



~Western Routes~

Sunset Ltd	NOLA-LA	2,069
City of St Louis	STL-LA	2,328
Super Chief	CHI-LA	2,224
California Zephyr	CHI-OAK	2,528
City of San Francisco	CHI-OAK	2,258
City of Los Angeles	CHI-LA	2,298
City of Portland	CHI-PORT	2,272
Rocky Mountain Rocket	CHI-DEN	1,083
Southern Belle	KC-NOLA	868
Texas Chief	CHI-GALV	1,412
Twin Star Rocket	MINN-HOU	1,370
Texas Zephyr	DEN-DAL	835
Royal Gorge	DEN-GRJ	449
The 400	CHI-MINN	419
Olympian Hiawatha	CHI-TAC	2,227
North Coast Ltd	CHI-SEA	2,319
Empire Builder	CHI-SEA	2,211
Cascade	OAK-PORT	714
San Joaquin Daylight	LA-OAK	483
Daylight	LA-SF	471

~Eastern Routes~

New England States	BOS-CHI	1,019
20th Century Ltd	NYC-CHI	961
Broadway Ltd	NYC-CHI	908
Erie Ltd	JCNJ-CHI	999
Capitol Ltd	JCNJ-CHI	997
Silver Meteor	NYC-MIA	1,389
Crescent	NYC-NOLA	1,357
Birmingham Spl	NYC-BIRM	987
National Ltd	JCNJ-STL	1,112
Spirit of St Louis	NYC-STL	1,051
Wabash Cannon Ball	STL-DET	489
South Wind	CHI-MIA	1,559
Dixie Flagler	CHI-MIA	1,455
City of Miami	CHI-MIA	1,494
City of New Orleans	CHI-NOLA	921
Gulf Wind	JACK-NOLA	613

Streamliners Across America

CREDITS: Google Maps (giant sized, stitched together); Route information: Streamliner Schedules; Route maps: "Night Trains" by Peter Maiken; Drumheads: Tomar Industries

About

Streamliners Across America visually presents the major named Streamliner train routes in context with the geography of the United States. What part of the Rockies did the *California Zephyr* go through? How did the routes of the legendary *20th Century Ltd* and *Broadway Ltd* differ?

Every train route (layer) in this PDF can be turned on/off so that you can see where each named train went. Some routes used the same sections of track, so in order to see a complete route, others must be turned off (case in point: the *New England States* route is partially covered with the *20th Century Ltd* route, as are many of the Western routes).

The routes may not be “inch perfect,” but show the general routes as they were used from the late 30s to the early 50s. All the train route schedule information came from the *Streamliner Schedules* website (link in the credit box). The actual routes were devised from the schedules and Peter Maiken’s marvelous book, “Night Trains.” The drumheads (normally seen on the end car) came from Tomar Industries (both linked in the credit box). It’s the named routes that are the stars here—showing the railroad companies involved would’ve added too much complexity and that info is available on *Streamliner Schedules*. The *Route boxes* show the train name, the start and end cities, and the total mileage. Named trains that follow near identical routes are not shown (*City of New Orleans* is shown, but not the *Panama Limited*, for example). Short distance routes are also not shown (all route >450 miles, except *The “400”*).

The base map was carefully constructed from screen grabs of Google Maps and stitched together. Its 48” x 26” size makes it a bit unwieldy for home printing, but ensures a level a detail not possible on a smaller map. Zoom in all you want!

With a different software package, each route would only show those cities that the Streamliner would pass through and do that by clicking on the Train Name in the Routes box. But this is just a simple layered PDF file, made for maximum portability from OS to OS. You can even turn the “cities” and “borders” off to show a clean map. I’m not a train expert, just a retired graphic designer who believes that visual information is quicker to absorb than dry text.

Hopefully this simplified *Streamliners Across America* map will afford both the knowledgeable fan and those with just a passing interest an accurate glimpse into the workings of the great Streamliner routes in American history. Who wouldn’t want to take the *20th Century Ltd* and *Super Chief* combo across this great country? Or take one of the northern train routes that ended in Seattle. Why you could take the *Silver Meteor* to Jacksonville, hop on the *Gulf Wind* to New Orleans and from there take the exquisite *Sunset Ltd* to Los Angeles. The combinations (including some that were never really possible) are there for you to try out.

Navigation is easy: Ctrl(Cmd)/+ zooms in; Ctrl(Cmd)/- zooms out; Ctrl(Cmd)/0 resizes to window; hand moves you about. Simple.

So, turn off this layer and start exploring. All aboard!

Change Log: 2.1 adjusted *City of Los Angeles* and *City of St Louis*, corrected *Gulf Wind* and *Crescent* to pass through Flomaton, Alabama