



Private Railcars from L.A. to New Orleans!

Join us for an unforgettable and luxurious journey from Los Angeles to New Orleans in cool, comfortable February. Travel aboard privately-owned former Santa Fe sleeping car, *Palm Leaf*, and Burlington Vista Dome, *Silver Splendor*, to the Crescent City and absorb the revelry of the opening night of Mardi Gras!

We leave L.A. on Friday afternoon, February 17th, 2012, and return the morning of Friday the 24th. While we are en route, enjoy all the comforts of a private bedroom accommodation in the Pullman sleeper and exclusive use of dining and lounge areas of the dome car, with its 360 degree view of impressive landscapes.

A limited number of spaces on the *Palm Leaf* are available in roomettes for one person or in bedrooms for two. And the best thing about staying 4 nights in New Orleans is that your private car is your hotel. All meals while traveling to and from New Orleans on the train are included, along with a continental breakfast during the 3 mornings we will be parked at Union Passenger Terminal. Lunches and dinners while in The Big Easy are on your own.

Nearby the station are the WWII Museum, Lee Square, and the St. Charles and Canal St. streetcar lines. The French Quarter and Bourbon St. are a short taxi ride away. We also are working on a “Haunted New Orleans” evening walking tour as well as a visit to the car barn of the famous streetcars. The tours are included in your fare, but are optional if you decide to do something else. Other activities you may wish to explore are various plantation tours, airboat rides, bayou expeditions, architecture tours and casino gambling.

Did we mention restaurants? Oh my..... *Silver Splendor* owner John Caestecker will be happy to recommend all manner of dining delights – from the funky VooDoo BBQ, to the Acme Oyster House, to world-renowned Commander’s Palace, Brennan’s and Delmonico’s. And don’t forget the myriad jazz clubs and performers all over town. New Orleans is not just a feast for the tummy.

Here’s our itinerary:

Friday Feb 17: After the owners of the *Palm Leaf* help you get situated in your room,

we depart L.A. Union Station attached to the rear of Amtrak's Sunset Limited at 3:00 pm. A Champagne reception awaits in the *Silver Splendor* as we make our way out of the L.A. Basin and toward scenic Beaumont Pass on the former Southern Pacific main line. Dinnertime finds us in the Palm Springs area as night falls and the stars come out in the skies high above the lower desert.

Saturday Feb 18: Our 8:10 am scheduled arrival in El Paso, which is a servicing stop for our train, features 25 minutes to stretch the legs and visit the city's large historic depot. Around midday, we enjoy the low mountain vistas as we climb toward Alpine, the gateway to Big Bend National Park. A late evening arrival in San Antonio is a lengthy one as Amtrak switches a few cars out of the train for forwarding onto the Texas Eagle. Near midnight, we'll continue on our way eastward.

Sunday Feb 19: Mid-morning brings entry into Lake Charles, LA where fisherman and gambling boats share the wide waters near the rail line. Further east, we speed through the forested low country, skirting an occasional swamp or bayou. Our 2:55 pm scheduled arrival in New Orleans is preceded by the crossing of the nation's most impressive railway bridge, named after famed Louisiana politician, Huey P. Long. Our cars will be parked on the station tracks at Union Passenger Terminal after they are washed and serviced. Dinner is on your own and the cars will be your hotel for the next 3 nights.

Monday Feb 20: After continental breakfast on board the private cars, the day is all yours to explore the city. Visit the WWII Museum (an easy walk from the station) or spend the day riding the famous streetcars. Near a couple of streetcar stops, New Orleans' legendary above-ground cemeteries are open from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Morning or afternoon plantation tours are also available with a few days advance notice. Prices range from \$55-\$70 dollars per person and we can help you arrange one. Lunch and dinner are on your own. Whatever you do for the day, make sure you plan on joining us for an evening walking tour of "Haunted New Orleans." This will be a guided, leisurely stroll through a neighborhood known for its paranormal activity and includes entry into two saloons suspected of being haunted. The only cost will be shared cab fare for about 1.5 miles.

Tuesday Feb 21: It's Fat Tuesday! Continental breakfast once again will be served aboard and then the first day of Mardi Gras is yours to celebrate any way you want. Bourbon St. and the entire French Quarter promise to be alive with merriment, great food, and frivolity. There will be jazz in the streets and the clubs until dawn. If you wish to dine in one of the finer restaurants in town, advance reservations are a must so please plan ahead. For the rail enthusiasts among us, a request for a tour of the streetcar's maintenance shop is pending.

Wednesday Feb 22: We will depart the Crescent City at 11:55 am today so there is time for one last visit around town after breakfast. All meals will be served on board today. We'll be in Houston, where there is a 35 minute service stop, by 9:15 pm. A stroll on the

platform can be enjoyed before retiring to your bedroom.

Thursday Feb 23: We may feel a bump or two during the night as, once again, Amtrak switches cars in San Antonio. Around breakfast time, we'll be near Del Rio, TX. By evening, we'll cross into New Mexico and feel the cool desert breezes in the vestibule.

Friday Feb 24: There will be time for an early breakfast with our scheduled Los Angeles arrival of 8:30 am. We'll be saying goodbye to friends new and old and talking about where to go on the next railway adventure.

Pricing

\$2995 per person in a single roomette
\$2995 per person sharing a double bedroom

- *All meals on the private cars when train is traveling between cities are included.**
- *Continental breakfast only will be served while cars are parked in New Orleans.**
- *Lunches and dinners are on your own when cars are parked in New Orleans.**

For a look at both cars, please visit www.palmleafllc.com and www.heritagerrailways.us

Please note: Sleeping car *Palm Leaf* has a shower that is shared by all passengers. All double bedrooms have private toilet facilities in an enclosed annex in each bedroom. Roomette passengers share a general toilet accessible from the hallway. Two other general toilets are available at all times in the *Silver Splendor*.

Payment: A refundable deposit of \$200 per person is required at time of booking. Balance is due no later than January 17, 2012 (30 days prior to departure). Payments must be made by personal check or cashier's check and are payable to "Palm Leaf LLC." Address: Palm Leaf LLC; c/o Mike Mulder; 2230 S. Mitchell Rd.; Turlock, CA 95380.

***In the event of a cancellation before January 1, 2012, all deposits will be refunded. In the event of a cancellation after that date, monies will be refunded if "Palm Leaf LLC" is able to re-book that space. If not, a 15% penalty will apply.

***"Palm Leaf LLC" cannot be held responsible for late or cancelled trains to which we are scheduled to be connected. Furthermore, we cannot be held liable for acts of weather, acts of war, acts of God or unexpected mechanical failures. If any of the above cause the dates of this trip to be changed, "Palm Leaf LLC" will make every good faith effort to provide all services and activities promised as quickly as possible. We strongly suggest that no passengers make close connections to rail or other modes of transportation.

For further details, please contact John Caestecker at 714-292-9316 or Mike Mulder at 209-632-5696.