



Trains of Colorado

September 12 - 21, 2027
10 Days / 9 Nights

Day #1 – Sunday, September 12th:

- 5:15 AM** Depart Urbana from Peoria Charter, 1910 N Federal Road
6:15 AM Depart Normal from Schnuck's off Raab Road, 1750 Bradford Lane
7:00 AM Depart Morton from Wal Mart, 155 E Courtland St., (behind Culvers)
7:30 AM Depart Peoria from Peoria Charter Waiting Room, 2600 NE Adams Street
traveling west to our overnight destination – in Lincoln, Nebraska! We'll make
rest & meal stops along the way as needed.
5:30 PM Arriving in Lincoln, we check into our hotel and freshen up before heading out
for dinner.
6:30 PM Dinner is on your own this evening.

Day #2 – Monday, September 13th:

- Breakfast*** is included this morning at the hotel before we check out and depart
for Colorado.
8:00 AM We check out and depart for another travel day to get to our destination –
Colorado. We'll make rest and meal stops along the way. ***Note: Don't forget to
set your watches back 2 hours as we enter the Mountain Time Zone.***
4:30 PM We arrive in the Denver area for the next 2 nights. Dinner is on your own tonight.
Afterward, head to your room to relax after a long travel day.

Day #3 – Tuesday, September 14th:

- Breakfast*** is served at the hotel.
8:00 AM We depart for Georgetown for your first train ride on the **Georgetown Loop
Scenic Railroad***. An old-time steam locomotive chugging its way up the
canyon, hauling your train past the remains of several gold & silver mines. This
open car train takes you between Georgetown and Silver Plume, over 2 miles

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apart, over mountainous terrain, requiring trestles, cuts, fills, loops, and curves totaling 3.1 miles of narrow-gauge track.

12:30 PM

Lunch on your own

2:00 PM

After lunch we meet our **Local Guide for an afternoon tour of Denver***. Denver is both an old cowboy town and a very modern city now with seven major professional sports teams. On our tour, you'll visit old historic Denver as well as the newer part of Denver.

4:30 PM

Tonight, you are free to do as you please. Dinner is on your own tonight.



Day #4 – Wednesday, September 15th:

Breakfast* is included again this morning

6:00 AM

We check out and depart for **Amtrak's California Zephyr Denver to Grand Junction***.

8:05 AM

This morning we board the California Zephyr for an all-day excursion to Grand Junction, Colorado. Travel the Rocky Mountains passing through canyons only accessible by train. And finally, on to Grand Junction where awe-inspiring natural beauty welcomes you at every turn. Lunch will be on your own as the train will stop for lunch. We arrive in Grand Junction at approximately 4:00 PM.

4:30 PM

We check into our hotel in Grand Junction hotel for an overnight stay. **Dinner*** is included this evening at a local restaurant.

8:30 PM

Following dinner, you can rest in your hotel to get ready for another busy day tomorrow.

Day #5 – Thursday, September 16th: **Breakfast*** is served here at the hotel this morning.

7:45 AM

We check out and head out for our **3-hour Jeep Tour***.



10:00 AM This tour is over 12,000 feet at Corkscrew Pass and into the Red Mountains. You ride beside high mountain cliffs over hanging mining trails where the clear air and the color of the red mountains is simply astonishing. The jeep tour ends in Historic Silverton with a **Box Lunch***.

2:45 PM We board train #2 – **the Silverton-Durango Railroad***. This steam locomotive travels along the Animas River winding through spectacular and breathtaking canyons in the remote wilderness of San Juan National Forest. You may feel as though

you are reliving history as you travel on the same tracks that miners, cowboys, and settlers of the Old West took over a century ago. Following the train ride, we check into the **Sky Ute Casino Resort Hotel*** for the night. Your hotel is close

to all the adventure and located on main Avenue just minutes from historic downtown Durango. The railroad is a short distance away and you are two blocks from access to The Animas River Trail. *Note: Please dress in layers as you travel through the San Juan Mountains*.*

6:30 PM **Dinner*** is included at **Gazpacho Restaurant***.

8:00 PM We check into the **Sky Ute Casino Resort Hotel*** hotel for the night.

Day #6 – Friday, September 17th:

Breakfast* is included this morning.

6:00 AM Early this morning you travel to Chama, New Mexico for a ride on train #3 – The **Cumbres & Toltec Railroad***.

10:00 AM Perhaps the most beautiful ride in America, it is rugged, narrow-gauge, coal-fired, steam-powered mountain railroad traversing 64 miles of unparalleled scenery. You'll climb through an unspoiled landscape, past historic railroad structures dating back to the turn-of-the-twentieth century. Enjoy the grandeur of the Rocky Mounts as this sure-footed locomotive roll through tunnels, above deep gorges and over Cumbres Pass. A stop is made for an included **Lunch*** at the lonely Osier Dining Hall near the halfway point.

5:45 PM After the train ride, we drop the luggage at a hotel in Alamosa, Colorado for the night. Then depart for dinner.

6:30 PM **Dinner*** is included this evening.

8:30 PM The rest of the evening is free to relax and prepare for tomorrow's adventure.

Day #7 – Saturday, September 18th:

Breakfast* is served at the hotel.



8:30 AM We depart for the **Royal Gorge Train**.

12:30 PM Today you'll ride the **Royal Gorge Train*** for a scenic journey through the spectacular Royal Gorge. Since 1879, these tracks have followed the winding, tumbling Arkansas River deep within the soaring, 1,000-foot granite cliffs of Colorado's Royal Gorge. The Royal Gorge Route is a quality, Colorado attraction – no thrill rides or cotton candy – just rugged scenery. This ride also includes a delicious **Lunch***. This afternoon, We depart to **tour* the Manitou Cliff Dwellings**. The dwellings are located at the foot of Pikes Peak.

Authentic Anasazi cliff dwellings, built more than 700 years ago, await you here. These mountain dwellings are a rare historical treasure and depict the lives, culture and architectural achievements of Southwestern Native Americans. There are no "Do Not Touch" signs. You are free

to touch and even go inside these fascinating architectural remnants of an American Indian Culture that roamed the Four Corners area of the Southwest from 1200 B.C. to A.D. 1300.

5:30 PM Tonight **Dinner*** is included at the **Flying W Ranch**. Enjoy a real Chuckwagon Dinner and be entertained by the Flying W Wranglers. The Wranglers specialize in beautiful 3-part vocal harmonies about the romantic American Cowboy.



8:15 PM Next, we'll check our hotel in the Colorado Springs area for the next 2 nights.

Day #8 – Sunday, September 19th:

Breakfast* is served at the hotel

This morning we'll **tour the Garden of the Gods Park***, a Registered National Natural Landmark in Colorado Springs. Learn of the park's geology with the 14-minute movie, and experience Native-American culture. Next, we'll ride **Pike's Peak Cog Railway*** to the 14,110 foot summit. New trains, new depot, new Summit Visitor Center, new track, and one of the most unique experiences in the world. It's historic: we've been climbing to the top of Pikes Peak since 1891. It's emotionally moving: this place inspired "America the Beautiful", written by Katharine Lee Bates, whose experience in 1893 on top of Pikes Peak moved her to pen the poem that became one of the most patriotic songs honoring America. We take you to the top of Pikes Peak, America's Mountain, but this journey is so much more than that it's a lifetime experience. **Dinner*** is included at a local restaurant. It's back to the hotel following dinner.

Day #9 – Monday, September 20th:

Breakfast* is included this morning before we check out and begin our journey towards home.

8:00 AM We check out, board our coach and depart for our overnight stop in Junction City, Kansas. We'll make rest and meal stops along the way as needed. ***Note: Don't forget to forward your watches an hour as we re-enter the Central Time Zone.***

5:45 PM We arrive in Junction City and drop the bags at our hotel before heading to dinner.

6:30 PM **Dinner*** is included this evening at a local restaurant.

Day #10 – Tuesday, September 21st:

Breakfast* is served before we check out.

8:00 AM We check out and depart for the final leg of our journey home. We'll make rest and meal stops along the way as needed.

6:00 PM Approximate arrival time back in Peoria.

7:15 PM Approximate arrival time back in Normal.

8:15 PM Approximate arrival time back in Urbana.

Cost Per Person:

Single: \$5148.00 Double: \$4350.00 Triple: \$4005.00 Quad: \$3775.00

Tour Includes: Transportation, Professional Driver & Tour Hosts, Hotel Accommodations, Luggage Handling, All Attractions & Meals in bold print and marked with an asterisk*

If you feel the Driver & Hosts have done a good job, it is appropriate & appreciated if you tip them. We suggest \$4 per person per day for the Driver and \$4 per person per day for the Tour Host on this trip.

Hotels:

To Be Determined