

THE BEST OF THE WEST

The Great National Parks of the West by Train

Departing June 17 - 30, July 22 - August 4,
August 19 - Sept. 1 & September 9 - 22, 2012



Glacier National Park

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Train travel from Chicago, Seattle, or Portland to Glacier National Park, Montana aboard the famous 'Empire Builder' train, a speedy scenic overnight trip.
- ★ Fully hosted by professional tour manager to handle all of the details.
- ★ Two-night stay and full day in stunning Glacier National Park including the famed 'Going to the Sun' Highway across the Continental Divide by red open-air 'jammer' bus.
- ★ A blissful overnight stay in Fairmont Hot Springs with plenty of time to enjoy the healing waters (admission is included).
- ★ Gates of the Mountain cruise on the Missouri River so vividly described by Lewis & Clark, a visual feast.
- ★ Two-night hotel stays in Yellowstone, Jackson Hole and Arches National Park.
- ★ Complete sightseeing throughout including all admission fees and special treats such as the scenic float trip on the Snake River in Jackson Hole, all at no extra charge.
- ★ Luxury hotel stay in Salt Lake City, a nice 'urban indulgence' during our tour.
- ★ Many meals including breakfast daily.
- ★ Train travel from Utah to California through the Sierra Nevadas or to Chicago aboard the 'California Zephyr' train with a spectacular daylight trip through the Colorado Rockies over the storied Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad 'Mainline through the Rockies'.



Morning Glory Pool - Yellowstone

COMPLETE FARES & ACCOMMODATIONS

	June	July - Sept
Double Occupancy	\$3,595	\$3,795
Single Occupancy	\$4,395	\$4,595

Including exclusive occupancy of hotel rooms throughout.

3rd/4th persons sharing a room pay \$1,995 per person. No additional taxes or fees.



Arches National Park



We have included travel to Glacier Park aboard the Empire Builder, a fabled and scenic route everyone should experience once. Guests who wish to upgrade from the included coach accommodations may upgrade to bedroom accommodations and pricing varies by date and room type. Like airline tickets, rates are less costly when early reservations are made. The Empire Builder features full dining car and sightseer lounge service regardless of your accommodation onboard. Similarly, guests may choose to upgrade aboard the California Zephyr train at the conclusion of the tour.

Day 1 - Sun.

Our travelers depart Chicago, Seattle, or Portland for Glacier National Park aboard the famed 'Empire Builder' train, a scenic overnight journey via the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company.

Day 2 - Mon

Guests arrive in East Glacier today aboard the 'Empire Builder' train and transfer to charming Izaak Walton Inn, one of the historic lodges built by the Great Northern Railroad. Situated on the Main Line of Burlington Northern, this quaint inn features fine dining, a caring staff and comfortable rooms.

Day 3 - Tues

We depart this morning aboard one of the famed red open-air 'jammer' buses for the stunning trip over the famed Going to the Sun Highway across the Continental Divide. Later today, shimmering Lake McDonald where a boat cruise is enjoyed. Many of our passengers rate this the prettiest day of the entire tour and you will soon see why. A second night to enjoy the Izaak Walton Inn. (B, D)

Day 4 - Wed

After breakfast we depart for the Gates of the Mountain Cruise, a lovely two-hour excursion in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains between Helena and Great Falls, Montana. Aboard an open-air boat (covered in case of rain), you'll glide through magnificent country Merriwether Lewis would still recognize with great towering walls of limestone, Bighorn sheep, Mountain Goats and eagles. Today is a special treat and a relaxing coda after a few days of travel as we arrive at enchanting Fairmont Hot Springs, the perfect 'Travelers Rest' to borrow a line from Lewis & Clark on their epic journey through the same area. Nestled between Glacier National Park and Yellowstone this idyllic setting features a variety of soothing mineral pools (admission is included) and there is also golf and a fine spa with massage. The perfect refresher and a highlight for our guests that no other tour company offers. (B, L)

Day 5 - Thu

After breakfast, another beautiful day as we head off to Virginia City, Montana, a historic mining town of great charm and later today, arrive at Lake Yellowstone to begin our two-night stay. (B, L)

Day 6 - Fri

Established in 1872, Yellowstone National Park is America's first national park and after breakfast, we begin a day that is a visual feast. You will see Upper and Lower Falls, Hayden Valley, Old Faithful, Fountain Paint Pot and the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone. Most tours offer one-night at Yellowstone, our lucky guests enjoy two nights, one of many elements that makes this holiday better than most offered by our competitors. Overnight at Lake Yellowstone cabins. (B)

Day 7 - Sat.

We drive south today to spectacular Grand Teton National Park, a spectacular landscape rich with jagged mountains, glaciers, pristine lakes and amazing wildlife including bison, moose and antelope. Here too, like in Yellowstone, our guests enjoy a two-night stay with plenty of free time. Overnight at the 49er Inn. (B)

Day 8 - Sun

Today we tour Jackson Hole with the highlight being an afternoon float trip on the Snake River. Grand

Teton National Park protects stunning mountain scenery and a diverse array of wildlife. The Teton Range is the focal point of the park, the youngest range in the Rocky Mountains. An active normal fault, the Teton Fault, lies on the 40 mile long mountain front. Rock is jettied into the sky some 7,000 feet from the flat plains, with the highest peak at 13,770 feet, the Grand Teton. Happily, we have all afternoon and evening at leisure to enjoy this quaint and historic setting. Overnight at the 49er Inn. (B)

Day 9 - Mon

Departing Jackson Hole this morning we travel south, stopping at the Oregon Trail Historical Center and then traveling along the Great Salt Lake before an afternoon arrival in Salt Lake City. After our time in the National Parks, luxury awaits tonight in the Four-Diamond rated Little America Hotel in the heart of downtown. There is even time to visit Temple Square with all evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 10 - Tues

Depart Salt Lake City for Moab and the Red Cliffs Lodge, possibly the best of all of our hotels and certainly the most stunning setting possible, overlooking the Colorado River. Our guests uniformly praise this as the highlight of a trip filled with many highlights and we enjoy a three-night stay in this extraordinary setting. All afternoon is free to enjoy the facilities, spa or nearby winery of this remarkable resort. (B)

Day 11 - Wed

We tour Arches National Park this morning, with the afternoon free to enjoy the resort. The forces of nature have acted in concert to create the landscape of Arches, which contains the greatest density of natural arches in the world, over 2100 amazing formations of varying colors. Throughout the park, rock layers reveal millions of years of deposition, erosion and other geologic events. (B)

Day 12 - Thu

Today's highlight is a visit to Canyonlands National Park. Canyonlands preserves a colorful landscape eroded into countless canyons, mesas and buttes by the Colorado River and its tributaries. The rivers divide the park into four districts: the Island in the Sky, the Needles, the Maze and the rivers themselves, another spectacular day of scenery. Tonight is our Farewell Dinner, hosted by Train Holidays. (B, D)

Day 13 - Fri

All Aboard! We board the 'California Zephyr' this morning for the epic daylight passage through the Colorado Rockies over the storied Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad traveling through Glenwood Canyon for a journey described by the BBC as one of the top ten train rides in the World. The train has a full dining car and Sightseer Lounge car and later tonight, we pass through Denver en route to Chicago. Guests traveling home to the West will be transferred to Salt Lake City to board the train for the overnight journey to California. Overnight on-board. (B)

Day 14 - Sat

We cross the Mississippi River after breakfast and are soon speeding through the rich farmland of Illinois bound for Chicago with an afternoon arrival in the Windy City. West coast guests will cross the Sierra Nevada mountain range this morning for an afternoon arrival in Sacramento and the Bay Area.



A Place Touched by Magic

wrote the Great Northern Railroad about Glacier National Park in 1937. Truer words were never written. Consistently Glacier National Park is among the highlights of the entire holiday with our guests, year after year. With towering peaks, rushing rivers, emerald forests and the epic Going to the Sun Highway, Glacier Park ranks among the most stunning of all National Parks. Our guests enjoy a traditional visit, arriving by train at the great Glacier Park Lodge on the Eastern end of the Park for an overnight stay before a glorious day of travel, across the Continental Divide by red open-air 'jammer' bus. We make a loop through the park traveling down the west slope to alpine Lake McDonald. There is no finer start to 'The Best of the West' than a full day in Glacier National Park.



The evening of July 19, 1805, was a hot one in the wilderness that would later become Montana. On the Missouri River, not far from present day Helena, the hardy members of the Lewis and Clark expedition toiled to move upstream. Rock embankments made towing from shore impossible, and the deep channel forced the men to row rather than pole their boats forward.

Suddenly, there loomed before them towering rock formations unlike any they had ever seen. From both sides of the river, limestone cliffs rose to a spectacular height of 1200 feet. "In many places," wrote Meriwether Lewis, "the rocks seem ready to tumble on us." At each bend in the waterway, great stone walls seemed to block passage, only to open like gentle giant gates as the expedition drew near. In his journal, Meriwether wrote: "I shall call this place: 'GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS'".

The name stuck, and for nearly two centuries travelers have ventured down this stretch of the Missouri to marvel at its natural wonders. Today, most visitors enjoy the beauty of the Gates of the Mountains from aboard tour boats.



Happily, our passengers begin their holiday aboard the Empire Builder, Amtrak's highest-rated train in terms of customer satisfaction. With refurbished cars, upgraded dining service with real dining cars and menu items prepared freshly onboard and served atop white linen, the Empire Builder makes travel a treat. With a glass-windowed sightseer lounge car for taking in the magnificent vistas of the West, this is a relaxing and pleasant way to start your vacation. Boarding points include Seattle, Portland, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul. Easy same-day connections are available from almost all midwest points as well.