

HOLIDAY VENUES

A Different Train of Thought for Company Holiday Parties: Chartering Private Railcars

RIGHT now in companies everywhere those charged with planning the annual company holiday party are booking the usual event venues – restaurant party spaces or hotel banquet rooms.

Meanwhile, parked at Los Angeles Union Station, there are three plush American Railway Explorer private railcars designed by James Park, the architect of the Venice Simplon Orient Express, that promise to transform a mundane holiday party into a “moving experience” – in both senses of the expres-

sion – with a daytrip to San Diego.

The three private charter railcars of the American Railway Explorer collection – a salon party car, a dome car and an open platform car – can be chartered for coastal holiday party trips hitched to the back of a scheduled Amtrak train. The company takes care of all the details, including catering and arrangements with Amtrak.

The company’s president and CEO, Jim Bain, says, “When you are in a private railcar that’s traveling along the coast, there’s a shared experience and intimate atmosphere that generates real

camaraderie.”

Amtrak has more than 20 trips daily from Los Angeles Union Station, providing many itinerary options. On a daytrip to San Diego, linked to an Amtrak *Pacific Surfliner* train, your chartered railcar departs Los Angeles in the morning. En route, your guests are treated to breakfast and coast-hugging views of the Pacific.

The train drops your guests off in San Diego. There, historic buildings mix with many visitor attractions on the site of California’s first Spanish settlement. The train departs San Diego in the late afternoon and arrives back at Los Angeles Union Station by early evening. En route,

guests enjoy cocktails and hors d’oeuvres.

The charter cost is \$5,000 per day for the first car, with a lesser rate for a second or third car. Catering and Amtrak charges are additional. Car capacities range from 12 to 30. The total daytrip capacity for all three cars is 64.

The cars were designed in 1987; they were refurbished in 2012. The cars are available for charter on trips nationwide attached to Amtrak trains.

The company’s website is www.AmericanRailwayExplorer.com. Bain can be reached at (720) 635-2002 or by e-mail at jbain@aretrain.com.

HOLIDAY VENUE SPOTLIGHT



(left) *The Utah parlor café-lounge car*. Designed for festive group gatherings, this car has the layout, size, capacity and ambiance of a classic, luxurious café-lounge car. In every detail, *The Utah* embodies the resplendent tradition of private cars of the “Golden Age of Travel.” Along with the bar there is a kitchen and a buffet serving area at the rear of the lounge. (right) *The Vista Dome atop The California* is a “glass penthouse” that affords ever-changing views. There is a combination of booth and sofa seating with built-in, retractable tables.



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