

2022 SCHEDULE EL DORADO WESTERN RAILROAD



March – July, 2022

Winter break January & February

March – July

Regular Schedule

Weather Permitting: if raining, snowing or over 95° please call (530) 663-3581 to confirm

March 6: 10 AM – 1PM

March 20: 10 AM – 1 PM

April 3: 10 AM – 1PM

April 17: 10 AM – 1PM

May 1: 10 AM – 1PM

May 15: 10 AM – 1PM

June 5: 10 AM – 1PM

June 19: 10 AM – 1PM

July 3: 10 AM – 1PM

July 17: 10 AM – 1PM

Schedule for August – December coming soon!

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

Boarding at EL DORADO STATION

4650 Oriental St, El Dorado

10:00 AM — 1:00 PM

\$8.00 for ages 9 and up

\$3.00 for ages 4 – 8

- ✓ Rides leave on the hour: 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm
(first ride leaves no sooner than 10:00, last ride leaves no later than 1:00)
- ✓ Tickets are sold first come first serve, starting at 9:30am (no reservations in advance)
- ✓ Call (530) 663-3581 for questions and to confirm departure times
 - 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
 - No animals are allowed on board



Schedule is subject to change due to changing weather conditions, availability of trained volunteers, and other circumstances beyond our control

We encourage face coverings, 6 feet distancing from non-household members, and frequent hand sanitizing.

Please help us keep volunteers and visitors safe!

This Railroad is run with volunteers. All donations, ticket sales and merchandise sales help to keep the Railroad alive.

**If you would like to volunteer, please let us know!
Email us at eldoradowesternrailroad@gmail.com**

Thank you for your support

Visit us online at www.edcgov.us/government/museum and on [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 email us at eldoradowesternrailroad@gmail.com



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 www.edcgov.us/government/museum/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

www.edcgov.us/government/museum

museum@edcgov.us,

(530) 621-5865

February 2022

