

Great Day! Scheduled Tour Summary

A RAILROAD EXPERIENCE

THUR- SAT JUNE 29–JULY 1, 2017

Departures, as applicable, from Westlake, Elyria, North Olmsted, Middleburg Heights, Independence, Beachwood, Boston Heights.

This is another of our new tours and features many of the most popular “railroad experiences” in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania . . . and we’ve managed to include so much into a three-day package at a most competitive price. **All Aboardddddddddd!!!!**



THURSDAY – Trainmen call it “high balling”, which means that the track is clear and it is ok to proceed. While we will be in a motorcoach, we will follow a similar practice as we head for our first stop along the way, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The area had become known for many things, among them a reputation for its devastating floods. The largest flood in Johnstown's history occurred in 1889, and the next year, construction began on the “inclined railway” to carry people, horses and wagons to the new hilltop community of Westmont. It was renamed and, mid-1891 the Johnstown Inclined Plane began providing convenient transportation up Yoder Hill which had a steep 71% grade. Forty-five years later, flood waters again ran through Johnstown, it proved its worth by carrying almost 4000 residents to safety. It is still in active use today and, in 1977, was called upon once again to carry people up the hill and emergency crews and even boats down to the flood area. A giant American flag sits atop a 125-foot pole to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the first flood.

GREAT DAY! TOURS & CHARTER BUS SERVICE . . . (440) 526-5350 . . . (800) 362-4905

All tour details are anticipated at the time that the Scheduled Tour Brochure was prepared and specific stops and/or other inclusions are subject to change or elimination without notice. Tours typically depart between 6 AM and 8 AM with the exact time shown on the itinerary you will receive approximately one to two weeks prior to the tour departure. Most tours return about 8 PM to 10 PM, although this may vary.



We have also included a short visit to the Johnstown Flood Museum to learn more about the neglected dam and a phenomenal storm that led to a catastrophe as well as the area's triumphant recovery. Afterwards we will continue eastward into South Central Pennsylvania to check into the Country Inn in one of the oldest inland towns in the United States; we will be staying at the same Inn both nights. This evening we will be having a full-service plated dinner with several choices of entrees followed by a live musical production. **(D, Show)**



FRIDAY – Strasburg – Breakfast is included at the hotel before we travel into the borough of Strasburg. Back in 1832, when Andrew Jackson was President, a Special Act of the Pennsylvania Legislature led to the incorporation of the Strasburg Rail Road. Over the years it became an important part of the transportation network in Central Pennsylvania, carrying both freight and passengers. While passenger travel dwindled with the advent of the electric trolley in 1901, the need to carry freight in both World Wars kept the railroad going. One of the first purchases was a steam locomotive and, over the years, 5 additional steam locomotives were purchased including a rare camelback engine that burns anthracite coal. We will be touring the railroad's shops which keep many of the country's steam engines in service, even as far as building the replacement wheels for the large locomotives. Later in the afternoon, we will be taking the Strasburg Rail Road Dinner Train, traveling along its 14 miles of roundtrip trackage.

During the day we will be visiting a 1,700 square foot O-gauge train layout with over 150 hand-built animated figures and vehicles plus 22 operating trains.

But this is just the start as you will find when we enter the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, this time with the actual full-sized trains. This museum has more than 100 historic locomotives and railroad cars that chronicle American railroad history, much of it having come from the historical collection of the PRR, the Pennsylvania Railroad, and were on display at the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair; several years later they were placed in storage in a roundhouse in Northumberland, Pennsylvania, before being brought to this site.



One interactive display allows visitors to "take the throttle" on a simulated run in a real freight locomotive, climb aboard a caboose, inspect a 62-ton locomotive from underneath and view restoration activities via closed-circuit television. This attraction was created to provide a historical account of railroading in Pennsylvania by preserving rolling stock, artifacts, and archives of railroads and trolley companies of the Commonwealth. One part of our visit, that most everyone finds especially interesting, is their operating turntable from the Reading Company. The Museum has also acquired a number of pieces created by the Baldwin Locomotive Works, which had operated just outside Philadelphia since the mid-1800s. Following this tour we will be enjoying the dinner-train previously described before returning to the Inn. You may also hear some interesting stories, such as certain railroaders referring to the steam locomotives that we will be seeing as "calliopes". (B, D)



SATURDAY – Scranton – After breakfast we will board the coach and travel to Scranton for our visit to the Steamtown National Historic Site; it is located on 62 acres in the downtown area at the site of the former Scranton yards of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. We will be seeing a working turntable and the roundhouse, reconstructed from the remnants of an original 1932 structure. Many of the steam locomotives and other railroad equipment came from a collection previously owned by a New England millionaire. In 1986 the U.S. House of Representatives began the process of turning it into a National Historic Site and it eventually came under the National Park Service.



We will be seeing a short video production, learning of the history and technology of the steam railroads. Of course we will be getting up-close to steam and diesel engines (including the Union Pacific # 4012 “Big Boy” (in the photo) and equipment from many other railroads including Milwaukee Road, the Canadian National Railroad, Canadian Pacific, the Nickel Plate Road, Reading Railroad and Grand Trunk Western, to name just a few of them.

Unfortunately, all great rail adventures must come to an end and we will depart for home (or the station) . . . but with a mid-afternoon luncheon included along the way. **(B, L)**

A RAILROAD EXPERIENCE TOUR – JUNE-JULY 2017

Package includes 5 meals, one being the dinner-show, one on dinner-train

\$624 per person in a double

\$614 per person in a triple

\$604 per person in a quad

\$744 per person in a single

Deposit to book, \$100 per person; we accept all major credit cards and checks.

Tours can now be booked on-line, 24 hours a day with a credit card.