

# TRAINS OF WEST VIRGINIA

New River Gorge • Greenbrier • Snowshoe • Cass • Green Bank • Elkins • Romney • Cumberland

## THE DURBIN ROCKET



- Enjoy an elegant lunch at the magnificent **Greenbrier Resort**, then journey underground below the resort for a tour of the secret Bunker.
- Explore the possibility that life exists in other universes at the **National Radio Astronomy Observatory** in Green Bank.
- Ride five historic trains through the **Appalachian Mountains** during the height of leaf peeping season: **Cass Railroad, Durbin Rocket, Cheat Mountain Salamander, Potomac Eagle** and the **Western Maryland Scenic**.
- Visit the **Emmanuel Church** in Cumberland and see the beautiful Comfort Tiffany stained glass windows and the unique catacombs below the church.
- See an amazing collection at the **Thrasher Carriage Museum** in Frostburg and learn how the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal influenced the transportation industry in this country.
- Travel through the **New River Gorge** on Amtrak's **Cardinal**. The Gorge is located in the Appalachian Mountains of southern West Virginia.

Day 1..... Chicago to West Virginia  
Day 2..... New River Gorge,  
Greenbrier, Snowshoe  
Day 3..... Cass, Green Bank, Elkins

Day 4..... Elkins  
Day 5..... Romney, Cumberland, MD  
Day 6..... Cumberland, En Route  
Day 7..... En Route to Chicago

CB CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
 B BREAKFAST  
 L LUNCH  
 D DINNER

**TOUR DATE(S):**

**Thurs., Oct. 4 to Wed., Oct. 10**

**TOUR PRICE:**

**\$1,995 - 7 Days**

Per person /double occupancy

Economy Class Tour: Roomette + \$350 p.p./d.o.  
 Bedroom + \$595 p.p./d.o.

\$2,245 Single Roomette +\$700

**YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:**

- Round-trip transportation by Amtrak and deluxe motorcoach.
- Reclining coach class seat with leg rest for two nights.
- First-class hotel accommodations for four nights.
- 17 meals.
- Two Amtrak long distance trains and five historic local trains.
- Astronomy Radio Observatory, the American Mountain Theatre, Thrasher Carriage Museum and the Canal Place Museum.
- Baggage handling, taxes & tips.
- Services of a professional America by Rail Tour Director.

AMERICA BY RAIL WILL BE HAPPY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR CONNECTING TRANSPORTATION TO CHICAGO AND BACK BY RAIL OR AIR.

**Day 1: Depart Chicago**

Our **Trains of West Virginia** tour members will meet the Tour Director in Chicago's Union Station. At 5:15 p.m. we'll board Amtrak's Cardinal (*Train #1 of the seven trains you will experience*) prior to its 5:45 p.m. departure. Relax in your reclining coach class seat with leg rest. A limited number of Roomettes and Bedrooms may be available at extra cost. **D**

**Day 2: New River Gorge, Greenbrier, Snowshoe**

Throughout the night the Cardinal cut across the fertile farm fields of Indiana and then traversed the mighty Ohio River for many miles.

An included dining car breakfast and scenery intertwine this morning as the train enters Wild and Wonderful West Virginia and the beautiful Allegheny Mountains. The highlight of this morning's ride is the magnificent views as we pass through the New River Gorge. It is said that this is the most picturesque section of rail east of the Mississippi. The original Chesapeake and Ohio railroad company line was constructed, following the New River through the Gorge, between 1869 and 1872. The great tunnel of the C & O Railroad, known as the Big Bend Tunnel, is the scene of the steel drivers' ballad "John Henry."

At 11:25 a.m. we're scheduled to arrive in White Sulphur Springs, home of the magnificent Greenbrier Resort. Up until May of 2009, the resort was owned for 99 years by what is now known as the CSX Corporation. In the late 1950s, the U.S. government approached The Greenbrier for assistance. It wished to construct an Emergency Relocation Center—a bunker or bomb shelter—for use by the U.S. Congress in case of war. Between 1959 and 1962, the classified, underground facility was built in conjunction with an above ground addition to the hotel, the West Virginia Wing. For 30 years, the railroad owners of The Greenbrier and the federal government agreed that, in the case of an international crisis, the entire resort property would become the emergency location for Congress.

Enjoy lunch at the Greenbrier and a tour of the bunker.

Late afternoon finds us checking in at the Inn at Snowshoe, located at the base of the nearby winter ski resort, Snowshoe Mountain. Savor dinner at the train-themed Junction Restaurant located in Snowshoe Village at the mountains' summit, 4,848 feet above sea level. **B, L, D**

**Day 3: Cass, Green Bank, Elkins**

This morning a local guide joins us as we journey to the lumber town of Cass, previous home to the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company. Specially designed Shay steam engines were used to pull heavy lumber cars over steep grades in this rugged mountain terrain. Once you board the train (*Train #2*), the real excitement begins! The great pistons of the carefully restored Shay locomotive will start pulsing, driven by hundreds of pounds of steam pressure. With thick, black smoke belching from its stack, the train pulls away from the station, passing the water tower from which the locomotive tanks are filled. As the train rounds the curve up Leatherbark Creek, you'll pass the Cass Shop, where the locomotives are serviced and repaired, and a graveyard of antiquated but fascinating equipment on sidetracks.

As the pressure builds, the locomotive is driven at full steam, and the laborious journey up the mountain toward the two switchbacks begin. The loud huff of the stack, the clanking of gears and pistons, the furious scream of the whistle at the crossings, and the ever present clackety-clack of the rails will indeed make you feel as if you have been transported back in time. A boxed lunch will be provided to bring aboard the train.

Radio astronomy has profoundly changed and enlarged our understanding of our Universe, enabling new discover-



ies, opening new celestial windows, revealing an otherwise invisible Universe. This afternoon visit the fascinating National Radio Astronomy Observatory and learn how it enables scientists working with the forefront of technology to do research into the invisible Universe.

Late afternoon finds us in the quaint town of Weston at the Holiday Inn Express where we'll spend the next two nights. Dinner is included in Elkins at the Graceland Inn, the Victorian mansion located on the campus of Davis & Elkins College. This evening, clap your hands and stomp your feet at a wonderful performance at the Mountain Music Theatre. **B, L, D**

### Day 4: Elkins

In historic Durbin this morning, you have the opportunity to ride and experience the sights and sounds of one of the rarest steam locomotives in existence. The Durbin Rocket (*Train #3*) is powered by a rare steam locomotive; Old #3 is one of only three operating climax-g geared logging locomotives on earth. This 55-ton antique was built in 1910 for the Moore-Keppel Lumber Co. in nearby Randolph County. Today you will ride in an authentic 1920-era coaches and vintage wooden cabooses behind #3 as she puffs and whistles her way along the free-flowing Greenbrier River in Northern Pocahontas County. The ride offers many beautiful river and mountain views in the Monongahela National Forest. Lunch is included at the Durbin Depot.

This afternoon, travel into the high country spruce forests of legendary Cheat Mountain on the most distinctive rail excursion in the Eastern United States. Named in honor of the little endangered creature whose sole habitat is the river of the same name, the Cheat Mountain Salamander (*Train #4*) takes you through some of the wildest mountain wilderness you will ever experience. The excursion route includes many interesting features such as a long tunnel built with an "S" curve far underneath Cheat Mountain, numerous long mountain vistas, and many opportunities to view exotic wildlife including bald eagle and black bear sightings. A stop will be made at the inspirational "High Falls of the Cheat" and the former site of the notorious town of Spruce, WV, once the highest and coldest incorporated town east of the Mississippi. Dinner this evening is at the Railyard



Restaurant located next to the Elkins train station. **CB, L, D**

### Day 5: Romney, Cumberland, MD

Our journey continues north to the tiny town of Romney, home of the historic Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad (*Train #5*), one of America's most beautiful train rides. For three hours enjoy a narrated excursion through a tranquil and pristine mountain valley. View historic farms and lush mountain greenery. Around every curve unfolds the splendor of native wildflowers, evergreens, and mixed hardwoods in an unspoiled countryside environment. Experience "The Trough," a spectacular narrow mountain valley. Below runs the South Branch of the Potomac River, where the water is so clear fish are easily seen as they lie resting in the shade. Above, the high mountain walls and thick forest help keep a secret few have discovered.

You have entered a sacred place, the eastern home of our magnificent national symbol, the American Bald Eagle. These majestic birds soar high above in their natural habitat, undisturbed by the low rumblings of the occasional train and the passengers who have come for a sighting. Don't be surprised to see these superb flyers swooping overhead in pursuit of prey or gliding gently across the blue mountain skies as if to flaunt their supremacy of the air. Lunch is served on the train.

Evening finds us just over the border in Cumberland, Maryland, a town significant to the transportation industry being located on the Potomac River at the intersection of a major rail line, the National Road and the C & O Canal. Dinner is included at our hotel, the Holiday Inn. **CB, L, D**

### Day 6: Cumberland, En Route

Learn about Cumberland lore from a local guide this morning and stop at the beautiful Emmanuel Church. This church has several original Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass windows. The church was built on the site of old Ft. Cumberland and has a series of earthen tunnels that still exist below it. These tunnels were also used to hide slaves on the Underground Railroad.

Travel back through time aboard the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad (*Train #6*) with our 1916 Baldwin 2-8-0, Mountain Thunder, or restored diesel engine. You'll climb through the spectacular scenery of the Allegheny Mountains. A narrator will be aboard to provide you with information about the scenery, history, and culture along the route.

This scenic excursion runs round trip from the Western Maryland Station in Cumberland. There will be a 1-1/2 hour layover in Frostburg where you will watch as they turn the engine on a turntable. A visit to the interesting Thrasher Carriage Museum is included.

Once back in Cumberland there is plenty of free time at Canal Place to shop and explore the Canal Museum. Reminisce with your fellow travelers at our farewell dinner. Then at 7:14 p.m. board Amtrak's Capitol Limited (*Train #7*) and begin the journey back to Chicago. **B, L, D**

### Day 7: En Route, Chicago

After breakfast aboard the train, we're scheduled to arrive back in Chicago at 8:45 a.m. Some tour members will change trains bound for home destinations. Others will return home by air. **B**

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## MEALS

### 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.

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 origination 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 origination 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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