



New Mexico Highlights & Scenic Rail

Sept 19 – 25, 2012

June 12 – 18 and September 18 – 24, 2013

7 days/6 nights

New Mexico is steeped in the history of the Spanish, Mexican and Pueblo Indian cultures. The history and culture of Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Taos are celebrated on this tour with journeys to ancient community sites, walking tours of heritage town sites and visits to renowned museums and galleries. But for some, the highlight will be the full day excursion riding the historic Cumbres & Toltec narrow gauge railway. Seated in an 1800's Parlor Car and pulled by a puffing steam engine through the rugged Rocky Mountains of Colorado and New Mexico. This is said to be one of the most scenic journey's by rail in the world! Who could resist..... All aboard!

Day 1 Albuquerque – Santa Fe

Albuquerque is the gateway to your fascinating New Mexico adventure. This "Land of Enchantment" is rich in history, culture and dramatic scenery. Start your journey with a scenic drive along the famed Turquoise Trail Byway on your way to Santa Fe. Located in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, Santa Fe was first established in 1610. The influence of its Spanish, Pueblo Indian and Mexican History will soon become evident. This is a city known for its culinary pleasures - enjoy your Welcome Dinner!

Overnight in Santa Fe- Dinner

Day 2 Santa Fe – Sightseeing & Shopping

Today begins with a tour of the capital city and historic "Old Town". This is the terminus of the famous Santa Fe Trail and the center of Santa Fe's centuries-old history. Explore the State Capital Building, Cristo Rey Church, and the Loretto Chapel with its miraculous staircase. View the Palace of the Governors and marvel at the exhibits in the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. You will have time to explore the 300 year old Plaza and shop for silver and turquoise jewelry crafted by Native American artists. Tonight experience a culinary delight at the famous La Casa Sena.

Overnight Santa Fe – Breakfast/Dinner

Day 3 Santa Fe – Taos

What a way to start the day! The picturesque drive along the Rio Grande River Valley and spectacular views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains create the perfect preview for your arrival in Taos. The home of frontiersman Kit Carson and novelist D H Lawrence, Taos is a magical blend of Indian and Spanish Cultures. You'll visit the 1000 year old Taos Pueblo UNESCO Site, tour the historic Plaza and have free time to explore the shops and museums of this mecca of arts and culture. Enjoy a special dinner.

Overnight Taos – Breakfast/Dinner

Day 4 Taos – Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

Travel back 120 years to a time when magnificent steam trains chugged through the Rockies of Colorado and New Mexico. From nearby Antonito, Colorado, board "America's most spectacular narrow gauge railway" for a breathtaking 64 mile trip through the beautiful San Juan Mountains. The journey on the Cumbres & Toltec Railway will take you over the 10,015 ft Cumbres Pass, stop for a hearty lunch in the town of Osier and arrive in the historic community of Chama, New Mexico late in the afternoon. The full-day adventure comes to an end with a scenic return to Taos by motorcoach. Dinner on your own tonight.

Overnight Taos – Breakfast/Lunch

Day 5 Taos – Albuquerque

Return to Albuquerque this morning and enjoy the incredible scenery along the way. An exhilarating trip on North America's longest aerial tramway to the top of 10,378 ft Sandia Peak Mountain will give you a panoramic view covering over 11,000 sq. miles. And what would a trip to Albuquerque be without viewing the iconic Hot Air Balloons that have become synonymous with the city. The Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum contains one of the world's finest collections of historic balloons and artifacts. Tonight explore the restaurants and cafes of Albuquerque's Old Town.

Overnight Albuquerque – Breakfast

Day 6 Albuquerque

The day starts with a journey west to visit Acoma "Sky City". This is truly a trip back in time for a brief glimpse of the traditional lifestyle of the Pueblo Indians. Situated on a 360 foot sandstone rock, it is considered to be one of the oldest continuously inhabited village in the US. In the afternoon return to Albuquerque and join a guided walking tour of "Old Town", visit the renowned Albuquerque Museum of Art & History and browse the shops full of native arts - silver and turquoise. Tonight celebrate your unique New Mexico adventure with a special Farewell Dinner.

Overnight Albuquerque – Breakfast/Dinner

Day 7 Albuquerque – Home

If flight schedules permit you may have time for an optional early morning Hot Air Balloon flight before you travel to the airport for your flight home.

Breakfast

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Turquoise Heritage Byway
- Walking tour of Santa Fe
- Loretto Chapel Staircase
- Georgia O'Keefe Museum
- Taos Pueblo UNESCO Site
- Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railway
- Sandia Peak Tramway
- Hot Air Balloon Museum
- Acoma "Sky City"
- Old Town Albuquerque

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- Deluxe accommodation for 6 nights
- 6 Breakfasts, 4 dinners and 1 lunch including gratuities
- All attractions and activities as listed on the itinerary
- Private deluxe motorcoach for the duration of the tour
- Services of a professional
- Tour Manager
- 10% Commission on Package

NOT INCLUDED:

- Airfare
- Luggage Fees
- Medical and Trip Insurance
- Gratuities for Tour Manager and Coach Driver

TOUR COSTS:

\$1,489 per person Double
\$1,389 per person Triple
\$1,848 per person Single