



COLORADO VINTAGE RAILS & TRAILS



9 DAYS • Tour 12090
July 7-15, 2012

Tour Highlights...

Great Platte River Road Archway
Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad
Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad
Pike's Peak Cog Railway
Flying W Ranch/Western Stage Show
Garden of the Gods
Treasures of the Steamboat Arabia
14 Meals



Day 1, Saturday

Relax and sit back today as we meet new friends traveling to our accommodations for the evening in Council Bluffs, NE.

Day 2, Sunday

Continuing our travels through Nebraska, we stop in Kearney, at the fascinating **Great Platte River Road Archway** described as a "splashy, brassy history museum using film, computer graphics, light and sound and life-size dioramas to document over 150 years of transportation and communication across America." **Lunch** is included at the Archway's **Chuckwagon Restaurant**. Our day ends in Fort Morgan, CO. **B, L**

Day 3, Monday

Our route through Colorado continues westward on scenic I-70 through the **Eisenhower Tunnel, Vail Pass** and **Glenwood Canyon**. We overnight in Grand Junction, CO. **Dinner** is included this evening. **B, D**

Day 4, Tuesday

This morning we enjoy a **leisurely drive** through **Colorado's beautiful scenery** following along the Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers arriving in **Silverton**, a prosperous mining community in the late 1800s. There will be time to enjoy lunch on your own and unique shopping along the town's infamous thoroughfare with its false-fronted buildings recalling the Wild West.

We then board the **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad** founded by the Denver & Rio Grande Railway in 1879 and powered by a coal-fired steam locomotive. Starting in Silverton and following the Animas River through the mountains of the **San Juan National Forest**, we behold ruggedly beautiful scenery. The train's destination and home of our accommodations for tonight is **Durango, CO**, begun as a mining and smelting center during the gold and silver booms. **B**

Day 5, Wednesday

Traveling to the old stagecoach town of **Chama, NM**, we return to the

exciting days of the Frontier West during our trek on the old-fashioned **Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad**. Memories of bygone railroad days begin as we relax in comfortable coach seating as the train climbs **high mountain passes** and travels through a **breathtaking gorge**. We stop midway in the small **mining town of Osier** for a **delicious lunch** before continuing our unforgettable journey ending in **Antonito, NM**. We then travel the short distance to Alamosa, CO, for overnight accommodations. **B, L**

Day 6, Thursday

Today is spent sightseeing around **Colorado Springs, CO**. First, ride on the **Pike's Peak Cog Railway** climbing to the top of **Pike's Peak** — a definite "must-see" when in this area. Looking at this famous peak, rising 12,110 feet above sea level, we understand the meaning of "Rocky Mountain High!" At the **Flying W Ranch** we experience picturesque natural surroundings, an **authentic Western**



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Village and a mighty **tasty Chuckwagon Supper** followed by the **Flying W Wranglers'** outstanding **Western Stage Show**. We remain in Colorado Springs for the evening enjoying our comfortable hotel. **B, D**

Day 7, Friday

Before leaving Colorado Springs we visit the unique **Garden of the Gods** where an abundance of plant and animal life as well as magnificent red sandstone rock formations can be found throughout its 1,340 acres. The soft sunlight of early morning enhances such highlights as the towering shapes of Kissing Camels and Balanced Rock. Before checking into our Salina, KS,

hotel we enjoy **dinner** at one of Salina's fine restaurants. **B, D**

Day 8, Saturday

Kansas City, MO, is our first destination today where we stop at the **Walnut Street City Market** with its many farmers' market vendors, shops and restaurants. During our visit to the fascinating **Treasures of the Steamboat Arabia Museum**, we hear the legendary tale of the loss and discovery of the *Steamboat Arabia* sunk in the Missouri River in 1856 and recovered in 1989 with its 200 tons of cargo pretty much intact. Its 6 ton stern and a paddlewheel are preserved with a full-size reproduction of the main

deck along with a vast collection of frontier supplies and personal belongings. **Dinner** is included tonight close to our Osceola, IA, hotel. **B, D**

Day 9, Sunday

Today is spent traveling home recalling all the sights and sounds we enjoyed over the past eight days. **B**

Tour Cost Per Person:

\$1595 Double • \$1525 Triple
\$1445 Quad • \$1995 Single

