



THE SKEENA

WESTERN CANADA SCENIC EXPEDITION

Vancouver • Victoria • Vancouver Island • Inside Passage Cruise • Jasper • Banff • Calgary • Prince Rupert • Northern Expedition

Banff sightseeing and **Sulphur Mountain** gondola ride. Free time to explore this picturesque village.

Scenic **Lake Louise** and its majestic Chateau.

The **Icefields Parkway**, North America's most scenic highway, including a Snocoach venture onto the Athabasca Glacier.

Touring Class travel on **VIA Rail Canada's Skeena** through the rugged canyons, treacherous rapids and towering totem poles. Traverse both the Coast Mountains and western Canadian Rockies

Inside Passage cruise on the B. C. Ferry, Northern Expedition. Cruise the spectacular scenic waterway that extends from Washington State to Alaska.

- Days 1-2 Chicago to Shelby
- Day 3 Calgary / Banff
- Days 4-5 Banff / Icefields Parkway
- Day 6 Maligne Lake Cruise
- Day 7 Skeena / Prince George
- Day 8 Skeena / Prince Rupert

Rugged snow-capped mountains, trout-filled lakes, fir and cedar forests, rich farmland and clean, sandy beaches on 300-mile long **Vancouver Island**.

Victoria, the Western hemisphere's most "British" city, and the beautiful **Butchart Gardens**.

Vancouver, the dynamic city where the mountains meet the sea.

3600 miles of first-class travel on the **Empire Builder**, one of Amtrak's premier trains.

A VALID PASSPORT IS REQUIRED FOR THIS TOUR

- Day 9 Inside Passage
- Day 10 Port Hardy to Victoria
- Day 11 Victoria / Vancouver Island
- Day 12 Vancouver
- Days 13-15 En Route to Chicago

TOUR DATE(S):**2018**

Thurs., Aug. 9 to Thurs., Aug. 23

TOUR PRICE:*All prices are per person / double occupancy unless otherwise stated.***\$5,295 - 15 Days**

Upgrade: Bedroom + \$1,045

\$7,195 SINGLE**FLY OPTION** - Fly to Seattle and return from Calgary. 11 Days

Price: \$4,395

Single: \$5,695

America by Rail will be happy to arrange your flights. Airfare not included in above price.

YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- Round-trip transportation by Amtrak rail. Deluxe motorcoach in Western Canada.
- Two days aboard VIA's Skeena.
- Private Roomette sleeping accommodations on the trains for three nights
- First-class hotel accommodations for 11 nights.
- 25 meals.
- Extensive sightseeing including: admissions to Butchart Gardens, Athabasca Glacier Snocoach ride, Sulphur Mountain gondola ride.
- 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

Western Canada Scenic Expedition tour members will meet the Tour Director in Chicago's Union Station. Early this afternoon we will board Amtrak's Empire Builder for the 2:15 p.m. departure. Relax in your comfortable private Roomette or Bedroom sleeping accommodations. Go to the glass-walled Sightseer Lounge car for spectacular viewing. Enjoy a tastefully prepared dining car dinner this evening. **D**

Day 2: En Route

During the day we will roll across the remote flatlands of North Dakota and eastern Montana. Late this afternoon we'll arrive in Shelby, Montana.

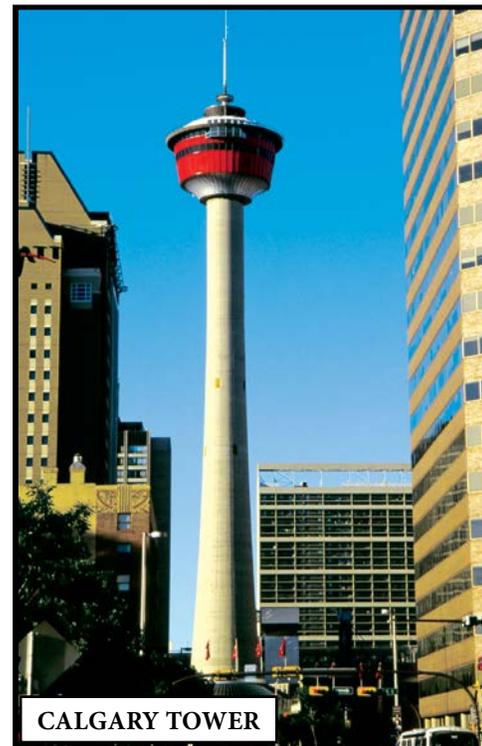
Upon arrival we will check into the Best Western Shelby Inn & Suites, our home for the night. **B & L**

Day 3: En Route / Banff

Following a Continental breakfast at our hotel. We will board our motorcoach for Canada's fourth largest city, Calgary.

We will visit the 626-foot Calgary Tower is one of the city's major attractions. We'll enjoy lunch (included) in the Tower's revolving restaurant and the panoramic view of the city and the nearby Rockies.

We will board our motorcoach and travel to Banff. We will arrive late afternoon.

**CALGARY TOWER**

Our home for the next two nights will be the Moose Hotel & Suites. **CB & L**

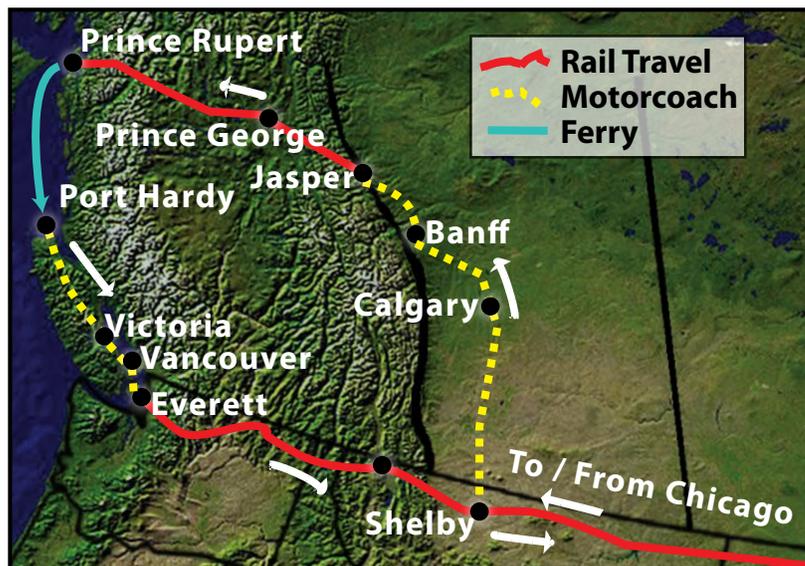
Day 4: Banff

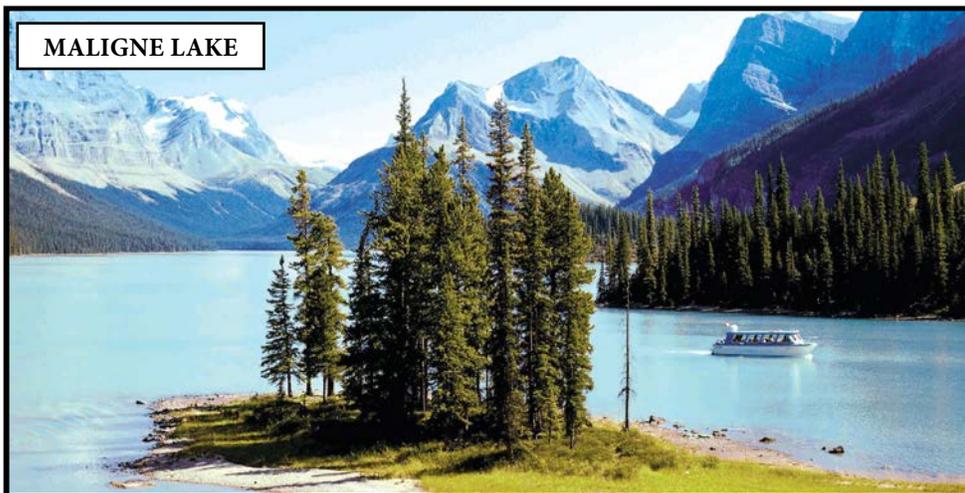
Following an included breakfast at the hotel we'll embark on a Discover Banff Tour. The highlight of the tour will be the gondola ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain for a spectacular view.

You're free this afternoon to rest, shop along Banff Avenue or visit the Natural History or Parks Canada Museums. **B**

Day 5: Icefields Parkway / Jasper

Following breakfast we will board our





MALIGNE LAKE

deluxe motorcoach and head for the Icefields Parkway, North America's most scenic highway, where frequent photo stops will be made. We'll visit the Columbia Icefield and Athabasca Falls. A ride out onto the Athabasca Glacier in a Snocoach will be a highlight of the tour. Another high point will be the visit to Lake Louise and its famous Chateau. The setting is one of the most picturesque in the Rockies. A box lunch will be served en route. We will arrive in Jasper late afternoon. Our home for the next two nights will be the Best Western Jasper Inn & Suites. **B & L**

Day 6: Maligne Lake Cruise

Following breakfast we'll board our motorcoach and travel to nearby Maligne Lake and embark on a scenic cruise.

Following our cruise we will return to our hotel. You are free the rest of the day to relax or explore the town. **B**

Day 7: Skeena / Prince George

A full breakfast is included in the hotel this morning. You are free to relax or explore this morning. We'll transfer to the Rail Station and board VIA Rail Canada's famed Skeena for our 466-mile rail journey to Prince George. Departure is scheduled for 12:45 p.m.

For the next two days you'll enjoy the Touring Class service on the train. You'll find comfortable reclining coach seats and access to the Dome Car. Lunch and dinner will be served en route.

Each of the 720 spectacularly scenic miles between Jasper and Prince Rupert is experienced during daylight hours.

We'll cross the Yellowhead Pass, one of the lowest passes along the Continental Divide.

We'll soon roll by the spectacular Mt. Robson, highest peak in the Canadian Rockies at 12,972 feet and soon be in the plateau country.

Arrival into Prince George is scheduled for 7:08 p.m. Upon arrival we will transfer to the Treasure Cove hotel, our home for the night. **B, L & D**

Day 8: Skeena / Prince Rupert

This morning we'll transfer to the VIA Rail station where we'll board the Skeena for the 8:00 a.m. departure to Prince Rupert. All meals are included on the train today.

Along a 40-mile stretch, you will see many tall totem poles created by local Native American artisans. We'll cross the Coastal Mountains of British Columbia. They rival the Canadian Rockies in beauty. Most of today we follow the Skeena River (Skeena means "river of the clouds") through rugged canyons

along rapids and beside waterfalls. The mountain views are fabulous.

When we arrive in Prince Rupert this evening, we'll be just 40 miles south of the Alaskan border. We'll continue to our hotel in this picturesque port, known as the Halibut capital of the world. Our hotel for tonight is the attractive Prince Rupert Hotel.

B, L & D

Day 9: Inside Passage

Early this morning we'll transfer to the ferry dock. If there is a single high point of this fabulous vacation, it is today's cruise through the famed Inside Passage from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy. Our vessel is British Columbia Ferry's beautiful 508-foot "Northern Expedition." We will depart at 7:30 a.m.

The Inside Passage, which extends from the Puget Sound to the Alaska Panhandle, is a world-renowned scenic destination. Protected on the east side by towering, snow-capped peaks of the Coast Mountain Range and by fir tree-covered islands on our west side, it is a natural marine highway. In addition to the breathtaking scenery, you're likely to see wildlife such as whales, porpoises, sea lions, majestic bald eagles and herons. The hours of daylight are extensive due to our close proximity to the North Pole.

This spectacular 15-hour cruise will include a Day Cruise cabin with two lower berths, a shower, washstand and toilet.

In addition to the all-inclusive buffet, there is a cafeteria serving hearty meals and light snacks. There is outside seating as well as comfortable lounges with relaxing, reclining seats and large picture



NORTHERN EXPEDITION

windows. Enjoy extensive shopping in the Passages gift shop.

Port Hardy is a seaport village at the northern tip of Vancouver Island. The Ferry is scheduled to arrive at 11:30 p.m.

Upon arrival we will transfer to the Pier Side Landing Hotel, our home for the night.

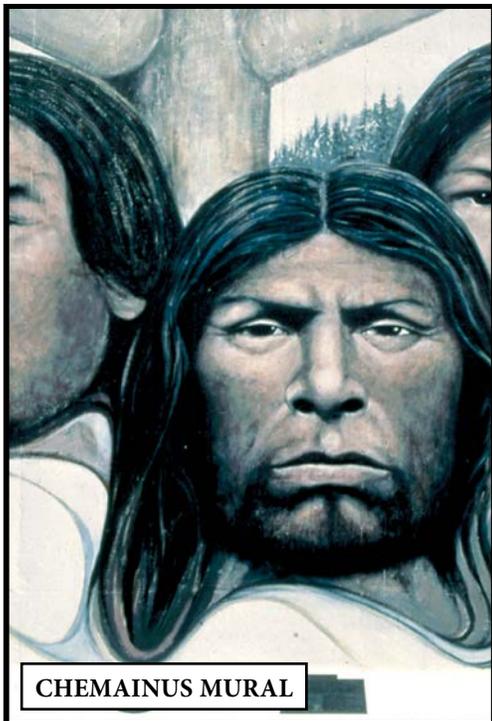
Day 10: Port Hardy / Vancouver Island

Following an included breakfast we'll board our motorcoach and strike out on a journey to the opposite end of Vancouver Island. This wonderfully scenic route takes us through a sparsely populated wilderness previously accessible only by boat or logging road. Photo stops will be made. We'll take a mid-morning break at picturesque Chemainus, the mural village.

By late afternoon we'll arrive in Victoria. We'll check in at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Suites where we'll spend the next two nights. Dinner is included at our hotel tonight. **B & D**

Day 11: Victoria

Breakfast is included in our hotel this morning. We'll board our motorcoach and visit the world-famous Butchart Gardens, a 35-acre tapestry of brilliant colors. You will have time for an "on-your-own" lunch.



CHEMAINUS MURAL



VICTORIA PARLIAMENT BUILDING

This afternoon we'll embark on an hour-and-a-half sightseeing tour of the city, including the Parliament buildings, the Provincial Museum, the University of Victoria and the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Uplands and Oak Bay residential areas and other sites.

We will return to our hotel. You are free to shop and to visit other attractions this evening. **B**

Day 12: Victoria / Vancouver

Breakfast is included at the hotel. We will board our motorcoach and transfer to the ferry dock.

At 9:00 a.m. we'll board a British Columbia ferry for the hour-and-a-half scenic crossing of the Strait of Georgia. Our journey will end in Vancouver.

You'll have time for an "on-your-own" lunch at Granville Island with its public market, brewery & thriving artist community.

This afternoon we'll embark on a sightseeing tour of the city. The tour will include Gastown, Chinatown, Stanley Park, English Bay, Marine Drive, the waterfront and Queen Elizabeth Park.

Our home for the night is the attractive, centrally located Blue Horizon Hotel. **B**

Day 13: Vancouver

You are free this morning to relax or explore Vancouver.

Following lunch we'll board our motorcoach and travel to Everett, Washington where we'll board the Empire Builder for the 5:39 p.m. departure for Chicago.

Roomette sleeping accommodations and all dining car meals are included. Upgrades to Bedrooms are available for an additional cost.

After settling in you can go to the sightseer lounge to enjoy the beautiful scenery. **D**

Day 14: En Route

Enjoy a delicious dining car breakfast and then head for the Sightseer Lounge car. Today a dramatic panorama of snow-capped Rocky Mountain peaks will begin to rise above the horizon, becoming increasingly dynamic as we approach Glacier National Park. The scenery is striking as we wind past waterfalls, river gorges and other sights. The rest of the day we'll cross the remote flatlands of eastern Montana and western North Dakota. **B, L & D**

Day 15: En Route to Chicago

Breakfast and lunch on the train are included. After we go through Minneapolis-St. Paul, we head south along the west bank of the Mississippi River. The train winds between the river bank and high bluffs. Later in the morning, we pass through the picturesque Dells Country of Wisconsin. The Empire Builder is scheduled to arrive in Chicago's Union Station late this afternoon.

At the conclusion of the tour some travelers will continue to home destinations. Others will spend the night in Chicago and continue home tomorrow. **B & L**

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT:

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

TOUR CANCELLATIONS:

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

- 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. All pricing is per person / double occupancy unless otherwise stated.

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

TRANSPORTATION

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

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.

HOTELS

Accommodations are based on two persons sharing a room. 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 single 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. An overnight bag 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), sightseeing 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 for the America by Rail Tour Directors are at your discretion; \$3-\$10 per person per day is the industry standard. 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:

America by Rail will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the special needs of tour participants. Such participants, however, should be aware that the Americans with Disabilities Act is inapplicable outside of the United States and facilities outside the United States for disabled individuals are limited. Any type of disability requiring special provisions must be reported to America by Rail at the time of registration. America by Rail is not required to provide participants with personal devices, such as wheelchairs or individually prescribed devices such as prescription eyeglasses, or to provide services of a personal nature including assistance in eating, toileting or dressing. Accordingly, all participants are responsible to participate without assistance of the America by Rail Tour Director or other attendant. Tour Directors are prohibited from providing physical assistance or accommodations (beyond normal civil courtesies, such as holding doors open for passing). It is recommended that participants requiring assistance, including those requiring the use of a mobility device, be accompanied by a travel companion who will be responsible to provide required assistance. Participants will be asked to submit a confidential medical form for each tour.

Those travelling with oxygen are required to advise America by Rail at least two weeks prior to departure. Amtrak requires all equipment, including oxygen concentrators, must be able to operate a minimum of four hours without available onboard electrical power (in the event of a power disruption onboard). Oxygen equipment must be Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM) listed. The total weight of all tanks may not exceed 120 lbs. Within this limit, no more than 2

tanks 50 lb each, or no more than 6 tanks 20 lbs each

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 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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