

Experience the majesty of the Colorado Rockies, three national parks and two historic trains that celebrate the can-do spirit of the Old West. Marvel at the steep, dramatic majesty of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Journey aboard the Pike's Peak Cog Railway, the world's highest cog railroad, for an 8.9-mile trip to the top of Pike's Peak. Climb aboard an 1881 steam train for a journey through the San Juan Mountains. Drive through the ancient culture of the Ancestral Puebloans at Mesa Verde National Park (UNESCO). Enjoy an authentic farm-to-table dinner on a 450-acre, family-owned ranch. From towering peaks to deep canyons and Old West towns to dynamic cities, a region of contrasting beauty and charm awaits.

## **Highlights**

- Denver
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- Colorado National Monument
- Grand Junction
- Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
- Museum of the Mountain West
- Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad
- Mesa Verde National Park (UNESCO)
- Pikes Peak Cog Railway
- Garden of the Gods

## Your Tour Includes

- 4 Handpicked Accommodations
- 12 Meals

### Must-See Inclusions:

- Explore the massive and rugged Pocky Mountain National Park.
- Travel to a vertical wilderness at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.
- · Ride a historic, narrow-gauge train from Silverton to Durango.

### **Cultural Experiences:**

- Journey aboard the Pike's Peak Cog Railway to the top of Pike's Peak.
- Spend two nights in Durango, a fun-filled cowboy town where you can relive the excitement of the Old West.

#### Culinary Inclusions:

• Enjoy an authentic farm-to-table dinner on a 450-acre, family-owned ranch.









# **Pre-Night Option Available**

**Day: 1-** Denver, Colorado-Dinner Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel-Adventure awaits as you explore the towering peaks and rolling meadows of Colorado. This tour (which features four national parks) opens in the "Mile High City" of Denver where you will gather for a welcome dinner with your fellow travelers.

**Day: 2-** Denver - Rocky Mountain National Park – Denver-Breakfast Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel-Travel through Boulder, a scenic university town known for its iconic landmark... the striking, reddish-brown foothills known as the Flatirons. Stop in Estes Park, a mountain resort town and home of the Stanley Hotel, the inspiration for Stephen King's The Shining. Your adventure in Rocky Mountain National Park starts on the Ridge Road Trail, the highest paved, continuous highway in North America. It's a drive that should be on everybody's bucket list. At Rainbow Curve, marvel at the majestic mountains that stand in contrast to deep, rugged canyons. Later, return to Denver for a free evening in this dynamic city.

**Day: 3 -** Denver - Colorado National Monument - Grand Junction-Breakfast & Dinner Doubletree Hotel Grand Junction - The spectacular Rocky Mountains are your traveling companion. Make a scenic drive from Denver to Grand Junction, passing through many of Colorado's famous ski resorts. This journey also takes you to one of the grand landscapes of the American West – Colorado National Monument. Continue along the monument's historic Rim Rock Drive to see a colorful panorama of deep, sheer-sided canyons and high rock towers. Gather for dinner at a favorite local hangout in Grand Junction, a town that attracts outdoorsmen, foodies and all manner of free spirits.

**Day: 4** - Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park - Grand Junction-Breakfast & Lunch Doubletree Hotel Grand Junction-Today, venture to another amazing national park – Colorado's own "Grand Canyon"! Marvel at the steep-walled gorge and dramatic views of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park while travelling along its South Rim. Pause at one of the scenic viewpoints to soak in this stunning wilderness of rock, water, and sky. Enjoy a picnic lunch overlooking some of the steepest and oldest rock walls in North America, carved over 2 million years by the Gunnison River. Perhaps you'll even spot a peregrine falcon. Then, immerse yourself in the stories of the American west during a tour of the Museum of the Mountain West, a preserved and re-created pioneer town that captures life as it was over a century ago. Return to Grand Junction for an evening at leisure.

**Day: 5** - Grand Junction - Silverton – Durango-Breakfast Durango Strater Hotel-Head south to Silverton, a former silver mining town and now a National Historic Landmark. Hidden high in the San Juan Mountains, this town blends spectacular scenery, Victorian charm and historic architecture. Then it's "all aboard" the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. This 1881 coalfired, steam-powered locomotive made its name hauling silver and gold ore from the San Juan Mountains, but you will soon realize it is the view that is its most precious asset.

**Day: 6** - Durango - Mesa Verde National Park – Durango-Breakfast & Dinner Durango Strater Hotel-An incredible day awaits in Mesa Verde National Park (UNESCO), home of the ancient Ancestral Puebloan civilization. Join a local guide on a drive through the park making several photo stops including views of the famous Spruce Tree House, one of Mesa Verde's best preserved cliff dwellings and Cliff Palace, the largest in the park. This evening, experience a farm-to-table dinner on a family-owned ranch surrounded by red mountain peaks and lush green pastures.

**Day: 7-** Durango - Colorado Springs-Breakfast Embassy Suites Colorado Springs-Sit back and relax during a scenic ride to Colorado Springs. En route, marvel at the landscape as you make your way from the San Juan National Forest and across Wolf Creek Pass, a section of the Continental Divide that would take pioneers two to three weeks to cross. Continue through the Rio Grande National Forest, a vast expanse of wilderness named for the 1,800 miles of Rio Grande River that cuts through the forest. Your day concludes in Colorado Springs, an artistic and cultural hub.

**Day: 8-** Colorado Springs - Manitou Springs - Colorado Springs-Breakfast & Dinner Embassy Suites Colorado Springs-Depart for Manitou Springs, home of Pike's Peak – the legendary symbol of the 1859 Gold Rush. Embark on a journey aboard the Pike's Peak Cog Railway, the world's highest cog railroad, for an 8.9 mile trip to the top of Pike's Peak. During the journey you will see magnificent views and perhaps animals in their native habitat. Later, travel to the Garden of the Gods to take in the view of towering sandstone formations that dot the landscape set in the backdrop of majestic Pikes Peak. Tonight, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner and celebrate your adventure.

Day: 9- Colorado Springs - Tour Ends-Your tour ends in Colorado Springs.

Post Tour Night Available



Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel Nights 1-2



Doubletree Hotel Grand Junction Nights 3-4



Durango Strater Hotel Nights 5-6



Embassy Suites Colorado Springs Nights 7-8





