

**Tour San Rafael to
Santa Rosa, CA
on the New SMART Train**

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Tour Summary

You'll be amazed to see the mountain orchards and pastures join the public-welcome fields and streams of California 's two prettiest counties-Marin (north of the Golden Gate Bridge) and Sonoma (north of Marin)-while riding the new, sleek trains that stop in seven "stations" in the key towns and nature jump-offs. Enjoy the singular attractions in San Rafael, County Center, Hamilton, Novato, Omopali Park, Petaluma, Cotati, Rohnert Park, and Santa Rosa. See Snoopy, *haciendas*, county fairs, the Accordion Festival, museums, and shindigs/concerts somewhere every weekend, plus ride with your bike free, pedal alongside the train, and re-train later!

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Introduction - The Very SMART Trains



SMART train's green and yellow zephyrs now zip commuters, tourists, and locals 43 miles daily between San Rafael's Marin Passenger Transit Terminal to the Sonoma County Airport. The last local train ran 57 years ago - it's great to have them back!



Tickets? Use those Clipper ticketing machines found at every station.



The sleek 14 diesel two-car trains can whoosh 79 miles per hour, seldom blow horns, carry 158 passengers and 24 bicycles, and they ride on the nearly bumpless reconditioned track bed!



Eventually, you will be able to bike-ride the full distance. The project promises a bike/pedestrian path along the entire route.



You need a map and schedule so you know when to get on and off. The system map shows where the SMART train stops are located.

Let's take a trip north from San Rafael in Marin County to the Sonoma County Airport north of Santa Rosa, passing through the many stops in between!



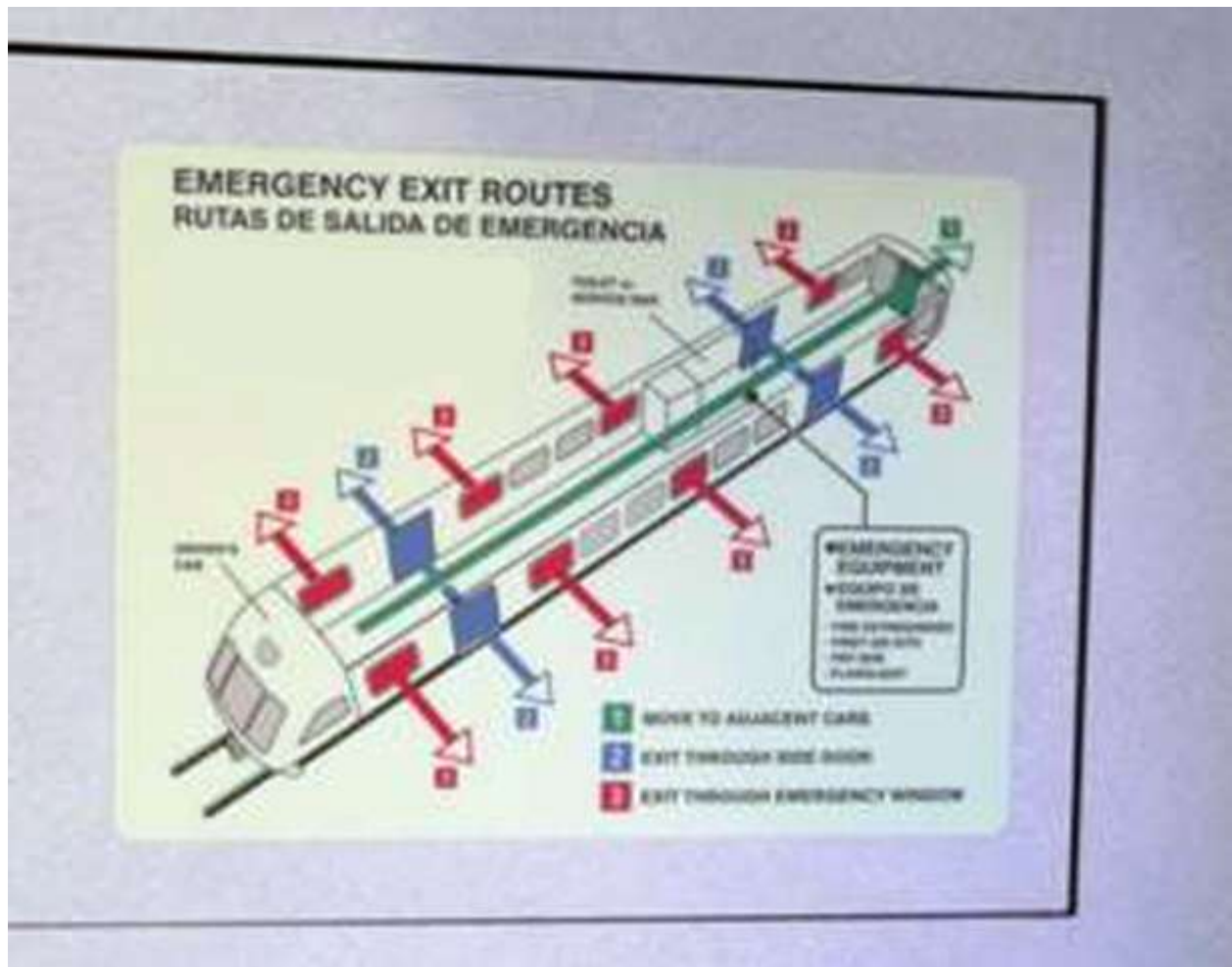
A linear map shows the stops by zone.



Want to leave your bike at a train station?
There are secured bike parking lockers at
each station.



SMART is exploring partnerships to provide bike sharing near some of its stops. Young cyclists must be tall enough to hang their own cycles in the train car.



Passengers with disabilities (and seniors or youth) should visit www.ClipperCard.com/discounts for discount and card application information. SMART trains, platforms, and fare machines are fully ADA compliant. Which

doors are closest to the ADA seating area?
Find the exterior train doors with ADA
icons: a hint, use doors 1 and 4.



Will passengers expire from hunger during their journey? To prevent that a snack enclave in each car sells soda, beer, and snacks - credit cards only.



Can you also nibble on edibles hiding in your pocket or purse? Who knows? Nibble quietly.



Blessedly, there is a free restroom per car.



You can ride the SMART train to within a quarter mile of two major county fairs. Just detrain at the County Courthouse, look east, and you can see (and hear) the Marin County fairgrounds. From the Petaluma station, walk or cycle four blocks northeast on Washington Street - voilá, the Sonoma fairgrounds!



Commuters can get a subsidized discount up to 40 rides per month when using SMART stations in Novato San Marin, Hamilton, Civic Center, and downtown San

Rafael. Some companies are also providing employee shuttle service. Check at (707) 794-3330.



There are five college sites reachable from the train stations. Dominican U. (San Rafael), SRJC extension (Petaluma), Sonoma State (exit at Cotati), Santa Rosa JC (use Santa Rosa North), and the College of Marin's Indian Valley Campus (any of the Novato stations Novato-Hamilton is closest).



A current what-to-see-and-do travel guide for all of Marin and Sonoma Counties would be a foot thick, plus photos! This tour guide is loosely tied to the new railroad: what's on the route or nearby. It's probably best to combine both guides to create your own journey! What fun!



Unique things to do and see are nearly endless in both counties. Hike, fish, loaf, take photos, rent watercraft.



The Dipsea Race is the oldest cross-country trail-running event in the U. S, and one of the oldest foot races of any kind in the U.S, having started in 1905. The race is run nearby in mid-June in mountainous Mill

Valley. The 7.5-mile course is considered one of the most beautiful courses in the world.



But we can no longer recommend the Repack Mountain Bike races (one-speed with balloon tires), dropping frantically on San Geronimo Ridge from 1530 feet to 330. The fastest time was 4:22. Joe Breeze, appropriately, won 10 of 24 before they

were stopped, in 1980, because they were
insanely dangerous (even for spectators)!

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Tips

- Add an APP to your iPhone or iPad that tells you when local transport lines will be at your destination SMART stations: think busses and cabs.
- Ask the conductors or help attendants (very friendly) how, when, and where you hold your digital entrance card so you are properly charged for the actual time you ride.
- SMART uses the same payment card that BART uses in San Francisco.
- Particularly during commuting hours, if you want to sit during the trip, board, head immediately to a seat, and make your claim. Ask "Is this seat taken?" If not, sit!
- Each car has a free restroom but most of

the stations don't, so plan accordingly.
(Novato-Hamilton, Novato-San Marin, and
North Santa Rosa are in the toileting
boondocks.)

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