

All Aboard! Colorado Rails

June 18-29, 2008

This delightful 12-day outing will have you on board 6 Railroads! This tour will give you the up close and gorgeous experience of the Rocky Mountains, beautiful forests and abounding wildlife! This year we have added the unique Great Sand Dunes National Park!

1st Day – Effingham: A scenic travel day through Ohio and Indiana finds us in Illinois for our overnight

2nd Day – Salina: This morning we will stop in beautiful St. Louis and take the tram ride up the Jefferson national Expansion Memorial & Gateway Arch – our Gateway to the West. We overnight in Kansas. (CB)

3rd Day – Colorado Springs: This beautiful travel day finds us in the Rocky Mountain High State! (CB)

4th Day – Canon City: We “ride to the clouds” this morning for the view that inspired Katherine Lee Bates to compose “America the Beautiful” in 1893. The Cog Railway is the world’s first diesel-electric cog locomotive and highest cog railroad. Our next stop is the Garden of the Gods Trading Post where we will enjoy unique shopping and lunch included while being entertained by Native American, Wolf Walker. We will have a guided tour through the beautiful garden of Gods en route to Canyon City. The we'll have time to freshen up at our hotel before enjoying the lovely Royal Gorge Dinner Train taking us over 1,000 feet deep into the canyon for spectacular panoramic view some of the most stunning railroad experiences imaginable (CB, L, D)

5th Day – Alamosa: We start out with a scenic drive through San Isable National Forest en route to the town of La Veta, established in 1862, where we will have lunch. After lunch we will enjoy the unique beauty of the tallest sand dunes in North America at the Great Sand Dunes National Park. Alamosa is our home for the night. Dinner is included. (CB, D)

6th Day – Durango: This morning we will board the Rio Grand Line, America’s most spectacular narrow gauge steam railroad and ride to Antonio. Here we will connect with the Cumbres Toltec Scenic Railroad. We will stop for lunch, included, in the mining town of Osier, and then re-board for the rest of our rail adventure into Chama, New Mexico. Our deluxe coach will meet us at the Station. Enjoy dinner on your own in charming Pagosa Springs prior to arriving in Durango, our home for the next 2 nights. (CB, L)

7th Day – Mesa Verde National Park: The Navajo Trail takes us to nearby Mesa Verde National Park for a look into prehistoric America. Our professional guide will show us Pre-Columbia cliff dwellings preserved in the caves of many canyon walls. We will enjoy lunch included, and shopping time at the Park before heading back to Durango to enjoy the ambience on your own of this interesting Victorian mining town. (CB, L)

8th Day – Gunnison: This morning we depart from the Durango Railroad Station on The Silverton. This steam locomotive narrow gauge train ride will take us through some of the most spectacular mountain scenery you will ever see, as we travel through the Canyon of Rio De Las Animas to the once booming town of Silverton. We will have lunch here on your own and some time to shop the old-time stores. Our coach will then head northward on the scenic San Juan Skyway’s US 550 – the spectacular “Million Dollar Highway”! We will have a brief stop in Ouray, the “Little Switzerland of America” before Black Canyon of the Gunnison where we will stop for a view from the South Rim observation point. Gunnison is our home for the night. (CB)

9th Day – Golden: Today we have another beautiful drive. At Silver Plume Station we will ride the famous Georgetown Loop Railroad. This 1920 steam powered train travels over Devil's Gate High Bridge, the most complex railroad loop in the world. Our next stop is at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden where we will make our home for the night. (CB, L)

10th Day – Lincoln: Late afternoon will find us at the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument in Kearney, NE. Upon arrival, we will be greeted by a costumed actor that will guide us through a historical show of the evolution of the American West. Enjoy a themed dinner, included, before we depart for our overnight in Lincoln, Nebraska. (CB, D)

11th Day – Joliet: Enjoy a pleasant travel day via Interstate 80, as we head to Joliet, Illinois for our overnight (CB)

12th Day – Home: Our minds are full of the great beauty of our Colorado adventure as we head homeward today. Enjoy the farewell lunch included. (CB, L)

Price Per Person:

Double \$2,369

Triple \$2,219

Quad \$2,149

Single \$2,799

Deposit Per Person \$400

Itinerary and price subject to change

19 meals included – 11CB, 5L, 3D