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www.traintrips.biz *Offering rail tours for 35 years* Chris@traintrips.biz

OFFICE HOURS

OFFICE HOURS ARE 9:00AM TO 3:00PM TUESDAY THRU THURSDAY

RAIL TOUR NEWSLETTER 98

DATED FRIDAY APRIL 12, 2019. WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

You are receiving our Railroad Newsletter because you requested it or had contacted us for more info about our train tours in which we place your e mail into our database . If you no longer want to receive our Railroad Newsletter send us an e mail to tft@traintrips.biz asking to be removed from our database

SPECIAL RARE BRANCHLINE TOUR OF HUNGARY SCHEDULED

**RAILFAN/RARE MILEAGE TOUR
OCTOBER 2-9, 2019**

There have been rumors floating in the rail industry that the Hungarian government wishes to close many branch lines after local elections in October 2019. A list has been circulated in the press. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of the list and if these lines really will be closed in 2019, but clearly something is going to take place after October and so this tour will cover all those branch lines in Hungary that are on the list.

The tour will be hauled on all 6 days with full restaurant service. Regular hotels will be used and bus transfers will be provided where needed. The selection of locomotives is somewhat restricted by axle-load constraints on many of the branch lines. The route has already been confirmed by railroad management. In fact, we originally intended to use different lines to get from Miskolc to Szeged but had to change plans due to a blockade on the Mezőtúr-Szarvas line. We will run this tour if the number of passengers reach the breakeven point of 45. We are still working on the final itinerary and price so this tour has not been posted yet on our website. Please give us a call if you are interested.

HEY LOOK A PRIVATE RAIL CAR JOURNEY TO DENVER ROUNDTRIP

BEST OF THE ROCKIES

JULY 13-18, 2019

Relax in first class comfort aboard the private sleeper/lounge rail car *SILVER IRIS* on a roundtrip from Emeryville to Denver and return. Private rail car trips are now very rare since Amtrak's CEO put the brakes on these movements a few months ago. Since then several of the cars based here in California have been sold and or for sale and most have been put into long term storage in hopes that Amtrak will allow them to run again someday.

The *SILVER IRIS* will be attached to Amtrak's California Zephyr departing Emeryville on Saturday July 13 at 9:10AM arriving in Denver the next day at 6:40PM. Returning we depart Denver on Wednesday July 17 at 8:00AM arriving back in Emeryville the next day at 4:10PM. Also passengers can join us in Martinez, Davis, Sacramento or Reno. The car will be parked at Denver Union Station and will serve as your hotel for three nights. All meals are included while enroute both directions plus a continental breakfast will be served each morning in Denver.

Very limited space available as only 10 tickets will be sold so give us a call and book as soon as possible. We expect this excursion to be sold out in very short time. We will not be posting this trip on our website so this is the only notice that you will see. We have available four double rooms for two persons and two roomettes for one person.

PRICE: \$1795



CONGRESS PUTS PRESSURE ON AMTRAK MANAGEMENT

DEMANDS ANSWERS!

When Amtrak's new CEO Richard Anderson made it clear that he wanted to get rid of the long distant passenger trains and cut the system up into several pieces that do not even connect with each other all hell hit the fan all across America. Folks like you wrote letters to Amtrak and to Congress protesting and your concerns were heard. Congress came back and said that long distance passenger trains should be retained and in fact improved. Thank goodness there are still people that want our long distance trains to continue and they made certain their voice was heard.

ALSO CONGRESS WANTS AMTRAK TO ADDRESS THE CHARTER TRAIN AND PRIVATE RAIL CAR ISSUES

Perhaps there is a light at the end of the tunnel for charter trains and private rail car movements on Amtrak. Again, CEO Anderson upset a lot of people when he cancelled just about all of the charter trains there were scheduled across the country last year. Included was the Feather River Canyon Express that we were going to run up to Portola. Additionally he put a bunch of new rules into effect and increased the rates for private rail car movements. This in turn reduced the number of private rail cars on the move to almost zero. Private car owners were in shock and many put their cars up for sale or into long term storage.

Now Congress wants to know the justification for this new policy at Amtrak. We would sure love to see charter trains back on the move again. At least it is nice to know that our voices were heard and Congress is now demanding answers.

BIG BOY ABOUT READY TO GO

The Big Boy, largest steam locomotive in the world is about ready to get back on the mainline and pull a train on Sherman Hill again and head for Utah to take part in the Golden Spike 150th anniversary. A test fire was lit in her firebox a couple of days ago and she passed with flying colors. The 4-8-8-4 steam locomotive should be making some break-in runs out of Cheyenne, Wyoming just about the time you read this.

The UP 4014 is now scheduled to depart Cheyenne on May 4 and head towards Ogden, Utah. Overnight stops will be made in Rawlins, Rock Springs and Evanston before arrival in Ogden on May 8. The UP 844 4-8-4 Northern will depart Cheyenne on April 27 and arrive in Ogden on April 28. Both Union Pacific steam locomotives will be on display in Ogden May 9-11. Then on May 12 the 4014 and 844 will doublehead eastbound back to Cheyenne arriving on May 19.

We have heard from many of our railfan clients all around the world asking questions and telling us they are planning to head for Utah in May. The Utah Highway Patrol has said they will have a heavy presence on the highways during these steam train movements and will be watching the railfans like a hawk. A public statement says that troopers will be on the lookout for photographers causing hazards by blocking interstate highway traffic. No parking on Interstates will be strickly enforced. We have a group of railfan coming from Japan just to see the Big Boy back in steam. So we will be heading for Utah in May. See you in Utah next month.



UPDATE ON 2019 AVAILABLE SPACE

RAIL AND NATURAL WONDERS OF ALASKA.....SIX SPACES
SWITZERLAND RAIL TUNNELS & MOUNTAIN PASSES.....SOLD OUT
HIDDEN COLOMBIA BY RAIL.....SEVEN SPACES
SOUTHERN FRANCE AND THE PYRENEES.....FOUR SPACES
CLASSIC MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA.....SIX SPACES
WESTERN STATES TRAINS & TREASURES.....ONE SPACE
WONDERS OF SRI LANKA BY RAIL.....EIGHT SPACES



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