Escondido to San Diego Stage Line

At least three stage lines operated between the Escondido Hotel, built in 1888, to New Town. The Pickwick Theater was the terminus for the Pickwick Line, later to become Greyhound Bus. The 8-hour one-way trip cost $1-2, with lunch at the 20-Mile House.

Rancho Bernardo Historical Society

Rancho Bernardo History Museum
at the Bernardo Winery

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What is a Mud Wagon?

Mud wagon stagecoaches were small, lightweight vehicles that transported people, mail, and freight over rough, often muddy roads throughout the United States in the late 19th century. The San Diego-Escondido line passed through today’s Rancho Bernardo from the 1880s to early 1900s, as shown on the map.

The RB Historical Society’s replica mud wagon was built in cooperation with Escondido History Center under direction of wainwright Phil Ewing, using an 1880s era frame. Funded primarily through a San Diego County Grant, construction took over two years and 2,000 volunteer hours.

In keeping with our living-history mission, we provide the mud wagon for community events, such as the RB Alive, Spirit of the Fourth Parade, RB Vines and Vittles Festival, Gaslamp Quarter Festival and the Escondido Christmas Parade. In our museum, we invite visitors to step into and experience travel in the mud wagon.

A Look at the Construction Process

![The Mudwagon proudly appearing at the first public event at the Spirit of the Fourth Parade in Rancho Bernardo.](image1)

The Mudwagon proudly appearing at the first public event at the Spirit of the Fourth Parade in Rancho Bernardo.

![Authentic late-19th century spring wagon frame prior to renovation and adaptation.](image2)

Authentic late-19th century spring wagon frame prior to renovation and adaptation.

![Adjusting brakes, used to slow wagon on downhills and hold it for loading/unloading.](image3)

Adjusting brakes, used to slow wagon on downhills and hold it for loading/unloading.

![Clamping side board on the wagon to a vertical riser mortised into the floor sill.](image4)

Clamping side board on the wagon to a vertical riser mortised into the floor sill.

![Phil Ewing previewing the nearly-finished coach outside Bandy Wagon Works.](image5)

Phil Ewing previewing the nearly-finished coach outside Bandy Wagon Works.
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