

# HISTORY TRAIN 2019 #2

**TO SAVANNAH, CHARLESTON & WASHINGTON DC**



*View of the Moonlight Dome car*



*Old Fort Jackson, the oldest brick fortification on the East Coast.*

**9 Days April 26-May 4, 2019 From  
\$4994\***

- Unique rail journey itinerary • Private restored train cars from 1950s • Fine dining • Premium beverages and snacks • Sleeping accommodations
- Chicago • Washington DC: Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center - Air & Space Museum • Savannah GA: Green-Meldrim Home, Georgia State Railroad Museum, Savannah History Museum, Old Fort Jackson, Fort Pulaski, Historic District
- Charleston SC: USS Yorktown, Fort Sumter, Historic District • Amtrak's Capitol Limited & Palmetto

**A**LL ABOARD for our 8th private rail journey! Join our history-themed rail tour as we travel east to Washington DC then south to Georgia. Celebrate the golden age of trains on private, restored train cars built between 1946 and 1950. Our private cars include a dome car, the Moonlight Dome with 4 deluxe bedrooms, and the Birch Grove with roomettes and standard double bedrooms. Our train cars are hooked to the end of Amtrak's Capitol Limited then unhooked and parked at Washington DC's Union Station. Then our journey continues hooked to Amtrak's Palmetto to our destination, Savannah where we are again unhooked and parked.



## Itinerary

### Day 1 Friday: Central Illinois-Chicago-Board train-Overnight

Board our private motor coach as we head to Chicago to board our private train cars hooked to Amtrak. Those joining in Chicago meet us at the Metropolitan Lounge. We board our rail cars for a 6:35 P.M. departure attached to train #30, the Capitol Limited. As we head east enjoy the first of many scrumptious meals by Chef Bill; adult beverages included. Settle into your accommodations for a taste of the good ol' days. (D)

### Day 2 Saturday: Arrive Washington DC

After breakfast, you can sit in the dome car for great panoramic views of America at "see level". We are scheduled to arrive our Nation's Capital in the early afternoon. The rest of the day is free for, perhaps a visit to a Smithsonian or tour to the monuments. Enjoy dinner out on the town as no dinner will be served on the train tonight. (B, L)

### Day 3 Sunday: Depart Washington DC-Savannah, Georgia

After breakfast aboard the train, we depart at 10:00 A.M. hooked to train #89, the Palmetto, headed for Savannah. Taking most of the day, we ride the rails through Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and end up just over the border in Georgia. Before arriving in the evening at 9:00 P.M., we enjoy more fine dining, snacks and premium beverages. (B, L, D)

*Our Dome Car, the Moonlight Dome*



### Day 4 Monday: Savannah-Charleston, South Carolina-Savannah

This morning we drive to Charleston, South Carolina and visit the USS Yorktown before the sun is too high in the sky—World War II warships do not have air conditioning! Commissioned in 1943 as one of the 24 Essex class aircraft carriers (the most numerous class of ships and backbone of the US Navy), she carried the name of the carrier lost at the battle of Midway and is the fourth ship to carry the name of the last major battle of the American Revolution. Earning eleven battle stars in the Pacific theater, after Japan's surrender her aircraft dropped supplies to Allied prisoners of war still living in their prison camps. She was a recovery ship for the Apollo 8 space mission in 1968 and inactivated in 1970.

After time for lunch we visit Fort Sumter—the flashpoint of the Civil War. But as always, there's more to history than what we might have heard in school. A local guide explains the background, the sieges and how Charleston Harbor, being in Confederate States of America's (CSA) hands for most the war, left a gap in the Union naval blockade. As the Sumter was running low on supplies, its commander, US Major Robert Anderson was largely in the dark and was expecting to evacuate. So, did the Confederates start the war or did Lincoln goad Anderson's sense of honor and provoke the CSA to take the first shot by informing them that reinforcements were coming to the Fort?

We enjoy a drive through the Charleston Historic District and have dinner before returning to our train cars in Savannah. (B, D)

### Day 5 Tuesday: Savannah

We start our day with a visit to Old Fort Jackson, the oldest brick fortification on the East Coast. Built to protect the US from the British in 1812, Georgia state troops seized the fort to defend against the Union in 1861. General Robert E. Lee, as commander of Georgia's coastal defenses in 1862, strengthened its defenses with earthworks. Finally, the fort was taken on the inland side by troops of Sherman on December 21, 1864.

Then we have a guided tour of Savannah's Historic District including Bonaventure cemetery, Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Savannah's beautiful homes and ending at the Green-Meldrim Home (General Sherman's headquarters, below).





Fort Sumter

The rest of the day is free to explore downtown Savannah. Enjoy local cuisine with lunch and dinner on your own. This evening we provide scheduled shuttles back to the rail cars. (B)

### Day 6 Wednesday: Savannah

Today we start with a visit to the Georgia State Railroad Museum including a ride on its fully operational turntable. Here in 1843, the Central Railroad & Banking Company finished its line to Macon, Georgia, at a distance of 190 miles; the longest continuous railroad line under one management in the world.

Then we continue across the street to the Savannah History Museum, located in the Train Shed. We will see the bench from Forrest Gump and learn about the Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Low, the granddaughter of the first president of the Georgia Central RR. Adjacent is Battlefield Memorial Park where 8,000 troops of three armies fought the second bloodiest battle of the American Revolution on October 9, 1779, with 800 casualties including Count Casimir Pulaski, a Polish nobleman fighting with the American Patriots.

For lunch today we feast on the buffet at the Pirate's House which has been welcoming marauders since 1753.

Our last stop today is Fort Pulaski. Its walls still show the shell-holes from April 1862. Bombardment by rifled artillery battered a breach in its brick walls in two days.



Shells exploding inside threatened to set off the gun-powder magazine, so the fort was surrendered. America never again built a brick fort. Two years later, six hundred CSA prisoners were held here during the winter and put on a starvation diet without blankets or shoes. Ironically it was Sherman's arrival that ended their torture as his medical director ordered them full rations. After that, the fort was used as a prison for Confederate President Jefferson Davis and other CSA dignitaries the summer after the war. We return to our rail cars for drinks and dinner. (B, L, D)

The USS Yorktown, an Essex Class carrier in Charleston SC





At the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center National Air & Space Museum, a World War II P-40 Warhawk and below it, a SR-71 spy plane

### Day 7 Thursday: Depart Savannah-Arrive Washington DC

Amtrak #90, the Palmetto, leaves Savannah at 6:20 A.M. and heads back north for another delightful day of enjoying the pinnacle of US railway amenities. We are scheduled to arrive at 7:42 P.M. in Washington DC. (B, L, D)

### Day 8 Friday: Washington DC-Depart-Overnight

This morning we depart for the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center of the National Air & Space Museum at Dulles Airport, another Smithsonian museum. Notable aircraft there include a Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay, a Concorde, and the Space Shuttle Discovery.

We return mid-afternoon to Union Station for our 4:05 P.M. departure of the Capitol Limited, train #29. Heading back west we have more of the good life aboard these expertly restored train cars with a great crew. (B, D)

### Day 9 Saturday: Arrive Chicago-Central Illinois

We are scheduled to arrive Chicago at 9:00 A.M. and say our farewells to the crew who provided such great service over the past 8 days. We board a private motor coach back to Central Illinois with special memories of this unique rail journey through history. (B)

Included meals are noted each day with the initials for Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

**What's Included:** • Round trip transportation from Central Illinois • Rail transportation • Premium snacks and beverages • Motor coach touring • Guided sightseeing • Admissions • 18 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 6 Dinners • Sleeper accommodations • Led by 'rail buff', Joe Luka

**Accommodations:** (8) total number of nights  
 Private Train Car (1) Sleeping berth, en route  
 Private Train Car (1) Sleeping Berth, Washington D.C. station  
 Private Train Car (4) Sleeping Berth, Savannah station  
 Private Train Car (1) Sleeping Berth, Washington D.C. station  
 Private Train Car (1) Sleeping berth, en route

**What's Not Included:** • Travel insurance • Crew tips (\$195) • Unlisted meals • Free time activities

\*All prices are per person, based on occupancy, double: \$4994, single: \$5544 Additional cost applies for special double bedrooms in the Moonlight Dome (see price chart). • Document required government-issued photo ID. • This trip is non-refundable; we suggest purchasing travel insurance to cover cancellations for medical reasons. Insurance coverage is Deluxe Group Plan from AIG/Travel Guard at a cost of 7.2% to cover cancellation charges, for coverage details see the webpage [www.tourgroupplanners.com/insurance.html](http://www.tourgroupplanners.com/insurance.html). Other terms at [www.tourgroupplanners.com/terms.html](http://www.tourgroupplanners.com/terms.html) incorporated by reference.

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### Price Options

Code	Type	Train Car	Double	Single	Triple	Quad
UL	Double Bedroom Upper & Lower	Birch Grove	\$4,994	9,837	6,608	4,994
RM	Roomette	Birch Grove	N/A	5,544	N/A	N/A
2L	Double A,B,C 2 Lower Twins with Facilities	Moonlight Dome	6,294	12,437	N/A	N/A
FL	Double D Full Bed, No Facilities	Moonlight Dome	5,694	11,237	N/A	N/A

Join us from • Chicago • Champaign • Decatur • Springfield. Tour Coordinators are **Judy@TourGroupPlanners.com & Dawn@TourGroupPlanners.com**, or call **217-422-5002** for more information. To book, a \$1500 per person deposit (balance is due December 27). Mail check to **Tour Group Planners**, 363 S Main St, Suite 307, Decatur IL 62523 (sorry no credit cards accepted).



Where travel dreams become reality.

The Central Georgia locomotive no. 223 in front of the roundhouse is a Baldwin C-3 class 2-8-0, built 1907, ended service 1952.



### This is a fund-raiser trip for WILL.

A non-refundable donation (minimum of \$200/person) is included in the trip cost. Thank you for your support of WILL.

# About our Vintage Train Cars

**Birch Grove** was built in 1950 by the Budd Company as part of a twenty-five car order from the Southern Pacific Railroad. They wanted to rebuild the rolling stock used on their famed Sunset Limited route between Los Angeles and New Orleans.



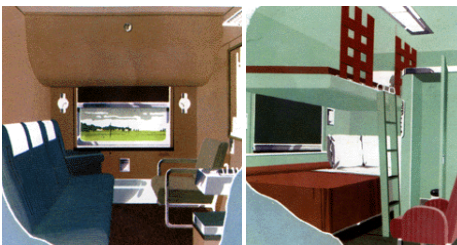
**Moonlight Dome** (interior above) was the first of three private room-dome cabin cars originally built for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway (C&O) and intended for service on The *Chessie*, the planned but never-operated Washington-Cincinnati *dayliner*. These cars were called Strata-Domes. These three C&O dome cabin cars were ordered in 1946 and built by Budd. Without a need by C&O, the three cars were sold to the Baltimore & Ohio in December 1950.

## Sleeping Accommodations

Each car has a shower for car occupants to share.

The **Birch Grove** (exterior shown at upper right) has 2 standard types of rooms as shown below:

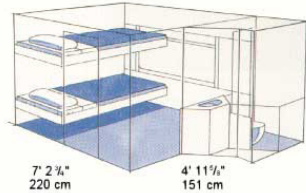
### Double Bedroom



Two double bedrooms may be converted to a quad bedroom by removing the partition and used for a party of 3 or 4 people.

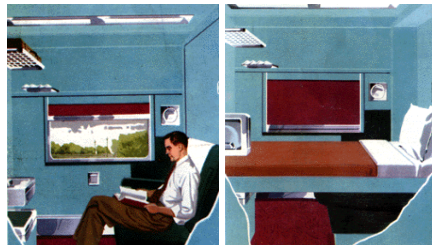
- **Double** bedroom with upper and lower twin berths.

- **En-Suite** bedroom with 2 lower twin berths being 2 double bedrooms with partition removed. The double cost is \$9,837 per person.
- **Triple** bedrooms cost more because it is actually a Quad bedroom with an unused berth.
- **Quad** bedroom is actually 2 Double bedrooms with the partition removed.



By night, the upper berth is lowered and the couch (or chairs, used by day) converts to a lower berth. Each bedroom has a small room for facilities (sink and toilet accessible day and night), facilities door opens into the bedroom.

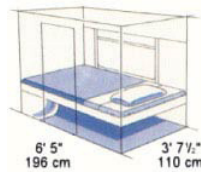
### Roomette



In addition to the seat(s) or couch in your compartment, there is seating in the dome car.

**Single** roomette for one person is available.

**Single occupancy of a double bedroom is at a higher cost.**



By day, some roomettes have a toilet and sink. There is a door on the roomette. By night, the berth takes up the whole roomette. To use the toilet during the night, you must lift the berth or go down the hall (each car has a shared toilet).

### Special Accommodations

The **Moonlight Dome** (exterior shown at right) has 4 special rooms:

- **2 Lower Twin Beds** with facilities. We have 3 rooms identified with the letters A, B & C. Each bedroom has a small room for facilities (sink and toilet accessible day and night), facilities door opens into the bedroom.



- **1 Full (Lower) Bed** without facilities. We have just 1 room, identified with the letter D.

*Diagram and pictures are for a general indication. Accommodations vary in configuration. While completely refurbished and modern features added, a key goal of the restoration is to maintain the 1950s look and feel.*

## Dining

Chef Bill, at right, has logged over 1 million miles in the U.S. and Canada working on private charters, and is known as a culinary innovator, producing top quality meals out of the smallest galleys under harsh conditions & over rough tracks. His guests disembark with wonderful lifelong memorable experiences.

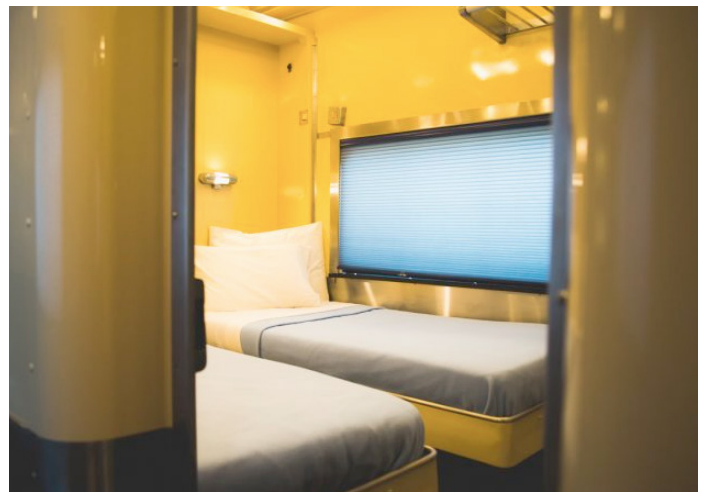




Above: Daytime in a Birch Grove Double Bedroom; below: Facilities



Above: Daytime in a Dome room with 2 lower beds; below: at night



A "Gingerbread House" in old Savannah.

**Booking form:** To reserve your place,  
please fill in & return to Tour Group Planners

**WILL History Train #2, April 26, 2019**

Full Name as on ID (including Middle name/initial if any)

Nickname

Gender

Today

Birthdate for  
Insurance

Exact Name as on  
ID Verified, for  
office use

1 \_\_\_\_\_

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M

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2 \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance:  Yes  
 No

City St Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail optional \_\_\_\_\_

**Balance of tour payment due December 28, 2018.** Confirmation & statement will be sent after the receipt of this booking form and deposit.

*Sorry, no Credit Card on this tour.*

Check: made out to *Tour Group Planners LLC*

**\$1500/person non-refundable deposit due**, Payment enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I want to join the tour at (circle): Chicago / Springfield / Decatur / Champaign

Occupancy  1  2  3  4  I want to share a room; with \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodation Type  Double Bedroom for 1-4 persons with upper & lower beds  Roomette

Two lower beds for 1-2 persons  Full bed for 1-2 persons

Vegetarian  Gluten free  Diabetic  Food allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

**Thank you!**

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