

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contacts:**  
Traci Rockefeller Cusack  
916-213-4373 or  
Kathy Daigle 916-445-0945

## All Aboard... *The Polar Express™ Train Ride* Tickets Go On Sale October 1st

***California State Railroad Museum Adds First Class Seating Aboard the El Dorado***

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – Christmas in October?! Not exactly. But tickets for the extremely popular *The Polar Express™ Train Ride* go on sale to the public beginning on Thursday, October 1, 2009. With limited seating and based on the popularity of the event over the course of the last two years, tickets are expected to sell out very fast. Then, for 12 magical days in December, the California State Railroad Museum will delight passengers who take the memorable one-hour journey to an imaginary North Pole. Tickets for *The Polar Express™ Train Ride* will be available for the following dates: December 3-6, December 10-13 and December 17-20. Four train rides are available each day departing promptly at 3:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. And, new this year, first-class tickets aboard the *El Dorado* -- a beautifully restored 1920s lounge-observation car with large picture windows and plush seating -- will be available for an additional cost.

Utilizing a full-sized steam train decked out to reflect Christmas magic, the staff at the California State Railroad Museum goes to great lengths to re-create the holiday experience depicted in the classic children's book of the same name by Chris Van Allsburg. Complete with keepsake golden tickets, hot cocoa, festive holiday cookies, Santa Claus sightings and even the coveted silver bells (that signify those who still believe in Santa Claus), the excursion starts at the Central Pacific Passenger Station in Old Sacramento and continues on a short journey sure to capture the holiday spirit. In addition, photographs with Santa Claus will be available in the Passenger Station either before or after the special train ride. Visitors who ride aboard *The Polar Express™ Train Ride* will also receive free admission to the California State Railroad Museum good that same day or any day the museum is open prior to January 1, 2010.

Ticket prices for *The Polar Express™ Train Ride* are as follows: \$24 for adults 18 years and older, \$16 for children and youths ages two to 17, and are free for infants and toddlers under two years of age (assuming they do not take up a seat on the train). Tickets for the first-class *El Dorado* are \$39 for adults, \$31 for youths and are free for infants and toddlers under two years of age. Advance reservations are required and can be made online after October 1 at [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org) or by calling or visiting *The Polar Express* Ticket Office between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday. *The Polar Express* Ticket Office is located just west of the entrance to the California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento. The ticket office number is 916-445-8270.

More information about *The Polar Express™ Train Ride* and other museum related events, exhibits and activities is available at [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org).

**For Special Events at the Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks  
Visit [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)**

*Operated by California State Parks with assistance from the nonprofit CSRM 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-visited railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-sq. ft. Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill buildings in Old Sacramento. 24-hour info: (916) 445-6645 or [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org)*

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