



Path of the Chinese Railroad Worker

Auburn to Donner Summit

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

In the mountains just above Donner Lake, there is a series of now-abandoned tunnels that, for well over a century, enabled the transcontinental railroad to cross the imposing Sierra Nevada. The mountains are steep and made of solid granite. The riveting story of the building of the railroad and tunnels by a mostly Chinese labor force comes alive through the full-trip narration of Historian Bill George as we travel by coach via I-80 through Auburn to the Donner Summit area near Truckee. On this adventurous journey we have opportunities to stop to view features of the railroad at key locations, we walk through tunnels, and we view “China Wall” up close. On our return trip our only stop is the State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, which has a large exhibit on the building of the transcontinental railroad. Our historian’s every word on the trip can be captured through the use of the Whisper audio device system that we provide. Meals are on your own; we recommend brown bagging it and/or purchasing food at one of our stops. At the most distant part of our bus tour one finds the Old 40 Bar and Grill at Donner Ski Ranch Resort that has all essential amenities. Please read the paragraphs on the second page that describe the activity levels and exploration recommendations. Elevation is also a consideration, as we travel to the 7,000 foot level. *Late-breaking news!* On December 16, 2024, Summit Camp, the construction camp close to where the tunnels and retaining walls were blasted, was designated one of 19 new National Historic Landmarks by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior! You won’t want to miss out on this adventure!

COST: \$150

**Register or cancel with full refund by
Wednesday, May 7, 2025**

**CAPACITY:
40 participants**

**Tour Escort:
Janwyn Funamura**

**Tour Narrator:
Historian Bill George**

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:
Moderate to Energetic**

Registration instructions: Email the following information to [***HagginTravel@gmail.com***](mailto:HagginTravel@gmail.com):

- (1) Name(s) of travelers (2) Address (3) Home phone (4) Cell phone (5) Email address
- (6) Emergency contact name and telephone number. Members and non-members are welcome.

Payment instructions: Write a check for \$150 per person, payable to ***Haggin Museum - DMT***.

Mail check to Haggin Museum - DMT, P.O. Box 4004, Manteca CA 95337. You will be notified after your registration and check have been received. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

Questions? Email us at [***HagginTravel@gmail.com***](mailto:HagginTravel@gmail.com).

Find DMT’s most current news and register online at our webpage:

[**https://hagginmuseum.org/department-of-museum-travel/**](https://hagginmuseum.org/department-of-museum-travel/)



TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Advance reservation and payment are required. Cash and checks are accepted. Written notice at the time of reservation is required for any physical condition, diet, or treatment requiring special attention. Your cancelled check is your receipt. A deadline date will be announced. The deadline marks two important events: (1) Closure of the reservation period and (2) Last day a full refund will be given for cancellation. After the deadline, *refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your seat can be resold*. If your seat cannot be resold, your fee will be donated to the Haggin Museum as a 501(c)3 contribution for which you will be sent an acknowledgment. In the rare instance that the trip is cancelled, fees will be fully refunded. If capacity is exceeded a wait list will be created. Additional costs are limited to meals and personal purchases; gratuities are covered; free parking is available at the bus pick-up point in front of the museum on Pershing. DMT acts solely as an agent in arranging accommodations, transportation, meals and other services. Therefore, it does not assume any liability for injury, accident, loss or delay due to an act or default of any other company or person who provides such services. DMT reserves the right to make any modifications deemed necessary before or during the trip. DMT is also is not responsible for lost personal items. Travelers are encouraged to purchase travel insurance for trips out of town. By registering for this trip, you are consenting to the Terms and Conditions as described.

Approximately 1-2 weeks prior to the trip, a detailed information sheet will be emailed.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUM TRAVEL (DMT): DMT is a volunteer auxiliary of the Haggin Museum. The mission of DMT is “To promote an interest in and appreciation of the arts, history and culture by offering tours beyond the Museum walls.” Our goal is to provide an enjoyable trip in a safe, friendly and inviting atmosphere. Trips are priced to be economical while enabling DMT to be self-supporting. The Haggin Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The museum is located at 1201 N. Pershing Avenue, Stockton CA 95203. The museum’s Administrative Assistant may be reached by phone at (209) 940-6311 or by email at AdminAssistant@hagginmuseum.org.

ACTIVITY LEVELS: (1) Leisurely – A tour that can be enjoyed by all. Minimal required walking on generally level surfaces, with few stairs. (2) Moderate – A tour with some walking, standing/strolling at museums and other attractions, and possibly some short walks on uneven surfaces and some stairs. (3) Active – A tour which includes longer walks (3-5 city blocks). May include walks on inclines and uneven surfaces. (4) Energetic – A tour with an emphasis on opportunities for walking and moderately difficult hiking.

Exploration Recommendations: Stops at viewpoints and the tour of the California State Railroad Museum can be taken at a “Leisurely” to “Moderate” pace. The walk up to and through the tunnels (1/4 - 1/2 mile) involves traversing uneven ground that may be wet (“Active” level). The tunnels are dark, requiring flashlights to navigate. Sturdy, water repellant walking shoes are recommended. This part of the tour is not suitable for wheelchairs or those requiring walkers. For the fit and adventurous, there is opportunity for taking hiking trails that involve moderately steep uphill and downhill portions. Wearing hiking boots and consideration of bringing hiking sticks are recommended (“Energetic” level). Scenic photo opportunities abound. Because the elevation of the Summit Tunnels is at the 7,000 foot level, those travelers who have questions about their health at high elevations should consult their physicians. Likewise, those travelers prone to motion sickness should take appropriate precautions. Please do not travel with us if you are ill.