



**United Railroad Historical Society, Inc.**  
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Tax ID: 22-2867670  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# HUDSON RIVER RAIL EXCURSIONS RELEASES 2024 SCHEDULE WITH MORE TRIPS AND OVERNIGHT NEW YORK-TO-CHICAGO EXPERIENCES

The United Railroad Historical Society of NJ has released the 2024 schedule for its popular Hudson River Rail Excursions. This year's schedule includes more than 50 daytrips which start and end in New York City, and six exclusive overnight experiences which run between New York City and Chicago.

Tickets go on sale at 10am on March 15, 2024 at [HudsonRiverRail.com](http://HudsonRiverRail.com). Tickets in 2023 sold out in a matter of minutes.

**Hudson River Rail Excursions** is a program by URHS featuring two of the organization's historic train cars, the *Hickory Creek* of the world-famous *20<sup>th</sup> Century Limited* and the *Tavern-Lounge No. 43*, operating on scheduled public excursions from New York City on a regular basis. The trip traverses the original New York Central Railroad main line between Manhattan and Albany, upon which these two cars travelled in the 1940s and 50s. Passengers enjoy the unmatched Hudson River scenery and learn about the golden age of rail travel as they are—literally—transported back in time.

This year's schedule builds upon the success of Hudson River Rail Excursions' previous seasons, which have grown substantially each year since beginning in 2021. Hudson River Rail has quickly sold out every trip it has ever run.

"Being a non-profit, our goal is to share the golden age of railroading with as many people as possible," said URHS Executive Director Kevin Phalon. "We are thrilled and grateful that folks keep lining up to ride our historic train cars."

The daytrip excursions feature two different levels of service, both of which are first class. All passengers are served at their seats by white-jacketed stewards, with special attention paid to period appropriate details that transport guests back in time. Passengers in the *Hickory Creek* will be treated to a full-service meal, cooked by a private chef in the car's on-board kitchen. Beer and wine are included, and drinks and hor d'oeuvres will be served to passengers at their seats throughout the trip. Passengers in the No. 43 will be treated to catered sandwiches and sides, with drinks served at their seats. Passengers are welcome to BYOB beer and wine.

The train ride departs from New York Penn Station's Moynihan Train Hall. All guests of Hudson River Rail Excursions have special access to Amtrak's Metropolitan Lounge which is otherwise only open to Amtrak first-class passengers.



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Ticket prices range from \$179 to \$399. All tickets are first class and are all-inclusive. Daytrip excursions depart New York City at 11:20 a.m. and return to New York City at 7:05 p.m. with an approximately two hour layover in Albany.

This year's schedule includes a new variation on the classic daytrips: the **Hudson Valley History Tour**. Partnering with National Park Service's Trails & Rails program, Hudson River Rail Excursions will offer several trips in May, October, and November which include a fully narrated tour of the Hudson River Valley. Narration will be provided by Park Service-trained guides from the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites in Hyde Park, NY. From the settlement of native peoples to the Revolutionary War to the coming of the railroads, the history of the Hudson Valley is rich and varied. Passengers will hear the many stories the valley has to tell as they take in the unparalleled scenery. Prices and itinerary are the same as the regular daytrip excursions.

June and July will also premiere Hudson River Rail Excursion's **20<sup>th</sup> Century Limited Experience**. Passengers on these trips will relive the golden age of rail travel by riding, dining, and sleeping aboard our historic Pullman Sleeping Cars, as they travel from New York to Chicago. No detail will be overlooked in replicating the experience of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Limited as closely as possible. Guests can choose between one-way and round trip experiences. Tickets start at \$1600 for one-way trips and \$3200 for round trips. All trips include meals cooked on-board by a private chef, as well as open bar service during the trip.

More information is available at URHS's excursions website: [HudsonRiverRail.com](http://HudsonRiverRail.com).

**ABOUT THE HICKORY CREEK:** The New York Central's *20th Century Limited* was billed as "The Most Famous Train in the World." As the railroad's most esteemed train, it sped along the 958-mile "Water Level Route" between New York and Chicago for sixty-five years – making the trip in just sixteen hours. The train was exclusive and sophisticated; boarding passengers walked along a crimson red carpet. In 1948, General Dwight D. Eisenhower ceremoniously inaugurated a new set of cars for the New York Central's most famous train. Among them was the *Hickory Creek*, an observation-sleeper-lounge. The car was acquired by URHS in 1991 and has been meticulously restored to its historic appearance. The car is Amtrak-certified and is available for private charter through URHS.

**ABOUT TAVERN-LOUNGE NO. 43:** Built in 1947 by the Budd Company, the No. 43 was one of 13 tavern-lounge cars that New York Central used on its daytime long distance passenger runs. With comfortable lounge chairs and cozy tavern booths, it offered passengers a reprieve from their coach seats, where they could drink, eat, and socialize with other passengers. When it was inherited by the Penn Central Railroad, the car was renumbered 4443 and often ran on trains between New York and Washington. It was inherited by Conrail in 1976, then later NJ Transit, under which it operated as a commuter lounge on the North Jersey Coast Line. It was retired in 1987 and donated to URHS in 1991 by NJ Transit. The car has been meticulously restored to its historic appearance. The car is Amtrak-certified and is available for private charter through URHS.

**ABOUT URHS:** The United Railroad Historical Society of NJ, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization based in Boonton, New Jersey. Its mission is to preserve railroad equipment of cultural significance to New Jersey and its neighboring regions. The organization is governed by representatives of several NJ-based railroad historical societies, with the common goal of preserving the state's largest collection of historic locomotives and railroad cars.

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