

Mountain Rails

October 12th - 14th, 2023



Join us for a fun three-day journey through the heart of western Pennsylvania and the beauty of Maryland. Enjoy the sights of Steel Town by boat, have dinner in a beautiful train station, ride the rails around the famous Horseshoe Curve and experience the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad.

Some Highlights:

- Rivers of Steel Explorer Cruise
- Dinner in the Grand Concourse
- Amtrak Around Horseshoe Curve
- Horseshoe Curve Funicular with lunch
 - Railroaders Memorial Museum
- Town Hill Dinner with Trivial Broadway Show
- Cumberland Maryland History Tour with Local Historian
 - Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad
 - Ridge Dale Farm
 - Six Meals

For more information contact:

Warther Tours
(330) 556-4535
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\$ 1,029 Per Person Double
\$ 1,249 Per Person Single
\$ 989 Per Person Triple

Optional Travel Insurance Can Be Quoted

Day One: Thursday, October 12, 2023, Drury Plaza, Downtown Pittsburgh

Depart from New Philadelphia, Ohio for our “**Mountain Rails**” tour. The first stop today is “Steel City,” also known as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania! Once we arrive to the city, we will drive across the Allegheny River to board the **Explorer Riverboat** at 9:30 am for a Uniquely Pittsburgh 90-minute Sightseeing Tour. We will travel on the Ohio, Monongahela, and Allegheny Rivers listening to narration describing the history of the city, stories of the region’s past, and answering the question, “What makes Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh”



After disembarking we cross back over the river and spend time in the **Strip District of Pittsburgh**. The “Strip”, as locals call it, is a narrow strip (one-half mile) of land between the Allegheny River and a mountain of a hill. It is a foodie heaven and as authentic as it is fun. Locals love it for its low prices and tremendous selections. The shopping district is full of ethnic grocers, produce stands, meat and fish markets as well as sidewalk vendors. Bordering downtown, this neighborhood is pure Pittsburgh! Here we will have time to stroll the streets, perhaps buy a souvenir or find something here for lunch on



our own. For those that might enjoy an adult beverage, there are breweries and a distillery just waiting for us!

Following the Strip District we are off to the **Heinz History Center** for a guided tour. This museum shares the inspiring stories of Western Pennsylvania’s people who have helped to change the course of American history. We will learn the local history of the city from its early days to the present. Be sure to visit their wonderful gift shop for all things Pittsburgh!

Our stay tonight is the nearby **Drury Plaza Hotel**, located in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh. The hotel is a renovation of the Federal Reserve Bank building. Be sure to check out the vaults on the lower level.



Dinner will be at the **Grand Concourse Restaurant** which is in the beautifully preserved Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad Station. The Grand Concourse Restaurant at Station Square is a true testament of grandeur and elegant dining. With a cathedral stained-glass vaulted ceiling, marble columns, and a grand staircase, we will be quickly transported to the glamorous side of the Progressive Era with the luxury of a modern-day menu.



After dinner we take a ride on the **Monongahela Incline**. This incline was built before the turn of the century and opened May 28, 1870. Today, the incline is more than a tourist attraction, it is the best way for commuters on Mt. Washington to get to work. Enjoy the

ride and the breathtaking view of the city! We will then return to our hotel for a good night's rest before a fun filled day tomorrow. **(Dinner)**

Day Two – Friday, October 13, 2023, Fairfield Inn, Cumberland, Maryland

This morning is an early start for our 7:30 am **Amtrak departure to Altoona**. Departing out of Union Station we will experience Pennsylvania countryside and the famous Horseshoe Curve. Upon arrival we will meet our local historian at the **ALTOONA RAILROADERS 'MUSEUM**. Learn about the massive railroad history of this area of Pennsylvania, and tour this fascinating interactive museum, housed in the 1882 Master Mechanics Building. The museum will take you into the personal lives and ethnic heritages of the men and women who lived, ate and slept railroads back in the day! Next, we are headed over to the famous **Horseshoe Curve** located at Kittanning Point at the base of the Allegheny Mountains and ride the FUNICULAR up to the overlook. A catered sandwich buffet will be served in the outdoor picnic pavilion as we take in the spectacular views of the countryside and of trains rounding this stunning horseshoe curve! Next, we take a scenic drive to Cumberland, Maryland.



Cumberland, Maryland is a historic and scenic gem. Set in the Appalachian Mountains at the junction of the Potomac River and Wills Creek, Cumberland has a history which stretches from the days of the Native American peoples through the French and Indian War, the Revolution, Westward Expansion and on into the industrial age. We will head over to **Town Hill Inn** for dinner and a show! This inn began life as a fruit stand in the early 20th century and has a magnificent view of three states from its overlook! Enjoy a home-cooked dinner from recipes unique to the inn, and then revel in “Trivial Broadway” show. If you love the Golden Age of Broadway Musicals, this is the show for you! Your guide will sing you many of your favorites and tell you the backstage stories of these shows and their movie versions. In between, you will have a chance to answer trivia questions about the shows and their stars. Answer a particularly difficult question, and you get to try to stump your host on a song she does not know! It’s loads of fun and a challenge to your brain – and a charming trip down memory lane as well! **(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

Day Three – Saturday, October 14, 2023, Home

This morning we will see something you can’t see anywhere else: The **Ridge Dale Farm**. Built in 1835 by a 5th cousin of George Washington, this impressive brick residence offers an imposing view of the surrounding area from its cupola. Lovingly restored and furnished, this private residence is only open to us, so take advantage of the opportunity! It was used as a hospital during the Battle of Kelley’s Island in 1861, and the famous Confederate officer, Captain Richard Ashby, died in the parlor. You will tour the house from its cellars to its cupola, and the owners will gladly answer your questions about the Washington family, the farm, and the romance of Captain Ashby and Etta Washington, who lived in the house her entire 99 years.



Following this special tour we ride the **Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad**. Gliding through countryside rich with Civil War History, the Potomac Eagle takes you to the “trough”, a gap cut by the Potomac River, which is a protected habitat for bald eagles. Climb into the open gondola car and see how good you are at spotting these magnificent raptors as you roll through the gap alongside the beautiful Potomac!

You’ll enjoy lunch on the train as well! After our fall foliage train ride, we will head home! **(Breakfast, Lunch)**