

let's go travelling

ADVERTISING FEATURE



travel options for the mature west australian

Making tracks and training across America - Part one crossing the Rockies



Left to right; A bride and groom outside Provo City Centre LSD Temple - Arriving at Denver by Amtrak train - Utah Monolith - Glenwood Canyon

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Following my camera's view finder I wandered into the Provo City Centre LSD Temple, where people were queuing up to be married. Apparently, the temple hosts about 100 weddings every week, although they don't seem to take

very long. It appeared that only close family members attended the weddings as you have to get permission from your bishop to attend. The gardens were lovely, ideal for wedding photos, and I had several conversations with guests about universal health

care, which the United States doesn't have. These were always polite conversations and initiated by the locals. I got the strong impression that many Americans think that universal health care is a communist plot.

At least shotgun weddings are easy there as everyone seems to have access to a firearm.

The next leg was going to take me to Denver, and from Provo to Denver is where the scenery began to get utterly spectacular.

I got to the station by 3.30am, the time the Californian Zephyr was due to leave Provo. Unfortunately, the train was stuck between Salt Lake City and Provo because a track had moved. Amtrak doesn't own the rails,

so it was a three hour wait for it to be fixed. No Problem. Dawn over Provo was delightful.

We climbed out of the valley, gradually inching up onto a high plateau. At one stage the climb was so steep we had to make a series of sharp loops and turns in order to gain height. We were now back in high desert country where there were many spectacular rock formations and higher snow-capped mountains far in the distance.

Because of the altitude the air is very clear so the views are stunning.

Near the Colorado town of Glenwood Springs the train enters the Glenwood Canyon, and follows the Colorado River. Because I was a

friendly Australian, the conductor had told me to move to the observation carriage when we stopped at Glenwood Springs.

The sides of the canyon soar to over 400m above the track, and it is so close that you could almost touch the rocks if you could open the train windows.

This is a most picturesque canyon. Extraordinarily rugged and quite narrow. The observation car got packed once we entered the canyon, as you can really only appreciate how truly vertical and inspiring the sides are by looking up through the glass roof. This 40 km section of the journey was certainly eye-catching memorable.

The California Zephyr continued to climb, and we were near some of the United States' best skiing country, such as Vail and Aspen.

Soon after leaving the Winter's Park ski area we entered Moffat Tunnel which, at an altitude of 2,816m is the highest point on the whole journey. The tunnel has a length of 10kms and as soon as we exited we began the descent down to Denver, which is 80kms away.

Although it was dark as we entered Denver's outskirts, it was a clear night and a blood moon was shining, making for a somewhat eerie entrance into Colorado's largest city.

Denver's Union Sta-

tion has been recently revamped. It is no longer a sterile railway station but a place where people can congregate at restaurants and bars, and shop in an interesting arcade. They have also turned the top couple of floors into the Crawford Hotel, a comfortable, contemporary place that is easily accessible to many of Denver's attractions.

I was staying at The Crawford so made myself comfortable and opened the curtains, only to discover that my room was directly above the main concourse and I could easily be seen from below. Curtains closed, great night's sleep was had.

This adventure is going to continue next month.

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Tour to China especially for photographers



Sailing or more accurately steaming on the River Li offers dramatic scenery as nature's vast limestone carvings soar into the air to enthral participants on the ACFS Photography Tour to China

RICE crops will be ready for harvest and still shimmering gold when members of this small group tour arrive from Australia in September during the Chinese autumn.

The tour is offered by the Australian China Friendship Society (ACFS) which has branches in all states and territories.

The 13-day itinerary is programmed to cover extraordinary sites with colour and history combined.

The China Southern flights leave from all state capitals with a direct service to Guangzhou, the old Canton.

The cities from which the excursions will radiate are Guangzhou, Zhaoxing, Longsheng, Guilin, Xianggon Hill and Xingping. And at Yangshuo guests have the rare opportunity to attend a giant outdoor concert with a musical, vocal and light presentation and a backdrop of the Li River designed by Zhang Yimou, a top movie director who was the designer of the opening ceremony for the 2008 Olympic Games.

The leader of the tour is Susan Moss, an ACFS member in Perth and successful member of the WA Camera Club. Susan's website is www.susanmossartandphotography.com. She has been a participant in photographic tours in Vietnam and India.

The cost is \$4380 per person, twin share including air fares, accommodation, most meals, gratuities, local photographer from day four to 11, and ground transport throughout including high speed rail. Single supplement is \$650.

Departure is 18 September. You can obtain an itinerary by phoning freecall 1300 886678 (China Best Tours) or visit acfswa.org/photography-tour-guilin-2018.html

The ACFS national tour director is Roz Hanley. You can reach her on hanley@iinet.net.au

2018

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