

Angel's

*Be Alive!*



Angel Gomez,  
Director of  
Member  
Services

The steam locomotive and crew with plenty of passengers aboard.



# The Live Steamers Railroad Museum



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Angel in front of the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

## Hello again, everybody! I'm really ... steamed this time!

That's because I visited the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum (LALSRM) in Griffith Park. The railroad museum was started in 1956 by railroad enthusiasts to educate the general public in railroad history including live steam, gas-mechanical and electronic railroad technology. (1) The museum survives solely on donations made by the general public, who visit and ride the trains. The suggested donation is \$3. It's not mandatory, although you actually go to a booth and pay (for each person), and they give you a ticket. You will be asked for a ticket each time you want to ride.

(2) It's a very small price to pay.

If it looks familiar, it might be because *Alive!* writes about it every holiday season. Over Christmas and New Year's, the museum decorates the trains and train stations. The museum is adjacent to Travel Town Museum, a local club devoted to the presentation of locomotives through scale models.

Almost all of the facility, including the trains, was built by members of the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum. I heard that the members planted the trees and grass, too. Most of the materials came from donations and through fundraising from LALSRM members and local

businesses. Great job!

The museum is a very fun place to visit for you and your family. I really enjoyed the 4- to-10-mph relaxing ride and all the things to see. By the way, once you get on the trains you are not allowed to take any pictures. I took a few to try to help promote the museum.

And remember, it's open only on Sundays.

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This is the window where you give your donation

## Directions:

Going North to Location: take the I-5 North to the 134 East (Pasadena/Ventura Fwy) keep right at the fork, follow signs for the Zoo Dr. then turn Right at Western Heritage Way continue on Zoo Dr. (about a mile) LALSRM will be on the left. (7)

Going South to Location: take the I-5 South then take the 145A for Western Ave keep right at the fork, follow the signs to Western Ave W then turn right at Western Ave then turn left at Victory Blvd. Slightly right at Riverside Dr then Turn right at Zoo Dr. LALSRM will be on the left.



Actual address is: (8)  
**5202 Zoo Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90027**

When you exit the freeway, you will notice that there is a horse trail and wide grass areas (along the street going to the museum) with picnic benches and plenty of room for relaxing. The Parking is on the right and left of the entrance just pick a spot.

7



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Aden, Kathy and Angel enjoy a ride on a locomotive steam train.



The Conductor and his passengers speed by.

There is parking on either side of the entrance. As you travel on Zoo Drive, you will notice plenty of space on either side of the road, for picnics, jogging and horseback riding.

So, go out this weekend (on Sunday) and take a train ride for only \$3 per person. This is truly a great place and a best-kept secret right in our own backyard.

LALSRM members operate 7.5-inch-gauge model trains for the general public to ride from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Sunday, weather permitting, except for the Sunday before Memorial Day and the first Sunday in October. Passengers must be at least 34 inches tall and weigh less than 350 pounds to ride. (3)

While visiting the museum, you will be riding a one-eighth-scale miniature steam, diesel or electric locomotive. (4) and (5) If a steam locomotive is pulling your train, you might notice that the engine has fire and smoke, and actually runs on steam. The steam locomotives may be burning coal, fuel oil or propane. The typical locomotive operates with about 100 pounds of steam pressure. These miniature steam locomotives need lots of water and require as much maintenance as a full-size engine. (6) If a diesel locomotive is pulling your train, it is probably powered by a gasoline engine that is coupled to a transmission with a hydraulic drive. If an electric locomotive is pulling your train, these engines are generally powered by storage batteries.

The rolling stock used by the museum is probably center bench cars or gondolas, both with a caboose. All of the cars use machined wheels that have flanges and tire profiles just like real trains.

The railroad's main line is about a mile and a half long. Members have built and installed more than 23,000 feet of track. They use steel rails, and the ties are made from recycled plastic. Before any tracks are installed, the ground must be carefully prepared so that the track is level and straight. In addition to the track, there are two turntables, 44 steaming bays for engine preparation and maintenance, and two power hoists to raise and lower trains for storage by car or truck.

Until, next month, **Be Safe and Be Alive!**



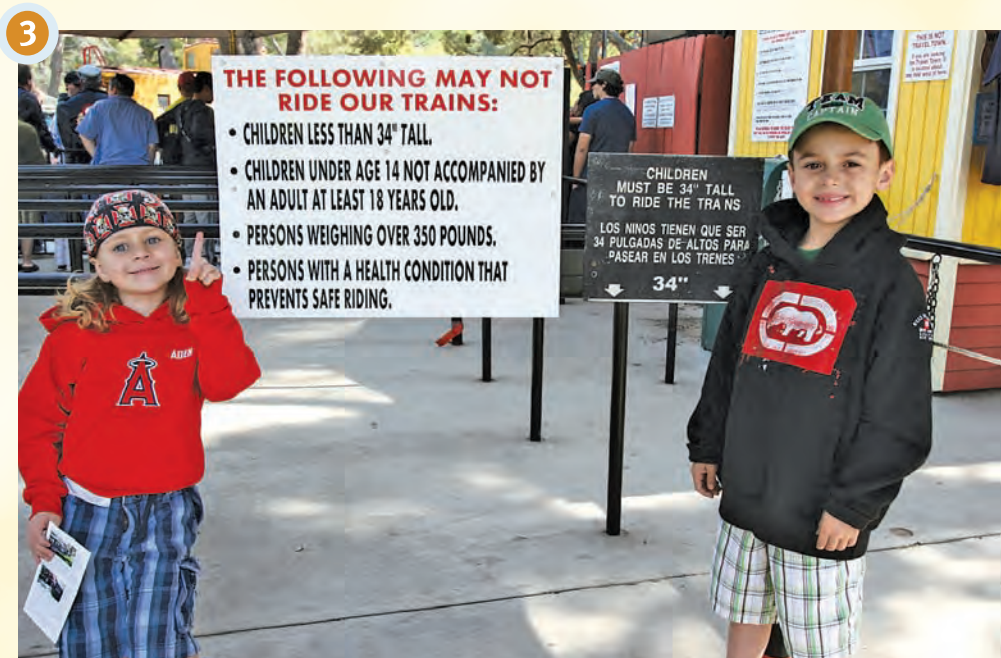
The O'Brien-Moore Bridge you see as you travel.

## Bridges and Tunnels:

There is more than 395 feet of steel and concrete bridges. The 216-foot steel and truss bridge (O'Brien-Moore Bridge), at the west end of the tracks, was built with more than 16 tons of steel. The center of the bridge was constructed off-site and delivered to Griffith Park by truck. A crane was used to place the bridge on its concrete piers. There are three concrete tunnels that measure about 112 feet combined.



The Nelson Tunnel.



Aden and Angel are very happy they both meet the height requirement.