

California State Railroad Museum

Old Sacramento State Historic Park



Our Mission

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



 The California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park are continually improving accessibility. Lift assists provide access to raised viewing areas and some railroad cars. Due to historic doorway widths and steep stepwells, not all exhibits and attractions are accessible. Inquire at the Railroad Museum Ticket Counter for additional services, including wheelchair use, at **(916) 323-9280**. If you need this publication in an alternate format, contact interp@parks.ca.gov.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

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California State Railroad Museum

Corner of Second and I Streets

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 323-9280

www.californiarailroad.museum

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*Sacramento's historic
role as the commercial
center of the California
Gold Rush and terminus
for the Pony Express
and America's first
transcontinental railroad
is preserved in Old
Sacramento State Historic
Park and the California
State Railroad Museum.*



ALL ABOARD!

Widely regarded as North America's finest and most popular railroad museum, the California State Railroad Museum houses more than 20 restored locomotives and railroad cars, along with thousands of smaller artifacts and a variety of exhibits in its 100,000-square-foot main exhibition facility.

Museum Theater—"Evidence of a Dream," a 20-minute, award-winning documentary on the railroad's importance in developing California and making America, is shown on the hour.

MAIN EXHIBIT HALL

- 1 **The Transcontinental Railroad**—Linking California with the U.S.
- 2 **Nation-Building**—Railroads were an essential element to create a modern nation.
- 3 **Railroad Work, Railroad Life**—Human effort and enterprise changed America.
- 4 **Travel by Train**—Passenger travel during railroading's Golden Age
- 5 **American Icons**—Historic locomotives from different eras and the golden "Lost Spike"
- 6 **Small Wonders**—Toy trains, children's activity area, and changing exhibits

This park receives support from a nonprofit organization. For more information contact: California State Railroad Museum Foundation
111 - I St. • Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 445-5995
www.californiarailroad.museum



Museum docents are always available to assist you.

Become a Museum Member

Enjoy such great benefits as free admission and free train rides. For more information or to join, visit the Ticket Counter or our website.

Help Protect the Artifacts

Smoking, food, drinks, and chewing gum are not allowed in the museum. Please do not touch or climb on exhibits.

Photography

Hand-held, noncommercial photography and video recordings are permitted. Tripods are not allowed in the museum. Commercial photography and filming should be arranged in advance.

See back panel of brochure for accessibility information.

OLD SACRAMENTO STATE HISTORIC PARK

The California State Railroad Museum complex is located within Old Sacramento State Historic Park—itsself a portion of the Old Sacramento Historic District.

News of the 1848 discovery of gold in nearby Coloma (site of Sutter's Mill and today home to Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park) traveled quickly around the world, drawing thousands of people to the Sierra Nevada foothills and kicking off the California Gold Rush.

Originally part of the New Helvetia land grant of Captain John Sutter, Sacramento sits at the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers. The commercial center of the California Gold Rush, it became a crossroads of transportation—connected by steamboats to San Francisco, by supply roads to mining regions, and to Folsom by the first railroad in the West. Despite floods, fires, and epidemics, Sacramento became California's capital in 1854.

The center of the commercial district gradually moved east, and the Sacramento riverfront became neglected. In the mid-1960s, a redevelopment plan took shape. Today, with 53 historic commercial structures sited on 28 acres, Old Sacramento is a National Historic Landmark. California State Parks owns and operates a number of original and reconstructed buildings, mostly accessible, as part of Old Sacramento State Historic Park.

B.F. Hastings Building

This 1853 structure housed the owner's bank, Hastings & Company, and Wells, Fargo & Company. It also served as the western terminus for the Pony Express. California's Supreme Court held session here between 1855 and 1869. Today the building houses the Old Sacramento Visitor Center and the Wells Fargo History Museum.

Tehama Block

From 1850 to 1851, this reconstructed Greek Revival building housed numerous business ventures.

Eagle Theatre

Built in 1849, the Eagle Theatre is a reconstruction of the first theater built in California. Made with a wood frame, canvas walls, and a tin roof, it provided entertainment for only three months before the flood of January 4, 1850, destroyed it. See museum for hours (museum ticket good for theater entry).

CM&T Co. Building

This reconstructed 1849 building was originally home to the Connecticut Mining & Trading Company, an auction and commission business, and general merchandise firms.

Big Four Building

Housing the Stanford Brothers Warehouse and the Huntington & Hopkins Hardware Store from the late 1850s into the 1880s, this building was also the first headquarters of the Central Pacific Railroad.

First floor—The mid-nineteenth century Huntington & Hopkins Hardware Store has been reconstructed. See museum for hours.
Second floor—The Railroad Museum Library, North America's finest railroad-only reference library, is open Tuesday through Saturday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Dingley Spice Mill Building

After arriving in San Francisco in February 1850, Nathaniel Dingley settled in Sacramento to operate a coffee and spice business. Constructed following Sacramento's disastrous 1852 fire, the Dingley Spice Mill is restored to its circa 1860 appearance.

Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station

The station is a reconstruction of the western terminus of America's first transcontinental railroad circa 1876. It is complete with ticket office, telegraph office, main waiting room, and a separate waiting room for ladies and children only. Open daily for tours (museum ticket is good for station entry).

Central Pacific Railroad Freight Depot

The museum's steam- and diesel-powered excursion trains arrive and depart from this reconstructed late 1800s transcontinental railroad freight station. Departures are on weekends, April through September, hourly 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special holiday "theme" trains depart on selected weekends October through December (a separate ticket is required).



Dining car docent explains meal service.

Old Sacramento State Historic Park



Legend

- Paved Road
- Pedestrian Walkway
- Trail: Hike
- Trail: Hike & Bike
- Park
- Boardwalk
- City of Sacramento
- Park Building
- Non-Park Building
- Accessible Feature
- Information
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Train Rides

