

# ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA



Grand Junction • Durango • Taos • Santa Fe • Albuquerque



- Visit the **Colorado National Monument**, a series of giant sandstone monoliths. The Colorado National Monument is seamed with canyons more than 500 feet deep.
- The **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park** is one of our Country's newest National Parks. You'll see 12 miles of the deepest portion of the Gunnison River gorge.
- Board the popular **Durango & Silverton Scenic Railroad** and travel 45 miles to Durango. We'll travel along the winding Animas River through breathtaking mountain scenery.
- Enjoy **Santa Fe**, the cultural and artistic capital of the Great American Southwest. Visit the Museum of International Folk Art and other art studios.
- The **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta** has to be seen to be believed. From the Mass Ascension early in the morning to the Balloon Glow at dusk, you'll be amazed as the sky becomes aglow in a variety of colors.

Days 1-2 ..... En Route  
Grand Junction  
Days 3-4 ..... Durango  
Day 5 ..... Taos / Santa Fe

Day 6 ..... Santa Fe  
Days 7-9 ..... Albuquerque  
Days 10-11 ..... En Route to California  
Home Destinations

**TOUR DATE(S):****Sun., Sept. 30 to Wed., Oct. 10****TOUR PRICE:****\$2,595 - 11 Days**

Per person /double occupancy

Economy Class Tour: Roomette + \$400 p.p./d.o.  
Bedroom + \$895 p.p./d.o.

\$3,390 Single Roomette +\$800

**YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:**

- Round-trip transportation by Amtrak rail and deluxe motorcoach.
- Reclining coach seat with leg rest on Amtrak for two nights.
- First-class hotel accommodations for eight nights.
- 11 meals
- Extensive sightseeing tours at each destination. Admission to all included attractions.
- Baggage handling, taxes, tips.
- Services of a professional America by Rail Tour Director Grand Junction to Albuquerque.

**PRE TOUR CONNECTION**

Not included in the price of tour.\*

America by Rail will arrange for **Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta** tour participants from Southern California to travel to Sacramento the day prior to DAY ONE, Saturday, September 29.

Tour participants from Southern California will board the Pacific Surfliner for Los Angeles. Members will board in San Diego (6:10 a.m.), Oceanside (7:01 a.m.), Santa Ana (7:57 a.m.), Anaheim (8:06 a.m.), Fullerton (8:15 a.m.) and arrive in Los Angeles at 8:50 a.m.

Southern California tour members will board the Coast Starlight for its 10:20 a.m. departure. There is comfortable seating on this double-decker train. You'll want to go to the glass-walled Sightseer Lounge car for spectacular viewing.

Snacks, sandwiches and beverages are available. Full course lunch and dinner are optional. Additional tour members will join in Santa Barbara (12:48 p.m.), San Luis Obispo (3.43 p.m.) and San Jose (8:27 p.m.). Arrival into Sacramento is scheduled for 11:59 p.m.

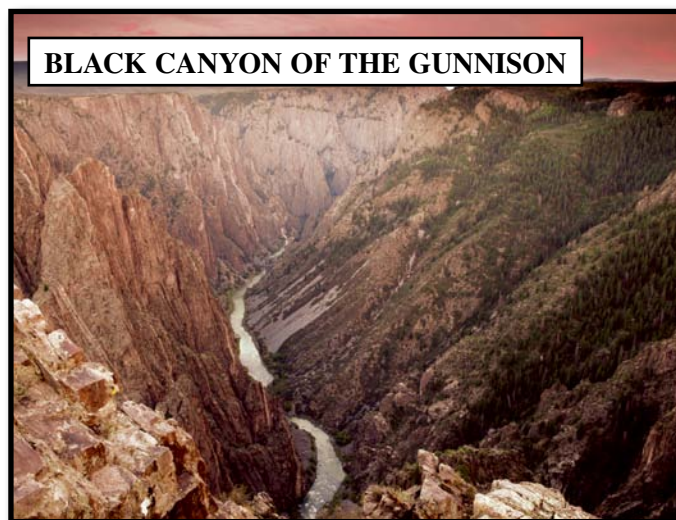
**Day 1: En Route**

Southern California tour members will transfer to the Sacramento Amtrak station for the 11:09 a.m. departure of the California Zephyr.

Members from the San Joaquin Valley will board a northbound San Joaquin train in Bakersfield (4:55 a.m.), Fresno (6:50 a.m.), Merced (4:55 a.m.), Modesto (8:28 a.m.), Stockton (9:01 a.m.) and arrive into Sacramento at 9:35 a.m. and board the California Zephyr with the rest of the members.

Relax in your reclining coach seat with leg rest. Private Roomette or Bedroom sleeping accommodations are available for an additional cost. Go to the glass-walled Sightseer Lounge car for spectacular viewing. All tastefully prepared full-course dining car meals are included.

*\*An additional \$75 p.p./d.o.; \$150 Single for those requiring a pre-tour night in Sacramento. Call for connecting rail pricing.*



As we travel eastward we leave the lush landscape and palm trees of California and enter the rugged terrain dotted with pine trees of the high Sierra Mountains. We'll pass through the famous Donner Pass this afternoon. **L & D**

**Day 2: En Route / Grand Junction**

You'll continue through the desolate landscapes of Utah this morning. You will enter the western canyons of Colorado.

Your arrival into Grand Junction is scheduled for 10:23 a.m. You'll transfer the short distance to our home for the evening, the Grand Vista Hotel.

Grand Junction is a modern city of 28,000 located on the western slopes of the mountains. You'll have time to rest or see the sights this afternoon. **B**

**Day 3: Durango**

Breakfast is included. Our day begins this morning when we travel by motorcoach the short distance to the famous Colorado National Monument. The Monument is seamed with canyons more than a thousand feet deep and can be viewed from overlooks along Rim Rock Drive which skirts the canyon rims. Isolated monoliths include Independence Rock, Balanced Rock, Coke Ovens and Pipe Organ.

We'll continue southward. An "on-your-own" lunch is scheduled for Delta. At mid afternoon our travelers will arrive at the awesome Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. The Gunnison River gorge is one of the most amazing geological displays in the West. The Hampton Inn in Montrose, Colorado, is our home for

the night. Dinner is included at a nearby restaurant. **B & D**

### Day 4: Durango

We'll begin the day with an included Continental breakfast. We'll reboard our motorcoach and continue south through the picturesque San Juan Mountains to Silverton.

Silverton is a typical wild-west mining community with a rather infamous past. There will be time to walk along Blair Street with its false-fronted buildings typical of the Old West and to have an "on-your-own" lunch.

A high point of our tour will occur this afternoon when we ride the famous Durango & Silverton Scenic Railroad. The steam-powered, narrow-gauge train travels through the remote wilderness of the San Juan National Forest, following the winding Animas River through breathtaking mountain scenery. The 45-mile, three-and-a-half hour rail journey will end in the charming city of Durango.

Durango is the commercial center for the ranching and mining enterprises of southwest Colorado surrounded by the picturesque San Juan Mountains. The city thrived as a railroad and mining center in the late 1800s. Much of the downtown area has been restored to its Victorian past. Our hotel will be the attractive Strater Hotel. **CB**

### Day 5: Taos / Santa Fe

After a Continental Breakfast in our hotel we'll head south by motorcoach to historic Taos.

We will arrive into Taos in time for an "on-your-own" lunch. Following lunch we'll go on a two-hour sightseeing tour of the city prior to leaving for Santa Fe.

Our arrival into Santa Fe is scheduled for late afternoon. We'll spend the next two evenings at the historic and charming La Fonda on the Plaza. Our hotel is located one block from the Santa Fe Plaza.

This evening we're off to the unique La Casa Sena Restaurant. The waiters and bartenders are professional singers. After they have taken your dinner order, they will present their "Best of Broadway" revue. Past and present show favorites are featured, including a number of Andrew Lloyd Webber songs. Dinner and entertainment are included. **CB & D**

### Day 6: Santa Fe

Santa Fe is the cultural and artistic capital of the Great American Southwest. At 10:00 a.m. we'll embark on a two-hour tour of Santa Fe. You'll see the Palace of Governors, the oldest public building in the United States; the old market place; the Museum of International Folk Art; and travel along Canyon Road, the trail of the Rio Grande Pueblo Indians and route of Don Diego De Vargas. You're free this afternoon and evening to enjoy the famed Santa Fe Plaza and other popular centrally located attractions.

### Day 7: Albuquerque

You're free this morning to pursue some last minute shopping at the Plaza.

The Rail Runner is a relatively new rail service that connects Santa Fe and Albuquerque. You'll depart on one of the colorful, double-decker trains at 12:14 p.m. and arrive in downtown Albuquerque at 1:49 p.m.

Upon arrival, you'll transfer to the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown. You're free the rest of the day to become familiar with Albuquerque, a city of about 400,000, and New Mexico's largest.

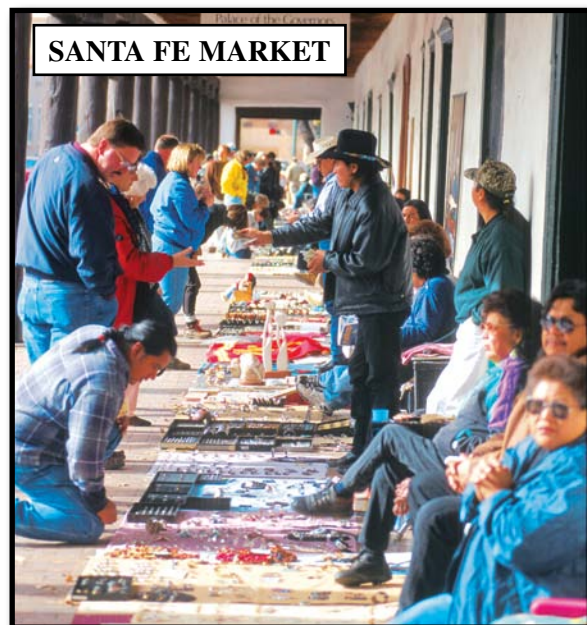
### Day 8: Balloon Fiesta

Today's activities are completely focused on the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Our day will need to begin early. We'll be at the Fiesta Park by 6:30 a.m. for the Mass Ascension. You are about to witness the most spectacular display of sound and color in all aviation. The participating balloons are launched in two waves. There will be other activities, including the Fiesta of Wheels Car Show.

We'll return to our hotel at mid morning. You're free to rest or visit a number of attractions in Old Town.

Founded in 1706, Old Town, is a visible record of Albuquerque's ability to turn a small village into a large city. Choose from a variety of arts, crafts and delicacies. Indians also vend their handicrafts around the plaza; bargaining is in order.

At 4:30 p.m. we'll return to the Fiesta Park. A dinner is served in the Hospitality Tent. At 5:45 p.m. it's time for one



of the Fiesta's most popular events . . . the Balloon Glow. The sight of hundreds of balloons lit from within at night, like giant holiday ornaments, is breathtaking. The Balloon Glow is followed by a most spectacular fireworks display. **D**

### Day 9: En Route

This morning we'll embark on a sight-seeing tour of beautiful Albuquerque. A stop will be made at the Indian Cultural Center. When you enter this unique facility you'll feel as if you have entered another, more ancient world. The building features exhibits on the history of New Mexico's 19 Indian Pueblos.

The rest of today you are free to explore the area or rest in your hotel.

### Day 10: En Route

This morning you are again free to explore Albuquerque.

This afternoon you will board the Southwest Chief prior to its 4:45 p.m. departure for Los Angeles. You will enjoy the same amenities you enjoyed on your eastbound trip.

Relax in your reclining coach seat with leg rest. Roomette or Bedrooms are available for an additional cost. **D**

### Day 11: En Route to Los Angeles

Arrival into Los Angeles' beautiful Union Station is scheduled for 8:15 a.m. Tour members will depart Los Angeles throughout the day for home destinations. **B**

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT:

A deposit of \$200 per person (\$500 for cruise), of which \$100 per person is non-refundable, is required to finalize registration. The balance is due 75 days prior to departure (90 days for cruise). If payments are not received by the due date(s) specified, reservations may be cancelled without notice.

Cruises: If reservation is made after final payment due date, prevailing rates and availability apply.

## TOUR CANCELLATIONS:

If cancellation is received by America by Rail more than 75 days prior to departure (90 days for cruise), \$100 of your deposit will be retained. For cancellations received within 75 days of departure, the following per person cancellation fees apply (90 days for cruise):

- 76-90 days prior to departure: (cruise only)  
20% of total tour cost.
- 46-75 days prior to departure:  
25% of total tour cost.
- 15-45 days prior to departure:  
50% of total tour cost.
- 14 days or less prior to departure through duration of the tour: 100% of total tour cost.

The total tour cost includes tour price, add-ons and upgrades.

Refunds will be made approximately 30 days after the conclusion of the tour.

Payment / cancellation exceptions are noted on tours.

## TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

### TRANSPORTATION

Rail transportation over the tour route and motorcoach, van, or other modes of transportation where specified in the tour description.

### TRAIN ACCOMMODATIONS

All tours except those categorized as Coach Class include private Roomette on Amtrak overnight trains and Bedrooms (double occupancy) or Roomettes (single occupancy) on VIA Rail Canada overnight trains. Bedrooms on Amtrak are available at an additional cost. Reclining coach seats are included on U.S. and Canadian trains used only during the daytime except for those categorized as Coach Class. Coach Class tours include reclining coach seats with leg rests on Amtrak trains. Meals on the trains are included for those traveling Coach Class on the North American tours as indicated in the itinerary.

### CRUISE ACCOMMODATIONS

Cruise tours include inside staterooms (double occupancy) on cruise ships. Upgraded staterooms may be available at an additional cost.

### HOTELS

Accommodations are based on two persons sharing a room with bath. Two-bedded rooms are provided in most instances. However, sometimes their availability is limited. If a two-bedded room is required, please notify America by Rail at time of registration.

America by Rail reserves the right to substitute hotels for those named in any tour description, when necessary. Every effort is made to have hotel rooms available for occupancy upon arrival. There may be instances when rooms are not available until later.

### SINGLE ROOMS

Single rooms at hotels and Amtrak Roomettes on a single basis are available at a supplemental cost.

### SIGHTSEEING/ADMISSIONS

Sightseeing, as outlined in the itineraries, will be provided by motorcoaches in most instances. Admission fees are included as specified. Sightseeing tour arrangements may be altered if required.

## MEALS

All included meals are listed in the tour itinerary. Persons requiring a special diet must inform America by Rail at the time of registration. Not all restaurants/trains will be able to honor special requests. Due to events beyond our control, trains are sometimes delayed and supplies may become limited. If you have special dietary requirements, please make sure you have a sufficient supply of nourishment to meet your dietary needs.

In the itineraries, the meals are listed at the end of each day using CB for Continental breakfast, B for breakfast, L for lunch, and D for dinner.

## BAGGAGE

For your convenience and to expedite movement, baggage handling is limited to one suitcase per person. Transfer and portage of one suitcase per person is included at overnight stopovers. On most tours the one suitcase per person is handled by America by Rail and is checked through to the next destination. Carry-on luggage is used while en route. America by Rail is not responsible for loss or damage to your baggage or for any lost, stolen or destroyed item. Specified transfers between rail stations and hotels are included.

## TOUR DIRECTORS

Services of a qualified America by Rail Tour Director are included for all matters pertaining to the tour. Tour Directors will meet all tour members at the origin city.

## TIPS AND TAXES

All gratuities to hotel staff (except to chambermaids), sight-seeing guides and drivers are included. Gratuities for sleeping car attendants and meals aboard the train are included. Gratuities for meals specified in the tour itinerary are included on escorted portions of the tour. Gratuities for cruise ship stateroom stewards and dining waitstaff are included.

## TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Transportation and tips between your home city and the official origin city; charges for excess baggage; health, accident or baggage insurance; tips to chambermaids and for personal services; items of a personal nature such as laundry; meals, except those specified as included; gratuities for special services; charges for room service, and alcoholic beverages with included meals.

Gratuities to your America by Rail Tour Directors are an industry expectation. They should be extended on an individual basis, not as a group.

## RAIL SCHEDULES:

The routing and features described in tour descriptions may be altered to adjust to rail schedules in effect at the time of the tour. America by Rail reserves the right to substitute motorcoach or air travel for unavailable rail schedules, misconnections, delays or other causes.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS :

A valid passport will be required for any trip crossing international borders. i.e. into or out of the United States. At time of reservation we will need your date of birth; gender, passport number, passport expiration date and issuing country.

## HEALTH, MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL:

Any type of disability requiring special treatment must be reported to America by Rail at the time of registration. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitations those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance. Participants will be asked to submit a confidential medical form for each tour.

## SMOKING:

Smoking is not permitted on America by Rail motorcoaches. Those who smoke may do so at any of the frequent

stops we make. All Amtrak and VIA Rail trains are entirely smoke-free. If time is available at station stops, it will be announced by the conductor. Cruise ships policies vary from line to line, but all have designated areas to accommodate smokers.

## PLEASE NOTE:

America by Rail reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to accept or retain any individuals as members of the tour. The acceptance of any service provided as part of an America by Rail tour, or any ticket or voucher, shall be deemed to be acceptance of and consent by the tour member to these conditions.

All rates published herein are in U.S. dollars and based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on the printing date of the tour brochure. Prices and arrangements are subject to change without notice.

No persons, other than a representative of America by Rail, authorized by a document in writing, may vary, add or waive any term or condition set forth in the preceding provisions.

A \$50 per person fee will be assessed for each itinerary alteration requested after final arrangements are confirmed.

It is our company policy to issue a tour roster to all tour participants containing all tour participants' names and addresses. If you do not want your address included, you must let us know at time of reservation.

Times, schedules, entertainment and activities are subject to change without notice.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING FUEL SUPPLEMENT:

Please be advised America by Rail reserves the right to apply a fuel supplement for all guests should the price of oil warrant it.

## RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:

America by Rail acts only in the capacity as an agent for the owners and contractors providing means of transportation, hotel or other services. All tour services, tickets and vouchers are subject to any and all terms and conditions under which such means of transportation, hotel or other services are offered or provided. America by Rail shall not be or become liable or responsible in any way whatsoever, for any loss, injury or damage from acts of God, sickness, theft, weather, strikes, war, or quarantine however caused or arising.

America by Rail reserves the right to cancel a tour in the event tour participation does not meet minimum requirements.

America by Rail shall not be obligated to honor any booking resulting from, nor shall be responsible or liable whatsoever in connection with, misprints or errors of any kind, whether in brochures, advertisements, on the Internet, during the booking process or otherwise, that result in traveler being undercharged for the tour. America by Rail reserves the right, prior to departure, to collect the correct fare or cancel the booking and refund any payment made by traveler.

## AMTRAK STATEMENT:

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) is not to be held responsible for any act, omissions, or event during the time passengers are not on board their trains or conveyance. The passenger contract in use of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and purchaser of these tours and/or passenger. All conditions are subject to the laws of the District of Columbia, U.S.A.

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