

News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**
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Looking for Fun Local Excursions? Old Sacramento has Just the Ticket...Weekend Train Rides & Underground Tours Resume on April 5 & 6!

SACRAMENTO – Interested in riding the rails along the picturesque Sacramento River? Or maybe exploring the alluring underground is more your style. Either way, Old Sacramento State Historic Park has just the ticket with history-rich weekend excursion train rides and crowd-favorite Old Sacramento Underground Tours resuming on April 5 & 6, 2014, with each program offering fun new twists to experience this season.

Weekend Excursion Train Rides

California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum are proud to announce the opening of the 31st season of weekend excursion trains on the Sacramento Southern Railroad on April 5 & 6 and continuing through September 2014. New this season, guests will be treated to updated commentary aboard the trains that changes regularly depending on the special theme for each month. Also, the Railroad Museum will offer special “Diesel Days” one weekend per month when the popular excursion trains are pulled by two gracefully-styled, streamlined diesel locomotives.

Excursion train ride guests delight in the sights, smells and sounds of an authentic, working locomotive as it rolls along the levees of the Sacramento River for a six-mile, 45-minute roundtrip excursion. Appealing to all ages, the experience offers guests with the chance to enjoy train travel from an earlier era. The train features a combination of vintage closed coaches with comfortable seats, and open-air “gondolas” with bench style seating.

Also new this year, excursion train ride tickets are available to book online in advance at www.csrnf.org or can be purchased in-person starting at 10:30 a.m. the day of the train ride (based on availability) at the Sacramento Southern Railroad ticket office located on Front Street between J and K Streets. All excursion trains depart from the Central Pacific Railroad Freight Depot in Old Sacramento (located on Front Street between J and K Streets). Departures are on-the-hour from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the weekends the trains are running.

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Regular excursion train tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for youths (ages 6-17), and ages five and under ride free. For passengers desiring a ride aboard the first-class car *El Dorado*, tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for youths and are free for children five and under. Note: there is a per-ticket service fee when booking online. Groups interested in reserving the entire *El Dorado* car for a regularly scheduled ride need to do so in advance by calling 916-322-8485. If summer temperatures reach 100 degrees or higher, trains may be cancelled for the remainder of that day. For more information about the weekend excursion train rides or the California State Railroad Museum in general, please call 916-323-9280.

Old Sacramento Underground Tours

Now in its fifth consecutive season, the popular Old Sacramento Underground tour program will resume on weekends beginning April 5 & 6 and will continue through mid-December 2014 (with schedules fluctuating and expanding with the seasons). New this year, Old Sacramento Underground Tour guests will have a special, hands-on opportunity to learn what it was like to raise and level a building by operating “mini-jacks” during the tours. Custom-designed jacks will be placed at four corners of a scaled down building and tour participants will work collaboratively to spin the jacks and watch their raising and leveling progress. The hands-on experience allows guests to gain an understanding of and appreciation for the ambitious yet painstaking process successfully completed by Sacramento property and business owners in the 1860s and 1870s.

The Old Sacramento Underground tour program is coordinated by the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation (HOSF) in partnership with the City of Sacramento, California State Parks, Old Sacramento Business Association and participating merchants and businesses. While tour schedules vary with the seasons, Old Sacramento Underground tours will kick off on weekends in April, departing as follows for the month: 11 a.m., noon, 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Additionally, the popular “Adult Only” Old Sacramento Underground Tours will resume in 2014 with the first two offered on April 24 & 25 at 6 p.m. then expanding to every Thursday through Saturday beginning in May. For the “Adult Only” evening tours, guides lead guests on special walking tours while sharing some of the dark secrets and racy tales lurking in Old Sacramento’s underground history.

Regular tours of the underground last approximately one hour in length and cost \$15 for adults, \$10 for youths (ages 6-17), and children five and under are free. The “adult only” evening tours depart at 6 p.m., last approximately an hour and a half in length and cost \$20 per person (only guests 21 and older will be admitted). All underground tours check-in at the Sacramento History Museum located at 101 I Street in Old Sacramento. Interested tour participants are encouraged to check the website at www.historicoldsac.org for tour dates, times, availability and to purchase advance tickets. More information about the Old Sacramento Underground tour program or the Foundation is available by calling 916-808-7059.

About the California State Railroad Museum

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the non-profit California State Railroad Museum 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 popular railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill commercial buildings in Old Sacramento. For 24-hour information, please visit www.csrmf.org or call (916) 323-9280.

About the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation

The Historic Old Sacramento Foundation (HOSF) is a 501(c)3 public benefit corporation. Old Sacramento is a living historic district. The mission of HOSF is to convey the importance of historic Sacramento as a place that connects our past to our present and future through engaging and entertaining events, activities and programs. More information is available at www.historicoldsac.org or by calling 916-808-7059.

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