

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.

All aboard...the Georgetown Loop Railroad travelling through the Rocky Mountains and 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, and embark on Pikes Peak Cog Railway, the highest cog railway in the world, to Pike's Peak, a stunning backdrop for Colorado Springs.

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. *Meals included: breakfast.*

3 DENVER AREA to GRAND JUNCTION: (2 nights) Today 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 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 campaign

ing 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 Colorado's 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) Enjoy a leisurely morning in Durango before departing for Colorado Springs. Enroute you will surely marvel at the scenery as you travel through southern Colorado. Later, travel to the GARDEN OF THE GODS, on the National Register for Historic Places, to view the towering sandstone formations and a wonderful view of Pike's Peak. *Meals included: breakfast.*

8 COLORADO SPRINGS: Travel 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. Depart for Manitou Springs and the home of Pike's Peak, the legendary symbol of the 1859 Gold Rush. Upon arrival you 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 some animals in their native habitat. 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.*



JEFF SHANE



2011 DEPARTURE DATES
 9 Days: June 4 July 30
 September 3
 Airfare included
PRICES STARTING AT
\$2,959⁰⁰ twin
 Additional dates available
 Some departures – Itinerary varies

DAY YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- 1, 2 AURORA: Red Lion Hotel Denver Southeast
- 3, 4 GRAND JUNCTION: Doubletree Hotel
- 5, 6 DURANGO: Strater Hotel or Holiday Inn
- 7, 8 COLORADO SPRINGS: Colorado Springs Marriott

On some dates alternate hotels may be used

HIGHLIGHTS

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

SPECIALTY TOURS OFFERED WITH "CHANGE OF MIND" CANCELLATION POLICY. CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

FREE DOOR-TO-DOOR AIRPORT TRANSFER WITHIN 100 KMS.

