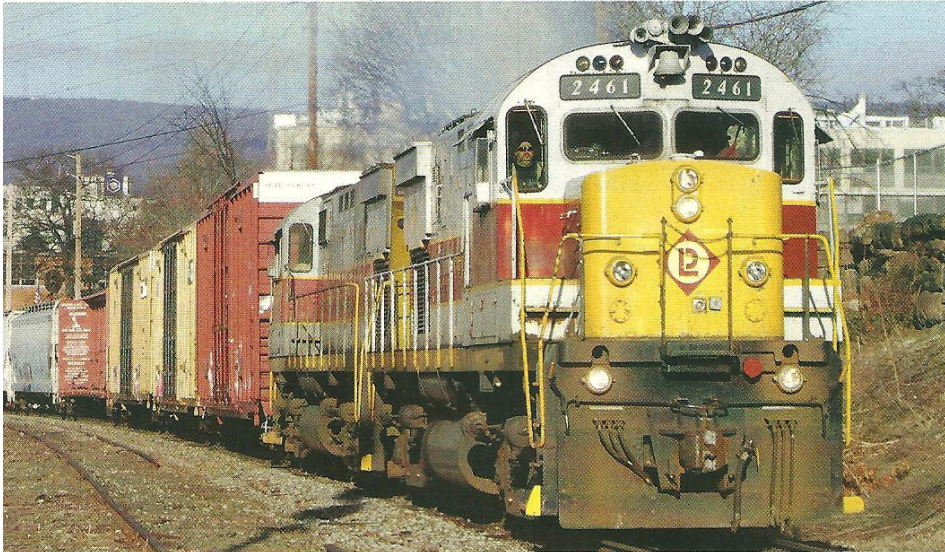


Short line, main line, museum

Alco-powered freights, mainline manifests, and a steamy museum make Scranton, Pa., a great place



An eastbound Delaware-Lackawanna freight, with C425 No. 2461 on the point, roars past the University of Scranton, one of the city's train-watching locations. Dave Crosby

CITY: Scranton, located in Northeastern Pennsylvania, boasts a thriving and diverse railroad industry. The Delaware-Lackawanna operates a fleet of Alcos, while Canadian Pacific operates the former Delaware & Hudson as part of its transcontinental system. Steam excursions from Steamtown National Historic Site and a heritage trolley line round out the action. Scranton is easily reached by car from Interstates 81, 84, and 380.

YARDS: The D-L switches in the Steamtown National Historic Site yard. The Steamtown grounds are open to the public (for a nominal fee) so you can see most of the action without trespassing. Canadian Pacific's Taylor Yard is located just south of Scranton. Delaware-Lackawanna, Reading & Northern, and Norfolk Southern trains also visit Taylor Yard.

RAILROAD FREQUENCIES: Delaware-Lackawanna/Steamtown: 161.460; Canadian Pacific: 161.475.

TRAIN-WATCHING LOCATIONS: Unlike the yard at Steamtown, CP's Taylor Yard is not accessible to the public, but you can view the south end of the yard from Depot Street and from an overlook along Railroad Court. CP's main line marks the end of Depot Street, so go no further. The University of Scranton provides a location to witness departing eastbound D-L road freights and steam excursions. Scranton's Nay Aug

Park has a trail and scenic overlook that provides a stunning vantage point to witness returning westbound D-L trains. At the entrance to Steamtown the original D&H mainline passes under the former DL&W. D-L trains also traverse this line on a daily basis. Reading & Northern reaches Scranton, serving the Stauffer Industrial Park near Taylor Yard.

WHAT YOUR FAMILY CAN DO WHILE YOU WATCH TRAINS:

The Mall at Steamtown is adjacent to its namesake. Nay Aug Park has the Everhart Museum of Art and Natural History, amusement park rides, gardens, and a public pool.

NEARBY: The Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour and the Electric City Trolley are the perfect way to explore Scranton's industrial past. Montage Mountain offers skiing in the winter while PNC Field offers AAA baseball during warmer seasons.

HOTELS: In addition to numerous chain hotels on the outskirts of the city, the Hilton Scranton Hotel and Conference Center and the Radisson Lackawanna Station are worth noting downtown. The Radisson is located in the six-story, 1908 Lackawanna station.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact the Lackawanna County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 99 Glenmaura National Blvd., Scranton, PA 18507; 570-963-6363; www.visitnepa.org.

DAVE CROSBY is a Delaware-Lackawanna dispatcher and an organizer for this year's National Railway Historical Society convention that will be held in Scranton, June 22-26. Details: www.endlessmountainrails.com.

TRACKSIDE GUIDE SCRANTON, PA.

