

## The World's Largest Model Railroads

I have always wanted to visit the world's largest model railroads. Many years ago, on a business trip I visited [Northlandz](#) in New Jersey. During a National Garden Railway Convention in Denver, I visited the [Colorado Model Railroad Museum](#) in Greeley, north of Denver. In June 2017 I visited the *Miniatur Wunderland* in Hamburg, and the *Grand Maket* in St. Petersburg Russia. Gulliver's Gate in New York is/was the fifth largest model RR on my list and I visited it in September 2017. Sadly, it is now bankrupt. The largest *outdoor* model railroads??? That's a story for another time.

### Miniature Wunderland

The *Miniatur Wunderland* has been pretty well documented and videos abound on YouTube, but here are a few statistics: nearly 9 **miles** of actual track, 16,000 sq. ft. of layout, over 1,000 trains, a quarter of a million figures, over 4,000 buildings, 385,000 LEDs, and 50 computers to run it. The Swiss Alps are 20' high.

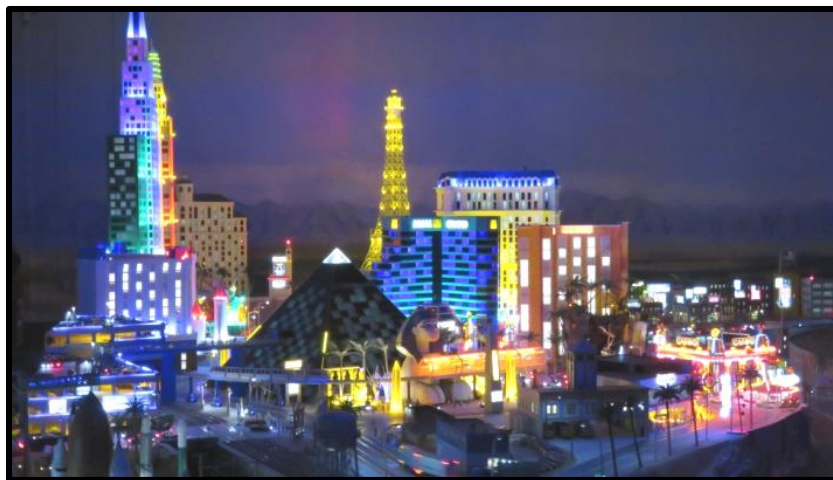


### Operations Center

It contains the [world's largest operating model airport](#) with planes landing and taking off, taxiing to/from the gates, and coordinating airfield movements with service trucks. Areas of the world are represented: Germany, Switzerland, U.S., Italy, Scandinavia, etc.



Cruise ship sails away on real water



**Here is Las Vegas at night**



**Western U.S.**



**Hamburg main train station**



Cars and trucks obey traffic signals, avoid collisions, and go “off-stage” to recharge their batteries, when necessary. A staff of 360 people keep the trains (and airplanes, trucks, and cars) moving. The cost: only \$44 million so far. But work to expand goes on. It’s nice to have a hobby.

More *Miniatur Wunderland* photos and videos:

<https://youtu.be/YMBqINggU5c>

<https://goo.gl/photos/eukv7BuujDnkLDMQ7>

<http://www.miniatur-wunderland.com/>

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/ACkmg3Y64\\_s?rel=0](https://www.youtube.com/embed/ACkmg3Y64_s?rel=0)

My visit was in June 2017. More of my photos: <https://goo.gl/photos/eukv7BuujDnkLDMQ7>

## Grand Maket

Less well known, but equally stunning, the *Grand Maket* outside St. Petersburg, Russia is a highly detailed model of areas of Russia consisting of 8600 sq. ft. of layout with 6600’ of track and 800,000 LEDs for lighting. And also expanding.



<https://youtu.be/B2cF36tjxgk>

<https://goo.gl/photos/qRX7i9yLh6nXEjos6> (my photos)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fNBILWYthQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0aTy2qHefc>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWyf5mKVM\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWyf5mKVM_Y)



**Wife throwing husbands clothes out of window**



**Beach scene on the Black Seas**





### **Night happens every 15 minutes**

To visit one of these, be sure to check ahead and go when they are least busy. Allow *at least* 2 hours to view each one. Russia currently requires a visa which I understand is expensive. There is an exception for tours from cruise ships and our cruise ship had a “half day private car” excursion which allowed us to go to the Grand Maket. One other word of advice -- don’t try to drive in St. Petersburg unless you have completed an evasive driving course and your insurance is paid up.

More of Ray’s photos: <https://goo.gl/photos/qRX7i9yLh6nXEjos6>

### **Northlandz**

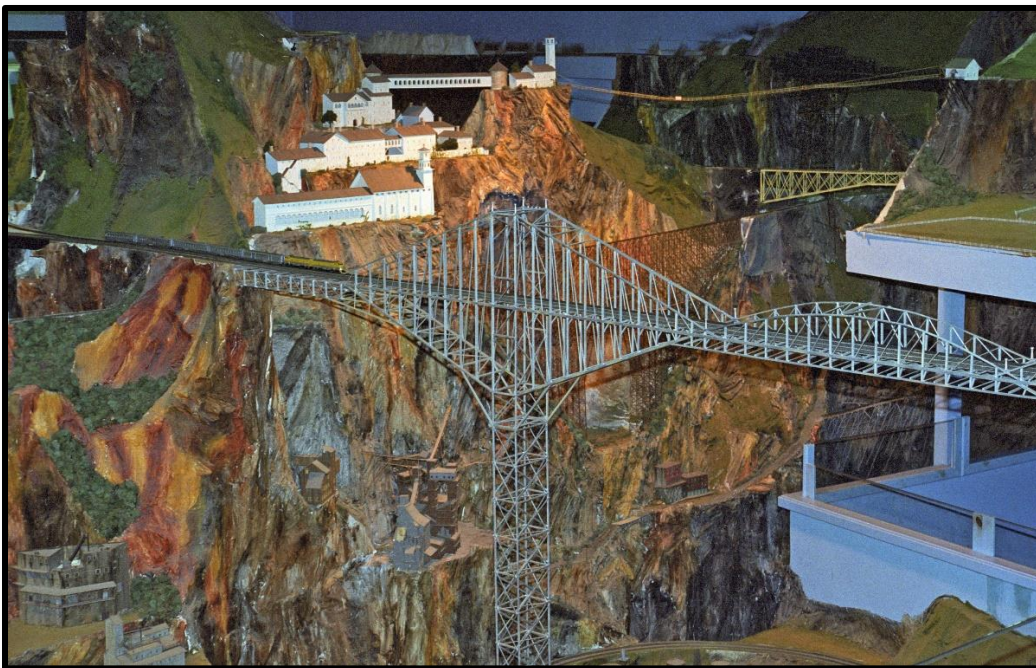
[Northlandz](#) is the most whimsical of the model railroads. The bridges are amazing. Over 8 miles of track, 100+ trains, 400 tunnels are some of the railroad’s statistics. Northlandz is located in Flemington, NJ, about a hour west of New York.











More of Ray's photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/yf7qMiuE5q5FSpq53>

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-AvGfN4bJ0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mP8qxofTqsE>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-7rthgcS\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-7rthgcS_Q)

News about Northlandz "resurrection", the world's "largest model railroad". (Jan. 2020)

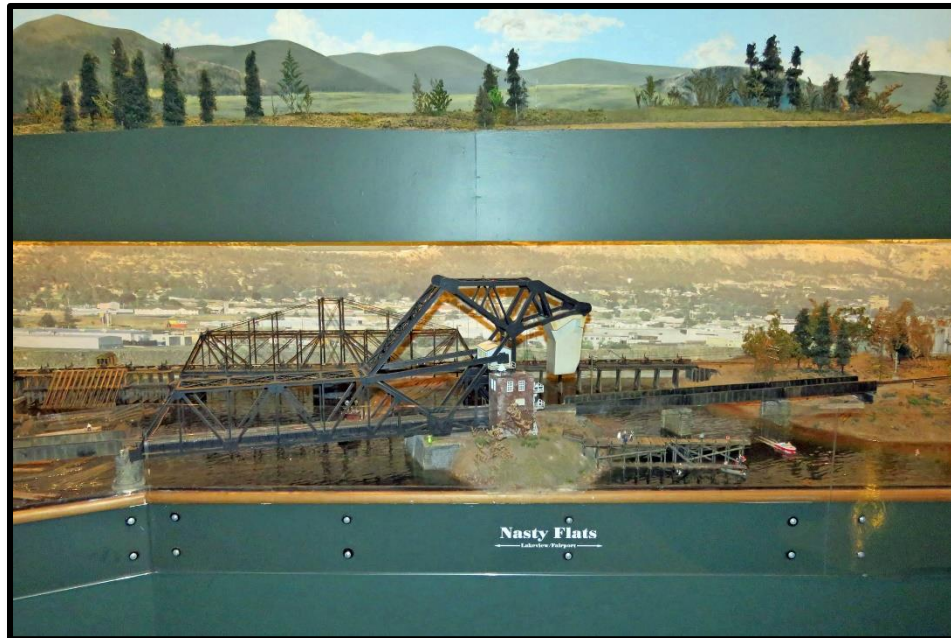


## Colorado Model Railroad Museum

5500 square feet of beautifully detailed, extensively computerized model railroad.

Located in Greeley, CO, about a hour north of Denver.

Video introduction: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zx8fLgVCQ4k&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zx8fLgVCQ4k&feature=emb_logo)



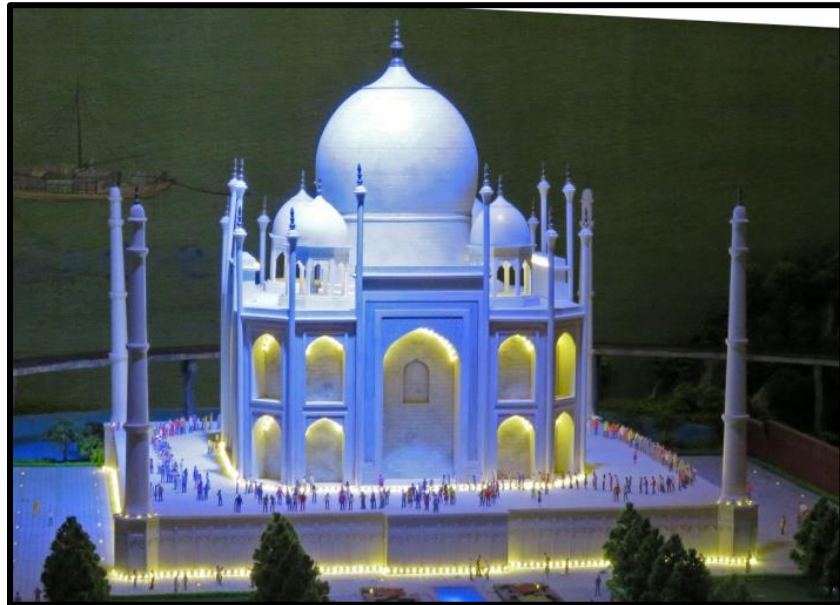




Ray's photos and video: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/hIBBYf2xP1WOO6wp1>

### **Gulliver's Gate**

Gulliver's Gate had some areas in a finished state (working locks) and some only begun (airport w/o any planes or vehicles) and some still a gleam in someone's eye. The emphasis in Gulliver's Gate is on recognizable structures or scenes, like famous buildings. If you are in New York, Gulliver's Gate is a "Must See" for any model railroader. (Photos from Sept. 2017.)



**Taj Mahal, India**



**Gulliver's Gate Control Room**



**Singapore**



**Working Locks**

More of Ray's photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Qs9cj7uiX5vjkBsf1>

