track, all part of our global shared scientific history. But it's not only a travel guide, it's a very good cross-section view into science and technology, simple enough for people who think they don't like science, but with fantastic gems even for Nobel prize winning scientist.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Those listed in the US are rather boring. By Joe VI was hoping there would be more US places to visit. Those listed in the US are rather boring.

The history of science is all around us, if you know where to look. With this unique traveler's guide, you'll learn about 128 destinations around the world where discoveries in science, mathematics, or technology occurred or is happening now. Travel to Munich to see the world's largest science museum, watch Foucault's pendulum swinging in Paris, ponder a descendant of Newton's apple tree at Trinity College, Cambridge, and more. Each site in The Geek Atlas focuses on discoveries or inventions, and includes information about the people and the science behind them. Full of interesting photos and illustrations, the book is organized geographically by country (by state within the U.S.), complete with latitudes and longitudes for GPS devices. Destinations include: Bletchley Park in the UK, where the Enigma code was broken The Alan Turing Memorial in Manchester, England The Horn Antenna in New Jersey, where the Big Bang theory was confirmed The National Cryptologic Museum in Fort Meade, Maryland The Trinity Test Site in New Mexico, where the first atomic bomb was exploded The Joint Genome Institute in Walnut Creek, California You won't find tedious, third-rate museums, or a tacky plaque stuck to a wall stating that "Professor X slept here." Every site in this book has real scientific, mathematical, or technological interest--places guaranteed to make every geek's heart pound a little faster. Plan a trip with The Geek Atlas and make your own discoveries along the way.

.com The Geek Atlas is a list of sites to visit where science, mathematics, or technology happened or is happening. The book can be used as a true travel guide or as inspiration for the armchair traveler. Each place has its own chapter that includes a general introduction to the place's significance, a related technical subject covered in more detail, and practical visiting information. From Kiev to Jaipur with The Geek Atlas in hand This is the Captain speaking. Welcome aboard flight NB1729, the Nerd Bird, stopping in Kiev, Munich, Paris, London, Dublin, New York, San Francisco and Jaipur. Seat belts fastened please: were about to apply Newtons laws of motion and take off. Pripyat First stop is Kiev, Ukraine and its straight from the airport to the National Museum of Chernobyl that explains the events of April 26, 1986 when reactor number 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear power station blew open and released a cloud of radioactivity that covered Europe. The following morning your tour bus leaves Kiev and makes the drive out to the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. Inside the zone you see the entombed reactor and the abandoned town of Pripyat, which is forever stuck in the mid-1980s. During the trip youve got plenty of time to read The Geek Atlas explanation of the dangers of radioactive iodine and its effect on the thyroid gland. Next, its back aboard the plane for the ride down to the gleaming airport in Munich, Germany. From there its a short train ride to the Deutsches Museum--probably the greatest science museum in the world. Youll be staying all day in the museum because of its sheer size (there are 28,000 objects on display) and the highlight will be the Electric Power demonstration where 300 kV of AC are generated and then an 800 kV lightning strike is set off. On the train ride into Munich theres time to read The Geek Atlas explanation of the operation of the Diesel engine and find out what a planimeter is. Paris is up next. Your walking tour of the City of Lights starts at the Paris Observatory at the feet of Franois Arago, director of the

observatory in the 19th century. You are looking for a small brass disk set into the sidewalk. Written on the disk is the word ARAGO and the letters N and S. You follow the northerly direction towards the observatory staying on the old Paris meridian (the French 0 degrees of longitude). Along the way you'll search for more of these Arago medallions marking the meridian and end up seeing the sights of Paris. The meridian passes through the city center and without straying far you'll see The Pantheon (with Foucault's Pendulum inside), the Jardin de Luxembourg, the Eiffel Tower and le Muse du Louvre. The Brunel Museum Stop for a coffee near the river Seine halfway through the trip and read The Geek Atlas description of how to find your local meridian at home using a stick and some string. The next day, you leave the airplane behind and hurtle under the English Channel on a train to arrive in London in just over two hours. In London your tour avoids the major tourist attractions and takes you by underground train to The Brunel Museum. You arrive by passing through the first tunnel built under a body of water. If you are lucky you can take the museum tour back through the floodlit tunnel in an underground train that creeps through at walking pace. While in London the tour stops for lunch at Bunhill Fields Cemetery, a quiet spot in the City of London, where you can hunt down the grave of Reverend, and pioneer of probability theory, Thomas Bayes. The Geek Atlas contains a probability brainteaser to ponder while thinking about the famous Bayes Theorem (which is explained). Before leaving Europe the airplane makes a stop in Dublin for a bit more mathematics. Crossing Broom Bridge across the Royal Canal you come to a plaque on the bridge itself. This is the spot where Sir William Rowan Hamilton, out on a walk with his wife in 1843, scratched the fundamental equation of the theory of quaternions into the stonework using a knife. The equation had just come to him and he needed to write it down. Opening The Geek Atlas to page 91, you'll find a description of the quaternions and the complex numbers. Deep Space Communications Complex After the long flight to New York's JFK and a bumpy cab ride into the city you avoid the crowds around Times Square and head straight for the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen of New York City. Inside is the small and wonderful John M. Mossman collection of locks. Since New York is an important banking center locks are very important and the collection is filled with beautiful examples of complex, mechanical time locks used to secure vaults. Many of the locks were built by the Yale Company, and The Geek Atlas explains how the familiar home tumbler (or Yale) lock works. Flying over the US towards California there's plenty of time to read up on the The Geek Atlas highlights of Silicon Valley, but after leaving San Francisco airport your tour heads south and out towards Fort Irwin, CA where NASA has the headquarters of the Deep Space Communications Complex with its multiple parabolic dishes that point skyward and chat with man-made probes that are exploring the solar system. Some of the probes have been phoning home to Fort Irwin for over 30 years. Since it's a long ride to Fort Irwin you'll have time to get your head around The Geek Atlas section on error-detecting and correcting codes used to transmit information across the reaches of space (and ensure your credit card number is accurate). To complete the tour it's a change of scene and continent: you leave high-tech California and dial back time to visit one of the oldest stone observatories in the world at the Jantar Mantar in Jaipur, India. In Jaipur you'll be seeing the largest sundial in the world and a host of beautiful and massive instruments used for astronomical observations since the 18th century. This is the Captain speaking once again. Thank you for taking The Geek Atlas world tour. Your trip is free if you can tell the chief flight attendant the significance of our flight number while deplaning. About the Author John Graham-Cumming is a wandering programmer who's lived in the UK, California, New York and France. Along the way he's worked for a succession of technology start-ups, written the award-winning open source POPFile email program and churned out articles for publications such as The Guardian newspaper, Dr Dobbs, and Linux Magazine. His previous effort writing a book was the obscure and self-published computer manual GNU Make Unleashed which saturated its target market of 100 readers. Because he has a doctorate in computer security he's deeply suspicious of people who insist on being called Dr., but doesn't mind if you refer to him as a geek.