



## Overview

### COLORADO'S NATIONAL PARKS AND TRAINS

#### Regional Discoveries

**Tour Code - 8130**

9 days Denver to Denver  
Utah, Colorado, New Mexico

All inclusive prices starting at: \$1419

Experience Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah on a nine-day roundtrip from Denver. Visit the Colorado Railroad Museum and Garden of the Gods. Next, ride the rails, including Pike's Peak Cog Railway, Royal Gorge Route Railroad, Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, and Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, before taking in Mesa Verde National Park, Arches National Park, and Rocky Mountain National Park

#### Meals

Breakfast - 0

Lunch - 1

Dinner - 0

#### Standard Features

**SIGHTSEEING:** Colorado Railroad Museum, Pikes Peak Cog Railway, Royal Gorge Bridge, Royal Gorge Railroad, Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Inside visits as shown in UPPERCASE in the tour description, including admission charges when applicable.

**SCENIC HIGHLIGHTS:** Garden of the Gods, Durango, Silverton, Mesa Verde National Park, Arches National Park, Glenwood Canyon, Grand Lake, Rocky Mountain National Park.

**GUIDES:** Service of a professional Tour Director.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Private, deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach while touring.

**HOTELS:** Twin-bedded rooms with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, service charges, and tips for baggage handling.

**MEALS:** 1 lunch (L)

**OPTIONALS:** Customise your holiday with a range of convenient optional excursions.

## Itinerary

### COLORADO'S NATIONAL PARKS AND TRAINS

#### Day by Day

Day	Description
1	<b>DENVER.</b> Enjoy some time at leisure to relax or do some independent exploring. Your Tour Director is on hand this evening to answer any questions.
2	<b>DENVER - PIKES PEAK COG RAILWAY - COLORADO SPRINGS.</b> Begin the day with a visit to the COLORADO RAILROAD MUSEUM. This "must see" site for rail fans features over 70 historic narrow and standard gauge locomotives and cars. Then travel south to the town of Colorado Springs, located on the plains at the foot of Pikes Peak. The natural beauty of Colorado Springs is legendary. The view from the top of nearby Pikes Peak inspired Katharine Lee Bates to compose "America the Beautiful" over 100 years ago. Visit the GARDEN OF THE GODS, a city park that is a garden of towering red rock formations. Next is a fabulous train ride on the PIKE'S PEAK COG RAILWAY, highest cog railroad. Travel along Ruxton Creek in Englemann Canyon, then over Four Mile Switch where you'll get your first glimpse of Pikes Peak. At about the five mile point, the grade gets steep as you climb above timberline and reach the 4,301 metres (14,110 foot) summit of Pikes Peak.
3	<b>COLORADO SPRINGS - CANON CITY - ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILWAY - ALAMOSA.</b> This morning all aboard the ROYAL GORGE ROUTE RAILROAD. Travel on a diesel locomotive for 19.3 kilometres (12 miles) following the most spectacular section of the Denver & Rio Grande

Railroad directly through the gorge on tracks laid over 120 years ago. Riders often spot wildlife such as eagles and Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep. The views are breathtaking, so bring your camera. Afterward, visit the ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE & PARK. Spanning a half a kilometre (quarter mile) across is the world's highest suspension bridge at 321 metres high (1,053 feet). The panoramic vistas of the gorge are as mesmerising as the Grand Canyon. See spectacular views of the Arkansas River and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the Aerial Tram ride. Overnight in Alamosa, surrounded by the Sangre de Cristo range to the east and the San Juan Mountains to the west.

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#### **ALAMOSA - CUMBRES & TOLTEC RAILROAD - DURANGO.**

Today you travel on the CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD, America's most authentic steam railroad, built more than 120 years ago. Jointly owned by the states of Colorado and New Mexico, the 102-kilometres (64-mile) line connects Antonito, Colorado, and Chama, New Mexico, via 3,052-metres (10,015-foot) Cumbres Pass, and is an archetypal remnant of the Denver & Rio Grande narrow gauge railroad system that once stretched hundreds of miles throughout the Rocky Mountains. Travel through the beautiful San Juan Mountains on tracks that tamed the West. You'll cross the Colorado-New Mexico border eleven times. The train stops in Osier, Colorado, for lunch. Disembark the train at Cumbres Pass and continue by motorcoach to Chama. Later arrive in Durango, a town born in the gold-rush and silver-mining era, and at times run by gunslingers.(L)

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#### **DURANGO. EXCURSION ON THE DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD.**

Board the NARROW-GAUGE DURANGO-SILVERTON TRAIN train this morning for a scenic ride through San Juan National Forest. Experience the adventure of travelling by a coal-fired, steam-powered locomotive on the same tracks miners, cowboys and settlers of the Old West took more than a century ago. The locomotives used to pull today's train are 1923-25 vintage. This historic train has been in continuous operation for over 123 years. The train hugs steep canyon walls as it winds its way through Rio de las Animas Canyon with vistas of snow-capped peaks. Free time in Silverton, once a major mining town, which owes its name to the bragging statement by an early miner, "We have no gold, but silver by the ton!"

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#### **DURANGO - MESA VERDE - MOAB.**

Visit the ruins of ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings in MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See Spruce Tree House, which dates from 1200 AD and is tucked under a sandstone cliff face. Spend time at the park's museum, depicting the story of these people who mysteriously disappeared almost 700 years ago. Continue on to Moab, a small town on the Colorado River surrounded by red sandstone formations.

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#### **MOAB - GLENWOOD CANYON - VAIL.**

This morning visit ARCHES NATIONAL PARK where you will see the world famous "Delicate Arch." Continue your journey through the massive 548-metres (1,800-foot) walls of Glenwood Canyon and then continue to the Vail Valley area, one of America's most popular mountain resorts. Stroll through the pedestrian village and experience the unique shopping opportunities, or let one of the world-class chefs prepare a meal to delight your taste buds. Overnight in the Vail area.

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#### **VAIL - ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK - DENVER.**

See Colorado's largest natural lake, Grand Lake. Cross the Continental Divide and behold incomparable vistas of lush meadows, alpine glaciers, and thundering waterfalls. Take scenic Trail Ridge Road over magnificent mountain terrain, which attracted the likes of Kit Carson and his group of trappers to ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. A break at 3,657 metres (12,000 feet) provides fantastic alpine scenery. Next is a short stop in Estes Park before returning to Denver. Nestled in a high mountain valley at just above 2,286 metres (7,500 feet) elevation, Estes Park features hundreds of unique shops, galleries, and restaurants for you to enjoy. Free time this evening to enjoy one of America's fastest growing cities. A bustling area centred around a 2 kilometre (mile-long) pedestrian promenade is lined with outdoor cafes and flower baskets. Dinner at one of the 300 restaurants and a horse drawn carriage ride could be the perfect ending to the day. NOTE: The drive through Rocky Mountain National Park is subject to favourable road and weather conditions.

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#### **DENVER.**

The trip ends today, with guests departing on individual schedules. Transfers are provided to Denver International Airport.

## Dates/Prices

NB: All prices listed are per person

MAY 2010

	Start Date	End Date	Availability	Twin Share	Single
	31 May 2010	8 Jun 2010	On Request	\$1419 US	\$1884 US

JUNE 2010

	Start Date	End Date	Availability	Twin Share	Single
<b>GD</b>	14 Jun 2010	22 Jun 2010	Open	\$1419 US	\$1884 US

JULY 2010

	Start Date	End Date	Availability	Twin Share	Single
	26 Jul 2010	3 Aug 2010	Open	\$1419 US	\$1884 US

AUGUST 2010

	Start Date	End Date	Availability	Twin Share	Single
	9 Aug 2010	17 Aug 2010	Open	\$1419 US	\$1884 US
	30 Aug 2010	7 Sep 2010	Open	\$1429 US	\$1894 US

SEPTEMBER 2010

	Start Date	End Date	Availability	Twin Share	Single
<b>GD</b>	6 Sep 2010	14 Sep 2010	Open	\$1429 US	\$1894 US
<b>GD</b>	13 Sep 2010	21 Sep 2010	Open	\$1429 US	\$1894 US

### ACCOMMODATION PRICES

Pre & Post Tour	City	Start Date	End Date
PRE	Denver	1 Jan 2010	31 Dec 2010
POST	Denver	1 Jan 2010	31 Dec 2010

Please note single and twin and triple rooms not available.

### OPTIONAL CHARGES

Type	Name	Price
OPTIONAL	Gratuity	\$80US

The tours departures marked **GD** are guaranteed to operate.

Furthermore, Cosmos guarantees most departures that are still in operation 45 days prior to the published departure date, and at such time will be displayed on this website. Throughout our peak period, 1 May to 15 October, Cosmos guarantee most departures that are still in operation 60 days prior to departure.

PLEASE NOTE: This guarantee does not apply in any situation where the safety of clients is at potential risk (any act of terrorism or war, political unrest, global health warnings or Force Majeure\*\*, etc); or when the operation of a vacation is not possible for reasons beyond our control (such as industrial action/strikes and operational restrictions); to multiple coach departures (i.e. "A" coach) or late cancellation of group parties.

\*\*Force Majeure: French for "act of God; an inevitable, unpredictable act of nature, not dependent on act of man. Used in insurance contracts to refer to acts of nature such as earthquakes or lightning."

#### \* Availability

- **Open** - There is at least one seat available on this departure date and can be confirmed to you via your travel agent at the time of

booking. Please note availability may be subject to change and is updated on this website at 24 hour intervals.

- **On Request** - All seats allocated to the Australasian market have been sold for tours that marked on request. However seats MAY still be available from another Cosmos office worldwide. These seats can be requested and normally take 2 business days after a booking has been made to be confirmed.

### Optional Tours

To help plan your leisure time, as well as your pre-tour budgeting, here is a list of optional excursions that may be offered on this tour. Availability is subject to sufficient participation, weather conditions, seasonal suitability, group interests, and general feasibility for your tour. Please note prices may be based on the previous year and are subject to change. Full terms and conditions are contained in the important travel documents.

**Cost**

**Description**

**66**  
USD

**Name:**CANYONLANDS BY NIGHT

**Location:**MOAB

**Details:**After dinner a local guide will give commentary as you head up the river. At dark when the sound and light show begins, you will hear Indian legends, geology, and history as the rock walls come alive with colour and beauty.

### Tour Map

