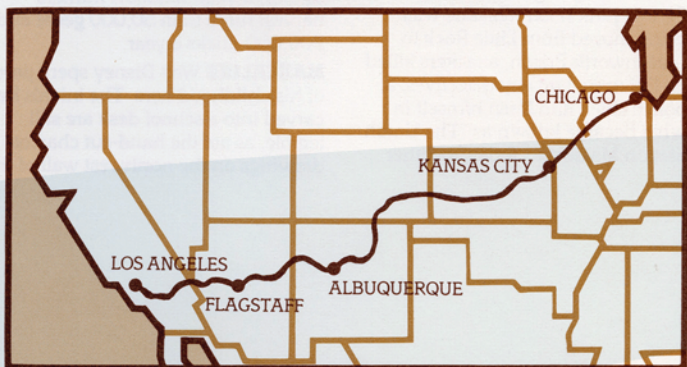


SOUTHWEST CHIEF

The Southwest Chief

Follow the trail of pioneers to scenic wonders and fun!



Chicago * Kansas City *
Albuquerque * Flagstaff *
Los Angeles *

The Southwest Chief follows a route ages older than railroading. First the earliest Indians discovered its twists, turns, and passes, then Spanish conquistadors and fur trappers.

By the time it was officially called the Santa Fe Trail, caravans of pack mules and wagon teams, prairie schooners and stage coaches were lumbering over it daily, carting people and goods between the Missouri River and the Rockies. California's Gold Rush brought thousands more westward, and soon it was clear that the Santa Fe Trail had to extend even further, all the way to the Coast.

The Atchison, Topoka, and Santa Fe Railway ultimately became the iron link between the Midwest and Los Angeles. And today, following the same track, Amtrak's Southwest Chief crosses eight states and 2,245 miles.

And all along the way are splendors to see—citrus lands and wheatlands, Spanish missions and Indian pueblos, red deserts and forested mountains, Old West saloons and mighty industrial cities. And with each curve in the track there's a story, adding extra sparkle to everything in sight.

We've written this guide heading from Los Angeles eastward, indicating how many minutes past the previous station (to the west) and then how many minutes from the next station (to the east) you can expect to see a particular sight and whether you should look to your right or left for it. If you're traveling westward, just begin at Chicago, read the entries in reverse order including the time references, and—of course—look left when we've indicated to look right, and right when we've indicated to look left. Note that all Amtrak stations are in capital letters to set them apart from cities and regions through which the Southwest Chief travels but makes no stop. Use this guide in conjunction with an Amtrak timetable to determine intermediate station times. All times are approximate.

No matter which way you're headed, settle back, read about the adventures that once took place on the other side of your window. Then, with your eyes wide open and brilliant scenery gliding past, enjoy a journey that's attracted travelers—for hundreds of years.

* Los Angeles *

LOS ANGELES The sprawling metropolis of Los Angeles began in 1781 as El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora de la Reina de los Angeles. Today, the village's original site is marked by the historical park of Olvera Street, lined with brightly colored Mexican shops and old buildings. Across the street is the Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal, called "last of the great stations to be built in the U.S.": A magnificent combination of Spanish and Art Deco styling, with stucco facade, tile roof, and inlaid wood ceiling, the station is often used as a set for television shows and movies.

Los Angeles River Soon after departing the station, you'll see a familiar "ditch" on the right. The Los Angeles River was concreted in the 1920s to create a flood channel, and has since been used for many movie chase scenes. Dodger Stadium is visible at the top of the hill on the left.

(17 Min. / 5 Min.) Cross the Arroyo Seco on a steel trestle and climb into the San Gabriel Valley.

PASADENA When settlers from Indiana moved here for their health, they named their settlement after the Chippewa word for "crown of the valley." Today, Pasadena is known for its annual New Year's Day Tournament of Roses Parade (a modern version of a generations-old tradition), and the Rose Bowl football game. In fact, the train crosses Colorado Blvd., route of the parade, just east of the station.

(5 Min. / 30 Min.) Pass through a brief tunnel, then share the Colorado Freeway (I-210) with highway traffic for about 8 minutes. On the right, you'll see the Avon Products company, and grounds of the Beckman Research Institute "City of Hope."

Arcadia (8 Min. / 20 Min.) Los Angeles County Arboretum, on the right, was used for filming "Tarzan" movies, "Fantasy Island," and other productions. Here the San Gabriel Mountains, California's only east-west mountain chain, tower on your left.

Azusa (15 Min. / 12 Min.) Note the expansive Monrovia landscape nursery, on the left.

POMONA Named for the Roman goddess of fruit, Pomona was once filled with citrus groves and vineyards.

Red Rock State Park (6 Min. / 130 Min.) Each year, more than 50 tribes gather in the red sandstone and limestone cliffs on your left for the Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial, an all-Indian rodeo and dance competition.

Pyramid Rock (8 Min. / 128 Min.) Behind this aptly-named landmark and on your left is Church Rock, a spike-topped rock where Indians say a jilted Indian maiden jumped to her death. Also at the Red Rocks are pre-pueblo Anasazi Settlements, once centers of a prehistoric Indian trading network.

Fort Wingate Army Depot (13 Min. / 123 Min.) On your right, you can see mile-long vistas. Holbrook is a trading town for Navajo, Hopi, and Apache Indians, and includes outlets for the Hash House Cattle Co. On your left is the restored Blevins House where Marshall Owens shot five outlaws.

(66 Min. / 33 Min.) Look for dazzling sandstone formations—cliffs with broad stripes of red and yellow, shaped by the wind into spires or hollowed out into cave-like pockets. On your left is an adobe-style Indian trading post.

Time change (80 Min. / 19 Min.) Cross the state line between Arizona and New Mexico. Arizona does not observe Daylight Savings Time. May through October, Arizona time is the same as that of California.

GALLUP This is the "Indian Capital of the World," a meeting place for Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Apache, and Acoma Indians, and an excellent place to acquire Indian-crafted silver jewelry, baskets, rugs, pottery, and blankets. Gallup is also the best stop for the rodeo side trips to New Mexico's Four Corners region, which includes the Southern Colorado Mountains, Mesa Verde National Park, the Petrified Forest, the Painted Desert, ancient cliff dwellings in Canyon de Chelly and Canyon del Muerto, and also Durango, CO.

Red Cliffs of New Mexico For the next hour east of Gallup, the train follows these famous hills, noted for their changing colors in the bright desert sun. Legend has it that the rocks, once gray, got their red color from the blood of a wounded great stag as it fled through the hills. Some of the hills are as high as 7,248 feet. All are spectacular.

Little Colorado River (18 Min. / 79 Min.) We begin following the river here to Holbrook. The river itself continues into the Colorado River at the Grand Canyon. The huge electric power station on your left generates electricity for much of the Southwest as far as California, and uses 100 hopper cars of coal a day, each containing 100 tons of coal for a total of almost 4 million tons of coal a year.

Holbrook (26 Min. / 71 Min.) On your right, be sure to see magnificent striped sandstone outcroppings, just a hint of the beauty of the nearby Painted Desert and Petrified Forest.

Las Animas (17 Min. / 27 Min.) This town takes its name from the Rio de las Animas Perdidas (river of lost souls), named for a wagon train of settlers that camped one night by the river now known as the Purgatorio. According to legend, they disappeared by morning, victims of an Indian attack.

LAMAR This is the "Goose Hunting Capital of the Nation." At the west end of the station on your right, note the Madonna of the Trails statue, one of

the Lowell Observatory where Sir Percival Lowell discovered the planet Pluto.

FLAGSTAFF The town's first settlers stripped a pine tree to make a flagstaff and from that the town got its name. About 7,000 feet above sea level and surrounded by lush hillsides of pine trees, Flagstaff is the station for the Grand Canyon. Amtrak offers tours not only to the Canyon, but also to Monument Valley, Oak Creek Canyon, and the Painted Desert. Bus connections at the Amtrak station serve the Grand Canyon, Sedona, and Phoenix.

San Bernardino California's first inland European settlement, San Bernardino blends its heritages of Spanish missionaries and Mormon settlers with modern-day prosperity. Fifty years ago, MacDonald's opened its first hamburger stand here, charging a nickel each. San Bernardino is also a citrus center and host of the annual National Orange Show. Note the ivy-covered Spanish mission-style station on the right. East of San Bernardino, the train ascends **Cajon Pass**. Meaning "Box Canyon" in Spanish, Cajon Pass is the boundary formed by the San Andreas Fault between the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains. Here the train climbs 2,743 feet in 25 miles, twisting and turning to 3,811 feet above sea level.

Mojave Desert Once past the summit of the pass, the train enters high desert country. On the desert, with temperatures often the hottest in the country, a person can only last two days. The train follows only the route of the Mojave "River," filled in spots with quicksand. Joshua trees line the tracks.

During the night, the train stops at **VICTORVILLE, BARTSTOW**, and **NEEDLES** in California. It crosses into Arizona over the **Colorado River** at the headwaters of Lake Havasu.

Time change (12 Min. / 51 Min.) Arizona is in the Mountain Time Zone, but does not observe Daylight Savings Time. November through April, set your watch forward one hour if you are traveling eastward. If you are traveling westward, set your watch back one hour. May through October, Arizona is on the same time as California.

During the night, the train also stops at **KINGMAN**, Arizona. West of Flagstaff, pass through the Coconino National Forest encompassing one of the largest stands of Ponderosa Pine in the country. On a hill to your left is

rows of storage bunkers constructed to blend into the hillside.

Continental Divide (27 Min. / 109 Min.) At Campbell's Pass we cross the point along the route where water flows east to the Atlantic, west to the Pacific.

Bluewater (42 Min. / 94 Min.) Mount Taylor, rising 11,301 feet, is visible to your left. Named for President Zachary Taylor, the mountain is an extinct volcano that is responsible for the many lava beds throughout the region.

Grants (51 Min. / 85 Min.) Once carrot country, this area became known for its uranium. Just west of the city on your left is the Anaconda uranium smelter.

Anzac (59 Min. / 76 Min.) Note the exposed lava beds on your right. These "rocks" are a haven for rattlesnakes because the black lava stays warm throughout the day and night.

McCarty's (63 Min. / 72 Min.) On your right is the first of many Indian pueblos visible along the route, this one a part of the Acoma Indian Reservation. On a bluff above the tracks on your right is a 200-year-old mission church. Throughout the pueblo are squat stone homes, many of which are hundreds of years old, with traditional beehive-shaped horns—ovens used for baking bread—out in front.

Acoma (67 Min. / 68 Min.) On your right, this pueblo is noted for its adobe-style church. Hundreds of Acoma Indians live in this agricultural area. Thirteen miles south is the "Sky City" of the Acomas, a pueblo built atop a 365-foot mesa and used continuously for 850 years.

Laguna Indian Reservation (73 Min. / 60 Min.) Pueblos visible in this area are Paraje, Laguna (the youngest and second largest of the pueblos), and Mesita pueblo on your right.

(81 Min. / 54 Min.) Note the gypsum cliffs on your left and tailings from uranium mines.

Knelling Wuns (84 Min. / 50 Min.) This rock formation, on your left and back, appears to be two nuns praying as they face left towards a rock "altar."

Isleta Indian Reservation (120 Min. / 13 Min.) On your right, the St.

Augustine church, established in 1613, is still in use. Here adobe-style homes of generations ago mix with new houses in the same style, most with horns in their yards.

Rio Grande River (122 Min. / 10 Min.) Eventually flowing into the Gulf of Mexico, the Rio Grande crosses the path of the Southwest Chief here. Note the tamarisk trees (also called salt cedars), and lavender-topped bushes that require little water. On your left is a feed lot filled with cattle.

ALBUQUERQUE This modern city, known for its successes in nuclear research and business, dates back to 1706 when it was founded and named for the Duke of Albuquerque, the Spanish viceroy who once ruled the surrounding area known as "New Spain." Albuquerque celebrates its past in the restored Old Town, and celebrates its present with the renowned October Hot Air Balloon Festival, when the sky almost bursts with colorful balloons. Albuquerque is a service stop for the Southwest Chief. Here, passengers have time to stretch their legs or buy silver and turquoise jewelry, crafts, and souvenirs sold on the station platform by Tiwa Indians from Isleta.

Sandia Mountains To the right of Albuquerque, these peaks were named "watermelon" mountains by the Spanish because they turn bright red at sunset and the trees on the side look like seeds. The world's longest aerial tramway, 2.7 miles, runs up to Sandia Crest.

Sandia Pueblo (25 Min. / 52 Min.) In addition to seeing a lovely church on your right, you can also see the best view from here of the 10,678-foot high Sandia Crest, surrounded by Cibola National Forest.

San Felipe (36 Min. / 41 Min.) Located at the foot of the Black Mesa, this pueblo is in the San Felipe Indian Reservation and was established 500-600 years ago. Note the *Kiva* (religious council chamber) beside the Catholic church, on the left.

Santo Domingo (42 Min. / 35 Min.) On the Rio Grande, this 1598 town on your left has excellent examples of traditional beehive-shaped horns, outside bread ovens, still in use.

Ortiz Mountains Look in the distance to your right, and you can see these mountains, site of one of the country's

first gold mines, opened in 1830. The whitish tailings from the mines are still visible. Amtrak scenes from the movie *Superman* were shot here.

Los Cerrillos (58 Min. / 19 Min.) This area is so rich in concentrated minerals, that in one mine were found two kinds of coal, lead, silver, turquoise, and gold. Thomas Edison tried but failed to extract gold from the river sand you see here.

LAMY In the 19th century, Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy received a grant for this town from the Spanish, and served as a missionary for almost 40 years. The central character of Willa Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop* was based upon Lamy, and the ruins of his first school are on the right as you leave town. Note the Legal Tender Saloon to your left, containing \$250,000 in art and

Assisi. It is the oldest city in the Southwest and was the end of the line for the old Santa Fe Trail. Today, Santa Fe is known as a cultural haven, home of the Santa Fe Opera and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and as a residence of prominent artists. In fact, Santa Fe is said to rank third worldwide in art sales, behind New York and Paris. The city is also the gateway to Taos and other northern New Mexico year-round recreational areas.

Apache Canyon (5 Min. / 101 Min.) The train weaves through a spectacular granite gorge here, so narrow the rock is at times just one foot from the train. This is considered the oldest strata of the Rockies.

Canoncito (13 Min. / 92 Min.) From Lamy to Morieta, you ascend 1,000 feet in 10 miles through areas of bright red, dry creek beds. Called the Morieta Pass, this portion of our

route cuts through dry, rock-strewn hills dotted with juniper, Ponderosa Pine, scrub oak, pink tamarisk, and turquoise blooming sage (chamisa). On your left is the first look at the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, meaning "blood of Christ" and commemorating the suffering of the early Spanish explorers who crossed them.

Glorieta (26 Min. / 79 Min.) On your left, you can see the Morieta Baptist Assembly, a huge retreat center. During the Civil War, Morieta was the site of an unusually westward battle between Colorado and Texas volunteers. Texas Confederates won,

antiques. Today, the town is known as the stop for Santa Fe. Shuttle service between the adobe-style station and Santa Fe makes connections easy.

SANTA FE Although the Santa Fe Railway was originally named for Santa Fe, its main line never went there. The terrain was too difficult to lay the necessary tracks. The capital of New Mexico, Santa Fe has been the capital of one region or another since its foundation in 1610 as La Villa Real de la Santa Fe de San Francisco de

popular for deer, turkey, and pheasant hunting.

Cross the Des Moines River (50 Min. / 15 Min.) This is the state line between Missouri and Iowa. The train now approaches the great Mississippi River.

Nauvoo (60 Min. / 10 Min.) Across the river to the right, this city was an important Mormon settlement, until the Mormons suddenly crossed the ice and left in 1845. Today, the town is being restored as a Mormon Memorial. Here are Concord grape vines planted by the French 100 years ago, still bearing fruit.

FORT MADISON The Southwest Chief travels only 20 miles in Iowa, and this is its only stop. The city was named for Fort Madison, built in 1808-9 to protect settlers from Indian raids and named for President Madison. The fort was attacked many times during the War of 1812, and finally burned by its own soldiers in 1813 to divert warring Indians. The settlers made their escape through a tunnel and then fled on a boat down the river. The One Chimney Monument on the left commemorates the fort. The city is also site of the annual Tri-State Rodeo. The Schaefer Eton plant is on the left east of the station.

(5 Min. / 50 Min.) Cross the state line between Iowa and Illinois over the wide **Mississippi River** on a 3,347-foot long steel bridge. It has the world's largest double-track, double-decker swing span. The bridge pivots to allow river traffic to pass.

GALESBURG Birthplace of poet Carl Sandburg, this town was planned and settled by a fundamentalist group from Oneida, N.Y., and hosted a Lincoln-Douglas debate in 1858. Olmsted Ferris decorated popcorn to such an art here, he was invited to give a corn-popping demonstration to England's Queen Victoria.

THE MIDWEST'S RICH COUNTRYSIDE The train passes by some of the best farmlands in the country, held in families for generations because it is so fertile. You'll see many thousands of acres of alfalfa, soybeans, corn, and wheat fields. Here, the soil yields 200 bushels of corn per acre. Rolled bales of hay dotting the rolling hillsides in hazy season each week about a ton. You'll also see large modern corn dryers, and occasional steeple-top barns built

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but ultimately had to retreat because Union cavalry, during the fight, had secretly crossed the treacherous Sangre de Cristo peaks at Canoncito to meet and burn a Confederate supply train. Without supplies, the Texans were helpless.

Santa Fe National Forest On your left, this immense forest is known for its trout fishing, hunting, and prehistoric Indian ruins. The train follows the Morieta Mesa on the right.

Rowe (31 Min. / 66 Min.) The Pecos Indians used to live in the state's largest pueblo, located in the shallow

S-curve (67 Min. / 30 Min.) We now start a huge double S-curve, during which you can see both ends of the train as it winds sharply to gain altitude while crossing the mountains.

Starvation Peak (70 Min. / 25 Min.) In the early 19th century, the distinctive flat-topped, rock-capped mesa on the right became the last stand of 30 Spanish settlers who, according to legend, fought off attacking Navajos with rocks, but starved to death when the Indians surrounded the peak.

large building adjacent to the station was La Casteneda, one of many Harvey House restaurants and hotels built along the Santa Fe route. The Harvey House waitresses were immortalized in the Judy Garland movie, "The Harvey Girls." This Harvey House has another claim to fame. In 1896, Teddy Roosevelt joined his Rough Riders here for a reunion. Las Vegas honors the event with a Rough Riders museum.

Canadian River. Chances are, just west of Springer, you'll see antelope on your right. On the left in the distance is 12,441-foot Baldy Peak.

Maxwell (83 Min. / 21 Min.) Lucien B. Maxwell, hunter and trapper, married into the largest land grant ever awarded in the Western Hemisphere, stretching 1.7 million acres from Shoemaker to Starkevile. He named the seat of his famous empire Cimarron, Spanish for "wild." His

Wootton Ranch (28 Min. / 37 Min.) On your left, this ranch belonged to "Uncle Dick" Wootton who developed a toll road along the Santa Fe Trail across the Raton Pass, a source of income that dried up in the mid-1800s when the railroad came. Also visible here is the original Santa Fe Trail on your left and Interstate 25 on your right.

left east of Trinidad are the twin Spanish Peaks (called Breasts of Mother Earth by the Indians), and lovely views of the snow-capped Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Sunflower Valley (29 Min. / 55 Min.) Alfalfa, corn, sugar beets, and wheat grow here. Further east, the train crosses the Comanche National Grassland.

Las Animas (17 Min. / 27 Min.) This town takes its name from the Rio de las Animas Perdidas (river of lost souls), named for a wagon train of settlers that camped one night by the river now known as the Purgatorio. According to legend, they disappeared by morning, victims of an Indian attack.

LAMAR This is the "Goose Hunting Capital of the Nation." At the west end of the station on your right, note the Madonna of the Trails statue, one of

many erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution to commemorate the "National Old Trails."

Cooldige, Kansas (25 Min. / 50 Min.) Cross the state line between Colorado and Kansas, and you change time zones. If you are traveling eastward, set your watch forward one hour; if you are traveling westward, set your watch back one hour.

GARDEN CITY, KS The immense structure on your right is possibly the world's largest grain elevator. This town, named by a passing hobo for the beautiful garden of its founder's wife (Mrs. William D. Fulton), also claims the world's largest free public swimming pool and the largest buffalo herd. Garden City is also a

Hangman's Tree still stands, and Front Street, on the left, has been restored to look as it did in 1875 when the town was known as "the wickedest little city in America." To the right is a huge bronze statue of longhorn steer and a statue of the are two sundials marking the nearby time zone crossing. Today, relatively sedate Doge City is a cattle, wheat, and agribusness center.

DURING THE NIGHT, the train stops at **HUTCHINSON, NEWTON, EMPORIA, TOPEKA, AND LAWRENCE, KANSAS.** (54 Min. / 6 Min.) Cross the state line from Kansas City, Kansas, into Kansas City, Missouri.

with its sister city in Kansas, the city is a marketing and transportation center. It is the gateway to the Southwest, with more than 300 parks and perhaps more fountains than any city outside Europe. Kansas City has many major shopping complexes, including Crown Center just east of the station on the right.

Sugar Creek (15 Min. / 85 Min.) This was once the headquarters of Jesse James, killed in nearby St. Joseph.

Missouri River (35 Min. / 60 Min.) Cross a 135-foot high steel bridge. On the left, note remains of Fort Osage, built in 1808 during the Osage Indian War.

before baling came into practice. The open tops provided ventilation to prevent fires.

CHILLICOTHE This is the stop closest to Peoria, Illinois, 24 miles to the south. Cross the Illinois River east of the city.

STREATOR Across the Vermillion River, just to the west, Streator was once a coal mining center. Settled by Hungarians, Streator is a center of glass container manufacturing.

Lorenzo (30 Min. / 10 Min.) Cross the Kankakee River. To the left is Reston Pond, a cooling pond for an atomic reactor several miles away.

JOLIET Named for 17th century French-Canadian explorer Louis Joliet, this town was once called Stone City because many of its early buildings were made from local limestone. Note the extensive quarrying around the city. Joliet is today an industrial city called "City of Spires" for its 122 architecturally varied churches.

McCook (15 Min. / 35 Min.) Follow the Des Plaines River and the Illinois & Michigan Canal on the left, with its extensive locks and bridges. This waterway provides a link for river traffic between the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico via the Mississippi. Massive limestone quarries on the left dig deep into the earth. Occasionally, one can see heavy herds of an oriental breed of white deer.

*** Chicago ***

CHICAGO As you enter, you'll first see railyards, power plants, and refineries, all indications of a manufacturing giant. Then as you approach the station, the skyline of the city itself emerges on the right. Note the profile of the world's largest building, the Sears Tower, 110 stories high and just two blocks east of Union Station. The station, marble-pillared with impressively high ceilings, is conveniently close to office centers in the Loop, wholesale markets at the Merchandise Mart, the Mercantile Exchange for commodities, and exciting shopping on Michigan Avenue. ■

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bowl of the Morieta Pass. Conquered and converted in the 17th century by Spanish missionaries, the Pecos built a large adobe mission in 1617. Its ruins, the Pecos National Monument, are across the valley on your left. But when the railroad arrived, a rowdier New Town developed on the east bank, attracting unsavory folks like Billy the Kid, until West Bank vigilantes cleaned it up and cleared it out. That

Bernal (84 Min. / 22 Min.) On the left are the ruins of the first stage coach relay station on the old Las Vegas-Santa Fe stage line. Note Martinez Canyon on the right, between Bernal and Las Vegas.

LAS VEGAS 10,000 years before Coronado discovered this area in 1541 and the Spanish named it "the meadows." Indians occupied its lands. In 1833, white settlers formed a town on the west bank of the river. But when the railroad arrived, a rowdier New Town developed on the east bank, attracting unsavory folks like Billy the Kid, until West Bank vigilantes cleaned it up and cleared it out. That

friend Kit Carson came to live nearby. Today, the area is the Maxwell Land Grant Wildlife Refuge.

Clifton House Ruins (100 Min. / 10 Min.) On your right, you can see the remains of this layover point on the old Santa Fe Trail.

RATON A railroad and coal mining center, Raton is at the base of the Raton Pass which crosses the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Raton is also the gateway to Philmont Boy Scout Ranch, a 137,441 acre national center of the Boy Scouts of America.

Raton Pass Here the train ascends 175 feet per mile to the highest point along the route—7,588 feet on the west end of a half-mile tunnel.

(21 Min. / 44 Min.) As you emerge from the tunnel, you'll cross the state line between New Mexico and Colorado, marker on your left.

Morley (35 Min. / 21 Min.) On the hill to your left are the ruins of an old Spanish mission and the old Morley coal mine.

Cross Purgatorio River (60 Min. / 5 Min.) This tributary of the Arkansas River is named for Purgatory, its French pronunciation later twisted by local folks into the nickname "Picket Wire" and even "Picket Fence."

TRINIDAD The town's name, meaning "trinity," is displayed atop 400-foot high Simpson's Rest on the left, named for an old pioneer buried there. Known for its coal, Trinidad is also remembered for a battle fought here between Spanish settlers and U.S. settlers on Christmas Day, 1867. Just behind the city is Fisher's Peak on the right, a rocky promontory rising almost 10,000 feet. Back and to the

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