

**How & when was Durango founded?**

Durango was founded by the Denver & Rio Grande Railway in 1879. The railroad arrived in Durango on August 5, 1881 and construction on the line to Silverton began in the fall of the same year. By July of 1882 (amazingly only 9 months after construction began), the tracks to Silverton were completed and the train began hauling both freight and passengers.

**How long has the train been taking passengers on leisure rides?**

Those involved with the train were always aware of the spectacular experience a ride presented, and they promoted scenic rides from the train's inception. The train was officially promoted as a scenic tour beginning in July of 1882. It was promoted in 1951 as solely a passenger train and not as a freight train.

**How many passengers does the D&SNGRR carry per year?**

The number of passengers per year has reached over 200,000. After 9-11 and the Missionary Ridge Fire in 2002, the numbers dropped and are gradually increasing again. In 2005, just over 165,000 passengers rode.

**Has the train "starred" in any movies?**

*Colorado Territory* (1949), *Ticket to Tomahawk* (1950), *Denver and Rio Grande* (1952), *Viva Zapata* (1952), *Three Young Texans* (1954), *Run for Cover* (1955), *Maverick Queen* (1956), *Around the World in 80 Days* (1956), *Night Passage* (1957), *How the West Was Won* (1963), *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969), *Support Your Local Gunfighter* (1970), *Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad* (1984), *The Tracker* (1987), *Rebirth of a Locomotive* (1992), *Durango Kid* (1999), *The Claim* (2000), *The Prestige* (2006).

**There are many famous actors and actresses who starred in movies involving the D&SNGRR. Some even rode the train:**

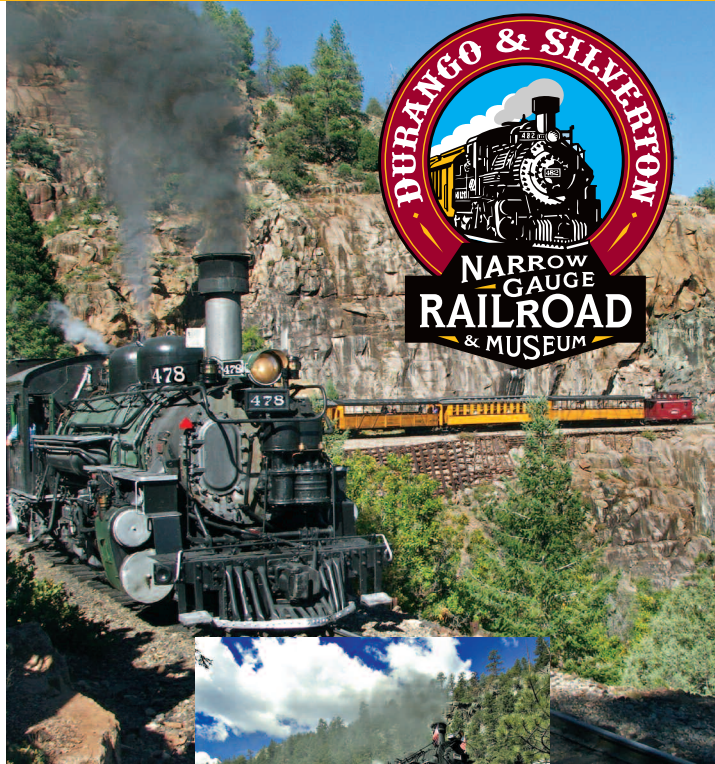
Robert Redford, Paul Newman, Marilyn Monroe, Marlon Brando, Anthony Quinn, James Stewart, Debbie Reynolds, John Wayne, Henry Fonda, Gregory Peck, Cloris Leachman, James Garner and Suzanne Pleshette, Ernest Borgnine, Robert Urich, John Denver, Warren Beatty, Michael J. Fox, Howie Long, Dennis Weaver, Ricky Lee Jones, Michael Martin Murphy, Kris Kristopherson, President Gerald Ford, and President William H. Taft among others.

**Just how narrow is the narrow gauge?**

Narrow gauge rails are three feet (thirty-six inches) apart, while standard gauge rails are four feet, eight and one half inches (56 1/2 inches) apart.

**Why is narrow gauge used?**

Actually, General Palmer implemented narrow gauge and narrow passenger cars because he wanted to prevent men and women from being able to sleep in the same bed on the train (the narrow passenger cars only have room for single sleeper bunks on each side). These cars are also less expensive and easier to bring through the rough mountain terrain, so they became popular. The rails were

**How many miles does the train accumulate after one day?**

The train travels 45 miles to Silverton, making a total of 95-100 miles in one day.

**Is mileage recorded?**

Unlike automobiles, locomotives do not have odometers, so it is up to the conductor to keep track of mileage. Locomotive and train mileage is recorded monthly and submitted to the Federal Railroad Association. Passenger miles are also submitted monthly. The number of passengers on that round-trip multiplies the daily mileage (90 miles approximately) for the total miles traveled.

**How many employees does it take to run the train?**

The train requires four employees plus concession and private car attendants. Two employees work in the locomotive cab (the engineer and fireman), and two brakemen and one conductor work throughout the entire train.

**How does one become a conductor?**

**How does one become an engineer?** Both positions require special exams and on-the-job training. To become a conductor, one must first become a brakeman and work under the conductor. It typically takes more than four years to become an engineer. One begins as a brakeman, then progresses to working in

the cab alongside the engineer as a fireman. Then, one must study mechanical instruction and take student trips.

**What is the oldest part of the train?**

Concession Car #212 was built in 1879.

**What is the oldest D&SNGRR locomotive?**

No. 42 was built in 1887 and is on display in the museum. The locomotives used daily are from 1923 and 1925.

**What are the most years a person has been an employee of the train?**

Amos Cordova, former marketing VP, who was hired by the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, was a railroad employee for 47 years.

**Who owns the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad?**

American Heritage Railways of Coral Gables, Florida, purchased the railroad in the summer of 1998 under the leadership of Chairman Allen C. Harper and President Carol Harper.

*The D&SNGRR is designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Services and is also an American Society of Civil Engineering Landmark. The train was recognized in the "Top Ten Most Exciting Train Journeys in the World" by the Society of American Travel Writers and received the "5 Star Award for Best Attraction" by the National Association of Travel Journalists.*

For more information, contact the Marketing Department at (970) 259-0274.

For tickets or group reservations, call (970) 247-2733 or [www.durangotrain.com](http://www.durangotrain.com).



## PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE TRAIN

There are **milepost numbers along the train tracks (Eastern side) that correspond with the numbers listed below.** Note: These are the original mileposts assigned by the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad and the miles indicate the number of miles West of Denver.

**454.5** To the West – see Falls Creek Waterfall which flows May – July. The ranch in front of the falls is one of the oldest working ranches in the valley, called “Waterfall Ranch” owned by the Ed Zink family.

**458-459** The Animas Valley – is a picturesque green valley off set by the red rock beds and cliffs. During the winter months, you can often see herds of Elk grazing in the valley.

**462** Once the train crosses the highway at Hermosa, the train will begin to climb and curves off to the right. As the train climbs – the steam locomotives are forced to work hard, puffing smoke and steam along each mile.

**465.75** From the Pinkerton siding you can see Bakers Bridge crossing the Animas River just north of the KOA. This area was the first encampment in the area in 1869 and the bridge was made famous as part of the film Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

**467** U.S. Hwy 550 overpass: This is a great photo stop from the highway. Once the train crosses under the highway there is a good view to the North with great views of the pyramid-shaped Engineer Mountain.

**468.3** Shalona Lake is a privately owned picture-perfect high mountain lake to the East of the train.

**469.5** Once the train enters the Rockwood cut – and the San Juan National Forest, prepare for the “highline” and the spectacular horse shoe curve. The Animas River is 400 feet below on the right. This portion of the track is considered a civil engineering landmark. What’s more amazing – this track was cut and laid back in 1881 and 1882, by using black powder and manpower.

**471.2** The train crossed the Animas River. As the train crosses over the High Bridge – the locomotive will “blow-down” steam from the boilers. This steam shooting horizontally from either side of the locomotive often creates rainbow colors.

**472.3** Tacoma Hydro Electric Plant – built in 1905 continues to provide electricity for the town of Silverton. The plant manager’s only access to his home is via rail motorcar.

**474.6** Tank Creek water stop. The train will stop and the fireman will lower the spout to fill the locomotive’s water tank held in the tender. There is a small waterfall flowing from Tank Creek into the Animas River on the right.

**475.25** Tall Timber Resort – A private 5-Star resort accessed by rail or helicopter only.

**477.5** Cascade Canyon Wye (Where the winter train turns around and stops for a break.)

**477.8** A wrought iron and steel bridge which allows the train to cross the Animas River once again.

**479.5** Bitter Root Mine: located on the west side. The owner, Oscar Schaf named it for his wife’s original home in the Bitterroot Mountains of Montana.

**483.3** Needleton Flag Stop – where a footbridge allows hikers, backpackers, and rafters the opportunity to get off or board the train at this stop.

**484.4** Needleton Tank – on the West (An old wooden water tank not currently in use.)



## 2007 SPECIAL EVENTS

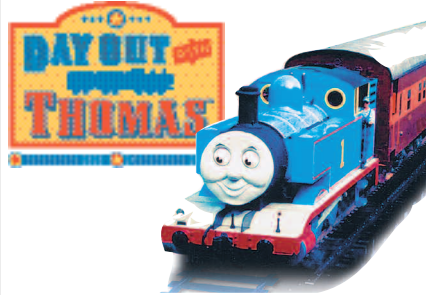
**February 18: Winter Photographer’s Special** Photo run-bys through a winter wonderland. Very limited seating. \$89 per person.

**May 4: Annual Narrow Gauge Days**  
BBQ & entertainment in front of Durango depot. 11am - 2pm.

**May 5: Silverton Salutations**  
Opening day of Silverton service.

**May 26: Annual Iron Horse Bicycle Classic**  
Bicyclists race the train to Silverton.

**June 8 ~ 10: Step Back in Time Festival**  
A celebration of the “Boom Town” glory of Silverton. For information call 970-387-5522.



**June 15 ~ 18: Day Out With Thomas™ Event**  
Excursions with the loveable little blue engine, plus a great deal more. \$16 per person. Service fees apply. Book online at [www.durangotrain.com](http://www.durangotrain.com) or call 1-866-468-7630.

**July 4: Independence Day Express Train**  
Ride the train to Silverton for a day of fun and festivities and return to Durango after the fireworks.

**August 22 ~ 26: Annual Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railfest** Check the Web site for details.

**September 22 & 23: Fall Photographer’s Special Weekend**  
Fall foliage train with photo run-bys. Prices vary with different options. Limited seating.

**490.5** Elk Park (elevation 8,883 ft.) where there are excellent views of the mountains around. This is a siding where trains can meet and also a flag stop for hikers and hunters.

**494.6** Remains of an old boiler and ore tippie can be seen on the East.

**494.65** Remains of the King Mine can be seen across the river in a steep gulch named Cataract. The Deadwood Gulch is home to the Detroit Mine just ahead across the river and high on the steep slope.

**495.25** The last crossing of the Animas river before arriving in Silverton. One mile ahead, the train will cross Mineral Creek on a 112 ft. steel plate bridge that was originally constructed back in 1907.

**496.7** The Silverton depot, originally constructed in 1882. (elevation 9,305 ft.) The train will continue into the center of town where passengers will be able to disembark for lunch and shopping. The entire town of Silverton is considered a National Historic Landmark. Truly, your arrival is like a step back in time and history.

For more detailed information about points of interest along this 45 mile journey, check out the *Cinders and Smoke Mile by Mile Guide* written by Doris Osterwald or *America’s Railroad – The Official Guidebook* by Robert Royem. Both books are available for purchase onboard the train or in the depot gift shop.

**D&SNGRR • 479 Main • Durango, CO 81301**  
**(970) 247-2733 • 1-888-TRAIN-07**  
[www.durangotrain.com](http://www.durangotrain.com)

**October 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28: Peanuts™ The Great Pumpkin Patch Express**  
Ride the train and bring home the perfect pumpkin.



**November 21: Cascade Canyon Winter Train begins**



**November 21 ~ December 27: The Polar Express™** comes to life when the train departs the Durango depot for a round-trip journey to the “North Pole.”

**December 31: Annual New Year’s Eve Presidential Special Train** Enjoy a festive evening excursion onboard



a turn-of-the-century train. Entertainment, hors d’oeuvres, and a cash bar.



## MEDIA CONTACTS:

### Marketing Manager

Andrea Seid (970) 259-0274  
FAX (970) 259-3570  
1-888-TRAIN-07  
aseid@durangotrain.com

### Sales Manager:

Bob Morris (970) 259-0274  
FAX (970) 259-3570  
1-888-TRAIN-07

### Scanned Photography/Artwork:

Andrea Seid aseid@durangotrain.com  
Yvonne Lashmett ylashmett@durangotrain.com

### Video Footage:

Rich Fletcher (970) 247-8137  
FAX (970) 259-2801  
ANIMAS MEDIA  
P.O. Box 2563  
117B CR 250, Durango, CO 81301

### Current Train Schedule Information:

D&SNGRR Reservations Manager  
Pam Ramsey (970) 247-2733  
FAX (970) 259-3570  
479 Main, Durango, CO 81301  
1-888-TRAIN-07

