

Fun in Fullerton

Southern California's urban railfan oasis



A Los Angeles-bound Amtrak *Pacific Surfliner* accelerates from its Fullerton station stop. Two photos, TRAINS: Brian Schmidt

LOCATION: Looking for a taste of Los Angeles-area railroads without wading through the entire urban area? Suburban Fullerton offers steady railroad action about 25 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles.

TRAIN-WATCHING: BNSF Railway's San Bernardino Subdivision passes through Fullerton, connecting Los Angeles with its namesake city. Metrolink's Orange Sub begins in Fullerton and runs south, with traffic for Oceanside and San Diego.

Passenger trains are the main attraction in Fullerton, with 38 Metrolink commuter trains and 22 Amtrak *Pacific Surfliners* stopping on weekdays. That includes trains on both the Orange County and 91/Perris Valley Metrolink lines. Amtrak's *Southwest Chief* also stops daily. Metrolink's offerings are reduced on weekends, so plan ahead to make the most of them.

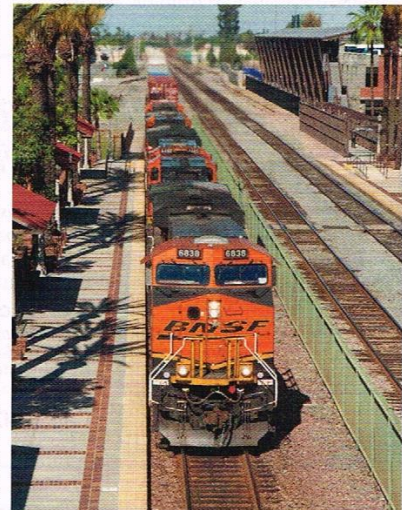
BNSF provides a supporting cast of freight traffic, up to 80 movements a day. Fullerton sees a heavy dose of intermodal traffic, linking the Los Angeles Basin with the rest of BNSF's network.

The best views of the action come from the Metrolink station, located appropriately on Santa Fe Avenue. Weekdays, ample parking is available to the west, just across Harbor Boulevard; on weekends, visitors can try their luck in the surface lot by the station.

RADIO FREQUENCIES: BNSF San Bernardino Sub, 160.650; Metrolink Orange Sub, 160.560.

FOR YOUR FAMILY: Be sure to check out the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim for baseball and the Anaheim Ducks for hockey, just a few miles south of Fullerton. Also in Anaheim is the famed Disneyland park.

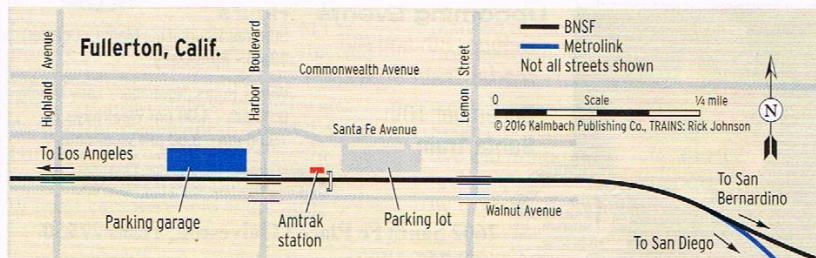
Just west of Fullerton is Knott's Berry Farm with its steam railroad, featuring historic Colorado narrow gauge equipment. There is also equipment on display at the Fullerton station.



An eastbound BNSF intermodal train flies through Fullerton in April 2014. The station's overhead walkway affords visitors this dramatic view of the action.



Metrolink commuter train No. 605 rolls by railfans camped out at the Fullerton station restaurant in June 2016. David Styffe



THIS MONTH: FULLERTON, CALIF.