USA HEARTLAND

Colorado Rockies TRAIN EXCURSIONS

9 DAYS – FLY TO DENVER AND RETURN FROM COLORADO SPRINGS

Traverse the Colorado Rockies as you journey through nature's beauty with Alpine lakes, towering peaks and rolling meadows at every turn, on four of Colorado's train excursions.

Ride aboard the Georgetown Loop Railroad through the Rocky Mountains. Then ride the famous Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad through southwestern Colorado's San Juan Mountains. Board the Royal George Railroad for a 24-mile ride beneath the highest suspension bridge in the world. Journey on the world's highest cog railroad to Pike's Peak, a stunning backdrop for Colorado Springs. Spend two nights in Durango, a fun-filled cowboy town where you can relive the excitement of the Old West.

JEFF SHANE

DAY

1 HOME CITIES to DENVER, COLORADO: (2 nights). Fly to Denver, Colorado, the Mile High city where you begin your *Historic Train Adventure*. ***Meals included: dinner.***

2 DENVER: This morning travel to the resort village of ESTES PARK, famous for its STANLEY HOTEL, the inspiration for Stephen King's novel *The Shining*. Enjoy some leisure time to meander among its unique shops and fine galleries. Next stop is ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK where you will discover the true meaning of "panoramic" as you experience some of Mother Nature's most spectacular accomplishments. You will travel across the famed TRAIL RIDGE ROAD* which forms the highest continuous highway in America reaching heights of 12,183 ft. Its name is derived from its proximity to historic pathways used by native people to cross the Rocky Mountains. With its gentle grades and broader curves, this celebrated "Roof of the Rockies" offers massive peaks, rugged canyons and thundering waterfalls as you cross the Continental Divide enroute to Grand Lake and then back to Denver. ***Meals included: breakfast.***

3 DENVER to GRAND JUNCTION: (2 nights) This morning travel through the Rocky Mountains on a scenic and historic train ride aboard the GEORGETOWN LOOP RAILROAD. Completed in 1884 for the Colorado Central Railway as a means to transport silver in and out of the region, this spectacular stretch of narrow gauge railroad is an engineering marvel and features several horseshoe curves and bridges including the DEVIL'S GATE HIGH BRIDGE. Next, travel out to the picturesque Alpine village of VAIL, founded as a ski resort in 1962 and incorporated as a town in 1966. Lined with spectacular chalets, restaurants, outdoor cafes, shops and numerous cultural activities, this town is one of the finest resort destinations in the world. Later, arrive in Grand Junction, your home for the next two nights. ***Meals included: breakfast.***

4 GRAND JUNCTION: Visit one of the grand landscapes of the American West COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT. The establishment of the national monument in 1911 was largely due to the campaigning of one man, John Otto, who explored the canyons and single-handedly built many miles of trails through the area. During your visit you will travel along the RIM ROCK to see a colourful panorama of deep, sheer-sided canyons and high rock towers. Later, journey to WINE COUNTRY to learn about one of the region's finest winemaking vineyards and sample the fruits of its labours. Tonight's winemaker's dinner at a lovely vineyard will be an exceptional experience where you can relax and enjoy the company of your fellow travellers. ***Meals included: breakfast, dinner.***

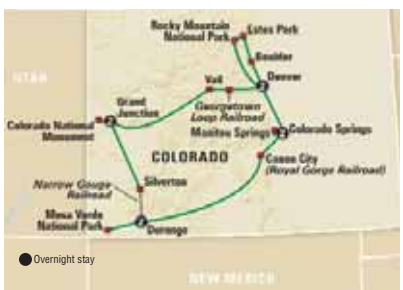
5 GRAND JUNCTION to DURANGO: (2 nights) Today's drive takes you south to the small mining town of SILVERTON, a national historic landmark. Hidden high in the SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS, this town offers spectacular views combined with magnificent Victorian charm. Enjoy some free time in town to explore its historic architecture and buildings – most built between 1882 and 1910 during Silverton's boom times. Then it's "All Aboard" as you embark on the DURANGO AND SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD. This 1881 coal-fired, steam-powered locomotive was built to haul silver and gold ore from the San Juan Mountains…but passengers soon realized it was the view that was truly precious. Relive the scenic journey from Silverton to Durango and be awestruck by its views. ***Meals included: breakfast.***

6 DURANGO: An incredible day awaits at MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK, which preserves the one thousand year culture of the remarkable Anasazi Indians, "the Ancient Ones". Visit the fascinating SPRUCE TREE CLIFF DWELLINGS and see two of the largest cliff dwellings built between AD 1211 and 1278 by the ancestors of the Puebloan peoples of the Southwest. This evening enjoy an OLD WEST ADVENTURE filled with traditional cowboy food and entertainment. ***Meals included: breakfast, dinner.***

7 DURANGO to COLORADO SPRINGS: (2 nights) Travel east across southern Colorado to Canon City and the home of the ROYAL GORGE RAILROAD. Board the train for a 24-mile ride beneath the highest suspension bridge in the world, the ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE, which spans the gorge 1,053 feet above the railroad tracks and see some of the most spectacular scenery. ***Meals included: breakfast.***

8 COLORADO SPRINGS: Depart for MANITOU SPRINGS and the home of PIKE'S PEAK, the legendary symbol of the 1859 Gold Rush. Upon arrival your will embark on PIKE'S PEAK COG RAILWAY, the world's highest cog railroad for an 8.9 mile journey to the top of Pike's Peak (approx. 14,110 ft). During the journey you will see many magnificent views and perhaps see some animals in their native habitat. Later, travel to the GARDEN OF THE GODS. Placed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1979, this park offers towering sandstone formations and a wonderful view of Pike's Peak. Tonight join your fellow travellers for a farewell dinner to celebrate a trip filled with scenic delights and railway adventures. ***Meals included: breakfast, dinner.***

9 COLORADO SPRINGS to HOME: Your tour ends today. However, the many wonderful memories you'll have made are yours to take home and enjoy for many years to come. ***Meals included: breakfast.***



2010 DEPARTURE DATES
9 Days: May 28, September 15
Airfare included
PRICES STARTING AT
$3,549.00 twin
Additional dates available

DAY YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

1, 2	DENVER: Doubletree Hotel Denver Tech
3, 4	GRAND JUNCTION: Doubletree Hotel
5, 6	DURANGO: Holiday Inn, Durango or Strater Hotel
7, 8	COLORADO SPRINGS: Colorado Springs Marriott

On some dates alternate hotels may be used

HIGHLIGHTS

- 12 meals: 8 breakfasts 4 dinners
- Denver
- Georgetown Loop Railroad
- Vail
- Colorado National Monument
- Durango
- Royal Gorge Railroad
- Pike's Peak Cog Railway
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- Devils Gate High Bride
- Grand Junction
- Durango & Silverton Railroad
- Mesa Verde National Park
- Colorado Springs
- Garden of the Gods

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