While on your summer road trip, plan to stop at one of our nation’s many museums featuring beads and buttons.

1. Carmel Valley, CA
   Picard Trade Bead Museum
   picardbeads.com
   Stroll through the museum dedicated to the history and beauty of African trade beads. Showcased are more than 50,000 beads and ornaments, including Nigerian coral powder-glass beads. Complementing the displays are African sculptures and textiles, as well as a gift shop complete with collector beads.

2. Phoenix, AZ
   Heard Museum
   heard.org
   Visit Heard to experience exquisite Native peoples’ beaded artwork, emphasizing both aesthetic and cultural themes. The collection includes contemporary and historic American Indian artists’ beading. If you can’t make it to the preeminent museum, an online collection offers a sampling of the magnificent work.

   National Museum of The American Indian
   nmai.si.edu
   The NMAI features collections of two- and three-dimensional beadwork from more than 12,000 years and 1,200 indigenous cultures throughout the Americas. To whet your appetite, view their online collection at nmai.si.edu/explore/collections and search under materials: beads.

Get your kicks on Route 66: Stop by the Heard Museum to view Teri Greeves’s “Beaded Sneakers.”