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## **OFFICE HOURS**

FALL OFFICE HOURS ARE 9:00AM TO 3:00PM TUESDAY THRU THURSDAY

## **RAIL TOUR NEWSLETTER 95**

**DATED SATURDAY AUGUST 18, 2018. WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

You are receiving our Railroad Newsletter because you requested it or had contacted us for more info about our train tours in which we place your e mail into our database . If you no longer want to receive our Railroad Newsletter send us an e mail to [tti@traintrips.biz](mailto:tti@traintrips.biz) asking to be removed from our database

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# **THE CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR PRIVATE RAIL CARS DEPART LOS ANGELES AND HEAD FOR THEIR NEW HOME IN OHIO**

ABOARD THE VISTA-DOME *California Zephyr*



On September 7, 2018 the very popular California Zephyr private rail cars will depart Los Angeles for the very last time attached to the rear of Amtrak's Coast Starlight for the run north to Seattle arriving on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Then on September 10 these cars will be attached on the rear of Amtrak's Empire Builder for the run to Chicago arriving on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The cars are headed to their new owners and home on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad out of Peninsula, Ohio.

For many years Trains & Travel International has chartered these cars for a long list of special tours and excursions all across the USA. The end is near as the last trip is September 7-8, 2018. It has been a huge pleasure working with the owners of these cars and we are going to miss them.

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PENINSULA, OHIO, August 15, 2018 – Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR) marked a major accomplishment in its first-ever capital campaign with the acquisition of four historic *Zephyr* railcars. This addition to the fleet enables CVSR to provide new programming and experiences within Cuyahoga Valley National Park, including 360-degree views in two of the Vista Dome cars, and offer a new heritage rail experience that exemplifies cross-country travel during the 1940s-1960s.

CVSR’s ongoing capital campaign began in late 2016. Through the generous support of individuals, corporations and foundations CVSR’s vision to expand, enhance, and preserve its fleet will create new programs for visitors of all ages and backgrounds as they experience the beauty and wonder of Cuyahoga Valley National Park’s river valley, canal, and historic villages.

“The acquisition of the *Zephyr* railcars was a once in a lifetime opportunity,” said President and CEO Joe Mazur. “We not only are preserving history, but giving hundreds of thousands of people the opportunity to have one more way to travel through and experience Cuyahoga Valley National Park.” The four-car *Zephyr* trainset consists of two Vista Dome cars, a sleeper car and a baggage car. CVSR already owns the Silver Bronco, another Vista Dome observation car that was part of the original *California Zephyr* trainset. With this acquisition, CVSR becomes one of the nation’s few railroads in possession of four cars from the original *California Zephyr* fleet.

The *Zephyr* railcars, which currently are located in Los Angeles, will be transported via Amtrak and arrive in Cuyahoga Valley in mid-September. The public’s first opportunity to ride these historic railcars will be at Steam in the Valley, where they will be pulled by the Nickel Plate Road steam locomotive no. 765. The *Zephyr* cars will remain on the train being pulled by the 765 for the duration of the Steam in the Valley event (September 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 & 30). They will then be used for CVSR’s excursions and special events.

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**LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR!**

**ANNOUNCING OUR *2019* TOURS**

We are not planning on offering a lot of tours for 2019 like we did in 2018. First, now that the California Zephyr private rail cars are gone we will not be offering any private rail car tours. Then we have several private tours here in the USA that will keep our staff very busy next year. We will still offer private charters. The reason why next year will be a busy one for us is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the re-driving of the Golden Spike on May 10, 2019 at promontory, Utah and the Union Pacific Big Boy steam locomotive going back into main line excursion service. Already we have had a number of folks ask us if we plan to offer a tour to Promontory for the Golden Spike Celebrations in May and our answer is no. Our staff will be there as guides but for private tour groups from Japan and Europe.

**WONDERS OF SRI LANKA BY RAIL**

TOURIST/RAILFAN TOUR

FEBRUARY 3-17, 2019

<http://www.traintrips.biz/2019-Tours/Wonders-Of-Sri-Lanka-By-Rail-2019#details>

**HIDDEN TAIWAN STEAM PLUS SOUTH KOREA**

RAILFAN/TOURIST TOUR

MARCH 14-31, 2019

<http://www.traintrips.biz/2019-Tours/Hidden-Taiwan-Steam-Plus-South-Korea-2019#details>

**RAIL WONDERS OF SICILY**

RAILFAN/TOURIST TOUR

APRIL 1-12, 2019

<http://www.traintrips.biz/2019-Tours/Rail-Wonders-Of-Sicily-2019#details>

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# THE STARS OF SANDSTONE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

RAILFAN/TOURIST TOUR

APRIL 3-12, 2019

<http://www.traintrips.biz/2019-Tours/Stars-Of-Sandstone-International-Festival-2019#details>

# SWITZERLAND RAIL TUNNELS & MOUNTAIN PASSES

RAILFAN/TOURIST TOUR

JULY 26-AUGUST 7, 2019

<http://www.traintrips.biz/2019-Tours/Switzerland-2019#details>

# CLASSIC MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA

TOURIST/RAILFAN TOUR

OCTOBER 6-13, 2019

<http://www.traintrips.biz/2019-Tours/Classic-Montenegro-And-Serbia-2019#details>

# WESTERN STATES TRAINS & TREASURES RAIL & NATIONAL PARK ADVENTURE

RAILFAN/TOURIST TOUR

OCTOBER 16-30, 2019

<http://www.traintrips.biz/2019-Tours/Western-States-Trains-and-Treasures-2019#details>

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# RIO TINTO OPERATES FIRST CREWLESS FREIGHT TRAIN



**Railroading entered a brave, new world as the first fully-autonomous freight train completed its initial run in Australia.**

Global mining conglomerate Rio Tinto marked the first delivery of iron ore by an autonomous train as part of its US\$940 million AutoHaul program operating to its port facilities in Western Australia.

On July 10 the train, hauled by three locomotives and carrying around 28,000 metric tons of iron ore, traveled more than 175 miles from Rio Tinto's Tom Price mine to the port of Cape Lambert without a driver in the cab. It was monitored remotely by operators from the company's Operations Centre in Perth, more than 900 miles away.

"The safe first delivery of iron ore by an autonomous train is a key milestone for AutoHaul," said Rio Tinto Iron Ore managing director rail, port & core services Ivan Vella. "The program will deliver the world's first fully autonomous, long-distance, heavy-haul rail network, operating the world's largest and longest robots.

"We will continue to ensure our autonomous trains operate safely in the Pilbara, where we record more than 8 million kilometers (5 million miles) of train travel each year. We are working closely with drivers during this transition period to prepare them for new ways of working as a result of automation."

Executives from at least one North American Class I, Norfolk Southern, which has established an autonomous technology facility in Atlanta, have visited Australia to inspect the Rio Tinto operation.

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Locomotives carrying AutoHaul software are fitted with on-board cameras allowing for constant monitoring from the Operations Centre. All public rail crossings on the network are equipped with closed-circuit cameras and have been upgraded to the highest safety standards.

Systems provider Ansaldo STS says the successful completion of the first fully-autonomous rail freight journey is a major turning point for heavy-haul rail operators globally.

“One only need to refer to the degree of change that the introduction of driverless metros has had on mass transit operations in the passenger sector to gain insight into the potential impact that autonomous freight rail management solutions may have in the heavy freight and resources sector,” said Michele Fracchiolla, Ansaldo STS president for freight.

The breakthrough solution is based on the international standard digital radio-based signal and train protection system ATO over ETCS Level 2 (GoA4) that provide the fully automated train operation.

From Railway Age, dated July 16, 2018

**FOLKS-THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR ONBOARD RAILWAY WORKERS  
\*\*\*\*\*WORLDWIDE\*\*\*\*\***

**Footnote:** Executives from at least one North American Class I, Norfolk Southern, which has established an autonomous technology facility in Atlanta, have visited Australia to inspect the Rio Tinto operation. Union Pacific is also working on this technology.

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**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS FOR OUR  
2019 TOURS EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 14, 2018  
RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW AND SAVE \$\$\$**

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