

Jumping on Board

Train travel picking up steam across the country.

February's economic stimulus package included \$8 billion of funding for U.S. train travel, specifically for high-speed and intercity passenger rail projects, and with the flux of airline and gas prices the idea of riding the rails has become more appealing. Here, some 21st century locomotive innovations:

▶ Amtrak Guest Rewards members can use a free Widget for services such as iGoogle and Netvibes, capturing account information, offers and more. amtrakguestrewards.com

▶ The Napa Valley Wine Train, which features dining tours through the wine country, was the first locomotive in the nation to convert to compressed natural gas in 2001. winetrain.com

▶ Uncommon Journeys train tours range from "The Path of Lewis & Clark" to "Fall Colors in the Great Smoky Mountains." This summer, "Wonders of the West" takes you through Yellowstone, Teton and Glacier National Park, with overnight stays at each park and adventures such as float trips, admission to hot mineral pools and sightseeing included. trainholidays.com



The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad's new audio tours use GPS to accurately describe surrounding scenery; and the GPS Ranger, a palm-sized video tour device displays captioning for the deaf or hard of hearing. CVSR.com



CVSR

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Budget-conscious travelers are hitting the roads (and trains, planes and buses) this summer. They're staying in-country and closer to home — whether for budget reasons, safety concerns or a patriotic response to support local economies and the U.S. hospitality industry.

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