



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Do You Believe? THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride Returns to Galveston Railroad Museum!**

**November 8 – December 23, 2024**

**GALVESTON, TX** – The Galveston Railroad Museum, 2602 Santa Fe Place, is celebrating the return of THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride! This immersive family-oriented experience hosted over 2 million riders at 54 locations in the US, Canada, and the UK. Popular dates and times are expected to fill quickly, but seats are available beginning August 21 for departures beginning November 8 and continuing through December 23. Tickets go on sale for members August 1 and open tickets sales are August 22 at [www.GalvestonRRMuseum.org](http://www.GalvestonRRMuseum.org). Guests are encouraged to book soon as this beloved holiday tradition sells out!! Sensory Rides Available through direct ticketing only (409) 765-5700. Space limited.

Prior to departure guests will gather in the train depot to enjoy a delightful one act play prelude presented by the cast of local professional company, 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 from Galveston’s ETC Theater. 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.

Enhance the holiday experience and stay the night on Galveston Island with one of our many lodging partners.

**THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride** dates, schedule and fares are available by visiting [www.GalvestonRRMuseum.org](http://www.GalvestonRRMuseum.org) . Food, refreshments and adult beverages available at food court. (409) 765-5700

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Photo



### **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 2022, the company licensed events that hosted over 2 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?** No alcoholic beverages are allowed to be brought on the Polar Express Train Ride. Adult beverages are available in the museum food court prior to boarding and following the ride.

**Are there restrooms on the train?** Restrooms in some coaches may be available. There are family-size public restrooms at the museum that we suggest using prior to boarding.

**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 have not made a reservation, please check with us as we often have tickets available 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 and may be purchased online or \$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. Food court, Polar Store, Photo ops and Santa visits are available upon debarking from the train at the conclusion of the ride.

**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.**