



Los Angeles • Phoenix • Tucson
El Paso • San Antonio • Houston • New Orleans

The Sunset Limited
From desert sunsets to haunting bayous, a journey through yesterday and today.



Welcome aboard The Sunset Limited, Amtrak's scenic 2,033-mile route between Los Angeles and New Orleans.

The guide is written from west to east, noting how many minutes past the previous Amtrak station you can expect to see a particular sight...

Note that all AMTRAK STATIONS are in capital letters to set them apart from towns and regions through which The Sunset Limited travels but makes no stop.

Whichever direction you're traveling, we hope this guide will enrich your enjoyment of the trip—with glimpses of the history and lore that live in the colorful vistas gliding past your window on the South and West.

A Brief History of The Sunset Limited. While many of the great transcontinental rail lines were forged from east to west, the Southern Pacific's Sunset line had its beginnings in California.

The Sunset Limited—destined to become one of the best-known trains in America—began service in 1894.

Nearly a century later, The Sunset Limited still provides a unique view of the South and Southwest, while you enjoy the comforts of modern training at its best.

LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora de la Reina de los Angeles, now known simply as Los Angeles, was founded 12 years after Fr. Junipero Serra set out in 1769 to establish a chain of missions stretching up the coast of California.

year you are traveling, there may also be a time change during the night. Arizona is in the Mountain time zone, but does not observe day-light savings time.

The train follows the Gila River, which forms the northern boundary of the Gadsden Purchase, in a nearly-straight path across the Sonoran Desert.

Hassayampa River (136 Min./45 Min.) We cross the river 8 miles west of Buckeye. Legend claims anyone drinking its waters will never tell the truth again.

PHOENIX

PHOENIX Capital of Arizona, Phoenix was built on the ruins of the ancient Hohokam Indian culture, which thrived here from B.C. until the 15th century.

Phoenix Airport (10 Min./4 Min) Sky Harbor International Airport is on the right.

TEMPE After we cross the Salt River, we pass through the Arizona State University campus.

POMONA Named in 1875 for the Roman goddess of fruit, the name is just as apt today, with citrus orchards still important to the area's economy.

Superstition Mountains (10 Min./100 Min.) To the distant left, you see the Superstition Mountains, the legendary site of the Lost Dutchman Mine.

COOLIDGE (45 Min./57 Min.) We cross the Gila River here. To the right, on the Gila Indian Reservation,

is the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, the remains of a 4-story Hohokam Indian communal drying tower over 600 years old.

Picacho State Park Saguaro Forest (65 Min./35 Min.) Visible on the right, the forest is home to monumental cacti as tall as 40 ft.

Picacho Pass (65 Min./45 Min.) The Picacho Mountains are on our left. 3,282-ft. Picacho Peak is on the right.

Pima Air Park (77 Min./29 Min) In the distance on the right. Here, used jeffers are refurbished for resale.

TUCSON

TUCSON Founded in 1776 as a Spanish supply station for nearby Mission San Xavier del Bac. Today, Tucson is a city of over 300,000.

65 Min./15 Min.) To the left is a strangely eclectic "town"—actually a string of film sets used for shows like Little House on the Prairie.

BENSON A stop for the old Butterfield Stage as early as 1860. When the railroad arrived in 1880, it became the shipping point for the mines around Tombstone.

DEL RIO "Queen City of the Rio Grande," Del Rio is also called the "Wool and Mohair Capital of the World."

Between Tucson and Benson, we traverse a series of arroyos (canyons) as we wind through the Santa Rita, Empire, Rincon and Whetstone Mountains along the Pantano Wash.



Vali (40 Min./45 Min.) East and westbound trains travel separate tracks in this area, crossing at the High Bridge.

Arizona Playa (42 Min./68 Min.) East of Cochise, this ancient dry lakebed is the site of frequent mirages.

65 Min./15 Min.) To the left is a strangely eclectic "town"—actually a string of film sets used for shows like Little House on the Prairie.

BENSON A stop for the old Butterfield Stage as early as 1860. When the railroad arrived in 1880, it became the shipping point for the mines around Tombstone.

Dragoon (21 Min./94 Min.) The Dragoon Mountains, visible on the right, were once the base for the Apache chief Cochise.

Wilcox Playa (42 Min./68 Min.) East of Cochise, this ancient dry lakebed is the site of frequent mirages.

LORDSBURG Nestled between the Burro Mountains and the Pyramid Mountains to the south.

Continental Divide (25 Min./25 Min.) Halfway between Lordsburg and Deming, we cross the Divide at an elevation of 4,587 ft.

Arizona/New Mexico State Line (90 Min./25 Min.) Are you watching forward if you are traveling westward?

Cochise's Face (85 Min./20 Min.) Cochise Mountain, tallest peak of the Chiricahua Mountains on the right.

BEISO (50 Min./37 Min.) The flat-top mountain close to the train on the right is an extinct volcano.

DEMING is home to the world's oldest duck races, held here each August. At the crest of the Cooke's and Florida Mountains is also home to hundreds of egrets, ibises, herons, ducks and alligators.

Calcasieu River (75 Min./5 Min.) As we cross, note the crossed-dusting pistol mounds on the iron railings of the highway bridge to the right—evocative of the time when pirates like Jean Lafitte ranged these waters.

LAKE CHARLES, Louisiana Just 16 ft. above sea level, Lake Charles is both a deep water port and the industrial center of southwestern Louisiana.

Rosenburg and Richmond (85 Min./65 Min.) These twin towns were notorious centers for gambling and vice in the 20s and 30s.

HOUSTON We arrive at the small modern Washington Street Station, near Buffalo Bayou, headwaters of the 50-mile ship channel connecting Houston with the Gulf Port of Galveston.

San Jacinto River (35 Min./65 Min.) A few miles south of our crossing is the San Jacinto Battle-ground Historic Park.

Trinity River (50 Min./50 Min.) We cross just before Liberty. BEAUMONT On the Neches River, was the site of the famous Spindletop Oil Field.

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Site of the last great battle between Cochise and the U.S. Cavalry.

Adobe ruins of a Butterfield Stage-coach stop on the right. The stage line ran 2,800 miles—the one-way fare for the 55-day journey between St. Louis and San Francisco was a then-astronomical \$150.

Nestled between the Burro Mountains and the Pyramid Mountains to the south, Lordsburg is an important trade center for south-west New Mexico.

Halfway between Lordsburg and Deming, we cross the Divide at an elevation of 4,587 ft—the lowest railroad crossing of the Divide in the U.S. Waters east of the Divide flow into the Atlantic, to its west, into the Pacific.

Are you watching forward if you are traveling westward between April and October (back one hour if traveling westward)?

Cochise Mountain, tallest peak of the Chiricahua Mountains on the right, resembles the Chief's silhouette looking upwards.

The flat-top mountain close to the train on the right is an extinct volcano. Ancient lava flows extend nearby to trackside.

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As we cross, note the crossed-dusting pistol mounds on the iron railings of the highway bridge to the right—evocative of the time when pirates like Jean Lafitte ranged these waters.

These twin towns were notorious centers for gambling and vice in the 20s and 30s. A historic log building and the old red brick courthouse are on the left.

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Blending French and Spanish influences, New Iberia preserves a wealth of heritage from the Old South. Several antebellum

plantation homes grace the area, including the National Trust Property Shadows on the Teche.

Orange, Texas (40 Min./40 Min.) We cross the Sabine River between Texas and Louisiana.

Calcasieu River (75 Min./5 Min.) As we cross, note the crossed-dusting pistol mounds on the iron railings of the highway bridge to the right—evocative of the time when pirates like Jean Lafitte ranged these waters.

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ROUTE ALL ABOARD AMTRAK GUIDE

(76 Min./5 Min.) The Southwestern Portland Cement Company is now on our left, and on our right is the Asarco mineral refinery.

University of Texas at El Paso (82 Min./3 Min.) On the left, the University's "Sun Bowl" stadium is carved into the hill.

Ysleta (30 Min./175 Min.) Site of the oldest surviving identifiable ethnic group in Texas, the Tigua Indians of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo.

Fabens (46 Min./164 Min.) A handsome mission-style church is on the right. To the left is a cotton ginning and bundling facility.

Time Zone Change (124 Min./86 Min.) Near Van Horn (visible in the distance on our left) set your watch ahead one hour.

Valentine (155 Min./55 Min.) Mt. Livermore rises 8,332 ft. on the left. To its left is Bear Mountain.

ALPINE We pause briefly at this Spanish-style station. Alpine is a popular stop for tourists heading to Big Bend National Park.

World's Val Verde Winery, oldest licensed winery in Texas, is here. And on the bluffs across the Rio Grande is Ciudad Acuna.

Dryden (15 Min./129 Min.) Remnants can be seen of a 6-ft. high, 3-ft. thick wall built by the 33rd Infantry as protection from Pancho Villa's marauders.

Langtry (70 Min./74 Min.) This was the headquarters of the legendary "Judge" Roy Bean.

Warwick Flat (35 Min./65 Min.) The great Comanche War Trail, which stretched 1,000 miles from Chihuahuas to upper Texas, crossed here.

Marfa (185 Min./25 Min.) The Pecos County Courthouse, built of native stone in 1886, is the domed building on the left.

Places. From El Paso to Orange, the next 941 miles will be spent in Texas. An old saw of Texas travelers goes, "Sun is 'rizz, sun is set, here we are in Texas yet!"

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Sierra Blanca (95 Min./115 Min.) Site of the only adobe courthouse still in use in Texas, 6,970-ft. Sierra Blanca Peak, to the northwest, appears lighter than the surrounding mountains.

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