



Colorado's Vintage Railways

*A Scenic Travel Adventure from an Era
When the Iron Horse Ruled the Frontier*

All aboard! Travel back to the Old West and the days of the “Iron Horse” set against the awe-inspiring backdrop of Colorado’s Rocky Mountains. You’ll journey on five vintage trains over high mountain passages and through breathtaking gorges. Along the way, see history come to life with stops at an old stagecoach town (where you’ll explore the last coal tipple in the country), an old mining camp, plus a visit to the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum. A “must-do” epic adventure for nostalgia and train buffs alike!

Day 1—Denver It was the Iron Horse that helped tame the Old West, bringing an entire continent together and leading to the historic expansion of the United States. Now you can relive the thrill and excitement of that historic era on our Colorado’s Vintage Railways Tour. Meet your fellow rail travelers for a welcome reception at our hotel in Denver. Then get ready to say “all aboard” for the rail adventure of a lifetime! *Accommodations:* Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport. Welcome Reception.

Day 2—Denver/Colorado Springs

Today we’re off to the stunning Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs. This 1,367-acre park at the base of Pikes Peak is where the Great Plains meet the Rockies—and is like a little piece of heaven! You’ll be amazed by the abundance of plant and animal life here, as well as the magnificent red sandstone formations such as the Kissing Camels and Balanced Rock. The visitor center offers interesting maps and exhibits, as well as a captivating tour of the park. You’ll also enjoy the magical town of Manitou Springs, hidden between Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak. Nine mineral springs throughout the town are fed by the snows of Pikes Peak. The Ute, Cheyenne and many other native



8 Days • 7 Nights • 13 Meals

Depart/Return: Denver, CO

CountryTravelDiscoveries.com/COR

Americans considered this area sacred. *Accommodations:* Radisson Hotel Colorado Springs Airport, Colorado Springs. *Meals:* B, L.



Option—Pikes Peak Cog Railway If you're feeling extra adventurous, sign up for a thrilling 8,000-foot ascent to the top of majestic Pikes Peak (14,110 ft.), taking in miles of mountainous scenery along the way. *Price:* \$35 per person.

Day 3—Royal Gorge Railroad We ride on “North America’s most scenic railroad”—the world-famous Royal Gorge Route! From the comfort of your enclosed coach seat or open-air observation car, you’ll enjoy fabulous scenery and wildlife. Our classic, old-time diesel engine chugs along the Arkansas River and winds its way through the steep granite cliffs of the gorge. Along the way, we’ll pass under the Royal Gorge Bridge, suspended more than 1,000 feet above the tracks. *Accommodations:* Comfort Inn & Suites, Alamosa. *Meals:* B, L.

Day 4—Cumbres & Toltec Railroad Return to the exciting days of the Frontier West during our trek on the old-fashioned Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. The memories begin the minute the stately steam engine blows its horn! Relax in your comfortable coach or open-air observation car as we climb high mountain passes and travel through a breathtaking gorge. Our unforgettable journey from Antonito travels to the old stagecoach town of Chama, New Mexico, home to one of the last coal tipples in the country. We’ll stop mid-way in the small mining town of Osier for a delicious lunch. *Accommodations:* Best Western Rio Grande Inn, Durango. *Meals:* B, L.

Day 5—Durango Your Way Enjoy a leisurely day in the western town of Durango, which was founded in 1880 by the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. You may choose to explore this historic downtown on a walking tour, stroll the Animas River trail, browse the shops or take an optional excursion. *Accommodations:* Best Western Rio Grande Inn, Durango. *Meals:* B.

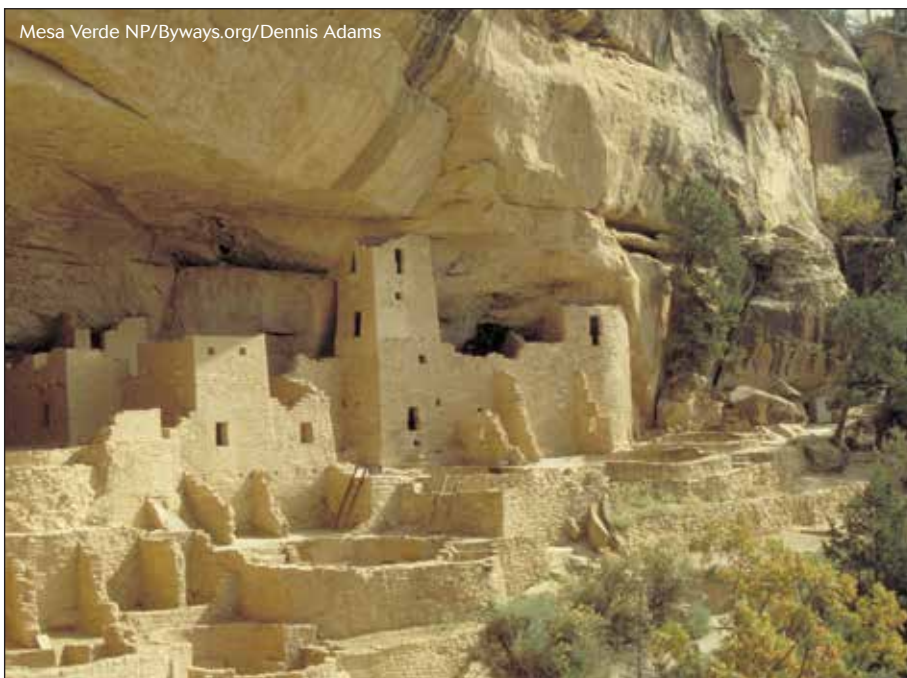


Option—Mesa Verde National Park Travel deep into Mesa Verde National Park to learn about Anasazi Indians. *Meals:* L. *Price:* \$47 per person.

Day 6—Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Immerse yourself in yesteryear with the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum’s memorabilia, including full-size locomotives, maps, photos and artwork. Then it’s “all aboard!” the historic 1880’s Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. You’ll travel by coal-fired, steam powered locomotives on the same track miners, cowboys and settlers did over a century ago. Gaze in awe as we make our way through portions of the magnificent two million acres of remote wilderness that make up the San Juan National Forest! *Accommodations:* Grand Vista Hotel, Grand Junction. *Meals:* B, D.

Day 7—Grand Junction/Leadville & So. Railroad The junction of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers formed the fertile soils around Grand Junction. This morning, we visit with Farmer Bob & Alida Helmer at Alida’s Fruits in this lush valley. Then we travel to the mining town of Leadville for lunch at the historic Delaware Hotel and our final rail excursion. This famous train will take us through the San Isabel National Forest and past Mount Massive and Mount Elbert, the two tallest peaks in Colorado. *Accommodations:* Comfort Suites, Dillon. *Meals:* B, L.

Day 8—Georgetown/Denver We begin our final day together in charming Georgetown, which started as a mining camp in 1859 and still maintains much of its 19th century architecture. After a bountiful breakfast, storyteller Leon Joseph Littlebird will perform for our group. We’ll enjoy some free time in Georgetown, then say good-bye to new friends and take home happy railroading memories! *Meals:* B.



Mesa Verde NP/Byways.org/Dennis Adams