Thrill to this collection of five of the Western U.S. and Canada’s most extraordinary floral sites. It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Visit Descanso Gardens, home to North America’s largest Camellia collection, near Los Angeles.

50 acres of extraordinary color in bloom await you on a hillside overlooking the Pacific Ocean at Carlsbad’s Flower Fields.

The living collection at the Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland is home to more than ninety specimen trees, many rare and unusual shrubs and perennials, and signature collections.

Queen Elizabeth Park is the second most visited park in Vancouver and holds within its perimeters some of the most beautiful public gardens anywhere.

Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island is one of the finest displays in the world and heralds the season with hundreds of thousands of bulbs in bloom, joined by a host of flowering trees and shrubs. The gardens are alive with colors and scents of the season.

WESTERN FLOWER TOUR
Descanso Gardens • Carlsbad Flower Fields • Lan Su Chinese Garden • Butchart Gardens • Queen Elizabeth Park

A VALID PASSPORT IS REQUIRED FOR THIS TOUR.

Days 1-3 ...................... Chicago to Los Angeles
Day 3 ....................... Descanso Gardens
Day 4 ....................... Carlsbad Flower Fields
Days 5-6 ...................... Coast Starlight

Day 7 ....................... Lan Su Chinese Garden
Day 8 ....................... Butchart Gardens
Day 9 ....................... Queen Elizabeth Park
Days 10-12 .................. En Route to Chicago
Day 1: Depart Chicago

Western Flower Tour members will meet the Tour Director in Chicago's Union Station. The Willis Tower is close by. Other Chicago attractions are a brief cab ride away.

We’ll board the Southwest Chief this afternoon. The Chief features double-decker Superliner equipment. Relax in your comfortable private Roomette sleeping accommodations. Bedrooms are available at an additional cost. After settling in, you may want to go to the glass-walled Sightseer Lounge car. Coffee, juice, and water are available in your sleeping car. All meals on the trains are included beginning with a full-course dinner in the diner tonight.

Day 2: En Route

During the night we traveled across the state of Kansas. We will be near the Colorado border when you awake. Today you will begin to relive the excitement of the Santa Fe Trail as we cross New Mexico and Arizona. The huge train windows offer a panoramic view of the spectacular scenery. You will have time for a trainside walk when we arrive in Albuquerque mid afternoon. Spend time in the Sightseer Lounge car. All three delicious dining car meals are included today. B, L & D

Day 3: Descanso Gardens

You’ll want to have an early breakfast (included) since we’re scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles' Union Station at 8:15 a.m.

Upon arrival, we’ll board our deluxe motorcoach and travel for about an hour to La Canada Flintridge, home of the Descanso Gardens. (www.descansogardens.org)

Today Descanso Gardens is home to North America's largest camellia collection – more than 34,000 plants and more than 700 camellia taxa, which includes species, varieties, cultivars and hybrids, growing on 20 acres.

Many of these camellias are more than 20 feet in height. The Camellia Forest boasts rare and familiar camellias and has been designated an International Camellia Garden of Excellence by the International Camellia Society. Camellias at Descanso bloom from early autumn to spring.

Before the area was opened to the public as Descanso Gardens, the land was an oak forest. In the late 1930s and 1940s, when newspaper publisher E. Manchester Boddy was building his estate called Rancho del Descanso, he planted thousands of camellias in the shade of the oaks to provide blossoms for the cut-flower industry. Those camellias, and others added in later years, continue to thrive.

A boxed lunch is included.

Following our visit to the Descanso Gardens, we’ll continue on to Universal

**TOUR DATE(S):**

2016
Thurs., April 14 to Mon., April 25

**TOUR PRICE:**

All prices are per person / double occupancy unless otherwise stated.

$3,495 - 12 Days
Upgrades: Bedroom + $1,295

$4,795 SINGLE

**FLY OPTION** - Fly to Los Angeles, return from Seattle. 8 Days
Price: $2,575
Single: $2,975

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

**YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:**

- Round-trip transportation by Amtrak rail and deluxe motorcoach.
- First-class hotel accommodations for six nights.
- Private Roomette sleeping accommodations on the trains for five nights.
- Sightseeing at Yosemite and admission to all included activities.
- Baggage handling, taxes & tips.
- 16 meals.
- 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.**
City where we’ll enjoy the hospitality of the Hilton Universal City hotel for the next two nights.

Count on a variety of fun activities during your two nights in Universal City.

Universal CityWalk Hollywood is a three-block entertainment, dining and shopping promenade. Options include more than 30 great places to eat, a 19-screen movie theatre featuring an eight-story-high IMAX®, seven hot night spots including the new Jon Lovitz Comedy Club and Samba Brazilian Steakhouse & Lounge, indoor skydiving, and more than 30 stores.

**Day 4: Carlsbad Flower Fields**

This morning we’ll board a deluxe motorcoach and travel south along the Pacific Ocean coastline to Carlsbad, home of the Flower Fields. (www.theflowerfields.com)

Take yourself out of the ordinary and spend a few hours in one of nature’s wonders - the Fields of Dreams, the Fields of Color. 50 acres of extraordinary color in bloom on a hillside overlooking the Pacific Ocean, with a special nursery, garden, and gift shop.

You’ll want to visit the Miniature Rose Garden. The American Rose Society’s highest award for miniature roses, The Award of Excellence, is presented to cultivars that have proved to be outstanding in designated test gardens throughout the United States over the two year period.

Our visit will continue into the afternoon. An “on-your-own” lunch is available. A tractor-pulled cart will carry us around the fields.

We’ll return to Los Angeles and Universal City. Enjoy another fabulous evening on the CityWalk.

**Day 5: Coast Starlight**

This morning we’ll transfer by motorcoach to Los Angeles’ Union Station. At 10:10 a.m. we’ll depart on the famous Coast Starlight. We’ll travel 1190 miles from Los Angeles to Portland.

Relax in your comfortable private Superliner sleeping accommodations. After settling in, you may want to go to the glass-walled Sightseer Lounge car. Coffee, juice, and water are available in your car.

The scenic highlights of the day will be the traversing of a number of mountain ranges and about 100 miles of the awesome Pacific Ocean coastline. L & D

**Day 6: Coast Starlight / Portland**

Set your own leisurely schedule today as you continue to enjoy all of the activities aboard this train.

You won’t want to miss the spectacular scenery of the towering, snow-covered Cascade Mountains (with its 22 tunnels and innumerable hairpin turns) that is just outside your wide train window this morning.

We will continue to roll northward this afternoon through the Willamette Valley. Our arrival into Portland is scheduled for 3:32 p.m. We’ll transfer to the Courtyard by Marriott Portland City Center. There are restaurant options nearby. B & L

**Day 7: Lan Su Chinese Garden**

This morning we’ll visit the Lan Su Chinese Garden. The mission of the Lan Su Chinese Garden is to cultivate an oasis of tranquil beauty and harmony to inspire, engage, and educate the global community in the appreciation of a richly authentic Chinese culture. (www.lansugarden.org)

The living collection at the Lan Su Chinese Garden presents hundreds of native Chinese plant species and forms. The Garden is home to more than ninety specimen trees, many rare and unusual shrubs and perennials, and signature collections that include Magnolia, Cymbidium, Camellia, Osmanthus, Rhododendron and Bamboo.

Many of these plants have a long history in traditional Chinese gardens while others reflect the efforts of relatively recent expeditions into China’s hinterlands for wild-collected species virtually unknown in the West. Still others speak to the work of scientists and plantsmen to showcase desirable characteristics through breeding and selection of garden worthy hybrids and cultivars.

The Garden’s mission in developing this unique and diverse living collection is twofold. As a botanical garden, they seek to create as much diversity as possible within a small footprint (only one city block). Their goal is to provide visitors with a microeconomic view of the wealth of China’s native flora.

Following an “on-your-own” lunch, we’ll transfer to the Portland Amtrak station where we’ll board a Cascade Service train for Vancouver, British Columbia.
The Talgo train features comfortable reclining coach seats and a Lounge/Bistro car where sandwiches, snacks and beverages are available.

Arrival into Vancouver is scheduled for 10:50 p.m. Upon arrival, we'll transfer to the Blue Horizon hotel, our home for the next three nights.

**Day 8: Butchart Gardens**

This morning we'll board a British Columbia ferry for Vancouver Island.

If there were a highlight for this magnificent floral adventure, it would probably be Butchart Gardens. You'll find a 35-acre tapestry of brilliant colors in a former limestone quarry. ([www.butchartgardens.com](http://www.butchartgardens.com))

Spectacular Spring bursts forth in a show of unparalleled beauty. One of the finest displays in the world heralds the season with hundreds of thousands of bulbs in bloom, joined by a host of flowering trees and shrubs. The gardens are alive with the colors and scents of Spring.

Each year over 1,000,000 bedding plants in some 700 varieties are used throughout the Gardens to ensure uninterrupted bloom from March through October. At the time of our visit 26 varieties of flowers are listed as “in bloom.”

An “on-your-own” lunch is available at several on-site spots.

We will return to our hotel for our final evening in Vancouver.

**Day 9: Queen Elizabeth Park**

This morning we’ll transfer the short distance to Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver’s horticultural jewel. Queen Elizabeth Park holds within its perimeters some of the most beautiful public gardens anywhere. ([vancouver.ca/parks/parks/queenelizabeth](http://vancouver.ca/parks/parks/queenelizabeth))

The seasonally changing and beautifully planted Quarry Gardens astound residents and tourists alike as viewed from the park’s upper reaches or from the bottom looking up. Expertly positioned, select ornamental trees and shrubs are especially unusual.

The main Quarry Garden offers a moment of high drama when first approached and viewed from the park’s rim. The once massive excavation is now home to lawns and an array of specimen trees and shrubs selected for their foliage, form and flower. Impressively planted perennial and annual flower beds boast colorful varieties featuring new cultivars and old favorites along with decades-old tree fucsias and lantanas accentuating island beds.

The park's commanding location makes it the home base of a diverse number of attractions including one of Canada’s best arboretums and the Bloedel Floral Conservatory.

Bloedel Floral Conservatory, the spectacular tripodetic dome capping Queen Elizabeth Park, is filled with dazzling displays of exotic plants, tropical flowers, colorful “Koi” fish, and eye-catching birds.

We will return to our hotel this evening.

**Day 10: En Route**

You are free this morning to relax or take in more of Vancouver’s sights before we board a deluxe motorcoach for Seattle.

This afternoon we’ll board Amtrak’s Empire Builder and travel 2200 miles to Chicago. Relax in your private Roomette sleeping accommodations. Bedrooms are available at an additional cost. All full course dining car meals are included.

The Empire Builder is one of Amtrak’s premier trains. The gourmet side of riding the Empire Builder will begin at dinner and continue through tomorrow’s three meals and breakfast and lunch the following day. After settling in, you may want to go to the glass-walled Sightseer Lounge to enjoy the beautiful Puget Sound scenery between Seattle and Everett. 

**Day 11: En Route**

Enjoy a delicious dining car breakfast and then head for the Sightseer Lounge car. About 8:00 a.m., a dramatic panorama of snow-covered 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.

**Day 12: En Route to Chicago**

Breakfast and lunch on the train are included. The train makes a brief stop in Minneapolis - St. Paul this morning and heads south along the west bank of the Mississippi River. The train travels between the river bank and high bluffs. Later we pass through the picturesque Dells Country of Wisconsin. The Empire Builder is scheduled to arrive in Chicago’s Union Station late this afternoon.

Upon arrival some travelers will continue to home destinations. Others will spend the night in Chicago and continue home tomorrow.
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. 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.

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. 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 passage of one suitcase per person is included at overnight stops. 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 service by 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, reservations, 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 accommodations 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 are 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 the time passengers are not notified 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 resulting from, nor shall be responsible or liable whatsoever in connection with, misprints or errors of any kind, whether

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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