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RIDING THE RAILS IN WEST VIRGINIA

OCTOBER 14-16, 2022

Experience first-hand the natural wonder that makes West Virginia a truly wild and wonderful destination! Enjoy three unique rail excursions as they transport you through spectacular scenery and the natural beauty of fall foliage. The trains roll through deep canyons featuring narrow passages, beside sheer rock walls with vivid views of unspoiled mountains, travel beside scenic cascading rivers, and burrow under the mighty Cheat Mountain. Don't miss this amazing rail adventure filled with an abundance of West Virginia heritage and history!

Departure/return times and pickup locations are as follows:

	<u>DEPART</u>	<u>RETURN</u>
Kohl's, Westminster Rt. 140 & Market St. (Rear of parking lot)	6:00 A.M.	9:30 P.M.
Vanessa's Corner Pub (VCP), Taylorsville at Rts. 26 & 27 (Drop-off/pick-up only)	6:15 A.M.	9:15 P.M.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14: We journey to the mountains of West Virginia this morning, making a breakfast stop in Winchester, VA en route. After arriving in West Virginia, we will view the beautiful **Seneca Rocks**, one of West Virginia's best-known natural landmarks and one of the most photographed sites in the state, a towering blade of sandstone thrust more than 800 feet above the valley of the North Fork River. Then, have time to visit the Rails and Trails Store before boarding the **Durbin Rocket Excursion Train**, one of the rarest steam locomotives in existence. Built in 1910 for the Moore-Keppel Lumber Co., Old #3 is one of only three operating Climax geared logging locomotives on earth. We will ride in the authentic 1920-era coach and vintage wooden cabooses behind #3 as she puffs and whistles her way along the free-flowing Greenbrier River in Northern Pocahontas County. The ride covers 10.5 miles in 2 hours and offers many beautiful river and mountain views in the Monongahela National Forest. A **boxed lunch** will be provided to enjoy onboard the train. We will check into our accommodations for the next two nights at:

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS (304)630-2266
 50 Martin Street
 Elkins, West Virginia 26241

Tonight, get into the spirit of West Virginia at a wonderful dinner show at the **Gandy Dancer Theatre**, a Branson-style variety show with comedy, country, gospel, and bluegrass.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15: After breakfast at the hotel, we will take a trip back to an era when steam-driven locomotives were an essential part of everyday life in the original lumbering town of Cass. Visit the **Cass Historic Theater** where you will watch a documentary about the history of Cass and the Cass Scenic Railroad. Shop the Company Store before boarding the

steam locomotive of **Cass Scenic Railroad**, the same line built in 1901 to haul lumber to the mill in Cass. The locomotives are the same Shay locomotives used in Cass during that time, and many of the passenger cars are old logging cars that have been refurbished. Cass is the home to the world's largest fleet of geared Shay locomotives. The legendary turn-of-the-century class C-80 Shay, #5 has been toiling up Cheat Mountain for 115 years, making it one of the oldest engines in continuous service on its original line, and the oldest operable Shay in existence! The long haul of 11 miles to Bald Knob takes about four and a half hours for the 22-mile round trip. Enjoy the unparalleled views of mountain wilderness areas in windowless cars with panoramas of the lofty Appalachians becoming more beautiful as the train climbs higher and higher. Passengers suddenly realize they are entering a completely different world, mainly because of the change in trees, flowers and atmosphere. By climbing the 2,390 feet from Cass (2452-feet) to Bald Knob (4842-feet) on Back Allegheny Mountain and second highest point in West Virginia, passengers have made the equivalent to an 800-mile trip to Canada in climate because of the higher altitude. Here are found spruce trees, snowshoe hares and other plants and animals typical in the far north. The rustic overlook affords one of the most awesome, overwhelming spectacles in the east. Dwarfed by distance and almost lost in the vastness of the panorama is the giant Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope, the world's largest fully steerable radio telescope, at the Green Bank Observatory in the valley near the foot of the mountain. A **boxed lunch** will be provided to enjoy with your ride. Dinner this evening is scheduled at **Graceland Mansion**, a beautifully restored Victorian mansion built in the 1890's at the height of the timber era, poised on the hillside of the campus of Davis & Elkins College.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16: After breakfast, we will visit the **West Virginia Railroad Museum**, located in the historic railyard, where you can view this year's exhibit called *Coal and the Railroad* which tells the story of the development of the coal and railroad industries in West Virginia. This exhibit features a guest exhibit from the Friends of Blackwater in Thomas, West Virginia, about the coal and railroad industrial complex built by Henry Gassaway Davis. Then, it's all aboard the **New Tygart Flyer**, a vintage diesel-powered passenger train which has gained a reputation as one of the most exciting mountain wilderness excursion rides in the U.S. featuring comfortable and pleasant accommodations. The 4-hour, 46-mile round trip features two separate mountain grades, an "S" curve tunnel, passage into a 1,500-foot deep canyon with steep densely forested slopes, and the crossing of a high bridge over the rushing Shavers Fork of the Cheat River before culminating at the inspirational "High Falls of Cheat," an 18' high, 150' wide waterfall in one of the most remote and pristine settings in the Eastern United States. Lunch is included onboard the train. This afternoon, we will depart with fond memories of our West Virginia rail adventure. A dinner stop will be made at Cracker Barrel en route home this evening.

PRICE PER PERSON:

SINGLE	\$1,100.00	(PRICE INCLUDES: motorcoach transportation,
DOUBLE	\$ 950.00	lodging, luggage handling, 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches,
TRIPLE	\$ 890.00	2 dinners, tax & gratuities on meals included, admissions,
QUAD	\$ 860.00	3 train rides, & 1 show)

A DEPOSIT OF \$300 PER PERSON IS REQUIRED WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF BOOKING. ALL RESERVATIONS AND FINAL PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY **SEPTEMBER 2, 2022**. Payment can be made by cash, check or money order and mailed to our office at above address. Luggage tags and final itineraries are mailed about 2 weeks prior to the trip. Bills are not mailed for balances due, however,



courtesy calls as a reminder will be made in case payment is not received by due date. Bus driver & tour director gratuities are not included in tour cost.

In the event of a cancellation, any non-refundable expenses for package inclusions such as reserved seat tickets, admissions, meals, or lodging may be forfeited. Rills will guarantee full refund only if the cancelled reservations can be resold to another customer. In the event where travel companions sharing the same room should need to cancel one or more persons in that room, the remaining passengers will be responsible for paying the supplemental charge to change occupancy.

We strongly suggest purchasing trip cancellation insurance which is available through Travel Guard Insurance. For specific questions regarding cancellation insurance, call Travel Guard at (800)826-1300. You will need to refer to Agency #50810 (Rill's Bus Service as agent). All policies will need to be quoted and/or purchased electronically, or by calling the 24-hour service center (paper applications are no longer accepted). Insurance coverage information will be mailed to you upon request to Rill's Bus Service.

Our motorcoach is equipped with restroom, reclining seats, air-conditioning/heating as needed, luggage compartments, and electrical outlets. Smoking of any kind is strictly prohibited onboard the motorcoach. The consumption of alcoholic beverages by any tour member while onboard our coach is also strictly prohibited. While every reasonable effort will be made to handle your luggage carefully, Rill's Bus Service will not assume any liability for lost or damaged luggage, due to breakage, theft, hotel or carrier handling, fair wear and tear, etc.

*PLEASE NOTE: Casual clothing is appropriate for the entire tour. Comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended. Due to the historical nature of the equipment, all trains may not be wheelchair/handicapped-accessible.

Rill's Bus Service reserves the right to change itineraries and reservations at their discretion, with or without notice, if in the best interest of the customer and to improve the quality of the tour, which could be necessary for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, local weather conditions, cancellations/substitutions for trip inclusions made by outside vendors, and/or any other circumstances beyond their control. Rill's Bus Service acts only as an agent on behalf of tour patrons in all matters relating to tour package inclusions, except transportation by their own vehicles, and is not responsible for any damage, delay, loss, injury, or accident to person or personal property when passenger is participating in tour activities and/or traveling by other transportation means while on tour prepared by Rills. Furthermore, Rill's is not responsible for any additional expenses incurred as a result of sickness, injury, weather, or any other unforeseen circumstances that are beyond their control.

Photo Credits: Durbin Greenbrier Valley RR

