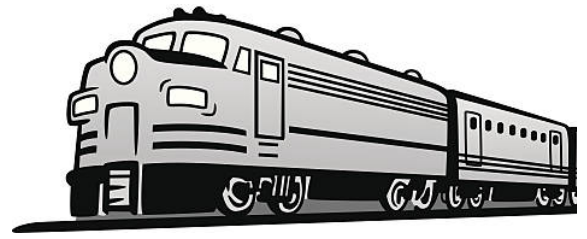




Like Trains? What's Next?



In an effort to help those brand new to the love of trains, or to parents with kids that love trains, we created this list so you have some options for other activities you can do to experience even more trains!

[Run A Train](#)

[Train clubs](#)

[Get a Train Set](#)

[Rail Fairs and Train Shows](#)

[Local Hobby Shops](#)

[Ride a Train](#)

[Build A Layout - Kits](#)

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[Build A Layout - Module Building Groups](#)

[Historical Societies & Museums](#)

[Railfan](#)

Run A Train

[South Bay Historical Railroad Society](#) - become a member to run trains on the model layout.

[Western Pacific Railroad Museum](#), Portola, CA - engineer for a day

[Roaring Camp Railroad](#), Felton, CA - run a locomotive

[San Leandro Historical Railway Society](#), San Leandro, CA - kids can run model trains on their garden layout

Ride a Train

[The Railroad Museum At Ardenwood](#) , [Ardenwood Regional Park](#), Newark, CA - ride the train and visit the historic farm

[Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad](#), Vasona Park, Los Gatos, CA - ride the small scale train and ride the historic Carousel

[Bitter Creek Western Railroad](#), Arroyo Grande, CA - ride the train at one of their special events throughout the year.

[Bonfante Railroad](#), Gilroy, CA - ride the train at Gilroy Gardens amusement park

[California State Railroad Museum](#), [train rides](#) and operate a real locomotive

[Caltrain](#) - ride the train to and from fun destinations along the peninsula from Gilroy to San Francisco

[Casa De Fruta Railroad](#), Hollister, CA - ride the train and see other attractions at Casa de Fruta

[Cover's Apple Ranch](#), Tuolumne, CA - revisit the apple farm and ride the train

[Western Pacific Railroad Museum](#), Portola, CA

[Folsom Valley Railroad](#), Folsom, CA - visit the zoo , the library, ride the train and picnic in the park
[Golden Gate Live Steamers](#), Tilden Regional Park near Berkeley, CA - miniature live steam trains you can ride
[Hillcrest Tree Farm](#), Reedley, CA - ride small scale trains
[Howarth Park](#), Santa Rosa, CA - visit the park, hiking trails, lake, carousel and ride the train
[Kelly Park](#), San Jose, CA - visit History San Jose and [ride historic trolley cars](#), the Japanese friendship Garden and Happy Hollow Zoo,
[Niles Canyon Railway](#), Niles or Sunol, CA - ride the train, visit the depot museum and see the model train layouts
[Pixieland](#), Concord, CA - miniature, rideable "Pixieland Express" train rides and other attractions
[Redwood Valley Railroad](#), Tilden Regional Park, Orinda, CA - Ride the train through the park
[Napa Valley Wine Train](#), Napa, CA - ride the train and sample wines or take the dinner train
[Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum](#), Nevada City, CA - ride the railbus
[Oakland Zoo Express Train](#), Oakland, CA - visit the zoo and ride the train
[Pacific Coast Railroad](#), Santa Margarita, CA - ride the train
[Pixie Woods Amusement Park](#), Stockton, CA - visit the park and ride the train
[Placerville & Sacramento Railroad](#), Folsom, CA - ride the train
[Roaring Camp Railroad](#), Felton, CA - ride the redwood steam train or take the train to the Santa Cruz

Boardwalk

[The Railroad Museum At Ardenwood](#) , [Ardenwood Regional Park](#), Newark, CA - ride the train and visit the historic farm
[Railtown 1897 State Park](#), Jamestown, CA - explore the historic state park and ride the train
[River Fox Train](#), Sacramento, CA - ride the train or the rail bikes
[San Francisco Zoo](#), San Francisco, CA - ride the miniature train and visit the zoo
[Shadowbrook Restaurant](#), Capitola, CA - ride the mini cable car down the hillside to the restaurant
[Skunk Train](#), Fort Bragg, CA - ride one of two trains or take rail bikes
[Sonoma Traintown Railroad](#), Sonoma, CA - visit the park and ride the train
[Timber Heritage Association](#), Samoa or Eureka, CA - ride speeder cars along the rails
[Western Railway Museum](#), Suisun City, CA - see the trains and electric railway cars and take a ride
[Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad](#), Fish Camp, CA - tide the historic logging train through the forest

Get a Train Set

Buy a train and track set like one of these (train sets with track power):

- Brio/Thomas sets
- Atlas Acela
- Bachman Starter sets
- Walthers starter sets
- PIKO starter sets
- Lionel starter sets

Local Hobby Shops

[Gator Games & Hobbies](#), San Mateo, CA - a gaming store but probably carry some modeling supplies
[Herrick Games](#), Boulder Creek, CA - a gaming store but they carry paints and other modeling supplies
[Just Trains](#), Concord, CA
The Train Shop, Santa Clara, CA
[Central Coast Trains](#), Atascadero, CA

Build A Layout - Kits

This list is not a complete list and, although we do our best to keep it up to date, some resources may not still be available. Let us know if you find something that isn't working or know of a resource that should be on this list! Email sbhrsmedia@sbhrs.org

Dark Sky Modules - T Trak, N scale modules to build your own layout easily
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/DarkSkyModulesLLC>

Precision Model Railroad - layout kits
<https://precisionmodelrailroad.com/>

Walthers - Build-A-World kits
<https://www.walthers.com/build-a-world-program>

Woodland Scenics Layout Kits -
https://woodlandscenics.woodlandscenics.com/show/category/LAKits?gclid=Cj0KCQiA8t2eBhDeARIsAAVEga3qxfN74i-99pgEuQRmXzuY3fCwiEnvonTUYISc4yxofip4PwBILoUaAiNXEALw_wcB

Noch preformed layouts - <https://www.noch.com/preformed-layouts>

Kato T Trak Module Kits - <https://katousa.com/t-trak-modules-by-woodland/>

CMR Products T Trak Modules & Accessories -
<https://www.cmrproducts.com/T-TRAK-Modules-&-Accessories-c24790145>

Railroad in a Box, <https://www.rrinabox.com/>, a quick and easy kit to build a layout.

Build a Layout - Module Building Groups

Check the module building groups to build a small table-like module layout you can connect to others at meets with your local members.

For HO scale trains: (search for the state, city or region you are in for local groups) www.free-mo.org

For smaller, N scale trains, check out the Free-moN group, <http://free-mon.net/>

For T-TRAK modules start here: <https://ntrak.org/T-TRAK-Home> . This site also has information on Free-MoN and NTRAK modules

Railfan

Take a look at your local map and find the railroad tracks. Or check out the routes for Amtrak ACE, Capitol Corridor, and Coast Starlight trains. Caltrain, San Jose light rail and BART stations are all good spots to view trains. Try searching Facebook for railfan groups to join. Like a scavenger hunt, look for the best, safe places to view the tracks and have fun watching trains! The back deck of the SBHRS' historic depot is a great spot to railfan!

Model Trains & Train clubs

They have open house events and some may have operating sessions where you can operate a train just like it would operate in real life:

They have open house events and some may have operating sessions where you can operate a train just like it would operate in real life:

[South Bay Historical Railroad Society](#) - Santa Clara

[Silicon Valley Lines](#) - San Jose

[Tri-Cities Society of Model Engineers](#) - Niles/Fremont

[San Leandro Historical Railway Society](#) - San Leandro

[Carquinez Model Railroad Society](#) - Crockett

[Alameda County Central Railroad Society](#) - Pleasanton
[California Central Model Railroad Club](#) - Agnews
[West Bay Model Railroad Association](#) - Menlo Park
[Golden State Model Railroad Museum](#) - Richmond
[Monterey & Salinas Valley Railroad Historical Society](#) - Salinas
[Santa Cruz County Railroad Historical Society/Redwood Coast Model Engineers Society](#) -
Watsonville
European Train Enthusiasts <https://www.ete.org/sfbayarea>
Golden State Toy Train Operators <https://gstto-main.herokuapp.com/#/>
Bay Area Garden Railroad Society - <http://bagrs.org/>
No. California Division of the Train Collectors Association - <https://www.norcaltca.org/>
Golden Gate Lionel Railroad Club - Mountain View <http://gglrrc.org/>
Golden Gate American Flyer - Walnut Creek [Golden Gate American Flyer Club](#)
Golden Gate Live Steamers - Tilden Park in Berkeley <https://goldengatels.org/>

Rail Fairs and Train Shows

South Bay Historical Railroad Society in the historic Santa Clara depot holds open house events in the spring and fall every year. Tour the museum, interlocking tower, business rail car and the HO scale and N scale model train layouts. Shop at the company store from a huge assortment of model railroad equipment, kits, parts, structures, DVDs, art, books, railroad items and modeling tools and supplies. It is a great place to shop for the new modeler! www.sbhrrs.org

Rail Fair at Ardenwood in Newark at the end of May: <https://www.spcrr.org/>

The Great Train Show has multiple shows around the bay area throughout the year. Check out their website for upcoming shows: <https://www.greattrainshow.com/>

The NMRA Coast Division has division meets throughout the year that focus on modeling and model railroads: <https://www.pcrnmra.net/coast/>

International Railfair is usually held each fall and worth a visit! <https://www.internationalrailfair.com/>

European Train Enthusiasts usually have a show every year at the Hiller Aviation Museum
<https://www.ete.org/euowest>

Oscalewest is a train show in the bay area with larger O scale, S scale and any narrow gauge models.
<https://www.oscalewest.com/>

Layout Design & Operations Weekend is held every weekend just before the Superbowl. It is a great event for those interested in building a layout and getting into operations (operating model railroad layouts like the real railroads). www.bayldops.com

For a current calendar of upcoming events, check out our region of the National Model Railroad Association's calendar page at <https://www.pcrnmra.net/pcr-calendar/>

National Model Railroad Association

A great resource. Check out their beginner's guide: <https://www.nmra.org/beginners-guide> and then join as a member for lots of local support and activities in your region and division.

Historical Societies & Museums

South Bay Historical Railroad Society - Santa Clara www.sbhrrs.org
History San Jose Park - San Jose <https://historysanjose.org/plan-your-visit/history-park/>
San Francisco Railway Museum - San Francisco <http://www.streetcar.org/museum/>
Western Railway Museum - Suisun City <http://www.wrm.org/>
California State Railroad Museum - Sacramento <https://www.californiarailroad.museum/>
Tiburon Railroad & Ferry Depot Museum - Tiburon <https://landmarkssociety.com/landmarks/railroad-ferry-museum/>
Cable Car Museum - San Francisco www.cablecarmuseum.org
Randall Museum of Natural History, Science & Art - San Francisco www.randallmuseum.org
Millbrae Train Museum - Millbrae <http://www.millbraehs.org/millbrae-train-museum.html>
Museum of the San Ramon Valley - Danville <https://museumsrv.org/>
Monterey & Salinas Valley Railroad Museum - Watsonville <https://www.msvrr.org/>
Bay Area Discovery Museum - Sausalito <http://bayareadiscoverymuseum.org/>
Walt Disney Family Museum - San Francisco <https://www.waltdisney.org/>

Know of a resource that should be on this list? Send it to sbhrrsmedia@sbhrrs.org