



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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All Aboard for Allensworth!

Amtrak Provides Special Trains, Special Offers for People Traveling to Centennial Celebration at Allensworth

California State Parks announced today that Amtrak is getting on-board for the Centennial Celebration for the town of Allensworth, a State Historic Park. Amtrak has agreed to provide special trains and added stops by many regular service trains from the major metropolitan areas of California to assist the thousands of people who are expected to journey to Allensworth for the 100th anniversary celebration on October 11 and 12.

"We applaud Amtrak's generous support, which only exemplifies how important it is for families to journey to Allensworth to celebrate the Centennial of the Town that Refused to Die", said Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus, co-sponsor of the Centennial.

"We're all on board for this celebration of our history and its implications for our future," said Curren Price, Democrat from Inglewood and member of the Legislative Black Caucus.

"This town was founded on a tract of land adjacent to a Santa Fe railroad stop," said State Parks' Director Ruth Coleman. "In the early years, when trains still stopped at Allensworth, the rail line played an important role in the commerce of this community. So today, we applaud Amtrak's support of this Centennial celebration and we urge people to make new friends by joining others who will be getting on-board for Allensworth."

Allensworth is a visionary settlement in the southern San Joaquin Valley that is the only town in California founded, financed and governed by African Americans. The town, located in Tulare County, was established in 1908, by Colonel Allen Allensworth and a group of pioneering African Americans. Today, African Americans throughout the state and the nation see this town as a unique settlement that was the dream and inspiration of a group of people looking for a better life, a place to live in a self-sufficient environment, free from discrimination.

To celebrate the Allensworth Centennial, California State Parks, the California Department of Transportation, the Legislative Black Caucus and the California State Park

Foundation, have scheduled a grand two-day celebration at the State Historic Park on October 11 and 12. During this 100th anniversary celebration, the town will be filled with educational programming, special events and tours, live music and entertainment and a wide variety of great food. And with Amtrak now doing the driving, getting there has become an exercise in relaxation, enjoying others making the same trip, and no worries about getting stuck in traffic.

In addition to the special trains listed below, all of Amtrak's trains that travel past the park (the San Joaquin line) will be stopping at Allensworth on October 11 and 12. Some sample fares for regular trains that travel to Allensworth include: From Oakland/San Francisco - \$39 one way; from Sacramento - \$35 one way; from Stockton - \$27 one way; from Fresno - \$19 one way; from Hanford - \$13 one way; from Bakersfield - \$10 one way; from Los Angeles - \$25 one way. Check with Amtrak for exact fares the day you wish to travel. Lowest fares are purchased at least three days before departure.

To make reservations, visit www.Amtrak.com or call (800) USA-RAIL and be sure to use the City Code "CNL" (or list the city as "Earlimart"). For group reservations (groups of 20 or more), call (800) 872-1477.

Seats are limited, so make your reservations early.

Northern California

Round-trip tickets on the northern California line to and from Allensworth for these special trains on October 11 are only **\$59.75** each and include a boxed breakfast on board the train. Select your departure city and then select Allensworth (CNL) as your arrival city. Select departing train #710 (and bus #3710 if departing from Sacramento) and returning train #719 (and bus #3719 if returning to Sacramento).

This offer is valid for San Joaquin line trains #710 and #719 for travel from the following cities: Oakland, Richmond, Martinez, Stockton, and Sacramento (bus service available between Sacramento and Stockton).

Eastbound Bus (#3710)

Sacramento	Departs	7:00 AM
Stockton	Arrives	7:50 AM

Eastbound Train (#710)

Oakland	Departs	6:30 AM
Richmond	Departs	6:50 AM
Martinez	Departs	7:20 AM
Stockton	Departs	8:20 AM
Allensworth	Arrives	11:20 AM

Westbound Train (#719)

Allensworth	Departs	5:30 PM
Stockton	Departs	8:45 PM

Martinez	Departs	9:40 PM
Richmond	Departs	10:30 PM
Oakland	Arrives	10:45 PM

Westbound Bus (#3719)

Stockton	Departs	8:50 PM
Sacramento	Arrives	9:40 PM

Southern California

Round-trip tickets on the southern California line to and from Allensworth for these special trains on October 11 are only **\$39.00** each.

This offer is valid for the San Joaquin line train #713 and bus routes 5813, 5633, 5858, and 5656 for travel from the following cities: Inglewood (bus service available between Inglewood and Bakersfield) and Los Angeles (bus service available between Los Angeles and Bakersfield). Return service to Los Angeles and Inglewood is direct bus service from Allensworth to these cities.

Northbound Bus (#5813)

LA Union	Departs	7:45 AM
Bakersfield	Arrives	10:00 AM

Northbound Bus (#5633)

Inglewood	Departs	7:15 AM
Bakersfield	Arrives	10:00 AM

Northbound Train (#713)

Bakersfield	Departs	10:15 AM
Allensworth	Arrives	11:00 AM

Southbound Bus (#5858)

Allensworth	Departs	5:45 PM
LA Union	Arrives	8:30 PM

Southbound Bus (#5656)

Allensworth	Departs	5:45 PM
Inglewood	Arrives	8:45 PM

Other Information

This offer is valid for sales between August 13, 2008, and October 4, 2008, and for travel on October 11, 2008, only. These special fares are not combinable with any other discount offer. Once travel has begun, no changes to the itinerary are permitted. Routes and schedules are subject to change without notice. Other restrictions may apply.

Other contacts:

1. Office of Assembly Speaker Karen Bass
Press contact – Steve Maviglio (916) 319-2408
2. Office of Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas
Press contact – Fahizah Alim (916) 651-4026
3. California Black Media
Press contact – Regina Brown Wilson (916) 319-0693

Special note to editors, reporters and photographers

This town provides an amazing opportunity for journalists who wish to gather photographs and special stories that capture the pioneering spirit that built this unique settlement. Homes and businesses, the school and community church and many other buildings, have been restored as they were in the early 1900s.

Please visit our State Parks website to view a series of pictures of the restored community.

www.parks.ca.gov/allensworth/centennial - Information about the centennial event

www.parks.ca.gov/allensworth/allaboard - Information about the Amtrak trains to Allensworth during the event

www.parks.ca.gov/allensworth/virtualtour - Images of Allensworth's buildings, photos are copyrighted to California State Parks but may be used for press/media use only (credit line is © 2008 California State Parks)

www.parks.ca.gov/allensworth/formedia – Information specifically for the media, including press releases, links, and information about requesting photographs for media use (in addition to and in higher resolution than those on our Virtual Tour webpage mentioned above) (Please do not release this address to public, it is press only)

About the Allensworth Restoration

Since 1985, California State Parks has spent over \$9.4 million for reconstruction, restoration, furnishings and infrastructure at the historic park. Extensive road, utility and other infrastructure improvements have been made. More than 22 different structures have been reconstructed or restored, to include the historic Baptist church, the Hackett house, Hackett barn, Ashby house and barn, Johnson Bakery/residence, the Carter Livery Stable and the historic hotel. Today, a walk through this town is an experience in turning back the clock, because one sees much of this restored community as it appeared in the early 1900s.

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