



TRAINS OF THE WEST: ARIZONIA* NEW MEXICO * COLADADO * UTAH

Take a trip back in time as we travel on some of Americas' Most Scenic Train Rides
Experience incredible scenery and visit some awesome sites!

September 7th-17th, 2021

DAY 1: FLIGHT TO PHOENIX • COTTONWOOD: Today, we fly to Arizona to begin our amazing journey filled with adventure, food, fun, fellowship, excitement, beautiful scenery and history. We will get acquainted with fellow travelers and review the itinerary.



Day 2: VERDE CANYON RAILROAD • DINNER AT M DIAMOND RANCH: The Verde Canyon is often called 'Arizona's other Grand Canyon' with spectacular canyon scenery. The remote wilderness of the Verde Canyon, located west of Sedona, is renowned for its towering red rock pinnacles and clean, green waters. The Verde Canyon Train, a four-hour ride, rolls past Indian ruins, through a 680-foot man-made tunnel and over old-fashioned trestles. This picturesque setting is further enhanced by the variety of indigenous flora and fauna and the many migrating waterfowl. When the dinner bell rings you are treated to a cowboy cookout. The M Diamond Ranch is a working ranch. This evening the cowboys take us on a wagon ride to the Sedona Lookout. A steak dinner is served, then after dinner, we enjoy a cowboy sing-a-long.



Day 3: SEDONA • OAK CREEK CANYON • GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK: Today, the splendor of the Red Rocks in Sedona await us. You'll marvel at the breathtaking beauty. Next, we make our way through the Coconino National Forest into Oak Creek Canyon. Our stop at Oak Creek Canyon Vista allows you to see what awaits you down the road. We travel through spectacular red cliffs, stands of aspen, cedar and oak, and abundant wildflowers to reach the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. The canyon is 7000 feet above sea level. One of the most spectacular examples of erosion anywhere in the world, Grand Canyon is unmatched in the incomparable vistas it offers to visitors on the rim. Enjoy the sights of this natural wonder with its exceptional views and photo opportunities!



Day 4: MONUMENT VALLEY • FOUR CORNERS • MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK • DURANGO: This morning we pass through Monument Valley. This area provides perhaps the most enduring and definitive images of the American West. The isolated red mesas and buttes surrounded by empty, sandy desert have been filmed and photographed countless times over the years for movies, advertisements & holiday brochures. Because of this, the area may seem quite familiar. The Four Corners is a unique place. It's the only place in America where you can stand in four states at the same time. Located within the Navajo Indian Reservation, this is the exact place where Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico come together. Mesa Verde, sure to be one of the highlights of our tour, awaits us today. Mesa Verde, Spanish for "green table," is a large plateau towering 2,000 feet above the surrounding valleys, and is famous for the well-preserved, pre-Columbian cliff dwellings in the shallow alcoves of its many canyon walls. We'll stop to explore these dwellings before making our way to Durango, Colorado for the night.



Day 5: DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD: The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, located in Southwestern Colorado, is as rich in history as it is scenery. This railroad, established in 1881, has continuously operated coal-fired, steam-powered locomotives through the remote wilderness and high-mountain landscape of the San Juan National Forest. Here in Durango, we board the historic train for an exciting journey. We spend some time in Silverton where you have lunch on your own in this former frontier silver mining town. All aboard for the return trip. Back in Durango you will enjoy a guided tour of the D&SNG Train Museum.



Day 6: CUMBRES & TOLTEC RAILROAD: We travel to Chama, New Mexico where we board the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, America's highest and longest narrow gauge railroad. This 1880's narrow-gauge steam railroad affords outstanding views of the

San Juan and Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Phantom Canyon and the rugged Toltec Gorge. Lunch is included today on the train. This is a 64 mile trip and ends in Antonito, Co. Hopefully all goes well and we will have time to visit the surreal and majestic Great Sand Dunes National Park. Here, massive 700-foot dunes have formed against the backdrop of jagged rocky cliffs and mountains. Then on to Alamosa (Spanish for Cottonwood) which was named for the trees that inhabit this fertile pocket of land by the Rio Grande. This agricultural, mining and educational center of the San Luis Valley sits amid an expansive plateau, 7600 feet above sea level.

Day 7: ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILWAY: There are so many beautiful areas to see in Colorado. Today we travel to another famed "Goldrush" town, Cañon City, where silent screen actor Tom Mix began his movie career. Here we ride the Royal Gorge Route Railway for a spectacular rail journey, passing magnificent canyon cliffs rising more than 1000 feet above the Arkansas River. We'll view the amazing Royal Gorge Suspension Bridge, 956 feet above the river. The bridge was completed in 1929, over the "Grand Canyon of the Arkansas" (River). This is a memorable train ride through the Colorado Rockies following the winding Arkansas River.



Day 8: AIR FORCE ACADEMY • GARDEN OF THE GODS: Today we visit the U.S. Air Force Academy. Our stop includes viewing of a B-52 bomber, the renowned Planetarium, Falcon Stadium, a picture stop at the distinctive chapel and other significant sights. Our next stop is the Garden of the Gods, designated as a Natural Landmark. It's known for the stunning geological formations and dramatic views. Next experience the **Pikes Peak Cog Railway**. Since 1891, the world's highest Cog railway ascends 14,115 feet to Pikes Peak. The train winds past waterfalls, through aspen and pine forest. This is an awesome experience like no other. Sit back, relax and check out the amazing views of Pikes Peak and Colorado Springs while ascending Pikes Peak via the cog train! With an average grade of 12%, the Pikes Peak Cog Railway climbs the 14,115 feet to the top of Pikes Peak Mountain on a special track, sometimes hitting a grade of 24%! It's an incredible ride and one you won't forget!

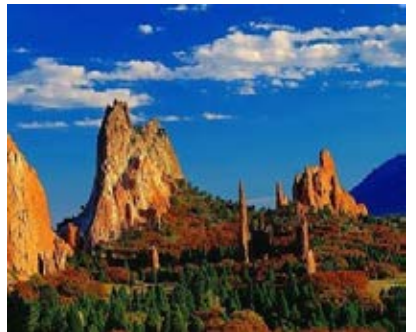


Day 9: DODGE CITY • LUNCH • CASEY'S COWTOWN STEAKHOUSE:

Today we leave Colorado and travel across the state of Kansas. We arrive in Dodge City in time for lunch at Casey's Cowtown. We visit Old Dodge City (a.k.a. Boot Hill Museum and Historic Front Street), a history village museum located on the original site of Boot Hill Cemetery. Life in the 19th Century is interpreted through audio-visual programs, exhibits, a reconstruction of Dodge City in 1867, restorations and living history demonstrations. Exhibits in Boot Hill Museum include an extensive old west gun collection; Boot Hill Cemetery where unfortunate victims of the early days of lawlessness were buried; Fort Dodge Jail, one of several original buildings at the fort still in existence; a one-room school; and the 1878 Hardesty House, a restoration of a Victorian era cattleman's home.



Day 10: We travel through the ranch lands of Kansas on our way to **Abilene** to visit the Boyhood home and museum of our 34th president Dwight "IKE" **Eisenhower**. We then make our way to Kansas City and a visit to The **Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum**. This is also the resting place of Harry S. Truman, the 33rd President of the United States, Independence, Missouri.



Day 11: ST. LOUIS, HOMEWARD BOUND:

Today we make our way across Missouri through Illinois and Indiana on our way to Elizabethtown, Kentucky: Will make a stop and view **The Gateway Arch**-a 630-foot monument in St. Louis, Missouri. Clad in stainless steel and built in the form of a weighted catenary arch, it is the world's tallest arch, the tallest man-made monument in the Western Hemisphere, and Missouri's tallest accessible building. Optional: The unique tram will lift you 630 feet up to the top of the tallest man-made monument in the United States and take your breath away with the thrilling views and amazing stories. Explore and trace the story of the Native Americans, explorers, pioneers, and rebels who made America possible. The museum features six themed exhibit areas; this innovative and interactive museum celebrates America's pioneering spirit. Stand in the footsteps of American heroes at the beautifully restored federal courthouse.



Tour Cost: Land Portion: \$2495 Double occupancy. Single supplement: \$725. Includes Motor-coach Transportation, lodging, admissions, guides, breakfast @ hotels, 8 group meals, experienced Koinonia Host.