

By the end, we enjoyed some moon and the sunset, waiting for our time to dawn.

After Reno, the route travels over the Sierra Nevada through the Donner Pass. There were many, many tunnels. We counted over 30 on the whole trip, and that was just during the daylight hours.

The salt flats outside of Salt Lake City lead into a desert into Nevada. This was the most beautiful part of the trip hands down. Normally, everyone would be asleep.

There were two more delays on the trip. The first, a herd of cattle had gotten out of their pasture and was wandering around the tracks. And the second, a slow journey through the mountains at night. Normally, this portion of the trip would have been in the daylight hours.

The second delay occurred near Granby, CO. There was a rockslide on the tracks ahead. Crews had to be called out to remove the debris. The staff was surprised it didn't take longer to clear the tracks.

This section contained switchbacks as the elevation climbed. It was slow going but beautiful.

Denver had a train station that was the second largest after Chicago's on the route. It marked the end of the plains and the beginning of the climb into the mountains.

The first major delay was in Ottumwa, Iowa. Something had caused the cow catcher on the front of the locomotive to come loose. A welding crew had to repair the damage before the train could move on.

Each image was taken from the sleeper car cabin from the same location close to the beginning of every waking hour.



We arrived in Davis, CA at 10:00pm—eight hours after the train was originally scheduled. It was a long last day of waiting. The scenery was beautiful. The extra daylight was worth the delay.



Elevation is a key factor in this trip and how it is timed. It is most apparent when looking at the distances traveled at night. Much more ground is covered when not winding through the mountains.

Seven states and three time zones are traversed on the California Zephyr: The Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains, the Sierra Nevada, salt flats, marshes, deserts, cities, and mountain tunnels are all part of the experience.

This is a visual representation of a trip that was taken on Amtrak's California Zephyr route during three days in June of 2019. This train route is one of the most famous in the world and is known for its beautiful scenery through the Rocky Mountains into California. It is well known that these trains are not always on schedule, and this trip was no different. Notes have been made cataloging events that may have caused the train to delay as well as general observations. The delay enabled the viewing of landscapes that would have otherwise been shrouded in darkness.