



# San Diego Convention

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July 6-10, 2022

The Electric Railroaders' Association celebrates the post-pandemic era with our 2022 Convention in San Diego and Southern California. Our ERA members and their significant others will enjoy the opportunity to enjoy both the San Diego's extensive modern light rail and commuter rail network as well as its spectacularly diverse tourism opportunities.

Our convention program offers several exciting events:

- **Special trip over most of the 65-route-mile San Diego Trolley network** operated by the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), including the 11-mile Mid-County trolley extension opening in November 2022 and downtown Silver Line loop operated with restored PCCs. With this extension, MTS will operate the third largest light rail network in the United States eclipsed only by Dallas (93 route miles) and Los Angeles (86 route miles). The MTS network has the nation's fifth highest light rail ridership. Not bad for a system which just celebrated its 40th year of service in July 2021!
- **Travel to the Los Angeles and Orange County area.** Our tour will include a stop at Santa Ana to view construction of the Orange County Streetcar in Santa Ana and a sampling of Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro) light rail services. We will tour the scenic Metro E (Expo) Line and, depending on construction progress, the Regional Connector light rail subway in Downtown Los Angeles, the Crenshaw light rail extension off of Metro Line E to LAX Airport, or both. We have requested a short briefing on these light rail extensions and Metro Line D Red Line extension on Wilshire Boulevard to UCLA. With this extension Los Angeles' light rail network will become the largest U.S. network.
- **Riding heritage Southern California rail equipment and attending our Annual Banquet.** During the day, we will visit the 100-acre Southern California Railway Museum, featuring the West's largest collection of railway locomotives, streetcars, electric cars, buildings, and other artifacts dating from the 1870s. The collection highlights Los Angeles standard and PCC streetcars from both the city system and the Pacific Electric. The evening features San Diego Trolley's Wayne Terry, chief operating officer at San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, the guest speaker at our Annual Banquet. Terry will talk about the over 40 years of San Diego's light rail progress and plans for the future.
- **North San Diego County Trek.** We will ride the North County Transit District's 41-mile Coaster commuter rail and the Oceanside-Escondido Sprinter diesel light rail line roundtrip with early return by approximately 3 p.m. for those who need to head to San Diego International Airport for flights home.



## Convention Headquarters

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### Best Western Plus Hacienda Hotel Old Town

4041 Harney Street, San Diego, Calif. 92110 · 619-298-4707

[www.erausa.org/conv22hq](http://www.erausa.org/conv22hq) (JUST GENERAL HOTEL OVERVIEW, BOOKING LINK IS BELOW!)

Located in the middle of historic Old Town, where San Diego first developed in the mid-19th century, the Hacienda Hotel is a low-rise garden facility featuring 197 rooms furnished in the Santa Fe style. It is a brief 10-minute walk to the MTS Old Town Transit Center (with light rail, bus, commuter, and Amtrak train service) through historic Old Town State Park, featuring dozens of restaurants and shops. Make sure to bring comfortable walking shoes as two of our four excursions involve walking to and from Old Town Station. The hotel will also host our Annual Banquet.

Nearby tourist activities:

- Dine in historic **Little Italy** or the Victorian-era **Gaslamp Quarter** in Downtown San Diego; nearby **Barrio Logan**; or the stylish **Liberty Station** district, a recently converted naval yard
- Tour the 1,400 acre **Balboa Park**, renowned for its amazing Spanish Colonial Revival buildings featuring 16 museums (including the **San Diego Model Railroad** and **San Diego History Center**), 17 gardens, and the world famous 100-acre, 12,000-animal **San Diego Zoo**
- Visit the beautiful seaside neighborhoods and beaches of **La Jolla** (home of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve and La Jolla Cove), **Coronado** (known for the grand Victorian Hotel del Coronado), **Mission Bay** (famous for SeaWorld) and **Ocean Beach** (a favorite of surfers and sunbathers)
- On the San Diego Bay you can take harbor tours, visit the **Maritime Museum**, and see the **USS Midway**
- Shop at either downtown's **Seaport Village** on San Diego Bay, La Jolla's upscale 160-store **Westfield UTC** (University Towne Centre) or the 200-store **Fashion Valley Mall** three stops away on the MTS Green Line Trolley or La Jolla on the MTS Blue Line

Most major San Diego attractions are accessible by light rail and are within five miles (a half hour) of the Old Town Transit Center or, if you're in a hurry, as little as 10 minutes away by taxi, Uber, Lyft, or similar services. San Diego International Airport is less than five miles from the Old Town Transit Center (accessible by express bus). The Santa Fe Depot Amtrak station is four miles away (accessible by light rail).

The ERA has secured a block of rooms in this very expensive vacation paradise at the discounted rate of \$155 plus 10.5% San Diego Transit Occupancy tax, 2% San Diego Tourism Marketing District Assessment fee and a .002% California Marketing Assessment fee per room per night (either one or two queen beds or one king bed for up to two guests) available for the nights of July 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 (plus three days before July 6 and three days after July 11, at the hotel's discretion based on availability). **Checkout is on July 11.**

Hotel amenities in our ERA package include:

- Complimentary buffet breakfast for two
- Complimentary Wi-Fi in guestrooms and hotel, DirectTV with 74 HD channels
- Outdoor heated swimming pool, hot tub, fitness center
- Microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker, in-room safe
- Complimentary parking (normally \$15 per night)



## Hotel Reservations

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**Book your room online** using our special ERA link: [www.erausa.org/conv22resv](http://www.erausa.org/conv22resv)

Set your check-in date and check-out date and click “Update”. This will make the screen scroll down and then you choose from rooms with one queen bed, two queen beds, or one king bed at \$155 per night, plus taxes and fees. **Book early** to get the ERA discounted rate!

You can also book your reservation by calling the hotel directly at 619-298-4707 (ask for “reservations”). Mention the “**group reservation under the Electric Railroaders’ Association**” room block when calling to secure the \$155 per night room rate. If you encounter any difficulties in securing this rate, email Bob Newhouser at [bnnyc1955@aol.com](mailto:bnnyc1955@aol.com), or call or text 917-482-4235. Email is preferred.

**Check-in time** is 4:00 p.m. **Check-out time** is at 11:00 am.

**Cut-off date for discounted reservations is Friday, June 10, 2022** OR when our room block has been fully booked, whichever comes first. Reservations booked after June 10, 2022 will be accepted by Best Western Plus at the hotel’s discretion based on availability and rate.

**Cancellation policy:** Room cancellations must be received no later than 24 hours prior to check-in (4 p.m.) for refund. Your cancellation number **MUST** be obtained to ensure refund. All succeeding reservations will be automatically cancelled by the system if guests fail to check-in on the first arrival date and the first night will be charged on the credit card provided with no refund. If you can’t make the first night of your visit due to travel delays, but can make the other nights, **call the hotel ASAP** to preserve the rest of your reservation.

## Day 1: Wednesday, July 6

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### Informal “Meet & Greet”

The Hacienda Hotel has generously included a free drink ticket for each of our guests. Meet us at 7:30 p.m. to enjoy that free drink upstairs on the rooftop of the nearby **Old Town Tequila Factory Restaurant & Cantina**. Party with your fellow ERA friends like it’s 2019 all over again!

## Day 2: Thursday, July 7

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### San Diego

We will depart the lobby of the Hacienda Hotel at 8:45 a.m. and walk over to the Old Town Transit Center. Our light rail car departs the station at 9:15 a.m. for a trip along the new 11-mile UC San Diego Blue Line light rail extension to the UTC Transit Center in La Jolla. From there we will return to Downtown San Diego for a tour of MTS light rail maintenance shops followed by two roundtrips on the Silver Line loop trolley from MTS headquarters at 12th and Imperial. We will ride on one of the restored San Diego PCCs outfitted in traditional San Diego Electric Railway livery, and possibly a recently restored Siemens-Duewag U2 car. With the launch of the U2 fleet in 1981, San Diego became the first U.S. city to enter the modern light rail era. The initial Downtown San Diego to San Ysidro line is now the southern portion of the Blue Line.



We will have a break for lunch near the historic 1915 **Santa Fe Depot** which serves as Amtrak's Downtown San Diego station. After lunch, our light rail car will take us on a tour of the system's scenic Green and Orange lines. Once complete, each ERA guest will be supplied with a local day pass to ride the light rail and bus system at will. We will have covered the entire light rail system except for the less scenic and busy south portion of the Blue Line between Downtown and the Mexican border at San Ysidro, which you can ride on your own with the ERA-provided pass. Photo stops will be made at terminals and at other locations when deemed safe and not disruptive to revenue trolley service.

ERA members are on their own for dinner. There are many available dining options, ranging from exquisite Mexican restaurants in Old Town near our hotel, authentic Italian cuisine in Little Italy three light rail stops south, or the many nightlife and dining options of Gaslamp Quarter, six stations south on the Green Line.

## Day 3: Friday, July 8

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### Los Angeles

Our chartered motor coach will depart the hotel at 8 a.m. for the 120-mile drive to Los Angeles. Enroute, we plan to drive by the construction of the **OC Streetcar**, running 4.15-miles through the cities of Santa Ana and Garden Grove in Orange County. From there we will travel up to Downtown L.A., arriving near the spectacular 1939 **Los Angeles Union Station**, the hub for Los Angeles Metro bus, Metro Rail and Metrolink commuter rail services. The station is a combination of Spanish Colonial Revival and Art Deco styles.

Across the street from Union Station will be our lunch stop, the 44-acre **El Pueblo Historic Park** centered on Olvera Street. Olvera Street is the center of the restored oldest part of Los Angeles dating back to the early 19th century and features numerous Mexican markets and restaurants.

After lunch, we will visit **L.A. Metro headquarters** at Union Station for a short executive briefing on their urban rail expansion program, the most ambitious in the U.S. Planned and under construction are extensions in three corridors — The Crenshaw Northern Extension Rail Project (light rail), The Regional Connector Transit Project (light rail), and the Metro Purple (D Line) Extension Transit Project (heavy rail).

After the briefing, ERA guests will receive a day pass for an escorted ride on LA Metro rail services. What we ride depends on what is open by July 2022. If either the Crenshaw or Regional Connector lines are open, we will ride both. Otherwise, we will travel just on the scenic Exposition line to the Downtown Santa Monica terminal (this line connects both new extensions).

Our chartered motor coach will pick us up at our last stop and drive us back to the hotel by 7 p.m. Dinner is on your own in San Diego. If you wish to stay longer in Los Angeles, you can take Amtrak's scenic Pacific Surfliner from Union Station back to San Diego at your own expense.

## Day 4: Saturday, July 9

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### Southern California Railway Museum

Our chartered motor coach will depart from the Hacienda Hotel at 9 a.m. for the drive to the **Southern California Railway Museum** (formerly known as the Orange Empire Railway Museum). This is one of the nation's largest trolley museums and is the only one featuring restored Pacific Electric and Los Angeles



Railway famous “Yellow” cars and meter-gauge PCCs. Midday in our visit, our chartered coach will take us for lunch at “**The Bombshelter**” Bar & Restaurant, located nearby at Skydive Perris. This restaurant has reasonably priced pub food including sandwiches, salads, and a wide variety of beers. Please inform us ASAP if you prefer vegetarian food as we will have to make special arrangements with the restaurant. After lunch, you will have some additional time to ride, photograph and enjoy the museum rides or make purchases from the gift shop. We will reboard our charter coach around 3:30 p.m. for the return trip to our hotel. Arrival is planned for 5:30 p.m. to provide time before our Annual Banquet.

**The ERA Annual Banquet** will be held in the hotel’s Pueblo Room. The cash bar opens at 6:30 p.m., and dinner is served at 7 p.m. Guests have a choice of steak, chicken, fish, and vegetarian entrée options. All dinners include salad, roll, coffee or tea, and dessert. San Diego MTS Chief Operating Officer **Wayne Terry** is our featured speaker. Mr. Terry’s presentation will focus on the agency’s past, present and future plans for this enterprising system, which launched the U.S. light rail revolution. Mr. Terry rose through the ranks of San Diego Trolley since its first line opened in 1981 and through its growth to almost 65 route miles (after the Mid-County line opening), making it the nation’s third largest system, and fifth in ridership as of 2019.

## Day 5: Sunday, July 10

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### Rides on The Coaster and Sprinter Trains

**Last day.** We will leave the Hacienda Hotel at 9:00 a.m. and walk to the Old Town Amtrak/Coaster Station to catch North County Transit District (NCTD)’s **Coaster** commuter train. We will ride most of the 41-mile line from San Diego to Oceanside. We will then transfer to NCTD’s **Sprinter** diesel light rail train for a roundtrip ride between Oceanside and Escondido (22 miles from end to end). This line, opened for service in 2008, was the nation’s second diesel light rail line after the New Jersey River Line, which opened in 2004. Customer restrooms are available on the Coaster and at Oceanside Station.

### Logistics

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The Best Western Plus Hacienda Hotel Old Town is located on Harney Street just north of Calhoun. It is a nine-minute walk (0.4 miles) from the Old Town Transit Center which is served by the MTS Green Line, MTS buses, commuter and Amtrak trains. There is no bus service between the hotel and Old Town Transit Center.

**Walking from Old Town Transit Center to hotel.** From the Old Town Transit Center, walk on Telegraph Way east to San Diego Avenue, right on San Diego Avenue, south to Harney Street, then left on Harney Street east one block on Calhoun Street to the hotel.

**Airport access:** As the San Diego International Airport is only 4.5 miles away from the hotel, we recommend that ERA members take advantage of reasonably priced taxi, Uber, or Lyft services if you have luggage. Starting late November 2021, MTS will offer a nonstop bus service between the airport and Old Town Transit Center. See <https://www.sdmts.com/schedules-real-time/airport> for more information on for this new route.

**Amtrak access:** Each Amtrak train stops at the Old Town station. If you choose to walk, follow directions from Old Town Transit Center above to hotel. If you have luggage, we suggest you take the train one stop south to the historic Santa Fe Depot and take a taxi less than less 4 miles back to the hotel.



## Important Notes!

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**Scheduled event times shown in this flyer are subject to change in the final itinerary or during the trip without prior notice.** Daily trip itineraries may be changed without prior notice to ensure on-time return at the end of each day. Announcements will be made each day to update guests on essential information during all ERA events.

**You are responsible for bringing your own face masks.** All public transit services and virtually all venues we visit will require them. ERA will not supply face masks.

**Providing your phone number (and email address) on your registration form is critical.** If you have questions regarding the itinerary or accommodations, please e-mail **Bob Newhouser** at [bnnyc1955@aol.com](mailto:bnnyc1955@aol.com) or call/text him at **917-482-4235**. E-mail is preferred.





# 2022 Convention Ticket Order Form

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**Please send your order in by June 10, 2022.** Any orders received after that will be filled on a space available basis. Please make sure to bring your CDC or Non-U.S. COVID-19 vaccination card to confirm your vaccination status as well as a government-issued photo ID such as a drivers' license or passport as these IDs may be requested by any of the venues we visit, or trips we ride. You are encouraged to book online at [erausa.org](http://erausa.org). The same form as below appears there.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

I / we will be staying at the Best Western Plus Hacienda Old Town:  Yes  No  Other Hotel (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cellphone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**It is important that you provide phone number(s) and email in case so that we can reach you more quickly.**

**YOUR ERA TICKET ORDER: Indicate the quantity of tickets below for each event you wish to attend.**

QTY					
_____	San Diego Trolley Tour	Thursday July 7	\$90 each:	_____	
_____	Los Angeles Trip including Metro fare	Friday July 8	\$70 each:	_____	
_____	Trip to Southern California Railway Museum (Orange Empire)	Saturday July 9	\$70 each:	_____	
_____	Annual ERA Banquet Dinner & Presentation*	Saturday July 9	\$75 each:	_____	
_____	North San Diego County Tour on NCTD Coaster and Sprinter	Sunday July 10	\$15 each:	_____	
_____	<b>OR, Combination Ticket for all of the above</b>		\$310 each:	_____	
	(Note: Combination ticket is a \$10 savings over purchasing each trip individually)		TOTAL	_____	

\*Annual ERA Banquet Dinner: Check one entrée for each person:

Monterrey Chicken Breast  Broiled Salmon Steak with Dill Sauce  Marinated Skirt Steak  Portobello Mushroom

Your age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Person #2 age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form to:** Electric Railroaders' Association, Inc., Box 3323, New York, NY 10163-3323

**To pay by check:** Make check payable to "E.R.A."

**To pay by credit card, select one:**  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

Print your name in CAPITAL LETTERS exactly as it appears on your credit card

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date (mm/yy)

CVV Number

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The CVV number is the rightmost three digits on the BACK of your credit card (four digits in FRONT for American Express)

*By submitting this Registration Form to the Electric Railroaders' Association (ERA), I recognize that there are certain inherent risks associated with participating in the activities of this Convention and agree for myself and those registering with me that I/we assume full responsibility for personal injury to myself and (if applicable) those registering with me, and further release and discharge the ERA for injury, loss or damage arising out of my or their participation in the Fall 2021 Convention. I further understand and agree that the ERA is not responsible for actions or injuries caused by participants upon other participants.*

*The ERA strongly suggests that you be vaccinated against Covid-19 to attend this trip. The ERA cannot guarantee that you will be admitted to all venues that will be visited if you are not vaccinated. Will you have had your second Covid-19 vaccination shot (first shot if Johnson and Johnson) 14 days or more before the first convention activity?*

YES [ ] NO [ ] If no, please explain \_\_\_\_\_

*Even if vaccinated, please bring a face covering/mask in case masking is required by certain venues or the bus carrier. By submitting this Registration Form to the ERA, I agree to release and hold harmless ERA and its officers and trustees from and against damages, liability, claims, and expenses arising from the contraction or spread of disease, including but not limited to Covid-19 and its variants.*

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