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THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride at the Galveston Railroad Museum

Sensory Rides – November 19 and December 10

GALVESTON, TX – The Galveston Railroad Museum, 2602 Santa Fe Place, offers opportunities for individuals with autism to share in the holiday tradition on dedicated cars, Sunday, November 19, 6:15 pm and Sunday, December 10, 6:15 pm. THE POLAR EXPRESS Train Ride Sensory cars are sponsored by museum board member Don Harper and museum member Andy Mytelka.

Sensory tours, available year-round at the Galveston Railroad Museum, are what inspired Executive Director David Robertson to add Polar Express sensory rides for special needs families. “The sensory tour was immediately sold out last year and a waiting list was in place for this year. We are deeply grounded in sensory outreach, and are grateful to our sponsors who assisted us in providing holiday experience to families who want to take the ride. We continue to expand our year-round educational sensory tours and all of our general field trips to the museum.”

Trains are of particular appeal to individuals with autism, and may enhance personal growth and development. Wheels, trains schedules, track numbers, different types of trains, engine size and capacity are significant to sensory interests.

The museum is offering two sensory cars this year, and we encourage all interested to contact the museum as soon as possible to reserve the seats. 30,000 visitors are expected to ride THE POLAR EXPRESS this year in Galveston and tickets sell quickly.

Guests are encouraged to book as soon as possible as this beloved holiday tradition does sell out.

Prior to departure guests will gather in the train depot to enjoy a delightful one act play prelude presented by the cast of ETC (East End Theater).

The adventure comes to life when the train departs for a round-trip journey to the North Pole led by a cast of talented actors. Set to the sounds of the motion picture soundtrack, passengers will relive the magic of the classic story as they are whisked away on THE POLAR EXPRESS™ for a one-hour trip to meet Santa. Once on board, the conductor will work his way through the coach and punch golden tickets before hot chocolate and a delicious cookie are served by dancing chefs. Passengers then read along with the classic children’s book, *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg. Santa and his helpers board the train to greet passengers and each guest is given the first gift of Christmas. During the trip, characters on each car lead onboard entertainment – just like in the film! Each guest will take home a keepsake sleigh bell and souvenir golden ticket in addition to the wonderful memories made on this magical trip. Just like the kids in the book, families are encouraged to wear their pajamas for the ride! Commemorative merchandise is available year-round in the Museum store.

THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride dates, schedule and fares are available by visiting www.GalvestonRRMuseum.org. Ticket prices range from \$35 to \$100, depending on ticket options chosen. Food and refreshments are available on site. (409) 765-5700 ###



About THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride

Official THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Rides are licensed by Rail Events Inc. on behalf of Warner Bros. Consumer Products, Inc. Since 2007, Rail Events Inc. has held exclusive license to operate THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Rides in the US, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

About THE POLAR EXPRESS Book

THE POLAR EXPRESS film is based on Chris Van Allsburg's classic Christmas picture book, which tells the story of a boy who takes a magical Christmas Eve train ride to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa. First published by the Houghton Mifflin Company in 1985, *The Polar Express* became an instant family favorite and has sold more than 12 million copies worldwide. In 1986 it won the prestigious Caldecott Medal for Illustration.

About Warner Bros. Consumer Products

Warner Bros. Consumer Products (WBCP), a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company, extends the Studio's powerful portfolio of entertainment brands and franchises into the lives of fans around the world. WBCP partners with best-in-class licensees globally on an award-winning range of toys, fashion, home décor, and publishing inspired by franchises and properties such as DC, the Wizarding World, Looney Tunes, and Hanna-Barbera.

The division's successful global themed entertainment business includes groundbreaking experiences such as The Wizarding World of Harry Potter and Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi. With innovative global licensing and merchandising programs, retail initiatives, promotional partnerships and themed experiences, WBCP is one of the leading licensing and retail merchandising organizations in the world.

About Rail Events Inc.

Rail Events Inc. is the industry leader in rail-related special events management. In 2019, the company licensed events that hosted over 1.4 million guests at 54 partner railroads in the US, Canada, and the UK. Rail Events Inc. and Rail Events Productions are wholly owned subsidiaries of American Heritage Railways, which is the premier operator of heritage railroads in the United States.



The Galveston Railroad Museum is a non-profit 501 c3 organization dedicated to the restoration, observation, and re-use of its historic facilities and equipment for the development of educational and interactive programs, which support railroading and transportation initiatives serving our regional community. The museum is supported by membership, grants, contributions and special events.



THE POLAR EXPRESS™ FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions:

How much time should I plan for the full POLAR EXPRESS™ experience?

To get the full experience, we recommend allowing 2 hours for the entire event. The round-trip train time to the North Pole and back is 60 minutes. You'll want to be at the Galveston Railroad Museum Train Depot 30 minutes before actual departure time in order to experience the performance that occurs as the train STEAMS into the station! Final boarding is 10 minutes before departure. After the train arrives at the North Pole, you will enjoy live entertainment and pick up Santa and his elves for the return trip.

Can I purchase alcohol during THE POLAR EXPRESS™ event? This is a family-friendly, kid-focused, alcohol-free event. We will not offer any alcoholic beverages and passengers are not allowed to bring their own alcohol onboard the train.

Adult beverages are available in the museum food court prior to boarding and following the ride.

Are there restrooms on the train? Yes. Restrooms in most coaches will be available. There are family-size portable restrooms next to the museum.

How soon should I book my tickets? For best seating we recommend you book your seats as soon as you are able to finalize your date. Certain departure times and certain cars book quickly! If you are in town during THE POLAR EXPRESS™ and HAVEN'T made a reservation, please check to see what we have available. We often have seats available even on the same day!

What choices do I have when choosing what car I want to ride? We have Standard, Deluxe, and Premium-class seating to choose from every night. All cars are heated. ALL children receive a bell. ALL cars are decorated for Christmas.

Standard-class: Seating: Forward-facing; two people per seat.

Deluxe-class: Seating: 'Flip-over' seating enables parties to face each other. Upgraded amenities include your own take-home souvenir ceramic THE POLAR EXPRESS™ mug.

Premium First-class: Seating: Table and chair seating in historic, first-class style as the whole family enjoys the upgraded amenities including your own take-home souvenir ceramic THE POLAR EXPRESS™ mug. Special 'theme' Christmas decor!

Is there a wheelchair-accessible car available on THE POLAR EXPRESS™? Yes, our wheelchair-friendly coach has a hydraulic lift to load a passenger in their wheelchair into the coach to ride right along with family and friends. It also features an ADA restroom.

How should we dress? As in the story, we encourage everyone to wear their pajamas on this special journey.

Where can I park my car? Limited parking is available in the museum parking lot and overflow parking is located at an adjacent parking lot on Santa Fe Place. Parking fee is \$20 advance – may be purchased online - and \$25 at the gate.

What time should I arrive at the station? We ask that you arrive 30 minutes before your departure time. Don't miss the pre-boarding show!

What happens at the North Pole? Enjoy the thousands of lights and wave to Santa and his elves as you observe the North Pole from the comfort of air controlled coaches.

What if I need to cancel my trip? Special and Licensed events (such as Polar Express) are non-refundable if canceled within 60 days of departure.

What if I need to change my trip? If change is requested **MORE THAN 60 DAYS** before the trip date, the fee is waived. If a request is made **LESS THAN 60 DAYS** from the trip date, we will apply a service/change fee. If you **UPGRADE** to a more expensive car or trip date, the fee will be waived!

Does weather impact the show? The Polar Express train ride runs rain or shine.