



**Xanterra's Grand Canyon Lodges & Grand Canyon Railway Honor
the National Park Service Centennial
with Special Presentation on Fred Harvey in June;
and Rare Steam Train 'Double Header' in August**

WILLIAMS, Ariz. – May 2, 2016 – [Grand Canyon National Park Lodges](#) will celebrate the National Park Service Centennial with a special presentation on the Fred Harvey Company and its involvement in the growth of tourism to the Southwest and to the Grand Canyon both before and after it became a national park. Stephen Fried, author of The New York Times best-selling book on Fred Harvey and his company "Appetite for America," will present the program. The presentation is open to the public at no charge at the [Shrine of the Ages](#) on Sat. June 4 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. There will also be a book signing and meet-the-author event at the [El Tovar Hotel](#) from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Harvey is credited with creating the first restaurant chain in the U.S., leading the promotion of tourism in the American Southwest and civility to "The Wild West."

Long before the Grand Canyon was officially a national park, it was already famous as a destination on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad. The railroad completed the line in 1901, and in 1905 opened the magnificent El Tovar Hotel. What's rather amazing is the railroad line is still running year-round (except Christmas), taking people to one of the Seven Natural Wonders of The World, and the hotel is still welcoming guests in style. The 1910 Grand Canyon depot is one of only two log-cabin-style train stations still in use in the U.S.

And given the "iron horse" opened up "the West" and allowed people to travel and discover the vast land easily, safely and conveniently, the [Grand Canyon Railway](#) will fire up and operate two steam engines during the week of Aug. 24-27. For four consecutive days, one of the rarest sights in railroading will take place as legendary steam engine #4960 and #29 power 1950s-era streamliner rail cars – including "dome" cars and a classic "open platform observation car" – the entire 65 miles from Williams, Arizona, right up to the South Rim of Grand Canyon. Special events are now being planned, as #29 has not run in regular service in years, so please visit www.thetrain.com or on [Facebook](#) often to learn about special events and schedules.

The Grand Canyon Railway offers visitors the most hassle-free way to visit the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and will run two trains daily from May 28 through Sept. 5. The train takes about 70,000 cars a year off the one road into the Grand Canyon South Rim entrance, thus reducing carbon emissions and helping to tread lightly on the environment. It's also just good fun.

This is a tourist railroad, but it is also the real deal. Originally completed in 1901, the Grand Canyon Railway departs daily year-round at 9:30 a.m. from Williams, Arizona (about 30 miles west of Flagstaff, just off Interstate 40 and rolls almost due north to the South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, arriving at 11:45 a.m. The trip measures 65 miles and takes 2 hours and

15 minutes each way. The train arrives back in Williams at 5:45 p.m. When scheduled, a second train leaves Williams at 10:30 a.m. and arrives back in Williams at 6:30 p.m. Each train lays-over at the Grand Canyon (steps from the rim itself) for 3.5 hours.

Round-trip rates begin at at \$79 for adults and \$47 for children in Coach Class and include “wild west shootout, roaming musicians and attendants who bestow local knowledge, words of wisdom” on the train itself. There are six classes of travel on the railroad, ranging from Pullman and basic “coach” to an “observation dome” (kids welcome) to a “luxury observation dome” class and “luxury parlor car” (16 years an older). Packages including hotel, meals, and in-park tours are available.

For more information or to book a reservation, visit www.thetrain.com or call 1-800-THE-TRAIN (843-8724).

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Additional photos, video and interviews available upon request.