



## SOUTHWEST CHIEF ROUTE GUIDE



LOS ANGELES • FLAGSTAFF • ALBUQUERQUE • KANSAS CITY • CHICAGO

*We hope you enjoy reading this guide and learning about points of interest along our route. It is written starting from the western terminus of the train in Los Angeles and proceeds to points east, ending in Chicago. If you boarded in Chicago, just read the guide in reverse, remembering to look in the opposite direction if so referenced.*

*AMTRAK STATIONS are shown in all capital letters, as opposed to upper and lower case for towns and geographical areas through which the train travels but does not stop. The Amtrak System Timetable or the Southwest Chief panel card should be consulted for actual station times. While all service presented in this guide was accurate at the time of publication, routes and services are subject to change. Please contact Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL, visit Amtrak.com, or call your travel agent for the most current information.*

*Between the tinsel of Hollywood and the City of Broad Shoulders lie 2,256 miles of the most spectacular scenery in America. You are about to discover natural beauty on a memorable journey that will take you from Southern California through the unique rock formations of Arizona, past Native American country in New Mexico, alongside snow-capped peaks in Colorado, and finally, cutting a swath through the orderly farms and the fruited plains of the Kansas, Missouri and Illinois heartlands. Spectacular sunsets – prairie dogs at play – haunting desert beauty – high elevations -- dark tunnels -- exciting curves and switchbacks – you'll certainly want to keep your camera handy as you share your experiences with friends, family and new acquaintances.*

*[The Southwest Chief is an indirect successor to the famed Santa Fe Super Chief, operated until Amtrak took over provision of the nation's passenger services. It had been the first Diesel-powered and all-Pullman (sleeping car) train in the U.S., and was that railroad's standard bearer, making its maiden run in 1936. Known as the "Train of the Stars," it was famous for its gourmet meals and Hollywood celebrity clientele, fairly setting the bar for luxury rail travel. At the height of its popularity, it made daily departures from both ends of the line. Only the Pennsylvania's Broadway Limited survived longer in all-Pullman car guise. Maintaining its legendary high service level until May 1, 1971, the Santa Fe railroad ended its passenger operations on that date.]*



# WELCOME ABOARD



Welcome aboard the *Southwest Chief*,<sup>®</sup> an unsurpassed route offering the awesome natural wonders of the Grand Canyon, Santa Fe Trail, Raton Pass, Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Sedona Red Cliffs and the Continental Divide –tracing most of the original route of the former *Super Chief*<sup>®</sup> between America’s heartland and the west coast. On board, you will experience the comfort and relaxation of train travel while witnessing some of the very best American cultural and geographic icons. We are happy to have you aboard today and want to ensure your trip is everything you want it to be. If there is anything that can be done to make your trip more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to ask any Amtrak employee.

**THE TRAIN STAFF:** The staff of the *Southwest Chief* is here to make your trip a special and enjoyable experience.

**Conductor** is responsible for the entire On-Board Services staff, ticket collection, passenger safety and the safe operation of the train.

**Lead Service Attendant** is responsible for the operation of the Dining car and Dining car staff.

**Lounge Car Attendant** is responsible for the operation of the Café/Lounge car.

**Sleeping Car Attendant** is responsible for providing all service for passengers ticketed in Sleeping car accommodations, including room preparation, luggage service and any assistance necessary to ensure a comfortable journey. He or she can also assist with meal reservations or arrange for your meal to be served in the privacy and comfort of your accommodation.

**Coach Attendant** is responsible for providing service for passengers ticketed in coach. This includes seat assignment, luggage assistance, pillow service, and assistance to ensure a comfortable journey.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

**Superliner<sup>®</sup> Sleeping** accommodations provide a range of private rooms with amenities for day and night use. From roomettes to bedrooms featuring a private lavatory and shower, Sleeping car accommodations will suit any need and can be described in more detail by any member of the crew. Please ask to speak to the Conductor regarding the availability of rooms. Sleeping car passengers can enjoy the Amtrak Metropolitan Lounge available in Chicago.

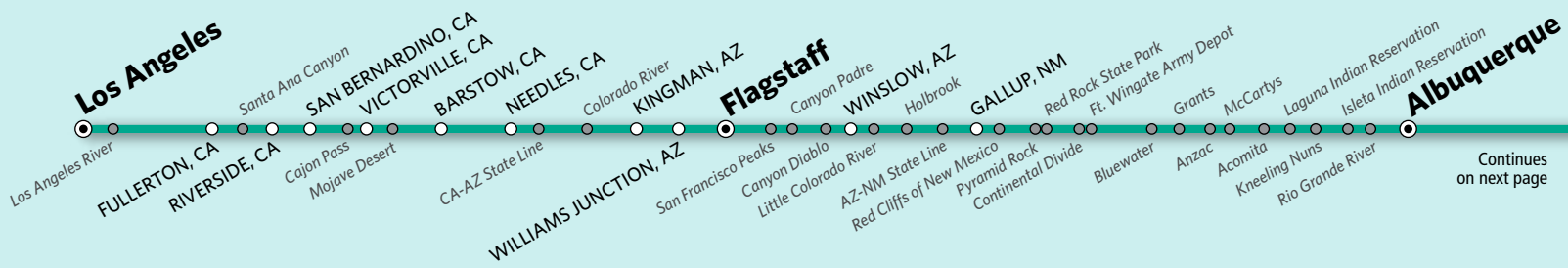
**Coach** seating provides a wide reclining seat with leg rest, folding tray table and overhead reading light. Free pillows and at-seat meal service are also available.

**Dining** service offers full hot meals featuring regional cuisine prepared by Amtrak chefs with specialties unique to the *Southwest Chief*. Spectacular scenery and a great staff make dining on the *Southwest Chief* a memorable experience. The Dining car provides the perfect venue to meet your fellow passengers and enjoy a delicious meal while the scenery glides by your window. Sleeping car accommodations include meals in the Dining car while passengers ticketed in Coach may purchase Dining car meals at reasonable prices.

**Sightseer Lounge/Café** is the perfect location for scenic viewing and lighter fare. Large panoramic windows provide the perfect vantage point for sightseeing and making new friends. The Café is located on the lower level of this car offering sandwiches, snacks and beverages.

**HOST RAILROADS** are the freight and commuter railroads that Amtrak contracts with to operate Amtrak passenger trains. The *Southwest Chief* travels Los Angeles - Chicago - BNSF Railway Company (BNSF).

*Information contained in this route guide as well as described amenities and other on-board features are subject to changes without notice. While gratuities are not required for services provided, it is an appreciated way to convey to an employee that he or she has made your trip more enjoyable.*



**LOS ANGELES** El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora de la Reina de Los Angeles, now known simply as Los Angeles, was founded in 1781. The station is a fitting blend of Spanish and Art Deco styles, reflecting both the city's early heritage and its great film tradition. Opened in 1939, it was the last of the great "union stations" serving multiple railroads. Across from the station is Olvera Street, a colorful historic district that marks the site of the original village. The city leads the world in producing popular entertainment, which forms the base of its international fame and global status. It is also home to people from more than 140 countries speaking over 200 different languages. Visible from the front of the station is Los Angeles City Hall, made famous as *The Daily Planet* in *Superman* and as itself in *Dragnet*, both popular television shows from the 1950s and 1960s.

**Los Angeles River** will also remind you of numerous other television and movie scenes. Actually a 51-mi. long creek, it now flows in a concrete flood channel capable of delivering massive amounts of rainwater from the Santa Monica, Verdugo, Santa Susana and San Gabriel Mountains to the sea during rainy seasons.

**Pico Rivera** is situated on the rich alluvial plain between the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Rivers. Once primarily agricultural, since the 1950s it has been predominately residential. Famous residents include actress Lupe Ontiveros, whose roles have included maids, all-knowing grandmothers and, famously, the murderer of Tejano singer Selena in the movie of the same name.

**Norwalk** is a suburb of Los Angeles with significant Asian and Mexican populations. It is home to the Los Angeles County Register/Recorder, responsible for voter registration, maintenance of voter files and many other election functions. The office also has jurisdiction over marriage license issuance and the performance of civil marriage ceremonies, the recording of legal documents, birth, death and marriage records. Famous residents include antiwar activist Cindy Sheehan and actor, director and film producer Robert Conrad.

**Buena Park** is located in northwestern Orange County. It is home to Korean, Chinese, Filipino and Vietnamese Americans as well as several attractions, including Knott's Berry Farm® theme park and its sister water park, Knott's Soak City,® Pirate's Dinner Adventure® show, a Medieval Times® dinner show and a Ripley's Believe it or Not!® It also houses one of the 13 special district libraries in California.

**FULLERTON** is a major transportation hub of Orange County. The station itself is notable because it has two historic depots on site: one built in 1923 by the Union Pacific Railroad and the other built in 1930 by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway; both are on the National Register of Historic Places. The former is a restaurant while the latter serves as a ticket office for Amtrak and passenger waiting area. The

town hosts California State University and has been an historic center of agriculture. Famous Fullertonians include singer Gwen Stefani and actor Steven Segal.

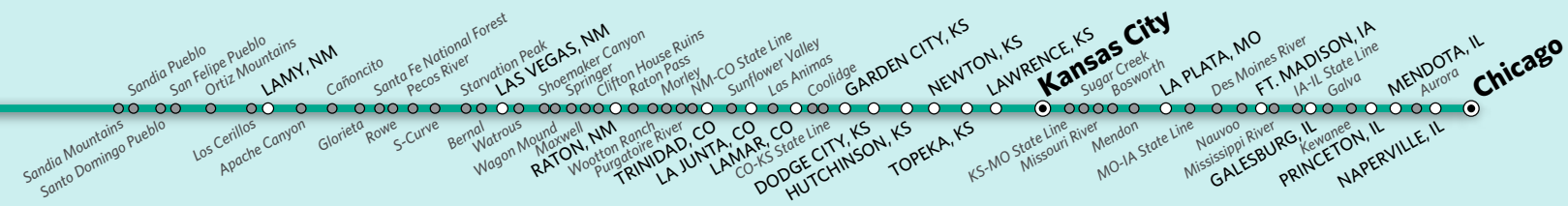
**Yorba Linda** is an affluent suburban community in Orange County. One of the city's most famous residents was the late former President Richard Nixon, who was born and raised here. It is one of the richest cities in the U.S. While there are no movie theaters in the city, there are over one dozen religious buildings.

**Santa Ana Canyon** is where the Santa Ana River passes between the Santa Ana Mountains and the Chino Hills at the border between Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. It receives particularly strong Santa Ana winds.

**Corona** was founded at the height of the Southern California citrus boom in 1886. It once laid claim to the title "lemon capital of the world," but more recently has become known as the "Gateway to the Inland Empire" and an elite working-class bedroom community for Orange County. It is also home to several important businesses, including: Aircraft Spruce & Specialty, the world's largest supplier of general aviation parts; Fender® Musical Instruments, producer of a storied line of guitars; Golden Cheese Co., largest manufacturer of cheese in the U.S.; and several famous "hot rod" fabrication businesses, including Barry's Speed Shop, where taping of the popular cable TV show *Wreck to Riches* originates.

**RIVERSIDE** is named for the nearby Santa Ana River and is the birthplace of California citrus. In 1873, Eliza Tibbets received two Brazilian naval orange trees sent to her by a friend in the U.S. State Department in Washington. Thriving in the Southern California climate, they soon led to a California Gold Rush of a different kind: the establishment of the citrus industry, commemorated at the California Citrus State Historic Park and at the restored packing houses in the downtown Marketplace district. Refrigerated rail cars and modern irrigation systems soon established Riverside as a very wealthy city. In due time, a small guest hotel designed in the popular Mission Revival style grew to become the world-famous Mission Inn, favored by presidents, royalty and movie stars. Inside was housed a special chair made for the sizable President William Howard Taft. One of the city's more modern claims to fame, the Riverside International Raceway, was closed in 1989 to make way for a shopping mall.

**SAN BERNARDINO** is part of the so-called "Inland Empire" of Southern California, some 60 mi. from Los Angeles, and one of the oldest communities in the state. In 1948, the McDonald Brothers founded the McDonald's brand and its innovative restaurant concept here. It is unique among cities in the region because of its wealth of water, mostly contained in underground aquifers. Notable San



Bernardinians include actor Gene Hackman and costume designer Edith Head. The train depot is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Cajon Pass**, at an elevation of 4,190 ft., lies between the San Bernardino Mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains, and was created by the movements of the infamous San Andreas Fault. It provides an important economic link between the Los Angeles Basin, the Victor Valley and the Mojave Desert. Weather conditions can vary from foggy to clear with high winds and turbulence. At the top of the pass is the historic Summit Inn, an historic Route 66 diner that has been at its present location since 1952.

**VICTORVILLE** is located at the southern edge of the Mojave Desert. In 1940, Herman Mankiewicz and John Houseman wrote the first two drafts of *Citizen Kane* in Victorville. In 1954, entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. almost died in an automobile accident here that left him without one eye. The U.S. Penitentiary in Victorville has been home to many notables, including John Walker Lindh, the so-called “American Taliban” fighter.

**Mojave Desert** was named after the Mohave tribe of Native Americans. Known locally as the High Desert, it occupies a significant portion of Southern California and three other states. Its boundaries are generally defined by the presence of Joshua Trees, and its climate varies between bitter cold and intensely hot, with high and low elevations ranging between 12,000 ft. and 282 ft. below sea level in Death Valley.

**BARSTOW** was settled in the late 1840s and named for railroad magnate William Barstow Strong, who owned the Santa Fe Railroad. Its roots lie also in the rich mining history of the desert. Following the discovery of silver in the 1860s, railroads were constructed to transport goods and people. Today, it is the site of a large rail classification yard belonging to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. Despite its small population and relative isolation, it is disproportionately represented as a desert transit point. Notable natives of Barstow include actress Jeanne Crain, who rose to stardom in the 1940s.

**NEEDLES** occupies the west bank of the Colorado River in the Mojave Valley, straddling the California-Arizona border. Its unusual name is derived from a group of pointed rocks on the Arizona side of the river at the south end of the valley. Like Death Valley, the town is noted for extreme summer heat – at times, recording the highest temperatures in the world. Major employment is supported by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, which has maintained a terminal here since the late 1800s.

### California/Arizona State Line

**Colorado River** is a major and in some cases life-sustaining source of water for irrigation, drinking and other uses by people in the arid southwest. Several cities, including Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Bernardino, San Diego, Phoenix and Tucson have aqueducts leading back to the Colorado.

**KINGMAN** is best known as a gateway to the gambling destinations of Las Vegas and Laughlin, Nevada, as well as its proximity to the Grand Canyon, Lake Mead National Recreation Area and other national parks and forests. It is also a stop on the annual “Run Run,” a classic car drive across old Route 66. Western movie actor Andy Devine grew up in Kingman, and is memorialized by a parade, a rodeo and a street named after him.

**WILLIAMS JUNCTION** is a major tourist stop because of its location near the South Rim of the Grand Canyon National Park. Amtrak passengers can be shuttled by Thruway Bus to the Grand Canyon Railroad Station to board the Grand Canyon Railway. Williams went down in history as the last town to have its section of Route 66 bypassed by Interstate 40 in 1984; the following year, Route 66 was decommissioned.

**FLAGSTAFF** lies near the southwestern edge of the Colorado Plateau, alongside the largest contiguous Ponderosa Pine forest in the continental U.S. Originally a lumber, ranching and railroad town, it is today an important distribution hub with a strong tourism sector. As home to the famous Lowell Observatory, the city passed in 1958 the nation’s first ordinance governing outdoor lighting to preserve Flagstaff’s dark skies.

**San Francisco Peaks** are a volcanic mountain range just north of Flagstaff. The peaks have considerable religious significance to 13 local American Indian tribes. The mountain’s ski resort, Arizona Snowbowl, recently proposed an expansion of the resort and a snowmaking scheme using reclaimed water. This has been opposed by a coalition of environmental groups and the Native American tribes.

**Padre Canyon** is deep and serpentine; a portion of Route 66 was built across it connecting the towns of Winona and the long-gone town site of Angell on the railroad’s main line. Here was the nation’s first commercial tourist camp in 1920.

**Canyon Diablo** railroad bridge is a popular “railfan” site. A meteorite of the same name fell between 20,000 and 40,000 years ago near here, and was long the center of dispute over the origin of craters that showed little evidence of volcanism. That debate was settled in the 1950s thanks to a study by Eugene Shoemaker.



**WINSLOW** is situated on one of the busiest railroad lines in the U.S., with more than 100 freight trains passing through daily. The town was made famous by a 1972 song called *Take it Easy* performed by the *Eagles*. A park, statue and mural commemorate the tune, which includes the line ... *I'm a standin' on a corner in Winslow, Arizona...*

**Little Colorado River** provides the principal drainage for the Painted Desert. One of the largest tributaries of the Colorado River, it carries up to 5,200 cubic ft. of water per second past the towns of St. Johns, Holbrook and Winslow.

**Holbrook** was founded in 1882 as a railroad town. Points of interest include the historic Navajo County Courthouse and Museum and the Wigwam Motel, built in 1950, where visitors can bunk down in a real wigwam.

### Arizona/New Mexico State Line

**GALLUP** was founded in 1891 as a railhead for the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. It is situated in the heart of Native American lands. Its historic El Rancho Hotel has hosted a large array of famous people. Long a forerunner in racial diversity and civil rights issues, it is also home to more millionaires per capita than any town in the U.S. Since 1922, the town has presented a Tribal Indian Ceremonial each summer.

**Red Rock State Park** is the site of the huge campground that houses participants in the Inter-Tribal Ceremonial.

**Continental Divide** is a line of elevated terrain which forms a border between two watersheds, separating those of the Pacific from those of the Atlantic or Arctic Oceans, running from Alaska to the tip of South America.

**Ft. Wingate Army Depot** is part of the Eastern Navajo Agency of the Navajo Nation. Ft. Wingate held a contingent of federal soldiers in the 1880s that kept the peace on the frontier. From 1918 until its closure in 1993, the installation stored and demolished ammunition. The facility is occasionally used to shoot missiles to the White Sands Missile Range, some 150 mi. to the south. A technology company uses space here to demilitarize a variety of surplus munitions by breaking them down in to recyclables.

**Grants** was founded as a railroad town and prospered as a result of nearby logging operations. After the decline of logging, it gained fame as a "carrot capital" of the U.S. The discovery of uranium ore nearby sparked a mining boom that lasted until the 1980s.

**Kneeling Nun** is a large columnar rock monolith that resembles a praying nun. Legend has it that she shared a forbidden love with a handsome soldier and was turned to stone for abandoning her vows. The monolith overlooks the Santa Rita open-pit copper mine.

**Rio Grande River** is the third longest river system in the U.S. and, further south, serves as the natural boundary between the U.S. and Mexico. Despite the name and its length, it is not navigable. The name means "big river" in Spanish.

**ALBUQUERQUE** is the largest city in New Mexico and is the central crossroads of the state. It is home to the University of New Mexico, Kirtland Air Force Base and the Sandia National Laboratories. Founded in 1706 as a Spanish colonial outpost, by 1900 it had become a tidy town boasting an electric street railway. The establishment of the Sandia Base would make the city a key player in the Atomic Age, and its dry climate brought many to the city in search of better health. It has one of the highest elevations of any major city, and hosts the largest hot air balloon gathering in the world. The Sandia Peak Tramway is the world's longest such device, scaling the Sandia Mountains, and providing access to hiking and biking trails, skiing and other activities. A long list of notable natives includes race car driver Al

Unser, actor and comedian Bill Daily, footballer Ronnie Lott and world champion boxer Johnny Tapia.

**Sandia Mountains** immediately to the northeast of Albuquerque are thought to be named for the watermelon (Sandia in Spanish) because of their reddish color at sunset coupled with a thin zone of green conifers (the "rind") near the top. In addition to a tramway, one may access the mountain by New Mexico 536, a road from the east to the bottom of the ski area, with a scenic overlook, communications center, gift shop and restaurant.

**Sandia Pueblo** is a Native American tribe inhabiting a 39-sq.-mi. reservation between Albuquerque and the foothills of the Sandia Mountains. It has a tribal government that operates the Sandia Casino, the Bien Mur Indian Market Center and Sandia Lakes Recreation Area.

**San Felipe Pueblo**, founded in 1706, comprises some 2,000 Native Americans who speak an eastern dialect of the Keresan language. It celebrates the annual Feast of St. Philip on May 1, when hundreds participate in traditional corn dances. The tribe also operates Casino Hollywood and Hollywood Hills Speedway.

**Ortiz Mountains** feature an educational preserve that is a treasure for naturalists and adventure seekers. The first gold mines west of the Mississippi were dug here in 1821, and the "Old Ortiz Lode" became the location of the first major gold rush in the U.S.

**Los Cerrillos** is home to the Museum of Northern New Mexican History, the Rock Shop and the Petting Zoo. Contained in the museum are cardboard cutouts of the characters in the 1988 film *Young Guns*, a fictionalized retelling of the adventures of Billy the Kid during the famous Lincoln County War in New Mexico during 1877-1878, starring Emilio Estevez, which was shot on location in Los Cerrillos.

**LAMY** was originally a railroad town. Once builders realized the hills surrounding Santa Fe were impractical for the mainline, Santa Fe residents subsidized a branch line. Today, a short line railroad connects the two towns with freight and tourist service on that spur. While home to only 137 people, the town is nonetheless a significant railroad junction.

**Apache Canyon** and Glorietta Pass are the sites of an 1862 Civil War battle called "the Gettysburg of the West" for its importance in nullifying the Confederates' push into the Southwest and forcing their retreat from the New Mexico territory, ending dreams of occupation and a Southwestern stronghold for the Confederacy.

**Cañoncito** is a Navajo Nation reservation now known as Tohajiilee, its 121,000 sq. mi. containing approximately 1,649 persons.

**Santa Fe National Forest** is a protected forest established on July 1, 1915 by the U.S. Forest Service. It covers 1,567,181 acres, ranges in elevation from 5,300 ft. to 11,103 ft., and is divided into five ranger districts.

**Pecos River** is 926 mi. long and empties into the Rio Grande River near Del Rio, Texas. The river played a large role in the exploration of Texas by the Spaniards. During the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, "West of the Pecos" was used as shorthand to reference the rugged frontiers of the Wild West.

**LAS VEGAS (NM)** was established in 1835, laid out in a traditional Spanish Colonial style, and soon prospered as a stop on the Santa Fe Trail. During the railroad era, it boomed. By the turn of the century, it was a thoroughly modern city, one of the largest in the southwest. One of the few remaining Harvey House hotels, the Castenada, can be seen on our left. Among the notorious people who came with the railroad were Doc Holliday, Jesse James, Billy the Kid and Wyatt Earp. Today, the city is home to the Carnegie Library, Rough Rider Memorial and a large number of historic structures.

**Watrous** played an important commercial role in New Mexico's early history, encompassing its many cultures. It was the site of Indian encampments, a Santa Fe Trail resting spot, a railroad stop and a highway stop. It was named for Samuel B. Watrous, who made his way from Vermont to New Mexico in 1835. He eventually became a self-contained economic boom, building a 20-room hacienda, and catering to the gold seekers and settlers who stopped to trade at his store on the Santa Fe Trail.

**Shoemaker Canyon** was named for Captain W. R. Shoemaker, a Civil War ordnance officer at Ft. Union near Las Vegas. He was esteemed and respected by the civilian population and the military alike. Today, a ranching and farming community of the same name occupies nearby land some three mi. south of U.S. 85.

**Wagon Mound** is named after and located at the foot of a butte, a landmark for covered wagon trains and traders on the Santa Fe Trail. It is now a National Historic Landmark.

**Clifton House Ruins** Built by rancher Tom Stockton in 1867, it was also known as Red River Station and Red River Hotel. This stagecoach stop was famous for its food and lodging and was a highlight for travelers on the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail.

**RATON** was founded in 1880 at the site of Willow Springs, a stop on the Santa Fe Trail. It quickly developed as a railroad, mining and ranching center for northeast New Mexico. The Fireballs, who had a number-one hit in 1963 with *Sugar Shack*, hail from Raton.

**Raton Pass** is a federally designated National Historic Landmark. Located on the eastern side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains between Trinidad, Colorado and Raton, New Mexico, it furnishes the most direct land route between the Arkansas River valley and the Cimarron River Valley. It was later developed into a road and then a railroad route.

**Wootton Ranch** was built by "Uncle Dick" Wootton, a frontiersman, trapper, buffalo hunter, Indian fighter, guide, teacher, rancher, farmer and operator of a toll road. The first meeting to consider Colorado statehood was held in the second story of his store. Turning down an offer from the Santa Fe Railroad to buy his road in 1878, he instead asked for free groceries and rail passage for his wife for life. The railroad agreed.

**Purgatoire River** was named, according to legend, during the time when Spanish Conquistadors were exploring it in search of the Seven Cities of Gold in 1594. Finding gold, they had Native American slaves dig it for them, then killed their slaves and headed out with their ill-gotten gold. They were subsequently ambushed and wiped out to a man, and so were thought to be in Purgatory.

### New Mexico/Colorado State Line

**TRINIDAD** for many years housed coal miners who worked the Raton Basin. Its location at the foot of Raton Pass has made it a favored route for travelers by foot, horse, ox-drawn wagon and railroad. Famous residents include famed old west gunman Bat Masterson, who once served as town marshal.

**LA JUNTA** houses two well-known museums: Bent's Fort, an important trading post in the old west, and the Koshare Indian Museum, regarded as one of the finest collections of Native American artifacts in the world. The latter hosts a unique Boy Scout/Explorer program that trains Scouts in both Indian dance and costumes. The city has a major rail yard for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway to assemble trains and add locomotives for the climb across Raton Pass. Writer Ken Kesey, author of *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, was born in La Junta.

**Las Animas** sits along the Arkansas River just west of where the Purgatory River flows into the Arkansas. It is home to the Kit Carson

Museum and the site of Santa Fe Trail Day, a celebration of pioneers who took the trail west, on the last weekend in April. Notable natives include Ken Curtis, the actor who portrayed "Festus" on TV's *Gunsmoke*, and frontiersman Kit Carson.

**LAMAR** is a county seat and the planned northern site of the Pierre Auger Observatory of ultra-high energy cosmic rays. The other international site is in western Argentina. High-profile natives of Lamar include Floyd D. Hall, a past president of the now-defunct Eastern Airlines.

### Colorado/Kansas State Line

**GARDEN CITY** is the county seat of Finney County. It is the site of the Garden City Community College, home to the Lee Richardson Zoo, and one of the towns depicted in Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*. Former Colorado Governor Roy Romer hails from Garden City.

**DODGE CITY** is well known to generations of Americans as the stage of action for the radio and TV western drama, *Gunsmoke*. There was good reason for this, as by 1876 Dodge City had become the virtual queen of cow towns. Some of the more infamous to dwell in its environs included Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and Bat Masterson. Today, Dodge City is a meat packing capital, with close to 1,200 cattle processed per day.

**HUTCHINSON** hosts the Kansas State Fair and is home to the Space Center aerospace museum. Salt was discovered here in 1887, and three companies now operate mines and plants locally. Excavated portions of one mine are used for archival storage of movie and television masters, including *The Wizard of Oz*, *Gone with the Wind* and *Star Wars*, among others. The world's longest grain elevator was built in Hutchinson in 1961.

**NEWTON** was known as the wickedest city in the west as a result of the famous 1871 Gunfight at Hide Park, which left eight men dead. The next year, the western terminal for the Santa Fe Railway and Chisholm Trail were established here. Today, the city is included as part of the Wichita metro area and lies at the "bull's eye" of North America.

**TOPEKA** was laid out in 1854 as a Free-State town after passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which allowed settlers to vote on the issue of slavery. After it was named capital in 1861, it took 37 years to build the capitol building using Kansas limestone. The city was also home to Linda Brown, named plaintiff in the landmark school integration case *Brown v. Board of Education*. Notable natives include actress Annette Bening and broadcaster Bill Kurtis, who got his start reporting at a local affiliate in Topeka.

**LAWRENCE** was founded in 1854 and named after Amos Adams Lawrence, a prominent politician and antislavery partisan. James Naismith, the inventor of the game of basketball, founded the basketball program at the University of Kansas here. The culture of Lawrence is political activism, the arts and the University of Kansas athletic teams. Its North vs. South Music Festival has become a staple of the music scene.

**KANSAS CITY** is situated at the junction of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers, Kaw Point. Nicknamed the "Heart of America," the location was good for building settlements, owing to the central crossroads at the confluence of the rivers. Once opened to Euro-American settlement, the area became the first battlefield in the conflict over slavery and southern secession that led to the Civil War. Today, the city is home to a General Motors plant that manufactures the Chevrolet Malibu and Saturn® Aura.

## Kansas/Missouri State Line

**Sugar Creek** was originally known as Wayne's Landing, an important link in the westward expansion that served as a port to receive supplies for early pioneers. The city of Sugar Creek was founded in 1920. For some 40 years, the area was home to a first-class pleasure resort serving nearby Kansas City residents.

**Missouri River** begins in southern Montana in the Rocky Mountains and ends at the Mississippi just north of St. Louis. At 2,500 mi., it is the longest in the U.S. The river meanders from bluff to bluff in the flat Midwest, leading to the nickname "Wide Missouri." It is also known as "Big Muddy" due to its high silt content.

**LA PLATA** began as a trading post at the intersection of north and south stagecoach roads. The town prospered as a small farming center until 1867, when the North Missouri Railroad (later Wabash) came to town; the Santa Fe 20 years later. The Wabash no longer exists, but Amtrak still operates over Burlington Northern Santa Fe right of way. Lester Dent, famous for writing the Doc Savage series between 1933 and 1949 under the pseudonym Kenneth Robeson, hails from La Plata. Doc Savage was one of the most influential characters in modern American culture, spawning generations of imitators.

## Missouri/Iowa State Line

**Des Moines River** is a tributary of the Mississippi approximately 525 mi. long. The origin of its name is thought to be French, meaning "river of the monks," who built huts near its mouth. The river has a long history of flooding, especially in 1944, 1993 and 2008.

**FT. MADISON** is situated on the Mississippi River and is home to Iowa State Penitentiary, the state's maximum security prison for men. Here is the last remaining double swing-span bridge on the Mississippi, a top level for cars and a bottom level for trains; it is also the world's largest such bridge. Completed in 1927, it spans 270 ft.

**Mississippi River** is the second longest river in the U.S., running from its source at Lake Itasca, Minnesota, to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico. It runs through 10 states and was used to define the borders between them. Although the river has since shifted, these borders still follow the former bed of their establishment.

## Iowa/Illinois State Line

**GALESBURG** was the home of writer and historian Carl Sandburg and the site of the fifth Lincoln-Douglas debate at Knox College in 1858. It was also home to the first anti-slavery society in Illinois and an important stop on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War. It will soon be home to the new National Railroad Hall of Fame. Galesburg plays host to the Railroad Days festival each June and the Black Earth Film Festival each September. Other notable residents include George Reeves, TV's *Superman*, Charles Rudolph Walgreen, founder of the drug store of the same name, and George Washington Gale Ferris, inventor of the Ferris wheel. According to legend, the Marx Brothers received their nicknames here during a poker game in 1914.

**Galva** is located in a part of the state that was known as the Central Military Tract, the purpose of which was to give this land to soldiers who had served in the War of 1812. The original land was awarded to Jacob Joy, who owned it only one month before selling it to James Bonham. The name Galva is a revision to the original name of a Swedish seaport from which many of its early settlers had sailed, Gefle. Today, it has an extremely high ratio of green space to residents and hosts an annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July "Freedomfest" fireworks display and antique car show that attracts thousands from miles around.

**Kewanee** is a Native American word for prairie chicken. An industrial town, it was best known as home to the Kewanee Boiler Corporation, manufacturer and seller of steam boilers throughout the world for well over 100 years. It is also the acknowledged Hog Capital of the World, holding an annual Hog Days festival every Labor Day weekend, complete with a parade, flea market and carnival.

**Princeton** was settled in the 1830s by families from New England and the Mid-Atlantic states. Its name was, according to legend, drawn from a hat. Its former nickname, "The City of Elms," is no longer used due to an epidemic that struck the elm trees and killed off almost every single one of them. Its major employers include Ace Hardware Retail Support Center and MTM Recognition, makers of world championship rings. Actor Richard Widmark's parents owned a hardware store here during his early years.

**MENDOTA** is home to the Sweet Corn Festival that attracts thousands of visitors to the city each August. It features a parade, carnival, beer garden, free sweet corn and other special events. Its two lakes are used for both boating and fishing. Notable natives include Helen Hokinson, long-time cartoonist for *The New Yorker*.

**Aurora** is the second largest city in Illinois. It adopted the nickname "City of Lights" in 1908 after being one of the first cities in the state to adopt all-electric street lighting in 1881. Prominent companies past and present include the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad (later Burlington Northern) and Caterpillar Incorporated. Author Clive Cussler hails from Aurora. The city was the setting for the 1992 movie *Wayne's World*.

**NAPERVILLE** was founded in 1831 by Joseph Naper. Due to the enormous growth of high-tech companies and its globally renowned public schools, the city is the wealthiest in the U.S. of all cities with a population of 90,000 and over. The Naperville Public Library was ranked number-one in the U.S. for eight years running. The four-mi.-long Riverwalk along the west branch of the DuPage River is known as the "crown jewel" of the city.

**CHICAGO** Vibrant and energetic, Chicago is the industrial core of the Midwest, and a major transportation hub. In the heart of America's agriculture belt, it is a leading distributor of farm products. Its many regional food specialties reflect the city's ethnic and working class roots. Chicago's spirit is also exemplified in its unique architecture; it is here that the word "skyscraper" originated with the first one built in 1885. The arts and sciences are alive with an abundance of world-renowned theaters and museums. The city boasts Wrigley Field, one of baseball's oldest parks, and the Sears Tower, tallest building in the U.S. The Merchandise Mart is the world's largest commercial office building and rests on the banks of the Chicago River. The river became an engineering marvel in 1900 when engineers reversed its flow into the Mississippi River drainage. Most Amtrak long-distance trains either originate or terminate in Chicago, connecting to other service.

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