TRAINS OF WEST VIRGINIA
New River Gorge • Greenbrier • Cumberland • Cass • Durbin • Cheat Mountain Salamander • Western Maryland Scenic

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 four historic trains through the Appalachian Mountains during the height of leaf peeping season: Cass Railroad, Durbin Rocket, Cheat Mountain Salamander 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.

Explore the Oakland Railroad Depot and Transportation Museum and the Allegany County Historical Society Museum.

Day 1..........................Chicago to West Virginia
Day 2..........................New River Gorge, Greenbrier
Day 3..........................Cass, Green Bank
Day 4..........................Elkins
Day 5..........................Oakland / Cumberland
Day 6..........................Cumberland, En Route
Day 7..........................En Route to Chicago
TOUR DATE(S):
2018

TOUR PRICE:
All prices are per person / double occupancy unless otherwise stated.
$2,395 - 7 Days
Upgrades: Roomette + $395
Bedroom + $645
SINGLE $2,645
Upgrades: Roomette +$790

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 four historic local trains.
• Astronomy Radio Observatory, the Gandy Dinner Theater, Thrasher Carriage Museum and the Canal Place Museum.
• Baggage handling, taxes & tips.
• Services of a professional America by Rail Tour Director.

Day 1: Depart Chicago
Trains of West Virginia tour members will meet the Tour Director in Chicago's Union Station. At 5:00 p.m. we’ll board Amtrak's Cardinal (Train #1 of the six 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
Throughout the night the Cardinal cut across the fertile farm fields of Indiana and then traversed along 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 11:39 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 this afternoon we will check into the Fairfield Inn & Suites in Lewisburg. Dinner tonight is included. B, L & D

Day 3: Cass, Green Bank, Elkins
Following breakfast, a local guide joins us for the next three days.

We will 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 plus 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 discoveries, opening new celestial windows, revealing an otherwise

AMERICA BY RAIL WILL BE HAPPY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR CONNECTING TRANSPORTATION TO CHICAGO AND BACK BY RAIL OR AIR.
invisible Universe. This afternoon we’ll 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.

This evening we will check into The Isaac Jackson Hotel, our home for the next two nights.

This evening, enjoy a wonderful dinner and performance at the Gandy Dinner Theatre. B, L & D

Day 4: Elkins
A Continental breakfast is included in the hotel both mornings.

This morning in historic Durbin 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-gear 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 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. 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: Oakland / Cumberland
Our journey continues north where we will visit the Oakland Railroad Depot and Garrett County Transportation Museum.

Return to the past as you visit two floors of exhibits. The first floor features carriages, sleighs, buggies, fire department artifacts and automobiles, along with a representation of A.D. Naylor’s Blacksmith Shop, one of the earliest and most prominent businesses in Oakland. The second floor called the Deep Creek Gallery, hosts a variety of exhibits documenting the history of Deep Creek Lake and nearby Maryland State Parks of Herrington Manor, Swallow Falls, New Germany and Deep Creek.

We will transfer to the Penn Alps Restaurant for an included lunch. You will have time to visit the Spruce Forest Artisan Village. Imagine yourself back in time when the local artisans of a community supplied the crows, dry goods, wrought iron tools and decorative elements of the household. You will find treasures and memories to keep for yourself and others. Enjoy the grounds and relaxed atmosphere.

Mid afternoon we will depart for Cumberland, MD, a town significant to the transportation industry being located on the Potomac River at the intersection of the modern CSX Railroad and the historic National Road and the C & O Canal.

We will visit the Allegany County Historical Society Museum where you can see exhibits from prehistoric times, to George Washington, to the Revolutionary War and to the Civil War.

Dinner is included today. We will be staying at the Ramada Cumberland Downtown. 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 #5) 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.

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 7:24 p.m. board Amtrak’s Capitol Limited (Train #6) and begin the journey home. CB, L & D

Day 7: En Route to 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 by air. B
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 CANCELLATION:
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-bedroomed 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 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 meals are not included.

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 country of citizenship.

HEALTH, DISABILITY 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 are not required to accommodate the special needs of such individuals. America by Rail shall not be obligated to honor any special request of tour participants requiring assistance, including those with visual, hearing, physical, mental, or emotional impairments. 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 special assistance or accommodations to 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. 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.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:
The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), acting as an agent for the owners and contractors providing means of transportation, hotel or other services are offered or provided. America by Rail shall not be responsible to accommodate the special needs of tour participants requiring assistance, including those with visual, hearing, physical, mental, or emotional impairments. 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 special assistance or accommodations to 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. 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. America by Rail is the registered trademark of America by Rail Inc.

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