

HIGHLIGHTS OF COLORADO

Mountains – Canyons – Parks – Trains – Golden Aspen WOW!

September 4 – September 16, 2012



- Days 1-2 Travel to **Antonito, CO**
- Day 3 Our first train – **The Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad** takes us from Antonito, CO to Chama, NM. This is America’s highest and longest coal fired, steam operated, narrow-gauge railroad. This scenic railroad is known around the world for its spectacular scenery, unique machinery, and historic structures. Overnight beautiful resort town of **Pagosa Springs, CO**.
- Day 4 Travel from Pagosa Springs to **Mesa Verde National Park**. Mesa Verde is famous for the Ancestral Puebloan Cliff dwellings constructed within its cliff alcoves. After lunch we’ll pick up a guide to take us through the park. Lots of photo opportunities at Mesa Verde. When we leave the park, we go back to Durango for the night.
- Day 5 Our next train adventure – **The Durango – Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad**. The line was constructed to haul silver and gold ore from the **San Juan Mountains**, but passengers soon realized it was the view that was truly precious. We ride the train from Durango to Silverton where the motorcoach will meet us. We begin our next scenic drive when we leave Silverton and drive the **Million Dollar Highway** to Ouray. Loaded with sublime natural scenery, historically fascinating and visually appealing small towns, and, most of all, sheer driving pleasure, the Million Dollar Highway more than lives up to its name. From Ouray, we go to **Montrose** for the night
- Day 6 We’re off to the **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park**. No other canyon in North America combines the narrow opening, sheer walls, and startling depths offered by the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Weather permitting; we’ll picnic in this park. We finish this day by arriving in **Grand Junction** for the night.
- Day 7 **Grand Junction to Estes Park, CO**. A beautiful drive across northern Colorado gets us in the northeastern corner for two nights at Estes Park.
- Day 8 We spend today in **Rocky Mountain National Park**. The living showcase of the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains with elevations ranging from 8,000 feet in the wet, grass valleys to 14,000 feet at the top of Longs Peak provides you with opportunities for countless breathtaking experiences and adventures. Not guaranteed but a possibility to see elk, moose, longhorn sheep, black bears, coyotes, cougars, eagles, deer and scores of smaller animals will delight us all. Overnight just outside the park at Estes Park.
- Day 9-10 Day 9 – We travel from Estes Park to **Colorado Springs** for two nights. We enjoy our third train (and each of the four train rides are very different) as we board the **Pikes Peak Cog Train**. This will be the highest elevation on our trip as we ride to the top of **Pikes Peak** and above the tree line. Again we hope to see wildlife and possibly a snow shower as we spend this afternoon on the **Pikes Peak Cog Train**. On Day 10, if possible, we will visit the Air Force Academy Chapel (schedules are not ready yet) but we will visit the beautiful campus. Also, a visit to the **Garden of the Gods** will finish out today’s itinerary.
- Day 11 We’re on our way to **Canon City and the Royal Gorge**. There are so many possibilities of things to see. You may want to walk on the second highest suspension bridge in the U.S., ride the aerial train across the gorge, ride the incline railway or just sit down in the park with a cup of coffee and watch all the others doing these things. They have also added a zip-line across the gorge. Zip lining is an optional charge, but I might even pay for it, if you can do it. After all these breathtaking experiences from the top, we’ll go to the depot for our fourth train experience and take a ride on the **Royal Gorge Railroad**. This train runs along the side of the Arkansas River and you get to view the canyon from the bottom. A tremendous way to end our beautiful Colorado Highlights Trip. Overnight in Pueblo, CO.
- Days 12-13 Travel Home

Price per person based on: Single - \$ 2750 Double - \$ 2150 Triple - \$ 1950 Quad - \$1850
Deposit of \$50 due: June 1, 2012 Final payment due: August 1, 2012

Price includes: motorcoach transportation, hotels, taxes, baggage handling (1) bag (weighing less than 50 pounds), all entrance fees, for parks, 4 train rides, attractions listed, 12 breakfast and 13 lunches or dinners.

Trip Cancellation insurance is highly recommended and can be purchased for ANY trip. If you purchase cancellation insurance at the time of deposit, insurance covers pre-existing medical conditions for you.