HEART OF THE WEST
The Grand Canyon • Durango & Silverton Railroad • Mesa Verde • Monument Valley • Colorado Rockies

The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River is one of the world’s outstanding spectacles. In form, size and flowing colors, it is unsurpassed.

Monument Valley provides perhaps the most enduring and definitive images of the American West. The isolated red mesas and buttes are surrounded by empty, sandy deserts which have been filmed and photographed countless times.

Two days in charming Durango. Ride the famous Durango & Silverton Scenic Railroad’s steam powered excursion train.

See hundreds of the world’s largest and best cliff dwellings; ruins that date from the 1200s at Mesa Verde National Park.

Travel 3,000 non-redundant rail miles: 1,700 on the Southwest Chief through New Mexico and Arizona and 1,300 on the California Zephyr including the majestic Colorado Rockies.

Days 1-2 ....................... Chicago to Flagstaff
Day 3.......................... The Grand Canyon
Day 4.......................... Monument Valley
Day 5.......................... Mesa Verde
Day 6.......................... Durango & Silverton
Days 7-8 ....................... En Route to Chicago
Day 1: Depart Chicago

Heart of the West tour members will meet the Tour Director in Chicago's Union Station. The Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower) is close by. Other Chicago attractions are a brief cab ride away.

This afternoon we'll board the Southwest Chief prior to its 3:00 p.m. departure. Relax in your comfortable reclining coach seat with leg rest. Roomettes or Bedrooms may be available at an additional cost and include dining car meals.

You will want to spend time in the Sightseer Lounge where the glass windows rise from the floor level to the ceiling. It is a great place to view the passing scenery. This evening you can enjoy an optional full-course dinner in the dining car; lighter fare is available in the lounge car.

Day 2: En Route / Flagstaff

During the night we traveled across the state of Kansas. We will be near the Colorado border when you awaken. Today you will experience the excitement of the Santa Fe Trail as we cross New Mexico and Arizona.

You will have time for a trainside walk when we arrive in Albuquerque at mid afternoon. Our arrival into Flagstaff, AZ is scheduled for 8:51 p.m. Upon arrival we'll transfer the short distance to the Comfort Inn.

Day 3: The Grand Canyon

Following breakfast we'll travel by deluxe motorcoach to the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon of the Colorado River is one of the world’s outstanding spectacles. In form, size, flowing color and geological significance, it is unsurpassed!

We will view the Canyon from several observation areas.

Day 4: Monument Valley

The highlight of the day will be our drive through nearby Monument Valley. The region provides perhaps the most enduring and definitive images of the American West. The isolated red mesas and buttes surrounded by empty, sandy deserts have been filmed and photographed countless times over the years for movies, advertisements and holiday brochures. Because of this, the area may seem quite familiar, even on a
first visit, but it is soon evident that the natural colors really are as bright and deep as those in all the pictures.

The area lies entirely within the Navajo Indian Reservation on the Utah / Arizona border. An “on-your-own” lunch stop will be made. By late afternoon we will arrive in the charming city of Durango, commercial center for the ranching and mining enterprises of southwest Colorado and gateway to 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. The DoubleTree is our home for the next two nights. 

Day 5: Mesa Verde

A full breakfast is included each morning at the hotel. This morning we’ll travel westward to Mesa Verde National Park, one of our Nation’s major archeological preserves. Many large canyons seam the Mesa Verde area. In the shelter of the hundreds of caves eroded in the cliffs are some of the world’s largest and best preserved cliff dwellings. The cave dwellings were occupied around 1200 A.D. Ruins Road covers 12 miles and provides a view of about 40 cliff dwellings from the canyon rim. We’ll return to our hotel mid afternoon. Dinner is included this evening. B & D

Day 6: Durango & Silverton

A high point of our tour will occur today when we ride on 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 Silverton, 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 have an “on-your-own” lunch.

The DoubleTree in Grand Junction is our home for the night. Dinner is included at our hotel. B & D

Day 7: Colorado Rockies

A full breakfast is included in our hotel this morning. We’ll transfer to the Amtrak train station in time for the 10:23 a.m. departure of the California Zephyr. Relax in your reclining coach seat with leg rest. Sleeping car accommodations may be available at an additional cost. Enjoy the Sightseer Lounge and other amenities you experienced on your westbound journey. This afternoon we’ll be treated to some of the most spectacular scenery in North America as our train winds through the Colorado Rockies. We’ll encounter mountain peaks that reach to the sky and roaring streams winding through valleys far below. We’ll go through numerous tunnels, the final one being the famous 6.2-mile-long Moffat Tunnel that will take us under the Continental Divide. Our arrival into Denver this evening is scheduled for 6:38 p.m. You will have time for a brief stroll at this beautiful new station. B

Day 8: En Route to Chicago

Our train will roll across Iowa and Illinois before our late afternoon arrival in Chicago. Some tour members will change to trains bound for Midwest, Eastern and Southern home cities. Others may spend the night in Chicago and fly home tomorrow.
REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT:
A deposit of $500 per person, of which $250 per person is non-refundable, is required to finalize registration. The balance is due 120 days prior to departure. Amtrak accommodation upgrades and any connecting transportation charges are due at time of reservation. If payments are not received by the due date specified, reservations may be cancelled without notice.

TOUR CANCELLATIONS:
If cancellation is received by America by Rail more than 120 days prior to departure, $250 of your deposit will be retained. For cancellations received within 120 days of departure, the following per person cancellation fees apply:
- 76-120 days prior to departure: 25% of total tour cost.
- 61-75 days prior to departure: 50% of total tour cost.
- 31-60 days prior to departure: 85% of total tour cost.
- 30 days or less prior to departure: 100% of total tour cost.

The total tour cost includes tour price, add-ons and upgrades. Air and connecting rail cancellations are subject to the carrier’s policy:
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:
As specified in the tour itinerary, upgrades may be available at an additional cost.

- CRUISE ACCOMMODATIONS:
Rail / Sail 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. Transferring and portering 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 for meals (except to chambermaids), sightseeing guides and drivers 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 applicable 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 lbs 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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