

Modifications due to COVID-19 have been approved by the County Public Health Office



EL DORADO WESTERN RAILROAD 2021 SCHEDULE January-March 2021

Rides on 1st and 3rd Sundays
(weather permitting)

**Boarding at
EL DORADO STATION**

4650 Oriental St, El Dorado
10:00 AM — 1:00 PM

January - March Schedule
Weather Permitting
*If raining, please call
(530) 663-3581 to check schedule*

January 3: closed
January 17: closed

February 7: 10 AM - 1 PM
February 21: 10 AM - 1 PM

March 7: 10 AM - 1 PM
March 21: 10AM - 1 PM

Rides leave on the hour: 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1 pm

- Tickets sold first come first serve, starting at 9:30am
- Call (530) 663-3581 for more information and to confirm departure times

Face masks are required, keep 6 feet distance from other household groups, sanitize hands frequently
Please help to keep volunteers and visitors safe!

\$8.00 for ages 9 and up

\$3.00 for ages 4 - 8

- First ride leaves no sooner than 10:00, last ride leaves no later than 1:00
- Limited number of seats available on each ride
- Rides are about 35 minutes long and round trip
- Riders under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult
- Schedule subject to some variation due to weather and volunteer staffing
- No animals are allowed on board

Reservations for groups are available - please call (530) 663-3581 for more information
All donations, ticket sales and merchandise sales help to keep the Railroad running
Thank you for your support!

Visit us online at <http://museum.edcgov.us/el-dorado-western-railroad/> and at
[facebook.com/ElDoradoWesternRailroad](https://www.facebook.com/ElDoradoWesternRailroad)

Location of the El Dorado Station (4650 Oriental St. in the town of El Dorado) GPS Coordinates: N38°41'01", W120°51'02" Located next to the El Dorado Community Hall in the town of El Dorado. Take Hwy 49 to Pleasant Valley Road to the town of El Dorado. Then take Oriental Street (across from the Post Office) and keep left at the "Y" to the end of the road, then turn left to reach the station.

Would you like to be a Volunteer?

The El Dorado Western Railroad is operated and maintained by Museum Volunteers. Ask one of our volunteers about how to get started, or go to the website <http://museum.edcgov.us/volunteers>



The Mission of the El Dorado Western Railroad is to preserve the county's railroading history by providing the El Dorado County Historical Museum a dynamic living history railroad experience for the public, and by maintaining and operating on the historic Placerville Branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

RAILROADS have been an important part of El Dorado County's history. After gold was discovered in 1848, the Gold Rush brought thousands of people to Northern California and with them, the idea of building a railroad from Sacramento to the Gold Fields. By 1853 the Sacramento Valley Railroad was begun, reaching Folsom in 1856.

When the Comstock Lode was discovered in Virginia City, Nevada, the Placerville-Lake Tahoe Wagon Road became busy and crowded. Placerville residents pushed to continue the rail line from Folsom. The track was laid to Latrobe in 1864 and to Shingle Springs by 1865. It took another 23 years to complete the rail line to Placerville. The Southern Pacific Railroad's "Placerville Branch" opened for business in 1888, and hauled lumber, fruit, butter and other produce to Sacramento until 1986. There was also a thriving passenger service to and from Sacramento until the early 1940s.

In addition to the Southern Pacific Railroad Placerville Branch, there were narrow gauge logging railroads connecting the vast stands of timber to lumber mills. The Michigan-California Lumber Company used an extensive network of narrow gauge rail, including a cable which carried rail cars of lumber across the American River Canyon from the mill in Pino Grande on the north side of the river to the mill in Camino. Their standard gauge railroad, the Camino, Placerville & Lake Tahoe Railroad brought lumber to Placerville where it was loaded onto the Placerville Branch railroad line. The Camino, Placerville & Lake Tahoe railroad right-of-way is now part of the El Dorado Trail. Another logging railroad was put in by the Diamond & Caldor Lumber Company. Their network of narrow gauge rail was east of Grizzly Flat with a lumber mill in Caldor and another in Diamond Springs. Much of their lumber was loaded onto the Placerville Branch in Diamond Springs.

The EL DORADO WESTERN RAILROAD currently operates its excursion railroad program on the Placerville Branch between Shingle Springs and Missouri Flat Road. Originally there were five combined freight and passenger depots, built to standard Southern Pacific Railroad designs, in Latrobe, Shingle Springs, El Dorado, Diamond Springs and Placerville. The only existing structure is a portion of the Shingle Springs freight warehouse, built after a devastating 1896 fire burned the original 1865 station. The town of El Dorado now has a scaled version of the El Dorado Station through the generosity of volunteers and donors.

Additional historical information and photographs are at the El Dorado County Historical Museum, 104 Placerville Drive, Placerville, CA 95667. Early railroad history is used courtesy of Doug Noble from his series published in the Mountain Democrat in 2007. For more information, visit the Museum website at <http://museum.edcgov.us/county-history>.



Speeder Cars—also known as "Gang Cars," "Inspection Cars" or "A-Cars"—were rail vehicles used to transport maintenance workers, track inspectors and assorted railroad ruffians for over 100 years from the late 1880s to the early 1990s. Unique in their own right, the gasoline-powered Speeder Cars have developed quite a following of devoted fans.

Future plans for the El Dorado Western Railroad include a full-size excursion train. Work is on-going to restore historical railroad equipment and the Southern Pacific Railroad Tracks.

In addition, the Railroad History Center will be located in El Dorado including county-based narrow gauge logging railroad artifacts.

The historic Shingle Springs Turntable and a railroad maintenance yard near the historic Diamond Springs Station are currently in the planning stages.



This 1912 photo shows the El Dorado Depot, built in 1888. It served both passengers and freight on the Placerville Branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The El Dorado School, a one room schoolhouse and now the El Dorado Community Hall, is seen at the left edge of the photo.

The El Dorado Western Railroad is the Living History Program of the El Dorado County Historical Museum

104 Placerville Drive
Placerville, CA 95667

Visit the website at <http://museum.edcgov.us>

Email: museum@edcgov.us, (530) 621-5865

January 2021

