



TAHOMA EXPRESS

TRAVEL BY TRAIN



FROM SOUND TO
MOUNTAINS



TAHOMA EXPRESS DOME CAR
The only things imaginary here are the people and the furnishings.

This car was an iconic feature of the *Olympian Hiawatha*, the train which ran between Chicago and the Pacific Northwest in the mid 20th century. Some of these railcars still run as tourist excursions. Picture yourself in one of those seats....

“ARE TRAINS NOW THE MOST LUXURIOUS WAY TO TRAVEL?”

From Angola to Turkmenistan, sumptuously outfitted railroad cars are taking passengers on over-the-top journeys back in time.”

*-Matthew Kronsberg,
The New York Times, Jan. 6th 2026*

TAHOMA EXPRESS

XAVAAR QUARANTO



THE VIEW FROM THE SUPERDOME

Travelers along the Milwaukee Road enjoyed views like this across the west.

Peak into what a newly remodeled superdome car could look like in the 21st century. Could you imagine gazing at the mountains towering above you from this seat? A view from here beats a drive on the highway anyday. And please don't forget to visit the lounge car down below.

Tahoma (Mt. Rainier) is the most prominent peak in North America outside of Denali. The legendary naturalist John Muir declared *“Of all the fire-mountains which, like beacons, once blazed along the Pacific coast, Mount Rainier is the noblest.”*

Every year Mt. Rainier National Park welcomes 2.5 millions visitors and nearly 1 million automobiles. But 100 years ago visitors could take a train from the cities of Seattle and Tacoma right to the base of the mountain. This was no small operation either, in 1913 the Tacoma Easter Railroad carried 120,000 passengers.

In fact this railroad was inextricably linked with the development of the entire region. It's said the railroad follows the old paths of the Nisqually people who first inhabited the western flanks of the Mountain. Every community on the highway that now leads to the Mountain was once a rail stop.

Although the age of the automobile has largely supplanted train travel rail never died.

A steam engine much like those that once hauled timber out of the deep forests around the mountain is still operated as a tourist excursion on a limited loop of track by the Western Forests Industry Museum, a local non-profit.

Tahoma Express is a project supposes that sometimes the best ideas are not necessarily the newest. Automobiles have had their time but perhaps the way we did things before was better for both people and the land.

Tahoma Express evisions a future where the train is not just a ride on the way to the Mountain but an experience in and of itself. A hearkening back to the golden age of rail travel. The images featured here are based directly on real trains that ran along the Milwaukee Road from Chicago to Seattle.

Above all the Tahoma Express is a project about stories. A revival of a railroad that remembers all that came before, and could continue telling new tales long into the future.

All Aboard!

Imaginary Artifacts



These were never real?
...
But they can be.

