

COLORADO RAILS



\$200 Off Per Person !

if payments are made by check



**Tour
#7785**

August 7-20, 2023 (14 Days)

Tour Highlights:

- Boys Town Tour
- Great Platte River Road Archway
- Denver Central Market
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- Georgetown Loop Railroad
- Garden of the Gods
- Pikes Peak Cog Railway
- Royal Gorge Railroad & Bridge Park
- Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad
- La Plata Canyon Jeep Tour Option
- Lower Animas River Rafting Option
- Black Canyon National Park
- U.S. Air Force Academy
- Monarch Crest Aerial Tramway
- Hallmark Visitor Center
- Durango & Silverton Railroad
- Million Dollar Highway
- Denver City Tour
- Here's The Beef Tour & Dinner
- Colorado Springs City Tour



MAP AT A GLANCE



Marvel at the breathtaking scenery of the Colorado Rockies through the windows of 5 different railroads and an aerial tram. From the height of Pikes Peak, to the depth of the Royal Gorge...make sure you have your camera ready as we travel the same routes as the miners and loggers of long ago. Visit Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Garden of the Gods, and Rocky Mountain National Park. Tour Colorado's capital city of Denver and the U.S. Air Force Academy...and much, much more.

MONDAY

August 7

“ALL ABOARD!” We’re off to Colorado to experience the golden plains, majestic mountains, charming towns, cosmopolitan cities, and trips on 4 unique railroads. Sit back and settle in as we become acquainted with our fellow travelers. The drive will take us across Iowa to Council Bluffs. En route we enjoy a traditional family-style luncheon in Little Amana. **(L)**

TUESDAY

August 8

First thing this morning we cross the state line into Nebraska and visit **Boys Town**, national headquarters for the Boys and Girls Town programs for troubled children. The beautiful campus shares the history of Father Flanagan’s dream to care for America’s children. Here we can see Spencer Tracy’s Oscar from the timeless classic movie, the breathtaking Dowd Chapel, and Father Flanagan’s Shrine. Discover how Father Flanagan sparked a revolution in child care at the Hall of

History. Lunch is included at Boys Town. We continue across Nebraska on I-80, stopping at the **Great Platte River Road Archway Monument**, a bridge that pays tribute to the perseverance and ingenuity that developed our diverse culture and American heritage.

It is an interactive adventure that honors the pioneers who passed through Nebraska on their way west. We overnight in North Platte, Nebraska. Dinner is a special event “**Here’s The Beef.**” **(B, L, D)**



WEDNESDAY

August 9

Today we arrive at our destination - Colorado, the Centennial State. We drive through the foothills of the Rockies to the “Mile High City” of **Denver**. Lunch is on our own as we stroll through the **Denver Central Market**, a gourmet marketplace and food hall. We’ll find wood-fired pizzas, sandwiches, chocolates, pastries, and perhaps a beer or glass of wine. A

local guide joins us for a tour through this modern state capital. Denver bears little resemblance to the brawling, dusty village of yesteryear. Glass and steel towers give the city a serrated skyline as dramatic as the mountain profile to the west. Bold contemporary structures adjoin elaborate Victorian houses in a lively urban blend.



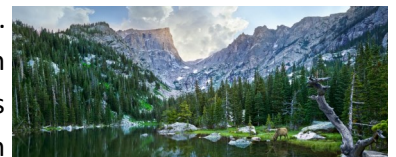
The character of Denver is a combination of Eastern cosmopolitanism and Western pioneer spirit. Our hotel for two nights is located in Westminster, Colorado. We take advantage of the light supper offered by the hotel. **(B, LS*)**

THURSDAY

August 10

We head northwest of Denver to **Rocky Mountain National Park**.

Within the borders of the park are some of the highest mountains in the continental United States. The top third of the park encompasses the alpine tundra, a windswept land above the trees. Landscapes on



either side of the Continental Divide feature alpine lakes, forested valleys, and a wide range of plants and animals. A park expert joins us for a tour explaining the geology, history, and wildlife of the park. We travel south to the thriving mining towns of Georgetown and Silver Plume. The two towns have one of the largest concentrations of Victorian buildings in the country. We board the **Georgetown Loop Railroad**, whose tracks scale an elevation of 640’ over mountainous terrain, requiring trestles, cuts, loops, and curves. A light supper is included at the hotel. **(B, LS*)**

FRIDAY

August 11

Colorado Springs is our focus today, including a visit to the stunning **Garden of the Gods**. Here, at this 1300-acre park, flora and fauna reflect the rich diversity of the terrain and the red sandstone formations tell a unique story. Visitors enjoy the easy slopes and cautiously watch the rock climbers. A bus tour of the park along with a video presentation in the museum conclude our visit. The garden lies at the base of **Pikes Peak**, which is our next



destination. After 126 years of adventures, the Pikes Peak Cog Railway is newly redone and back from repairs. This view inspired Katherine Lee Bates to write “*America the Beautiful.*” Our day winds down as we continue to Canon City and our hotel for the evening. **(B)**

SATURDAY

August 12

Just outside Canon City is the amazing **Royal Gorge**. Our 2nd train is the **Royal Gorge Route Railroad**, considered to be one of the most scenic train rides in the world. The train takes us on a 24-mile journey through the 1000' deep gorge, alongside the raging Arkansas River. The route follows a portion of the old Denver and Rio Grande line and crosses under the famous Hanging Bridge, which clings precariously to the steep granite walls of the gorge. Keep an eye out for native wildlife like bald eagles, blue heron, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and mule deer. Our motorcoach takes us on to Alamosa and our lodging. Located along the Rio Grande River in the San Luis Valley, it is surrounded by majestic peaks. The valley is roughly the size of Connecticut, and is the largest alpine valley in the world. Our group is treated to a pizza party tonight. **(B, D)**



SUNDAY

August 13

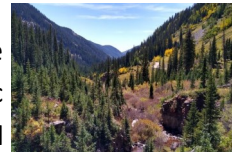
Today we'll ride the original Rio Grande Line over the Colorado Rockies aboard the **Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad**. Built in 1880 and changed very little since, it is the finest and most spectacular example of steam era mountain railroading in North America. The time has long passed since the railroad last hauled precious metals over Cumbres Pass, but its steam locomotives still labor up steep grades, over high trestles, through tunnels, and along narrow shelves above deep gorges. The 64-mile journey explores the wild and rugged terrain between Antonito, Colorado and Chama, New Mexico. We enjoy lunch while traveling the same route as the loggers and miners of long ago. The next two nights are spent in Durango, CO. **(B, L)**



MONDAY

August 14

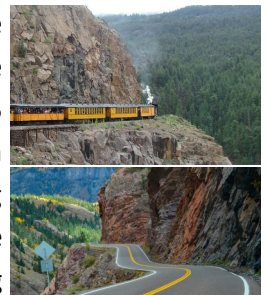
Today you can pick your adventure. Use this afternoon to relax and explore downtown Durango or discover the beauty of the San Juan Mountains on a scenic **La Plata Canyon Jeep trail tour (\$119)**. See cascading waterfalls, wildflowers in all colors, and if we are lucky, some high altitude wildlife along the way. We travel a primitive road all the way to Kennebec Pass, a notch where we are on top of the world and have a fantastic panoramic view of the four corners: Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado. We have time to grab a quick boxed lunch before setting out on a relaxing **Lower Animas River rafting trip (\$89)** optional fee. **(B, L)**



TUESDAY

August 15

Durango was founded by the Denver & Rio Grande Railway in 1880, and by 1882 the tracks to Silverton were completed. This will be a favorite day as we board the **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad**. Voted one of the "Top Ten Most Exciting Train Journeys in the World," the route winds through spectacular and breathtaking canyons in the remote wilderness of the San Juan National Forest. The locomotives used today remain 100% coal-fired, steam-operated, and are maintained in their original condition. We arrive in Silverton for lunch, shopping, and a visit to the freight museum. Silverton, another famous mining town, retains many of the Victorian-style buildings erected in its heyday. Then it's back on the motorcoach for the scenic drive to Montrose along the **Million Dollar Highway**. Ranked among the nation's most spectacular drives, it winds through the San Juan Mountains and features chasms so deep that neither cliff tops nor canyon bottoms are visible. Our overnight accommodations are in Montrose. **(B)**



WEDNESDAY

August 16

Today we begin our easterly trek, traveling from Montrose to Colorado Springs. We begin with a visit to the **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park**. The 53-mile long canyon was formed by water and rock scouring through some of the earth's oldest base rock to a depth of 2702'. No other canyon in North America combines the narrow opening, sheer walls, and startling depths. On top, the canyon walls measure approximately 1100' across, but diminish to only 40 feet near the riverbed below. We make a stop at the visitor center, and then continue on Highway 50, crossing the Continental Divide at Monarch Pass. The **Monarch Crest Aerial Tramway** will take us to an elevation of 12,000' for a spectacular view of the Rocky Mountains. Colorado Springs is our home for two nights. **(B,LS*)**



THURSDAY

August 17

This morning we start our day with a local guide for a **tour of Colorado Springs** and its highlights. Midday we pause for lunch and a little time for strolling through one of the quaint shopping districts. After lunch, we head north of Colorado Springs to the **United States Air Force Academy**. During our visit, we hear about cadet life and the history of the academy. Stops will be made at the visitor center and beautiful Cadet Chapel. The chapel is the most recognizable building on the campus and is the most visited manmade tourist attraction in Colorado. It was completed in 1962 and was originally designed to have 21 glass and aluminum spires, but due to budget constraints, the number was reduced to 17. Free evening at the hotel, OR **Optional Flying W Ranch Evening (\$70) (B, L, LS*)**



FRIDAY

August 18

Traveling across Eastern Colorado, we stop in Burlington for a ride on the **Kit Carson County Carousel**, where 46 hand-carved animals adorn the restored 1905 carousel. What fun! At **Old Town Museum**, we'll go back in time in a recreated, turn-of-the-century prairie town that features 21 fully restored, historical buildings housed with authentic artifacts. It's a journey complete with soda jerks, can-can dancers, horse-drawn wagon rides, and an occasional Main Street shootout. The afternoon is spent traveling across western Kansas to Salina and our hotel for the evening. **(B, L)**



SATURDAY

August 19

A short drive takes us to Abilene, Kansas, and the **Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home**. This complex consists of 22 landscaped acres and 5 buildings. We pass through Topeka and past the Kansas Capitol Building, stopping for an authentic Kansas BBQ luncheon. We continue on to Kansas City where our itinerary includes a visit to the **Hallmark Visitor Center**. Travel through the Hallmark story...from their humble beginnings in 1910 with founder "Mr. J.C." Hall, to the creation of their world-famous greeting cards and Hallmark Keepsake Ornaments, to the acclaimed Hallmark Hall of Fame television series and cable TV networks. Overnight lodging is in Kansas City. **(B, L, LS*)**



SUNDAY

August 20

Our Colorado rail adventure concludes as we travel northeast through Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, and back to Wisconsin. We can't believe how fast the past fourteen days have gone and all that we have seen and done. **(B)**

TOUR PRICE:

\$4199 Per Person Double +\$1295 Single Supplement

\$200 Per Person Discount if Paid By Cash/Check

TOUR INCLUDES:

- * Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
 - * Hotel Accommodations for 13 Nights
 - * Sightseeing and Admissions Per Itinerary
 - * 13 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 2 Dinners, 5 Light Suppers*
 - * Baggage Handling For 1 Suitcase Per Person
 - * Services of a Personalized Tour Manager
- *denotes the light supper may be omitted if late arrival

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

\$500 Deposit Due With Reservation

Final Payment: June 1, 2023
Travel Insured Recommended

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