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Steam Locomotive

PALEO EXPRESS

It's popular for people of all ages because of an experience you can't get on modern trains: the smell of smoke, the distinctive horn, and the clattering of the wheels on the tracks.

The closest operating steam locomotive to Tokyo
Experience the power of a traditional steam engine

About the Paleo Express steam locomotive

Steam locomotive C58363 that pulls the SL Paleo Express was used by the Japanese National Railways (today's JR) in the Tohoku region. After being retired from regular service in 1972, it was placed in the playground of an elementary school in Saitama; it was later restored in time for the 1987 Saitama Exposition. Operations on the Chichibu Line as the SL Paleo Express began in 1988.



Origin of the SL Paleo Express name

"Paleo" is taken from *Paleoparadoxia*, a marine mammal which lived in the Chichibu region of Saitama Prefecture some 20 million years ago. Linked with "express," it provided the train's name, Paleo Express.



- **From the Asakusa area**
 - From Asakusa Station, take the Tobu Skytree Line (section of the Tobu Isesaki Line), then transfer to the Chichibu Railway at Hanyu Station.
 - To board the SL Paleo Express, use a local or express train to reach the respective stops of the train.
- **From Ueno/Tokyo area**
 - Take the JR Takasaki Line (Shonan-Shinjuku Line, Ueno-Tokyo Line), or Joetsu or Hokuriku Shinkansen Lines and transfer to the Chichibu Station at Yorii Station.
- **From Ikebukuro/Shinjuku area**
 - Using the Tobu Tojo Line, transfer to the Chichibu Railway at Kumagaya Station.
 - Using the Seibu Ikebukuro Line or Seibu Chichibu Line, transfer to the Chichibu Railway at Seibu Chichibu Station, travel to the Ohanabatake Station.



<https://www.chichibu-railway.co.jp/en>

PASMO Suica Major transportation IC cards can be used on the Chichibu Railway.
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Steam Locomotive PALEO EXPRESS

Operating Schedule (one roundtrip daily between Kumagaya Station and Mitsumineguchi Station)

Outbound Journey	10:15	10:43	11:07	11:42	11:55	12:20	12:24	12:54
Stops	Kumagaya Sta.	Fukaya-Hanazono Sta.	Yorii Sta.	Nagatoro Sta.	Minano Sta.	Chichibu Sta.	Ohanabatake Sta.	Mitsumineguchi Sta.
Return Journey	16:20	15:53	15:41	15:13	14:57	14:39	14:33	14:05

Riding the Paleo Express

Tickets required to ride the SL Paleo Express

Ticket for the section to be ridden

+

SL reserved seat ticket, purchased in advance of travel

Adult and child one-way prices are the same

Cash payment only, at station ticket office

All seats must be reserved in advance.

To make a reservation for the SL Paleo Express, please use the **Chichibu Railway SL Reservation System**.

Advanced reservations are accepted from midnight of the day one month prior to travel date until 30 minutes prior to departure. Please note that available tickets are limited. (in Japanese only)

To register as a member of the Chichibu Railway SL Reservation System:



Select the desired date, section of the line and seat to make your reservation.



Chichibu Railway one-day pass (in Japanese only)



Unlimited travel on all Chichibu Railway lines



Sales date: from one month prior to desired ride date to the day of use.
Availability: year-round (valid only on day of use)
To use: via the EMot app, or website.
Payment by credit card only.

- Please note that SL Paleo Express reserved seat tickets cannot be purchased with transportation IC cards.
- Operating schedules may change without advance notice.
- In some cases, the engine pulling the train may change from steam to electric locomotive.

Reservations for the SL Paleo Express:



<https://www.chichibu-railway.co.jp/en/steam-locomotive.html>



Train information

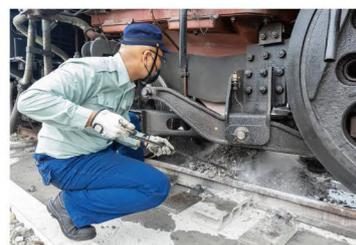
Enjoy a retro steam train experience, in passenger cars painted a calming reddish-brown color that matches the scenery of Chichibu. Inside, the seating is covered in a wine-red fabric, with woody walls and details in a unified brown color.



- In-train sales are available (service may not always be available).
- All seats are non-smoking; air conditioning and restrooms are available.

SL Tenshadai (Turntable) Park, turning work

At Mitsumineguchi Station, the terminal station of the line, see the process of turning the train around at the SL Turntable Park on days when the SL Paleo Express is operating.



- Maintenance/turning times: 1 to 1:40 pm
Please note: depending on the operating conditions, commemorative photo taking and tours may not be available.

All information valid as of September, 2023; please check the latest information before your journey on the SL Paleo Express.