

Choice Travel presents

Colorado Rockies, Rails & Western National Parks

9 Days

September 20, 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 Train Experiences
Durango & Silverton Railroad
Royal Gorge Railroad
- 4 National Park Visits
Mesa Verde Nat'l Park
Arches National Park
Canyonlands Nat'l Park
Great Sand Dunes Nat'l Park
- 2 Nights - Durango, CO
- 3 Nights - Colorado Springs
- 2 Nights - Grand Junction
- Vail, CO
- Moab, Utah
- Denver, CO
- Dead Horse Point State Park
- Garden of the Gods
- U.S. Air Force Academy
- Cowboy Dinner & Show
- U.S. Olympic Training Center
- Royal Gorge Bridge



Booking Discount - Save \$200 per couple!*

Contact Information

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Booking #139122 (Web Code)

Colorado Rockies, Rails & Western National Parks

DAY 1: ARRIVE DENVER

Upon arrival in Denver meet your Tour Director and transfer to your hotel for an overnight stay in the Mile High City. This evening join your Tour Director and fellow travelers for a **Welcome Dinner**.

✕ (D) Overnight: **Denver**

DAY 2: DENVER - VAIL - GRAND JUNCTION

Today travel west of Denver and stop in **Vail**, a favorite year round resort destination for tourism and outdoor activity. Explore the Vail Village, the downtown district reminiscent of a Bavarian Village includes a clock tower & features diverse shops and restaurants in addition to breathtaking mountain views. Later continue west and arrive in **Grand Junction** for a two night stay.

✕ (B) Overnight: **Grand Junction**

DAY 3: GRAND JUNCTION - CANYONLANDS & ARCHES NAT'L PARKS - GRAND JUNCTION

Today travel west into Utah to visit two of our country's great national parks. This morning visit **Canyonlands National Park** featuring deeply eroded canyons interspersed with sheer-sided mesas and a variety of spires, arches and unusual rock formations. Then stop at **Dead Horse Point State Park** for an amazing view of the Colorado River. A short ride brings you to **Moab**, Utah for lunch on your own in this town famous for western movie making. This afternoon visit **Arches National Park** to see some of the famous arches (over 2,000 in total) and marvel at other red rock formations and canyons. Return to Grand Junction for an evening at your own pace.

✕ (B) Overnight: **Grand Junction**

DAY 4: GRAND JUNCTION - DURANGO & SILVERTON RAILROAD

Today journey south to Silverton, secluded in a mountain valley at an elevation of 9,318 feet to begin a wonderful train experience. It's all-aboard the 1881 coal-fired, steam-powered **Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad** for a spectacular rail journey through the San Juan National Forest following the sheer cliffs of Animas River. Arrive in historic **Durango** for a two night stay. Durango began as a mining town during the gold and silver booms. Today it's a center of year round tourism, commerce, culture and ranching featuring a Victorian downtown where you can enjoy the spirit of a bygone era.

✕ (B) Overnight: **Durango**

DAY 5: DURANGO - MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK - DURANGO

This morning visit **Mesa Verde National Park**, home to the largest and best preserved Anasazi Indian cliff dwellings in the Southwest including the famous Cliff Palace. Venture out on the Mesa Top Loop Road which winds around overlooks to see some of the 4,000 ruin sites including 600 cliff dwellings. This evening in the Durango area enjoy a fun-filled dining experience at the **Bar D Chuckwagon Supper & Western Stage Show**.

✕ (B,D) Overnight: **Durango**

DAY 6: DURANGO - GREAT SAND DUNES NAT'L PARK - COLORADO SPRINGS

Today travel east to **Great Sand Dunes National Park**, established in 2004 & known for huge dunes and beaches created at the base of the dunes. Stop at a Visitor Center to learn more about this National Park, containing the tallest sand dunes in North America, rising to a maximum height of 750 feet from the floor of the San Luis Valley on the western base of the Sangre de Cristo Range. Later, journey to **Colorado Springs**, a picturesque city situated at the foot of famous

Pikes Peak & check in for a 3-night stay. "The Springs" as it is commonly referred to attracts thousands of visitors each year for its picturesque setting, natural wonders, history & military sights.

✕ (B) Overnight: **Colorado Springs**

DAY 7: U.S. OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER - GARDEN OF THE GODS - U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

This morning visit the **U.S. Olympic Training Center** where Olympic dreams begin and talented athletes live and train. A mild climate, incredible natural training grounds and awe-inspiring beauty all make Colorado Springs a popular location for many aspiring Olympic athletes. Later visit the famous **Garden of the Gods**, which is on the National Register for Historic Places. Located where the Great Plains meet the mighty Rockies, this 1,300-acre park is home to towering sandstone formations. Then visit the **U.S. Air Force Academy** located at the foot of the majestic Rocky Mountains. The Academy is Colorado's most frequently visited man-made attraction and home to cadets participating in the officer-training program. Stop at the Visitor Center featuring exhibits on cadet life and see the unique Cadet Chapel, a national landmark with 71 gleaming aluminum spires soaring skyward.

✕ (B) Overnight: **Colorado Springs**

DAY 8: ROYAL GORGE RAILROAD

Today travel to see the Royal Gorge and experience some of the most arresting scenery in all of American railroading aboard the **Royal Gorge Railroad**. The rail journey travels from Canon City to Parkdale along the Arkansas River through the scenic Royal Gorge and features dramatic views of the **Royal Gorge Bridge**, the world's highest suspension bridge. Tonight experience a **Farewell Dinner** at a popular local restaurant in the Colorado Springs area.

✕ (B,D) Overnight: **Colorado Springs**

DAY 9: COLORADO SPRINGS - DENVER - FLY HOME

Transfer to the Denver Airport for your flight home filled with wonderful memories of your travel experience.

✕ (B)

ACCOMMODATIONS

8 Nights Accommodations

- 1 Night - Sheraton or Crowne Plaza, Denver
 - 2 Nights - DoubleTree by Hilton, Grand Junction
 - 2 Nights - Rio Grande Inn, DoubleTree or The Strater Hotel, Durango
 - 3 Nights - DoubleTree by Hilton or Marriott, Colorado Springs
- On some dates alternate hotels may be used

Tour Activity Level

Easy **1** **2** **3** **4** Active

INCLUSIONS

- Roundtrip Airfare - DAY
- 11 Meals:
 - 8-Breakfasts & 3-Dinners
- Professional Tour Director
- Motorcoach Transportation
- Admissions per Itinerary
- Sightseeing per Itinerary
- Baggage Handling at Hotels

TOUR RATES	Booking Discount*:	\$3275 pp double
	Regular Rate:	\$3375 pp double
	Single Supplement:	+\$1050

*See Reservation Info for Booking Discount details