



SANTA ANA COLLEGE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM

PRESENTS....

NEVADA TRAINS, BALLOONS & COWBOYS

FEATURING *CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR* TRAIN, GREAT RENO BALLOON RACE, GREAT BASIN NAT'L PARK, ELKO

SEPTEMBER 5-12, 2012 ~ 8 DAY TOUR

TOUR PACE ☐ Leisurely ☒ On the Go ACTIVITY LEVEL ☐ Low ☒ High

~DAY BY DAY ITINERARY~



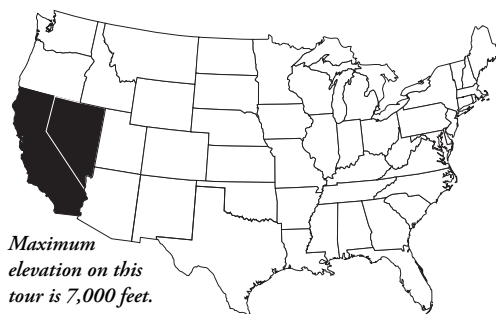
TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ♦ Attend the Great Reno Balloon Race featuring over 100 hot air balloons in a mass ascension and skill competitions
- ♦ Ride the rails on the *California Zephyr* over the Sierra Nevada – one of the most spectacular train rides in America
- ♦ Visit Great Basin National Park and tour the majestic Lehman Caves
- ♦ “Basque” in Nevada’s “Cowboy Country” surrounding Elko touring Lamoille and the Ruby Mountains, a gold mine, a ranch to meet a cowboy and the Western Folklife Center and CA Trail Interpretive Center
- ♦ Travel aboard the Nevada Northern Railroad, a historic landmark

From the bright lights of Las Vegas and Reno, to the small mining towns of Ely and Elko – from two spectacular train rides to the natural wonders of Great Basin National Park – from the Great Reno Balloon Race to cowboy poetry in “Cowboy Country”, this tour encompasses all that makes the “Silver State” spectacular.



Lehman Caves



Maximum elevation on this tour is 7,000 feet.

train aficionado and they'll tell you that one of the most beautiful train trips in all of North America is aboard the *California Zephyr*. See the breathtakingly beautiful **Sierra Nevada** and the famous **Donner Pass**, as well as the stunningly picturesque and historic **Donner Lake**. As we descend from the mountains, we'll soon arrive in **Reno, Nevada** – known as “The Biggest Little City in the World.” We'll check into our casino resort hotel for a two-night stay. (Breakfast)

FINE HOTELS / GREAT LOCATIONS

- ♦ Night 1 Hyatt Regency Sacramento, CA
- ♦ Nights 2-3 Peppermill Resort Casino Reno, NV
- ♦ Nights 4-5 Hilton Garden Inn Elko, NV
- ♦ Night 6 La Quinta Inn & Suites Ely, NV
- ♦ Night 7 Treasure Island Hotel Las Vegas NV

♦DAY 1 ~ TRAVEL TO SACRAMENTO♦

This morning we set out from our departure points on an adventure into the heart of California. On board throughout this tour is geographer, **Dennis Napier**, who from the beginning will begin to educate us on the areas we are passing through. Dennis is a former professor of geography at Long Beach City College and his extensive knowledge and diverse background will make your journey an enlightening one. We will make several comfort stops along the way and arrive in **Sacramento** in the early evening for an overnight stay. Check into our hotel located across from **Capitol Park**. An included memorable **welcome dinner** this evening. (Dinner)



California Zephyr

♦DAY 3 ~ RENO BALLOON RACES♦

Rise and shine early this morning as we make our way to the balloon field (with boxed breakfast enroute) for the mass ascension of balloons at the **Great Reno Balloon Race**. Looking around you'll see acres of billowing fabric, gently introducing panels of vibrant color into the landscape. As hot air encompasses the material, the liftoff begins and your spirits ascend with more than 100 hot air balloons as they take flight into the Reno skies creating a rainbow of colorful balloons soaring about. Then, the excitement really heats up as the **skill competitions** begin. There is a skill to “racing” a balloon and there is much more than meets the eye! Enjoy the afternoon at leisure. Tonight, we'll enjoy an included dinner in a Basque restaurant with a traditional family-style served meal. (Breakfast, Dinner)



Great Reno Balloon Race

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- ♦ 7 Nights deluxe hotel accommodations
- ♦ 14 Meals – 5 dinners, 2 lunches, 7 breakfasts
- ♦ Comprehensive sightseeing and services of a professional tour director/geographer-guide
- ♦ Admissions per itinerary
- ♦ Transportation on a deluxe motorcoach
- ♦ Luggage handling throughout the tour
- ♦ Applicable taxes, fees and most gratuities

PER PERSON PRICES

Double \$1,399 / Single \$1,699 • Deposit \$200

Travel Protection/Cancellation Plan

\$85 Double occupancy / \$116 Single occupancy

♦DAY 2 ~ CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR TRAIN♦

Following an included breakfast this morning, it's all aboard the *California Zephyr*! Ask any

RESERVATIONS

Santa Ana College
Community Services Program
1530 W. 17th St., Room S-201
Santa Ana, CA 92706

Phone (714) 564-6594 • (714) 564-0240
www.sac.edu/community/services

Tour operated by *Good Times Travel*
California Seller of Travel License #: 2018390-40

PAYMENT INFORMATION

♦Deposit (and travel protection) due at time of booking to the address above

♦*Good Times Travel* will invoice you for the balance payment 6-8 weeks prior to departure

TRAVEL PROTECTION / CANCELLATION

Travel protection/cancellation insurance is highly recommended for all multi-day tours. If travel protection has not been purchased, only recoverable funds less a cancellation charge of \$50 will be reimbursed once payment has been made. Amount of reimbursement depends on the date of cancellation.

If travel protection has been purchased and you must cancel prior to departure or leave the tour enroute for a reason approved by the insurance company, you will receive a full refund (or partial if enroute), minus the cost of the premium. Other benefits of travel protection include medical expenses for illness and injury. Pre-existing medical conditions are only covered if protection is purchased at the time of deposit. Travel protection must be purchased by the time balance payment is made. See travel protection plan for full details and exclusions.

DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Park and join this tour at one of the following locations:

Fountain Valley - Good Times Travel office
Long Beach - City College - Lot "O"

Departure time depends on location
Exact times are provided 2 weeks prior to departure

ACTIVITY LEVEL / WALKING

Tour pacing and physical demands (walking/stairs, etc.) varies by each tour however every tour involves some walking and climbing stairs to enter/exit the motorcoach. On any tour you may stay on the motorcoach should you not wish to disembark at a specific location.

FURTHER INFORMATION / TERMS

See *Good Times Travel* catalog
or goodtimestravel.com for more details

♦DAY 4 ~ WINNEMUCCA, ELKO♦

Following an included breakfast this morning, we depart Reno and travel deep into the "Silver State". First, a stop in **Winnemucca**, the small town named for a famous 19th-century Paiute leader. This evening we arrive in **Elko**, the capital of Nevada's "Cowboy Country" and one of the last remaining outposts of the real American West. At 5,060 feet, Elko enjoys a temperate climate. Visit the new **California Trail Interpretive Center** to learn about westward migration through multimedia exhibits, life size dioramas and original art. An included **dutch oven dinner** this evening. (Breakfast, Dinner)

♦DAY 5 ~ ELKO♦

This morning following an included breakfast we are joined by a local guide for a sightseeing tour of Elko, termed "a small town in splendid isolation". We then travel to **Lamoille**, a charming village at the base of the **Ruby Mountains**. This village is a little Shangri-la of family farms and country lanes that has become a popular destination with travelers from around the world. Nicknamed the "Alps of Nevada," the Ruby Mountains feature year-round snow-covered peaks, alpine lakes, glacier-carved canyons, and spectacular aspen and spruce trees. An included lunch during the day. We return to Elko and visit a **working ranch** and meet a real cowboy to learn about ranch life. We then tour a **gold mine** to learn how gold is mined these days. A visit to the **Western Folklife Center** to learn about the authentic cultures of the West and learn the art of **cowboy poetry**. An included dinner this evening at the **Pine Lodge**. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

♦DAY 6 ~ ELKO, ELY♦

This morning, following an included breakfast we continue south into Nevada's "**Great Basin**". A stop in McGill at the **McGill Drug Store Museum** will take you back to an era gone but not forgotten. This afternoon we arrive in the former copper mining town of **Ely**, the largest city in western Nevada, and at the heart of Nevada's "**Pony Express Territory**" – an area of ghost towns, long forgotten cemeteries, and abandoned mines. Its name reflects the fact that the historic Pony Express route stretched through this region in the early 1860s. Ely is known for their collection of murals. Blank walls of the downtown buildings have been painted by world-renowned artists with colorful scenes from the town's rich past. We'll visit the famous **Nevada Northern Railway Museum** and the historic **East Ely Depot**. The museum offers a unique view of the railyards and historic rolling stock of the Nevada Northern Railroad. All aboard for a ride on the legendary **Ghost Train of Old Ely** up a narrow mountain canyon. Step back in time on this historic train ride and learn why this is called a "ghost train." This evening, a "**jailhouse**" dinner in a captivating location. (Breakfast, Dinner)



Great Basin National Park

♦DAY 7 ~ GREAT BASIN NAT'L PARK, VEGAS♦

An included breakfast this morning before we depart for **Great Basin National Park**. From the sagebrush at its alluvial base to the 13,063-foot summit of Wheeler Peak, Great Basin National Park features streams, lakes, alpine plants, abundant wildlife, a variety of forest types including groves of ancient bristlecone pines, and numerous limestone caverns, including beautiful Lehman Caves. With our geographer-guide aboard we will explore the park and tour **Lehman Caves** with a ranger guide to see this beautiful marble cave ornately decorated with stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, flowstone, popcorn, and over 300 rare shield formations. An included picnic lunch while in the Park. A stop in the town of **Pioche**. See the notorious "**Million Dollar**" Courthouse, built in 1871 at an original estimated cost of \$16,400. It is a standing monument to cost overruns, mismanagement, skimming, and kickbacks. This evening the bright lights of **Las Vegas** welcome us. The entertainment capital of the world invites you to discover its many resort hotels and gaming options. This city boasts more neon and excitement than any other city in the world. Your tour director will be available to direct you to the perfect casino or show if you choose. Overnight at the recently-renovated **Treasure Island Hotel and Casino** located in the heart of the glamorous **Las Vegas "Strip"** with easy access to the surrounding hotels and casinos. (Breakfast, Lunch)

♦DAY 8 ~ LAS VEGAS, JOURNEY HOME♦

After an included breakfast this morning, we head out for a late morning departure from Las Vegas that will allow time for your own exploration on the "Strip". Visit one of the new mega resort casinos such as the **Palazzo**, **Wynn**, **City Center** or the **Cosmopolitan**. We continue through the California and Nevada desert this afternoon and our return to Southern California this evening. Our exploration of the "Silver State" – from the bright lights to the small mining towns and Old West charm will be nothing less than spectacular! (Breakfast)