



# Classic Trains of the Southwest, Canyon Spirit by Rocky Mountaineer and the Balloon Fiesta

October 4 - 20 (ride), October 7 - 17 (fly), 2026

*\$8,650 /double • \$9,995 /single (airfare included)*

From the whispering canyons of Utah to the summit of Pikes Peak to the high desert skies of New Mexico, this intimate journey blends two of the American West's most unforgettable experiences — the Canyon Spirit by Rocky Mountaineer and the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

Stand beneath a sky painted with hundreds of vivid balloons drifting over the Rio Grande, then watch sunlight flicker across sandstone cliffs from the panoramic windows of your railcar. Explore Santa Fe's adobe charm, ride the historic Durango & Silverton through the San Juan Mountains, and trace the Arkansas River to the summit of Pikes Peak. Conclude amid the sculpted red rocks of Moab, where canyons glow at sunset and the Colorado River winds silently below.

INCLUDED: Airfare to Albuquerque International Sunport (ABQ) on October 7 and returning from Denver International Airport (DEN) on October 17. Choose to ride both ways for an additional \$450 double / \$750 single.

## TOUR INCLUDES

- Local home pick-up service and luggage handling
- Fully escorted by Globe Treks tour manager
- All meals, attractions, guides, and activities
- Chasers Club admission at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- Two nights in Albuquerque, steps from Fiesta grounds
- Excursion to Santa Fe with a local expert
- Ride the Sandia Peak Tramway
- Stay at the Strater Hotel in Durango
- First-class seats aboard the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad
- Two nights at The Cliff House at Pikes Peak, a 4-diamond historic landmark in Manitou Springs
- Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak on the Cog Railway
- Two-day Canyon Spirit journey (SilverLeaf Plus Service) from Denver to Moab
- Two nights at Red Cliffs Lodge in Moab
- Arches, Canyonlands, and Dead Horse Point State Parks
- Evening Colorado River cruise

*prices & itineraries subject to change*

**Reserve your spot! (828) 692-1399 • [globetreks.com](http://globetreks.com)**

Office Location: 1605 Asheville Highway, Hendersonville, NC 28791

# Classic Trains of the Southwest: **Day by Day**

## **Day 1 – Wednesday, October 7 – Welcome to Albuquerque**

A Globe Treks representative greets you at your door and escorts you to Asheville Airport for your morning flight to Albuquerque, the heart of New Mexico's high desert. Enjoy lunch in Old Town, a centuries-old adobe plaza lined with galleries, turquoise shops, and shaded patios. After a brief city tour — from Route 66 landmarks to sweeping views of the Sandia Mountains — check into the SpringHill Suites by Marriott, one of the closest hotels to Balloon Fiesta Park. Enjoy dinner nearby before turning in early: tomorrow, the sky itself will awaken.

## **Day 2 – Thursday, October 8 – The Balloon Fiesta & Santa Fe**

Before dawn, the excitement builds as you arrive at Balloon Fiesta Park with Chasers Club access — your upgraded, private viewing experience. Sip coffee or hot chocolate as hundreds of colorful balloons inflate and rise against the first blush of sunrise. After the morning's festivities, travel to Santa Fe, the nation's oldest and highest state capital. With its adobe architecture, mountain backdrop, and lively arts scene, Santa Fe blends ancient traditions with contemporary flair. Return to Albuquerque for dinner and rest before tomorrow's early lift-off.

### **Life at the Balloon Fiesta**

Before sunrise, the desert air hums with anticipation. The hiss of propane burners breaks the silence as a field of color stirs to life — scarlets, sapphires, golds, and emeralds glowing against the indigo sky. As a Globe Treks guest, you'll enjoy Chasers Club privileges: a private tent near the launch field with reserved seating, hot breakfast, and coffee. From this vantage point, the Mass Ascension unfolds before you — more than 600 balloons rising in a slow, graceful ballet over the Rio Grande Valley. It's a moment of stillness and awe that stays long after the colors fade.

## **Day 3 – Friday, October 9 – Balloon Fiesta, Sandia Tramway & On to Durango**

Rise early for your second morning at the Fiesta, when whimsical special-shape balloons take flight. Later, ride the Sandia Peak Tramway, the longest aerial tram in North America, ascending more than 10,000 feet for sweeping views of the Rio Grande Basin. After lunch, travel north through mesas and juniper-studded valleys along the historic Turquoise Trail, crossing into Colorado's San Juan Mountains. Arrive in Durango, where frontier history and mountain adventure meet. Unpack for two nights at the Strater Hotel, built in 1887 and filled with hand-carved woodwork, stained glass, and antique furnishings. Dinner tonight is at the hotel's Mahogany Grille, offering regional cuisine in a richly Victorian setting.

## **Day 4 – Saturday, October 10 – The Durango & Silverton Railroad**

Step aboard the legendary Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, one of the world's great heritage railways. Your first-class car, pulled by a century-old steam locomotive, winds along the Animas River through granite cliffs and forested canyons. In Silverton, enjoy lunch at the Lacey Rose Saloon, a lively relic of the mining era, with brass chandeliers, creaky floorboards, and walls echoing with Old West tales. After exploring the boardwalk shops and galleries, you may return to Durango by train or by motorcoach, each offering a different perspective of the San Juan Mountains. In the evening, enjoy live music in the Strater's historic saloon before dining in one of Durango's fine Main Street restaurants.

## **Day 5 – Sunday, October 11 – Over Wolf Creek Pass to Manitou Springs**

This morning's drive leads east through mountain valleys and over the spectacular Wolf Creek Pass, one of Colorado's most dramatic high crossings. Stop for lunch along the rushing Arkansas river in Salida. Continue to Manitou Springs, a Victorian spa town at the foot of Pikes Peak. Check into The Cliff House at Pikes Peak, a four -diamond historic landmark blending 19th-century architecture with modern comfort. Dinner tonight is in the hotel's acclaimed dining room, known for elegant service and locally inspired cuisine.

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## **Day 6 – Monday, October 12 – Pikes Peak & Garden of the Gods**

This morning, board the new Pikes Peak Cog Railway, climbing nearly nine miles to the 14,115-foot summit. The view stretches across plains and peaks in every direction — a panorama of pure mountain majesty. Later, explore Garden of the Gods, a stunning landscape where towering red sandstone formations rise abruptly from the earth, framed by snowcapped mountains and blue sky. Easy trails wind among formations like Cathedral Spires and Balanced Rock, offering countless photo opportunities. Overnight in the Denver area in preparation for tomorrow's rail adventure.

## **Day 7 – Tuesday, October 13 – Denver & The Canyon Spirit**

All aboard the Canyon Spirit by Rocky Mountaineer, beginning a two-day SilverLeaf Plus journey through the Rockies and canyon country — one of North America's most scenic rail experiences. Enjoy panoramic windows, complimentary cocktails, and gourmet meals as the train traverses Big Ten Curve, the Continental Divide, and Glenwood Canyon. Overnight in Glenwood Springs, a mountain town famed for its hot springs and Western heritage.

### **Life on the Rails: The Canyon Spirit**

Aboard the Canyon Spirit, the journey itself becomes the destination. Settle into your panoramic-window coach as the train glides from the Front Range into the heart of canyon country. Sip wine in the SilverLeaf Plus lounge while chefs serve multi-course meals inspired by the region — perhaps Colorado trout or roasted vegetables paired with Western wines. Through your wide windows, the Colorado River twists through deep gorges, golden aspens shimmer against dark cliffs, and sunlight spills across the high desert. By day's end, as the train slows beside Utah's red cliffs, you'll understand why this has been called one of the most beautiful slow journeys in America.

## **Day 8 – Wednesday, October 14 – Glenwood Springs to Moab**

Continue west as the Canyon Spirit follows the Colorado River through a corridor of red sandstone cliffs that seem to glow from within. Enjoy a chef-prepared breakfast and lunch before arriving in Moab, gateway to the national parks. Check into Red Cliffs Lodge, a serene riverside retreat surrounded by towering mesas and endless desert sky. The lodge's rustic-elegant rooms feature wood-beamed ceilings, private terraces, and sweeping views of the river below. Dinner is served on the terrace, with the fading sun casting the cliffs in shades of rose and amber.

## **Day 9 – Thursday, October 15 – Arches, Canyonlands & the Colorado River**

Explore Arches National Park, where over 2,000 natural stone arches glow in the morning light, and Canyonlands, a vast wilderness of mesas and river-carved canyons. Visit Dead Horse Point, offering perhaps the most striking overlook in the Southwest. This evening, enjoy a tranquil sunset cruise on the Colorado River, as the cliffs turn crimson and the stars begin to emerge.

## **Day 10 – Friday, October 16 – Across the Rockies to Denver**

After breakfast, journey east through Glenwood Canyon and over Vail Pass, pausing for a picnic beside the river. Visit Colorado's Ski & Snowboard Museum, honoring the 10th Mountain Division and Olympic athletes who shaped the state's alpine legacy. Spend your final night in the Denver area, sharing one last dinner with your fellow travelers.

## **Day 11 – Saturday, October 17 – Return Home**

Transfer to the Denver airport for your flight home, where a Globe Treks representative will return you safely to your doorstep — carrying with you the colors, sounds, and spirit of the great American Southwest.

*Important Note About Activity Level:* This tour is designed for travelers seeking an immersive experience that involves moderate walking and active exploration. Guests should be able to:

- Walk up to one mile at a time without assistance on varied terrain.
- This itinerary includes stairs, uneven surfaces, and early mornings for balloon and train departures.

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