COAST STARLIGHT℠

The *Coast Starlight*℠ travels 1,390-miles from Seattle, Washington, to Los Angeles, California. Along this route you will travel up steep mountain ranges, down into rolling, green valleys and along the beautiful sandy shores of the Pacific Ocean. The scenery is breathtaking and the history is fascinating.

The name *Coast Starlight* is derived from the names of two former Southern Pacific trains, the *Coast Daylight* and the *Starlight*. The *Coast Daylight* was the premiere daytime train, while the *Starlight* was an overnight all-coach train between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Before 1971, one had to travel on three trains operated by two railroads from Los Angeles to Seattle. Southern Pacific operated numerous trains between Los Angeles and Portland but a change of trains at San Francisco/Oakland was necessary. From Portland to Seattle, one used the trains of the Union Pacific, Great Northern or Northern Pacific. With Amtrak's creation in 1971, through train service between Los Angeles and Seattle was initiated.

Note that all **AMTRAK® STATIONS** are in capital letters to set them apart from towns and regions through which the *Coast Starlight* travels but doesn't stop. Use this guide along with an Amtrak timetable to determine station times. This guide is written from north to south.

SEATTLE In 1851, a group of settlers led by Arthur Denny arrived at Alki Point, and in 1852 David "Doc" Maynard arrived in Seattle. Maynard is credited with naming Seattle after his friend Chief Sealth, leader of the Duwamish and Suquamish tribes.

Built in 1906, King Street Station is slated for a complete restoration. The station is also the hub for *Amtrak® Cascades®* service linking Oregon and Washington with Vancouver, BC. Safeco Field, home of baseball's Seattle Mariners is across the street along with the home of the NFL Seahawks at Seahawks Stadium. Minutes after leaving Seattle, we will pass Boeing Field, home of the Boeing Aircraft Company. The original red-brick Boeing plant, now the Museum of Flight, can be seen across the runway.

The "Emerald City" is the gateway to Alaska and the Orient through its importance in shipping as well as its emergence in the cruise industry. The Space Needle, built for the 1962 Seattle World's Fair, is still a popular tourist spot and can be seen as our train departs the city.

TACOMA Called the "City of Destiny" because of the sawmills and lumber all along McCarver Street, today Tacoma remains a major seaport city and its port is the sixth largest container port in North America, covering over 2,400 acres. It ranks in the top 25 for international container trade.

The name Tacoma comes from the Native American name for Mt. Ranier, "Tacobet," meaning "Mother of the Waters."

Beyond the city, the train follows Commencement Bay – in the southeast arm of Puget Sound – through the Tacoma Narrows. The Olympic Mountains rise from the far side of Puget Sound.

OLYMPIA-LACEY Just outside of town, the train crosses the Nisqually River. Olympia is the capital of Washington. Located on the southernmost point of Puget Sound, the peninsula known as Olympia was "Cheetwoot" (the black bear place) to the Coastal Salish Native Americans. These Native Americans lived on the peninsula for many generations before the establishment of an American settlement.

CENTRALIA In 1875, Centralia was founded by a former slave from Virginia. The Skookumchuck River crosses through Centralia. As the train passes through the outskirts of Centralia, look beyond the ball fields toward the mountains for Mt. St. Helens. Its 1980 eruption sent ash in this direction (some ash even traveled as far as Oklahoma). The grayish ash can still be seen in the countryside.

KELSO-LONGVIEW Here we pass by the "Smelt Capital of the World." It is known as such because each year, during January and February, thousands of tiny silver fish swim up the Cowlitz River to spawn. From here to Vancouver, the train follows the Columbia River, on the right. Oregon is on the opposite shore. Until the War of 1812, the Columbia was the border between the U.S. and Canada.

VANCOUVER The Hudson Bay Company built Ft. Vancouver in 1824 as a trading post. Locals like to refer to their city as "Vancouver USA" to distinguish it from the Canadian city of the same name. This is the oldest continuous settlement in the Pacific Northwest.

The train crosses two arms of the Columbia River and then crosses over the Willamette River, which it then follows into Portland. Here the train crosses between Washington and Oregon. Look upriver to the left for a view of Mt. Hood, the tallest of Oregon's Cascade peaks, which stands watch over much of Oregon from a height of 11,239 ft.

PORTLAND Known as the beautiful "City of Roses" Portland is Oregon's largest metropolitan area, known for its parks, fountains, gardens, jazz festivals and, of course, the Portland Rose Festival. The Rose Festival, a 97-year-old tradition, hosts an estimated two million people each year – some traveling thousands of miles just to experience this month-long celebration. As we leave Portland and enter the suburb of Milwaukie, we see Mt. Hood on the left.

Woodburn Because of the large populations of Anglos, Russians, Hispanics and senior citizens who make up the community, Woodburn has been called the "City of Unity." Woodburn is home of Engine 1785, the old steam locomotive that is heralded "the best cosmetically restored engine of its period west of the Mississippi River."

SALEM Here we stop at the state capital and the second largest city in Oregon. Winding through Salem is the Willamette River, one of the few rivers that flow from south to north. On the right side of the train you will see a gold plated statue atop the state capitol. The statue is that of a man holding an ax and represents the spirit of the people who developed the State of Oregon.

ALBANY What began as a small but prosperous river town in 1845, is today a lumber and agricultural center and a major supplier of our nation's grass seed.

Three Sisters Mountains Just before we enter Eugene, you'll see the snow-capped peaks of the Three Sisters Mountains. In the wilderness around the Three Sisters, hikers and mountain bikers enjoy approximately 260 miles of trails, including 40 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

EUGENE-SPRINGFIELD Known as the "Lumber Capital of the U.S." Eugene is also the western-most city on the Amtrak system.

From Springfield, we start our climb into the Cascade Mountains – featuring spectacular mountain scenery and the Willamette Pass. While crossing the Cascade Range, our train will pass through 22 tunnels.

CHEMULT As we arrive at the Chemult station, Diamond Peak (8,750 ft.) is visible on the right. As we leave Chemult, look to your right. You will see Mt. Thielsen (9,182 ft.), Mt. Scott (8,929 ft.) and Diamond Lake. Mt. Scott was formed after Mt. Mazama (14,000 ft.) erupted approximately 6,000 years ago.

The remains of Mt. Mazama now form Crater Lake National Park.

Upper Klamath Lake One of the largest freshwater lakes west of the Rockies, the lake is eight miles wide and 40 miles long. On the right, we see the snow-capped peak of Mt. McLoughlin (9,495 ft.).

KLAMATH FALLS As we arrive at the Klamath Falls station, note the sawmills on the left side of the train. The scent of freshly cut wood is often in the air. South of Klamath Falls, we'll see the Klamath River. Accessible from Klamath Falls is Crater Lake, a vibrant blue body of water occupying the crater of an extinct volcano.

Oregon/California State Line We cross the state line 20 minutes south of Klamath Falls.

DUNSMUIR Between Klamath Falls and Dunsmuir, snow-covered Mt. Shasta (14,162 ft.) dominates the scenery. It is the largest mountain in the Cascade Range and is snow-covered for most of the year. Some of the most dramatic views of Mt. Shasta are to be seen from the train on moonlit nights.

REDDING The Sacramento River winds its way through Redding from the densely forested and snow-capped mountains surrounding this beautiful city. Less than an hour's drive from Redding, tourists enjoy lakes, waterfalls and historical gold rush ruins.

CHICO This is home to Bidwell Park, the second largest municipal park in the country (after Central Park, NY). The park boasts 3,750 acres of land along the banks of Big Chico Creek, as well as an 18-hole golf course, baseball fields, swimming holes, a children's playground and trails for jogging, hiking, bicycling and horseback riding.

SACRAMENTO The capital of California, Sacramento was founded in 1849. It was California's original charter city and is rich in California history. The gold rush, pony express and first transcontinental railroad all originated in Sacramento.

As the train approaches the Sacramento station, the train passes the remnants of the Southern Pacific's locomotive shops. The Central Pacific Railroad, the Southern Pacific's predecessor, began constructing these shops in 1864, five years before it linked up with the Union Pacific Railroad at Promontory, Utah, to create America's first transcontinental railroad.

Sacramento is also the home of the California State Railroad Museum, which contains one of the nation's most impressive displays of railroad equipment. On the eastern end of Sacramento, the train crosses the American River.

DAVIS Agriculture and veterinary medicine are specialties studied at the Davis campus of the University of California. The 1913 Davis adobe-style train station is a historic landmark.

As we cross Suisun Bay, the fleet of ships to your left are reserve military ships ready to be pressed into service with minimal effort.

MARTINEZ From a trading post in 1849 to a flourishing town in 1876, Martinez became a hub for the gold and shipping industries. After the gold rush, Martinez boasted much of the lucrative grain trade between California's Central Valley and international ports-of-call.

In addition, Martinez is the birthplace of the Martini and baseball's Joe DiMaggio. Growing up in San Francisco, DiMaggio was a local legend with the Pacific Coast League San Francisco Seals before becoming a New York Yankee. Martinez is the connection point for Amtrak's service to cities in the San Joaquin Valley.

EMERYVILLE Located on the waterfront at the base of the San Francisco Bay Bridge, Emeryville has been a central part of Northern California's commerce for more than a century. With its prospering retail, entertainment and business centers, a sense of community pride and innovation are prevalent in this exciting community. Emeryville's inviting climate, diverse cultural attractions and unsurpassed bayside setting offer an unbeatable quality of life.

For those of you detraining and continuing on to San Francisco, you will make convenient shuttle bus connections at the far side of the station. Your bus will take you over the eight-mile long San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and into the heart of exciting San Francisco.

OAKLAND The seventh largest city in California, Oakland's port is among the largest in the West.

Jack London Square and Village Just south of the station, the train crosses Jack London Square. It is located directly next to the wharf and was named after the American writer Jack London. He was famous for books such as *The Call of the Wild, White Fang* and other stories of the frontier days. Jack London Square is very popular with tourists and locals alike with waterfront shops and restaurants. The ferry terminal at the end of the square provides ferry service to downtown San Francisco. To the right we see Alameda Naval Base.

From Oakland to Los Angeles, the railroad tracks follow the same route of the old Spanish mission road, "El Camino Real," which means "The Royal Road." From 1769 to 1823, Franciscan Friar Junipero Serra founded a chain of 21 missions and four mission chapels along this road from San Diego to Sonoma. Each was built to be one day's horseback journey from the next. Serra himself has become known as the "Apostle of California."

SAN FRANCISCO The Amtrak station is located next door to the famous landmark Ferry Building built in 1896, which has undergone a complete restoration. Ferry service to many points in the Bay Area still originates at the Ferry Building. Passengers may catch a streetcar across the street from the Ferry Building to other points in San Francisco.

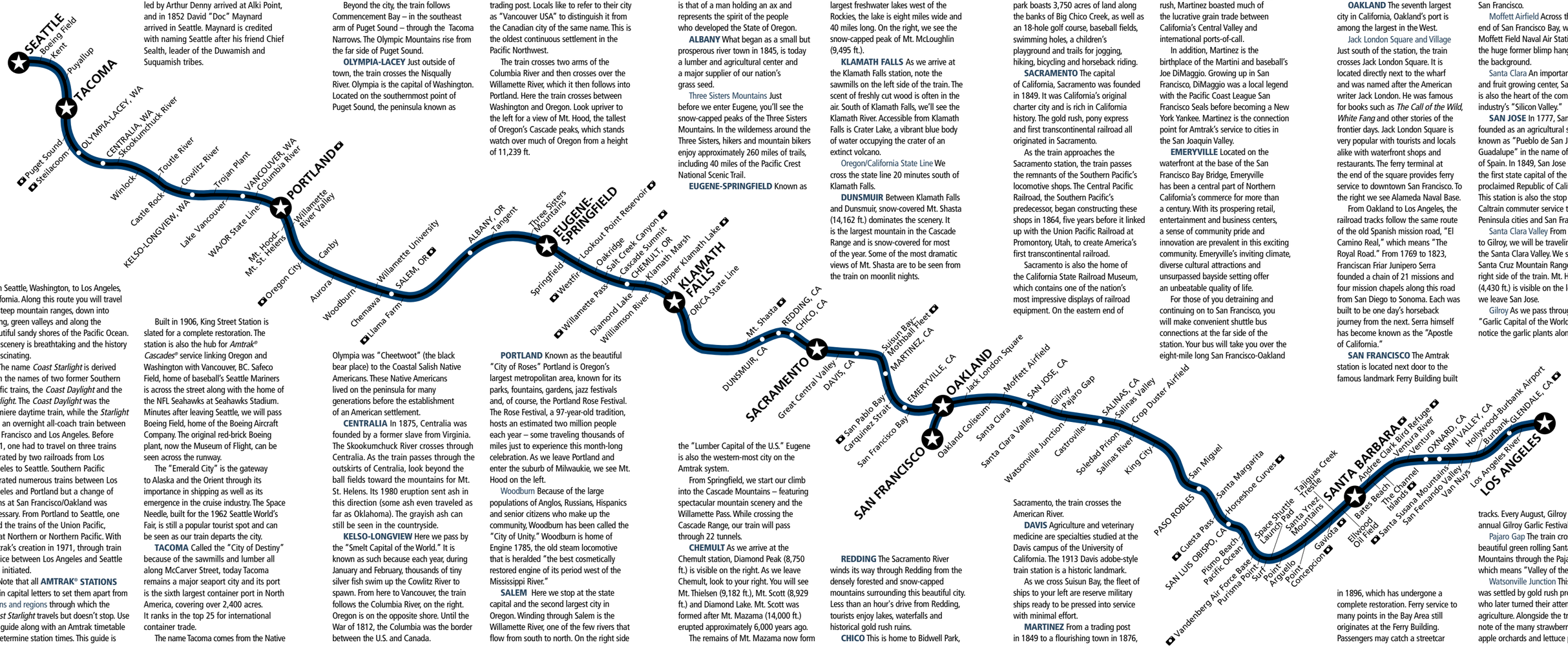
Moffett Airfield Across the lower end of San Francisco Bay, we see Moffett Field Naval Air Station. Note the huge former blimp hangars in the background.

Santa Clara An important industrial and fruit growing center, Santa Clara is also the heart of the computer industry's "Silicon Valley."

SAN JOSE In 1777, San Jose was founded as an agricultural settlement known as "Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe" in the name of Charles III of Spain. In 1849, San Jose became the first state capital of the newly proclaimed Republic of California. This station is also the stop for local Caltrain commuter service to Peninsula cities and San Francisco.

Santa Clara Valley From San Jose to Gilroy, we will be traveling through the Santa Clara Valley. We see the Santa Cruz Mountain Range on the right side of the train. Mt. Hamilton (4,430 ft.) is visible on the left after we leave San Jose.

Gilroy As we pass through the "Garlic Capital of the World," you will notice the garlic plants alongside the tracks. Every August, Gilroy hosts their annual Gilroy Garlic Festival.

Pajaro Gap The train crosses the beautiful green rolling Santa Cruz Mountains through the Pajaro Gap, which means "Valley of the Birds."

Watsonville Junction This town was settled by gold rush prospectors who later turned their attention to agriculture. Alongside the tracks, take note of the many strawberry fields, apple orchards and lettuce patches.