

east, set your watch forward an hour. If you're traveling west, set your watch back an hour.

Heflin Known as a former gold rush town, Heflin is home of Moore Business Forms. It's also the site of an old courthouse that legend says is haunted by the ghost of a man who was hung for a crime he didn't commit.

Mount Cheaha Look off in the distance on the left and you'll spot the highest point in Alabama, Mount Cheaha, elevation 2,407 feet.

ANNISTON As the train enters Anniston, the Lee Brass Company, one of the largest brass manufacturing firms in the world, is on the right. Look to the right as we leave Anniston and you'll notice a county jail, structural steel mills and manufacturing plants.

Anniston Army Depot For the next several minutes on your right, you'll see the Anniston Army Depot. Those are Sherman tanks standing guard over the complex and the silos beyond store electronic equipment. The Anniston Army Depot, which is actually in Bynum, is the largest military depot in the U.S.

Coosa River This river is popularly known as "Catfish Heaven." Moments later on the right are the bottomless clay pits, a source for brick making in the area.

Chulavista Mountain Tunnel What's a train trip without tunnels? Minutes before we approach Irondale, two bridges will carry us across the Cahaba River.

Irondale Almost ten minutes past Irondale is the I-59 overpass. Once the train has gone underneath, start looking on your right for the Sloss Furnace, a pig iron furnace from 1890 that's now a museum.

Vulcan Statue Don't miss the Vulcan Statue far off atop Red Mountain to your left. Made originally for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, it shines a red light if there has been a traffic fatality in Birmingham; a green light when there is no traffic fatality. Vulcan, the Roman god of fire and forges, is a monument to the ironworkers who have made Birmingham what it is.

BIRMINGHAM The largest city in Alabama, Birmingham is the hometown of the Southern steel industry and a long list of celebrities, including Willie Mays, Nat King Cole,

Alice Faye, Phil Harris, Hank Williams Jr. and Fannie Flagg. On the left, you can see Elmwood Cemetery, where famed football coach Bear Bryant is buried. Other attractions here include the Birmingham Zoo, the Birmingham Museum of Art and the Japanese Gardens. After Birmingham, you're entering the "Heart of Dixie."

University of Alabama As the train approaches downtown Tuscaloosa, you can see the playing fields of the University of Alabama's powerhouse football team, the "Crimson Tide."

TUSCALOOSA This city was named for a Choctaw Indian chief and for a time was the capital of Alabama. Here is where Governor George Wallace made his infamous stand in the doorway of the university and refused to admit African American students. Leaving town, the train passes under I-20 and I-59 before passing the Tamko plant.

Moundville This is the site of Mound State Monument on the right, a group of 20 Indian mounds. Native Americans who inhabited the region constructed these nearly 900 years ago. Here a reconstructed Indian Temple and village provide some insight into their customs and way of life.

Black Warrior River The drawbridge here takes the *Crescent* over the still waters of this river.

Eutaw The site of prime cotton land, plantations flourished in Eutaw before the Civil War. Located nearby in the heart of Greene County is the Greenetrack, a favorite arena on the greyhound racing circuit.

Tombigbee River Now you're crossing the Tombigbee River, part of the Tenn-Tom project completed in 1985 to link the Tennessee, Ohio, Illinois and upper Mississippi Rivers with the Gulf of Mexico using the Black Warrior River.

Livingston This city is named for Robert Livingston, the special envoy to France who helped negotiate the sale of the Louisiana Territory to the U.S. in 1803. Just past **York** is the Mississippi state line.

MERIDIAN This is a major railroad junction point. In 1897, the father of country music (and the first person to be registered in the Country Music Hall of Fame) was born here, Jimmie Rodgers, hence the local Jimmie Rodgers Museum and

the annual Jimmie Rodgers Music Festival. Meridian is also home of the National Fish Hatchery and Aquarium on the left.

Key Airfield On the right is Key Airfield, which accommodates both sleek private aircraft and the huge military planes of the Mississippi Air National Guard.

LAUREL This is the birthplace of Metropolitan Opera star Leontyne Price, whose talents were encouraged by the benevolent physician's family who employed her mother. An agricultural and trade center, this quiet town has earned a national reputation for its fine collections housed at the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art. Get ready now to pass through swamp country. In almost half an hour, you'll cross Leaf River. Then you'll approach the Hattiesburg Station, where the old number 300 steam engine stands on display on the left.

HATTIESBURG This important lumber center has two nicknames: the "Hub City" and the "Gateway to the Gulf South." Here's where you'll find both the University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey College, well known for its excellent School of Music. From here, the *Crescent* will cut through the 500,000-acre DeSoto National Forest.

Poplarville A local research center here works to improve the cultivation of blueberries, which area natives call huckleberries.

PICAYUNE The landscape grows more dense and subtropical here. In approximately 15 minutes, you'll approach the border between Mississippi and Louisiana at the Pearl River, which empties into Lake Borgne to form the eastern border of New Orleans.

SLIDELL Look carefully at the ground here, especially in spring and summer, and you may see the mud cones created by burrowing crayfish. This side of New Orleans is called the "Ozone Belt" because the air is believed to be so healthful. Right after leaving Slidell, at North Shore, you begin the breathtaking 6.2-mile causeway that crosses a narrow portion of Lake Pontchartrain, the largest body of fresh water in Louisiana with an area of 630 square miles. The causeway was built in 1886, and once you're on it, no land or supports can be seen on either side.

The fishing shanties on stilts beside the lake are known as Fishing Village.

Becoming visible on the left is the New Orleans skyline. On your left, you'll pass a portion of the Louisiana State University Dental School and the curious-looking Greenwood and Metairie Cemeteries, where gravesites are stacked above ground because of the city's high water table. In fact, New Orleans is actually below sea level!

NEW ORLEANS As you pull into New Orleans, the city's restaurants and jazz clubs are just warming up. Look to the left and you'll see that the station is located next to the massive Louisiana Superdome activities center. New Orleans Mayor Sidney J. Barthelemy once described the city this way: "New Orleans is America's cultural treasure chest... a city of distinctive cuisine, foot-stomping jazz, elegant architecture and the most hospitable people in the world." The French Quarter has hidden vistas in patios lined with lovely foliage. Board the historic St. Charles Streetcar for a trip from Canal Street through the Garden District. Or take a cruise on one of the grand paddle-wheelers that travel the Mississippi River, just as they did in the days of Mark Twain. And by all means, spend time at Riverwalk, the shopping area on the revitalized wharf. "Now that you have come, enjoy – and take a little piece of our heart with you, wherever you go."

THE TRAIN STAFF

The staff of the *Crescent* is here to make your trip a special and unique experience.

Conductor is responsible for the entire On-Board Services staff as well as ticket collection, the safety of passengers and the safe operation of the train.

Dining Car Steward is responsible for the operation of the Dining Car and Dining Car staff.

Lounge Car Attendant is responsible for the operation of the Cafe/Lounge Car.

Sleeping Car Attendant is responsible for providing all services for passengers ticketed in Sleeping Car accommodations including room preparation, luggage service and any assistance necessary to ensure a comfortable journey.

Train Attendant is responsible for providing service for passengers ticketed in coach. This includes seat assignment, pillow service, luggage service and any assistance to ensure a comfortable journey.

ACCOMMODATIONS

ViewlinerSM Service Sleeping Car accommodations provide 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 consult with the conductor regarding available rooms. Amtrak ClubAcela[®] is available in the New York, Philadelphia and Washington stations and a private waiting area is available in New Orleans for First Class Service passengers.

Coach seating provides a wide reclining seat with foot and leg rests. Free pillow service is also available.

Dining Car service provides a range of full meal options for breakfast, lunch and dinner and a great staff that will make dining on the *Crescent* a memorable experience. An Amtrak server will take your order and recommend a wine to accompany your meal.

Lounge/Cafe Car Sandwiches, snacks and beverages are available in the Lounge/Cafe Car. This car provides the perfect atmosphere for enjoying the company of your family or fellow passengers.

WELCOME ABOARD

Information contained in this route guide as well as described amenities and other on-board features are subject to change without notice. Tipping is certainly not required, but it is a much appreciated way to let employees know they have made your trip more enjoyable.

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Smoking is prohibited entirely on this train. Passengers may smoke on the station platforms as announced by train crews and must remain next to the train, ready to reboard immediately upon hearing the sound of the locomotive horn and verbal "All Aboard" calls.



ROUTE GUIDE

New York ★ Philadelphia

Washington, DC ★ Atlanta ★ New Orleans



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