

COAST STARLIGHT® ROUTE GUIDE



SEATTLE • PORTLAND • SACRAMENTO • OAKLAND/SAN FRANCISCO • LOS ANGELES

We hope this guide helps you enjoy the journey by learning about points of interest along the Coast Starlight's route. This guide starts at the northern terminus of the train in Seattle and proceeds southward, ending in Los Angeles. If you are traveling northbound, just read the guide in reverse, remembering to look in the opposite direction referenced.

American pop culture refers to the Pacific Coast as "the left coast." Seen from the right train, the Coast Starlight, we experience 1,377 miles of sheer magnificence, both left and right, from Seattle, Washington, to Los Angeles, California.

Along the route, we traverse steep mountain ranges, explore rolling, gentle valleys and skirt along the dynamically beautiful sandy shores of the Pacific Ocean. The scenery is breathtaking, the cities are unique, and the history is fascinating.

AMTRAK® STATIONS are shown in all capital letters, as opposed to upper and lower case for towns and geographical areas through which the train travels but does not stop. The Amtrak® System Timetable or the Coast Starlight timetable folder should be consulted for actual station times. Mileage from Seattle is shown for each Amtrak Station, and approximate mileages for certain points of interest en route are also shown, to serve as a guide for following the progress of your trip. While all service presented in this guide was accurate at the time of publication, routes and services are subject to change. Please contact Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL, visit Amtrak.com or call your travel agent for the most current information.

(The Coast Starlight name honors two of its pre-Amtrak "ancestors," the former Southern Pacific Coast Daylight, the premier daytime train, and the Starlight, an overnight all-coach train, between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Before Amtrak began running the nation's long distance passenger trains in 1971, one had to travel on trains operated by two railroads between Los Angeles and Seattle. Southern Pacific operated numerous trains between Los Angeles and Portland, but a change of trains at San Francisco/Oakland was necessary. Between Portland and Seattle, one chose the trains of the Union Pacific, Great Northern or Northern Pacific. With Amtrak's creation and startup on May 1, 1971, through train service between Los Angeles and Seattle was initiated.)

So sit back and relax to enjoy one of the most entertaining and enjoyable of railroad routes in the world on the Coast Starlight.



Enjoy the journey.

WELCOME ABOARD



Welcome aboard the *Coast Starlight*, where for nearly 1,400 miles you will witness the spectacular scenery of the West Coast from the comfort of the train. From snow capped mountain peaks through the majestic Cascade Mountains, to Pacific Ocean vistas, the *Coast Starlight* route is one of the most scenic in the Amtrak system. We are happy to have you on board and want to ensure your trip is everything you want it to be. If there is anything that can be done to make your trip more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to ask any Amtrak employee.

THE TRAIN STAFF

The staff of the *Coast Starlight* is here to make your trip a special and enjoyable experience.

The **Conductor** is responsible for the entire On-Board Services staff including ticket collection, passenger safety and the safe operation of the train.

The **Lead Service Attendant** is responsible for the operation of the Dining car and the Dining car staff.

The **Lounge Car Attendant** is responsible for the operation of the Lounge/Café and Pacific Parlour cars.

The **Sleeping Car Attendant** is responsible for providing all service for passengers ticketed in Sleeping car accommodations, including room preparation, luggage service and any assistance necessary to ensure a comfortable journey. He or she can also assist with meal reservations or arrange for your meal to be served in the privacy and comfort of your accommodation.

The **Coach Attendant** is responsible for providing service for passengers ticketed in Coach. This includes seat assignment, luggage assistance, and assistance to ensure a comfortable journey.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Superliner® Sleeping car accommodations provide a range of private rooms with amenities for day and night use. From Roomettes to Bedrooms featuring a private lavatory and shower, Sleeping car accommodations will suit any need and can be described in more detail by any member of the crew. Please ask to speak to the Conductor regarding the availability of rooms. The Amtrak Metropolitan LoungeSM is available for Sleeping car passengers boarding in Portland and Los Angeles.

Coach seating provides a wide reclining seat with leg rest, folding tray table and overhead light. At-seat meal service is also available upon request.

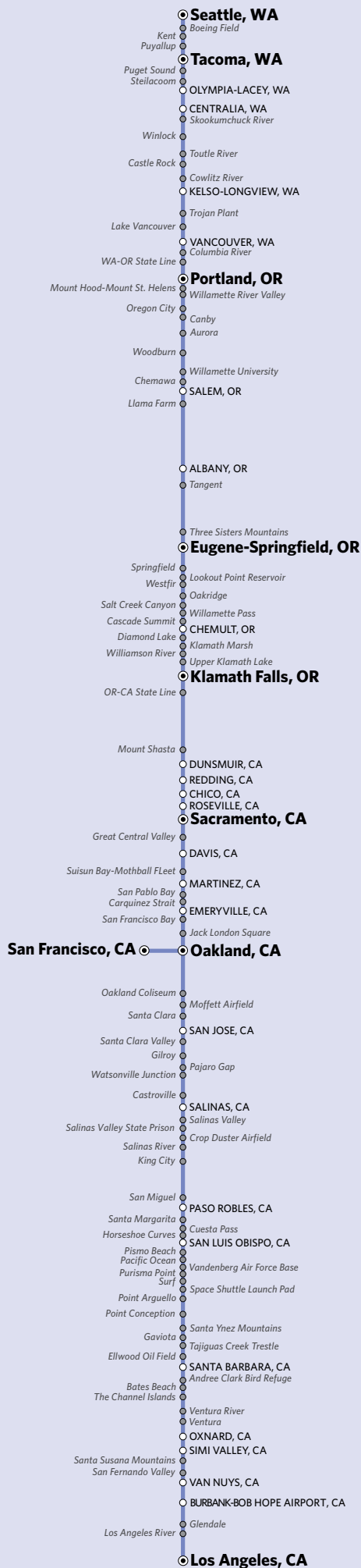
The **Dining car** features full-service hot meals prepared by Amtrak chefs. Here you will also have the chance to meet your fellow passengers for conversation and food while the scenery glides by your window. Sleeping car accommodation charges include meals in the Dining car while passengers ticketed in Coach may purchase Dining car meals at reasonable prices.

The **Sightseer Lounge/Café** is the perfect car for viewing the spectacular scenery along the *Coast Starlight*. Large panoramic windows provide a great atmosphere for sightseeing and making new friends. The Café is located on the lower level of this car offering sandwiches, snacks, beverages. Volunteer National Park Service rangers provide narrative along parts of the route during the spring and summer.

The **Pacific Parlour car** is available for Sleeping car passengers wishing to stretch out and enjoy the spectacular views in comfort. This car features AmtrakConnectSM wireless internet access, coffee, afternoon and evening light-meal service and an onboard theater. Passengers may purchase snacks, wine, beer and cocktails.

HOST RAILROADS are the freight and commuter railroads that Amtrak contracts with to operate Amtrak passenger trains. The *Coast Starlight* is hosted by Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) between Seattle and Portland; and by the Union Pacific (UP) between Portland and Moorpark; and between Moorpark and Los Angeles it is hosted by the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA).

Information contained in this route guide as well as described amenities and features are subject to change without notice. While gratuities are not required for services provided, it is an appreciated way to convey to an employee that he or she has made your trip more enjoyable.



SEATTLE (0 mi.) The November 1851 landing of a group led by Arthur Denny at Alki Point (West Seattle) is generally recognized as the beginning of the establishment of a town site. However, the Denny party soon moved to what is now Pioneer Square since it was better suited to be a harbor. The first major industry in the area, a mill, relied on the harbor to ship its lumber for use in the booming construction going on in San Francisco. Another early settler, David "Doc" Maynard, befriended the local Duwamish Indians and in 1853 convinced the other residents to change the name of the town, then known as Duwamps, to Seattle in honor of the Duwamish leader, Chief Sealth.

Seattle boomed in the 1890s as it became the jumping off point for prospectors heading to Alaska to try and cash in on the Klondike Gold Rush. Today, Seattle is a major gateway to Alaska and Asia, and is the embarkation point for many Alaska-bound cruise ships. The Washington State ferry system is the largest in the country and brings neighboring island commuters across the water into downtown.

Built in 1906, King Street Station, with its replica of the San Marcos Tower in Venice, Italy, has undergone a complete restoration retaining the station's historic features while adding modern conveniences for Amtrak passengers. Across the street from the station is CenturyLink Field, home of the NFL Seahawks®. Safeco Field, just to the south, is the home of baseball's Seattle Mariners®.

In 2013, Seattle ranked as the fourth most "connected" city in America--not surprising that it appears on that list since Microsoft® headquarters is in suburban Bellevue. As every coffee lover knows, Seattle is also the home of Starbucks®.

The Space Needle™, built for the 1962 Seattle World's Fair, is still a popular tourist spot and can be seen as our train departs the city. Minutes after leaving Seattle, we will pass Boeing Field on our right, where the Boeing Company® tests and delivers some of its aircraft. The original red brick plant, now the Museum of Flight®, is seen across the runway.

TACOMA (39 mi.) Located on Puget Sound's Commencement Bay, the city was founded in 1884 as the western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and accordingly was dubbed the "City of Destiny." Today it is more closely linked with another transportation mode--shipping. Tacoma's international seaport covers 2,400 acres and handles 1.7 million freight containers a year.

Tacoma comes from the Native American name for nearby Mount Rainier--Tahoma, Tacobet, Tacopid or Tacoma (depending upon the source).

The Tacoma Dome, seen near Union Station to the left of the train, is one of the largest wood-domed stadiums in the world and is used primarily as a convention and concert venue. After leaving the city, the *Coast Starlight*® follows Commencement Bay with the Olympic Mountains visible across the water.

OLYMPIA-LACEY (75 mi.) After crossing the Nisqually River our train arrives at the station that serves both Lacey and Washington's capital, Olympia. Olympia is located on the southernmost point of Puget Sound. In addition to the state capital, other Olympia attractions are the Hands On Children's Museum and the Olympic Flight Museum.

CENTRALIA (94 mi.) was founded in 1875 as Centerville by George Washington, the son of former slaves who went west to escape discrimination. The restored station served by the *Coast Starlight* was opened in 1912 by the Northern Pacific Railroad. Look left to see Mount St. Helens. Its spectacular 1980 eruption opened a huge volcanic crater in the mountain that lowered its summit and leveled or scorched just about everything in a 150-square-mile area. The mountain remains active and occasionally emits steam and ash into the sky.

Winlock (111 mi.) claims to be the "Egg Capital of the World." A huge egg on a giant stand to the right side of the train lets the world know.

We cross the [Toutle River \(126 mi.\)](#) where it flows into the [Cowlitz River](#). We'll follow the Cowlitz which will be on our right for the next 10 miles.

KELSO-LONGVIEW (137 mi.) is the self-proclaimed "Smelt Capital of the World." Every January and February thousands of the tiny silver fish swim up the Cowlitz River to spawn, although in diminishing numbers in recent years. From here to Vancouver, the train follows the Columbia River which until the War of 1812 was the border between the U.S. and Canada. The abundance of timber around Longview supports the city's largest employer, Weyerhaeuser Company®. Shortly after we leave the station we cross the Cowlitz River just above its confluence with the Columbia River to the right of our train.

VANCOUVER (177 mi.) The Hudson's Bay Company built Fort Vancouver in 1824 as a trading post making it the oldest continuous settlement in the Pacific Northwest. Locals refer to their city as "Vancouver USA" to distinguish it from the Canadian city of the same name. In 1956, Willie Nelson began his recording career in Vancouver with the song "Lumberjack."

Our train crosses arms of the [Columbia River \(178 mi.\)](#) and then the [Willamette River \(179 mi.\)](#), which it follows into Portland. As we enter Oregon, look left upriver for a view of Mount Hood, tallest of [Oregon's Cascades \(11,239 ft.\)](#).

Washington/Oregon State Line

The state line is crossed while crossing the Columbia River.

PORTLAND (187 mi.) The "City of Roses" is Oregon's largest and is known for its parks, fountains, gardens, breweries, jazz festivals and the century-old Portland Rose Festival that draws as many as 500,000 spectators. Portland is one of only four U.S. cities with an extinct volcano (Mount Tabor) within its borders. The city is considered one of the most eco-friendly, "green" cities in the world thanks to strong land-use planning and investment in both bicycling infrastructure (320 miles of trails and bike lanes) and public transit (52 miles of light rail routes). The city was the birthplace or childhood home of actors Sam Elliott and Sally Struthers, baseball stars Dale Murphy and Mickey Lolich, noble prize winning chemist Linus Pauling and one of the top party bands of all time, The Kingsmen.

Leaving Portland we cross the Willamette River and turn south, with Mount Hood again on the left. For the next 120 miles we'll follow the Willamette Valley with the Cascades on the left and the Coast Range on the right. The valley is home to 70 percent of Oregon's population, along with farms, wineries, timber and natural resources. Although we're headed south, we're running "against the current;" the Willamette is one of the few rivers in North America that runs south to north, up to Portland from its origin near Eugene.

[Oregon City \(202 mi.\)](#), a stop for the Amtrak *Cascades*® trains, was the first U.S. city incorporated west of the Rockies. Founded in 1842, it was the original capital of the Oregon Territory and the west end of the famous Oregon Trail. Note the waterfalls as we pass through the city. Huge paper mills are evidence of the state's lumber industry.

As the Starlight proceeds southward, Willamette Valley agriculture is in full view. Near [Canby \(210 mi.\)](#) daffodils and tulips bloom, and after passing through [Aurora \(214 mi.\)](#), we enter a region famous for its raspberries, blackberries and strawberries.

SALEM (239 mi.) is the state capital and the third largest city in Oregon. On the right side of our train, note on top of the capital building the gold plated statue of a man holding an ax. It is supposed to represent the spirit of the people who settled Oregon. The State Fair is held every August in Salem.

ALBANY (267 mi.) The next time you mow your lawn, think about your stop here on the *Coast Starlight*; Albany supplies 95 percent of the nation's grass seed. What began as a small but prosperous river town in 1845 is today a lumber and agricultural center and the rare metals capital of the world.

Three Sisters Mountains Just before arriving Eugene, the snow-capped peaks of the Three Sisters Mountains can be seen off in the distance to the left.

EUGENE-SPRINGFIELD (310 mi.) Named for founder Eugene Franklin Skinner who erected the first cabin in the area in 1846, Eugene is the second largest city in Oregon and is known as the "World's Greatest City of the Arts and Outdoors." Don't expect the *Coast Starlight*, or any other Amtrak® train, to take you further west than here--Eugene is the westernmost city in the Amtrak system. The Nike Corporation was born in Eugene before it ran off (in a pair of its famous running shoes?) to its current home outside of Portland. Notables from this area, known for its natural beauty and recreational opportunities, include actor David Ogden Stiers from TV's *M*A*S*H*, and Danny Ainge who played both major league baseball and NBA basketball.

Leaving Eugene, we pass the campus of the [University of Oregon and Springfield \(314 mi.\)](#) before starting our climb into the Cascades. In addition to seeing spectacular mountain scenery, we'll pass through 22 tunnels.

Westfir (351 mi.) The *Coast Starlight* crosses to the east bank of the Willamette River and continues climbing toward [Cascade Summit \(397 mi.\)](#). The train emerges from a tunnel and follows the bank of 2,000-foot-deep Odell Lake for about four miles.

CHEMULT (432 mi.) is the closest station to vibrant, blue Crater Lake, formed in the crater of an extinct volcano. This town of only a few hundred residents is known primarily for winter recreation, including an annual sled dog race. Summer visitors camp, hike, swim and hunt. Look to the right leaving for views of Mount Thielsen (9,182 ft.), Mount Scott (8,929 ft.) and Diamond Lake.

Upper Klamath Lake (487 mi.) For 18 miles we roll along the eastern shore of one of the largest freshwater lakes west of the Rockies until just before arriving in Klamath Falls. The lake is eight miles wide and 20 miles long, and will be on the right side of the train. The snow covered peak on the right is Mount McLoughlin (9,495 ft.).

KLAMATH FALLS (505 mi.) is the gateway to much of the Southern Oregon/Northern California region that offers a variety of outdoor recreation such as cross-country skiing, golfing, fishing, hunting and canoeing. Arriving Klamath Falls, note the sawmills on the left side of the train. The scent of freshly cut wood is often in the air. South of the city, we'll see the Klamath River and then head toward the largest mountain in the Cascades, Mount Shasta (14,162 ft.).

Oregon/California State Line (525 mi.)

We cross the state line 20 miles south of Klamath Falls.

DUNSMUIR (610 mi.) Between Klamath Falls and Dunsmuir, Mount Shasta, snow covered most of the year, dominates the scenery. Some of the most dramatic views are from the train on moonlit nights. After passing Grass Lake, the highest point (5,063 ft.) on the *Coast Starlight's* route, we descend, skirt the base of Mount Shasta, and enter the steep Sacramento River Canyon that we follow for the next 30 miles to Dunsmuir. This was formerly a classic railroad town that now can best be described as a quiet Alpine village.

REDDING (665 mi.) The Sacramento River winds its way through town, flowing from the densely forested and snow-capped mountains surrounding this beautiful city. Less than an hour's drive away, tourists enjoy lakes, waterfalls and historic gold rush ruins.

CHICO (739 mi.) is home to a California State University campus and 3,750-acre Bidwell Park, one of the largest municipal parks in the nation. The seal of the city carries the inscription "City of Roses." Chico has been dubbed America's Best Bike Town and has been on "best cities" lists from several national publications.

Roseville (807 mi.) The *Coast Starlight* joins the route of Amtrak's *Capitol Corridor*® and *California Zephyr*® at this railroad town. After rolling

through the station we pass the Union Pacific yard and locomotive shop.

SACRAMENTO (824 mi.) was first settled in 1839. The city grew significantly during the California Gold Rush, and in 1854 became California's capital. Sacramento was the western terminus for the Pony Express, and was the starting point for eastbound construction to meet the westbound track of the first transcontinental railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah, in 1869. Sacramento State University is located here. The city is home to the Sacramento Kings of the National Basketball Association, and the Sacramento River Cats, a farm club of the American League's Oakland Athletics and one of the most successful minor league baseball franchises.

Sacramento is at the confluence of the American River that we cross prior to arrival, and the Sacramento River that we cross after departing. We pass "Old Town" and the California State Railroad Museum on the left after departing.

DAVIS (837 mi.) The long, low trestle we cross marks the "Yolo Bypass," a flood plain meant to divert flood waters away from Sacramento. The 1913 adobe-style Davis station is an historic landmark. This city is home to UC Davis, the largest campus in the University of California system that in 2012 was ranked as the "greenest" college campus in the U.S. by the Sierra Club magazine. Rather than cars, 20,000 bicycles are the primary transportation mode to, from and around campus. Indeed the motto of the City of Davis is "Most Bicycle-Friendly Town in the World."

Suisun Bay (878 mi.) The "Mothball Fleet," consisting of World War II ships that have been stored for years, can be seen off to the left as our train crosses the Carquinez Strait Bridge. The large peak to the left is Mount Diablo (3,849 ft.).

MARTINEZ (881 mi.) From a trading post in 1849 to a flourishing town in 1876, Martinez became a hub for the gold and shipping industries. Although there are many competing claims, the town likes to claim the invention of the martini; a plaque commemorating the event is on a downtown corner. The most prominent Martinez native was Joe DiMaggio, a local legend with the Pacific Coast League San Francisco Seals before going on to baseball stardom with the New York Yankees™. (Younger readers of this route guide may recognize him better as pitchman for "Mr. Coffee®.") Martinez is the transfer point to the Amtrak *San Joaquin*®.

The train skirts the shore of San Pablo Bay and then the San Francisco Bay. The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) trains can be seen on the left as we go through **Richmond**. Passing through **Berkeley (906 mi.)**, the San Francisco skyline and Golden Gate Bridge can be seen to the right across the bay.

EMERYVILLE (908 mi.) is a small city of less than one-square mile located just north of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Major redevelopment in the 1980s and 1990s transformed this former industrial city into a mixed use urban center with retail, entertainment and business centers, as well as condominiums, parks and recreation trails. It's home to Pixar® Animation Studios and several biotech and software companies.

*[For those detrainning here for San Francisco, Amtrak Thruway bus connections that cross the Bay Bridge and serve several locations in the city, can be boarded at the far side of the station. **SAN FRANCISCO** is a popular international tourist destination, renowned for its steep hills, eclectic mix of Victorian and modern architecture and famous landmarks such as the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, Cable Cars, Coit Tower, Fisherman's Wharf and Chinatown.]*

Jack London Square and Village Just north of the Oakland station, we pass Jack London Square, named after the famous American writer and author of *The Call of the Wild*, *White Fang* and other stories of frontier days. The Square is popular with tourists and locals alike, with waterfront shops and restaurants.

OAKLAND (913 mi.) was founded in 1852 and sits along 19 miles of San Francisco Bay shoreline. Its container port is among the largest in the West. Like its better known neighbor across the Bay, Oakland is a city of hillside neighborhoods, including Old Oakland with its Victorian commercial architecture. The city also has a number of museums, gardens, performing arts theatres, and the symphony.

From Oakland to Los Angeles, our train will follow the same route as the old Spanish mission road, "El Camino Real." From 1769 to 1823, Franciscan Friar Junipero Serra founded a chain of 21 missions and four mission chapels along this road from San Diego to Sonoma. Each was built to be one day's horseback journey from the next. Serra himself has become known as the "Apostle of California."

Moffett Airfield (946 mi.) can be seen across the lower end of San Francisco Bay. Note the huge dirigible hangers dating from the 1930s when the field was the West Coast base for the Navy's "Lighter than Air" program.

Santa Clara (949 mi.) is an important high-tech industrial center and also the home of the Great America theme park that we see on the right.

SAN JOSE (954 mi.) Founded in 1777 as an agricultural settlement, San Jose in 1849 became the first state capital of the Republic of California. Today, it is known as the "capital" of Silicon Valley for its location within the booming technology industry. In addition to our train, this station is also served by the Amtrak *Capitol Corridor* route, and commuter trains to Peninsula cities and to Stockton.

Santa Clara Valley From San Jose to Gilroy we transition from hi-tech to agriculture as we enter the Santa Clara Valley. Leaving San Jose, Mount Hamilton (4,430 ft.) is visible on the left and the Santa Cruz Mountains are on the right as we proceed through the valley.

Gilroy (984 mi.) Garlic plants alongside the track mean we are passing through the "Garlic Capital of the World." The town hosts an annual garlic festival each August; the area also produces a considerable mushroom crop. Turning west we head through Chittenden Pass and cross the San Andreas Fault on a bridge near **Logan (994 mi.)**.

Castroville (1014 mi.) Having left the garlic and mushrooms behind, we now pass through the "Artichoke Capital of the World"; the bushy tops of the plants are now visible.

SALINAS (1021 mi.) was settled in the 1820s, and within a few decades agriculture had become the major industry. Known as "The Salad Bowl of the World," the Salinas Valley produces over 80 percent of the lettuce consumed in the United States. The climate is also good for the floral industry and for grape growing. And grapes mean local vineyards that offer wine tastings! The boyhood home of Pulitzer Prize winner John Steinbeck here has been preserved, and the National Steinbeck Center focuses on the writer's life and the area's history. Oldtown Salinas, the annual California Rodeo weekend in July, and museums focusing on such disparate interests as model railroading and medical history are other city attractions.

Salinas Valley We follow the Salinas River for the next 100 miles. The Diablo Range is on the left and the Santa Lucia Range on the right.

Soledad (1047 mi.) was built in 1791 as a mission town. It's now the home of Salinas Valley State Prison.

San Miguel (1110 mi.) Passing through this quaint town, we see Mission San Miguel Archangel, founded in 1771, and one of Father Serra's original missions along El Camino Real.

PASO ROBLES (1119 mi.) has been known since the 1800s for its hot thermal springs. It is one of the fastest-growing premium vineyard and winery regions in California. There are several wind farms in the area that take advantage of the west winds to generate electric power.

Closer to San Luis Obispo, we cross Cuesta Grade and descend over 1,000 ft. in 11 miles, passing through several tunnels while the train clings to the mountainside. As we wind around two horseshoe curves,



we can see our entire train wrap around on the left side, and at one point we can see below the 85-foot high Stenner Creek Trestle that our train will soon cross. The fortress-like structure on the right, after the second horseshoe curve, is the California Men's Colony, a state penitentiary.

SAN LUIS OBISPO (1157 mi.) was founded in 1772. After several fires in the thatched mission roofs, Spanish missionaries here developed the manufacturing technique for the distinctive red tiles that define mission architecture. The town was the last in the U.S. to have a gas lamp lighter on its payroll after electricity became the standard for street lighting. It was the first city in the world to ban smoking in all public areas in 1990. The word "motel" was coined here in 1925 when the Motel Inn was established. Nearby, in San Simeon, is the Hearst Castle.

Pismo Beach (1168 mi.) is known as the "Clam Capital of California." This popular resort town is famous for its beaches and sand dunes which we see through tall Eucalyptus trees. From here, the train begins its 104-mile seaside trek, hugging the California coastline. For many, the full view of the Pacific Ocean from here to Ventura is THE scenic highlight of their *Coast Starlight* trip.

Guadalupe (1183 mi.) We pass through the Amtrak *Pacific Surfliner* station and enter Vandenberg Air Force Base, the U.S. Air Force launch site for missiles and satellites. During the next half hour we will see a number of launch complexes. Soon, after passing the *Pacific Surfliner* Lompoc-Surf Beach station, on our left will be the launch complex and support buildings originally intended to be the home of the Space Shuttle. After traversing a trestle at Jalam Beach Park, we'll pass **Point Conception (1231 mi.)** with its still-active 1855 lighthouse visible to the right. The beaches below are popular with surfers, bathers and campers. The Santa Ynez Mountains are to the left.

Ellwood Oil Field (1264 mi.) A little-known piece of history exists beyond the grasshopper-like oil pumps. On February 23, 1942, Captain Nishino Kozo surfaced his Japanese submarine in the Santa Barbara Channel and fired 17 rounds from his 140mm deck gun toward the oil field, inflicting little damage. It was the first attack on the continental U.S. since the war of 1812.

SANTA BARBARA (1274 mi.) is a popular international tourism destination, known as "The American Riviera" due to its Mediterranean-like climate, spectacular beaches, culinary delights and nearby wineries. The city is home to three of California's 21 missions, including Mission Santa Barbara. Called "The Queen of the Missions," it is a prime example of the Spanish architecture found throughout the town. Since the early 20th century when the Flying A Studios were established in Santa Barbara during the silent film era, performing arts have found a home here. Today there is a summer music festival, the West Beach Music and Arts Festival, and the Santa Barbara International Film Festival. Surfing is also part of the culture here. The community was a leader in the environmental movement, and in 1970 held one of the nation's first Earth Day celebrations.

OXNARD (1310 mi.) takes its name from the four Oxnard brothers who in the late 1890s opened the Oxnard Sugar Beet Company starting

an economic boom that led to the town's founding in 1903. Beets were eventually replaced by aerospace and communications, and today Oxnard is both a suburban city and popular tourist destination. Among its attractions are beaches, the Channel Islands National Park, the annual California Strawberry Festival, and the training camp of football's Dallas Cowboys.

SIMI VALLEY (1341 mi.) After we leave the coast and head toward our next station, the Santa Susana Mountains are on the right and the Simi Hills are on our left. Simi Valley is the home of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

San Fernando Valley When the Spanish founded a mission here in 1797 they could have hardly imagined what "The Valley" would be today. The area is home to numerous companies, most of which are involved in motion pictures, recording or television production. Several motion pictures have taken inspiration from life here, including *Valley Girl*, *Encino Man* and *Boogie Nights*.

VAN NUYS (1358 mi.) The coming of an aqueduct to bring water made the area ripe for land speculators in the early 1910s. Issac Van Nuys bought some of the available ranch land, divided it into lots, and began selling "The town that started right." It took a while, but when General Motors opened up an auto assembly plant in 1945 (closed in 1992), Van Nuys and the whole Valley prospered. Although founded as a separate town in 1911, in 1915 Van Nuys voted to become part of Los Angeles. Beyond the station on a hill to the left is world-famous Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

BURBANK-BOB HOPE AIRPORT (1363 mi.) station is adjacent to the airport parking lot. If you're transferring to a flight, you can walk across the parking lot or take one of the parking lot shuttle buses to the airport terminal. Burbank is home to Walt Disney Studios®, the West Coast headquarters of NBC Television, and Warner Brothers Studios®. *The Tonight Show* with first Johnny Carson and then Jay Leno was taped here before a live audience until moving back to New York City in 2014 with Jimmy Fallon replacing Leno.

LOS ANGELES (1377 mi.) El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora de la Reina de Los Angeles, now simply "Los Angeles," was founded in 1781. Union Station, opened in 1939, is a fitting blend of Spanish and Art Deco styles, reflecting both the city's early heritage and its great film tradition. Across from the station is Olvera Street, a colorful historic district that marks the site of the original village. The city leads the world in producing popular entertainment, which forms the base of its international fame and global status. It is also home to people from more than 140 countries speaking over 200 different languages.

At Los Angeles, *Coast Starlight* passengers may transfer to *Pacific Surfliner* trains to San Diego, *Metrolink*® commuter trains, or the MTA subway or light rail trains to other parts of "The City of Angels." If you are detraining here, thank you for choosing the Amtrak *Coast Starlight* for your trip. If you are just beginning to travel northbound, enjoy the journey!

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