Enjoy a sightseeing tour of historic Charleston, covering about 300 years of American history. The American Revolution and War Between the States will capture your interest as you stop at the Battery Park waterfront.

You’ll visit Fort Sumter, which was the target of the Confederate barrage that ignited the Civil War.

The Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex is the only place in the world where you can walk under the largest rocket ever made, touch an actual moon rock, meet a veteran NASA astronaut and travel back in time in the Rocket Garden.

A trip across the 125-mile Overseas Highway to Key West will be a high point of your tour. Key West is a charming city where you can stroll on sandy beaches, enjoy Bahamian style architecture and dine on fantastic Caribbean Cuisine!


Sit back, relax and enjoy hundreds of miles of comfortable travel on Amtrak’s Palmetto, Silver Meteor and Capital Limited.

Days 1-2 .................. Chicago to Washington, DC
Days 3-4 ................. En Route / Charleston
Days 5-6 .................. En Route / St. Augustine
Day 7 ..................... Kennedy Space Center

Days 8-9 .................. Key West
Days 10-11 ............... En Route / Washington, DC
Days 12-13 ............... En Route to Chicago
Day 1: Depart Chicago

Southern Exposure tour members meet in Chicago Union Station this afternoon. We will board the eastbound Capitol Limited prior to its 6:40 p.m. departure.

Relax in your reclining coach seat with leg rest. Superliner Roomettes or Bedrooms are available for an additional cost.

You’ll want to spend time in the Sightseer Lounge where the glass windows rise from floor level to the ceiling. It is a great place to view the passing scenery.

You’re free to explore the train. Snacks, sandwiches and beverages are available in the lounge car.

Dinner in the dining car. is included tonight. D*

Day 2: En Route / Washington

You’ll want to enjoy breakfast this morning in the dining car as our train winds through the beautiful Allegheny Mountains.

Arrival into Washington, DC Union Station is scheduled for 1:10 p.m. This stately building is much more than a train station. There is an expansive food court, six full service restaurants and more than 100 specialty shops on three levels with items from jewelry and apparel to gifts and boutique items and much more. A walk outside the station provides a view of the United States Capitol Building and the amazing United States Postal Museum is just across the street.

We’ll board our deluxe motorcoach and transfer to the Courtyard by Marriott, Charleston Historic District, our home for the night. East Coast travelers will join us at the hotel. A Welcome Dinner is included this evening. B* & D

Day 3: En Route / Charleston

This morning we’ll board Amtrak’s Palmetto for the 10:00 a.m. departure.

Sandwiches, snacks and beverages are available in the Café Car.

A boxed dinner will be included prior to our 7:19 p.m. arrival into Charleston.

Upon arrival we will transfer to the Courtyard by Marriott, Charleston Historic District, our home for two nights. B & D

Day 4: Charleston

Following a full, hot breakfast in the Bistro Dining room, we’ll board our motorcoach for a sightseeing tour of this historic city. We’ll drive through...
narrow streets lined with magnificent townhouses of Colonial planters. You’ll learn about 300 years of American history as you see where generations of patriots lived, worked and worshiped in some of America’s oldest buildings. The American Revolution and the War Between the States will capture your interest as you stop at the Battery waterfront and see the elegance of a Charleston restoration.

The Civil War began at Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. On April 12, 1861, Confederate troops directed the opening shots of the Civil War against Fort Sumter. Confederates captured the fort and held it throughout the day defying the blockade and Federal attempts to recapture it. This afternoon we’ll embark on a two-and-one-half hour cruise and tour of Fort Sumter. Following our sightseeing tour we will return to our hotel. B

Day 5: En Route St. Augustine

This morning we’ll board a deluxe motorcoach for the ride to St. Augustine, FL, America’s oldest city. It was in this area that Juan Ponce de Leon, in search of the legendary Fountain of Youth, landed on April 3, 1513 and took possession of the region for Spain. The first European settlement in what is now the United States was established in 1565. Still preserving strong evidence of its Spanish origin, St. Augustine’s Old City is being restored to a likeness of its Colonial days.

An “on-your-own” lunch stop will be made en route.

Upon arrival we will check into the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, St. Augustine, our home for the next two nights. B

Day 6: St. Augustine

Following a hot breakfast buffet we will embark on a sightseeing tour of this fascinating area. There are 19 major historic attractions, including the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, America’s Oldest home and many more. We’ll return to our hotel. You’re free the rest of the day to begin your own exploration of our first city.

We’ll board a rubber-wheeled train this afternoon. You can get off at any one of the many attractions you will pass by. Visit for as long as you want, another train will carry you to the next attraction. Tonight the Tour Director will host dinner. B & D

Day 7: Kennedy Space Center

Following breakfast in our hotel we’ll board a deluxe motorcoach and transfer to Cape Canaveral where our first stop will be the Kennedy Space Center.

The Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex is the only place in the world where you can walk under the largest rocket ever made, touch an actual moon rock and meet a veteran NASA astronaut. In the Rocket Garden you will experience the very same rockets that first put NASA astronauts in space. Climb aboard Mercury-Redstone, Gemini and Apollo capsules and get an idea of the cramped quarters our astronauts endured.

Following our tour we will board our motorcoach for West Palm Beach. Upon arrival, we will check into the Courtyard West Palm Beach, our home for the night B

Day 8: En Route Key West

Following an included breakfast we’ll board our deluxe motorcoach and embark on one of the most unusual journeys in the world... the Overseas Highway. You’ll pass over hundreds of islands connected by pile-driven causeways.

Following our early afternoon arrival in Key West, the southernmost city in the U.S., we’ll check in at the attractive DoubleTree by Hilton Grand Key Resort, our home for the next two nights.

Discover the quaint charm of a city that was the home of pirates several centuries ago. With its rocky shores, sandy beaches and weathered homes, Key West resembles a New England seacoast town, except for the Bahamian-styled architecture. The Caribbean influence extends to the cuisine, which includes turtle steak, conch chowder, hot bollos and key lime pie.

The Mallory Square section is a beehive of exciting markets, shops and museums. Harry Truman's Little White House, the Lighthouse Museum, Shipwreck Historeum and Mel Fisher's Maritime
Day 9: Key West

This morning we’ll board a Conch Train. This rubber-wheeled conveyance with open-canopied cars will travel 14 miles through both old and new Key West.

You’ll tour the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum where he wrote many of his most important works, including “For Whom the Bell Tolls” and “A Farewell to Arms”. The John J. Audubon House and Gardens is where the noted artist and bird enthusiast painted wildlife of the Florida Keys.

Sunsets in Key West are spectacular . . . perhaps the best in the world. This evening we’ll board a sightseeing boat and cruise off shore for a great view of this beautiful daily event.

We will return to our hotel for our last night in Key West. B

Day 10: En Route Boca Raton

Following breakfast we’ll board our motorcoach for Boca Raton.

We will stop in Ft. Lauderdale for an included dinner.

Upon arrival we will check into the Hampton Inn, Boca Raton. B

Day 11: En Route

Following a Continental breakfast we will transfer to the Amtrak station for the 9:08 a.m. departure of the northbound Silver Meteor.

Relax in your reclining coach seat with leg rest. Viewliner Roomettes and Bedrooms are available for an additional price.

Lunch and dinner are included in the diner today. CB, L & D

Day 12: Washington, DC

This morning we’ll be rolling through the beautiful Virginia countryside. Our arrival in Washington DC is scheduled for 7:07 a.m.

You will have time for an “on-your-own” breakfast in Union’s Station extensive food court prior to our embarking on a sightseeing tour of Washington.

Destinations will include the World War II, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Korean and Vietnam Memorials. We will also drive by the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Pentagon, the Capital, Library of Congress, Supreme Court and the White House.

An “on-your-own” lunch stop will be made.

We will continue to Arlington National Cemetery where you’ll see the Kennedy gravesites and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and witness the ceremonial changing of the guard.

Following the tour we will check into the Holiday Inn Capitol, our home for the night.

Day 13: Washington, DC

East Coast travelers will depart for home destinations.

Our hotel is a short distance to the Washington Mall. You are free to explore the area this morning.

Early afternoon we will board our motorcoach and transfer to the train station for our overnight trip back to Chicago. D*

Day 14: En Route to Chicago

A full-course dining car breakfast will be served this morning as we race past the small cities and towns of Indiana.

Our arrival into Chicago’s Union Station is scheduled for 8:45 a.m. B*

*Midwest travelers only.
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 requested 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 least two weeks prior to departure. 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 handled by America by Rail 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), scheduled transfers, motorcoaches 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 waiters 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; tip 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 (normal 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 participant containing all tour participants' names and addresses. Such participants containing all tour participants' names and addresses should be aware that the America by Rail Tour Director or other attendant. Tour Directors are prohibited from providing physical assistance or accommodations (normal 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 participant containing all tour participants' names and addresses. Such participants containing all tour participants' names and addresses should be aware that if travel 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 acts, omissions, or event during the time passengers are 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.