



West Virginia Department of Commerce

West Virginia's Mountain Railroads

Be Transported to a More Adventurous Time on a Unique Selection of Authentic, Vintage Locomotives

Ride the rails back to the glory days when mighty steam-and diesel-powered trains were the fashionable way to travel. You'll journey on *five rare, vintage trains* past scenic countryside, rolling mountains, lazy rivers and impressive architectural sights including the New River Gorge Bridge! Relive the heydays of thriving coal and lumber towns, and reminisce about the days of horse-drawn vehicles at the Thrasher Carriage Museum. All aboard!

Day 1—Charleston Meet your fellow rail travelers for a welcome reception at our hotel in Charleston, the historic and friendly capital city of West Virginia. *Accommodations:* Charleston Marriott Town Center, Charleston. Welcome Reception.

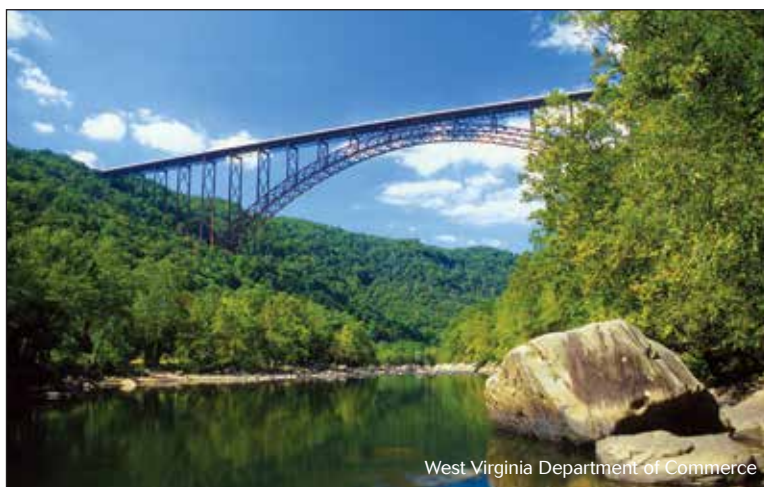
Day 2—Charleston/Beckley Board a modern motorcoach and relax as we wind our way through beautiful mountain scenery. You'll see Kanawha Falls and Hawk's Nest overlook on our way to the New River Gorge, home to the world's second-largest and highest single-span, steel-arch bridge. At 876 feet high and 1,700 feet long, it offers an unparalleled view of the area's mountains and valleys. This afternoon, you'll tour the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, which boasts 1,500 feet of underground passages. It begins with a display of mining artifacts and other features of early life in the coal towns of southern West Virginia. The highlight of the day is a fascinating journey below ground with an experienced coal miner in authentic, track-riding "man cars." Later, visit the renowned Tamarack Arts Center, West Virginia's showcase for talented artists, musicians and chefs. *Accommodations:* Country Inn & Suites, Beckley. *Meals:* B, L, D.

Day 3—Cass Scenic Railroad State Park It's "all aboard" today for our first unforgettable rail adventure. Cass Scenic Railroad State Park will transport you back to the heyday of steam locomotives and thriving logging towns. The highlight of this visit is a thrilling

7 Days • 6 Nights • 14 Meals

Depart/Return: Charleston, WV

CountryTravelDiscoveries.com/WVR



West Virginia Department of Commerce

ride on an old-fashioned logging train. An awesome, steam-powered Shay locomotive will pull us up a logging line to the top of Bald Knob. At 4,482 feet, this is the third-highest point in the state. *Accommodations:* Inn at Snowshoe, Snowshoe. *Meals:* B, L.

Day 4—Durbin Rocket/Cheat Mountain Salamander You'll double your railroading fun today with rides on two old-time trains. In historic Durbin, we'll experience the sights and sounds of the Durbin Rocket excursion train, powered by "Old #3," one of only three Climax-g geared logging locomotives in existence. Sit back and enjoy the ride in an authentic 1920s-era caboose as she puffs and whistles along the Greenbrier River. Next, you'll ride the classic diesel locomotive of the Cheat Mountain Salamander on a spectacular trip through one of the largest wilderness areas in the eastern United States. You'll glide through seemingly endless miles of mountains situated so remotely that few people have seen them. This evening enjoy a group dinner and lively entertainment at the American Mountain Theater. *Accommodations:* Holiday Inn Express, Elkins. *Meals:* B, L, D.

Day 5—The Potomac Eagle Make sure your cameras are ready for one of America's most breathtaking train rides—the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad. Hauled by a combination of four 1950s-era diesel locomotives, you'll be treated to a narrated excursion past historic farms and lush mountain greenery including

evergreens, hardwoods and wildflowers. In the spectacular narrow valley called "the Trough," you'll pass above the Potomac River, where the water is so clear you can see the fish! *Accommodations:* Fairfield Inn, Cumberland. *Meals:* B, L.

Day 6—Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Venture into Maryland for more railroading and history today. At Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, you'll see exhibits on boat-building at the Cumberland boatyards. You'll also become familiar with how the "Grand Old Ditch" was used to transport coal from the Allegheny mountains, serving the Allegheny County coal industry. Our final rail journey is on the popular Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. An authentic steam locomotive will power us through the bridge in the Narrows, Brush Tunnel and Frostburg Depot. While in Frostburg, you'll explore the Thrasher Carriage Museum. Horse-drawn vehicles from sleighs to milk wagons will take you back to yesteryear. Tonight return to West Virginia to relax at the magnificent Stonewall Resort in Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park. *Accommodations:* Stonewall Resort, Roanoke. *Meals:* B, L.

Day 7—Charleston Before you bid farewell to your newfound friends, we'll stop by the studio of Appalachian Glass. Then you'll return home with a lifetime of happy memories of West Virginia's railroads and mountains. *Meals:* B, L.

