

News Release



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Ride the Rails or Go Underground in Old Sacramento; Exciting New Season Debuts on March 31!

OLD SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Coinciding with the beginning of Easter week, Old Sacramento officially springs into action for a new season of popular excursion train service on the Sacramento Southern Railroad and coveted Old Sacramento Underground tours that both resume the weekend of Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1 (no foolin'!). Visitors to Old Sacramento are encouraged to spend the weekend enjoying the various outdoor activities, exploring the historic museums, and making new discoveries along the way.

Excursion Train Rides - Start March 31

The California State Railroad Museum's popular excursion railroad -- the Sacramento Southern Railroad -- officially returns to operation for the 29th consecutive season on Saturday, March 31, and continues on weekends through September. Guests are treated to a six-mile, 40-minute roundtrip excursion along the picturesque levees of the Sacramento River while enjoying the sights, smells and sounds of authentic locomotives rolling down the tracks. The train features a combination of vintage closed coaches with comfortable seats, and open-air "gondolas" with bench style seating. Once underway, weekend excursion trains depart every hour on-the-hour from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regular excursion train tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for youths (ages 6-17), and ages five and under ride free. For passengers desiring a VIP ride in luxury and style aboard the beautifully restored first-class 1920s lounge-observation car *El Dorado*, tickets are \$15 per person (and free for infants under the age of one). Tickets to ride the first-class *El Dorado* are available to book online in advance at www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org and groups interested in reserving the *El Dorado* for a regularly scheduled ride should call 916-322-7112. Same-day general admission excursion train ride tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Sacramento Southern Railroad ticket office located on Front Street between J and K Streets.

Old Sacramento Underground Tours - Start March 31

For the third consecutive season, popular Old Sacramento Underground tours resume on Saturday, March 31, and continue through Fall 2012. Old Sacramento has the distinction of being the only city in California to raise its streets in the 1860s through the 1870s to protect the city from devastating flooding. Tour participants explore excavated foundations, an open archeological site and enclosed

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pathways -- all while entertaining and knowledgeable tour guides recount the tales of the devastation, perseverance, and determination that led to California's only successful street-raising project.

While tour dates will be expanded in the summer months, the initial underground tour schedule is as follows: on Saturdays and Sundays, tours depart every 30 minutes from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. through the month of May. Interested guests are encouraged to check the website for updated tour times and information. Tours of the underground last approximately one hour in length and cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Tour check-in is located at the Sacramento History Museum, 101 I Street in Old Sacramento. Underground visitors will need to be prepared to walk on uneven surfaces in areas that have low ceilings and in occasional small spaces. Advance tickets for underground tours are available now for online purchase at www.historicoldsac.org.

About the California State Railroad Museum

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the non-profit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Widely regarded as North America's finest and most popular railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill commercial buildings in Old Sacramento. For 24-hour information, visit www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org or call (916) 445-6645.

About the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation

The Historic Old Sacramento Foundation (HOSF) is a 501(c)3 public benefit corporation. Old Sacramento is a living historic district. The mission of HOSF is to convey the importance of historic Sacramento as a place that connects our past to our present and future through engaging and entertaining events, activities and programs. More information is available at www.historicoldsac.org or call 916-808-7059.