

## WELCOME ABOARD

The *Southwest Chief* Route guide is written from west to east. Some descriptions in the guide will indicate to look right or look left.

If you are traveling eastbound on Train 4, the phrases, "look right" or "look left" and the order of listings will coincide with this guide.

If you are traveling westbound on Train 3, you will need to do the opposite. Begin from the end of the guide descriptions and read in reverse order.

## THE TRAIN STAFF

The staff of Amtrak's *Southwest Chief* is here to make your trip a special and unique experience.

**Conductor** is responsible for the safe operation of the train.

**Chief, On-Board Services** is responsible for the supervision of all On-Board Services Staff. While all crewmembers wear blue slacks or skirts, the Chief wears gray to denote the position.

**Dining Car Steward** is responsible for the operation of the Dining Car and Dining Car Staff.

**Sleeping Car Attendant** provides all guest services for the sleeping car he or she is assigned to. This includes room preparation, luggage assistance, beverage service and any assistance to ensure a comfortable journey.

**Train Attendant** is responsible for providing guest service in the coaches. Each attendant is responsible for two coaches. This includes seat assignment, pillow service, luggage service and any assistance to ensure a comfortable journey.

*Should you need any assistance during your trip, please feel free to call on any member of the staff who will assist in making your trip more enjoyable.*

## ACCOMMODATIONS

**Sleeping Car** accommodations provide a wide range of private rooms for day and night use. Sleeping Car Accommodations also include other amenities that can be described by any staff member. Please consult with the Conductor regarding available rooms.

**Coach** seating provides a wide reclining seat with a leg rest. Free pillow service 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 *Southwest Chief* a memorable experience. The Dining Car Steward will make announcements throughout the trip regarding service hours.

**Sightseer Lounge/Café** is the perfect car for scenic viewing and lighter fare. Large panoramic windows and swivel seating provides the perfect atmosphere for viewing and making new friends during the trip. The Café is located on the lower level of this car.

**Smoking** is permitted in the separately ventilated smoking lounge on the lower level of Car 411 eastbound and 311 westbound. This car is located adjacent to the Lounge/Café car.

**Lavatories** are located on the lower level of sleeping cars and coaches. Trash receptacles are located at the center and ends of each car. Drinking Fountains are located at the center each car on both levels.

## ROUTE MAP



Explore more of the American West aboard these Amtrak long distance services:

### SUNSET LIMITED

Los Angeles, Tucson, El Paso, San Antonio, Houston, New Orleans, Jacksonville, Orlando.

### CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR

San Francisco Bay Area, Salt Lake City, Glenwood Springs, Denver, Omaha, Chicago.

### EMPIRE BUILDER

Seattle, Portland, Spokane, Glacier National Park, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Chicago.

### COAST STARLIGHT

Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento, Eugene, Portland, Seattle.

### TEXAS EAGLE

Los Angeles, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, Little Rock, St. Louis, Chicago.

**Amtrak**

1.800.USA.RAIL [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

Thank you for traveling on the fastest train from Los Angeles to Chicago... the *Southwest Chief*. It has been our pleasure serving you!

SWC MM 2

INFORMATION & ROUTE GUIDE



THE GRAND CANYON

SANTA FE

THE GREAT SOUTHWEST

LOS ANGELES  
WILLIAMS JUNCTION  
FLAGSTAFF  
ALBUQUERQUE  
KANSAS CITY  
CHICAGO

**Amtrak**

The *Southwest Chief* is among the finest of Amtrak's long-distance services. Our historic route was first traversed by the earliest Indians who first discovered its twists, turns and passes. Later, Spanish conquistadors and fur trappers became familiar with the route. By the time it was called the Santa Fe Trail, caravans of pack mules, wagon teams, prairie schooners and stagecoaches were lumbering over it daily, carting people and goods between the Missouri River and the Rockies. The California Gold Rush brought thousands more westward, and the Santa Fe Train extended all the way to the Pacific Coast.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway ultimately became the iron link between the Midwest and Los Angeles. Great Santa Fe Streamlined Trains such as the Super Chief and El Capitan traveled the same basic route we travel today. Amtrak assumed operation of passenger rail service in the United States in 1971 from what are now the freight railroads and continued the operation of service over the *Southwest Chief* route. In 1996, the Santa Fe merged to become the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF). The BNSF owns the tracks that we travel upon on our 2,265-mile journey covering eight states between Los Angeles and Chicago.

### **LOS ANGELES**

Pop. 3,682,000; elev. 318. The sprawling metropolis of Los Angeles began in 1781 as El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora de la Reina de los Angeles. Today, the village's original site is marked by the historic park on Olvera Street, lined with brightly colored Mexican shops and old buildings. Across the street is Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal which is known as the "Last of the Great Stations" to be built in the U.S. The Spanish Mission - Art Deco style build-

ing was built in 1939 by the Santa Fe, Union Pacific, and Southern Pacific Railroads. Amtrak assumed operation of the station upon the company's formation in 1971. Today the station has seen a renaissance in patronage with Amtrak services as well as Metrolink - the rail commuter network that serves the Los Angeles basin.

### **FULLERTON**

Pop. 114,000; elev. 161. Suburban Fullerton was once the center of North Orange County's citrus industry. The station, built in 1930 was used in the 1964 Doris Day/Rock Hudson movie, *Send Me No Flowers*.

### **SAN BERNARDINO**

Elev. 1,077. The site of California's first inland European Settlement. Here, our tracks join US Route 66. We will parallel this famous highway all the way to Albuquerque. East of San Bernardino, we will ascend the Cajon Pass. The train will twist and turn to an elevation of 3,811 feet.

### **VICTORVILLE**

Elev. 2,714. This station serves the inland towns of Adelanto, Lucerne, Big Valley, and Apple Valley - site of the Roy Rogers Museum.

During the night, the train stops at the Mojave Desert towns of **BARSTOW** elev. 2,105, **NEEDLES** elev. 476. After Needles, we cross the Colorado River and enter the Grand Canyon State of Arizona. The first stop in Arizona is **KINGMAN** elev. 3,335.

Timezone Change: Arizona is on Mountain Standard Time year round. During the winter months when the US is on Standard Time, set your watches forward one hour. During summer months when the US is on daylight time, you will not need to change your watch until we enter New Mexico.

### **WILLIAMS JUNCTION**

The newest stop on the *Southwest Chief*. Williams Junction is the connection point for the Grand Canyon Railway in the city of Williams which will take you to the El Tovar Hotel at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon.

### **FLAGSTAFF**

Pop. 53,000; elev. 6,902. The Flagstaff Station provides connections for Phoenix and southern Arizona points. The San Francisco peaks rise to an elevation of 12,000 feet north of Flagstaff.

### **WINSLOW**

Elev. 4,843. The "Meteor City" got its name when a meteor struck west of here forming a large crater. The station and adjoining former Harvey House were designed by famous architect Mary Coulter.

### **GALLUP**

Elev. 6,506. The "Indian Capital of the World" - a meeting place for Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, apache and Acoma Indians.

Our Native American Tour Guide boards at Gallup for a presentation in the lounge car describing the various areas we will pass through between Gallup and Albuquerque.

### **ALBUQUERQUE**

Pop. 600,000; elev. 5,500. Home of the annual Hot Air Balloon Festival and a service stop for the *Southwest Chief*. Feel free to stretch your legs on the platform and buy Indian crafts on the platform and visit Cheryl's Bus Store.

### **LAMY**

Pop. 30; elev. 6,457. The connection stop for those going to the state capital at Santa Fe. Leaving Lamy, the train winds through Apache Canyon and ascends Glorieta Pass at an elevation of 7,421 feet.

### **LAS VEGAS**

Elev. 6,392. Once an important division point on the Santa Fe, Las Vegas had attracted unsavory folks like Billy the Kid until West Bank vigilantes cleaned up the town.

The building to the left of the train, La Castaneda, is one of the few remaining Harvey Houses still standing on the former Santa Fe. Other Harvey Houses on our route still stand at Needles, Barstow, and Winslow.

### **RATON**

Elev. 6,666. The gateway to the 13,744 acre Philmont Boy Scout Ranch.

Leaving Raton, the train ascends Raton Pass, the highest point on our route and the highest point on the former Santa Fe Railway. We will reach an elevation of 7,588 feet and cross the half mile long Raton Tunnel. Exiting the tunnel, we leave New Mexico and enter the Centennial State of Colorado. The state line marker is to the left of the train.

### **TRINIDAD**

Elev. 5,971. Home to coal mining operations, Trinidad is also remembered for a battle between Spanish and US settlers on Christmas Day, 1867.

### **LA JUNTA**

Elev. 4,045. La Junta means "junction" and that what this town means, the junction of the Santa Fe Trail and the Cimarron Cutoff. La Junta is also known for its cattle, vegetable and fruit production, especially Rocky Ford cantaloupe.

During the night, the *Southwest Chief* stops at **LAMAR**, elev. 3,603.

We leave Mountain Time and enter Central Time as we leave Colorado. Set your watches one hour forward.

We then cross into Kansas and stop at the towns of **GARDEN CITY** known for its agribusiness and oil and gas fields, **DODGE CITY**

the setting for the television series *Guns, Smoke*, **HUTCHINSON**, **NEWTON**, **TOPEKA** the state capital, and **LAWRENCE** the home of the University of Kansas Jayhawks.

### **KANSAS CITY**

Pop. 450,000; elev. 781. Originally called Westport Landing, this was the starting point for the old Santa Fe Trail.

Kansas City Union Station has undergone a unique restoration project and conversion to a new City Science Center and Museum. The original station opened to the public in 1913 and was vacated in 1985. The station was also the site of the Union Station Massacre in 1933.

Kansas City is also home to Hallmark Cards; the nation's first shopping center district, The Country Club Plaza; and Baseball's Kansas City Royals and Football's Kansas City Chiefs.

Approximately thirty minutes after we depart Kansas City, the train will cross the Missouri River on a 135-foot high steel bridge.

The train also passes through the small town of Marceline. This is where Walt Disney spent his childhood. Legend has it that downtown Marceline was the pattern used for Main Street, USA, at Disneyland in Anaheim, California.

### **LA PLATA**

Elev. 913. The name is Spanish for silver and was chosen because the prairie grasses blowing in the wind resembled a silver river. La Plata also boasts fine examples of Victorian era homes. La Plata is the stop for the college town of Kirksville, ten miles to the north.

### **FORT MADISON**

Elev. 523. The *Southwest Chief* travels only some twenty miles in Iowa, with Fort Madison being its only stop in the state. Fort Madison is home to the Schaefer Pen Company. The

body of water to the right is the Mississippi River.

We cross the "Mighty Mississippi" over the longest double-decked swing span bridge completed in 1927. The center section of the bridge pivots to allow river traffic to pass. As river traffic takes precedence, the *Southwest Chief* will occasionally have to wait for river traffic to pass.

### **GALESBURG**

Elev. 755. Home of the poet Carl Sandburg. Galesburg was also home to one of the Lincoln-Douglas presidential debates in 1858.

### **PRINCETON**

Elev. 730. Once a major station of the "Underground Railroad" Princeton was a hotbed of Abolitionist sentiment before the Civil War.

### **MENDOTA**

Elev. 740. An American Indian word meaning "Crossing of Trains." Mendota station houses a railroad museum.

### **NAPERVILLE**

Elev. 700. Located along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe's famed three-track raceway, Naperville is a western suburb of Chicago. Amtrak shares the tracks with Metra, whose trains also stop at the numerous suburban commuter stops you see along the segment of the route.

### **CHICAGO**

Pop. 2,785,000; elev. 593. Incorporated in 1837 along the banks of Lake Michigan, Chicago is nicknamed America's "Second City." It is the manufacturing, transportation, and communications center of the Midwest. Chicago is home to many magnificent parks and museums. If you are connecting to other Amtrak services and have time to spare, Chicago Union Station is conveniently close to the Loop, shopping along Michigan Avenue, Sears Tower and many of the exciting