

Step back in time - when life was a little simpler - on the

East Troy Electric Railroad, East Troy, Wisconsin
Mike and Sigi Walker

The East Troy Electric Railroad was built in 1906-1907 by the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company as part of its 200-mile system of street and interurban service. You will ride on a portion of the line that ran from East Troy to Milwaukee.

The East Troy-Mukwonago segment was transferred to the Village of East Troy in 1939, when the remainder of the line to Milwaukee was abandoned. It was operated by the village until 1985 when the Wisconsin Trolley Museum (WTM) took over the operation of the railroad. The original substation building in East Troy, Wisconsin, is used as a ticket office and the East Troy Electric Railroad Museum. We will board at this building in East Troy.

The Friends of East Troy Railroad Museum, Inc. purchased the rail line and rolling stock in stages between 1995 and 2000. Museum operations began over the line as early as 1967 when The Wisconsin Electric Railway Historical Society (TWERHS) relocated its collection of electric railway equipment from North Freedom, Wisconsin, to East Troy. TWERHS operated over the line using a trackage rights agreement with the village until 1985, when the trackage rights agreement ended upon the sale of the line. In 1989 the TWERHS collection was sold and the museum disbanded. By this time WTM, which had become the East Troy Electric Railroad, was operating historic interurbans and streetcars on the line.

The scenic 10-mile round trip on restored, historic electric trolley cars runs from East Troy to Mukwonago in beautiful southeast Wisconsin. Much of the mainline is original 80-pound rail, which was laid in 80-foot lengths with parallel joints. Much of the track is original, and the railbed was refurbished during the mid-1990s. The line is completely electrically operated, utilizing a 600V direct current system. Power is supplied to trolleys through overhead wires. The original Milwaukee

Electric 500KW rotary convertor motor-generator set, still capable of operation, is on display in the depot. There is also a gift shop, offering a unique selection of railroad souvenirs, and main ticket agent, as well as a five-track yard and 60' x 250' car barn. Dedicated volunteers help keep this valuable piece of history alive.

The railway itself is a standard gauge common carrier railroad that operates in interchange with Canadian National Railway (formerly a connection to Wisconsin Central Ltd.). This gives the ability for the East Troy Electric Railroad to deliver and pick up freight to be hauled to the village of East Troy. Some of the freight that can be hauled includes fertilizer for the Farmers Co-op, sand for East Troy REDI MIX, lumber, and steel tubing.

2013 BADGER RAILS



A collection of approximately 40 pieces of electric railway equipment, some notable, is kept in storage barns in downtown East Troy and at Phantom Woods. Included are:

East Troy Electric Railroad "Ravenswood" and "Beverly Shores," former Chicago South Shore and South Bend interurban coaches converted for dining train service by the museum. These will be used for our charter dinner train.

Sheboygan Light Power and Railway 26, a fully restored 1908 wooden interurban car

The Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company 846, a 1920 Milwaukee streetcar

Chicago North Shore and Milwaukee 761, a 1930 interurban coach undergoing rebuilding

The Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company 200, the body of an 1887 street railway parlor car

East Troy Electric Railroad current locomotives for hauling freight are former T.M.E.R. & L & T.M.E.R. & T. CO L-8 AND L-9

Sources: *Tourist Trains, 2006*, East Troy Electric RR website, and *Wikipedia*