UNION PACIFIC'S BIG BOY
IS ALIVE AGAIN!

THE MASSIVE 625 TON UP 4014 RIDES THE RAILS AGAIN

Union Pacific's Big Boy pulls the Golden Spike excursion train departing Evanston, Wyoming May 13, 2019
The largest steam locomotive in the world is back on the mainline pulling passenger excursions on the Union Pacific Railroad and will tour most of the system during the next couple of years. The detailed schedule will be released by Union Pacific soon. Meanwhile a number of appearances and excursions have already been announced such as: July 13-14 in Omaha, Nebraska, July 15 Boone, Iowa, July 16-18 enroute Boone to Duluth, Minnesota, July 19-20-21 in Duluth, and October 12-13 In Los Angeles. More details to follow.

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SOME INTERESTING FACTS*********************************

It’s longer than two city buses, weighs more than a Boeing 747 fully loaded with passengers and can pull 16 Statues of Liberty over a mountain. The 625 ton Big Boys with tenders are 132 feet long, rated at 6,290 hp., could run at 80 mph and had a boiler pressure of 300 lbs. It would take four EMD F-7 road diesels to equal the same horsepower as one Big Boy. These massive 4-8-8-4 steam locomotives could pull on the average 140 empty freight cars up the Wasatch grade in Utah. A Big Boy was even able to keep going a freight train of 650 freight cars that had a weight of 27,000 tons and a length of 32, 800 feet (6.21 miles). Cost to build US$ 265,000 in 1941, equivalent to $4,513,993 in 2018. The last revenue run was on June 21, 1959 and eight are preserved out of a total of 25 that were built. The first Big Boy #4000 was delivered to Union Pacifc in Omaha on September 5, 1941. Estimated cost to rebuild number 4014 is 4 million dollars.

BIG BOY TO PULL PASSENGER EXCURSION OUT OF LOS ANGELES
OCTOBER 12-13, 2019

The Big Boy, largest steam locomotive in the world will pull a passenger train excursion out of Los Angeles and return October 12-13, 2019. The exact route has not been released yet but it is assumed the Big Boy will pull this excursion train over Cajon Pass both days. For updates and to purchase tickets when they become available go to:
http://www.railgiants.org/Big-Boy-Excursion-Info.php

ANOTHER PRIVATE RAIL CAR GOES UP FOR SALE

The Sierra Hotel is the next private rail car to be put up for sale after Amtrak announced new operating regulations for these cars. Slowly the list of private rail cars available for charter in California and the west is dwindling. Prior to this announcement by Amtrak there were 17 private rail cars available for charter work. Right now in the month of June 2019 there are only 6 private cars ready to roll on a minutes notice. Most of the cars in the West have either been sold or have been put into long term storage.
CUBA NOW OFF LIMITS FOR MOST AMERICANS

****AGAIN!****

Here we go again with the political games between the United States and Cuba. Trump just announced that restrictions have been put into place for Americans going to Cuba.

THE BIGGEE: Effective now cruise lines will no longer be allowed to sail to or from the USA to Cuba. The People to People travel has been eliminated as a means for US residents to travel to Cuba legally. This category has been used by many, if not most, travelers for the past 7 or 8 years. If you travelled to Cuba with us on the tours we ran the past several years consider yourself lucky.

AMTRAK'S NEW DIRECTION WILL HURT EVERYONE

click on the link below for all of the sad details


UPDATE ON 2019 AVAILABLE SPACE

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RAIL AND NATURAL WONDERS OF ALASKA..........................FOUR SPACES
SWITZERLAND RAIL TUNNELS & MOUNTAIN PASSSES............SOLD OUT
SOUTHERN FRANCE AND THE PYRENEES.........................FOUR SPACES
CLASSIC MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA..............................FOUR SPACES
WESTERN STATES TRAINS & TREASURES..........................ONE SPACE
WONDERS OF SRI LANKA BY RAIL..................................SIX SPACES

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