

Northern announced its route.

RUGBY The geographical center of North America, Rugby has a monument to mark the precise spot and a museum nearby.

DEVILS LAKE The Native Americans called this remnant of a glacial sea the "Evil Spirit Lake" because they believed its shattered walls and loose rocks were the result of a mammoth struggle between thunderbirds and water monsters.

GRAND FORKS The University of North Dakota campus is at Grand Forks, where the Red Lake River and Red River of the North meet.

FARGO Named for Wells Fargo Express Company founder (and a former resident) William Fargo, North Dakota's largest town is in the heart of the fertile and famous Red River Valley. Bonanzaville, USA, a pioneer village reconstructed from original buildings, is at West Fargo. The area east of Fargo is a major livestock center where the *Empire Builder* crosses the Red River.

During the night, the train stops at DETROIT LAKES and STAPLES. James J. Hill ran model experimental farms in Minnesota to develop superior livestock and crop yields for settlers locating near his railroad. His energy and foresight in railroad development played a large part in turning unsettled territory into lands of prosperity and progress. He also invested heavily in Minnesota's Iron Range and played an important role in the development of the mining industries in Iowa, Montana and Washington State.

ST. CLOUD In 1868, the area's colored granite deposits were quarried for the first time to build the wall that surrounds the St. Cloud Reformatory (on your left). Completed in 1889, it was the first institution of its kind in the state. The wall

surrounding the facility was built by inmates and is the longest granite wall in the world.

ST. PAUL-MINNEAPOLIS Midway Station, serving the Twin Cities, is not only midway between the two cities but also midway between the equator and the North Pole. Originally St. Paul was known by the nickname of its first settler, trader Pierre Parrant, or "Pig's Eye." St. Paul, Minnesota's state capital, was also the boyhood home of writer F. Scott Fitzgerald and the home of James J. Hill – builder of the *Empire Builder*. The J.J. Hill Library, located in St. Paul, contains a meticulous record of Mr. Hill's many dealings with business, political and religious leaders. The J.J. Hill papers are among the most complete business and private papers collection of any major American economic leader of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. St. Paul Cathedral, on the left, is modeled after St. Peter's in Rome. On the right, picturesque riverboats take tourists from Harriet Island to Fort Snelling.

Mississippi River For 140 miles, you'll see fertile farmland, riverbank towns, barges and restored paddlewheel boats – scenes that have inspired visitors for decades.

RED WING At the Saint James Hotel on the right, each room is named for a riverboat. The Minnesota State College – Southeast Technical School, on the right, was modeled after a German castle. The town of Red Wing was named after a Dakota Chief who had adopted the custom of wearing a swan's wing dyed scarlet. Red Wing boots are manufactured here and are found throughout the world.

WINONA Sugar Loaf Mountain on the right was a ceremonial meeting place of the Sioux, who named this town "firstborn daughter."

LACROSSE At this point, the

river is wide, quiet and immensely scenic. Soft tree-covered mountains, to the east, will sharpen to rugged limestone bluffs a few miles south. The *Empire Builder* enters Wisconsin as it crosses the great river for the last time. French trappers used to watch Native Americans playing a game on the fields here, and dubbed the game "la crosse." The town is located at the confluence of the Black, LaCrosse and Mississippi Rivers. We follow the LaCrosse River for 25 miles.

TOMAH is the gateway to Wisconsin's Cranberry Country and home to the Super National Truck and Tractor Pull. Comic strip Gasoline Alley creator, Frank King, grew up here.

WISCONSIN DELLS The red sandstone canyon is as glorious to play in as it is to look at. Boating and rafting attract tourists from all over. It was once a regular stopover for traders and settlers who had to "portage" (carry) their gear between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers on their trips between the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan.

COLUMBUS Mounted in the steeple of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, on the right, is a bell cast from pieces of a French cannon acquired in the Franco-Prussian War. The bell was a gift from the Emperor of Germany. We cross the Crawfish River.

MILWAUKEE It was beer that made Milwaukee famous and German immigrants who brought the beer. In addition, they also transplanted German beer gardens, theater and opera. On the right, you can see Miller Park, home of the Brewer's baseball team. On the left is the home of another favorite, the Miller Brewery. The glass domes on the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory duplicate climate and plant life found throughout the world.

We cross Menomonee River after stopping at the station.

GLENVIEW Modern, suburban Glenview is punctuated by older

farms and industrial complexes.

CHICAGO The railroad route between Chicago and St. Paul – known in the past as the Milwaukee Road – began as a plank road for horses and wagons. Now, this energetic city on the shore of Lake Michigan is the business and industrial center of the Midwest. It is also a major air and rail transportation center, an important inland port, and due to its location in the heart of the Corn Belt, Chicago is a leading market for grain, livestock and other farm products.

The tapering Hancock Building comes into view, and one of the tallest buildings in the world – the Sears Tower – dominates the skyline to the south. You can see Marina City's twin cylindrical towers and the Merchandise Mart rise above the river on the left.

SCENIC PHOTO TIPS

The "camera" symbol on your route Guide Map marks the best spots, so have your camera ready.

Outside Shots: Medium speed settings, (ISO 200 or higher), are recommended for shooting scenery through the train windows. If your shutter speed is adjustable and light conditions permit, set it at a higher speed for clearest results. Hold your lens close to the windows, but not touching, to eliminate glare and reflections.

Inside Shots: Flash is recommended. To avoid glare and reflections, do not point the flash directly at the window.

HOST RAILROADS

are the freight and commuter railroads that Amtrak contracts with to operate Amtrak® passenger trains. The *Empire Builder* travels Seattle/Portland-St. Paul/Minneapolis — Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF); St. Paul/Minneapolis-Glenview — Canadian Pacific (CP); Glenview-Chicago — METRA.

WELCOME ABOARD

On board, you will experience the comfort and relaxation of train travel while witnessing some spectacular scenery. From the beautiful Cascade Mountains or the spectacular Columbia River Gorge through Glacier National Park, high desert and Big Sky country, the plains of North Dakota, past the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, to the sights and sounds of Chicago, the *Empire Builder*™ offers one of the most majestic routes in the Amtrak® system. We are happy to have you aboard today and want to ensure your trip is everything you want it to be. If there is anything that can be done to make your trip more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to call upon any train employee.

THE TRAIN STAFF

The staff of the *Empire Builder* is here to make your trip a special and enjoyable experience.

Conductor is responsible for the entire On-Board Services staff as well as ticket collection, the safety of passengers and the safe operation of the train.

Dining Car Steward is responsible for the operation of the Dining Car and Dining Car staff.

Lounge Car Attendant is responsible for the operation of the Cafe/Lounge Car.

Sleeping Car Attendant is responsible for providing all services for passengers ticketed in Sleeping Car accommodations including room preparation, luggage service and any assistance necessary to ensure a comfortable journey.

Train Attendant is responsible for providing service for passengers ticketed in coach. This includes seat assignment, pillow service, luggage service and any assistance to ensure a comfortable journey.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Superliner Sleeping Car accommodations provide a range of private bedrooms with amenities for day and night use. From roomettes to bedrooms featuring a private lavatory and shower, Sleeping Car accommodations will suit any need and can be described in more detail by any member of the crew. Please consult with the Conductor regarding available rooms. Sleeping car passengers can enjoy Amtrak's Metropolitan Lounge available in Chicago and Portland.

Coach seating provides a wide reclining seat with a leg rest. Free pillow service is also available.

Dining Car service offers a wide range of complete meals prepared on board. Spectacular scenery and a great staff make dining on the *Empire Builder* a memorable experience. The Dining Car Steward will make announcements throughout the trip regarding service hours. Complete meals are not available between Spokane and Portland. If you are a passenger in Coach, you can purchase reasonably priced Dining Car meals. And remember, meals are included in the price of your Sleeping Car fare. Combined diner/lounge service provides food and beverage service between Seattle and Spokane.

Sightseer Lounge/Cafe Car is the perfect car for scenic viewing and lighter fare. Large panoramic windows provide the perfect atmosphere for viewing and making new friends. The Cafe is located on the lower level of this car. Feature movies are offered between Portland and Chicago. Volunteer National Park Service rangers provide narrative along the route during the spring and summer.

Information contained in this route guide as well as described amenities and other on-board features are subject to change without notice. Tipping is certainly not required, but it is a much appreciated way to let employees know they have made your trip more enjoyable.

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AMTRAK® SMOKING POLICY

Smoking is prohibited entirely on the *Empire Builder*. Passengers may smoke on station platforms as announced by train crews and must remain next to the train, ready to board immediately upon hearing the locomotive horn and verbal "All Aboard" calls.



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ROUTE GUIDE

Seattle * Portland * Spokane
St. Paul – Minneapolis * Chicago

EMPIRE BUILDERSM

Just a few generations ago, the route of the *Empire Builder*SM was wilderness, roamed by Native Americans and buffalo. Later, fur traders and gold miners visited it. And still later, it was developed by

merchants, timber men, farmers and – most dramatically – by railroaders.

In this northern plains country, the greatest railroader of all was James J. Hill, a freewheeling, big-dealing tycoon who linked St. Paul and Seattle with his Great Northern Railway. He acquired the land, built the tracks and even encouraged homesteading along the route. In the process, “Empire Builder” Hill came to govern the fate and fortunes of a good part of this powerfully beautiful area.

This guide is written from west to east. If you’re traveling westward, just begin at Chicago or your point of origin and read the entries in reverse order. **AMTRAK® STATIONS** are indicated in capital letters to set them apart from towns and regions through which the *Empire Builder* travels but makes no stops.

Seattle Route:

SEATTLE The city was named in honor of Chief Stealth. Today Seattle is nicknamed the “Emerald City” for its easy access to pristine mountain wilderness and Puget Sound. Seattle is home to Microsoft and the tallest buildings on the West Coast. As you emerge from the mile-long tunnel, look to the left and you’ll see the Seattle Waterfront where the famous Alaska Gold Rush began. On the right is the 605-ft.-tall Space Needle, symbol of the 1962 Seattle World’s Fair.

Shilshole Bay/Ballard The bridge

crosses over Salmon Bay Inlet. To the right are the Hiram Chittenden Locks (Ballard Locks) – the busiest locks in the United States. On the left is Shilshole Bay Marina, home to over 1,700 pleasure crafts. The statue of Leif Ericson is a tribute to the Scandinavian heritage.

EDMONDS This suburban depot continues to grow as a transportation hub. The trains stop next to the dock for ferries to Kingston on the Kitsap Peninsula. The train skirts Puget Sound for the next 15 miles. You can see the islands that dot the Sound, including Whidbey Island and Bainbridge Island, which are connected to the mainland by ferries.

EVERETT A popular port since its beginning, Everett is known for its fishing fleet and lumber and now as home to the U.S. Navy. Before the railroads linked these forests with the eastern states, Washington sawmills were already shipping boatloads of lumber to China, Australia and South America. The Boeing 747/767 assembly plant is located here, boasting the largest building (by volume) in the world. You might even see test planes overhead.

Skykomish Following the Skykomish River you can see Washington’s famous pine fir forests. In the area are Prospector’s Money Creek, Indian Falls, chute-shaped Sunset Falls, Table Rock

and spectacular Mount Index.

Cascade Mountains For 65 miles east of Everett, the tracks have been climbing more than 2,800 feet in the Cascade

In the heart of the Columbia River basin, Portland was the largest city in the Pacific Northwest when it was incorporated in 1851. With the completion of the railroad 30 years later, it became a supply center for the Klondike Gold Rush.

VANCOUVER Founded in 1824 by the Hudson’s Bay Company, Vancouver was named for Captain George Vancouver, shipmate of Captain Cook and commander of the British expedition to chart the Northwest. Vancouver’s shipyards

Mountains. The best way to get through this spectacular mountain range is to go under it – which you can, thanks to the 7.79-mile Cascade Tunnel, bored under Stevens Pass 500 feet overhead and 4,061 feet above sea level. The tunnel is the longest in the Western Hemisphere, completed in 1929.

WENATCHEE The “Apple Capital of the World” grows more than 15% of the nation’s apple crop.

Columbia Basin About ten million years ago, lava oozed out of the earth’s crust here and covered the surrounding ancient mountains. The lava, in some places more than a mile thick, eventually cooled and became the largest lava basin in the country. During the night, the train stops at **EPHRATA** and **SPOKANE**.

Portland Route:

PORTLAND The Chinook Indians were the first to use the site of Portland as a port. It is said that homesick New England settlers flipped a coin to choose between Portland (as in Maine) and Boston (as in Massachusetts) for the name of their new city. Today, Portland, Oregon, calls itself the “City of Roses” because of its beautiful rose gardens.

serve both ocean-going and river vessels. Plum orchards and prune dryers are on both sides of the tracks. To the north is Mt. St. Helens, nearly 10,000 feet high, a volcano that was inactive until 1980.

Beacon Rock On the left, named by explorers Lewis and Clark, the 840-ft., 1,700-acre basaltic formation is said to be second in size to Gibraltar. The rock was used as a guide by river voyagers for decades and by Native Americans for centuries. On the Oregon side of the river, several waterfalls are visible. The highest waterfall, Multnomah Falls, cascades 620 feet to the Columbia River.

Bonneville Dam More than a half-mile from end to end, this dam is one of the government’s greatest power and navigation projects. In order to give salmon access to their breeding grounds, engineers had to build “fish ladders” (terraced pools) between the river level and the top of the dam. Salmon leap up the “ladder” to return to the upper Columbia River to where they were born. As the train passes the dam, you can look across

to the beauty of Oregon. The mountains here range from 2,000 to 5,000 feet in altitude.

Columbia River Gorge The magnificent area you’re traveling through is the 55-mile long Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, formed by the incredible strength of the Columbia River as it cuts through ancient lava rocks. Lewis and Clark were the first white travelers to explore this area. Settlers from the East traveling the Oregon Trail tried to brave the rugged river, and some settled along its banks.

BINGEN-WHITE SALMON The two adjacent towns were named by immigrants after Bingen, a beautiful town along the Rhine in Germany and the White Salmon River. This is

the center of extensive fruit orchards. Across the water is the city of Hood River, Oregon.

Mt. Hood The highest mountain in Oregon at 11,235 feet is one of many peaks with perpetual glaciers and snowfields that mark the Cascade Range across Oregon and Washington.

Dalles Dam Dalles is the French word for “trough,” and this area was so named because of the narrow and dangerous channel. The 8,700-ft. dam, which the *Empire Builder* follows for the next few minutes, created Horsethief Lake, which is used for fishing and recreation. The dam provides the area with irrigation water, hydroelectric power and a reservoir for water sports.

WISHRAM (The Dalles) Lewis and Clark visited this area, named for an ancient village where Native

Americans gathered to trade for salmon. Wishram was once the thriving hub for the Burlington Railroad and one of the last Beareries to be torn down in the nation. These food stops, built and operated by the railroad, acquired a mystique all their own.

PASCO Here in Pasco, Englishman David Thompson claimed the western lands for Great Britain with a simple message tied to a pole. England’s claim didn’t hold, and the United States finally took over the disputed territory in 1846. The town’s name is said to be an abbreviated version of “Pacific Steamship Company.” It is the farthest point up the Columbia River that can be reached by seagoing ships.

SPOKANE The “Monarch of the Inland Empire” lies in the midst of the

country rich in productive farmlands, lumber and mining. Railroadings was responsible for much of the city’s early growth. Here the *Empire Builder* route (the Great Northern route from Seattle) joins the Portland route at Spokane. During the night, the train stops at **SANDPOINT** and **LIBBY**.

Time Change: Adjust your watches as you cross Pacific and Mountain Time Zones. If you’re traveling east, set your watch forward an hour. If you’re traveling west, set your watch back an hour.

Flathead Tunnel The seven-mile-long Flathead Tunnel, 42 miles west of Whitefish, is the second longest in the Western Hemisphere.

WHITEFISH Originally nicknamed “Stumptown” originating from logger heritage, this Alpine-style station matches the beauty of the area. Nearby is the popular Big Mountain ski resort. Located in the valley of

Flathead National Forest, with its great recreational activities, the town is bordered by Whitefish Lake.

WEST GLACIER is the western entrance to Glacier National Park. Snowfall here averages 100-200 inches a year.

ESSEX This small village features the quaint Izaak Walton Inn, a converted railroad bunkhouse named for the great English angler and author. We cross the Flathead River atop a high trestle. Look across the canyon and you may see mountain goats perched on the canyon wall.

EAST GLACIER PARK STATION Built in 1913, this station is near 50 “living” glaciers and 9,000 to 10,466-ft. mountains. The impressive timbered Glacier Park Lodge on the left, partially constructed from trees estimated to be 600 years old, was built by the Great Northern Railway to promote rail travel and to attract

tourists to this beautiful area. We cross the Two Medicine River atop a high trestle.

BROWNING Headquarters of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation since 1895, Browning hosts the largest Native American Pow-Wow in North America each July. Here, also, is the Museum of the Plains Indians exhibiting the creative achievements of North American artists.

CUT BANK Twenty-five minutes west of Cut Bank, a monument to early explorer Meriwether Lewis memorializes his search for a pass through the Rockies. This area is most often noted for the coldest mid-winter temperatures in the

country. Just west of Cut Bank, you’ll get your first or last view of the Rockies. Sweetgrass Hills and the Canadian border, 25 miles to the north, can be seen from the train on the left.

SHELBY In the heart of Montana’s oil-rich area, The World Heavyweight Championship fight between Jack Dempsey and Tom Gibbons was held here on July 4, 1923. However, days before the fight, Dempsey’s manager, Doc Kearns, cancelled the match. The spectators cancelled their plans. But at the last minute, Kearns okayed the fight. Dempsey won – in front of just 7,000 fans and 17,000 gatecrashers – and Kearns slipped out of town with \$300,000 cash. As a result, no prize money was awarded, and four Montana banks failed.

HAVRE An impressive, well-preserved Great Northern S-2 steam locomotive is on display at the station. This is a service stop, so you may have time to walk around a bit. Here you can step back in

laundry, an ethnic restaurant, a bordello and more. Native Americans once drove buffalo off the town’s steep cliffs. Today, the cliffs provide a peaceful overlook. We follow the Milk River from Havre to Glasgow.

Bear Paw Mountains In 1877, after a 1,700-mile retreat, Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce Indians, recognizing the hopelessness of his position, surrendered to the U.S. Army in the Bear Paw Mountains (rear and to your right). Said Chief Joseph, “From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever.” Ft. Belknap Indian Reservation and Little Rocky Mountains are to your right.

Wagner In 1901, the same year the post office was established, Kid Curry, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid pulled one last job jumping the Great Northern’s *Oriental Limited*. They blew up the Express car planning to swindle \$40,000 but only ended up with a box of worthless paper. Watch for the *Empire Builder* headed in the opposite direction.

MALTA Once home to the cowboys, outlaws, Plains Indians and even dinosaurs, Malta was also the inspiration for famous western artist Charles Russell. Today, ranching remains a thriving business here.

GLASGOW The large “G” on

the hillside on the left stands for “Glasgow,” the center of an area rich in dinosaur bones. The Ft. Peck Museum displays various fossils found in the region.

WOLF POINT The wolf sculpture on the right memorializes this town’s major frontier-era role in wolf trapping and trading. Today, Wolf Point is the site for the granddaddy of Montana rodeos – the Wild Horse Stampede. The railroad crosses the Poplar River twenty minutes later.

Time Change: Adjust your watches as you cross Mountain and Central Time Zones. If you’re traveling east, set your watch forward an hour. If you’re traveling west, set your watch back an hour.

WILLISTON At the hub of the Williston Oil Basin, Williston, on Lake Sakakawea’s west end, Williston is in North Dakota’s rich oil country. Oil was discovered in this area in the 1950s, and there are many wells along the *Empire Builder*’s route.

STANLEY This is home of the world’s only Whirl-a-Whip malt and shake machine. Kids from far and near take the train to Stanley to go to Dakota Drug and experience one of the 18 flavors of the best milkshake around.

MINOT West of Minot, the train crosses the Gassman Coulee on a high-level steel trestle. A servicing stop for the *Empire Builder*, Minot is still known as “Magic City,” because it grew overnight, like magic, the moment the Great

