

Train Routes in Colorado

The 6 routes that run through Colorado

Home to several scenic and memorable train routes, Colorado offers both passenger and freight services. With varied terrain and history, it makes Colorado a prime location for these routes. Many offer an opportunity for sightseeing and a deeper connection to Colorado's natural beauty and heritage. Some of the most popular train routes in Colorado are; [Amtrak's California Zephyr](#), [the Royal Gorge Route Railroad](#), [the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad](#), [the Pikes Peak Cog Railway](#), [the Leadville Colorado & Southern Railroad](#), and [the Winter Park Express](#). Let's get right into the 6 train routes that run through Colorado.

Amtrak's California Zephyr

Route: Chicago, Illinois to Emeryville, California

Scenic Highlights:

- **Rocky Mountains:** As the California Zephyr passes through the Rockies, you get the chance to view the towering peaks, canyons and forests.
- **Great Plains:** You get to travel through the vast plains of Nebraska and Iowa, experiencing the open landscapes that contrast sharply with the mountainous regions.
- **Sierra Nevada:** As the train travels through Northern California, you pass through the Sierra Nevada Mountains, giving you views of the lakes, forests, and mountain valleys.

As one of the most scenic Amtrak routes, the [California Zephyr](#) travels through a variety of landscapes such as the Rocky Mountains and [the Moffat Tunnel](#). This route offers the most breathtaking views. A perfect route for those who want to experience the natural beauty as well as being able to travel across the country without the hassle of driving or flying.

The Royal Gorge Route Railroad

Route: Canon City, Colorado to Parkdale, Colorado

Scenic Highlights:

- **Royal Gorge:** A majestic Canyon that is more than 1,200 feet deep, the railroad will take you alongside the Arkansas River, giving you stunning views of the canyon walls and river below.
- **Suspension Bridge:** One of the highest suspension bridges in the world, this bridge was originally built in 1929 and stands 1,053 feet above the Arkansas River.

[The Royal Gorge Route Railroad](#) offers tourists a view of the Royal Gorge itself. Giving a luxury ride with the option for dining services or special events like the holiday trains. Passing through the stunning Royal Gorge and the dramatic mountain landscapes that surround it, this railroad is a great way

to immerse yourself in Colorado's up-close view of nature while enjoying the comfort and charm of an old-fashioned train ride.

The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad

Route: Durango, Colorado to Silverton, Colorado

Scenic Highlights:

- **Animas River:** Following the Animas River for a long part of the journey, this train ride provides you with stunning views of the crystal-clear waters through the deep valleys and canyons.
- **San Juan Mountains:** The train climbs into the San Juan Mountains, passing through the gorges, over bridges, and even alongside the steep cliffs, creating an awe-inspiring backdrop throughout the ride.
- **Historic Silverton:** A historic mining town that dates back to the late 1800s, retaining much of its old-fashioned charm still today

The Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, known for its mountain views and the old-fashioned steam-powered engines, this historic train travels through the rough terrain of the San Juan Mountains. Making it a popular attraction for history lovers and adventure seekers while offering an unforgettable journey through beautiful Colorado and the history of the mining town of Silverton.

The Pikes Peak Cog Railway

Route: Manitou Springs, Colorado to Pikes Peak Summit, Colorado

Scenic Highlights:

- **Views of Colorado Springs:** Ascending through the mountains, you are treated to the gorgeous views of Colorado Springs, Garden of the Gods, and the Pike National Forest.
- **Alpine Flora and Fauna:** Along the way, you will see the diverse ecosystems, and the higher you go, the more stunning the landscapes become.
- **Summit Views:** Upon reaching the Summit, you get a panoramic view that includes the plains below and visibility of hundreds of miles, on a clear day.

Known as the highest cog railway in North America, [the Pikes Peak Cog Railway](#) climbs to the summit of Pikes Peak. With unique and unparalleled views, this railway is a great way to experience the mountain without having to hike.

The Leadville Colorado & Southern Railroad

Route: Leadville, Colorado to Climax, Colorado

Scenic Highlights:

- **Mining History:** Offering a glimpse into Leadville's rich history, this railroad will teach you the town's mining legacy.
- **Mountains and Wilderness:** Traveling through the Rocky Mountains, you will enjoy the sweeping views of the San Isabel National Forest.
- **Colorado's Highest City:** Departing from Leadville, you will learn that it is known as the highest city in the U.S., being over 10,000 feet above sea level.

The Leadville Colorado * Southern Railroad offers a unique, hands-on look at one of Colorado's historically significant mining towns. This historic narrow-gauge railroad takes you through the area of the mining history as well as providing you with the beautiful views of the Arkansas River Valley and Mount Massive.

The Winter Park Express (Amtrak)

Route: Denver, Colorado to Winter Park, Colorado

Scenic Highlights:

- **Moffat Tunnel:** As one of the most exciting parts of this journey, this train passes through this 6.2-mile tunnel.
- **Rocky Mountain Views:** Take in the views of the Rocky Mountains as an incredible backdrop for the train ride.

- **Berthoud Pass:** Climbing towards Winter Park, you will get to see views of the Berthoud Pass, a high mountain with rugged landscapes and dramatic vistas.
- **Colorado River:** This train ride travels alongside the Colorado River for a portion of the journey, giving you picture-worthy views.

An alternative way for skiers, snowboarders, and winter enthusiasts, the [Winter Park Express](#) gives you the chance for a scenic winter experience as well as being eco-friendly. During the winter months, this seasonal Amtrak service offers you a direct route from Denver to the Winter Park ski resort. A great option for those attempting to avoid the hassle of driving.

If train rides are your thing, then [Utah Luxury Tours](#) is the spot for you to check out. From Scheduled tours to Private tours, and even to tours on our Curated Compass, there is an activity for you and your party to try out.

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