



# COLORADO RAILS & NEW MEXICO ENCHANTMENT

## ... LET'S GO RIDE THE ROCKIES!

**HISTORIC DURANGO TRAIN, SANTA FE, MESA VERDE, TAOS PUEBLO, GREAT SAND DUNES & MORE!**

**7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS**

**AUGUST 15 - 21, 2022**

Teddy Roosevelt once described a train journey through Colorado as a "trip that bankrupts the English language!" You'll find truer words were never spoken as you experience the thrill of riding on the historic Durango to Silverton railway, coupled with the magnificent scenery of the Rocky Mountains! There's something undeniably intriguing about trains — the familiar old whistle with its promise of high adventure, and the gentle rocking on the rails as you travel through colorful canyons and alongside tumbling rivers!

Your tour showcases magical northern New Mexico as well as the most scenic Rocky Mountain roads in southwestern Colorado. Explore the historic mining towns of Durango and Silverton. Gaze in awe at the primitive majesty of the Taos Pueblo and the shifting sands of Sand Dunes National Park. Walk in the footsteps of "The Ancient Ones" at Mesa Verde, descending below the cliffs to dwellings inhabited 1000 years ago. Join TRIPS as we share with you the land that inspired these famous words ...

*O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain! For purple mountain majesties, above the fruited plain!*

### Itinerary

#### **August 15, 2022 - Welcome to New Mexico - Santa Fe!**

Your journey to the "**Land of Enchantment**" begins today as you arrive in beautiful **Albuquerque** - then you're off and away to experience the marvels of **Santa Fe**! Named by Travel and Leisure as the #1 U.S. Cultural Getaway, Santa Fe is the **oldest capital city in North America** and today it's a magical, exuberant place that celebrates its long, unique past. Of course, Santa Fe is **world-famous for its thriving art scene**, so you'll see galleries galore with art spilling out into yards and moving sculptures fueled by the wind. You'll also discover five museums, walking tours, and relaxing spas. And with plenty of shopping all around, whether you're searching for cowboy boots or concho belts, salsa or turquoise jewelry, you'll find it and so much more! After checking in to the renowned **Inn of the Governors**, prepare to enjoy your **welcome dinner** nearby in the historic **Santa Fe Plaza**!

Overnight: Santa Fe - Inn of the Governors

(D)

#### **August 16, 2022 - Santa Fe, Taos Pueblo + Great Sand Dunes!**

Enjoy breakfast at the Inn before check-out, then your guided tour of **Santa Fe** that includes the famed 1878 **Loretto Chapel** and its "miraculous" spiral staircase! Afterward you're off to visit spellbinding **Taos Pueblo**, the only living Native American community designated both a **World Heritage Site by UNESCO** and a National Historic Landmark, and whose multi-story adobe buildings have been **continuously inhabited for over 1,000 years!** The main part of the present buildings were most likely built between 1000 and 1450 A.D., and appeared much as they do today when the first Spanish explorers arrived in 1540. The Pueblo is made entirely of adobe - earth mixed with water and

straw, then either poured into forms or made into sun-dried bricks. The walls are frequently several feet thick, and continuously maintained by re-plastering with thin layers of mud. The Pueblo is actually many individual homes, built side-by-side and in layers, with common walls but no connecting doorways. In earlier days there were no doors or windows, so entry was gained only from the top. After this, you'll head up to Colorado with lunch provided along the way. Here you'll visit **Great Sand Dunes National Park**, Colorado's very own sandbox - of epic proportions! Covering more than 30 square miles, these are the highest mountains of sand in North America, with the **tallest dunes towering at 750 feet!** These continuously shifting golden sands sit at the foot of the **Sangre de Cristo Mountains**, and are truly an unexpected delight! Later today you'll travel to picturesque **Salida**, known as the "**Heart of the Rockies**," to check in for the night with your dinner included.

Overnight: Salida - Gateway Inn

(B/L/D)

#### **August 17, 2022 - Crested Butte, Rocky Mtn. Vistas & Durango!**

This morning after your breakfast and checkout, you'll leave Salida with views of 14,000-foot peaks to climb over **Monarch Pass**, at an elevation of 11,312 on the Continental Divide, to reach **Crested Butte**. Once bustling with coal and silver miners, Crested Butte sits in an **alpine meadow surrounded by majestic peaks** and is host to festivals showcasing art, music, mountain biking, film and wildflowers. Here at the "**Last Great Colorado Ski Town**," you can explore historic Elk Avenue with many fun choices for shopping and lunch in this magical Old West setting. You'll also travel through the highly scenic Rocky Mountain towns of **Gunnison, Montrose** and **Ouray**. Afterward, you'll set off for the historic old west railroad town of **Durango**.

Downtown Durango is a Nationally Registered Historic District and home to colorful brewpubs, art galleries, museums and shops. This afternoon you'll check in to your hotel where you may dine nearby, or perhaps stroll down Main Street to enjoy dinner on your own tonight.

Overnight: Durango - DoubleTree Hotel (B)

#### **August 18, 2022 - Spectacular Mesa Verde and more Durango!**

Following your hotel breakfast and check-out, you'll travel to amazing **Mesa Verde**, the **ancestral home to Pueblo people for over 700 years** and one of America's greatest wonders. It's the **nation's largest archeological preserve** with an astounding 600 cliff dwellings, ranging from a single room to villages that housed more than 150! At the Visitors Center you'll get an introduction to the culture of the **"Ancient Ones"** before taking a guided tour through some of the most famous ruins. In the late 1190s, after living on the mesa top for six centuries, many Pueblos began moving down into **pueblos they built right beneath Mesa Verde's overhanging cliffs!** Still farming up on the mesa tops, they resided in these amazing cliff dwellings for nearly a century before migrating south to New Mexico and Arizona. After your full day exploring incredible **Mesa Verde**, you'll return to your hotel in colorful **Durango**, and then enjoy tonight's included dinner.

Overnight: Durango - DoubleTree Hotel (B/D)

#### **August 19, 2022 - All Aboard to Silverton!**

After your breakfast at the hotel, it's time to ride the historic **Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad**, in continuous operation since 1882! Built to haul silver and gold ore from the **San Juan Mountains**, passengers soon realized what was truly precious were the views. Your 45 mile journey along the **Animas River** boasts some of **Colorado's most striking canyon scenery**, as your steam engine train crosses the river five times with spectacular vistas on both sides. You'll pass through fertile

farm lands, old stagecoach roads and mining camps along the way. On arrival in **Silverton**, you'll have time for lunch on your own as well as a bit of shopping and roaming around its quaint downtown boutiques and vintage buildings. Built in the late 1800's, Silverton luckily never experienced a major fire so most of the structures from that era are still standing! Later on you'll travel back to **Durango** along the spectacular **"million dollar highway,"** with great views of **crystal lakes** and **rugged peaks rising over 14,000 feet**, then return to your hotel with tonight's dinner on your own.

Overnight: Durango - DoubleTree Hotel (B)

#### **August 20, 2022 - Wildlife, Museums and Albuquerque!**

This morning after your hotel breakfast and check-out, not far over the hills from Durango you'll visit the **B-Square Ranch and Museum in Farmington**. B-Square Ranch is a 12,000 acre private wildlife refuge where deer, pheasant, quail, hawks, eagles, and owls are in abundance, along with cattle, sheep, pigeons and turkeys. It's also a working farm and ranch, and home to a remarkable museum that you'll get time to explore. The **Bolack Electromechanical Museum** showcases a fascinating forty-year collection of antique electrical, radio, communication, industrial and agricultural artifacts. After lunch on your own in **Farmington**, you'll then journey south through New Mexico, arriving back in **Albuquerque** mid-afternoon to check into your hotel. You'll still have time for a stroll and perhaps some shopping at **Old Town Plaza** and later on, enjoy your **New Mexico farewell dinner!**

Overnight: Albuquerque - Drury Inn (B/D)

#### **August 21, 2022 - Homeward Bound!**

Following your hotel breakfast, you'll transfer to the Albuquerque airport for your flight home. **Memories of your enchanted days in Colorado and New Mexico will be with you for years to come!** (B)

**\*\*Please note that itineraries are subject to change.**

#### **Inclusions**

- Roundtrip airport transfers including gratuities
- Roundtrip airfare to Albuquerque (from certain major cities, please inquire about yours; checked baggage fees are not included)
- 6 nights lodging in Santa Fe, Salida, Durango and Albuquerque
- Breakfast daily, 4 dinners and 1 lunch
- Tickets for the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad and B-Square Ranch and Museum
- All sightseeing and admissions as listed in the detailed itinerary including Taos Pueblo, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Mesa Verde National Park
- Private, deluxe motor coach throughout your tour
- Tour Guide/Director throughout your tour
- TRIPS ticket wallet and luggage tags
- Portage of 1 suitcase per person
- All government taxes and fees

Be prepared for cooler weather and higher altitudes, often above 7,000 feet.

## **COLORADO RAILS & NEW MEXICO ENCHANTMENT!**



# **\$4,548.00**



PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IS AN ADDITIONAL \$998.00**

**Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and recommended.**

Check with your club representative for details.

#### **Call today to reserve your space!!!**

Reservations for **"Colorado Rails & New Mexico Enchantment!"** are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$650.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour.

This deposit is fully refundable up to May 6, 2022. **Final payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before May 6, 2022.**

**Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted to your club director at least 10 days prior to this date.**

100% non-refundable on May 6, 2022.

#### **Prosperity Bank Travel Club**

Make checks payable to **Prosperity Bank**

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