

# “Rediscovering the Path of Chinese Railroad Workers”

## Return to Gold Mountain 2017

### Historic Tour

Travel with People’s Choice Artist Professor Xuejun Yang

## July 15 - 16, 2017



- Net Proceeds from this Historic Tour will be donated to the Chinese Railroad Workers Memorial Monument Project.
- People Choice Winner selected by Community Exhibit and Online Votes.
- Monument is designed by Professor Xuejun Yang, Guangdong, China.
- Monument Completion is scheduled by Fall of 2018.

**PACKAGE PRICE \$399.00**

(Tour begins in Sacramento, Bay Area departure available)

#### PRICE INCLUDES:

- \* One way bus transportation to all stops East Bound.
- \* One night hotel room (Double Occupancy) – HARRAH’S HOTEL, Reno Nevada.
- \* Amtrak Train ticket West Bound – Reno, Nevada Non - Stop to Sacramento, CA
- \* California State Railroad Museum & Emigrate Trail Museum admission.
- \* Hotel breakfast/taxes, tour guides

#### NOT INCLUDED:

- \* Meals not listed, shopping, casinos, parking at Amtrak stations
- \* Single room occupancy adds \$50/one person

#### BAY AREA DEPARTURE (Optional)

One roundtrip ticket on AMTRAK from Emeryville, CA to Sacramento, CA to Emeryville, CA. ADD \$50 per person

**DEADLINE OF REGISTRATION: June 15, 2017**

[www.railroad150.com](http://www.railroad150.com) | [www.uschinarfa.org](http://www.uschinarfa.org) | <http://www.crrwmemorialproject.com/> | [railroad150@outlook.com](mailto:railroad150@outlook.com)

### Associated Contributors



## SIERRA HISTORIC BUS VISITS

Saturday, July 15, 2017, 10:30am - 6:00pm

Depart from Amtrak Sacramento Valley Station Parking lot



### **City of Auburn (Stop 1 - 3)**

1. Chinese Coolie Statue, the largest Statue of Chinese Coolie, is "a tribute to the historical significance of the Chinese workers in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad through the Sierra Mountains of California."
2. Joss House Chinese Museum, the oldest and the first Chinese Family Association Building served as a center for worship, education, community fellowship, letter-writing and business services.
3. Bloomers Cut, is considered the "Eighth Wonder of the World" where Chinese workers dug a ditch through naturally cemented gravel and hard clay with picks, shovels and black powder.

### **City of Colfax (Stop 4)**

Cape Horn, a S-shaped three-mile roadbed was cut from the cliffs along very narrow ledges. Chinese railroad workers, "Chinese basket drillers", lowered wicker baskets from a steep, near vertical precarious cliff face to do the heavy rock work on side hill cutting.



### **Gold Run Rest Stop (Stop 5, Lunch break)**

The future location of Chinese Railroad Workers Memorial Monument Project. It will replace the current Landmark rock with an important tribute to the Chinese immigrants who lost their lives laboring on the Transcontinental Railroad.

### **City of Dutch Flats (Stop 6)**

The richest Gold Rush Town, is now registered as a California Historical Landmark - "Old Chinatown".



### **Truckee (Stop 7 - 9)**

1. China Wall, a symbol of the death-defying work that the Chinese performed through the harshest of conditions during the construction of the first Transcontinental Railroad construction.
2. Emigrant Trail Museum, displays intricate dioramas detailing the tragic Donner Party and the history of railroad development in the Sierra Nevada region.
3. Downtown Truckee, in 1886, expelled about 1,400 Chinese inhabitants, as part of a campaign that included a boycott of any business that associated with Chinese.

## OVERNIGHT STAY IN HARRAH'S, RENO, NEVADA

**Saturday, July 15, 2017**

Group photo: 6:00pm

Check in: 6:30pm

Buffet dinner (not included): 7:30pm



**Sunday, July 16, 2017**

Check out: 6:30am

Continental breakfast: 7:00am

Luggage loading and leave hotel: 8:00am

## NON STOP SIERRA SCENIC TRAIN EXPERIENCE

Sunday, July 16, 2017, 8:36am - 2:13pm

Depart from Amtrak Reno Station

**Truckee, Milepost 205.9.** In the winter of 1866, Chinese workers crossed the Sierra Nevada mountains, chopped down trees and paved a path along the slope. They loaded locomotives on wood wagons, spread pig fat on both bottoms of the wagons and wood paths. With the help of horses, 3,000 Chinese workers pulled the wagons across the 7,000 feet high, 30-mile long Nevada peaks, and transported 3 locomotives and large amounts of materials to Truckee.



**Norden, Milepost 192.5.** This is the location of the former Dispatch Office and homes that Southern Pacific had enclosed in the snow shed for winter operations, the site of where nitroglycerine was introduced by the Central Pacific and Chinese laborers and is now the location of Sugar Bowl Ski Area.

**Donner Lake, Milepost do not known.** Between tunnels 7 and 8, there is a deep ravine. A railroad retaining wall and fill, constructed of Sierra granite, stands silently above the pass as a lasting monument to the Chinese "Master Builders", who left an indelible mark on the history of California and the West.



**Shed 47, Milepost, 196.6 and Donner Summit.** In fall of 1865, Chinese workers began building 15 tunnels, most of them at high elevations through the Sierra Nevada for a total of 6,213 feet. The most difficult tunnel was No. 6: The Summit Tunnel, which cut through solid granite. It is 1,695 feet long and 124 feet below the surface. Workers built a vertical shaft halfway between the two tunnel openings, and in 24/7 shifts, they dug four faces simultaneously from both exterior sides and from inside out. Because of the severe winter

storms, the Central Pacific built 37 miles of snow sheds to cover the tracks in 1868 and 1869. The snow sheds were nicknamed the "longest barn in the world".

In the summer of 1867, more than 2,000 carpenters, most Chinese, started to build snow sheds to minimize the snowstorm's impact on train operation. Originally 40 miles of snow sheds were built between Reno and Emigrant Gap.

**Emigrant Gap, Milepost 170.7.** After construction completion of the Grizzly Hill and Emigrant Gap tunnels on September 1, 1866, two teams of Chinese workers descended to the middle of the rock and began blasting the tunnels from the inside out.

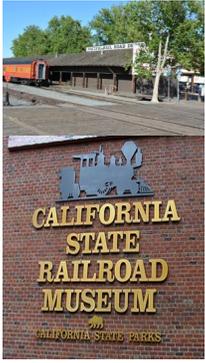


**Cape Horn, Milepost 146.3.** Cape Horn is at least 1,300 feet high above the American River, east of Colfax and has an irregular slope dropping off between 45 and 75 degrees. In the summer of 1865 Chinese bored holes in the granite rock with their small hand drills, filled them with black powder and ignited the fuse. The work was extremely dangerous and many Chinese workers perished.

**Colfax, Milepost 148.1.** Chinese workers built 10 large wooden viaducts carrying the Central Pacific Railroad over valleys and canyons about 2 miles east of Colfax.

**Auburn, Mile Post 125 and Boomer Cut.** In February 1864, 50 Chinese workers came to create a level grade for tracks. Bloomer Cut, 38 miles from Sacramento, was 800 feet long and 63 feet high. Chinese workers dug a ditch through naturally cemented gravel and hard clay with picks, shovels and black powder. This was the first major engineering challenge for the railroad, and dangerous work. Because of the success of the Chinese workers, many Chinese were hired from Guangdong Province.





## FINAL STOP: OLD SACRAMENTO TOUR

Sunday, July 16, 2017, 2:30m - 5:00pm

### **Old Sacramento (2:30PM - 3:30PM)**

1. Big Four House, a National Historic Landmark Building constructed through the joint efforts of California's railroad pioneers.
2. First Transcontinental Railroad Groundbreaking Site: Groundbreaking ceremony of the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad on January 8, 1863.

### **California State Railroad Museum (3:30PM - 5:00PM)**

Experience the feats of engineering and ingenuity that have kept the Golden State steaming along for nearly 200 years.

## FOR BAY AREA PASSENGERS

RETURNING BACK TO Emeryville Amtrak Station

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Depart from Amtrak Sacramento Valley Station 5:30pm

Luggage pick up at front of CALIFORNIA RAILROAD MUSEUM at 5:00pm



*“The greater portion of the laborers employed by us are Chinese. Without them it would be impossible to complete the western portion of this great national enterprise, within the time required by the Acts of Congress” - Leland Stanford*

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: [ ] Male [ ] Female [ ] Handicap [ ] Special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Additional \$50/single room occupation

Departure Location: [ ] Sacramento (\$399) [ ] Emeryville (\$399+ \$50)

### **Method of Payment**

- Check Check payable to UCRFA, mail to: 4000 Truxel Road, Suite 3, Sacramento, CA 95834.
- On-line [www.uschinarfa.org](http://www.uschinarfa.org), click Sponsors, click DONATION button.

For more information contact

Wei Zhang: 530-867-1373 | Stephen Zhou: 916-718-3383 | Steven Lee: [steven.lee.ventures@gmail.com](mailto:steven.lee.ventures@gmail.com)



Chinese Railroad Workers Memorial Monument  
is a sanctioned project of the Chinese Historical Society of America

