



## Day-to-Day Itinerary: Colorado's Historic Railroads

**Day 1: Denver** -- Welcome to the “Mile High City.” Meet your fellow travelers at 5 p.m. for a get-acquainted dinner hosted by your Tour Manager. (D)

**Day 2: Rocky Mountain National Park** -- Venture into Rocky Mountain National Park, a living showcase of the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains. With elevations ranging from 8,000 feet, the park is filled with breathtaking scenery and experiences. Following the Trail Ridge Road, a stop at the Alpine Visitor Center offers an opportunity to learn more about this fascinating place. (B)

**Day 3: Leadville Colorado & Southern Railroad** -- Travel to historic Leadville to board the Leadville Colorado & Southern Railroad. While onboard, learn about the fascinating history of the railroads and hear ghost stories and tales of the wild from your conductor while traveling north along the Arkansas River Valley. Rising up 1,000 feet from the valley floor you will

be greeted by spectacular views of Fremont Pass and the two tallest peaks in Colorado, Mount Massive and Mount Elbert. Later, travel through scenic Monarch Pass and Curecanti National Recreation Area while enroute to Montrose. (B, L)

**Day 4: Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad** -- Visit the Black Canyon of Gunnison National Park, Then, board the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Voted one of the “Top Ten Most Exciting Train Journeys in the World” by the Society of American Travel Writers. Wind through the 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. Later, check into the Sky Ute Casino Resort where you may wish to give “Lady Luck” a try. (B, D)

**Day 5: Mesa Verde National Park** -- Visit the land of the ancient Pueblo Indians in Mesa Verde National Park. The fascinating cliff dwellings and culture of these people provide you with a look into a society that existed approximately 1,400 years ago. Building elaborate stone communities, the Pueblo developed their own society that existed for some 700 years, before disappearing. Archeologists called them Anasazi from a Navajo word translating as “the ancient ones.” (B, D)

**Day 6: Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad** -- Board the motorcoach and ride to the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, the original Rio Grande Line. This is America’s most spectacular narrow gauge steam railroad. Explore 50 miles of wild and rugged territory between Chama, New Mexico and Antonito, Colorado, the highest point on the railroad. (B, L)

**Day 7: Royal Gorge Route Railroad and Garden of the Gods** -- Aboard the Royal Gorge Railroad, follow the 12-mile route along the old Denver and Rio Grande Western train line. Ride through the “Grand Canyon of the Arkansas” on an unforgettable journey over the famous Hanging Bridge, which clings precariously to the steep granite walls of Royal Gorge. Then, enjoy a drive through the stunning Garden of the Gods. This 1,300-acre park reflect the rich diversity of the terrain and red sandstone formations tell a unique geological story. (B)

**Day 8: Cripple Creek and Pikes Peak Cog Railway** -- Begin the day with a ride on the Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad. Scenic

wonders await around every curve and this century-old steam locomotive is reminiscent of the gold mining days of the area. Then “Ride to the Clouds” aboard the Pikes Peak Cog Railway, the highest cog railroad in the U.S. which stretches nine miles long as it vertically climbs to almost 14,000 feet. This evening enjoy for a farewell dinner, sharing memories of this unforgettable scenic rail adventure. (B, D)

**Day 9: Denver and Home --** Following breakfast, say goodbye to Colorado with a group transfer to the Denver International Airport for flights home after 12:00 p.m. (B)

(B) – Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

## **Lodging:**

- Day 1:** DoubleTree Hotel, Denver, Colo.
- Day 2:** Comfort Suites, Dillon, Colo.
- Day 3:** Hampton Inn, Montrose, Colo.
- Days 4-5:** Sky Ute Casino Resort, Ignacio, Colo.
- Day 6:** Hampton Inn, Alamosa, Colo.
- Day 7-8:** Radisson Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colo.

## **What will it cost?**

\$2,599 per person including all train fares, travel between destinations, 8 nights lodging, 14 Meals: 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners. (Air travel can be arranged through Go Travel. \*single supplement available).

Traveling single and looking for roommate? Let us know if you are looking for a roommate. Contact Bob Cook at GoTravel.

Want an easy way to pay your balance monthly and avoid “sticker shock” when the final payment is due. Sign up [HERE](#).

## **YMCA Alumni hosts:**

Most YMCA Alumni Travel Club trips are hosted by members who have traveled extensively and can organize special events on trip and be

available in case of any special needs that arise. Your hosts for Colorado's Historic Railroads are Craig Altschul and Peggi Simmons of the Grand Canyon Chapter. Craig and Peggi hosted our British and Irish Grandeur motor coach trip in 2019; will host our Trade Routes of the Middle Ages Viking Ocean Cruise in October 2021. Craig and Peggi's company, Craig Altschul and Associates (ca+a) manage communications for YMCA Alumni.