



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **STEAMY SATURDAYS AT GRAND CANYON RAILWAY; TRAIN TO OFFER SIX STEAM-DRIVEN EXCURSIONS TO THE GRAND CANYON THIS SUMMER**

WILLIAMS, Ariz., February 27, 2013 – The historic [Grand Canyon Railway](#) will return to its roots – almost – six times this summer when it offers steam train excursions to Grand Canyon National Park. The steam-powered excursions will be much the same as they were more than a century ago with one big exception – the famous steam locomotive No. 4960 is fueled by waste vegetable oil (WVO).

The roundtrip Saturday steam excursions will be offered on May 4, June 1, July 6, Aug. 3, Sept. 7 and Sept. 21. Grand Canyon Railway offers five classes of service beginning at the coach class rate of \$75 for adults and \$45 for children. The other four classes of service include first class, observation dome, luxury parlor and luxury dome. Children 15 and under are permitted only in the coach and first class cars.

Grand Canyon Railway has two operable steam locomotives that have been restored to like-new working condition. Locomotive No. 4960 was built in 1923 by Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia. It operated a freight- and coal-hauling service for the Midwestern Chicago, Burlington & Quincy (CB&Q) Railroad until the late 1950s and made its first official run on the Grand Canyon line in 1996.

No. 4960 has been modified to use recycled waste vegetable oil for fuel, and reclaimed rain and snow melt – collected during the winter and Northern Arizona’s rainy season – are used in the boiler for steam. Owner and operator [Xanterra Parks & Resorts](#) discontinued the regular runs of the steam train for environmental reasons. But the company also wanted to preserve the authentic Old West feel of the train in some way. So creative, innovative engineers at the train developed the method to use reclaimed vegetable oil from the kitchens of Grand Canyon in-park lodges, Grand Canyon Railway Hotel, Grand Depot Café and other sources as an alternative source of fuel.

“We can guarantee a sensory adventure for passengers aboard these special steam-powered trains,” said Bruce Brossman, director of sales and marketing for Grand Canyon Railway. “Like the passengers from a century ago, travelers will hear hissing from historic locomotive and an authentic steam whistle and they’ll see the same puffs of steam from the boiler that early passengers saw. The one big difference is modern-day passengers might also get a subtle whiff of French fries from recycled vegetable oil that has been filtered for use in the boiler.”

The steam train will pull away from the depot in Williams, Ariz. at 9:30 a.m. on each of the Saturday mornings following a popular Wild West Shootout performed by actors from the Williams area. The family-pleasing show sets the mood for train ride through 65 miles of ponderosa pine forests and scenic high-desert landscapes. The train arrives at the Grand Canyon Depot at 11:45 a.m. The train then departs the park for the return trip at 3:30 p.m. and arrives back in Williams at 5:45 p.m.

In addition to the special steam runs, Grand Canyon Railway operates an all-diesel fleet of locomotives year-round which significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions, air pollutants and water use associated with steam locomotives. GCR



Steam locomotive No. 4960 was built in 1923. It was converted to use recycled waste vegetable oil for fuel, and reclaimed rain and snow melt are used in the boiler for steam.



The steam train will depart the Williams Depot six times this summer for its roundtrip excursion to Grand Canyon National Park.



Grand Canyon Railway travels 65 miles through ponderosa pine forests and scenic high-desert landscapes.

further reduced pollutants in 2007 when it began using Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel fuel in its diesel locomotives.

Trains first began traveling to the Grand Canyon in September 1901 on a spur built and operated by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company. Grand Canyon Railway continued to operate until 1968 when the spur was closed. Grand Canyon Railway returned to life when the trains and tracks were purchased by an entrepreneurial couple in 1989. Xanterra purchased Grand Canyon Railway in 2007.

In addition to the trains, Grand Canyon Railway operates the Grand Canyon Railway Hotel. This stately hotel was designed to resemble the historic Fray Marcos Hotel and Williams Depot structures that stand nearby. The hotel is comprised of 199 standard rooms, 87 deluxe rooms, 10 suites and one luxury suite as well as a large enclosed crescent-shaped pool, a spacious meeting room, a large courtyard with, a game room, hot tub and an exercise room.

Grand Canyon Railway offers a variety of packages that include the roundtrip train plus overnight accommodations at Grand Canyon Railway Hotel as well as Xanterra-operated [lodges](#) in Grand Canyon National Park.

Grand Canyon Railway is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. Reservations can be made online at [www.thetrain.com](http://www.thetrain.com) or by calling 1-800-THE-TRAIN (1-800-843-8724).

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Known for its "Legendary Hospitality with a Softer Footprint," [Xanterra Parks & Resorts®](#) entities include lodges, restaurants, tours and activities in national and state parks and resorts as well as a cruise line, railway and tour operator. Xanterra Parks & Resorts has operations in the [Grand Canyon](#), including [Grand Canyon Railway](#) and [The Grand Hotel](#) in Tusayan, Ariz.; [Yellowstone](#); [Zion](#); [Crater Lake](#); [Rocky Mountain](#) and [Petrified Forest](#) National Parks; [Mount Rushmore](#) National Memorial; [Furnace Creek Resort](#) in Death Valley National Park and five [Ohio State Park Lodges](#) as well as the [Geneva Marina](#) at Ohio's Geneva State Park. Xanterra Parks & Resorts also operates [Kingsmill Resort](#) in Williamsburg, Va., [Windstar Cruises](#) and [VBT Bicycling and Walking Vacations](#).

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