

VACATIONS BY RAIL

Colorado Rail Experience **September 22-29, 2023**

Immerse yourself in Gold Rush lore and relish the secluded scenes of the Rocky Mountains as you explore Colorado's rugged terrain aboard six heritage railroads, including the beloved Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

Journey through the untamed beauty of Colorado on this 8-day Rocky Mountain expedition. We discover expanses of landscape hidden from modern traffic aboard six fantastic railways: the Georgetown Loop Railroad, the Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad, the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, the Royal Gorge Route Railroad, and the Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway. While we ride the rails, railroad experts and knowledgeable guides introduce us to the mining and railway history of the state. Our journey also includes a visit to the awe-inspiring Garden of the Gods. Join the experience as the colorful past of the Old West is brought to life once more.

The itinerary for your journey

Tour highlights

- Georgetown Loop Railroad
- Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad
- Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad
- Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad
- Royal Gorge Route Railroad
- Colorado Rail Museum
- Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway
- Garden of the Gods

What's included

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation by deluxe motorcoach

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel accommodations for 7 nights

LUGGAGE

Baggage Handling

EXCURSIONS & ENTERTAINMENT

The services of a professional Tour Manager from start to finish

FOOD & DRINKS

11 meals, including lunch on the Royal Gorge Route Railroad

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Cancellation & Travel Insurance is not included in the price of the tour but can be arranged

Flights and Airport transfers

Day 1 - Colorado Rail Museum/Georgetown Loop Railroad

Our journey begins as you meet your group and Tour Manager in Denver this morning and we transfer to Golden, CO, by coach to explore the Colorado Rail Museum. A tour through its featured exhibits, extensive collection of rolling stock and Roundhouse restoration facility offers an insider's perspective of this fascinating site. Departing the museum, we immerse ourselves in the mining history of the Rocky Mountains aboard the Georgetown Loop Railroad. This narrow-gauge, two coil loop railway was completed in 1884 and takes us on the original 4 1/2-mile loop between Georgetown and Silver Plume. Lunch is served in Georgetown before a scenic drive through the rugged landscape to the resort town of Silverthorne. Overnight Silverthorne, CO.

Day 2 - Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad

Step back in time and discover the mining and railroad past of Leadville, CO, today as we join the Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad. We follow a course through San Isabel National Forest, traveling into thick groves of alpine trees as we follow alongside the Arkansas River. Views of Colorado's tallest peaks, Mt. Massive and Mt. Elbert, come into view as the train continues through the lush valley, and we even cross the Continental Divide during the 2 1/2-hour tour. Photo opportunities abound along the scenic route - as do the conductor's ghost stories and lore that highlight the colorful history of the region.

Upon return to Silverthorne, take the remainder of the day to enjoy the wild surroundings of the town. There are endless hiking trails to embark upon, including some that feature waterfalls. Overnight Silverthorne, CO.

Day 3 - Silverthorne to Durango

We depart Breckenridge this morning and enjoy a leisurely day of travel by deluxe motorcoach bound for Durango near the Colorado/New Mexico border. Our route includes inspiring vistas of the Rockies, lush National Forests and protected Grasslands. We pass through quaint mining towns and make several stops to stretch our legs and to admire the scenery on foot. First stop is South Park City in Fairplay to see an amazing authentic restoration of a Colorado boomtown. Our route continues south, passing through the Rio Grande National Forest before we arrive in Durango late this afternoon. The evening is yours to explore Historic Downtown Durango, which is brimming with Wild West history, restaurants and unique shops to explore. Overnight Durango.

Day 4 - Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

This morning, we board one of the most scenic railroads in the Southwest, the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. This journey takes us on a route along the Animas River from Durango to Silverton. Sights of canyon country, San Juan National Forest, protected wildlife areas and beautiful mountain vistas overtake the landscape during the ride, and it is not uncommon to see wildlife. Bring your camera! A true highlight of this journey is the ride through the Animas River Gorge. The train travels above the gorge on a manmade ledge on the side of a canyon, offering spectacular views of the gorge down below. Silverton, CO, an 1874 mining town located high in the San Juan Mountains, is our destination. While this locale is now a hotspot for tourists and winter sports, its gritty past is still visible in its historic buildings and adventurous atmosphere. After returning to Durango, the remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight Durango.

Day 5 - Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

An unforgettable journey lies ahead today as we set out on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, the longest and highest narrow-gauge steam railroad in North America and voted the #1 Top Attraction in Colorado and New Mexico by USA Today. The Southwest's scenes are on full display on this 64-mile ride, including glimpses at steep canyons, colorful meadows, ranches, grassy hills, beautiful mountain ranges, rushing waterways and brilliant blue skies. We cross over Cascade Creek Trestle and pass through charming mountain towns and abandoned villages. This route crosses the Colorado/New Mexico border 13 times and allows passengers to get a feel for what a daily train ride would have been like in the heyday of steam train travel. As the tour concludes, we continue our heritage rail voyage through Colorado into the San Luis Valley, the oldest settled area in Colorado, en route to Alamosa. Overnight Alamosa.

Day 6 - Royal Gorge Route Railroad

Find yourself surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the Royal Gorge on our fifth railway journey of the tour, the Royal Gorge Route Railroad. We board our motorcoach this morning and travel to the station in Canon City - a route that offers another look at the stunning forests and mountains that make Colorado so beloved. We get a unique perspective of the stunning scenery from our seats in the train's first-class vista-dome car. Travel along the Arkansas River and see the Hanging Bridge at the narrowest point in the chasm. We enjoy lunch in the train's dining car. The excursion concludes with a stop underneath the soaring Suspension Bridge from the rim to the river's edge. After our journey, we continue by coach to Colorado Springs, a hub for culture and adventure. Spend the rest of the day exploring the offerings of this lively city, perhaps checking out the exciting dining options or visiting one of the local museums. Overnight Colorado Springs.

Day 7 - Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway/Garden of the Gods

Take in incredible 360-degree vistas from 14,115 feet above sea level today as we travel to the summit of Pikes Peak, the mountain that inspired the song "America the Beautiful." Our sixth rail excursion is aboard the newly re-opened Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway. The nine-mile journey to the top passes Ruxton Creek in Englemann Canyon, Minnehaha Falls, Deer Park and a wide range of wildlife. At the summit there will be time to take in views from every angle, visiting the gift shop and sampling world-famous doughnuts. Just as with the trip up the mountain, the ride down is also narrated by a knowledgeable Conductor who is chock-full of facts about Pikes Peak, the Rockies and Colorado as a whole. Before returning to Colorado Springs, we visit Garden of the Gods - a National Natural Landmark site - for a drive through the dramatic red rock formations that reach up to 300 feet tall. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight Colorado Springs.

Day 8 - Tour Conclusion

Our tour of Colorado's railways concludes after breakfast. A group transfer to Denver International Airport accommodates flights departing after 1 p.m.

Departure Dates

June 16, 2023	From \$2,795
June 23, 2023	From \$2,795
June 30, 2023	From \$2,795
July 14, 2023	From \$2,795
July 21, 2023	From \$2,795
July 28, 2023	From \$2,795
August 11, 2023	From \$2,795
September 1, 2023	From \$2,895
September 8, 2023	From \$2,895
September 15, 2023	From \$2,895
September 22, 2023	From \$2,895
September 29, 2023	From \$2,795
October 6, 2023	From \$2,795

All prices are per person and assume full occupancy of the room.

Please always refer to the website for up-to-date prices and availability.

Trains

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

A stunning winding course through the southern edge of the Colorado Rockies and past vast rural landscapes awaits on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. This line follows a 64-mile route between Chama, NM, and Antonito, CO, weaving back and forth across the border 11 times throughout its journey. Through long mountain tunnels, across rushing rivers, and along breathtaking canyon shelves, narrow-gauge tracks take the train places where no roads lead. The wonders and charms of the beautiful Southwest are yours to behold on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad.

Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad



The historic Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad weaves a tale of human ingenuity and natural beauty as it travels on its 45-mile route between Durango and Silverton in Colorado. Aboard fully restored steam trains that are original to the line and open-air gondolas that offer uninhibited views of the surrounding scenery, passengers relive the region's mining past and marvel at panoramic vistas of the Animas River and its gorge.

Georgetown Loop Railroad

The Georgetown Loop Railroad was founded during the glory years of the gold and silver rush. Its scenic, double-looped route travels from Georgetown to Silver Plume on a 4 1/2-mile path through the stunning Clear Creek Valley and offers unparalleled views of the Colorado Rockies. The narrow-gauge tracks navigate through sweeping curves and wide loops to scale over 640 feet of elevation during the train's expedition between the historic mining towns.

Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad

Surrounded by Colorado's Rocky Mountain peaks and the astounding beauty of the San Isabel National Forest, the Leadville, Colorado & Southern Railroad offers a journey beyond all expectations. Riders join the scenic railway in Leadville, one of the highest elevated incorporated cities in North America, and embark on a 21-mile round-trip expedition to the Continental Divide. Over 2 1/2 hours, the colorful history of Colorado's mining past unfolds as the train climbs 1,000 feet over the Arkansas River Valley. Onboard narration complements the journey, recounting fascinating tales of the region while the vintage diesel engines traverse incredible landscapes.

Royal Gorge Railroad

The Royal Gorge Route Railroad is in a league of its own. The route is so impressive; it once inspired a war between rail lines and today welcomes more than 100,000 riders each year. This historic railroad first opened to passengers over 140 years ago, and throughout its operations, it continues to amaze with its spectacular route along the Arkansas River. Narrow granite walls frame the way as guests enjoy views of rushing water and outstanding onboard cuisine.

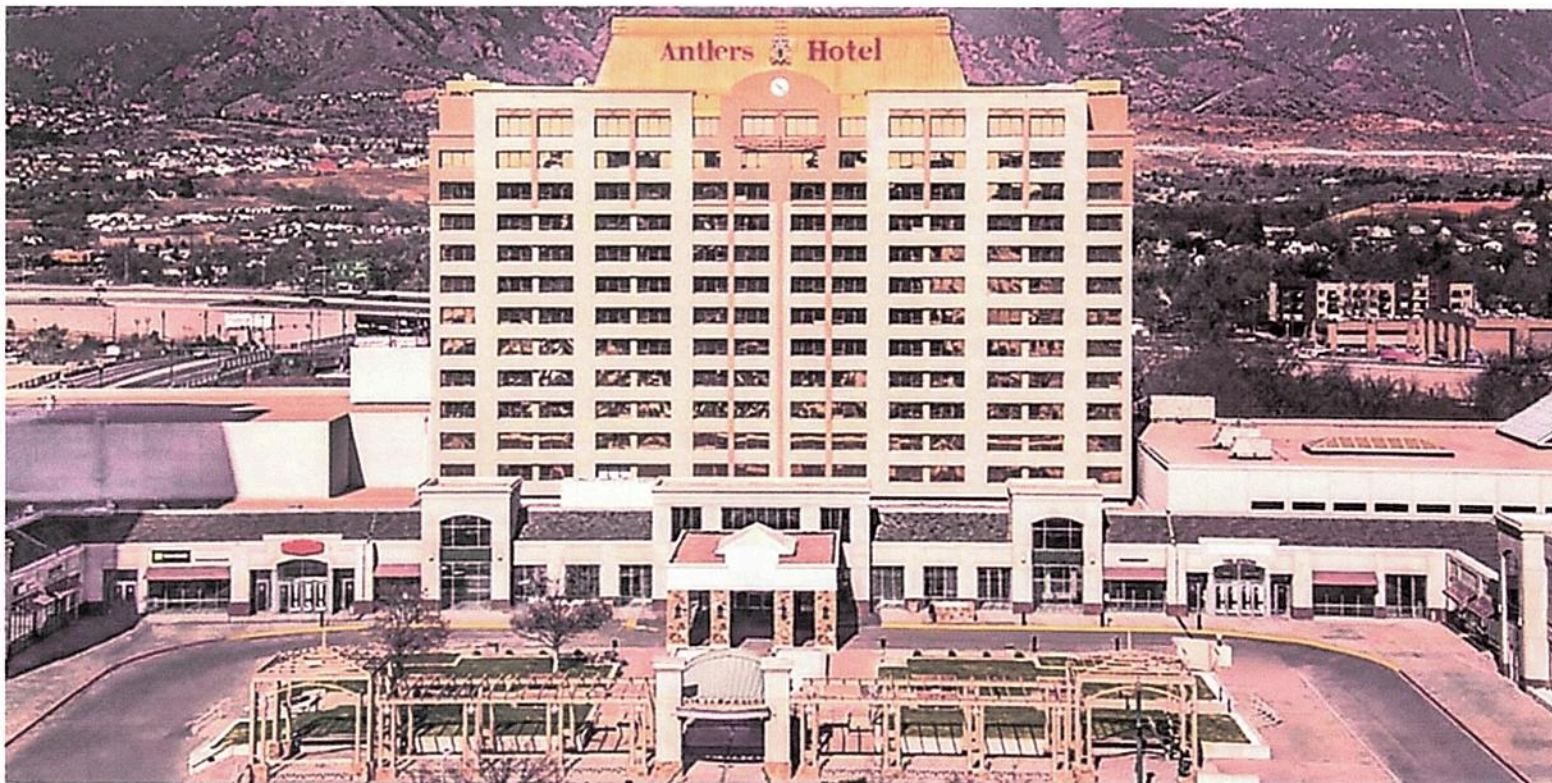
Hotels

Holiday Inn Express Alamosa, Alamosa



The Holiday Inn Express Alamosa is our comfortable and convenient base in Alamosa. The hotel offers an indoor swimming pool and free Wi-Fi, and spacious guest rooms all come equipped with a television, a hairdryer, an iron and ironing board, and tea & coffee making facilities.

The Antlers by Wyndham Hotel, Colorado Springs



From monumental mountain vistas to spectacular views of downtown Colorado Springs, you need only look out your guest room window or step out onto your suite's private balcony to indulge in the natural beauty and vibrant streets surrounding The Antlers, A Wyndham Hotel. Our flawlessly-restored historical property has been transformed into a refined gem, with each guest room featuring brand new carpeting, plush bedding, and custom bed frames and head boards. Enjoy cocktails at our elegant lobby lounge adorned with crystal chandeliers, crystal wall sconces, and a stunning horseshoe-shaped granite bar with 40 beer taps including an array of sparkling Colorado micro brews. Dine at our authentic Italian restaurant, which includes 2 wood-fire pizza ovens. Your dream wedding or special event will be unforgettable at any of our 17 breathtaking event rooms, especially with the experience of our Meeting and Wedding Professionals to guide you from invite to adieu. Celebrate the wonders of Colorado's natural history in our classic yet modern accommodations at The Antlers.

Colorado Springs Marriott



Colorado Springs Marriott is reinventing the way you travel. Located near the Rocky Mountains, our hotel makes a perfect home base for outdoor enthusiasts embarking on climbing or hiking excursions at Pikes Peak and Cave of the Winds. When it's time to enjoy the great indoors, we offer easy access to all the shops and art galleries in downtown Colorado Springs. After a day of exploration, take time to unwind in our renovated, pet-friendly rooms and suites. Feel free to connect to our complimentary Wi-Fi to stay in touch with loved ones. In the mornings, fuel up at our full-service restaurant featuring a stylish outdoor patio with fire pits and breathtaking views. Professionals hosting conferences and celebrations can reserve one of our 15 flexible event spaces. During downtime, keep your exercise routine intact at our fitness center and pools. Whatever brings you to Colorado Springs Marriott, find the amenities you desire.

DoubleTree By Hilton Hotel, Durango



The DoubleTree By Hilton Hotel in Durango overlooks the scenic Animas River and is within walking distance of the town's shops and restaurants. Facilities include an indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, fitness centre and a restaurant and lounge. Rooms feature a television, air conditioning and hairdryer.

Upgrades

We offer a selection of upgrades and 'add-ons' designed to help you make the most of your holiday - and make it even easier!

Extend your stay

Many of our guests choose to spend additional nights before or after their trip. Vacations By Rail would be happy to make hotel and sightseeing arrangements for you.

Rail Your Way

Vacations By Rail can supply connecting rail from your closest Amtrak Station.