

Our Favorite Memories

Colorado Trains

By Tour Leader Lynn O'Connell

“ALL ABOARD!” cried the conductor, as our WTT group began the first train ride of our week spent visiting Colorado and riding some of its most famous railroads. We spent the rest of that first morning on the Durango-Silverton line, looking at some of Colorado’s gorgeous scenery. There were many opportunities for great photos of waterfalls and natural settings. Lunch was in Silverton, CO, a town of about 300 residents. The town offered some wonderful Western-style lunch spots as well as great ice cream which was especially welcome as the afternoon heated up.

Travel on the Chama-Antonito railroad line was even more amazing! There, our train climbed high into the mountains. Midway through, we stopped for a delicious lunch home cooked for us by railroad workers. One of the entrees was turkey and really, it reminded us of an at-home feast. During the ride, we were fascinated by the tales and explanations from the railroad volunteers about “riding the rails.”

Pagosa Springs—some of us will always remember this respite during the trip! Many of us took time out for a luxurious spa treatment—facials, massages, and more. Nearly all of us spent at least a bit of time in some of the 18 healing hot mineral springs in the resort. For breakfasts, we crossed the bridge to The River Café where we were greeted by the smiling owner with fresh coffee and more.

In Colorado Springs, we had another full day before we headed for Denver. Our last train ride to the top of Pikes Peak on a cog railway was a new experience for many of us. What great views! Down at a much lower elevation, we still enjoyed additional great views as we traveled through the Garden of the Gods. We had no difficulty seeing why that wonderful spot was the inspiration for “America the Beautiful.”

And, then onto Denver...where our trip came to an end leaving us with fabulous memories of “riding the rails” in Colorado. ❖



Boarding the Durango-Silverton line.



Enjoying the hot mine rial springs in Pagosa Springs.



Photo op on the Durango-Silverton.