



Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Announces 2017 Dates and Special Runs

*Steam Whistles to Echo Over the Rockies Once Again on May 27, 2017
Opening the 47th Season of America's Highest & Longest Steam Railroad*

CHAMA, NM and ANTONITO, CO, March 24, 2017...The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, the highest, longest and most authentic steam railroad in America, will begin its 47th season on May 27, 2017 with trains departing daily from both Antonito, Colorado and Chama, New Mexico through October 22, 2017.

Opening day on May 27 will offer the added thrill of two special double-headed trains. Locomotives 315 and 463 will pull the opening day train from Antonito to Chama, while two K-36 locomotives will pull the first train from Chama. There will be three steaming locomotives together at the Osier lunch stop. For the first time ever, there will also be a special Opening Day Osier Dinner Train featuring a prime rib dinner, a John Denver tribute concert by Chris Collins, and sunset on Toltec Gorge.

The Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad is owned jointly by the states of Colorado and New Mexico and is considered to be a "Williamsburg on wheels," a rare National Historic Landmark that moves, re-creating the thrill of traveling by steam railroad through some of the most spectacular scenery in the Rocky Mountain West. The train follows 64-miles of tracks that cross the borders of Colorado and New Mexico 11 times, skirting along canyon walls through Toltec Gorge, burrowing through two tunnels, steaming over Cascade Trestle, 137-feet above a roaring river, and climbing to the top of 10,015-foot Cumbres Pass, the highest point reached by any steam railroad in North America.

Originally built in 1880, the train was traveled by Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and every outlaw and gunman in the Old West. Indiana Jones grew up next to the railroad, and frequently hopped a ride on circus trains. At least, he did that in the movie *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. The house in Antonito that stood in for Indiana Jones' boyhood home is now a B&B and you can stay in Indy's house before riding the train.

The railroad strives to create an authentic 1880 railroad experience. Passengers may walk through the train, ride in the open air gondola, open windows, or ride on the open air platforms between passenger cars. The train travels at a top speed of 12 mph through deep forests of aspens and pines, on high plains, past meadows of wildflowers, and through a rocky gorge of unusual geologic formations. Deer, antelope, elk, foxes and eagles are

frequently spotted, and passengers have even seen bears. There are restrooms on every train, and each train has a bar car. All trains stop for a delicious hot lunch of turkey or meatloaf and a buffet salad at the midway point, which is the scenic station of Osier.

Convenient Schedules Offer a Wide Variety of Choices

At first glance, the train schedules can look confusing, but they are really quite simple and designed to offer passengers a wide variety of selections to pick the most convenient option. Trains depart daily from both Antonito, CO and Chama, NM. Passengers can board at either station. They can then ride the train the full 64-mile trip in one direction and return to their car by a scenic 40-minute ride on a luxury motorcoach. Or, passengers preferring an “all train” trip can board at either Antonito or Chama, ride to the halfway point at Osier, enjoy lunch, and return to their car by train traveling over the same tracks they rode in the morning.

For early birds who want to ride the entire 64-mile route, it's even possible to park your car in Antonito or Chama, ride the motorcoach to the other station in the morning, and then return to your car by train in the afternoon. Motorcoach rides and lunches are included in all full day ticket prices, which start at \$95.75 for adults.

For those with less time, there are also half-day trips. And then there are special dinner trains, sunset trains, concert trains and a special July 4th train that includes fireworks. For details and pricing, go to: www.cumbrestoltec.com or call 1-888-286-2737.

Railroad Specials

Just some of the special trains to be offered in 2017:

Opening Day Osier Dinner Train: For this first time ever, you can celebrate Opening Day with a Dinner Train, offering a prime rib dinner, a John Denver tribute concert by Chris Collins at Osier Station and the sunset over Toltec Gorge. May 27, 2017.

Father's Day Special: June 18, 2017. Dads ride free on regularly departing trains with one other ticket purchased at full adult price. Reservations are strongly encouraged.

Geology Train: Join distinguished geologists who will point out the incredible overviews of the Rio Grande Rift, the eruptive evidence of the San Juan Volcanic field, the Precambrian core of the Tusas Mountains, recent glacial deposits, and more. The special train will stop at many outcrops and rail cuts along the right of way, to mingle, marvel and collect photographs, samples and experiences only accessible on the train route. Reservations a must. Note that although the Geology Train departs on Father's Day, June 18, 2017, the Father's Day pricing for regular trains does not apply.

July 4th Train: Decorated with patriotic bunting, this special train includes dinner and travel by train to the ultimate viewing spot for the largest fireworks display in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico.

Wildflower and Botany Special: Trained botanists will be aboard special trains to provide insights about the flowers, ecology and spectacular geologic formations through which the trains pass. Date TBD.

Sunset Dinner Trains: Listen to live music, enjoy a Rocky Mountain sunset by rail, and a delicious dinner at the top of Cumbres Pass on select Saturdays during the season. July 22, August 12, September 16, October 14, 2017.

Osier Moonlight Train from Antonito: Enjoy sunset over Toltec Gorge, a prime rib dinner at Osier Station, Western music from Cowboys and Cattle Drives with Syd Masters and the beauty of the full moon on this special ride. October 7, 2017.

Cumbres Express: For those on a tight schedule, there is a two hour train and motorcoach ride offered Sun, Wed. and Thurs., from July 7-Aug. 11, leaving from Chama only.

WHERE TO STAY: Both Chama and Antonito have hotels and bed & breakfasts. The city of Alamosa, Colorado, home to Adams State University, is 30 minutes by car from the Antonito Station.

The resort town of Taos, New Mexico is one hour by car from the Antonito Station. The delightful resort area of Pagosa Springs, Colorado is just 45 minutes from the Chama Station.

Many other specials will be offered throughout the year. For complete information, visit: www.cumbrestoltec.com or call 1-888-286-2737.

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USA Today readers voted Cumbres & Toltec the Best Scenic Train Ride in America. Climb aboard this National Historic Landmark for a 64 mile day trip you'll never forget. Our coal-fired steam engine will carry you through steep mountain canyons, high desert, and lush meadows as you zigzag between the Colorado and New Mexico border. Ride in our deluxe parlor car or budget-friendly coach car. A delicious buffet lunch is included. Trains depart daily from Chama, NM and Antonito, CO, May through October. Visit cumbrestoltec.com for more information and schedules. Life is short. Ride long.

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