

on the Teche. Nearby is Avery Island, a salt dome formation, which is no longer surrounded by water. Home of Tabasco Sauce, Avery Island is also home to hundreds of egrets, ibises, herons, ducks and geese that nest in the 200-acre bird sanctuary by Edward McIlhenny, Tabasco's founder.

Just east of the station, on the right, is a classic example of a Louisiana "City of the Dead," the unique, above-ground cemeteries made necessary by the high water table.

SCHRIEVER This city is home of numerous offshore drilling-related businesses. Bayou Blue is just east of Schriever. After we cross the Bayou, the landscape becomes increasingly wet as we near the Mississippi. The word bayou is from the Choctaw word "bayuk." It is used to describe a slow-moving body of water. We cross the Mississippi River on the massive Huey P. Long Bridge, built in 1947, which replaced the ferry that had previously carried railroad cars across the river.

Huey P. Long Bridge This 4.4-mile bridge was named for the colorful senator and governor, "The Kingfisher," who controlled Louisiana in the early 1930s.

NEW ORLEANS A thriving Gulf and river port, New Orleans preserves the flavor of the Old South, with a distinctly French accent. It is famed for its filigree wrought iron balconied Vieux Carre (French Quarter) and festive Mardi Gras celebrations that herald the beginning of Lent. After leaving New Orleans, the train runs parallel to the Gulf of Mexico across Southern Mississippi.

BAY ST. LOUIS Here is a view of the beautiful bay from the only bluff on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Seagulls, pelicans and the Great Blue Heron can be seen feeding on the bay's bounty.

GULFPORT This is Mississippi's largest seaport and the center point to the state's beaches.

BILOXI Prior to being relocated to New Orleans in 1772, Biloxi was the original capital of Louisiana. Presently, it is home to

casinos and an active commercial fishing industry.

The *Sunset Limited* also passes the home of Barq's Root Beer, a famous Southern brand originally bottled here.

PASCAGOULA One of Mississippi's most industrial towns, Pascagoula is an international deep-water port, which provides an ideal base for foreign trade, shipbuilding and is home to Naval Station Pascagoula.

MOBILE Known as "The Azalea Capital of the World," Mobile is a mixture of a modern city, industrial activity and historic Southern mansions.

Mobile Bay, to your right, was the site of the fiercest naval battle of the Civil War. It was during this battle that Union naval officer David Farragut issued his classic command, "Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead!" The *USS Alabama*, now a museum, is in Mobile Bay.

ATMORE The Native American Poarch Creek Indians, an original segment of the Creek Nation, have had an established community here for nearly 150 years.

PENSACOLA This city was originally established in 1559 by Spanish conquistador Don Tristan De Luna. Just two years after he established a colony of over 1,000 people, De Luna abandoned it. It was over 139 years later before Pensacola would become a settlement for the second time.

CRESTVIEW This is home to Eglin Air Force Base, the largest military air base in the world. Crestview is located along a section of the "Old Spanish Trail," a historical trade route.

CHIPLEY Founded in 1882, Chipley's development began with the construction of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, completed between Tallahassee and Pensacola in 1883. Originally called Orange, it was one of the largest naval store centers in the South.

TALLAHASSEE Florida's capital city touts one of the world's deepest fresh water springs, Wakulla Springs, where alligators can be found swimming in local lakes and rivers.

MADISON Founded in 1838 by cotton planters, the world's largest long staple cotton gin was located here before the boll weevil arrived in 1916, wiping out the cotton industry. The "cotton years" memories are preserved in a small park near the station, where a patch of cotton grows.

LAKE CITY Once named Alligator, after a Seminole Indian Chief, Lake City is now home to the Florida Sports Hall of Fame.

JACKSONVILLE "The Gateway to Florida" and the closest point on the *Sunset Limited's* route to the Atlantic Ocean, is home of the first building built using skyscraper technology, the six-story Dyal Upchurch Building, constructed in 1901.

PALATKA Originally established as a military post in 1837, Palatka is an Indian name meaning, "forbidden place."

Pierson Known as the "Fern Capital of the World," Pierson grows much of the nation's commercial crop. The black tents protect the plants from frostbite and sunstroke.

DELAND This is home of Stetson University, Florida's oldest university, named for the famous hat maker. It is the gateway to Daytona Beach, famed for NASCAR® racing, Daytona International Speedway, Bike Week and driving on the beach.

SANFORD Host of the Golden Age Games each year, Sanford is also the Southern terminus for Amtrak's Auto Train® service.

WINTER PARK Across from the station is the Winter Park Commons, nestled between the tracks and the colorful boutiques of Park Avenue. Hundreds gather in the park every spring for the annual Winter Park Arts Festival, the oldest and largest outdoor art show in the country. Winter Park was founded by a man named Loring Chase who came to Central Florida with bronchitis. After seeing Winter Park, Chase had a vision that it would grow into a town with beautiful lakes, shady trees, winding trails and a train station for visitors.

ORLANDO A cattle and citrus farming community until the 1960s, Walt Disney bought up much of the farmland to build Walt Disney

World® Resort here. The Amtrak® station is just minutes from all the magic of Universal Studios®, Kennedy Space Center®, Walt Disney World Resort®, Sea World®, other attractions and miles of sea and sand on nearby beaches.

The name Orlando was officially recognized in 1857 by the U.S. Post Office, but nobody knows for sure how Orlando got its name. Local folklore, however, says Orlando was named after a man who was attacked and killed by Native Americans. He is rumored to be buried near Lake Eola, where a piece of wood was found with his name scratched on it. His last name, only partially legible, read "Orlando R...s." Although many say his name might have been Reeves, it was probably Rees.

Orlando is also the gateway to other Southern Florida cities such as Tampa and Miami, serviced by connecting Amtrak trains and Amtrak Thruway Motorcoach service.

SCENIC PHOTO TIPS

The "camera" symbol on your Route Guide Map marks the best spots, so have your camera ready.

Outside shots: Medium speed films (ISO 200 or higher) are recommended for shooting scenery through the train windows. If your shutter speed is adjustable and light conditions permit, set it at a higher speed (1/125 or 1/250 sec.) for the clearest results. Hold your lens close to the window to eliminate glare and reflections.

Inside Shots: Flash is recommended. To avoid glare and reflections, do not point the flash directly at the windows.

HOST RAILROADS

are the freight and commuter railroads that Amtrak contracts with to operate Amtrak passenger trains. Los Angeles-Lake Charles — Union Pacific (UP); Lake Charles-New Orleans — Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF); New Orleans-Orlando —CSX.

From desert sunsets to haunting bayous and swamps, a journey through yesterday and today.

WELCOME ABOARD

On board, you will experience the comfort and relaxation of train travel while witnessing some spectacular scenery. From the mountains and deserts of the great Southwest to the bayous and fertile lands of the South, the *Sunset Limited*™ offers one of the most varied routes in the Amtrak system. We are happy to have you aboard today 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 call upon any train employee.

THE TRAIN STAFF

The staff of the *Sunset Limited* 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

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.

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

Dining Car service offers a wide range of complete meals prepared on board. Spectacular scenery and a great staff make dining on the *Sunset Limited* a memorable experience. The Dining Car Steward will make announcements throughout the trip regarding service hours.

Sightseer Lounge/Cafe Car is the perfect car for scenic viewing and lighter fare. Large panoramic windows provide the perfect atmosphere for viewing and making new friends. The Cafe is located on the lower level of this car.

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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AMTRAK® SMOKING POLICY

Smoking is prohibited entirely on the *Sunset Limited*. 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

Los Angeles ★ Tucson ★ San Antonio

Houston ★ New Orleans ★ Orlando



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SUNSET LIMITEDSM

The *Sunset Limited*SM is North America's only transcontinental train. If you're traveling all the way from Los Angeles to Orlando, you'll pass within just a few miles of both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

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. Charles Crocker, Mark Hopkins, Collis P. Huntington and Leland Stanford, all of whom were involved in creating the first transcontinental railroad, achieved a second transcontinental rail link in 1883 with the completion of the route you're now traveling between Los Angeles and New Orleans. East of New Orleans, the *Sunset Limited*SM follows the route of the Louisville & Nashville and Seaboard Railroad's *Gulf Wind* to Jacksonville, and then heads southwest across Central Florida to Orlando, its final destination. The *Sunset Limited* is the oldest continuously operated named train in America, dating back to 1894. The *Sunset Limited* originally ran between San Francisco and New Orleans. Passengers on early trains could continue from New Orleans to New York by sea, with connecting passenger steamers owned by Southern Pacific.

Nearly a century later, the *Sunset Limited* still provides a unique view of the South and Southwest.

This guide is written from west to east. 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.

LOS ANGELES The sprawling metropolis of Los Angeles began in 1781 as El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora de los Angeles. This urban mecca was founded 12 years after Fra Junipero Serra set out in 1769 to establish a chain of missions stretching up the coast of California. The Los Angeles Union Station sits astride the route connecting the missions – El Camino Real, the “Royal Road” – and is known as

the “Last of the Great Stations” to be built in the U.S. The Spanish Mission/Art Deco-style building was built in 1939 by the Santa Fe, Union Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads, and reflects both Los Angeles's earliest heritage and the great film tradition that enabled the area to transform into the mega-city we see today. Across the street from the station

is the historical park of Olvera Street, lined with brightly colored Mexican shops and old buildings, which marks the oldest section of Los Angeles.

As we leave the station, we cross the Los Angeles River, a usually dry, concrete-lined channel recognizable from a multitude of movies and TV shows. Dominant above the L.A. skyline is City Hall, and on the hill to the left is Dodger Stadium. The cluster of buildings to the left of the stadium consists of The Los Angeles County Hospital.

California State University at Los Angeles The university is visible on the left. Next, our train travels up the center strip of the San Bernardino Freeway (Interstate 10).

El Monte Leaving the freeway at Temple City, we cross the Rio Hondo (also concrete lined) and pass El Monte Airport on the left. El Monte is named for Mount Wilson, rising 5,700 ft. high to the north. East of El Monte, we cross the usually dry San Gabriel River.

POMONA Named in 1875 for the

Roman goddess of fruit, the name is just as apt today, with the important agricultural department at California State Polytechnic University to your left.

ONTARIO This is home of the 1.7-million-square-foot Ontario Mills Mall, Southern California's largest outlet shopping mall and entertainment center. Ontario was one of the nation's first totally “smart” communities with common fiber telecommunications networks as part of the supporting infrastructure.

PALM SPRINGS Joshua Tree National Park, where the Mojave and Colorado deserts join, is located nearby. As the proclaimed “Jewel among Desert Cities,”

before Europeans arrived. The sand dunes west of Yuma are probably the most photographed in the world. Today, the city is a popular winter resort with fishing and boating on the Colorado River. The river serves as the border between Arizona and California.

MARICOPA This is the stop for those who are traveling to Phoenix/Tempe/Scottsdale. The Maricopa station is actually a classic dome-observation passenger car, named *Silver Horizon*, which operated on the pre-Amtrak *California Zephyr* between Chicago and Oakland/San Francisco. Maricopa is the home of The Koli Center – “an adventure back in time” – offering equestrian activities and discussions about the spiritual culture of the Maricopa and Pima Indians.

TUCSON One of the oldest towns in the U.S., it is said to have been continuously settled since 1000 B.C. It was established in 1776 as a Spanish supply station for nearby Mission San Xavier del Bac. It is built on the banks of the Santa Cruz River, subterranean

the city honors its pioneers, benefactors and celebrities who have contributed to the growth and charisma of the town with the growing “Walk of Stars” on Palm Canyon Drive. The city also features great golf and an Aerial Tramway from desert floor to mountaintop.

Note: The time change occurs here during the winter. When eastbound from October to April, set your watch ahead one hour before arriving. When westbound, set your watch back one hour as you depart. The train follows the Gila River, which forms the northern boundary of the Gadsden Purchase.

During the night, the train crosses the Colorado River just west of Yuma, at the border between California and Arizona.

YUMA This city is named for the Yuma Indians who inhabited the area

except in the rainy season. Tucson is located in a broad valley, surrounded by mountains; the Santa Catalinas on the north, the Rincons on the east, Santa Ritas on the south and the Tucsons on the west. Tucson features breathtaking desert landscapes, and its pleasant climate makes it a perfect spot for Major

League Baseball Spring Training. As we leave the station, the University of Arizona is on the left.

Davis Monthan Air Force Base Along the eastern edge of the base is a vast aircraft “bone yard” where the dry desert climate helps preserve hundreds of stored military planes, such as B-52 bombers. Near the tracks, the Pima Air Museum displays historic aircraft, from World War II bombers to Constellation airliners.

BENSON This was 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, 25 miles to the south, and the site of the “Gunfight at the OK Corral.” The first explorer of this region, in 1539, was the Moroccan, Esteban, the first non-native to set foot in what is now the United States. Glimpsing the sun gleaming on the straw roofs of distant Zuni pueblos, Esteban mistakenly reported them to Coronado as cities of gold, setting off Coronado's lengthy search for the “Seven Cities of Cibola,” an expedition responsible for the introduction of the horse to the Southwest. East of Benson, we cross the San Pedro River.

Dragoon The Dragoon Mountains, visible on the right, were once the base for the Apache Chief Cochise, who led the Chiricahua band against the U.S. Cavalry in the Southwest Indian Wars from 1861 to 1872, when Arizona lands were finally granted to the Apache people.

Note: Arizona/New Mexico State

Line. Set your watch forward if you are traveling eastward between April and October (back one hour if traveling westward).

We now pass through the Peloncillo Mountains, an important region for mining copper, silver and gold.

LORDSBURG Nestled between

the Burro Mountains and the Pyramid Mountains to the south, Lordsburg is an important trade center for Southwest New Mexico.

Continental Divide Halfway between Lordsburg and Deming, we cross the Divide at an elevation of 4,587 feet – 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.

DEMING The world's only duck races are held here each August. At the crest of the Cookes and Florida Mountain Ranges, this is the stop for the resort areas to the north around Silver City. South of town is Rock Hound State Park, famed for its rock formations.

Florida Mountains These loom close to the tracks on the right. Beyond them are the Three Sisters. Cooke's Peak, 8,408 ft., can be seen on the left. Also look for “Window Peak,” a hole through a ridge in the Floridas at 7,300 ft.

The barren lands between here and El Paso were visited by Pancho Villa and his band in 1916, attacking the border town of Columbus.

The flat top mountain close to the train on the right is an extinct volcano. Ancient lava flows extend nearly to trackside. Rattlesnakes thrive here on the warmth of the lava beds. North of this area was the site of the infamous Lincoln County Wars, which culminated with the killing of

Billy the Kid by Pat Garrett at Mesilla. **U.S./Mexico Border** A white post, 30 feet from the tracks on the right, marks our closest approach to the border.

Rio Grande River As we cross the river, we leave New Mexico, the “Land of Enchantment,” and enter Texas, the “Lone Star State.” To our right, the

crucifixion-topped peak of Sierra de Cristo Rey marks the meeting of Texas, New Mexico and Mexico. The 33.5-ft. statue, which stands on a 9-ft. base atop the 4,576-ft. mountain, is also called “The Christ of the Rockies.” Each October, thousands of pilgrims climb four miles to the summit in celebration of the “Feast of Cristo Rey” (Christ the King).

EL PASO Surrounded by the Franklin Mountains, El Paso is named for the ancient pass created here by the Rio Grande, “El Paso del Rio del Norte.” The handsomely restored railroad station was built in 1904-5. It was designed by the Chicago firm of Daniel H. Burnham, which also designed Washington's Union Station. The El Paso station is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. As you travel from El Paso to Houston, you'll understand why the old phrase of Texas travelers was, “Sun is riz, sun is set, here we are in Texas yet!”

Ysleta This is the site of the oldest surviving identifiable Native Americans in Texas, the Tigua Indians of Ysleta del sur Pueblo. The second-oldest continuously used church in the United States (1682) is also here.

Sierra Blanca Here you'll find the home of the only adobe courthouse still in use in Texas. The 6,970-ft. Sierra Blanca Peak, to the northwest, appears lighter than the

surrounding mountains because of its soapstone content.

Note: Time Zone Change. Near Van Horn (visible in the distance on our left) set your watch ahead one hour (westbound, set watches back).

Marfa The Presidio Courthouse, built of native stone in 1886, is

the domed building on the left. Just west of town on the right are adobe walls surrounding a former camp for World War II German POWs.

ALPINE Founded as a railroad stop in 1887, the town is proud of its ranching heritage. Alpine is a popular stop for tourists heading to Big Bend National Park, 80 miles to the south.

Warwick Flat The great Comanche War Trail, which stretched 1,000 miles from Chihuahua to upper Texas, is crossed here. Pronghorn antelope and mule deer are both plentiful in this area. Watch also for javalina (wild pigs) and the long-eared jackrabbit.

SANDERSON This town is known as the official “Cactus Capital of Texas.” West of the station, the brick ruins of the Sanderson Wool Commission reflect the area's long association with sheep ranching. Early cattle and sheep men, carousing in the town's saloons, gave it a “wild and wooly” reputation.

Langtry This was the headquarters of the legendary “Judge” Roy Bean. A trader and saloon keeper, Bean also dispensed frontier justice as the self-styled “Law West of the Pecos.” Bean named his saloon and town after the love of his life, Lily Langtry, a British actress that he never met.

On the eastern edge of town, gargoyle-like rock formations protrude from the narrow walls of Eagle Rock Canyon.

DEL RIO “Queen City of the Rio Grande,” Del Rio is also called the “Wool and Mohair Capital of the World.” Val Verde Winery, the oldest licensed winery in Texas, is here. And on the bluffs across the Rio Grande is Ciudad Acuna, in the state of Coahuila, Mexico.

East of Del Rio, we cross irrigated flatlands, then leave the Rio Grande

Valley to climb through the Anacacho Mountains.

SAN ANTONIO Known as the “Mission City,” San Antonio is America's ninth largest city. Franciscan missionaries built their first mission here in 1718, eventually adding four others to ring the city. The most famous is San Antonio de Valero, more widely known as the Alamo.

San Antonio's Spanish/Mexican heritage is evident everywhere, most charmingly along the Paseo del Rio, the beautifully restored, arcade-lined walk beside the San Antonio River – San Antonio's world-famous Riverwalk. Nearby, La Villita is the oldest, most thoroughly Spanish part of the city, while King William district preserves the 19th century Victorian homes of prosperous German settlers. Prominent on the downtown skyline is the 750-ft. tower of the Americas, built for the 1968 Hemis Fair.

Here, through cars transfer between the *Sunset Limited* and Amtrak's *Texas Eagle* to and from Dallas, St. Louis and Chicago.

HOUSTON The Amtrak station is near Buffalo Bayou, headwaters of the 50-mile ship channel connecting Houston with the Gulf port of Galveston. To our right, the modern glass towers of downtown include the nearly touching, twin chisel-shaped black towers of the Pennzoil Building and the brown,

many-spired Allied Bank building.

BEAUMONT On the Neches River was the site of the famous Spindletop Oil Field. Here, in 1901, the Lucas Gusher, pumping 75,000 barrels a day, ushered in a new era. Beaumont is also a major port and agricultural center.

Orange We cross the Sabine

River between Texas and Louisiana. Cypress swamps dominate the scenery, and alligators can sometimes be seen out sunning themselves.

LAKE CHARLES Just 16 feet above sea level, Lake Charles is both a deep-water port and the industrial center of Southwestern Louisiana. Sulfur, oil, cement and chemicals are just a few of the products produced and shipped from here. The high water table makes the area perfect for growing rice. The region was settled by the French Arcadians, exiled from Nova Scotia by the British in the 1700s. Their descendants, the Cajuns, give the region a unique culture.

Watch for cages submerged in flooded fallow rice paddies. These are crayfish farms, producing a favorite ingredient of Cajun and Creole cooking.

LAFAYETTE The “Capital of Acadiana,” this fast-growing city was named for the Marquis de Lafayette, who played a role in the American Revolutionary War. Each fall, the “Festival Acadians” salutes Acadian culture with Cajun music, food and crafts.

NEW IBERIA 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

