

Steamin' in Sumpter Valley



Travel Baker County
The Sumpter Valley Railroad offers rides this fall, including Fall Foliage trains in October.

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

SUMPTER — The days may be cooling into autumn, but the Sumpter Valley Railroad still runs most weekends through October, and special events

are planned for November and December. Reservations can be made at www.sumptervalleyrailroad.org.

This weekend, Sept. 11 and 12, features full steam rides with staged robberies courtesy of the Gold Rush Bandits. The train

departs from McEwen Depot at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. both days. Full runs are also planned for Sept. 18 and 19, again at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day. Fares are \$25 adults, \$22 seniors/military, and \$15 for ages 3-17. Children younger than 3 always ride free of charge.

After a weekend of maintenance, the trains fire back up Oct. 2 and 3 for short runs from the Sumpter Depot at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$13 seniors/military, and \$8 for ages 3-17.

Kim Svaty, depot manager, said these shorter rides offer an alternative to the traditional train.

"It's an approximately 35 to 40 minute round trip for those with less time or littles that can't sit as long," she said.

FALL FOLIAGE

As leaves change color, the SVRR offers three different days for people to enjoy the autumn colors.

On Oct. 22 and 24 — Friday and Sunday — the Fall Foliage train leaves McEwen Depot at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets are

\$25, \$22 for seniors/military, \$15 for ages 3 to 17.

The full day Photographer's Train is Saturday, Oct. 23. Fare is \$150. The day starts at 6 a.m. with a continental breakfast, and the train leaves at 7 a.m. The ride is "stop and go" until lunch around noon, then passengers will reboard at 1 p.m. for a return trip to McEwen — again with chances to capture picturesque scenes along the way.

HALLOWEEN TRAINS

The diesel engine — the Great Orange Pumpkin — runs for the Halloween-themed rides. A night train is set for Friday, Oct. 29, with short runs from Sumpter to the river and back at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. On Saturday, Oct. 30, the train leaves Sumpter at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. On both days the depot will offer Halloween treats, hot chocolate, cider and cookies. Fares for the short runs are \$15 adults, \$13 seniors/military, \$8 ages 3 to 17.

WINE AND CHEESE

New to the SVRR schedule is a Full Moon Wine and Cheese train on Friday, Nov. 19. Tickets are \$55 for adults. The excursion includes wine from Copper Belt Winery and cheese from The Cheese Fairy.

DECEMBER RIDES

The winter trains will run the weekend of Dec. 11 and 12. Saturday will feature short runs from Sumpter at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The Sunday rides are at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$18 seniors/military, \$10 for ages 3 to 17.

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<https://josephy.org/event/nature-in-the-abstract-call>

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