

# HISTORY TRAIN 2020

To Boston, Salem, Plymouth & Kennebunkport



View of the Moonlight Dome car



Mayflower II restored for the 400th Anniversary of Pilgrims' landing

## Birch Grove Inc

**9 Days September 12-20, 2020**  
**From \$4882\***

- Unique rail journey itinerary • Private restored train cars from 1950s • Fine dining • Premium beverages and snacks • Sleeping accommodations • Chicago • Boston • Salem • Plymouth Rock • Mayflower • Plimouth Plantation • Freedom Trail • JFK Library • Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse • Kennebunkport • Seaside Trolley Museum • Boston Tea Party Ships Museum • Old Town Trolley • Amtrak's Lake Shore Limited

**A**LL ABOARD for our 9th private rail journey! Join our history-themed rail tour as we travel east to Boston & New England. 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 Lake Shore Limited then unhooked and parked at Boston's South Station. The number of sleeper berths are limited so do not delay.



## Itinerary

### Day 1 Saturday: Central Illinois-Chicago-Board Train-Departure

Board our private motor coach as we set off for Chicago. Before heading to Union Station we will visit Chicago's Pullman Historic District. Built between 1880-1884 it was a planned model industrial town for the Pullman's Palace Car Company. Pullman employees were the first to use mass production to build a thousand homes and public buildings 13 miles south of Chicago adjacent to Lake Calumet.

Then we continue on to Union Station allowing you time for dinner on your own before its "All Aboard" time. Those joining in Chicago, meet us in the Metropolitan Lounge. We board our private rail cars hooked to Amtrak train #48, the Lake Shore Limited for a 9:30 P.M. departure. As we travel along the south shores of Lake Michigan, enjoy snacks and adult beverages. Celebrate the golden age of rail service onboard our private train.

### Day 2 Sunday: Train En Route-Boston

As we travel east, we enjoy the first of many delicious meals by chef Bill. You can sit in the dome car for great panoramic views as America passes by. We travel through upstate New York with a stop in Albany where our train is split. We continue into Massachusetts arriving Boston's South Station, scheduled for 8:01 P.M. (B, L, D)

### Day 3 Monday: Boston-Salem

After breakfast we visit the coast where Tuna fishing and lobstering is at the forefront of the economy. We will develop a blend of topics including the Witch Trials, the Perfect Storm's Andrea Gail and more. The railway incidentally arrived in Marblehead in 1871, now a posh and upscale residential area; this was also the birthplace of the Continental Navy. At infamous Salem, the site of

*Our Dome Car, the Moonlight Dome*



the 1692 Witch Trials, our guided sightseeing includes the cemetery and the Judge's Chambers also known as the Witch House, the only structure still standing associated with the trials. Then we continue to the House of Seven Gables made famous by Nathaniel Hawthorne's gothic novel of the same name featuring the struggle of Hepzibah Pyncheon and family. Enjoy a tour of this mansion built in 1668 by merchant ship-owner, John Turner.

Tonight, we enjoy a pizza party on board our train. (B, D)

### Day 4 Tuesday: Boston-Plymouth

We depart Boston heading southeast to Plymouth Rock where tradition says the Pilgrims first landed. Learn about the relationships between the Native American Wompanoag Tribe and the Pilgrims, some good and some not so good. Then on to Plimouth Plantation a living history museum where the historical interpreters dressed in 1624 style, are answering questions and discussing their lives and viewpoints from that time. We will have demonstrations on cooking, farming and making pottery. The Mayflower II is a replica ship and has been refurbished for her 400th anniversary of bringing the Pilgrims to America. We also visit the water-powered Grist Mill from 1636 and get some souvenir cornmeal ground there. (B, D)

### Day 5 Wednesday: Boston

This morning we stay in Boston for a full day of local sights starting out on the Freedom Trail. We will include the USS Constitution, Bunker Hill Monument, Old North Church ("One if by land, two if by sea"), Old State House and Granary Burying Grounds. After time for lunch on your own at Faneuil Hall, we visit the Soldiers & Sailors Monument and JFK Library. (B, D)

### Day 6 Thursday: Boston-Portsmouth-Kennebunk-Kennebunkport

Today we journey north to New Hampshire's Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse for a photo stop then on to Maine's charming villages of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport. Our step-on guide will show us around these quaint towns. We will drive by former sea captains homes, mansion, the Bush compound and enjoy the views along Ocean Avenue, considered one of the most scenic drives. You will have free time for lunch and shopping downtown Kennebunkport. Next we visit

*The House of Seven Gables, Salem*





*Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse*

the Seashore Trolley Museum with the largest electric railway collection and enjoy a ride on the Atlantic Shore Line Railway. (B, D)

**Day 7 Friday: Boston**

This morning we walk a few blocks to the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, getting in before they open to the general public. Our fully guided tour with an 18th Century host leads you through an interactive colonial town meeting and gives you the opportunity to “dump the tea”. From here the remainder of the day is free to enjoy Boston with an Old Town Trolley “hop on & off” pass. Tonight dinner is on your own in the city, then return to our rail cars when you are ready. (B)

**Day 8 Saturday: Boston-Train En Route**

Our train departs Boston’s South Station hooked to the Lake Shore Limited #49, at 12:50 P.M. Enjoy the panoramic view and high life aboard the train as we head back towards Chicago, mingling with our companions and discussing our favorite parts of the trip. (B, L, D)

**Day 9 Sunday:  
Train Arrival-  
Chicago-Central  
Illinois**

This morning we are scheduled to arrive Chicago at 9:50 A.M. We say our farewell to the train crew who provided great service over the past 9 days. We board our 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.

**Physical Requirements:** This trip requires being able to get on and off the train daily with minimum assistance. There will be a fair amount of walking each day. If it becomes difficult for you to keep up with the group, a wheelchair or other assistance will be required and you must have a travel companion to help you.

*JFK Presidential Library and Museum, Boston*





Boston Tea Party Ships Museum

**What's Included:** • Round trip motor coach transportation from Central Illinois • Rail transportation • Premium snacks and beverages • Guided sightseeing & transportation • Admissions • Old Town Trolley Boston • 16 Meals: 8 Breakfasts 2 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 Lake Shore Limited  
 Private Train Car (6) Sleeping berth, Boston station  
 Private Train Car (1) Sleeping berth, en route Lake Shore Limited

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

## Price Options

Code	Type	Train Car	Double	Single	Triple	Quad
UL	Standard Bedroom, upper & lower	Birch Grove	\$ 4,882	9,613	6,459	4,882
RM	Roomette	Birch Grove	N/A	5,432	N/A	N/A
2L	Deluxe Bedroom, 2 lowers w/facilities	Moonlight Dome	6,182	12,213	N/A	N/A
FL	Double Bed/No Facilities	Moonlight Dome	5,582	11,013	N/A	N/A

\*All prices are per person, based on occupancy, double: \$4882, single: \$5432, triple \$6,459.  
 • Additional cost applies for special double bedrooms in the Moonlight Dome (see price chart).  
 • Document required for US Citizens is 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 [tourgroupplanners.com/insurance](http://tourgroupplanners.com/insurance). Other terms at [tourgroupplanners.com/terms](http://tourgroupplanners.com/terms) incorporated by reference. • Price and details are subject to change. Acct#00912t 21Dec19 21:54

Join us from • Urbana • Decatur • Springfield • Chicago.  
 Tour Coordinator is Judy or Dawn, email: [Judy@TourGroupPlanners.com](mailto:Judy@TourGroupPlanners.com) or [Dawn@TourGroupPlanners.com](mailto:Dawn@TourGroupPlanners.com); call **217 422-5002**. Mail a check for \$1500 per-person deposit (sorry, no credit cards accepted) to **Tour Group Planners**, 363 S Main St Suite 307, Decatur IL 62523

## 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.

Kennebunkport Maine



Where travel dreams become reality.



# 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:

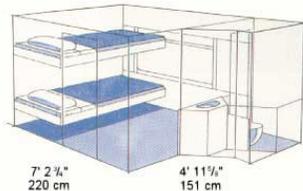
### Double Bedroom



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

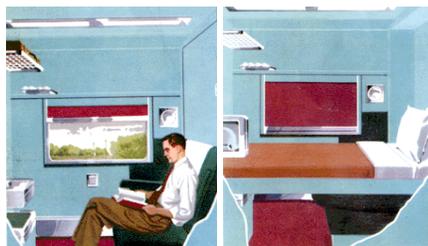
- **Double** bedroom with upper and lower twin berths.

- **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.

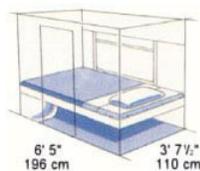
### Roomette



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



USS Constitution



Salem's Witch House

